



**For Immediate Release**

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**CRACKER BARREL OLD COUNTRY STORE® NAMED  
BEST FAMILY DINING CHAIN FOR 15<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN A ROW**

*Company credits 65,000 employees for delivering exceptional service day in and day out*

**LEBANON, TN-** (July 26, 2005) – Cracker Barrel Old Country Store® (Cracker Barrel) has once again been voted “Best Family Dining Chain” in the annual Choice in Chains consumer poll conducted by *Restaurants and Institutions* magazine. Cracker Barrel first won the honor in 1991, and company executives credit employees for winning the award 15 years in a row.

“Earning this honor for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year shows how our employees make people feel welcome and relaxed when they visit Cracker Barrel,” said Cy Taylor, President and Chief Operating Officer of Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. “This honor is also a credit to our managers and training teams. They continue to stress the importance of friendly employees providing quality food and service.”

For the past 25 years, *Restaurants and Institutions* magazine has presented its Consumers’ Choice in Chains awards. These honors are based on results of a survey of more than three thousand consumers and their visits to 200 of the nation’s largest restaurant chains. The results measure opinions on food quality, menu variety, value, service, atmosphere, cleanliness and reputation.

Taylor also noted how Cracker Barrel employees continue to earn the award while the company opens new stores and hires more staff. “Cracker Barrel had fewer than 100 stores when we first won this award back in 1991,” said Taylor. “Now we have 529 locations in 41 states. Each one of our 65,000 employees plays a special role in our commitment to consistency. When our guests see the Cracker Barrel sign, they know a little piece of home is coming up at the next exit. That’s a credit to the service our employees deliver every day.”

Taylor accepted the award during the annual Choice in Chains conference held in Las Vegas on June 25. “Folks know us for homestyle foods, rocking chairs on the front porch, a fireplace in the dining room, our décor, and our friendly service,” said Taylor. “But our employees deliver the overall experience. Our employees are the reason why Cracker Barrel has earned this award year after year.”

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## **2005 CHOICE IN CHAINS AWARD Add One**

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### **About Cracker Barrel**

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of CBRL Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: CBRL). Cracker Barrel was established in 1969 in Lebanon, Tennessee and operates 529 restaurants and gift shops in 41 states.

Each Cracker Barrel Old Country Store® unit is modeled after a 1900-era country store, featuring old photographs, authentic antiques, memorabilia and a real wood burning fireplace with a stone hearth to add a warm cozy touch to the dining room. The restaurant serves up classic comfort foods such as meatloaf and homemade chicken n' dumplings as well as made-from-scratch biscuits using an old family recipe. The retail store has more than 2,700 gift items including accessories for the home, old-fashioned candies, books on audio, nostalgic items, and children's games and puzzles, including classic favorites such as Raggedy Ann® & Raggedy Andy® and Slinky®.

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. operates 529 company-owned locations in 41 states. Every Cracker Barrel unit is open seven days a week with hours Sunday through Thursday, 6 a.m. – 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 6 a.m. - 11 p.m. For more information, visit [www.crackerbarrel.com](http://www.crackerbarrel.com).

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