

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY SENATOR TALBOT

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Louisiana Restaurant Association upon the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana's restaurant industry employs more residents than any other  
8 industry and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 217,000 Louisiana residents were  
9 working in more than nine thousand eating and drinking establishments; and

10 WHEREAS, each January, the LRA recognizes its incoming leaders, and in 2021,  
11 the association elected Keith Bond as chairman, Michael Boudreaux as vice chairman,  
12 Michael Maenza as treasurer, Alan Guilbeau as secretary, and Mark Latter as at-large  
13 officer; and

14 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Restaurant Association recognized and extended its  
15 sincere appreciation to Peter Sclafani, immediate past chairman, for his leadership during  
16 an unprecedented year as the industry faced a multitude of challenges presented by the  
17 COVID-19 pandemic; and

18 WHEREAS, the LRA hosted its first trade show in 1953 at the Jung Hotel in New

1 Orleans with presentations on the newest phase of restaurant operation, the "take home"  
2 business; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1964, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Education, the  
4 association offered a series of free waitress training courses throughout the state, which  
5 included various service skills and techniques; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1982, resulting from a collapse in the workers' compensation market,  
7 the Legislature of Louisiana authorized the formation of Association Group Self-Insured  
8 Funds to provide an industry-specific solution for restaurants, bars, and hospitality-related  
9 businesses; today the Louisiana Restaurant Association's self-insured fund provides coverage  
10 for payrolls valued in excess of \$925 million; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1995, the Louisiana Restaurant Association's board of directors, in  
12 partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, developed a plan that requires all retail  
13 food establishments to have one manager who has completed food safety and sanitation  
14 training; and

15 WHEREAS, the LRA Education Foundation, organized to promote the industry as  
16 a career path, administers the ProStart program, a culinary arts and restaurant management  
17 curriculum in schools throughout the state, and awards funding through its Scholars Program  
18 to qualified students to continue their education; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1997, the Louisiana Restaurant Association's work to expand culinary  
20 education in Louisiana was recognized when the Board of Regents approved a Bachelor of  
21 Science degree program in culinary arts at Nicholls State University, the first of its kind at  
22 a public institution of higher education in the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Restaurant Association's partnership with the National  
24 Restaurant Association provides effective advocacy across federal, state, and local levels in  
25 service to its members; and

26 WHEREAS, the LRA has proudly provided leadership to the National Restaurant  
27 Association with Ralph Brennan and Melvin Rodrigue serving as chairman in 1995 and  
28 2020, respectively; and

29 WHEREAS, during times of crisis in Louisiana, the association quickly centers its  
30 focus on advocacy and communication to provide relevant and timely information to its

1 members through ongoing relationship management with elected officials at every level of  
2 government; and

3           WHEREAS, under the guidance and leadership of LRA President and CEO Stan  
4 Harris during the 2020 pandemic, the LRA served as the primary source of information for  
5 the entire restaurant industry, regardless of membership status, given the severity of the  
6 public health emergency; and

7           WHEREAS, as the LRA moves into the recovery phase after the pandemic, it is  
8 appropriate to recognize its seventy-five years of dedicated service to the restaurant and food  
9 service industry and the state of Louisiana.

10           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
11 does hereby commend the Louisiana Restaurant Association upon the celebration of its  
12 seventy-fifth anniversary and for its continued service in advocating on behalf of the state's  
13 restaurant, bar, catering, and food service industry.

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

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Ridge.

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SR 53 Original                                   DIGEST                                   Talbot  
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