

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate Rev. Thompson on being named a Great Living Cincinnati.

HONORING C. THOMAS KEEGEL

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. C. Thomas Keegel for his 45 years as a committed member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Mr. C. Thomas Keegel has been a Teamster since 1959, when he got his first trucking job and became a member of Teamsters Local 544 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. From steward to his current position of General Secretary-Treasurer, Keegel has served as an elected Teamster officer for three decades.

Keegel's skills as the union's chief financial officer were honed in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. He built an area pension fund from \$3 million in assets to a \$220 million powerhouse for Teamster retirees. That pension fund now offers a top benefit of \$55,200 per year and excellent health coverage.

Since taking office on March 19, 1999, Keegel has instituted sweeping reforms in every area of the Union's finances. He has balanced the budget for the first time in more than a decade, hired skilled auditors and accountants, developed programs to extend these reforms to Teamsters Local Unions, Joint Councils, Divisions and Conferences and has undertaken the task of strengthening the Union's treasury and Strike Fund.

Keegel has taken a leading role in enforcing the Hoffa administration's commitment to running a clean union. As General Secretary-Treasurer, he instituted legal actions to recover money stolen from the Union treasury by the prior administration. He created safeguards to ensure that no such embezzlement ever occurs again. Keegel lent his energy, expertise, and enthusiasm to the continuation of the administration's comprehensive anti-corruption program.

As General Secretary-Treasurer, Keegel aims to lift up his Teamster sisters and brothers to even greater heights through his work as their fiscal watchdog and the guardian of their hard-earned dues money.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. C. Thomas Keegel for ensuring the International Brotherhood of Teamsters' continued financial stability and accountability.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
MARTIN E. VITTARDI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Martin E. (Marty) Vittardi, devoted family man, public servant, community leader and dedicated volunteer. The leaders and members of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce recently named him

as the recipient of the 2005 Individual Pride Award for his committed and compassionate volunteerism in raising funds and raising community awareness on behalf of the American Cancer Society.

Marty's journey of public service began nearly thirty years ago, while a student at John Carroll University, where he served as a Congressional Assistant to then United States Congressman Ronald Mottl. After graduating at the top of his class with a bachelor's degree in political science, he accepted the position of Deputy Clerk with the Cuyahoga County Court. He then served for eight years as a Legislative Representative for the Seafarers Union, where he garnered vital insight into the political processes that took him from our local community to Capitol Hill.

Marty has been entrusted with the faith and confidence of Parma residents and with members of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party since the early eighties, as voters have consistently supported him in various City and County elected roles. In 1982, Marty was elected as the Cuyahoga County Democratic Executive Committeeman. That same year, he was elected to represent residents of Ward 3 in the City of Parma and was elected to the position of Ward 5 Democratic Leader.

In 1991, Marty was elected for a six-year term as the Clerk of Court for the City of Parma Municipal Court. He was re-elected to a second term in 2003. In addition to his professional endeavors, Marty has been a tireless volunteer and champion of numerous volunteer causes, and has been an active volunteer in many roles, including chairing school levy campaigns; raising funds for the Byers Field Foundation and Veterans Memorial; co-chairing fundraising drives for the American Cancer Society; and active leadership roles in several civic organizations, including the Parma Elks and the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Marty is the founder and current chairman of the Community Leadership Group, comprised of elected officials, business owners and community activists whose mission is to foster positive change within all levels of the Parma community through the power of a unified commitment, shared vision and collective focus.

Marty's leadership, achievement, and most vital of all, his integrity and genuine concern for others, is a united legacy that co-exists with, and is strengthened by, the integrity, dedication, professional and personal excellence and shared vision of his partner in life—his wife, Lynn M. Vittardi.

With family as the cornerstone of their lives, Marty and Lynn have instilled a deep sense of giving back to the community and service to others within the hearts of their own children, now grown. Marty and Lynn's united focus on their parents, siblings, and above all, their children, Allison, Jessica and Mark, has never wavered and continues to be the center of their lives. Their children have followed a path of professional excellence and service to others, from the examples set by Marty and Lynn. Allison, her husband Nick and Jessica and her husband, Dominick, are education professionals. Their son Mark is in college, majoring in political science.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Martin E. Vittardi, for his unwavering dedication, integrity and outstanding public service, especially his annual volunteer efforts with the American Can-

cer Society. Marty's energy, warmth and significant service continues to offer a light of hope and the promise for a better tomorrow within the City of Parma and throughout our entire community.

IN TRIBUTE TO ALAN AND ROMI
SKOBIN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alan and Romi Skobin for their civic and philanthropic service to Los Angeles and the city of San Fernando and, particularly, their good work for the residents of my district in the San Fernando Valley.

On March 26, 2006, Alan and Romi Skobin are being honored by the executives of the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging for their outstanding involvement with the organization. Their care for the elderly residents of the home demonstrates to all of us the importance of taking care of our parents and grandparents—this country's most important national treasures.

Mr. Speaker, Alan and Romi have a record of community and civic service that spans more than 30 years. Alan, a graduate of California State University, Northridge, has been a longstanding business leader in the San Fernando Valley. Currently he serves as vice president and general counsel of Galpin Motors, Inc. and is a member of the executive committee and board of directors.

He has also served as a commissioner with the Los Angeles Police Department since 2003. In this capacity, he has focused on the Community Based Policing program along with many other issues. His work for the city and the Los Angeles Police Department truly affects each Angelino personally.

Alan is a founding director and executive committee member of the Sheriffs Youth Foundation of Los Angeles County, which funds education and intervention programs for at-risk youth. Alan, a two-time cancer and brain tumor survivor, is also involved with Padres Contra El Cancer, a nonprofit organization that improves the quality of life for children with cancer.

Romi Skobin truly exemplifies the American dream. Her inspirational story began when she came to the United States as a refugee from Cuba in 1969. Romi also received her education locally, at Los Angeles Valley College, and began her career in public service when she joined the San Fernando Police Department in 1974. She currently serves as the records/system administrator, the highest ranking civilian position in the SFPD, and is the city of San Fernando's most senior employee.

Romi has also played an important role in Alan's success by raising their two successful children, Jeff and Jennifer, thereby allowing Alan to attend law school and participate in numerous civic activities.

Mr. Speaker, Alan and Romi Skobin are integral parts of the San Fernando Valley community and I wish to congratulate them wholeheartedly on being honored by the executives of the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging.