



Fall Festival Page 25



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On the Cover

CSA member Major Michael Smolucha is presently serving our country, stationed in Vicenza, Italy. For the past three years, he has been involved with the coordination of the D-Day celebration which takes place in Normandy, France each June. This year was the 80th anniversary of this historic event. Mike and his wife, Joy, share their experience on page 29 and an additional photo on the back cover.



The Royals Page 23

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President's Piece

Happy Holidays

Brothers and Sisters.

Here we are already in November. As always, the year has flown by.

First off, happy holiday season to all. It's always a fun time of the year with Halloween just finishing up and Thanksgiving and Christmas on the way. And, of course, it's the time of year to be with loved ones.

As I write this article (in mid-October), it's still 80 degrees here in Chicagoland, so the "feel" of the holiday season has yet to happen, but I'm sure the weather will turn soon enough.

Here at the Home Office, things remain well. We're preparing for the November Board of Directors meeting, a few of us are out and about traveling to lodges and districts, and we, of course, continue the day-to-day operations of CSA. Additionally, you may see our Fraternal Manager Kelly Deegan and our National Miss CSA Delaney Schretter out and about at an event as well. One way or another, we hope that we'll see you during the holiday season.

This was another short and sweet article this month from me. Health and happiness to all.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Until next month, Fraternally, John J. Kielczewski, CLU, FLMI President/CEO CSA Fraternal Life





UPCOMING EVENTS



December 2, 2024 **Deadline for CSA Serves Matching Funds requests**

January 31, 2025 Deadline for 2024 Lodge Recognition Program submissions

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CSA Journal ne 137 No. 10 November 2024

Volume 137



A Dynamic Magazine "Dedicated to Our Membership'

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CSA MISSION STATEMENT

CSA Fraternal Life is a fraternal benefit Society that provides families with financial security while promoting community involvement with volunteerism.

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Home Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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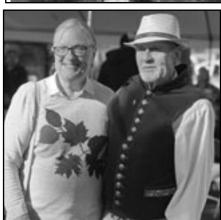
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Today's Fraternal

Another Festival Down!







Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Another festival down! Delaney and I attended the Czech and Slovak Folk Life Festival in Prince George, Virginia. We visited with Carol Tranter, Lodge Virginia No. 230, and met lots of new people and pets. The usual canine companion pups were there. Adeline, Dooley, and Rudy are always very excited to see us. Delaney enjoyed getting to know everyone and even had Pam and Michael Dvorsky pop by. It was a pleasant surprise. Delaney did a beautiful job representing CSA Fraternal Life and she is an absolute pleasure.

By now, all lodges should have received the financial and election packets; they were mailed out a few weeks ago. Please let us know if you have not received them or have any questions.

November is a very important issue for *the Journal* as we feature CSA members who have served the United States. Make sure to thank a veteran for all they do/did. These people give up a large part of their life to keep us safe. They should be recognized by all.

The holidays are coming; please



Journal Themes for 2024

December - Lodge Recognition Program

January 2025 - Day of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic



remember our local shelters. As the weather becomes colder, there will be a bigger need for items. Please check in your area to see what items or volunteer opportunities are needed.

I hope you and your families have a very happy Thanksgiving.

Fraternally, Kelly Deegan Fraternal Programs Manager Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409



Please send lodge articles to: csajournaleditor@gmail.com by the 12th of the month prior. (You will receive a confirmation email.) Please address all Fraternal inquiries to: Kelly Deegan at kdeegan@csalife.com 1.800.543.3272 x 4307

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

TIME FLIES!

Greetings brothers and sisters,

I'm writing in the middle of October, and the year is almost over! The weather is starting to cool down (except in Phoenix—see below), and our neighborhood is filled with Halloween decorations.

By the time this *Journal* is printed and mailed, Election Day will be over, and we will have a new President and Vice President. Good luck to the new administration!

Veteran's Day is just around the corner. Remember to honor the men and women who have served the greatest country in the world! Thank you to all our members who have served in the armed forces!

In September, I attended the Annual Official Cybersecurity Summit in Chicago. It's always an eye-opening experience to learn about new and old threats and new ways to protect our members' data. Be confident that the Home Office staff is keeping current on risks and how to protect CSA members.

I attended the LIC Operations Committee Meeting in Baltimore at the end of September.

Then, a week later, the Technology Committee meetings in Phoenix. When I left home, the temperature was 43 degrees, and Phoenix was 60 degrees higher when I landed—103 degrees! The sessions were informative. I caught up with other attendees who I met at previous meetings. No matter the size of the Fraternal, we share common issues. How can we secure our member data and upgrade our systems with limited budgets? How do we increase member engagement?

I would like to thank Lodge Brookfield for inviting the Home Office staff and other local lodges to their Annual Fall Fest. We had a wonderful time.

I will be attending the New England Fraternal Congress's Annual Meeting and Banquet in November and then an AFA Lunch and Learn in Cleveland. I'm looking forward to both events.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are almost here! We are looking forward to seeing family and friends for the holiday.

Lisa and I wish you and your families a



Happy Thanksgiving!

Fraternally, Nick V. Kosmas Secretary / Treasurer

CSA Fraternal Life 2024-2025 Fraternal Calendar

2024	November	23,24	Home Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
	December	2	Deadline - CSA Serves Matching Funds Requests
		25	Home Office closed for Christmas Holiday
		20	
25	January	1	Home Office closed for New Year's Day
		31	Deadline - 2024 Lodge Recognition Program submissions

*** Deadline for Journal articles - 13th of every PRIOR month ***

(for example: your article for February should be submitted by January 13, etc.)

Miss National CSA

Fun at Kolache Festival and More to Follow!

Greetings, brothers and sisters,

This last month has been an exciting one for me! I haven't had the chance yet to tell you about my trip to the Kolache Festival in Texas, so I'd love to share about my experience in the South.

We had a great flight. I had plenty of time to read, relax, and prepare for the weekend ahead. Once we landed, we headed over to our hotel, where I experienced southern hospitality in its truest form. At every restaurant we went to, each time we stepped into our hotel, or stopped at a store, we were greeted so warmly. Each person we met had a conversation with us and really made me feel special. It's things like that that make traveling so interesting. It is so fun to see how much of a difference there is in cultures and social norms between different states.

On the day of the festival, I got up early to get ready. I was not kidding around when it came to setting my makeup! With the Texas sun beating down, it was a 90-something-degree day, and I was not going to let my makeup melt off. Kelly and I had breakfast at the hotel together and we ran into these two little girls who were staring at me in my

Gracing

crown and sash. They were adorable and I had a conversation with them that made me feel like I was a princess. It was a really sweet moment.

At the festival, it was hot, but so much fun. I got to talk to so many different people. Most of the conversations started with them reading my sash and asking what it meant. It was great because I got to tell people about this wonderful organization and the Miss CSA Contest. I think my favorite part was meeting the other royalty from other events. I met a

set of twins who both won their respective pageants and I had a great time talking with them. They were Texas natives so I got some great advice on where to go while I was there.

In October, I was excited to go to Virginia for another festival! I can't wait to tell you all about that, too!

Until then! Fraternally, Delaney Schretter, Miss National CSA 2024-2025



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Jerry Vyslysel
George C. Vytlacil, Sr.
Louie Vyvijal
Robort F. Wotzl

Louie Vyvijal Robert E. Watzl John C. Weiss Vincent Welzien Benjamin Wencl Donald Wencl Robert L. Wencl

Elizabeth White

Don Whitenach
Gary Wilt
Joseph Wimmer
Joseph Windsor
Robert Wisneskey
Edward Wolf
Emil (Sonny) Wolf
Emil (Sonny) Wolf, Jr.
Francis Wolf

Francis Wolf
Otto Wolf
Wayne Wolf
William Wolf
James Wozniak
John M. Wright
Leon S. Yackymetz
George V. Yeck
Tony Yeck
Al Yedlicka
Andy Yedlicka
Frank J. Yurka

George E. Yurka John R. Yurka Joseph E. Yurka George Yuska Frank Zabransky Roman Zach Adolph Zahradka, Sr.

James Zahradnicek Henry Zajic

Henry Zajic
Jerry Zajic
Rudy Zak
Jerry J. Zalmanek
John Zaloudek
Jerry Zamrzla
Woodrow Zamrzla

John Zanini Steve Zarski Joseph Zaruba Charles Zastresek Milan Zavodny Charles Zavora
Joseph Zavora
Charles Zboril
Frank Zboril
John Zboril
Charles Zdenek
Josef Zelenka
William Zelenka

William R. (Bill) Zelenka Anton Norbert Zeman

Jerry Zeman

Zdenek Sidney Zeman Emil J. Zemanek Louis Zembalis George Zidlicky John Zitek Raymond Zitek John Zitney Dominic Zronek



Sharing First-Hand Account of Military Service

(Family Features) More than a century after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles ended World War I, stories told by American veterans who served during this pivotal time offer fascinating insights into this period.

To preserve and share history as it happened through the lens of those who lived it, the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP) collects these stories, and the stories of veterans who followed.

The individual stories of many of the veterans involved have been lost to time; however, the program encourages military veterans to document their experiences via first-hand oral histories, photos, or written accounts. The stories are then made accessible so current and future generations may better understand what veterans experienced during their service.

As time passes, new submissions from veterans who served in World War I have become increasingly rare, but occasionally, something special is uncovered, such as two submissions from Sherie Lockett: collections from her grandfathers, both African American

World War I veterans.

Containing 34 original letters, Jessie Calvin Lockett's collection provides a unique insight into his experience serving in France as a stevedore, loading and unloading cargo ships.

The collection of Sherie Lockett's grandfather, Arthur Singleton, includes a unique find: a 105-year-old diary.

When Singleton joined the Army in 1918, he was assigned to the 803rd Pioneer Infantry Brigade, a segregated unit tasked with constructing and repairing infrastructure.

Singleton's diary is notably VHP's first written account from a Black soldier who served during World War I. Entries detail his time in service, from training at Camp Grant to enduring harsh conditions en route to Europe aboard the USS Mannequin. He describes arriving in Scotland, traveling to France for further training, and being sent to the front lines on Nov. 11, 1918, the same day the Armistice took effect.

His combat experience lasted only six hours, but his time in Europe extended beyond the ceasefire. Post-combat entries describe camping at Menil-LaTour, receiving a promotion to Platoon Sergeant, recovering U.S. property from the trenches, and visiting Paris.

He also candidly recounts instances of racism from fellow American troops while abroad – including being denied service at his base canteen and harassed out of a theater – and shared how his unit was assigned "background" work while white engineer units received recognition for digging trenches on the front lines.

Thanks to their granddaughter's donation of their letters and diary to the effort, VHP can share Jessie Lockett's and Singleton's experiences and perspectives as Black soldiers during World War I. While the program requires first-hand submissions, the stories of veterans who served long ago and have already died still may be included through similar donations of diaries or pre-recorded videos.

To read more veterans' stories and learn more about how you or a loved one can contribute to the program, visit loc.gov/vets.



Photo courtesy of Shawn Miller

Historic Reprise of 1995 -Presidential Visit for NCSML Orloj Dedication

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) welcomed President Petr Pavel of the Czech Republic and President Peter Pellegrini of the Slovak Republic to Cedar Rapids during the unveiling and dedication of the NCSML Buresh Immigration Clocktower at noon on Friday, September 27.

NCSML celebrated its 50th anniversary this year with a historical reprise of the 1995 visit to dedicate the new museum building by former presidents Václav Havel of the Czech Republic, Michal Kováč of Slovakia, and U.S. President Bill Clinton. This reprisal invited current presidents of the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the museum with two events open to the public: a motorcade at 10:30 a.m. and the unveiling of the renovated clocktower at noon. Both presidents made addresses during the unveiling and were joined in the ceremony by Governor Kim Reynolds and several Czech, Slovak, and U.S. dignitaries.

This historic event was held September 26, when President Peter Pellegrini of Slovakia arrived at the Signature Aviation Hangar with 32 Slovak delegates in attendance. Czech President Petr Pavel arrived at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 27 in the same location. During both occasions, Royal Court Members and Queens wearing Czech and Slovak kroje were in attendance to greet the presidents. Each president was personally welcomed by Cedar Rapids mayor Tiffany O'Donnell and NCSML President & CEO Cecilia Rokusek.

Upon the arrival of President Pellegrini at NCSML on Thursday, he was greeted with a traditional rye bread and salt toast in the Grand Hall underneath the chandelier. Following was the ribbon cutting of the Slovak Epic Exhibit in the Jiruska Gallery and the dedication of the Jankola Collection in the Skala Bartizal Library, where the President spoke during the dedication.

The Jankola Collection, named in honor of Father Stefan Furdek who is



considered the most important Slovak leader in the U.S. at the turn of the 20th century, includes periodicals previously owned by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania.

On Friday, September 27, President Peter Pellegrini hosted a small round-table with coffee and kolache at 9:30 a.m. with US political leaders and University presidents, titled "Transatlantic Collaboration, Iowa Connection".

Both presidents were present for a motorcade going through Czech Village and NewBo at 10 a.m. with Harley Davidson riders leading the motorcade. After the motorcade, there was a private tour of the museum led by NCSML staff, followed by a special photo opportunity with both presidents and Governor Kim Reynolds on the terrace, recreating the photo of the previous presidents in 1995.

The biggest event was the unveiling of the newly renovated NCSML clock-tower built in 1995, now titled the Buresh Immigration Clock Tower. The renovations include repairs, enhancements, and the addition of an astronomical clock, or Orloj, modeled after the famous Prague Orloj dating back to the 15th Century. Twelve figurines, created by Slovakian artist Andrej Haršány, will be added to the clock tower. They will awaken every hour to the music of Czech composers Antonín Dvořák and Bedřích Smetana. Each figurine repre-



sents the stories of immigrants who came to the United States from Czech, Slovak, Moravia, and other lands. President Pavel and President Pellegrini both made speeches, as well as Governor Kim Reynolds and NCSML President & CEO Cecilia Rokusek.

Also joining the events was a delegation of more than 20 members of the Czech business community, including leadership from the Czech Chamber of Commerce. This delegation was led by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, His Excellency Miloslav Stasek. The delegation featured CEO-level members of the cybersecurity, defense, and aviation industries, all strengths of the Czech economy, and critical to the global economy as a whole. In addition to joining the Dedication Ceremony, the delegation met with economic development leadership from the City of Cedar Rapids; senior leadership from Collins Aerospace; and leadership from the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. Building on the success of the Economic Summit held at NCSML in May, and reflecting the strength of both the Czech and Cedar Rapids / Eastern Iowa economies, all participants are looking forward to prospects for additional economic cooperation in the future.

The afternoon ended with a private luncheon held in the WFLA/ZCBJ Heritage Hall with Peppercorn Food Company providing the meals.

Medicare Open Enrollment Open Through December 7



(Family Features) If you're enrolled in Medicare, it's important to remember Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15 through December 7 each year. This is the time for people with Medicare to compare their prescription drug and health coverage options for the upcoming year.

New This Year

The new prescription drug law is lowering out-of-pocket costs on covered prescriptions. New in 2025, all Medicare plans will include a \$2,000 annual cap on what you pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D. The cap only applies to drugs that are covered by your plan, so it's more important than ever to review your plan options to make sure your drugs are covered. That means you will not pay more than \$2,000 in 2025 on prescription drugs covered under Medicare prescription drug coverage – that includes expensive prescription drugs to treat cancer, chronic illnesses, and more.

This is in addition to improvements already in effect due to the prescription drug law including a \$35 cap on a month's supply of each covered insulin product – and no out-of-pocket costs for

recommended adult vaccines covered under Part D, including the shingles vaccine.

Also starting in 2025, you can choose to spread your out-of-pocket drug costs across the calendar year instead of paying all at once at the pharmacy. It's called the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. You can opt in with your plan in advance of January 1 and throughout 2025.

How to Compare Prescription Drug and Health Coverage Options

Medicare.gov is the official source for information about Medicare and Open Enrollment. Start there to get unbiased information to find the type of coverage that best meets your needs.

Comparing prescription drug and health coverage options is easy at Medicare.gov. Get started by clicking on "Find Plans." Then enter your ZIP code, current prescriptions, and favorite pharmacies. You will see a side-by-side comparison of the total cost for all the plans in your area, including the premium and how much you'll pay for your prescriptions. You'll also be able to see what plans cover your prescriptions and

whether some plans offer extra benefits. If you are happy with your current choice, you don't have to do anything. If you choose a new option for 2025, you can enroll on Mediare.gov.

Before you enroll in a plan, consider this advice:

- Check if your health care providers are in a plan's network.
- Check if your prescriptions are included on a plan's formulary and if the plan works with your pharmacy.
- Review a plan's estimated total costs to you, including deductible and other out-of-pocket costs. Remember low monthly premiums may not always be the best overall value for your specific needs.
- Check if Medicare Advantage plans offer extra benefits, like vision, hearing or dental coverage, if you need these services.
- Understand that you may need to get approval from the plan before it will cover certain services or supplies.
- Check your plan's Star Rating to see how it performs on quality, customer service and more.

Medicare Can Help

To compare options and find the best coverage to fit your needs:

- Visit Medicare.gov and conduct sideby-side comparisons of costs and coverage
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE. Help is available 24 hours a day, including weekends
- Access personalized health insurance counseling in your community at no cost, available from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Visit shiphelp.org or call 1-800-MEDICARE for locations near you.

Information provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Lodge No. 230 Welcomes Miss CSA and Ambassadors at Festival

Lodge Virginia No. 230, Colonial Heights, Virginia – Our lodge helped the Prince George County community celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Virginia Czech and Slovak Folklife Festival on Saturday, October 19. Under beautiful skies, we hosted our annual booth featuring CSA Fraternal Life materials as well as members Chris and Bruce Ault's therapy dogs (always a hit with children and adults alike). Miss National CSA Delaney Schretter joined our table and expertly greeted many guests. Several young girls enjoyed having their photo taken with her – perhaps one day they can be Miss National CSA, too!

The Festival featured special guests Miloslav Stasek, Czech Ambassador to the U.S.; Marketa Vohralikova, Head of Diplomacy for the Czech Embassy; Matus Hutka, Slovak Deputy Chief of Mission; and several local elected officials to commemorate the 10th Anniversary. The U.S., Czech, and Slovak national anthems were played at the opening ceremony as well as the Ukrainian national anthem in a show of solidarity. It was a moving experience for those in attendance.

Lodge No. 230 President Dorothy Michalek said, "We had a great turnout once again this year, and it was so nice to see the interest in our lodge's activities and history."

Friends and family reconnected over good food and drink while listening to traditional music throughout the day. We



Eight-year-old Audrey VIk visits with her grandmother's cousin, Emily Cerny.

were grateful for Miss National CSA, her family, and the dedicated CSA Fraternal Life staff for attending our festival.

Fraternally, Bruce Vlk



Audrey VIk with Miss National CSA Delaney Schretter.



Retired professor Vic Zitta reconnects with former Lodge President Tom Michalek.

Chili Time for 409!

Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409, Lombard, Illinois – Our October Halloween Chili extravaganza was a roaring success! Along with Lodge No. 409 members, we entertained our DC No. 12 President Ken Dvorsky, Barb Deig, Dolores and Fred Chiapetta, Jerry and Kim Silhan, and Joyce Nemec from Lodge Brookfield. Office staff joined in the fun and enjoyed a chili lunch. Members who competed brought their favorite chili recipe in a slow cooker, accompanied by the recipe.

Lisa Kosmas was the big winner of \$25 in cash with a chili recipe from her mom! Consolation prizes were awarded to runners-up Annmarie Antos and Kim

Silhan. It was a fun contest where everyone made their preferences known. Who knew there were so many chili recipes – each a little unique with different flavors and spices.

A big thank you to Ken Dvorsky for oyster crackers, bottled water, and snacks; Lisa Cassai for soda and cookies; and Annmarie for poppyseed slices. As usual, there was plenty of chili, snacks, and desserts to share and enjoy.

After the contest, Bingo games were enjoyed by our guests. Winners were Barb Deig, Fred and Dolores Chiapetta, and Lisa Cassai.

Future plans for November's meeting and our Christmas Gala at Del Rhea's

Chicken Basket were discussed.

A unanimous vote by a quorum of Officers agreed to welcome Lodge Betsy Ross members into our lodge. This will become official at our November meeting.

Members are reminded that our November meeting also will include Election of Officers for 2025 and our Annual Memorial Service.

Members wished Annmarie and Ken Antos a happy wedding anniversary.

Fraternally, Gerri Romanelli











Thank You, Veterans, For Your Service

Lodge Queensdale No. 422, Woodside, New York – With Veteran's Day approaching, we want to acknowledge all lodge members who are currently serving or have served in the military. We thank you for your service and the

sacrifices made by you and your families to secure our freedoms. Remember to thank a veteran this November 11.

Lodge Queensdale's Annual Election of Officers and convention delegates will be held on November 4, 2024 at noon at St. Jacobus Evangelical Lutheran Church, Woodside, New York. The District Council No. 2 meeting will immediately follow.

> Fraternally yours, Joanne Murnane

Scholarship Fund Donation Form

With the price of higher education rapidly increasing, scholarships continue to be an important fraternal benefit. The CSA Scholarship Fund assists young adults, not only with their education, but with their professional goals. We appreciate your generous donations and your continued support!

Fill and send this form with donation. Please make checks payable to CSA Fraternal Life Scholarship Fund.

Enclosed is my donation of \$			
☐ For the general Scholarship Fund or ☐ In I	Memory of		
Send arknowledgement of contribution to			
Address			
City	Statc	Zip	
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Address			
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Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. —Nelson Mandela





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Activity Ideas Welcome!











Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Maple Heights, Ohio – On September 26, our meeting was held at the DTJ in Taborville, Ohio.

Mary Ann picked up a box of stuff from our former secretary, Jan. There were old flyers of the many activities that the lodge used to have where a lot of people attended. It was discussed as to why people don't seem to come out any more. If there are any ideas out there on what type of activity you would like your lodge to offer, please come to your lodge meetings and let the officers know! We would all like to see more people attend our meetings and give input.

On September 10, Diane, Kris, Mary Ann, and I visited Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219 to hear their speaker Meaghan Gergen talk about the Journey Center for Safety and Healing. She was very informative! Afterwards, we were treated to pizza, salad, and dessert! Kris, from our lodge, brought open faced sandwiches, also known as Obložené Chlebíčky to share. The GTG committee is discussing whether or not to have them at the GTG and needed an opinion of the members on what they thought. They were very tasty! Visit the website to find out more about them: https://foreignfork.com/open-faced-sandwich/.

Congratulations to our 50/50 winners. Diane won twice and gave her second winnings to the donation jar and Donna. The booby prizes were won by me (peppermint puffs) and Johnny (autumn gnomes). Thank you, Mary Ann, for the prizes!

Bruce thanked the lodge, on behalf of the DTJ, for the donations they have received from the lodge and CSA Home Office.

We played four rousing games of L-R-C. Congratulations to the winners: Donna, me, Mary Ann, and Diane!

Thank you, Diane, for the delicious and timely lunch of chili, with all the accouterments: cheese, sour cream, oyster crackers, and mini corn muffins, along with the wonderful desserts: apple walnut cake and pumpkin sheet roll.

Our next meetings for 2024 will be November 21 and December 19. Come to a meeting, reconnect with friends, and have a tasty snack. We would love to see you!

> Fraternally, Annette Reichman

Galapagos Island

Cleveland, Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio – Our meeting was held at the Parma Heights Library on October 8, 2024. We had nine members attending this meeting.

We received a nice thank you letter from our charity, Journey Center, for the donation we gave them last month.

The District Christmas Party will be held on December 5 at Ruma's Restaurant (correction of restaurant name from last *Journal*). This will be held at 11 a.m. in North Royalton. If you want to attend, please let Freddie Shima know ASAP. Every lodge member is invited.

We held a Get-Together meeting on October 29 at the Parma/Snow Library. All area lodges were invited to attend. Our 50/50 raffle was won by Joanie and Jan.

Jan Russell gave a lovely slide show of her trip to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador. She and her husband took a cruise to these places and saw many different animals that lived on the islands. There were penguins, turtles, birds, whales in the ocean, seals, etc. It was a very interesting presentation. They were able to hike, snorkel, and kayak on the islands. Sylvia provided yummy cookies for our dessert. Thank you!

Tony Genco gave a report on the vacation he and Judy recently went on. They saw Graceland, Helen Keller's birthplace (see them pictured below at her pump), the two-room house Elvis was born in, the hardware store where Elvis got his first guitar, the Louisville Slugger factory, B.B. King's restaurant on Beale Street, Fame recording studio, and much more. It was an enjoyable bus trip.

Leaves are changing! Stay well.

Fraternally yours,

Judy (Sevcik) Genco

Scribe







Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com

Trivia!

Lodge Independence-Liberty Bell No. 408, St. Louis, Michigan – Hello to our brothers and sisters. We have been coming up with ideas to raise money for our "adopt a family" at Christmas. So, on October 5, 2024, we held a trivia game. It was \$10.00 per person. A lot of members made food to eat.

We also held a 50/50. Everyone had a lot of fun, and we raised \$100.00 to go towards it.

Fraternally, Teresa Butcher











Honoring Our "Royal Family" and Thanking

Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen A Panu, No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio – Greetings to all! In our neck of the woods, we're getting settled in for a long winter's nap, so to speak. The days are growing shorter, nights are definitely cooler, and dare I say, "Christmas decorations are already lining the shelves of our local stores!" Is it just me getting older or do these holidays come around faster every single year? Weren't we just watching some Fourth of July fireworks—yesterday? Feel free to join me in the neverending struggle to keep up with it all. Wink, wink!

