

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1205

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Sam Bomarito upon the exceptional cuisine and exemplary customer service of his iconic Memphis restaurant, Pete and Sam's.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those fine dining establishments that serve the gastronomical needs of our citizens, while also delighting their taste buds; and;

WHEREAS, Pete and Sam's in Memphis is one such outstanding restaurant that has attracted a diverse and loyal clientele by providing delicious cuisine and attentive service to its many dedicated patrons for nearly sixty years; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional restaurant first opened its doors on Airways Boulevard when Sam Bomarito and his cousin Pete Romeo, neither of whom had restaurant experience, decided to start a restaurant offering authentic Italian food; and

WHEREAS, after making a total of three dollars on opening night of the new restaurant, Pete and Sam understood the hard work and tremendous effort it would take to make the restaurant a success; and

WHEREAS, deciding to pursue another career, Pete Romero relinquished his interest in the restaurant, and a friend of Mr. Bomarito, Tony Cianciolo, partnered with him and helped operate the restaurant until 1959; and

WHEREAS, as Pete and Sam's restaurant began to gain the reputation of having the finest spaghetti in Memphis, Sam Bomarito, looking to expand the restaurant's menu, went to Chicago in 1951 and spent several weeks at The Flamingo Lounge learning how to make an exceptional and delectable pizza; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Sam Bomarito and his sister, Vita Gattuso, moved the restaurant to its current location at 3886 Park Avenue; working side-by-side ever since, the duo have been staples in the restaurant, along with the skinny pasta, thin-crust pizza, Miss Vita's salad with bleu cheese, and the All-season Tree, a Christmas tree decorated for every holiday throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, from its humble beginnings, Pete and Sam's restaurant has grown and prospered by serving outstanding food with fellowship and exceptional service; and

WHEREAS, Sam Bomarito, utilizing his determination and strong work ethic, has built an excellent reputation for fine food and service, helping to create the iconic nature of Pete and Sam's restaurant; and

WHEREAS, Pete and Sam's has long been a gathering place for the residents of Memphis, and its doors are always open to anyone who is hungry; and

WHEREAS, during its many years of existence, Pete and Sam's has been the scene of many dinner parties, celebrations, and meetings throughout its illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, Pete and Sam's has drawn a long list of high-profile guests, including Elvis, who always ate in the back dining room, and Danny Thomas, who always wanted barbecued bologna, even though it was not offered on the menu; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding success and stellar reputation that Pete and Sam's has attained would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Sam Bomarito, his family, and his staff members, who represent some of the finest restaurant industry minds in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Pete and Sam's always serves its food with a side order of friendship and fond memories for every person who enters the eatery; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Memphis greatly appreciate the valuable contribution that Mr. Bomarito, his family, and staff are making to the dining experience in their community and have honored Pete and Sam's with their patronage over the many decades; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Sam Bomarito upon the exceptional cuisine,

delectable meals, and exemplary customer service offered at his iconic restaurant, Pete and Sam's, and wish him all the best in his future culinary endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.