

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

S.R. No. 70

(SENATE AUTHORS: MITCHELL)

DATE
02/12/2024

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Introduction
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

celebrating the 40th anniversary of Kowalski's Markets.

WHEREAS, Jim and Mary Anne Kowalski purchased their first grocery store, a Saint Paul Red Owl store on Grand Avenue, in 1983 and later purchased a White Bear Lake Red Owl location in 1986, converting it to a Kowalski's Market; and

WHEREAS, in August 2000, Jim and Mary Anne opened the first Kowalski's Markets store to be built from the ground up. This new Woodbury location was designed to look like a European village, and featured a glass-walled bakery oven, three restaurant concepts, a gift shop, an educational and meeting area, a full-service JUUT Salonspa, and a Natural Path department offering organic and natural foods. The new store, which attracted worldwide attention within the grocery industry, was inspired in part by a trip the Kowalskis took to Italy; and

WHEREAS, Kowalski's Markets continued to differentiate itself from the big chain grocery stores, both by offering high-quality, hard-to-find products and by leading the way in making donations to food shelves. Jim and Mary Anne's daughter, Kris Kowalski-Christiansen, started at the company as a cashier and went on to become CEO; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 11 Kowalski's Markets in the Twin Cities area, from Stillwater to Eagan to historic downtown Excelsior. Kowalski's Markets is certified by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council as a women-owned business; and

WHEREAS, the Kowalski family has received some of the highest honors in the grocery industry. Jim Kowalski was named Minnesota Grocer of the Year in 1990, Mary Anne Kowalski was named National Grocers Association Woman of the Year in 2002, Mary Anne Kowalski and Kris Kowalski-Christiansen were both named Entrepreneur of the Year in the Upper Midwest, and Jim and Mary Anne Kowalski received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota Grocers Association in 2021; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it honors the Kowalski family for their 40 years of outstanding performance in the grocery industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to the Kowalski family.

Tom Bottern
Secretary of the Senate

Kari Dziedzic
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Nicole L. Mitchell
State Senator, District 47