

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Louisiana Restaurant Association on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA) on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary and for its continued service as an advocate for the state's restaurant, bar, catering, and food service industry; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's restaurant industry employs more state residents than any other industry; prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 217,000 Louisiana citizens worked in over nine thousand eating and drinking establishments; and

WHEREAS, each January, Louisiana Restaurant Association recognizes its incoming leaders; in 2021, the association elected Keith Bond as chairman, Michael Boudreaux as vice chairman, Michael Maenza as treasurer, Alan Guilbeau as secretary, and Mark Latter as at-large officer; LRA also recognized its immediate past chairman, Peter Sclafani, for his leadership during an unprecedented year during which the industry faced a multitude of challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Restaurant Association hosted its first tradeshow in 1953 at Jung Hotel in New Orleans with focused presentations on the new "take home" phase of restaurant operation; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, the association partnered with the Louisiana Department of Education to offer a series of free waitress training courses across the state, which covered various service skills and techniques; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, following a collapse in the workers' compensation market, the Legislature of Louisiana authorized the formation of Association Group Self-Insured Funds to provide an industry-specific solution for restaurants, bars, and hospitality-related businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, the LRA board of directors partnered with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to develop a plan that requires all retail food establishments to have at least one manager complete food safety and sanitation training; and

WHEREAS, in that same year, the LRA Education Foundation was organized to promote the industry as a viable career path; the foundation administers its ProStart program, a culinary arts and restaurant management curriculum, in fifty-five high schools across Louisiana, and the foundation's Scholars Program provides funding to qualified students to continue their post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, LRA's efforts to provide a platform for culinary education in Louisiana were realized when the state's Board of Regents approved the establishment of a bachelor of science in culinary arts degree program at the newly formed Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University, the first culinary degree program at a public university in the United States; and

WHEREAS, LRA has also provided leadership to the National Restaurant Association; board members Ralph Brennan and Melvin Rodrigue served as the chairman of the national branch, and many other members have served in various positions for the National Restaurant Association; the partnership between the two provides effective advocacy across federal, state, and local levels; and

WHEREAS, restaurants are most vulnerable during times of crisis in Louisiana; LRA quickly centers its advocacy and communications to provide relevant and timely information through its ongoing relationships with elected officials at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, LRA served as the primary source of information for the entire food service industry in Louisiana; the association has become more proactive and responsive in the wake of this crisis, and it is most deserving of recognition as it celebrates seventy-five years of dedicated service to the state of Louisiana and the restaurant and food service industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Louisiana Restaurant Association on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary; does hereby recognize the impressive response of the association to the COVID-19 pandemic; does hereby acknowledge the association's successful efforts to sustain the restaurant industry in Louisiana in the face of an international crisis; and does hereby extend sincere hopes that Louisiana Restaurant Association and the food service industry in Louisiana continue their incredible service to the state of Louisiana and enjoy many more years of success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of Louisiana Restaurant Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE