

Reliable Source

The Scene: D.C. restaurant workers let down their hair and celebrate at the 2019 RAMMY Awards



Chef Victor Albusu, center, and his team from Taco Bamba Taqueria celebrate winning a RAMMY in the category of Favorite Fast Bites of the Year on June 30 in Washington. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post)

By **Amanda Andrade-Rhoades**

July 2, 2019 at 10:57 a.m. PDT

On at least one night a year, the District’s bartenders, chefs, busboys and maitre d’s get to step away from their posts and party like everyone else. The 37th annual RAMMY Awards, hosted by the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, is that night, where the DMV’s best restaurants and industry professionals are [recognized for their hard work](#) and get to let their hair down a little.

This year’s event, however, struck a slightly sober tone. [John G. Laytham](#), co-owner of the Clyde’s Restaurant Group, died in January, and his presence loomed large as dozens of his former employees toasted him at the show. The RAMW renamed an award after Laytham, and D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) was on hand to announce the creation of John Laytham Day, which will be held on his birthday, Nov. 12.

The rest of the night saw some 2,500 foodies and industry pros noshing on bites provided by local embassies and sipping cocktails. One of the most popular options? The Instagram-friendly liquid nitrogen caipirinha from Barmini by José Andrés.

The RAMMYs were held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post)

Andra "AJ" Johnson and Will Patton, both of whom were representing Bresca, prepare drinks at the RAMMYs. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post)



The RAMMYs were held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post)




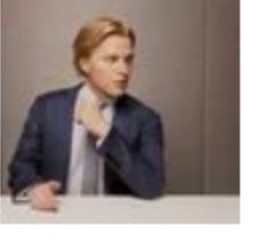



Andra "AJ" Johnson and Will Patton, both of whom were representing Bresca, prepare drinks at the RAMMYs. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post)



From left, Paola Velez, Martel Stone, Brandon Dawson and Kwame Onwuachi, of Kith/Kin restaurant, toast after Onwuachi won a RAMMY for Rising Culinary Star of the Year. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post)



Most Read Lifestyle

- 1 Perspective**
Kellyanne and George Conway’s tawdry love triangle with all of us 
- 2** Ronan Farrow overcame spies and intimidation to break some of the biggest stories of the #MeToo era 
- 3** Inside Fox News: How the impeachment fight is opening fresh divisions in the newsroom 
- 4 Perspective**
Carolyn Hax: You’ve been there for the kids. Now go a little further. 
- 5 Perspective**
The Elizabeth Warren pregnancy smear shows how poisoned the media world is 

Book Club newsletter

Our weekly selection of book reviews and recommendations from Book World editor Ron Charles.

[Sign up](#)

By signing up you agree to our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

Podcast

Post Reports

The Washington Post’s daily podcast: unparalleled reports, expert insight, clear analysis. For your ears.

[Add to Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#)

