

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 258

BY REPRESENTATIVE TALBOT

A RESOLUTION

To commend Melvin Rodrigue on his election as chairman of the board of directors of the National Restaurant Association.

WHEREAS, food, it's a thing; and glorious food is a glorious thing; and

WHEREAS, Melvin Rodrigue has devoted his professional career to glorious food; in 2005, the James Beard Foundation selected Galatoire's as the Most Outstanding Restaurant in the United States; at the operations helm of Galatoire's at the time was Melvin Rodrigue; since then, Melvin has been promoted to president of Galatoire's and has overseen the opening of additional restaurant facilities; and

WHEREAS, Melvin Rodrigue has increased the community impact of Galatoire's, already a New Orleans legend and landmark, by creating the Galatoire's Foundation, which has raised over one million dollars for charitable causes by auctioning off tables at the restaurant for the Fridays preceding Mardi Gras and Christmas; he also coauthored a cookbook in which he shared recipes for some of Galatoire's classic dishes with those of us who cannot get one of those tables; and

WHEREAS, Melvin Rodrigue's leadership in the world of glorious food goes way beyond one restaurant; he has held several positions with the Louisiana Restaurant Association, including chair of the association, chair of the association's self insurer's fund, and chair of the association's education foundation, and he continues to serve the association as a director; and

WHEREAS, Melvin's community service also includes membership on the board of directors of the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Convention Center; he was originally appointed to the board by Governor Jindal and was reappointed by Governor Edwards; he has served the convention center since 2005, currently as board president, and has become its staunch advocate at the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, more recently, Melvin Rodrigue has moved onto a national stage; in 2016 he was elected to the board of directors of the National Restaurant Association; in 2018 he was elected as a trustee for the association's educational foundation, and in 2020 he will serve as chairman of the association, which represents over one million restaurants and over \$863 billion in revenue; and

WHEREAS, shortly after taking over as chairman of the National Restaurant Association board of directors on January 1, 2020, he will host the board in New Orleans for its winter meeting; thereafter he will be traveling the country and visiting federal government officials as the volunteer spokesperson for an industry that, for Louisiana, constitutes almost twelve percent of the workforce and over \$10.6 billion dollars in revenue.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Melvin Rodrigue on his election as chairman of the board of directors of the National Restaurant Association; does hereby take this opportunity to express its deepest gratitude to him for his innumerable contributions to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of Louisiana's glorious food culture and for his extensive civic service more generally; and does hereby offer best wishes for a fulfilling and productive term as chairman of the National Restaurant Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Melvin Rodrigue.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES