



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 10, 2018

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## **He Landed as an Immigrant in NYC With \$316. Now He's the Best Chauffeur in America.**

**(ROCKVILLE, Md.)**—When Grigory Eskin and his wife, Rachel, left Lithuania in 1980, their goal was to give their six-year-old son a better education.

Eskin spoke six languages, but not English. He had \$316 to his name. But he knew a better future awaited. He worked hard and learned quickly, moving from his first job as a taxi driver to being a chauffeur with Vital Transportation, Inc., of New York City in just three years.

Four decades later and still with the same company, the 71-year-old Eskin is being honored as the best in his field, having been named the 2018 Limousine & Sedan Chauffeur of the Year by the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association (TLPA), the oldest and largest trade organization of its kind in the world.

“Vital is my company; it is my family,” Eskin said. “Everything I have in life is because of Vital. If you are a hard-working person and you are willing to get something, you’re always going to get it. My main goal was to give my kids the best education. And I did.”

Berj Haroutunian, president of Vital Transportation, said it is Eskin’s strong work ethic, superb driving record and attention to detail that make him so deserving of the award. He noted that Eskin has even been honored in the past by New York City officials for not receiving a single ticket in a year, a rare achievement in such a congested metropolis.

“Grigory is one of a kind,” Haroutunian said. “I wish everyone was like him.” He notes that Eskin was with the company when it was just a 10-car fleet. It now has over 450 vehicles.

Eskin will accept his award in front of hundreds of industry professionals at the TLPA’s 100th Annual Convention & Trade Show on Oct. 29 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

**About TLPA:** Established in 1917, the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association (TLPA) is a nonprofit trade association that represents the owners and managers of taxicab, limousine, sedan, airport shuttle, paratransit and nonemergency medical fleets. TLPA’s member companies operate more than 100,000 passenger vehicles and transport more than 900 million passengers annually. For more information, please visit [www.tlpa.org](http://www.tlpa.org).

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