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## KOSTROSKI INDUCTED INTO MINNESOTA HOSPITALITY HALL OF FAME

**Edina, Minn.** (November 20, 2018) --- At its annual gala last night, the Minnesota Restaurant Association (MRA) inducted Wayne Kostroski of Cuisine Concepts and Franklin Street Bakery into the Minnesota Hospitality Hall of Fame.

The criteria for the Hall of Fame award is “a restaurant operator with more than 20 years of experience and deemed a legend in the industry.” Kostroski is indeed a legend, but not only the Twin Cities culinary community. He is notorious around the country for his philanthropic efforts towards hunger relief issues.

Kostroski is founder of Taste of the NFL, a mainstay event on the eve of the Super Bowl since 1992. The fundraising event, which pairs celebrity chefs and football greats representing each NFL team and serving plates at 35+ food stations, has raised more than \$25 million dollars for hunger relief since its inception.

“Giving is Good Business” is Kostroski’s motto and theme of his many presentations. “We are all fortunate to be so passionate about what we do every day,” Kostroski acknowledged during his MRA acceptance speech. “Together we all focus on changing lives and creating memories for everyone we encounter in our cafes, restaurants and foodservice operations. We are all truly blessed to work in the hospitality industry.”

Kostroski is co-owner of Cuisine Concepts, a full-service consulting and management company offering specialized services to the hospitality industry. His entrée into the food and hospitality industry began in the late 1970s. A professional musician at the time, he was offered the opportunity to enter into the restaurant industry as the beverage and entertainment manager for the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres and the St. James hotel in Red Wing, Minn. Since 1980, he has played an instrumental role in creating and developing several of the Twin Cities premier dining establishments, including Pronto Ristorante, Figlio, Tejas, Goodfellow’s, and Bar Abilene.

Kostroski is also currently co-owner of Franklin Street Bakery (FSB), a national wholesale bakery founded in 1990. The breads of FSB can be found in restaurants and hotels in over 20 states.

In addition to be honored by the MRA, Kostroski has received numerous local and national recognitions, including:

- 2018 Charlie Awards Lifetime Achievement Award (Twin Cities food and beverage community honor)
- 2010 James Beard Humanitarian of the Year
- National Distinguished Service Award by Foodchain, a network of food relief programs
- Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the Socially Responsible category from Ernst & Young
- America’s Second Harvest Hunger’s Hope Award
- The Pope John XXIII Humanitarian of the Year Award from Viterbo University in LaCrosse, Wisc.
- The Vanguard Award from *Hospitality Magazine*
- Minnesota Vikings Quarterback Club Award for outstanding community service
- The Cornerstone Humanitarian of the Year award from the National Restaurant Association
- Restaurateur of the Year honors from *MPLS St. Paul Magazine*

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The **Minnesota Restaurant Association** drives the success and growth of the industry through strong advocacy, public outreach, operational support, and education. The organization has served the needs of the restaurant industry since 1933 and currently has more than 2,000 restaurant members and 300 allied vendor members. For more information, please visit [mnrestaurant.org](http://mnrestaurant.org).

Since 1992, the **Taste of the NFL** (a 501c3 organization) has rallied the country's top chefs and the NFL's greatest players to raise money in support of food banks throughout the United States. To date, Taste of the NFL's programs and events have raised and donated in excess of \$26 million to food banks and nonprofit organizations in the 32 NFL cities, resulting in 220 million meals for Americans in need (many of them children and seniors), who have turned to their local food banks for assistance. The season long efforts culminate each year with the Taste of the NFL's Party with a Purpose®. Held on the eve of Super Bowl LIII on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 in Atlanta, this year's star-studded fundraising event brings together exceptional cuisine, prominent chefs from around the country, celebrities, NFL players, coaches, legends and more, all to support the fight against hunger. Learn more about Taste of the NFL at [TasteoftheNFL.com](http://TasteoftheNFL.com).

The **Kick Hunger Challenge** is an online-only fundraising campaign spearheaded by Taste of the NFL. This friendly "competition" pits fans from all 32 NFL teams against each other to raise money for food banks in NFL communities nationwide. Throughout the 2018-19 football season, fans will have the opportunity to support one of the 32 NFL teams and directly impact the donation of thousands of meals to food banks in their team's community. Learn more about the Kick Hunger Challenge at [kickhungerchallenge.com](http://kickhungerchallenge.com).

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