At the time of this writing, our October meeting had not taken place, although we do have some exciting news to share. We participated in this year's Thank-A-Driver Program. We thanked Bob, an employee of Performance Food Service, who delivers food to West Elementary School regularly. Bob is always very swift and efficient at getting the deliveries completed. Aaron, an employee of DPC Auto & Towing, recently saved the day when Brother Gary Lovell's work car decided to call it quits on a late Friday afternoon in October. We were extremely grateful for his prompt, helpful service. Our last honoree, Derek, current employee of the United States Postal Service (USPS), is following in his father's footsteps. He enthusiastically makes the deliveries daily with a smile on his face.

We want to express our thanks to these men once again for their valuable, diligent, and reliable service to the public. We are grateful to them and to all the men and women nationwide who

PROGRAMS

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provide delivery-based services which keep our country moving forward.

It is with much happiness we announce that our member, Christopher Ebright. was crowned 2024 Homecoming King of Buckeye Local High School! Christopher follows his cousin, Skyler Ebright, who was the 2023 BLHS Homecoming King. You can see the boys pictured together as Skyler got to crown Christopher at this year's powder-puff game the night before the school's homecoming game. We're not sure if it was coincidence or just plain good luck, but the Ebright boys have really enjoyed being the "Royals" in our family! We all agreed that we will continue to call them "King Christopher" and "King Skyler" for a while, but we will not be doing any bows before them...lol! (Mostly because if any of us do bow down to them, we may not be able to get back up!) Congratulations once again, Christopher! We are so proud of you, both on the football field and in the classroom!

In keeping with true Ebright royalty, Mariann and Chuck Ebright, Nana and Pap Pap to Skyler and Christopher, recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. In addition to celebrating





with their children and grandchildren, they enjoyed celebrating with their church family at Dillonvale Presbyterian Church. We would like to congratulate Mariann and Chuck on achieving such a milestone. We wish them many more happy years together!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we wish to thank all veterans for their service to our country. We do not take for granted the sacrifices made on our behalf. "Thank-you" doesn't seem like nearly enough, but it is sincerely meant, and we are eternally grateful. God bless all of you!

We send our love and prayers to all the recent hurricane victims. We are with you in spirit and hope that in the upcoming days, help and support will continue to come your way.

May all the true blessings of Thanksgiving be yours. Enjoy the time with those you hold dearest. Hopefully, your holiday table will have some dumplings and sauerkraut...gobble, gobble! Remember to check on someone you love today.

Blessings, Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell





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"The Moldau"

Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432, Lakewood, Colorado – October is here in Colorado and, on some days, fall is also here. We have had some cooler nights, but most days are in the high 80s. We have had snow in the mountains but not in Denver. No frost yet on the pumpkins or in our gardens. Between the Japanese beetles, grasshoppers, and other bugs, yards have had a bad summer. Those of us in the lodge who have gardens keep digging, pulling, and spraying all the time.

The October meeting was held at St. Bernadette Church. We enjoyed Chickfil-A refreshments before Sandy Doe gave her program on "The Moldau" by Bedrich Smetana.

"The Moldau," "The Vltava" in Czech, is classical music, composed in the form of a "tone poem" or "symphonic poem." The poem is a piece of orchestral music inspired by landscape, literature, or art. In this case, it is about the river Vltava's journey, flowing along through the Czech Republic. It is one movement of ma Vlast, Smetana's patriotic symphony called "My Country," completed in 1874. It starts with light sounds (also the theme of the symphony) representing a tiny spring deep in the Bohemian Forest, and the sounds swell and change as the river goes along. The orchestra's music tells the story of "events" along the way: a rendi-

tion of horns calls up a "hunting party" the river is flowing by; a recasting of folk music represents a "wedding dance;" a magical group of sounds represents "nymphs dancing by the river in the moonlight." In this way, Smetana, considered the father of Czech music, invites the audience to imagine or "picture" the river's trip. The music ends with a widened and deepened river, represented by patriotic sounds, as it flows through Prague and flows on to join the Elba River. Sandy used a YouTube video to show the lodge beautiful pictures of the actual river landscape flowing through Bohemia with an orchestra playing the symphonic sounds of Smetana's tone poem. https://www.youtube.com/watchv=Dvq4 oa48pg8. It was a great program for us.

