

Friends at a memorial for Dennis "Rita" Ashby Sept. 27 look at photo collages (pictured below).



Dennis "Rita" Ashby, a fixture in Detroit's gay nightlife scene for nearly forty years, died Sept. 18.

## Detroit remembers beloved bartender

Over one hundred friends and relatives gathered at Rainbow Room Sept. 27 to remember longtime Detroit bartender Dennis "Rita" Ashby, who died at his home Sept. 18.

Ashby was a bartender for nearly forty years at nightspots including Adobe, Todd's, Edge and most recently at Gold Coast. Customers remembered the popular bartender with comments online:

"He never was without a smile or his camera. Many times I would go into the bar and he would pull out a picture he had taken of me that I had forgotten

about, bringing back memories of a night long forgotten."

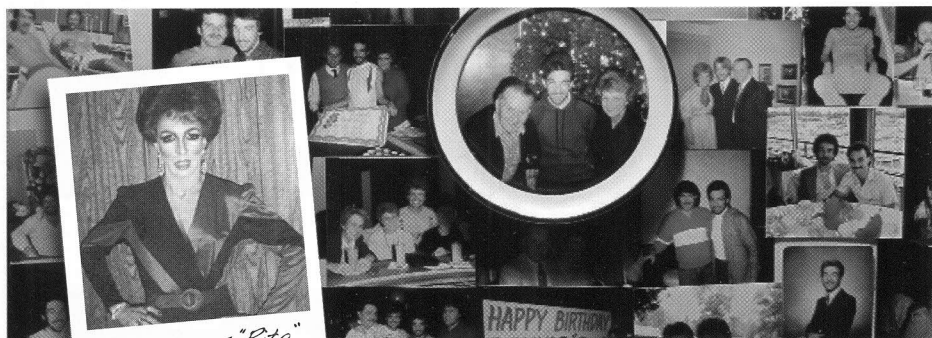
"I'm comforted with the many memories of his contagious grin and kind personality."

"(His) corner of the bar will not be the same."

Ashby was 62 years old and is survived by his mother, aunt and several cousins.

According to former Gold Coast manager Eric Licht, another memorial service is being planned, although details have not yet been released.

We'll keep you posted.



years ago as "Rita"

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