

**RESOLUTION # 1176**

**A RESOLUTION HONORING THE ZDRALEVICH FAMILY ON THE 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
MERICHKA'S RESTAURANT IN THE CITY OF CREST HILL**

**WHEREAS**, Mary Zdraleovich and her son, Joseph, opened Merichka's Restaurant on April 18, 1933, at 604 Theodore Street, in the future City of Crest Hill, Merichka is the Slovenian translation for Mary, and over the next 25 years, the business began to grow in popularity and several additions and improvements to the building were completed by Joseph Zdraleovich; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1959, long time, loyal employee Rose "Rosie" Kolenc introduced and created the world famous Poorboy Garlic Butterine Sandwich; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1989, the third generation of the Zdraleovich family consisting of Mary Kay, George, and Joe, Jr., took ownership of the restaurant and continued the tradition; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to selling an average of 2000 Poorboys a week, the restaurant is also known for their hand cut steaks, home-made soups, Yodel Burgers, double baked potatoes, onion rings, and home-made salad dressing, along with varieties of chicken, fish and other sandwiches with a seating capacity for approximately three hundred customers; and

**WHEREAS**, Merichka's Restaurant has operated a successful and profitable business for 90 years in the City of Crest Hill, is the oldest restaurant in Will County, has employed thousands of Crest Hill residents over the years, and has been supportive of community needs and events, thus making the City of Crest Hill a better place to live and improving the quality of life for all Crest Hill residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zdraleovich family is now on the fifth generation of business and is owned by Mary Kay George, with Joe Zdraleovich III and Ryan George as managing partners; and

**WHEREAS**, generations of families have and continue to enjoy the food and nostalgia of Merichka's Restaurant and continue to support the restaurant with their loyalty into the next generations and as a gathering place has formed many new friendships filled with lifelong memories.

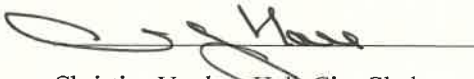
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois as follows:

**Section 1:** The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Crest Hill offer their congratulations and gratitude to the Zdraleovich family and Merichka's Restaurant on their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of operation.


**Section 2:** The Mayor and City Council of the City of Crest Hill extend their best wishes to the Zdraleovich family and to Merichka's Restaurant for a productive and successful future.

**Section 3:** The Crest Hill City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Zdraleovich family and Merichka's Restaurant and make the original of this Resolution available to members of the general public during normal business hours at the City of Crest Hill City Clerk's Office.

**RESOLVED THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2023.**

  
Christine Vershay-Hall, City Clerk

**APPROVED THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2023.**

  
Raymond R. Soliman, Mayor

