



# DAVE RAYMOND

Dave Raymond and his wife Cathy are lifelong Chicagoans, with over 30 passionate years of barbecue business behind them. In 1982, Dave who had decided to enter the Mike Royko Ribfest, asked his brother Larry, a chef by trade, to create a sauce for him to use. Sweet Baby Ray's barbecue sauce was born. They didn't win that year, but by 1985, Dave's rib recipe paired with Larry's unique sauce earned them 2nd place Mike Royko's Ribfest. Incorporating in 1986 and with the addition of Mike O'Brien, a high school friend of Dave's, Sweet Baby Ray's progressed from a family hobby to a real business. What Dave and Mike lacked in classical training they made up for in sweat, hard work, trial and error. With their commitment, dedication, and a great tasting product with a catchy barbecue name, the team developed their sales experience and business savvy while building solid relationships with clients and vendors alike.

Success for the brand followed, first in the Chicago area, then within Illinois and Wisconsin, the greater Midwest, and nationally. The barbecue sauce business was sold in 2001. In 2005, Dave partnered with his nephew, Larry's son Duce, an accomplished chef and barbecue man in his own right. They opened Sweet Baby Ray's Restaurant, and in the 18 years since, that business has become two premium catering companies,

Sweet Baby Rays Catering and True Cuisine. Dave is currently semi-retired and resides in Wood Dale, IL, nearby his relatives and lifelong friends. He enjoys spending time connecting and collaborating with the many great people in the barbecue community. Giving back is a top passion of Dave's today. He makes an effort to encourage and serve the underserved, and to feed the food insecure in the inner city of Chicago and surrounding areas with his church and other non-profit organizations.

