

# CURIERUL ROMÂNESC

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SILVIA CONSTANTINESCU

Chief Editor

## THE TRUE HEROES OF OUR TIME

During the 30 years of existence of the magazine CURIERUL ROMÂNESC (THE ROMANIAN COURIER), I have been interested to meet and to have interviews with personalities, "people with power", people who through their actions have changed, or have influenced the destiny of a collectivity, or of a nation. I was not interested in first place if they had the same political or social views as I had, but what made possible that they arrived to decide over others' life. Do they have inborn qualities which raise them over the "common people", or are they just the result of some circumstances? What in the way to behave of these "people with power" – presidents of states, prime-ministers, leader of political parties, leaders of international organizations - fills with enthusiasm other people, who follow them, and who, by that, invest them with power, and consolidate their power? In a kind of journalistic blindness, I avoided to introduce to our readers "the common people" I met every day. However, the experience from the last years made me to understand that, in fact, there are not the presidents of states, the prime-ministers, the leaders of political parties, or the leaders of international organizations who influence our everyday life, that not the "people with power" are they who make our life more pleasant, or a nightmare. During the last years, since I am traveling between two worlds – Stockholm, Sweden, and Houston, Texas – I have realized, once more, that our everyday life is influenced, is marked by the officers we meet every day in different governmental or local institutions, by the people working in hospitals, or in banks, by people we meet when shopping, in stores, etc. I did understand, once more, that the intelligence, the professionalism, the self-abnegation, the honesty, the skill, the kindness, the consideration given to our fellow men, as well as the stupidity, the badness, the lack of honesty and consideration to them around us, are not the monopoly neither of one nation, nor of one particular skin color, nor of one particular religion. I have decided to introduce to you people I have met, who have impressed me by their professionalism, honesty, and self-abnegation with which they accomplish their everyday work, without magniloquence, with respect for them self, and consequently for people around them. Them I wish to bring my appreciation, and my gratitude, because they are the true heroes of our time, they are them who make our life to be happy, or a nightmare.

Silvia Constantinescu.



Mr. Joe Ramirez, Personal Banker at Citibank N.A., 8133 Broadway, Houston, Texas.

Photo: Silvia Constantinescu / © CR.

### JOE RAMIREZ:

**"I SHALL HELP YOU TO GET  
A CREDIT SCORE!"**

In the end of the year 2007, the National Administration for Retirement Benefits in Romania has "made a partnership with the Citibank Romania S.A., so, by the assistance of this bank, the pension benefits, and other social security rights of the people having benefits from the public system shall be transferred abroad, in a bank account opened by this bank in a bank on the territory of the state of residence..."

One can find information about this decision also on the home page of CURIERUL ROMÂNESC.

This way, since 2008, both Octavian and my self became, automatically, customers of this bank, which deposits our pension benefits from Romania to our bank in Sweden.

Citibank has offices also in Houston, Texas, and therefore it was normal for us to contact one of these offices to transfer there the pension from Romania which was deposited by then in Sweden, and to ask for a credit to buy a home, we considering that, because we were customers of this bank in two countries, Romania and Sweden, it should not be any problems for its mortgage bankers to make a control of our ability to pay back a loan.

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Mrs. Sheilah A. Benoit, Travel Counselor at American Express Travel, Houston, Texas.

Photo: Silvia Constantinescu / © CR.

### SHEILAH A. BENOIT:

**"I TRY WITH PLEASURE  
TO HELP YOU,  
ALSO THIS IS NOT  
IN OUR COMPETENCE."**

I do not know, and I did not research either for information about which company for transport of passengers has been the first to have the idea of selling tickets for round trip for a longer period, up to one year.

What I know, however, is that this idea has been taken over, and, more then that, put in practice by almost all the companies for transport of passengers, including the flight companies.

This idea has given great advantages to these transport companies generally, and also to the flight companies.

First of all, they receive traveler's money in advance, money for which they pay no interest, money that they use to make other businesses, beside that they lower the incertitude of clearing the seats during this period of one year.

Any way, the transport companies have no risk in this business.



Mr. Doug Clare, Service Drive Manager at Allen Samuels Chevrolet Houston, 7000 Southwest Fwy., Houston, TX 77074.

Photo: Silvia Constantinescu / © CR.

### DOUG CLARE:

**"WE HAVE GOOD MECHANICS,  
WHO CAN MANAGE  
ALL KIND OF VEHICLES!"**

Mr. Doug Clare, Service Drive Manager at Allen Samuels Chevrolet on 7000 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77074, is a tall, thin man, who does not speak, or smile too much. However, this silent attitude did not create an unpleasant sensation to us, or of fear, or of distance, but, au contraire, one of seriousness, which creates confidence.

We had met Mr. Doug Clare in 2009 already, recommend by Mr. Boris Martinez, Sells Consultant, an other employee from the same company, to whom we came in contact when we tried to buy an 1999 Jaguar with which we should move in this huge town, Houston.

We did not buy the Jaguar from Mr. Martinez, but his kind attitude approached us to him, and we had the courage to contact him again, when we had some problems with the Land Rover we have purchased, after many hardships, from other company.

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