



Pumpkin souffles

Dreamtime/TNS

PUMPKIN

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- 2 cups pumpkin puree
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 tablespoons minced parsley
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped green onions
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon basil
- 1 clove garlic, chopped or pressed
- 1/3 cup whole wheat bread crumbs

Combine pumpkin and eggs.

Add remaining ingredients. Pour into buttered 1½-quart casserole and bake at 350 degrees until lightly browned about 30 to 45 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

1989: SPICY PUMPKIN CHOWDER

- 1 pumpkin (5 to 6 pounds)
- 1 red onion, diced
- ½ teaspoon finely chopped garlic
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped serrano chile
- 1 tablespoon butter
- Small pinch each oregano, sage and thyme
- 5 cups chicken stock

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 each red and green bell peppers, seeded and cut into ¼-inch dice
- 1 medium carrot, cut into ¼-inch dice
- 1 large potato, peeled and cut into ¼-inch dice
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cut pumpkin in half, scoop out seeds and save for toasting. Place pumpkin halves on a sheet pan cut side down and bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes or until the skin darkens and wrinkles and the pumpkin is soft to the touch. Remove skin and coarsely dice meat.

In a large saucepan, saute onion, garlic and serrano in butter over low heat until soft; do not brown. Add pumpkin, herbs and chicken stock. Bring to a boil and simmer uncovered for 45 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a separate pan, bring heavy cream to a boil, lower heat and simmer until its volume is reduced by half.

Remove pumpkin mixture from the heat and puree in blender or food processor. Return to saucepan, add bell peppers, carrots and potatoes and cook until tender.

Add reduced cream and season to taste with salt and

SERIES

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The Yankees play just a short subway ride from the place where the World Trade Center once stood.

Because the schedule was pushed back by the Sept. 11 events, this World Series stretched into November.

The Diamondbacks' success so early in their history stemmed from managing partner Jerry Colangelo's decision to go for on-field success in a hurry by adding veteran signing the likes of Jay Bell, Matt Williams, Steve Finley and Mark Grace. The topper was signing Randy Johnson in his prime.

Bob Brenly came out of the broadcast booth to manage.

The acquisition of Curt Schilling made Arizona even more formidable. And that 1-2 pitching punch helped the Diamondbacks win the first two games of the series in Phoenix.

Then it was on to New York City, where an acrid smell permeated the air from the awful calamity that had shook this place and its

citizens to their core.

I took a tour boat past the Statue of Liberty, which was closed due to the terrorist attacks. We floated past where the twin towers once stood. Nearby buildings were coated with dust.

At a church near Ground Zero, posters with all kinds of sad words had been hung on a wrought iron fence. "I love you daddy," one said.

Old Yankee Stadium, site of so many great baseball moments, had a few more in store.

Security for Game 3 was as tight as any I'd experienced. The reason: President Bush, wearing a bulletproof vest beneath his shirt, threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

With Roger Clemens on the mound, the Yankees took Game 3, 2-1. Game 4 went 10 innings. In Game 4, New York rallied with two runs in the ninth and won it on a 10th-inning home run from Derek Jeter. Since it was just past midnight on Halloween night, Jeter was dubbed baseball's first "Mr. November."

Game 5 went 12 innings. Again the Yankees rallied

to tie it with two runs in the ninth of beleaguered Arizona closer Byung-Hyun Kim. The Yankees won 3-2.

It was back to Arizona, where the Diamondbacks, with Johnson on the mound, cruised to a 15-2 rout.

That brought us to Game 7.

Alfonso Soriano homered off Schilling in the eighth to put New York up 3-2. Yankee great Mariano Rivera, probably the best closer in the game's history, pitched a scoreless eighth. Then came the remarkable ninth.

Tony Womack's RBI double off Rivera tied it and New York manager Joe Torre had the infield playing in to cut off the run at home when Luis Gonzalez bloomed one over the head of the shortstop. That brought home the deciding run and that gave the state of Arizona its first and still only major pro sport championship.

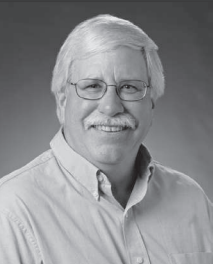
The baseball was thrilling, the Sept. 11 backdrop sobering.

And my most vivid memory is traced to moments before any pitch was thrown.

Ray Charles, at a big piano

in front of the visitor's dugout, sang a gorgeous "America The Beautiful." Then the stealth bomber flew overhead, seemingly filling the open roof.

Looking like something out of a Batman movie, the aircraft gracefully turned toward the U.S. Bank Tower, then veered away and vanished in the desert sky.



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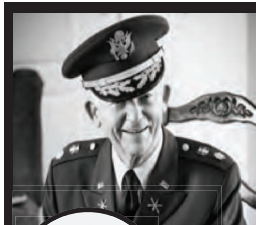
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