

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATOR ALARIO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA) upon celebrating its seventieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA) was established in 1946 to advocate on behalf of the state's foodservice 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 foodservice, owners, operators, franchisees, managers, culinary leaders, caterers, hotels, industry suppliers and related businesses in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 LRA Officers are Katy Casbarian of Arnaud's Restaurant, Chair, Fabian Castillo of La Casa Del Sol, Vice-Chair, Greg Reggio of Taste Buds Management, Treasurer, Rob King of Pitt Grills and Southern Kitchens, Secretary; and

WHEREAS, the LRA partners with the National Restaurant Association to bring Louisiana members more tools and resources; and

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

WHEREAS, the restaurant industry in Louisiana is one of the state's largest private employers, providing jobs to over 204,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, restaurants in Louisiana are expected to generate sales of \$8.7 billion in 2016; 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 PAC contributions, and provide philanthropy and connectivity with the LRA Education Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the LRA Education Foundation (LRAEF) is a philanthropic foundation within the Louisiana Restaurant Association, which exists to enhance the industry's service to the public through education, community engagement and promotion of career opportunities; and

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

WHEREAS, ProStart is in 60 high schools statewide and more than 1,600 students participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, the LRAEF Scholarship Fund was created in 2009 to support the continuing education of individuals pursuing a career in the culinary and/or hospitality industry; and

WHEREAS, the LRAEF has awarded \$340,000 in scholarships to students in support of their continuing education in the culinary and hospitality industry; and

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

WHEREAS, the LRA hosts the annual Louisiana Foodservice and Hospitality EXPO, now in its 63rd year, and 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, alcohol and allergens training to the restaurant and hospitality industry; and

WHEREAS, in celebrating its 70th anniversary milestone, the LRA has 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 dedicated to the needs of foodservice professionals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Restaurant Association upon celebrating its seventieth anniversary.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES