



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



“High Stakes Conflict: The Critical Importance of Victory in Ukraine”

AFoCR and the Friends of Slovakia will jointly sponsor this year’s **Freedom Lecture at 5 PM (EST) on Tuesday, November 15, at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center**, with the support of the Czech and Slovak embassies. The featured speaker will be **Miloslav Stašek**, Czech Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Stašek previously served as State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, and also served as a diplomat in Australia, Asia, and the United Nations. He is deeply knowledgeable about the current conflict in Ukraine and its devastating impact on peace and freedom throughout Europe and the larger world community. Ambassador Stašek is a compelling speaker who is sure to engage his audience with an analysis of the geopolitical factors of the crisis in Ukraine.

The Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture was established in 2000. Intended to commemorate the anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the annual lecture is scheduled on a date close to the 17th of November. Conceived as a joint activity of the Czech and Slovak Embassies, together with American Friends of the Czech Republic and Friends of Slovakia, the choice of speaker and topic alternates each year between the Czech and Slovak groups. This year, AFoCR has chosen the conflict in Ukraine as the highly pertinent topic of the Freedom Lecture, and we’re grateful to have Ambassador Stašek to enlighten us on this subject.

Invitation to November 15th, 2022, 5 PM (EST), AFoCR’s Freedom Lecture at the Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C.

RSVP

AFoCR's Annual Meeting

November 4th, 2022 – AFoCR's annual meeting will be held in New York City at the legendary and deeply historical Bohemian Hall. Our organization will present **Phillip Kasik** with AFoCR's Leadership Award for co-founding AFoCR, as well as for his extraordinary contributions to the organization for over 25 years. The meeting will be attended by Ambassador Miloslav Stašek; Honorary Consul of New York Arnošt Kareš and Mrs. Lydia Karešová; Deputy Consul General Lucie Hindslová; and Mr. Miroslav Kondolina, Head of the Czech Center in New York.



Visiting Parliamentarian Program to be reinstated in 2023.

Although temporarily stymied by the pandemic, AFoCR will reinstate its highly successful Visiting Parliamentarian Program in June of 2023. In two previous experiences in 2017 and 2019, AFoCR brought several Czech Members of Parliament to Washington, D.C., in order to pair them with their legislative counterparts in the United States Congress for two days of sharing. Both sides reported learning much about the others' legislative and political systems, emerging with deepened respect and a strong sense of shared values. This year, we hope to expand the program to include members of the Czech Senate teamed with US Senators. The programs have been richly broad in scope, encompassing visits to the departments of State and Defense, as well as to the International Monetary Fund and other prominent institutions. AFoCR collaborates closely with the Czech Embassy in designing and implementing the program.

WHO WE ARE: The American Friends of the Czech Republic is a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC. Its members, hailing from all corners of the United States, develop and support programs aimed to foster positive governmental and nongovernmental relations between the United States and the Czech Republic. We seek to enrich bilateral ties in the areas of diplomacy, governmental affairs, freedom of the press, commercial relations, national security, and education. **Our members are citizen diplomats who work with the respective embassies, officials, and citizens to identify and execute projects that further positive relationships between our two countries.**

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