



Honorary Degree

Nomination Form

1. Degree to be Awarded:

X Honorary Doctorate ___ Honorary Baccalaureate ___ Honorary Associate

2. Please state the name and address of your nominee for an Honorary Degree.

Guy R. Fieri

575 West College Ave, Suite 202

Santa Rosa, CA 95401-5079

3. Honorary degrees shall be awarded to persons who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the quality of academic programs and academic life at one of the NSHE's institutions. Persons currently holding public elected office are not eligible for the degree except in extraordinary circumstances.

What are your reasons for nominating this person? (Attach additional pages, if necessary.)

See attached

President

Date

Institution **University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

(B/R 3/03; Added 6/05)



NOMINATION JUSTIFICATION—GUY R. FIERI

AFFILIATION WITH UNLV AND NSHE

Guy R. Fieri is being nominated for an honorary doctorate for his commitment to UNLV. He received a B.S. degree in restaurant administration from UNLV's William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration in 1990. Since then, he has served as a huge inspiration for UNLV students after exploding onto the food scene by winning the second season of "The Next Food Network Star." He has included UNLV faculty and students in his television shows, and actively participated in a number of events that brought attention to UNLV on a national stage.

Mr. Fieri owns and operates six popular restaurants in California, hosts shows on the Food Network, has authored several books, and started a foundation. All of this while still taking time to visit his alma mater to motivate and share his experience with UNLV students.

In 2011, Mr. Fieri headlined UNLV's Chef Artist Dinner Series, a fundraising event that benefits William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration students and faculty, and spoke with UNLV students about what it takes to run a successful business. He worked with UNLV executive chef John Gremo and a group of UNLV student chefs to prepare the meal.

Earlier this year, he visited Stan Fulton Bistro, UNLV's teaching restaurant, while taping an episode of his Food Network show "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives." He spent time teaching students tricks of the trade. Mr. Fieri has given UNLV students opportunities that they simply could not receive anywhere else.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Passionate about empowering today's parents to include their children in the kitchen and educate them about eating healthy, Mr. Fieri helped draft California state legislation proclaiming the second Saturday in May annually as Cook With Your Kids Day. While it was passed unanimously by the California State Legislature in 2008, in April 2011 Mr. Fieri received a new resolution that recognizes Cook With Your Kids Day every Sunday. Invited by the U.S. Navy team to cook at the White House, Mr. Fieri spoke to politicians about making this a nationally recognized holiday. In August 2010 he officially launched CWK (Cooking With Kids, www.cwkfoundation.org), a program encouraging healthy eating habits, which addresses the childhood obesity crisis by strengthening the family unit by sharing quality time in the kitchen.

A longtime supporter of law enforcement and the military men and women serving our country, Mr. Fieri has an ongoing Armed Forces Entertainment commitment and has visited bases in the Persian Gulf, Guantanamo Bay and Hawaii, all as a guest of the U.S. Navy. He entertains the troops and inspires the military culinary specialists with instruction and inspiration.

CAREER BACKGROUND

In 2006 Guy Fieri premiered his first show, "Guy's Big Bite," on Food Network. Today, this "culinary rock star" also hosts the top-rated show "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives," as well as the special series "Tailgate Warriors," and guest judges on "The Next Food Network Star." Mr. Fieri also collaborates with Rachael Ray in the star-studded competition series "Rachael vs. Guy Celebrity Cook-Off," which premiered January 1, 2012, on Food Network. On March 14, 2010, he made his debut as a game show host on the new NBC prime-time series, "Minute to Win It."

This likeable, laid-back California guy with his trademark bleached-blond spiky hair began his love affair with food at the age of 10, selling soft pretzels from a three-wheeled bicycle cart (named "The Awesome Pretzel") he built with his father. By selling pretzels and washing dishes, Mr. Fieri earned enough money in six years to study abroad as an exchange student in Chantilly, France. There he gained a profound appreciation for international cuisine and the lifestyle associated with it.

In 1996 Mr. Fieri and his business partner, Steve Gruber, launched their Sonoma County, California-based Italian restaurant, Johnny Garlic's (www.johnnygarlics.com). Their first location opened in Santa Rosa, California, in fall 1996, a second outpost opened in Windsor, CA, in 1999, and their third opened in Roseville, CA, in 2008. A fourth location opened in Dublin, CA, in summer 2011. Following the success of their first restaurant concept, in 2003 they developed Tex Wasabi's (www.texwasabis.com), a Southern barbecue and California sushi restaurant in Santa Rosa. In 2011 the restaurant reopened to rave reviews after an 18-month, \$1 million renovation. A second Tex Wasabi's is located in Sacramento, CA. Combined, there are now a total of six locations. Always looking to make improvements to the restaurant industry, Mr. Fieri was a three-term president of the Restaurant Association of the Redwood Empire and serves on the board of directors for the Educational Foundation of the California Restaurant Association.

In October 2008 Mr. Fieri released his first book, "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives: An All-American Road Trip...with Recipes!" (William Morrow) based on his widely popular show, which offers recipes and memorable stories from establishments he has visited around the country. A follow-up book, "More Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives: Another Drop-Top Culinary Cruise Through America's Finest and Funkiest Joints" (William Morrow) hit stores in November 2009. Both editions landed in the number 1 spot on *The New York Times* Best Sellers List for more than 12 weeks. In May 2011 Mr. Fieri released his first cookbook, "Guy Fieri Food"

(William Morrow), which includes more than 125 original recipes, full-color photos and cooking tips. That same month, he combined the worlds of food and rock ‘n’ roll during his second-ever cross-country tour. His first tour, “The Guy Fieri Road Show,” took place in November 2009 and toured 21 cities in 30 days at venues that seated 2,000-5,000 fans.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2007 Industry Executive of the Year from the UNLV Food & Beverage Management Department. Honored at the Vallen Dinner of Distinction.
- 2009 Dom Perignon Award of Excellence at 35th Annual UNLVino.
- 2011 Alumnus of the Year from the UNLV William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. Honored at the Vallen Dinner of Distinction.