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Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association Launches Legacy Membership Program for Virginia Restaurants

The program was launched in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Virginia Restaurant Association

Richmond, Va. – This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Virginia Restaurant Association, which was absorbed into the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA) in 1993.

To celebrate this milestone, the association has found another way to champion iconic restaurants throughout the Commonwealth with a new Legacy Membership program. Virginia restaurants that have been in operation for more than 50 years are invited to apply for this distinction, which includes a free lifetime “legacy” membership to the VRLTA.

VRLTA announced the program during its annual Fall Meeting on Thursday, September 12 alongside Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin, who was in attendance to congratulate the inaugural class of legacy members. The honorees included:

Black Angus Restaurant
Virginia Beach, VA

Joe’s Inn
Richmond, VA

JR’s Custom Catering
McLean, VA

L’Auberge Chez Francois
Great Falls, VA

Pierce’s Pitt BBQ
Williamsburg, VA

The Red Fox Inn & Tavern
Middleburg, VA

The initial legacy membership recipients bring centuries of operational excellence to the program, but are only a starting point for the program. Interested establishments are invited to visit www.restaurantlovers.org/legacy-memberships and apply today. You do not have to be an active member of VRLTA to participate.

“Restaurants are an important part of our community and bring people together,” said VRLTA president Eric Terry. “We look forward to celebrating these incredible establishments and the legacies they’ve created, while helping them continue to flourish through support from VRLTA.”

Virginia's restaurant industry is a significant driver of the state's economy. The food and beverage industry contributed \$9.4 billion in visitor spending in 2023, making up 28% of all visitor spending. The commonwealth's restaurants create thousands of jobs, support career growth and help bring the community together.

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The [Virginia Restaurant Lodging and Travel Association](http://www.vrlta.org) is the unified voice of the restaurant, lodging, travel and hospitality suppliers associations. VRLTA creates value for members by promoting the legislative interests of the industry, networking, educational opportunities, and protecting free enterprise. For more information, visit www.vrlta.org or call 800-552-2225.