

2019 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 618

Offered January 9, 2019

Prefiled January 3, 2019

Commending the *Virginian Steak House*.

Patron—Miyares

WHEREAS, for 45 years, the Virginian Steak House served delicious steak, spaghetti, and seafood to generations of Virginia Beach families, becoming a hallmark of the Hilltop area, known as much for its culinary fare as for its contributions to community life; and

WHEREAS, the Virginian Steak House was founded by George Christodoulis, a Greek immigrant, and his brothers-in-law, Gus and Nick Kalivas; the group knocked on doors to raise money for a down payment on a building at 620 First Colonial Road, and with the help of friends and neighbors, the restaurant opened in 1973; and

WHEREAS, in the early days of the Virginian Steak House, there were few other restaurants and businesses in the Hilltop section of Virginia Beach, and George Christodoulis commuted from his home in Williamsburg to work more than 70 hours each week serving hamburgers, steak, and other homemade delights to the members of the community who would become loyal patrons as the years went on; and

WHEREAS, the Virginian Steak House became an integral part of local life, hosting everything from first dates, marriage proposals, and birth announcements to retirement parties and wakes, with regulars becoming a beloved second family to the restaurant's owners and employees; and

WHEREAS, as the Virginian Steak House grew in popularity, George Christodoulis and Gus Kalivas expanded the business in 1977, opening a second location, Gus and George's Spaghetti and Steak House, which remains open; and

WHEREAS, while the Virginian Steak House officially closed on July 24, 2018, the restaurant reopened for two hours on July 25 to proudly serve complimentary cheeseburgers, fries, and fountain drinks as a sign of appreciation to its legions of loyal customers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginian Steak House for its 45 years of service to the Virginia Beach community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to George Christodoulis and Gus Kalivas, owners of the Virginian Steak House, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the restaurant's important place in local history.

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