

2021 SPECIAL SESSION II

INTRODUCED

21300165D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 770

Offered August 3, 2021

Commending Ciao Osteria.

Patron—Helmer

WHEREAS, Ciao Osteria, a cherished dining establishment in Centreville specializing in wood-fired pizzas and home-style Italian cuisine, has greatly served its community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Ciao Osteria was opened in 2014 by Sal Speziale, his wife Gina, his son Ryan Haas, and his godson Antonio Di Nicola, who is the restaurant's head chef; it was named by *Northern Virginia Magazine* as one of the area's "50 Best Restaurants" from 2014 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, prior to Ciao Osteria, Gina Speziale was a labor and delivery nurse at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in Chantilly; when she checked on her former colleagues and friends at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, she learned many were too busy to go to the hospital's food court to get food; and

WHEREAS, recognizing their community's need, Gina Speziale and her husband, Sal, a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and veteran of the National Guard, responded by delivering 30 meals from Ciao Osteria to the Inova Fair Oaks Hospital emergency room; and

WHEREAS, inspired by the effect their gesture had on frontline health care workers, Ciao Osteria continued to provide meals during the pandemic; as expenses mounted, a giving campaign was established through GoFundMe, and it raised more than \$165,000 from people around the world after local news station ABC7 shared their story; and

WHEREAS, Ciao Osteria expanded beyond Inova Fair Oaks Hospital and began delivering nearly 250 meals a day to various agencies and institutions, including Inova Fairfax Hospital, Fire Stations 17 and 38 of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, hospitals in Manassas, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, and the Virginia State Police; and

WHEREAS, after the initial GoFundMe money ran out, Sal Speziale's classmates at the Air Force Academy began donating to the cause and more meals were delivered; and

WHEREAS, Ciao Osteria's donated meals have included veal and chicken marsala, salad, cannolis, ice cream, tiramisu, and more; these elaborate presentations have brightened the days of countless individuals working tirelessly on the frontlines of the pandemic; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Ciao Osteria hereby be commended for generously serving its community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Sal Speziale, co-owner of Ciao Osteria, as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the restaurant's contributions to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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