

IN RECOGNITION OF DOMAINE  
CHANDON OF NAPA VALLEY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Domaine Chandon, the Napa Valley leading sparkling wine producer, as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

Domaine Chandon was founded in 1973 as the first American sparkling wine venture established by the French Champagne house, Moët et Chandon. As pioneers in producing California sparkling wine, Domaine Chandon has had a far-reaching impact on winemaking in the Napa Valley and is continuing to break new ground with its food-loving wines, both sparkling and varietal stills.

Before Domaine Chandon was established, American-made sparkling wine was overshadowed by French Champagne. When Moët et Chandon, makers of Dom Perignon and other fine Champagnes, selected the Napa Valley as the next world class sparkling wine regions, it helped establish California's reputation as one of the world's top wine producing regions.

In addition to producing premium sparkling wine and a highly regarded line of still wines, Domaine Chandon has proven that sparkling wines shouldn't be limited to New Year's Eve and weddings. With eight sparkling wine cuvees available nationally and five specialty wines available at the winery, Domaine Chandon offers a full range of flavors and styles that are very well matched with foods. As the only Napa Valley winery with an on-site restaurant, Domaine Chandon showcases the pairing sparkling wine with food and in doing so, has help establish the region as a world-renowned dining destination.

Mr. Speaker, as Domaine Chandon celebrates its 30th anniversary with a showcase 30-course dinner and other signature events the weekend of May 2 through May 4, 2003, it is appropriate that we recognize them today for their many contributions to fine wine and fine dining in California's Napa Valley.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EMPLOYEES OF SERENITY HOUSE OF GARY, INDIANA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and enthusiasm that I congratulate the employees of Serenity House of Gary, Inc. as they celebrate 25 years of assisting those in the Gary, Indiana community as they recover from alcohol and drug addiction. These devoted individuals will commemorate their Silver Anniversary at a banquet to be held on April 26, 2003.

Serenity House of Gary, Inc. is a transitional facility that nurtures residents as they recover from the mental, physical, and spiritual effects of alcohol and drug addiction, as well as providing employment counseling and referrals to ensure that the reintegration into the community is successful for both the patient and

those in the surrounding area. The employees at Serenity House are committed to supporting addicts and their families through every step of the recovery process. By promoting each individual's talents and skills, these employees teach all those committed to recovering to develop meaningful, productive lives without the reliance upon narcotics and alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, Serenity House opened in August 1980 to fulfill the need for a residential treatment facility in Lake County, Indiana. It provides a supportive environment for patients to recover from their addiction as they simultaneously learn important life skills, such as obtaining and maintaining both employment and housing in order to enrich the quality of their lives. The employees are trained to counsel and assist those who are recovering from dependency, and are therefore able to create a positive atmosphere in which the patients are prepared to enjoy the benefits of their success.

The physical and emotional suffering caused by addiction affects not only the individual, but also hovers like a storm cloud over all those who have a vested interest in his or her well-being. Serenity House provides a safe haven for those who wish to recover from their dependency but are unable to do so on their own. It is within these walls that those who are looking for the opportunity to improve their lives can find solace.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the employees of Serenity House of Gary, Inc. for 25 years of service to the residents of Lake County, Indiana. Through their efforts, many in the Northwest Indiana community have had the opportunity to enhance their lives and recover from a debilitating illness. It is this compassion and commitment to their fellow man that makes Northwest Indiana a great community, and I am honored to represent these outstanding individuals in Congress.

IN HONOR OF JAMES WHITLEY, JR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KUNINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Metroparks Rangers Chief James Whitley Jr., on the occasion of his recent retirement from service with the Cleveland Metroparks.

Raised in Cleveland, Chief Whitley graduated from John Hay High School in 1976. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy shortly thereafter. While stationed in England, Chief Whitley earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Following four years of exemplary service to his country, he came home to Cleveland where he worked as a caseworker for Cuyahoga County. In that capacity, Chief Whitley helped troubled veterans obtain shelter, food and benefits.

In 1982, Chief Whitley began his service as a police officer with the City of Cleveland Heights. His outstanding work and personal dedication to helping others was clearly rejected throughout his tenure of service. He rose quickly through the department ranks and was promoted to Commander of the Traffic

Bureau in 1990. Significantly and historically, Chief Whitley broke through racial barriers by becoming the first African-American Sergeant within the Cleveland Heights Police Department, which paved the way for other men and women to follow.

