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## **TCO Restaurateur Jimmy Theros Inducted into Minnesota Restaurant Association Hall of Fame**

*Award continues tradition of recognition for independent restaurants*

MINNEAPOLIS (Jan. 5, 2011) – [Twin Cities Originals](#)’ (TCO) restaurateur Jimmy Theros, Founder, [Rudolphs Bar-B-Que](#), President, Theros Restaurant Group and Partner, [St. Clair Broiler](#), was inducted into the Minnesota Restaurant Association’s Hospitality Hall of Fame. Theros was presented with the award Nov. 22, 2010, at the Lake Elmo Event Center.

“Jimmy Theros has been a staple on the Twin Cities food scene for more than 50 years, and I’m thrilled that he is finally being recognized by the MRA and inducted into the Hall of Fame,” said Dave Jarvis, TCO president and co-owner at the Afton House Inn. “Independent restaurants in the Twin Cities are what really make this food scene unique and the mission of TCO is to support them and keep them around – hopefully as long as Jimmy Theros has with his fine establishments.”

Theros immigrated to America from Greece in 1948 and quickly developed a passion for the food business. In 1956, Theros and his father opened the James Broiler, where Theros honed his skills as a cook, host and bouncer. In the summer of 1974 Jimmy packed his family into the car and toured the country looking at bar-b-que restaurants, collecting recipes, menus and wisdom from other operators. Upon his arrival back in the Twin Cities he opened Rudolphs Bar-B-Que.

Past TCO member restaurateurs inducted into the Minnesota Restaurant Association’s Hospitality Hall of Fame include Gordy and Kathy Jarvis, owners of the [Afton House Inn](#), in 2009, and Pat Murray of [Murray’s Restaurant](#) in 2005.

### **About Twin Cities Originals**

Twin Cities Originals (TCO) was formed in 2002 by a group of local, independently owned restaurants in response to the growing number of chain restaurants. The organization fosters an environment in which independent Twin Cities’ dining establishments can grow and flourish. In 2001, the number of chain restaurants grew to outnumber independently owned restaurants and continues to threaten the local dining environment. Though all members of TCO are competitors, 20 restaurants have come together to preserve the true spirit of original Twin Cities dining. For more information, please visit [www.tcoriginals.com](http://www.tcoriginals.com)

### **About the Minnesota Hospitality Hall of Fame**

Inductees to the Minnesota Hospitality Hall of Fame are selected based upon the mark they've made in the hospitality industry, recognizing the legacy their influence will have on the business into the future.

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