

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 154

BY REPRESENTATIVE LOPINTO

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Jim Funk, president and CEO of the La. Restaurant Association

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend Jim Funk, president and chief executive officer of the Louisiana Restaurant

3 Association.

4 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Jim Funk for his years of dedicated and

5 highly productive service to the Louisiana Restaurant Association and to recognize him as

6 part of the Louisiana Restaurant Association's Lobby Day at the Louisiana State Capitol on

7 Monday, May 10, 2010; and

8 WHEREAS, a native of Arkansas, Mr. Funk moved to the Greater New Orleans area

9 in 1981 to serve as president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Louisiana Restaurant

10 Association (LRA); and

11 WHEREAS, due to his extensive experience in the banking, government, and

12 association management sectors, Mr. Funk was instrumental in the growth of the LRA,

13 increasing its membership from three hundred to seven thousand five hundred and

14 significantly elevating its legislative status during the past thirty years; and

15 WHEREAS, in his first year as president and CEO, Mr. Funk led the effort to

16 establish the LRA Self Insurer's Fund for Workers' Compensation, which became a reality

17 in January of 1982; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Funk also serves as the president and CEO of the LRA Self

19 Insurer's Fund for Workers' Compensation, which insures more than two thousand seven

20 hundred restaurants and hotels in the state with more than nineteen million dollars in

21 annualized premiums and an investment portfolio in excess of fifty million dollars; and

1 WHEREAS, today, the LRA Self Insurer's Fund for Workers' Compensation is one
2 of the most successful funds of its type in the nation; and

3 WHEREAS, during the last thirty years, Mr. Funk has served as the chief lobbyist
4 for the LRA and is the secretary and treasurer of the LRA Hospitality Political Action
5 Committee, which was formed during his first year and is one of the largest political action
6 committees in the state; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Funk has achieved tremendous success in leading efforts to pass
8 several pieces of landmark legislation, including the dedication of 0.003 percent of the state's
9 sales tax for out-of-state tourism promotion in 1990; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Funk was honored in 1991 by the Louisiana Tourism Development
11 Commission for spearheading efforts to pass this legislation, which was the first of its kind
12 in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Funk has also been involved in legislative reform of workers'
14 compensation and health regulations, and he led the effort in 1985 to repeal the five percent
15 retail and beverage tax; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1986, Mr. Funk played a significant role in the passage of the Liquor
17 Liability Reform Act, which placed the responsibility of alcohol consumption on the
18 consumer, and this law has saved the restaurant industry tens of millions of dollars in
19 insurance premiums; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Funk has also been instrumental in the growth of the Louisiana
21 Foodservice EXPO, the largest industry tradeshow in the Gulf South, from one hundred
22 thirty exhibiting companies to four hundred since 1981 with more than fifteen thousand
23 attendees at its peak in 2005 prior to Hurricane Katrina; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1995, Mr. Funk received the prestigious University of New Orleans
25 School of Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Administration's Hospitality Leadership Award,
26 and in 2002, he received the Ella Brennan Savior Faire Award from the American Culinary
27 Federation of New Orleans; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Funk was inducted into the New Orleans Riverside Walk of Fame
29 for Excellence in Association Management in 2006 and the National Restaurant Association
30 Educational Foundation College of Diplomates in 2007; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2008, Mr. Funk was presented with the inaugural Will Mangham
2 Louisiana Tourism Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisiana Travel Promotion
3 Association for being widely regarded as a prominent spokesperson and advocate for the
4 tourism industry in the state; and

5 WHEREAS, this past February, *Politics* magazine named Mr. Funk one of the one
6 hundred most important opinion brokers in Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, in addition to his work with the LRA, Mr. Funk has served on numerous
8 boards and commissions throughout the years, including the Louisiana Unemployment
9 Compensation Reform Task Force and the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Reform Task
10 Force, and in 2004, he was appointed by the governor to serve on the Louisiana Task Force
11 on Workforce Competitiveness; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1996, Mr. Funk was instrumental in founding the LRA Education
13 Foundation, a 501c(3) organization established to promote the restaurant industry as a career
14 choice, provide professional development, and support state-approved foodservice programs;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, since its inception, the LRA Education Foundation has trained more
17 than twenty-two thousand people in safe food handling through ServSafe and more than
18 forty-five thousand people in the responsible service of alcohol through its Louisiana's BEST
19 training course; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Funk is a proponent for culinary education and a supporter of the
21 LRA Education Foundation ProStart Program, a two-year culinary arts and restaurant
22 management curriculum in fifty Louisiana high schools with one thousand three hundred
23 juniors and seniors enrolled; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Funk has also served with great distinction as past president of
25 several organizations, including the International Society of Restaurant Association
26 Executives, the Louisiana Society of Association Executives, and the Louisiana Association
27 of Self Insured Employers; and

28 WHEREAS, under his exceptional leadership, the LRA was named one of the Best
29 Places to Work in 2007 and 2008 by the *New Orleans CityBusiness*; and

1 WHEREAS, Jim Funk merits a special measure of commendation for his outstanding
2 service to the Louisiana Restaurant Association since 1981.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
4 commend Jim Funk, president and chief executive officer of the Louisiana Restaurant
5 Association, does hereby recognize him as part of the Louisiana Restaurant Association's
6 Lobby Day at the Louisiana State Capitol on Monday, May 10, 2010, does hereby record for
7 posterity his extraordinary achievements and singular contributions to the restaurant and
8 tourism industries in the state, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the
9 tremendous pride and honor that he brings to his family, friends, and community, the
10 Louisiana Restaurant Association, the city of New Orleans, and the state of Louisiana.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
12 to Jim Funk, president and chief executive officer of the Louisiana Restaurant Association.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Lopinto

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