As Chief of the Metroparks Ranger, Chief Whitley's vision and leadership brought new life to the Ranger Special Units and was a significant force behind the newly constructed headquarters operations facilities, opening this fall. A tireless supporter of continued education, Chief Whitley was a strong advocate for post-secondary education for rangers and staff.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, admiration, gratitude and recognition of Chief Ranger James of our country and on behalf of the citizens of our Cleveland community have served to lift the spirits Whitley, Jr. Chief Whitley's exceptional work ethic, law enforcement expertise and commendable service on behalf and the lives of countless individuals and families and we extend our best wishes throughout his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 182nd Anniversary of Greek Independence Day. On March 25, 1821, the people of Greece began their quest for freedom from the Ottoman Turks, and we commemorate their resolve and their country's enduring independence.

The birth of democracy in Greece ushered in one of the true golden ages of Western Civilization, and the democratic ideals of ancient Greece provided an inspiration and foundation for American democracy. The peoples of Greece and the United States enjoy a rich friendship based on our common devotion to the ideals of freedom and democracy. Our nation continues to strive for high standards of equality and justice championed by Greek philosophy; and, in shaping their new democracy, the Greeks used the Declaration of Independence as a guide.

The celebration of Greek Independence Day provides a chance for Americans and Greeks alike to reflect on and celebrate a common history that shares the same principles of freedom and democracy.

The Greek Independence Day parade continued its grand tradition this year, marking the 65th annual parade along Fifth Avenue in New York City. I praise the efforts of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York for making such a celebration of Greek Independence possible. This annual tradition provides a chance for Greeks and Americans to celebrate Greek culture and to continue the great partnership between our peoples and cultures.

The commemoration of the Independence of Greece is an important reminder of the contributions of Greece to democracy in America and worldwide. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Greek Independence Day and to pay tribute to the shared traditions of Greek and American democracy.

RECOGNIZING BROTHER TIMOTHY DIENER FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF NAPA COUNTY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Brother Timothy Diener for his outstanding commitment to serving the Napa Valley community in my home state of California.

June 2003 will mark the 75th anniversary (diamond jubilee) of Brother Timothy's entry into the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

Brother Timothy, a lifelong Catholic and the son of German immigrants, was born in 1910 in New Jersey. In 1918 his family moved to Los Angeles, where he graduated from Cathedral High School. He joined the Christian Brothers in 1928 and made two significant discoveries, wine and teaching.

At the age of 25, Brother Timothy became heavily involved in the new Christian Brothers winery. Officially his title was "wine chemist" but it was common to find him performing such additional duties as digging ditches, being the hose dragger, scrubbing the tank, driving the trucks and operating the cement mixer. Half a century of hard work and excellence have since passed and today Brother Timothy is considered a pioneer in the Napa Valley wine industry and is treasured as a master vintner.

Much like the spectacular wine he makes, Brother Timothy gets better with age. Though he turns 93 in November, Brother Timothy maintains an enthusiasm for life and a deep dedication to serving others. Not surprisingly, he continues to serve the cause of Christian Brothers' education as an honorary founding member of the Lasallian Education Fund. He uses his position to assist the underserved youth of our community.

Mr. Speaker, Brother Timothy represents much more than Napa's wine roots or our communities commitment to promoting education. Quite simply, Brother Timothy represents the heart of the Napa Valley. His life has been a legacy of hard work, faith and passionate living. For all of these reasons and countless more, it is most appropriate that we honor Brother Timothy Diener at this time and congratulate him on 75 years with the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
NORTHWEST INDIANA EDUCATORS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I wish to congratulate an exceptional group of Northwest Indiana educators. The Indiana State Teacher's Association will present these outstanding individuals with the 2002-2003 Crystal Apple Award for excellence in education during a banquet on Wednesday, May 7, 2003 in Schererville, Indiana. This year's recipients are: Darlene M. Vassil, Linda Johnson, Estelle

Becke, Judith Thayer, Renee Kouris, James Crist, and Sherry Peters.

Darlene Vassil is a 22-year veteran of art education, and she effectively uses this wealth of experience to enrich the lives of her students. She was awarded a grant from the Indiana Department of Education to develop an electronic portfolio program so that her students can learn to enhance creativity through technology. Darlene's enthusiasm and dedication for her work led to her involvement in the Fine Arts and Music Education (FAME) organization. She was instrumental in the organization of the Northwest Indiana FAME Festivals Imaginarium for the past two years, and has been responsible for various art displays from other cultures being brought to her community.

