

Senate Resolution 923

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Parent of the 44th, Jackson of the 41st, Anderson of the 43rd, Walker III of the 20th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the restaurant industry of Georgia and recognizing March 10, 2026, as State
2 Restaurant Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the restaurant industry plays a vital role in Georgia's economic prosperity and
4 the quality of life for all Georgians; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia's restaurant industry comprises nearly 24,000 food and drink
6 establishments and generates more than \$45.7 billion annually, providing more than 500,000
7 jobs statewide; and

8 WHEREAS, numerous national restaurant industry brands are headquartered in Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, the Georgia Restaurant Association is dedicated to providing a voice in
10 advocacy, education, and awareness for the restaurant industry throughout the state to
11 express to residents and visitors the great value, quality, and services provided by local food
12 establishments; and

13 WHEREAS, the Georgia Restaurant Association works with state and local agencies to
14 promote food safety and job skills through the ServSafe® and ProStart® educational
15 programs as well as the industry mentoring of young professionals; and

16 WHEREAS, fifty percent of all adults in Georgia have worked in the restaurant industry,
17 thereby providing jobs skills that serve as a launching point for careers; and

18 WHEREAS, the contributions and efforts of the professionals working in the restaurant
19 industry to provide the highest quality food and drinks in Georgia, to promote small business,
20 and to contribute billions of dollars to local and state tax revenue to stimulate economic
21 growth are worthy of recognition; and

22 WHEREAS, the Georgia Restaurant Association, in partnership with Georgia Grown, has
23 established the Georgia Grown Executive Chef Program to promote and foster relationships
24 between chefs and farmers, creating a mark of honor and distinction for participating chefs
25 while increasing awareness among restaurateurs and consumers about the availability of
26 quality, locally sourced products on Georgia's restaurant scene; and

27 WHEREAS, this body proudly recognizes the 2026 class of Georgia Grown Executive Chefs
28 for their leadership in championing Georgia agriculture and incorporating locally sourced
29 ingredients into their culinary programs, including: Hudson Terrell of The Animal Farm &
30 Gabagool; Holden McKinstry of Vice Kitchen Group; Taylor Mead of Atlanta Botanical
31 Garden; Kyle Bryner of Blue Hound BBQ; Christian Bell of Oreatha's at The Point; Burns
32 Sullivan of 5 & 10; Ben Vaughn of White Oak Kitchen and Cocktails; Gary Caldwell of
33 Marcus Bar & Grille; and Laura Orellana of Osteria Mattone.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 commend the restaurant industry as critical to the economic vitality of the State of Georgia
36 and recognize March 10, 2026, as State Restaurant Day at the state capitol.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
39 Restaurant Association.