

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1190

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to recognize Charlie Vergos Rendezvous restaurant.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should commend those esteemed businesses that have significantly contributed to the social and cultural heritage of our communities and this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable establishment is Charlie Vergos Rendezvous restaurant, the birthplace of Memphis-style dry rubbed ribs; and

WHEREAS, a quintessential Memphis dining experience for more than seventy years, the Rendezvous was founded by Charlie Vergos in 1948; and

WHEREAS, the son of Greek immigrants, Mr. Vergos honorably served in the United States Army during World War II in the European and Pacific Theatres; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, he returned from overseas, married his beloved wife, Tasia Vergos, and opened his tavern and sandwich shop in 1948; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Vergos converted an old coal chute from the wall of his smoky basement tavern in downtown Memphis and created barbecue history; and

WHEREAS, before long, Charlie Vergos Rendezvous restaurant was serving 750 orders on a typical Saturday night; and

WHEREAS, a big part of what makes The Rendezvous special is the experience, the smoky aroma of grilled meat and barbecue seasoning and the sounds of Memphis soul and delta blues cut with clinking beer mugs and laughter; and

WHEREAS, located in the alley behind 52 S. Second Street in downtown Memphis, Charlie Vergos Rendezvous is today an internationally acclaimed barbecue restaurant, with

locals, tourists, dignitaries, and celebrities alike passing through the alley and down the steps to experience The Rendezvous; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vergos's children, John, Nick, and Tina, along with their extended family of restaurant staff, still serve those signature ribs in the same way they have been served for decades; and

WHEREAS, a true Memphis original that has become an American barbecue classic, Charlie Vergos Rendezvous has stood as a bastion of dedicated service and excellent food for more than seventy years, and it is wholly fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize it for its commitment to the Memphis community and this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the owners and staff of Charlie Vergos Rendezvous for their tireless dedication to quality, congratulate them on the restaurant's seven decades of operation, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.