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Hall of Fame Inductee for Wings: Al's Tavern

A half century ago, Al's Tavern in Altoona started serving breakfast and lunch, and then entertaining a crowd of neighbors at its bar in the evenings.

"It was a neighborhood place. Over the years it evolved," said Al Coppeta, whose father, Al Coppeta Sr., opened the tavern. "We went through a lot of stages, but we stayed true to what we do best."

In the 1980s, Al's did a booming bar business, but also started serving the town's best chicken wings inspired by wings from the famous Anchor Bar in Buffalo, N.Y.

"I was the first one in Altoona to start making these. That was back in the early '80s."

— Al Coppeta

"I was the first one in Altoona to start making these. That was back in the early '80s. There was an article in the New York Times about the Anchor Bar in Buffalo," said Coppeta. "We looked at that and

we just started making some wings."

The wing phenomenon caught on in Altoona, and Al's sells at least 2,000 pounds of chicken wings each week smothered in 16 different sauce flavors. (The regular hot wings are the most popular.)

"We use fresh wings. We use fresh ingredients in our sauces. Everything is homemade. We just do them right," Coppeta said, indicating he's honored that his wings are being inducted into the Hometown Favorites Hall of Fame.

"We thank everybody, all of our customers for staying with us over the years. We're quite proud of that," Coppeta said. ↗



2831 8th Avenue Altoona, PA 16602

Kitchen Closes at 1:00 A.M.
Hours: Monday thru Saturday 11:30 am - 2:00 am
Sunday Noon to Midnight

[Directions](#)

"Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps you in touch with your kids"