



Frank Sharp Bailey

February 18, 2026

Frank Sharp Bailey passed away peacefully at his home in McAllen, on February 18, 2026. He was born on September 21, 1947 in Galveston to Kathryn Sharp Bailey and Allan A. Bailey, Jr.

Frank grew up and graduated from high school in La Marque. He later graduated from The University of Texas at Austin, where he joined Phi Delta Theta fraternity and made lifelong friends.

Cooking and Golf were his favorite hobbies. He played golf his whole life; but, cuisine became his career. After early jobs, he moved to Dallas in 1971 to help college friends open a new bistro/restaurant, The Grape. In the mid 70's he began to write food articles for D Magazine and Texas Monthly. In 1979, The New Orleans Times Picayune lured him there for the next decade to write regular food columns. At one point, Frank was voted favorite columnist in the paper in readers' polls.

In the early 90's he moved back to Texas for the next phase of his culinary career, opening his own restaurants. With help from his UT fraternity brother Bud Payne, he opened Rio Grande Grill in Weslaco and later Cabin Jack's in McAllen. During this time he enjoyed contributing cooking columns for The Monitor. He loved regular lunches with McAllen friends, playing golf, sitting in a sidewalk cafe in Paris, Mardi Gras in New Orleans and anything Longhorn!

He is survived by his sister, Kay Bailey Hutchison and niece and nephew Bailey and Houston Hutchison.

Tribute Wall

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“ We loved to go Weslaco to eat at Rio Grande Grill. His mushroom soup is the best we ever had. Frank had the gift of turning ordinary, plain staples into extraordinary delights. We miss Frank Bailey, the food artist.

Chevy and Teresa Lee

Chavy and Teresa Lee - June 27 at 03:28 PM