

RESOLUTION NO. 1990-184

EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION AND CONGRATULATIONS OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
TO LEONARD RONIS FOR HIS ELECTION TO THE HALL OF FAME OF THE
AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, Leonard Ronis was employed by the Cleveland Transit System in July 1946, and served in the positions of Personnel Administrator, Personnel Director, Chief Labor Contract Negotiator, Manager of Operations, Assistant General Manager, and General Manager in January 1975; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Ronis had the vision and awareness that a new source of income for public transportation must be developed, and he worked diligently with community leaders to structure the necessary state-enabling legislation. In September 1975, Leonard Ronis and Cleveland's leadership were instrumental and successful in the passage of the sales tax which continues to serve as a financial base for public transportation in Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his insightful knowledge of and devotion to the transportation industry, Leonard Ronis was appointed the first General Manager of the newly-formed Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority in September 1975, and held that position until he retired from the Authority in 1982, and

WHEREAS, in 1970 Leonard Ronis was a motivator and founding member of the Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA). He was President of OPTA in 1971-1973 when Ohio transit received its first state support, which has steadily grown over the years. Leonard Ronis remained on the Executive Committee of OPTA until his retirement, and in 1986 the Ohio Public Transit Association honored him by creating the Leonard Ronis Award. Each year this award is given to a person who has made an "outstanding contribution to public transit in Ohio", and is really Ohio's Hall of Fame for transit, and

WHEREAS, Leonard Ronis' activity in the transit industry on the national level began in the early 1950's when he became active in several committees of the American Public Transit Association (APTA). During the 1960's and 1970's Mr. Ronis chaired several APTA committees and became a member of the APTA Board of Directors in 1975. Mr. Ronis also served the Institute for Rapid Transit, was a member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Transit Development Corporation. He was active in the National Research Council's Transportation Research Board. For many years he served as Chairman of the Transit Data Summaries and made that vital source of information available to all transit properties throughout North America. In 1976 through 1978, he was APTA Vice President of Administration and Finance. In 1978-80, Mr. Ronis was APTA Vice President of Development and Technology, and in 1980 he was elected APTA President, and served in that office through 1982, and

WHEREAS, in 1980 Mr. Ronis was instrumental in the formation of the block grant process, which is now known as the new Section 9 formula block grant. Since 1982, Mr. Ronis has been dedicated on a nearly full-time basis to APTA and the promotion of transit. Mr. Ronis has traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada to participate in many conferences on behalf of public transit. During this period, his advocacy with members of Congress and the Department of Transportation was of significant help in achieving the tax designated for public transit. The gasoline tax initiated during the Ronis administration continues to serve as a base for federal funding of transit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Cuyahoga County, Ohio:

Section 1. That the Board of Trustees hereby extends its congratulations to Leonard Ronis on having been elected to the Hall of Fame of the American Public Transit Association.

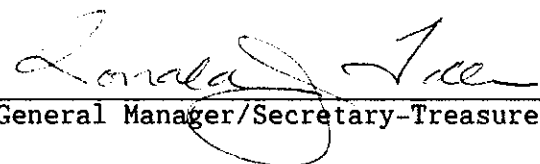
Section 2. That the Board of Trustees hereby extends its sincere appreciation to Leonard Ronis for his dedicated service to the Authority and to the other transit-related organizations which have benefited from his considerable expertise.

Section 3. That the Board of Trustees offers its best wishes to Leonard Ronis and its hopes that he will enjoy many more years of happiness and continued success in public service to the transit industry.

Section 4. That this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.


President

Adopted: November 27, 1990

Attest: 
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer