

By: Leo-Wilson

H.R. No. 947

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.