



July 2007

Embassy Celebrates American Independence

The U.S. Embassy in Prague was honored to host President Klaus, Prime Minister Topolánek, Former President Havel and over one thousand other Czech and international dignitaries and friends at the 131st anniversary of America's July 4th Independence Day. In their speeches, Ambassador Richard Graber and President Vaclav Klaus stressed the close ties between the Czech Republic and the U.S. and touched on issues of bilateral interest.



Ambassador Graber with Mr. and Mrs. Klaus at the Residence in Prague

This year's celebration took place on June 28 at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Prague 6. Ambassador Graber noted this was the exact date in 1776 that Thomas Jefferson finished the text of the Declaration of Independence, upon which America's core values are built:



U.S. Marines Opening the Independence Day Reception at the Ambassador's Residence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

To learn more about the Declaration of Independence and U.S. history, see <http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/>



Harley Davidson Riders having a good time at the Embassy's July 4th

At home and abroad, come rain or come shine, Independence Day remains a family celebration, a major civic occasion, with roots deep in the Transatlantic tradition of political freedom. Over a dozen American hotel, food and beverages companies offered outstanding support for the event. The U.S. Embassy appreciates their special efforts.

Think Business in the U.S.

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue visited Prague June 25 to introduce Czech investors to expanding business opportunities in the U.S., particularly in his home state of Georgia. He also met with President Vaclav Klaus and Minister of Industry Martin Říman. According to the governor, there is tremendous potential for Czech companies to do business in Georgia, particularly in the automobile, light aircraft, and electro-technical industries. The Embassy's Foreign Commercial Service (FCS), in cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce in Prague, organized a market briefing with Ambassador Graber as well as Gold Key Services for Governor Perdue and the Georgia trade mission. In addition to the Czech Republic, the group also traveled to Ireland, France, Germany and Belgium. Four other American trade missions have visited the Czech Republic this year.



U.S. Archer Stars in HandyCup

American archery champion and Paralympian Kevin Stone made his first visit to the Czech Republic June 30 to participate in the Archery HandyCUP 2007 in Nove Mesto nad Metuji, Eastern Bohemia. His trip to the Czech Republic was organized by the Czech Association of Physically Handicapped Sportsmen, with support from the U.S. Embassy. Before the games, Stone held training

sessions with Czech archers. Stone captured the gold metal HandyCUP and beat the U.S. record in his discipline. Speaking later with reporters and Ambassador and Mrs. Graber, Stone said, "I hope that I have made, or will make, life-long friendships with archers and staff. I am looking forward to more exchanges with my home-away-from-home, Czech teammates in the near future," Kevin said.



Stone is seen here in action in Nove Mesto nad Metuji.
<http://www.kevinjstone.com/>

Cyclists Discuss Urban Development in Prague and Chicago



Randy Neufeld from the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation visited Prague June 21 to discuss the future of bicycle paths in big cities with local cyclists. His visit was organized in conjunction with the Embassy – sponsored exhibition "Revealing Chicago," which continues in Prague through the end of

August. Speaking at the American Center, Neufeld stressed, "It is important that the bikers feel welcome in the city. For example, it is possible in Chicago to load your bike onto the bus." However, he noted Chicago needs to do more to encourage riders and only 2% of Chicago residents bike to work. Petr Stepanek of the Prague Town Hall wants to inaugurate new paths this year. He hopes the planned restrictions for cars in the city center will help promote the use of bicycles.

Embassy Officers Talk to English Students

Economic Officers Caleb Steiner and Hart Nelson joined eighty-five Czech and Polish students of English in a program that included the opportunity to converse and sing in both English and Czech. The program was hosted by the Wisconsin-based Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, who have been teaching English to groups of religious workers in the Czech Republic for ten years. After the official program, the Embassy representatives had lunch with the students and teachers and discussed their

work in the Embassy, life in the United States and their impressions of the Czech Republic.

Ambassador Travels to Usti, Appears in Magazine, Opens Warhol Exhibition ...

Ambassador Richard Graber visited Usti nad Labem on June 21. He met Usti Mayor Jan Kubata, with whom he discussed the region's tourism opportunities and U.S. investments in the area. He also visited local NGOs. Speaking with a journalist for the July 12 weekend magazine of *MF Dnes*, Ambassador and Mrs. Alexandria Graber provided a more personal look at their life in the Czech Republic. Ambassador Graber also opened a special exhibit at Prague's Kampa Museum of works by American Pop icon Andy Warhol. The pieces, most of which are on loan from the Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, are hung beside Czech art from the same dynamic period.



...and Kicks Off the First Ball of a U.S.-Czech Under-18 Soccer Game

Ambassador Graber started things off on the right foot at the July 11 scrimmage between the U.S. Under-18 Men's National Team and the FC Viktoria Pilsen Under-18s. FC Viktoria Pilsen hosted the U.S. team, which was in Germany for a summer training camp. In addition to the game, FC Viktoria Pilsen planned a day of festivities in Pilsen, including a tour of its famous brewery (although the players were forbidden by their coach to sample Pilsen's pride and joy) and of City Hall. And the game? Our Czech friends scored a 2:0 victory.



The U.S. team warms up for the game

Upcoming Events

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| August 2-3 | Visit of U.S. Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency Gregory Schulte |
| August 6 | Seminar – Gender Studies, American Center, 09:00-16:00 |
| August 18-25 | Jazz Summer Workshop, Frydlant |