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Madelyn Alfano, Owner of Maria's Italian Kitchen to Serve on Statewide Association Board. Lifelong Restaurateur Appointed to Help Lead Association Members

Sacramento - Madelyn Alfano, owner of Maria's Italian Kitchen headquartered in Van Nuys, has recently been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the California Restaurant Association (CRA). CRA is the largest and longest serving non-profit restaurant trade association in the nation, representing more than 21,000 restaurant businesses throughout the Golden State.

Madelyn Alfano literally grew up in the foodservice industry. As a child she worked in her parent's Italian specialty market in Brentwood, and later opened her first restaurant in Sherman Oaks, naming it after her mother, Maria. Alfano now has 10 successful units, and nearly 500 employees throughout southern California. Her company is considered one of the leading privately owned restaurant chains in California.

In addition to her booming business, Alfano is active with numerous charities and non-profit organizations including Shane's Inspiration, the FD Foundation, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Max Reitzin Memorial Fund, which she created in memory of her son to benefit the Enrichment Foundation for Handicapped Children.

Alfano was inducted into the National Association of Women Business Owners - Los Angeles Hall of Fame in 2004, based on her skill as a businesswoman and her philanthropic leadership in the community.

"Board members help provide leadership and direction for the Association, and ensure that the voice of the restaurateur is heard in our State Capitol," says CRA Board Chairman Ron Zappardino." Madelyn Alfano is a dedicated community member and entrepreneur who knows firsthand the issues restaurateurs in California face. We are fortunate to have her serving our members."

Alfano's term began April 17, 2005.