

SENATE RESOLUTION 7007 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor Arcade Restaurant of Memphis on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should recognize those historic businesses that, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable establishment is Arcade Restaurant in Memphis, which is celebrating its 100th year of operation; and

WHEREAS, Memphis's oldest restaurant, Arcade Restaurant was founded in 1919 by Speros Zepatos, a Greek immigrant from Cephalonia, and was originally located at the corner of South Main Street and G.E. Patterson Avenue; and

WHEREAS, at that time, the historic city café was a small, one story, wood-framed building, where the delicious food was cooked on potbelly stoves and served to an ever-increasing number of satisfied customers; and

WHEREAS, in 1925, Mr. Zepatos tore down the original structure and built the iconic Arcade Building in a Greek Revival style, complete with retail stores to signify the "Arcade" name; and

WHEREAS, the next generation of the Zepatos family, son Harry Zepatos, remodeled the restaurant in the 1950s, making it into what customers see today, a hip, 1950s diner with boomerang table top designs, spectacular neon signage, and fabulous original storefronts; and

WHEREAS, Arcade Restaurant has been a popular destination in downtown Memphis for decades, serving delicious food to countless customers both from across the city as well as from across the country, traveling by train through the Bluff City; and

WHEREAS, many businesses in downtown Memphis closed in the late 1960s and 1970s due to the dire economic upheaval from the rise of the suburban lifestyle and new retail offerings far from downtown; and

WHEREAS, when the revitalization of downtown Memphis began in the late 1980s, the Arcade Restaurant survived and once again became an iconic fixture in the community, receiving national media coverage in *Southern Living*, *Esquire*, and *Sports Illustrated* magazines as well as on The Food Network and The Travel Channel; and

WHEREAS, a scenic setting in a number of renowned films over the years, the Arcade Restaurant has been featured in *Mystery Train*, *Great Balls of Fire*, *The Client*, *The Firm*, *21 Grams*, *Elizabethtown*, *Walk the Line*, and *My Blueberry Nights*; and

WHEREAS, today, the Arcade Restaurant is a beloved Memphis treasure, a tourist destination, and a glowing tribute to the Zepatos family, whose third-generation owners, Harry and Karan Zepatos, continue to run the day-to-day operations of the business; and

WHEREAS, for 100 years, the patrons of Arcade Restaurant have frequented this exemplary dining establishment for its well-cooked meals and friendly atmosphere, making it a legendary icon of the Memphis community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend the Zepatos family and the staff, both past and present, of Arcade Restaurant on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.