



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad to honor  
retiring U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula at All Aboard Ball**

***Event in Akron this year, Mayor Donald Plusquellic is honorary chair***

AKRON (February 11, 2008) – The fourth edition of Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad’s (CVSR’s) All Aboard Ball, to be held May 3, will pay tribute to Rep. Ralph Regula, who will be retiring from Congress after 36 years. Regula co-sponsored the legislation that created Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and he and his wife, Mary, have had lifelong devotions to the national park system, CVSR and the Ohio & Erie Canalway.

In keeping with CVSR’s efforts to celebrate the region’s rich tradition of industrial achievement and transportation resources, this year’s All Aboard Ball will be at Williams Aviation FBO at Akron Fulton International Airport. The black-tie affair will be held in the aviation firm’s 200,000-square-foot hangar, also near the landmark Akron Airdock for blimps.

Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic has agreed to be the event’s honorary chair. He has been mayor since 1987 and overall has devoted 33 years to public service. He and his staff were instrumental in bringing this year’s All Aboard Ball to Akron.

Last year the All Aboard Ball was held at Dock 32 of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority on Lake Erie. In 2006, revelers gathered at the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority’s Rail Shop. The debut ball was held at Heidtman Steel Company on Independence Rd. in Cleveland.

The All Aboard Ball raises funds to help keep CVSR running and making its trips and events affordable to the thousands of families and individuals who ride it. CVSR serves 127,000 passengers annually with its vintage fleet of locomotives and coaches, its service throughout the Cuyahoga Valley and its unique events like wine-tasting trains, “The Little Engine That Could™ I Think I Can™ Rail Tour,” “Day Out with Thomas™” and “The Polar Express™.”

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CVSR presently runs along a 51-mile route from Canton, through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, to Independence. One of the oldest, longest excursion railroads in the nation, CVSR plans to extend its route through Cleveland's Industrial Valley to a station at Tower City.

About 400 guests, among them top industrialists and philanthropists, are expected at this year's All Aboard Ball. CVSR's luxury private railcar, the St. Lucie Sound, will be parked on tracks near the hangar and open for tours, and trolley service will be available.

Corporate and personal sponsorships for the event start at \$2,500 and include a table of eight guests. Individual tickets are \$250. For reservations or further information, please contact the CVSR office in Peninsula, Ohio at 1-800-468-4070, extension 3099.

The All Aboard Ball's committee represents a cross-section of Cleveland business and civic leaders, including Mayor Plusquellic as honorary chairman, Greg Glenn, group vice president, Heidtman Steel Products, is chairman and Gregory G. Kruszka, retired senior vice president of operations, Ridge Tool Co., is vice-chairman.

The All Aboard Ball committee also includes Siegfried F. Buerling, director of properties, emeritus, Western Reserve Historical Society; Peter Buerling, manager, information technology, First Energy Corp.; Charles Arnout (Arnie) de la Porte, consul, Kingdom of the Netherlands; John P. Debo Jr., superintendent, Cuyahoga Valley National Park; Jon T. Elsasser, senior vice president and chief information officer, The Timken Company; Richard M. Enty, retired planning team leader, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority; Charles T. Glazer, director of communications, North Central Sub-Area, Ernst & Young LLP; R. Thomas Green Jr., chairman emeritus, Oglebay Norton Co.; Mary Beth Holdford, manager of corporate social responsibility, ArcelorMittal USA; Connie Krauss, Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce; Thomas J. Jackson, M.D.; Wendy Schweiger, vice president, Edward Howard; and George R. Snider, retired president and CEO of SRA International, Inc.

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad is a private-sector, volunteer-supported, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of passenger rail transportation in the Cuyahoga Valley and the Ohio & Erie Canalway.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Photos of CVSR facilities, railroad equipment and prior years' events are available by request from Kelly Steele, director of marketing at 330-657-1915.

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