Since the Restaurant Legends Program’s inception in 2006, the Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA) has honored individuals across the state with 20 or more years of service at one establishment. Collectively, these 125 individuals have nearly 4,000 years of service to their places of employment, their customers and communities.

In a ceremony Monday, September 15, 2014, LRA President & CEO Stan Harris presented the Restaurant Legends honor to 12 recipients from Mr. B’s Bistro in New Orleans. With 335 combined years of service at Mr. B’s, these men and women exemplify the satisfaction of making their jobs a lifelong and rewarding career.

Cindy Brennan, Managing Partner of Mr. B’s shares, “At Mr. B’s we are a family. We have grown up together and it is a pleasure to work with these fine men and women day after day. Their commitment and dedication have been a huge addition to our success.”

Mr. B’s longtime General Manager Randy Stein adds, “I am honored by the commitment these individuals have to Mr. B’s Bistro. I salute them for their dedication, hard work, and their mentoring of others. Their years of loyalty and leadership have created a wonderful working environment.”

“We hope to encourage younger workers to follow the examples that each of these special men and women have set for the industry,” said Harris. “It is more than evident that Mr. B’s fosters a sense of pride among their employees, promotes from within and stresses the importance of jobs within the industry.”

The Mr. B’s Restaurant Legends recipients are:

- **STEPHEN ARCHACKI**
  - Waiter
  - 29 years
- **DAVID BOEHM**
  - Maintenance manager
  - 27 years
- **RON CANEDO**
  - Manager
  - 22 years
- **CARLOS CASTILLO**
  - Utility worker
  - 30 years
- **MITCHELL DOWLING**
  - Receiver
  - 28 years
- **JOHN CHARLES “JC” JACKSON**
  - Waiter
  - 28 years
- **MERLENE JONES**
  - Accounting/HR manager
  - 38 years
- **PHILIP “SKIP” LOMAX, JR.**
  - Manager
  - 33 years
- **MICHELLE McRANEY**
  - Executive chef
  - 22 years
- **LARRY SHERMAN**
  - Manager
  - 21 years
- **JACKIE WASHINGTON**
  - Cook
  - 25 years
- **KEENAN WHITE**
  - Food runner
  - 32 years

Do you have a legend you’d like to recognize? If so, please contact Erica Burns, eburns@lra.org.

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Is your restaurant one of the 90 percent of restaurants doing charitable work in their community? Are you living the American Dream? Tell us how your restaurant gives back or share your story of success and you could win one of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation’s (NRAEF) prestigious awards.

In recognition of the opportunities the industry creates and their penchant for giving back to their communities, the NRAEF will present its prestigious 2015 Restaurant Industry Awards. The Restaurant Neighbor Award, sponsored by American Express, recognizes restaurants for outstanding community service. The Faces of Diversity American Dream Award, sponsored by PepsiCo Foodservice, celebrates diversity of the industry and honors three individuals who have realized the American Dream.

Four winners of the Restaurant Neighbor Award will each receive $5,000 to support their community efforts. Three diversity winners will have a $2,500 ProStart® scholarship presented in their name. All winners are flown to Washington, DC where they are honored during a gala awards dinner in April 2015 during the National Restaurant Association’s annual Public Affairs Conference.

“The restaurant industry is one of the most diverse in the country, employing more minority managers than any other business sector,” said Louisiana Restaurant Association President & CEO Stan Harris. “It is also one of the most charitable in the United States. To shine the spotlight on the important role the industry plays in improving the quality of life, the NRAEF is now accepting applications for these prestigious awards.”

These awards honor those members of the restaurant industry that best represent its commitment to diversity and charitable giving. **Nominations are due November 17, 2014.** For more information or to apply today, visit NRAEF.org/Awards.

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