Linda Johnson has served in the Hanover Community School Corporation for 28 years, and her dedication and professionalism is unsurpassed. She has taught students at various grade levels throughout the elementary and intermediate system. She currently teaches fifth grade at Lincoln Elementary and will retire after the school year is completed. Known for her intelligence and wisdom, Linda is a source of advice for both her students and her peers. Her devotion and humor will be greatly missed.

Estelle Becke began her career as an elementary school teacher in the Highland school system, and currently teaches seventh grade geography. She is a bold, strong, and loyal person who has a passion for both her subject area and her craft. Estelle has sponsored her school's Geography Bee, and has also emceed the school-wide event. She has spent her career teaching her students tolerance for those from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Judith Thayer has dedicated 30 of her 34½ years of teaching to the Lake Central School Corporation. She currently teaches fourth grade at Kolling Elementary School in St. John, Indiana. Her efforts and excellence in the classroom have undoubtedly contributed to the status of Kolling as one of Indiana's Four Star Schools. Although Judith has a principal's certificate, she chooses to be in the classroom because of her love for the students.

Renee Kouris has touched the lives not only of her theater students, but also the lives of those who watch their performances. Her compassion for her students and her desire to include every student in her productions has made Renee one of the most popular teachers at Munster High School. Last year, her theater class participated in a state-wide competition and placed second for the original work that they wrote, produced, and presented. Her ability to challenge students and faculty while remaining humorous, compassionate, and sincere makes her an excellent choice for the 2002-2003 Crystal Apple Award.

James Crist is known for his ability to connect with students in a way that few other teachers are able to duplicate. He directs the Pupils Reached by Individual Direct Education (PRIDE) program, which reaches out to students who have difficulty adapting to standard teaching methods. He teaches them to take pride in themselves and their work. James promotes fairness, acceptance, and stability to students who otherwise would have given up on their education. His adaptability to meet the needs of his students is remarkable, and we are deeply indebted to him for his dedication to his pupils.

Sherry Peters uses her work ethic, dedication, and creative spirit to improve her teach-

ing methods and effectiveness. She does not simply rely on her lesson plans from previous years, but she constantly updates her materials and evaluates her methods in an attempt to reach her pupils. She has the ability to understand her students and connect with them in the classroom, and she uses this ability to take them far beyond their previous limitations. She uses creative strategies to enrich the lives of her students, and the seniors at Lowell High School have elected her the Most Influential Teacher on many occasions.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these tremendous educators as they accept the 2002-2003 Crystal Apple Award from the Indiana State Teacher's Association. Their tireless dedication to enriching the minds of today's youth is invaluable, and I am proud to represent these outstanding teachers in Congress.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
MIKE REINERI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Mike Reineri—family man, friend, and outstanding radio personality.

Mr. Reineri had a long and distinguished career within the broadcasting industry. He was sworn into the Radio & Television Broadcasting Hall of Fame in November of 2001, and throughout his career, he served in every aspect of broadcasting in cities across the country.

Mr. Reineri's first major appearance on radio was in 1959 with WFVG in North Carolina. He stayed there for about a year and soon moved to WKIK, where he did a rock-n-roll show from 7-11 pm at a remote studio at the Piggy-Park Drive-In in Raleigh. His highly entertaining style of broadcasting drew crowds from across the Carolinas.

Besides his natural ability to entertain, Mr. Reineri also possessed a kind and generous heart. While broadcasting in Cleveland, he created and promoted the very successful "Shoes for Kids" program that provides underprivileged and homeless children with footwear. This annual campaign grows stronger every year, and continues to assist Cleveland's neediest children.

Wherever he's lived, Mr. Reineri always sought to be of service to others. He was deeply dedicated and civically active in Miami. For more than two decades, Mr. Reineri served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Miami and was awarded the Service to Youth Award and Service Bar. In 1991 he was awarded the Easter Seals Man of the Year Award in Miami and the Miami Power Squadron Award for Outstanding Contribution to Safe Boating.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Mike Reineri. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends, especially to wife Barbara. Mr. Reineri's exceptional broadcasting talents and achievements will be known for generations to come. Moreover, his exceptional sense of kindness and compassion for others—through word and deed—will live on forever.