

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Houston restaurateur Johnny Carrabba III has been
2 presented with the 2023 Buck N' Ball Award by the Bryan Museum in
3 Galveston; and

4 WHEREAS, Celebrating the contributions made by Italian
5 Americans to the history of the Lone Star State, this accolade
6 recognizes individuals with roots in the American West who have
7 demonstrated exceptional resolve in the course of distinguished
8 careers; and

9 WHEREAS, Johnny Carrabba is descended from Italian
10 immigrants, his maternal and paternal great-grandparents, who left
11 impoverished Sicily in the 1800s and traveled to the U.S. via cargo
12 ship; they settled in the Galveston area, and he was born in
13 Houston, where his parents, Rosie Carrabba and John Carrabba Jr.,
14 owned a grocery store in the East End neighborhood; he spent much of
15 his youth in Carrabba's Friendly Grocery and attended St. Thomas
16 High School; and

17 WHEREAS, When Mr. Carrabba was 27 years old, his uncle,
18 Damian Mandola, owner of Damian's Cucina Italiana in Houston,
19 approached him with the idea of founding a restaurant together; the
20 original Carrabba's opened on Kirby Drive in 1986, and a second
21 location followed just two years later; in 1993, industry
22 powerhouse Outback Steakhouse came calling, and a joint venture
23 partnership resulted in the establishment of more than 250
24 Carrabba's Italian Grill restaurants all across the country; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, Mr. Carrabba and his family continue to own
2 and operate their first two restaurants, which employ more than 200
3 people, among them many longtime staff members; in 2012, the family
4 launched a new fast-casual concept, Mia's Table, which has since
5 expanded to five more locations; another venture, Grace's, is named
6 after Mr. Carrabba's grandmother, Grace Mandola; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Carrabba credits his success to the values his
8 family instilled, including discipline, hard work, courtesy, and
9 teamwork; he gives back to the community in numerous ways, and he
10 has been especially supportive of charitable organizations
11 benefiting children; and

12 WHEREAS, Entrepreneurship has played a vital role in shaping
13 the history of the Lone Star State, and through his vision,
14 determination, and commitment to excellence, Johnny Carrabba has
15 made noteworthy contributions to a proud tradition; now, therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
18 Legislature hereby congratulate Johnny Carrabba III on his receipt
19 of the 2023 Buck N' Ball Award from the Bryan Museum and that he be
20 extended sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Mr. Carrabba as an expression of high regard by the
23 Texas House of Representatives.

Leo-Wilson

H.R. No. 947

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 947 was adopted by the House on April 14, 2023, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House