

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 997

**WHEREAS**, Norman Brinker of Dallas has achieved extraordinary success in the restaurant business, and he is indeed worthy of special commendation for his myriad achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Brinker demonstrated his drive and determination at a young age, working his way through school at the New Mexico Military Institute; after serving in the United States Navy, he earned a place on the 1952 United States Olympic equestrian team as well as the opportunity to compete in the 1954 Modern Pentathlon World Championships in Budapest; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Brinker subsequently enrolled in the marketing program at San Diego State University, again financing his own education; his 1957 graduation with honors heralded a new chapter in his life, one that would soon encounter great success in a business relationship with Jack-In-The-Box restaurants; rising through the ranks, he quickly became a major partner in the business, helping it become the popular fast-food chain it is today; and

**WHEREAS**, While his success at Jack-In-The-Box certainly proved his business acumen, it was his own venture that would cement his place as a leader in the restaurant industry; seeking to fill a niche for patrons between fast food and fine dining, he founded Steak & Ale restaurants and introduced a new concept now featured in restaurants around the globe, the salad bar; under Mr. Brinker's leadership, Steak & Ale thrived and boasted more than 100 outlets, including Bennigan's, by the time it merged with the Pillsbury Restaurant Group in 1976; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1982, Mr. Brinker continued his pursuit of new leadership opportunities, leaving Pillsbury to join Chili's, then a budding restaurant chain of 28 locations; within a year, he took the company public, beginning two decades of remarkable growth; today Brinker International is a Fortune 500 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange, with five distinct restaurant concepts and more than 1,500 locations in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 24 countries; although he retired in 2000, Mr. Brinker continues to serve as chairman emeritus of the company; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Brinker's legacy is marked not only by the popular brands his company has grown, but also by the many people he has mentored and inspired in his more than 40 years in the restaurant business, including Chris Sullivan and Bob Basham of Outback Steakhouse, Wally Doolin of Buca di Beppo, Rick Federico of P.F. Chang's China Bistro, Dick Rivera, formerly of Darden Restaurants, Creed Ford of Austin-based Fired Up, Incorporated, and of course, current Brinker chief executive officer Doug Brooks; and

**WHEREAS**, A deserving recipient of the Horatio Alger Award, Norman Brinker is truly an admirable role model for young Texans everywhere, and the story of his remarkable journey from humble beginnings to prosperity may serve to encourage others to pursue their dreams and ambitions; now, therefore, be it

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**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby congratulate Norman Brinker on his many successes and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued achievement; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Mr. Brinker as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Carona

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 25, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate