

PRESS RELEASE

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**FORMER MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENT CHEF, RICHARD E. BATTISTA RECEIVES
HIGHEST CULINARY HONOR IN AMERICA**

Renowned Chef Selected as Life Member in the Honorable Order of the Golden Toque

CAMPBELL, Calif. – July 17, 2007 – Chef Richard E. Battista, President of the Professional Culinary Institute, located in Campbell, California, was bestowed the ultimate honor of being selected as a Life Member in The Honorable Order of the Golden Toque, the premier international Chefs honor society on Monday, July 16, 2007. This Lifetime Membership is awarded to men and women who have made outstanding contributions to culinary education and have dedicated themselves to the pursuit of excellence in the Culinary Arts.

The Honorable Order of the Golden Toque is the highest acclaimed recognition a Chef can receive in America. Membership is restricted to one hundred life-time members. One must be nominated by three active members and closely scrutinized by the Acceptance Committee which is comprised of past Grand Commanders and the Board of Directors.

"I was one of the initial members of the Golden Toque and it is now time to pass the baton to a new generation of culinary leaders. In my opinion, Richard Battista is the young Joe Amendola" says Joseph Amendola, former president of the Culinary Institute of America.

Chef Battista has contributed over thirty years of expertise to culinary education and continues to be an innovator in the food industry. He is the former president of the ACF Los Angeles chapter and the author of the upcoming book, "Essentials of Cooking," to be released in 2008. He is a graduate of Quincy High School and Burdett College. Among many achievements, he is a highly decorated Vietnam Veteran, who was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal.

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