

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR TALBOT

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Restaurant Association upon the celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, in 1946, the Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA) was established to advocate on behalf of the state's food service and hospitality industry among elected officials and regulatory agencies; and

WHEREAS, the LRA is a trade association, governed by a volunteer board of directors, that supports restaurants and food service, owners, operators, franchisees, managers, culinary leaders, caterers, hotels, industry suppliers, and related businesses in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Stan Harris is the 2021 president and chief executive officer of the LRA; and

WHEREAS, the LRA partners with the National Restaurant Association to bring Louisiana members more tools and resources needed to advocate on behalf of the state's food service and hospitality industry; and

WHEREAS, the LRA is one of the biggest business organizations in the state; and

WHEREAS, the restaurant industry is one of the state's largest private employers, providing jobs to more than two hundred thousand residents; and

WHEREAS, the LRA is comprised of nine chapters throughout the state designed to localize member experience by peer-to-peer interactions, engage in leadership development and cultivation, provide support and advocacy efforts at the local and state level through Hospitality Political Action Committee contributions, and provide philanthropy and connectivity with the LRA Education Foundation (LRAEF); and

WHEREAS, the LRAEF is a philanthropic foundation within the LRA and exists to enhance the industry's service to the public through education, community engagement, and promotion of career opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the LRAEF scholarship fund was created in 2009 to support the continuing education of individuals pursuing a career in the culinary and hospitality industry; and

WHEREAS, the LRAEF has awarded \$650,000 in scholarships to students in support of their desire to continue their education in the culinary and hospitality industry; and

WHEREAS, the LRA's ProStart program is a two-year culinary management program for high school juniors and seniors designed to teach students culinary techniques as well as restaurant management skills; and

WHEREAS, ProStart exists in seventy-five schools throughout Louisiana, and more than 1,600 students participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, the LRA Self Insurer's Fund has been the hospitality industry's preferred solution for workers' compensation; and

WHEREAS, for more than sixty-three years, the LRA has served as the proud host of the annual Louisiana Food Service and Hospitality EXPO, which brings the best tools and opportunities for restaurants and hospitality-related businesses in the Gulf South; and

WHEREAS, the LRA ServSafe program provides food safety and sanitation and alcohol and allergens training to the restaurant and hospitality industry; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of its seventieth anniversary, the LRA reintroduced its pelican mascot, Louie, which first appeared in 1950 in the LRA's *A La Carte* magazine, a quarterly publication and the only magazine in Louisiana that is dedicated to the needs of food service professionals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Restaurant Association upon the celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary and does hereby extend to all LRA members best wishes for continued success and happiness in the future.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE