

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Spring, 2008

NEWSLETTER

Volume XIV, Number 1

Prime Minister Topolánek Commemorates Masaryk Birthday



Topolánek at Masaryk Memorial Ceremony Photos by Lillis Werder

Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek included time in his full schedule on February 27th, to pay his respects at the Masaryk Memorial. Accompanied by Czech Ambassador Petr Kolář, Topolánek offered remarks to a dedicated group of well-wishers on a blustery day. He noted that 2008 marks the 158th anniversary of the birthday of the liberator and first president of Czechoslovakia, and emphasized the significance of Masaryk in creating the independent Czech state and the importance of his close personal relationship with President Woodrow Wilson in giving birth to the first democracy in Central Europe.

The Prime Minister further cited the continuing importance of a strong U.S.-Czech relationship. Topolánek was greeted by an AFoCR delegation including Chairman Fred Malek, President Peter Rafaeli, Vice President William Cabaniss, and AFoCR Directors George Drost, Phillip Kasik, Michael Rokos and Jack White. Also, former AFoCR President Milton Cerny was on hand to greet the Prime Minister.

After the moving wreath laying ceremony, AFoCR presented the Prime Minister with a memento and a certificate of recognition for his continuing efforts to enhance Czech-U.S. relations. The Prime Minister thanked AFoCR for its activities on behalf of the Czech people, and he was briefed on AFoCR's next big project - the reestablishment of the Woodrow Wilson Monument in Prague.



L to R: AFoCR Chairman Fred Malek, Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek, AFoCR President Peter Rafaeli, current U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic Richard Graber, AFoCR Past President Phil Kasik Photo by Lillis Werder

VISA WAIVER UPDATE:

New Agreement Paves Way for Visa Free Travel to U.S.

On February 26th, Czech Interior Minister Ivan Langer, as part of a Czech delegation in Washington, signed a memorandum of understanding that marks the first step towards the Czech Republic's inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. Prague has been a strong advocate of visa-free travel to the U.S. for years. Prime Minister Topolánek described the signing as the "fulfillment of a dream for generations of Czechs." Signing the memorandum on behalf of the U.S. government, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff said that he hopes to welcome the first Czechs without visas as early as October of this year.

Prior to traveling, Czech citizens will be required to provide detailed information to U.S. officials via the internet with the Electronic Travel Authorization system. Travelers from the Czech Republic will also be tracked under the immigration and border control system, US-Visit, a database of foreigners present in the United States.

The Czech Republic's bilateral agreement with Washington has caused concern within the European Commission; in particular Brussels takes issue that the signing might imply a release of personal data that extends beyond EU policies. Interior Minister Langer, however, rejected complaints by Brussels, stating that the Czech Republic had waited long enough for solidarity which never materialized. Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff gave praise to the Czech Republic as a pioneer in becoming the first EU state to enlist in America's new, stricter form of visa-free relations.

Wilson Project Moves Forward



As described in the Fall, 2007 Newsletter, AFoCR is working with the City of Prague and the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens to rebuild the monument to U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in Prague. An exciting discovery regarding this project was made in early January, 2008. The original plaster model of the full-size head and shoulders of the Wilson statue, created by internationally renowned artist Albin Polasek, was found in a warehouse of the National Gallery in Prague. This unexpected find guarantees a more exact copy of the original statue, as the most expressive part of the sculpture can now be reproduced. Moreover, it will connect the reproduction of the statue directly to the hand of the original sculptor.

In February, AFoCR Directors Jack Stack and William Cabaniss held a number of meetings in Prague to advance the project, including with Dr. Pavel Bém, Lord Mayor of the City of Prague. The City officials all expressed their enthusiasm and commitment to work with AFoCR to successfully complete the project. The City is considering a site for the monument near the entrance to the 1970's addition to Wilson Station. The entire station is currently undergoing renovation.

Message from AFoCR President Peter Rafaeli

I am pleased to report on a number of exciting steps underway by AFoCR's Board of Directors and the Board's Executive Committee towards the organization's growth and conversion into a national organization. The following agendas are being actively pursued:

The Board streamlined the leadership structure of the organization, creating the position of Chairman of the Board. This new position is now filled by our longtime friend and Director Fred Malek. I have been appointed to the post of AFoCR President and we added to the Board and the Executive Committee three outstanding individuals who bring with them years of valuable experience and a wealth of contacts for AFoCR in the Czech Republic. They are listed below in alphabetical order:

- **William J. Cabaniss, Jr.**, former U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, who is now the AFoCR Vice President
- **Thomas A. Dine**, former Director of Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty in Prague, who also has years of experience as a public servant in the federal government
- **Jack Stack**, an American banker who came seven years ago to Prague as the head of Česká Spořitelna Banka (Czech Savings Bank) and expertly modernized the Czech banking world.

We have excellent news on the topic of the **Visa Waiver**. The following is an excerpt from the February newsletter of the U.S. Embassy in Prague: "Following a full morning of negotiations with Czech authorities on border security agreements, DHS Assistant Secretary Richard Barth reported excellent progress in the work that would enable Czech citizens to travel to the U.S. without a visa in 2008." We invite you to read a complete transcript of Barth's February 6 exchange with Czech media. To view this, please go to www.prague.usembassy.gov.

The recently formed Czech Caucus is growing gradually. If your Senator or Representative is not a member, we suggest that you contact him or her immediately. The Woodrow Wilson Monument project, led for AFoCR by Director Robert Doubek, is starting to solidify. Recently, Directors Cabaniss and Stack met with various officials in Prague. We anticipate that this project will be another example of healthy Czech-U.S. cooperation.

Our fundraising efforts have been successful. If you made a contribution, we express our heartfelt appreciation for your support. If you have not contributed recently, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution today.

With kindest regards,



About Artist Albin Polasek

Albin Polasek (1879-1965), the Czech-American sculptor of the Woodrow Wilson statue of 1928, created more than 400 artistic works throughout his lifetime in a variety of media including bronze, stone, plaster, wood, and paint. Over half of all his works are now on display at the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens at Winter Park, Florida. As evidenced in the Wilson statue, Polasek's talent and legacy remain in his life-like sculptures of people.

Born in Frenštát, Moravia, Polasek began his career as a wood carver in Austria. Emigrating to America at age 22, he

AFoCR Recognizes Ambassador Peter Kolář



AFoCR President Peter Rafaeli and Ambassador Peter Kolář Photo: AFoCR

AFoCR President Peter Rafaeli presented a certificate of appreciation to Ambassador Peter Kolář, in recognition of his exceptional support of AFoCR's Nicholas Winton Educational Project. Ambassador Kolář's work culminated in the successful effort to achieve Congressional recognition for Sir Nicholas Winton, resulting in the passage of House Resolution 583.

The presentation was made in Washington, D.C. during a reception dinner hosted by Ambassador Kolář in connection with the national meeting of the Czech Republic Honorary Consuls in October, 2007.



AFoCR Mourns Passing of Representative Lantos

America mourns the loss of a great "American by Choice"-Tom Lantos. AFoCR mourns the untimely loss of a great ally in the fight for freedom and human rights. Representative Lantos served with distinction and wisdom in the House of Representatives and on the House International Relations Committee, as the committee's most recent Chairman. He was a friend of the Czech Republic, and cooperated with AFoCR in projects to educate young people about the Holocaust.

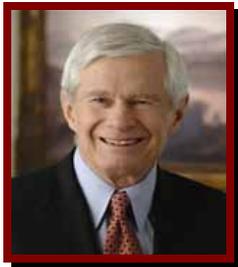
As the only Holocaust survivor serving as a member of Congress, he understood the importance of continued efforts to educate others about these terrible crimes. His wisdom, leadership, and courage will be sorely missed.

began formal art training at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. While attending the Academy, Polasek began to develop his own distinct style of sculpting, while at the same time incorporating classic techniques taught by his instructors. As a student, he produced two of his most acclaimed works, *Man Carving His Own Destiny* (1907) and *The Eternal Moment* (1909). After becoming an American citizen in 1909, Polasek competed for, and won, a fellowship to the American Academy in Rome. While studying at the American Academy, he won the Prix de Rome competition.

At age 37, after dividing his time for many years between Italy and New York City, he was invited to head the Sculpture

AFoCR Expands Board

Malek elected Chairman Rafaeli elected President Moving AFoCR Forward



Chairman Fred Malek



President Peter Rafaeli

The fall of 2007 brought new faces to AFoCR's leadership line-up when the Board of Directors convened in October. Long-time Board member Fred Malek was elected Chairman of the Board, while Peter Rafaeli was chosen as President. Rafaeli observed that the three new Directors - William Cabaniss, Thomas Dine and Jack Stack - bring with them a wealth of experience with non-profit organizations, business, and U.S.-Czech relations. Bill Cabaniss, former U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, was elected Vice President. Tom Dine, having returned from his presidency of Radio-Free Europe in Prague, and Jack Stack, recently back from an exceedingly successful term in Prague, as CEO of Česká Spořitelna Bank, bring unique competencies to the Board.

Cabaniss and Stack wasted no time getting started as they shuttled off to Prague in February, 2008 for meetings with Czech leaders to coordinate plans for AFoCR's newest project, the reconstruction of the Woodrow Wilson Monument in Prague.

Peter Rafaeli reported that the new AFoCR Leadership Council is continuing to grow and expand across the country, and is still open to new members.



AFoCR Board of Directors Meeting, October, 2007 Photo by AFoCR

Chairman Fred Malek's Vision for AFoCR



I am honored to accept the invitation of the Board of Directors of the American Friends of the Czech Republic to become its Chairman. My grandfather was born in Krasna Hora, Bohemia, and like Milt Cerny, Phil Kasik, and Bob Doubek, I grew up in the Czech enclaves of Berwyn and Cicero, Illinois. I deeply treasure my Czech heritage and have served on the Board of AFoCR since the mid-1990's under Milt Cerny's outstanding leadership. In 2000, I chaired the AFoCR gala, honoring Vaclav Havel and Madeleine Albright at the Plaza Hotel in New York, and I have been honored by this fine organization. Thus, it is a great pleasure to join Peter Rafaeli and the other members of the leadership team.

Although it is early to be too definitive about my vision for AFoCR, below are a few of my initial thoughts:

- ❖ We have launched some important initiatives and made meaningful contributions, including assistance to resolve issues from the 2002 floods, the establishment of the Masaryk Memorial in Washington, and the recognition of Sir Nicholas Winton's heroic efforts during World War II. We are now working on the resurrection of the monument to President Woodrow Wilson in Prague, erected in 1928 and later torn down by the Nazis in 1941.
- ❖ Our mission should be broadened, relying less on projects and emphasizing a continuum of programs to enhance relations between the peoples of the United States and Czech Republic, and preserving our valued common heritage.
- ❖ We have had able and dedicated leadership, and now we need to attract a new generation of young leaders to provide the energy to realize the broadened vision.
- ❖ We have been, primarily, a Washington-centered organization, and now we need active members from every part of the country. As we move in this direction, we embrace the participation of younger, more geographically dispersed, friends of the Czech Republic.
- ❖ As we move in the directions described above, we will need greater funding, and thus, a strengthened approach to fundraising.

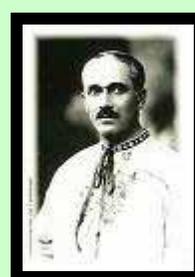
Obviously, the above are my initial impressions, and the Board will provide more definition in the months ahead. Most importantly, however, we would like to hear more from you. Do these concepts and directions strike a responsive chord? What are we missing? What would you like to see AFoCR accomplish? Please take the time to share your thoughts by writing to me at the following address:

Thayer Capital Partners
1455 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 350
Washington, D.C., 20004-1008 or,
email me at FMalek@thayercapital.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Department at the Art Institute of Chicago where he worked for almost 30 years. He was often referred to as a "Chicago artist" because of the many sculptures still seen today dotted throughout the city.

Polasek was elected as an associate member of the National Academy of Design in 1927, becoming a full member in 1933. At age 71, the artist retired to Winter Park, Florida, suffering a stroke shortly thereafter. Even though the stroke left him paralyzed on his left side, he went on to produce 18 more major works, using only his right hand. During his lifetime, Polasek was married twice. He died in 1965 and is buried in Winter Park alongside both his wives.



Photos by krajane.radio.cz

Albin Polasek, Artist, Sculptor

Vondra Presentation: US and EU in 21st Century



Photo by AFoCR

On November 16, 2007, Alexandr Vondra, Deputy Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, delivered a compelling speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, entitled “The EU and the U.S. in the 21st Century.” This event, the 8th annual Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture, was co-sponsored by the Friends of Slovakia and the AFoCR.

In his discussion, Vondra examined the current and future state of transatlantic relations with an emphasis on the goal that the strategic interests and values of both the U.S. and Europe remain centrolineal. Vondra described a community of existing values between the two powers, emphasizing a commitment to democracy, individual rights, and the importance of market economics. Vondra elaborated on the significance of the combined efforts of both regions to thwart international terrorism, while also assuring the security of energy resources.

Throughout his address, Vondra underscored the invaluable and ever-strong alliance that has sustained through the decades between the U.S. and the EU. This relationship has been evidenced through two world wars, as the U.S. greatly assisted in the recovery of Europe’s economy after WWII. Vondra stressed that the U.S. has been instrumental through NATO, as U.S. leadership led to the ultimate liberation of Central and Eastern Europe from the Communist regime.

Vondra outlined three topics of foremost strategic importance for a successful transatlantic alliance: security, economic cooperation, and energy. In regard to security, he proposed a resolute discussion between the EU and the U.S. regarding the future of NATO, and the coordination between EU member states concerning Kosovo and the European Security and Defense Policy. Vondra also highlighted the U.S. missile defense shield as a key policy in the promotion of ongoing beneficial U.S. relations with Europe.

Vondra explained how the global economy is presently dominated by the U.S. and the EU, together generating almost 60% of world economic output. Vondra urged that because of the rapid growth of large countries such as China, Brazil, and India, and their increasing foothold in an expanding world market, the U.S. and EU must work together to remain competitive. He also cautioned EU members and the U.S. from holding up the Doha round, recommending that any differences be resolved through joint compromise.

Vondra lastly examined energy issues, and how a country’s accessibility to energy resources can largely determine a state’s geopolitical position. To circumvent the hardships that arise from many of the world’s resources being situated within the confines of totalitarian governments, Vondra laid out his plan for effective management for future energy security. He recommended a diversification of energy resources, an increasing reliance on nuclear energy, and the broadening of the energy market.

To summarize, Vondra reiterated the priority of the U.S. and the EU to forge a united alliance as equal partners, jointly committing to resolve global obstacles as they arise. It is paramount that the two maintain a cohesive bond, keeping global interests in the forefront. He noted that the two regions have historically united through a collective sense of responsibility, advocating an ongoing transatlantic partnership in the future, as he deems this goal essential for securing global stability. He resolved that a “transatlantic agenda” is ultimately a “global agenda.”

A variety of groups made up the large audience attending the lecture including many AFoCR and FOS supporters. FOS Board members in attendance included Bill Tucker, Juraj and Julie Slavik, Ken Bombara, Ted Russell, and Peter Rafaeli, who coordinated this year’s Freedom Lecture. Deputy Prime Minister Vondra was presented with a Friends of Slovakia medal on behalf of the FOS Board of Directors by FOS Vice Chairman Ted Russell immediately after the lecture. AFoCR Vice President Peter Rafaeli presented Vondra with a certificate of appreciation from the AFoCR and the FOS, in addition to a large photograph of the Masaryk Memorial in Washington, D.C.

If you would like to listen to the audio of the 8th annual Czech and Slovak Freedom lecture, use the following link:
http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_events/task,view/id,1435/

90th Anniversary of Masaryk’s Visit to Chicago May 5, 2008



Photo by Lillis Werder

May 5, 2008, will mark the 90th anniversary of the triumphant visit of the founder of Czechoslovakia, T.G. Masaryk, to Chicago, that helped solidify the American decision to support the establishment of the Czechoslovak state. Masaryk was greeted in Grant Park by a crowd estimated at one hundred, fifty thousand people, mostly from the Czech-American community. It was, indeed, a historic moment in the life of the Czech community in Chicago, but also one of the milestones, together with the backing of President Wilson, which led to the independence of Czechoslovakia on October 28, 1918.

The first week of May will be filled with events commemorating the anniversary. Some of the events that are being planned are as follows:

May 1st—Documentary Premiere “Accidental Army—The Amazing True Story of the Czechoslovak Legion” at the Chicago History Museum

May 3rd—Masaryk Memorial Banquet at Klas Restaurant, Cicero, Illinois

May 4th—Special Tour of the Bohemian National Cemetery

May 13th—Masaryk Lecture on Democracy at the University of Chicago

For additional information, please contact Radka Kloudova, office of the Czech Consulate of Chicago at Chicago@embassy.mzv.cz or call 312-861-1037.

Topolánek Visits Washington

Photos by Lillis Werder



Exhibit Revisits Turbulent Year of 1968

Beginning Friday, March 7, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, turned back the clock to remember *1968: Twelve Volatile Months that Transformed the World*. This original exhibition is the only one of its kind in the United States commemorating the 40th anniversary of 1968.

Set in the global chronology of turbulent events, this original exhibit explores the Prague Spring and life in communist Czechoslovakia. Witness Dubcek's failed attempt at "socialism with a human face" as the startling arrival of tanks overwhelmed peaceful streets, and machine gunfire announced the end of the Prague Spring and the descent into communist winter. Experience controversial politics, daily shortages, dissident art, rampant propaganda, blatant censorship, and the suspicion that comes with living in a controlled society. The year 1968 demonstrated worldwide turmoil. Vietnam War protests sent shock waves through the U.S., Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bobby Kennedy were assassinated, student revolts rocked France, and the riots outside the Democratic Party National Convention in Chicago were forcefully subdued. Former Secretary of State Dr. Madeleine Albright endorsed the exhibit saying, "The Prague Spring was one of the key events in the history of Czechoslovakia. It is very appropriate that the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library – this wonderful museum that represents the spirit of the Czechs and Slovaks through history – should be honoring this historic period."

Programs, lectures, and events will occur during the run of the exhibition, and are listed at www.ncsml.org. The 1968 program closes January 25, 2009.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is the leading United States institution collecting, exhibiting, preserving, and interpreting Czech and Slovak history and culture. The NCSML is located at 30 16th Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids.



Young Pioneers with Stalin



Russian Tank in Prague

Holocaust Rescuer Sir Nicholas Winton

Honored in Washington, D.C.

The remarkably effective and modest Holocaust rescuer, Sir Nicholas Winton, was honored at a reception at the residence of the British Ambassador to the U.S. in Washington, D.C., on February 7th. Assembled in the spacious reception hall were nearly 200 teachers from schools in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, public policy activists and intellectuals from the U.S. government and local think tanks and universities, AFoCR Directors, and diplomats from the three sponsoring embassies, the U.K., Czech Republic, and Israel. This event marked the closing of Holocaust Educational Outreach Week in

the Chesapeake Basin region. The educators, in particular, were eager to absorb new anecdotal information for their Holocaust curriculum.

The three host ambassadors reflected on "Sir Nicky's" heroics. British Ambassador Sir Nigel Sheinwald emphasized that in 1939, the unknown but prescient London stock broker cut short his skiing trip to the Swiss Alps and diverted to Prague. There, he witnessed firsthand the early results of Hitler's brutality in Czechoslovakia and saw dislocated, homeless, Czech Jewish families, including thousands of children, hungry and trapped in squalid, freezing camps and soon to be herded to the early killing fields of Nazi inhumanity. Sir Nicholas returned to England to organize volunteers, raise money, and find homes to rescue the children from harm's way. An incredible 669 fortunate souls were saved.

Israeli Ambassador Salai Meridor, a member of a multi-generational Israeli family, began his remarks by telling the assembled that one of his relatives from pre-war Czechoslovakia had escaped to the U.K. ahead of Hitler's occupational forces, and ironically, now resides in Maidenhead, England, Sir Nicholas' village. Two lessons are learned from Nicholas Winton's actions, he explained. First, people need to be able to study the causes of hatred and violence in the world in order to take action against it. Secondly, none of us should forget that an individual's efforts can be limitless. The Ambassador ended by saying that Israel will be forever indebted to Sir Nicholas.

Czech Ambassador Petr Kolář mentioned the work of the Czech Embassy in recalling the tragedy that hit Czechoslovakia and the rest of Europe between 1938 and 1945. He remarked that the Embassy's exhibition two years ago, entitled "Neighbors Who Disappeared," about Jewish friends and neighbors that were rounded up and shipped to their deaths in concentration camps, had been critically received by educators, artists, museum curators, and the Greater Washington public in general. The Ambassador reminded the audience that such a historical tragedy can occur if people are ignorant and/or indifferent and do not fight back. The key to the continuation of liberty and democracy is education, and his embassy will continue to contribute to peoples' knowledge of the past and present. He said, "We will continue with our educational outreach" through histories, novels, movies, art, music, and theater. "We can never relax" in promoting and protecting democracy in our own time.

As a finale to this emotional evening, AFoCR President Peter Rafaeli presented to the British and Israeli Ambassadors, copies of the book about Sir Nicholas Winton and his heroics, "Nicholas Winton's Lottery of Life," and an essay by Lawrence Reed, "The Difference One Can Make." Ambassador Meridor commented afterwards, "This event really touched my heart." A teacher from Montgomery County expressed similar sentiments as the event came to a close.



Peter Rafaeli presents copy of Winton book to US Attorney General Mukasey at reception
Czech Embassy Photo



U.S. Capitol Building, Washington., D.C.

Photo by Lillis Werder

Czech Caucus Established in Congress Your Action is Needed!

Dear Friends,

As you learned in our winter edition, members of the U.S. Congress have been joining an exciting and truly historic initiative, the *Czech Caucus*, which highlights the importance and depth of the existing friendship and cooperation between the U.S. and the Czech Republic. The *Czech Caucus* provides a forum for its members to easily voice and advance issues regarding U.S.-Czech relations and promote a deeper understanding of the countries' mutual political, cultural and economic ties.

On February 27, 2008, the *Czech Caucus* was inaugurated by Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek and the members of the U.S. Congress who are co-chairing the new body, namely Senator E. Benjamin Nelson (Nebraska), Senator George V. Voinovich (Ohio), Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (California, 10th District), Congressman Joe Barton (Texas, 6th District), Congressman Daniel Lipinski (Illinois, 3rd District) and Congressman Thaddeus G. McCotter (Michigan, 11th District). During the inauguration, Prime Minister Topolánek expressed his deep appreciation for this highly successful bipartisan initiative.

The American Friends of the Czech Republic wish to specially recognize these chairmen for being at the forefront of evolving U.S.-Czech relations. Specifically, Senator Nelson has been a long time friend of the Czech Republic and supportive of the large Czech-American population in Nebraska. Senator Voinovich, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is a long-time supporter of the Czech-American community in Ohio. Besides being a strong advocate of NATO enlargement, Senator Voinovich has played a crucial role in updating the U.S. Visa

Waiver Program (VWP), strengthening security measures and putting the Czech Republic on a path towards inclusion in this program to ease travel for Czechs to the United States.

Congresswoman Tauscher was a staunch advocate for the Czech Republic to join NATO and has always been a supporter of strong transatlantic relations. Congressman Barton remains positively committed to the Czech community in his district, as Texas boasts the largest Czech-American population in the United States. Congressman Lipinski, a supporter of the Czech Republic joining the VWP, is also engaged with regards to the Czech community in the Chicago area. Congressman McCotter, like his fellow Congress members, has also been keenly interested in U.S.-Czech relations and the acceptance of the Czech Republic into the VWP. All the honorable chairmen deserve much credit for their strong contributions to the Czech-U.S. partnership.

Thus far, the following Senators and Representatives have followed the lead of the co-chairmen and joined the *Czech Caucus* in their respective chambers of Congress:

Senators

Robert P. Casey (Pennsylvania)
Bryan L. Dorgan (North Dakota)
Dianne Feinstein (California)
Chuck Grassley (Iowa)
Joseph Lieberman (Connecticut)
Mel Martinez (Florida)
Ted Stevens (Alaska)

Representatives

Michael Conaway (Texas, 11th District)
Danny Davis (Illinois, 7th District)
Lincoln Diaz-Balart (Florida, 21st District)
Mario Diaz-Balart (Florida, 25th District)
Lloyd Dogget (Texas, 25th District)
Phil English (Pennsylvania, 3rd District)
Jeff Fortenberry (Nebraska, 1st District)
Sheila Jackson Lee (Texas, 18th District)
Dave Loebsack (Iowa, 2nd District)
Don Manzullo (Illinois, 16th District)
Harry Mitchell (Arizona, 5th District)
Solomon Ortiz (Texas, 27th District)
Joe Sestak (Pennsylvania, 7th District)
John Shimkus (Illinois, 19th District)
Michael Turner (Ohio, 3rd District)

Please express your support of the *Czech Caucus* in the U.S. Congress by contacting your Senators and Representatives and requesting that they become members. With this membership as described above, your Senators and Representatives shall have immediate access to a forum that is solely focused on working on U.S.-Czech issues. If your Senator or Representative happens already to be a member, please write to praise his or her progressive vision and understanding of the significance of U.S.-Czech relations.

Again, I am thrilled to inform you of the inauguration of this historic bipartisan collaboration.

Sincerely,

American Friends of The Czech Republic
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