I am going to write a little more about the 2024 CSA Get-Together. We missed a few things in my last article. Irma Farrell and her sister Ann Nordin had a wonderful time at the event in Nashville. They enjoyed all the planned activities, such as the Riverboat and exploring downtown Nashville at night, quite an experience. They were able to spend a few extra days, so they got to tour the Hermitage, the home of Andrew Jackson, then went to Lynchburg, Tennessee to tour the Jack Daniels distillery and there was tasting on their way out. There was another fascinating place

called the Parthenon which was modeled after the one in Greece with a 60-foot-high statue of Athena done in gold leaf. Finally, they had a tour of the Ryman Theatre to see where the Grand Old Opry originated. Thanks to everyone at the Home Office for organizing the GTG.

Janet Farrar is already planning her road trip to Cleveland in 2025. She loves road trips. She yearns to explore new places and learn new things. She has been a CSA member her entire life. Her dad was part Czech, and her mom was first generation Slovak American. As a child, she dressed in her grandmother's kroje and gave talks about Czechoslovakia to her 6th grade class. Her Slovak grandparents worked hard as 20th century immigrants and Czech ancestors toiled on the farms of southeast Nebraska since the 1870s. She has traveled in Czech Republic and Slovakia three times.

It will be interesting to hear all about her next road trip, where she camped, and what state parks and national properties she visited. She learns so much about history, culture, and scenic places. She shares all her trips with lodge members, and we cannot wait to hear about the next adventure.

> Fraternally, Maryellen Hruska Vialpando

Scholarship Fund Report

September 10 - October 10, 2024

TO CONTINUE CZECH HERITAGE AND CSA'S TRADITION OF ASSISTING OUR YOUNG MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR EDUCATION

Lodge Groveton No. 4 Lodge C.H. Harrison Jan Hus No. 378 Lodge Cermak No. 99 Lodge Mile High Czechs No. 432

Total Donations

\$425.00

Fun Fall Festival

Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois – Many people we know say that autumn is their favorite time of year. For Lodge Brookfield members, the autumn season means it's time for our popular Fall Festival. In addition to our own Brookfield members, we were joined this year by friends from Lodge Betsy Ross No. 151, Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, and Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409. Everyone definitely had a fine afternoon of fraternal fun!

We started the event by enjoying little sub sandwiches and some yummy light snacks. Next, all those present had the opportunity to exercise their artistic abilities and create some unique autumn decorations. What a talented group of people, indeed.

We followed these activities with





some exciting bingo games and raffles for "valuable" prizes — maybe not so valuable after all, but fun nevertheless.

Lodge Brookfield meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at noon at the CSA Home Office in Lombard, Illinois. Members and guests are welcome; we hope to see you there.

Fraternally, Kimberly Silhan







Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com

Fun at Czech Heritage Week





Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Brookfield, Illinois - Lodge members Anna Ramirez and Otto Dolansky attended festivities of Czech Heritage Week in Chicago, with an opportunity to meet President Petr Pavel of the Czech Republic. What an exciting occasion for them – as well as for all other attendees! This was a great example of the many ways that our lodge members participate in the events of various organizations. It's also a great reminder of the ways we all help one another. Anna frequently takes Otto, her former music teacher and a lifelong CSA member, to a wide variety of concerts, Czech festivals, and other social events throughout the region, not to mention providing his transportation to our own lodge gatherings. We are so grateful for our members who are so thoughtful of each other!

Our lodge is also thoughtful of others outside of our lodge circle, as participation in the 'Thank a Driver' program shows. The first of our gift cards has been presented to a driver, with two more still to be given away. We're lucky to have member Steven Ramirez in a position to interact regularly with many delivery drivers, and we can trust him to select worthy recipients for this program. Thanks to Steven for acting on our behalf, and thanks to the many drivers out there who literally keep all of us well-provided.

Don't forget about our end-of-year lodge activities, as outlined in last month's article. There's still time to make plans to be at our holiday potluck on December 6! Remember: for more information, or if you need a ride in order to join us, all you have to do is ask.

Fraternally, Jean Hemzáček Laukant hemzacek.j@gmail.com 630-915-9745

Happy 75th Birthday

Lodge Benjamin Franklin No. 02, Seven Hills, Ohio – Sunday, September 29, marked the gathering date to celebrate the surprise 75th birthday of our own Dave Kus. Everyone was in a buzz at the Park Creek Center in Parma Heights, Ohio, checking out the crowd of attendees that included family, friends, and lodge brothers. Dave was in a jovial mood as he kept us entertained with his stand-up comedy and other anecdotes. Our round table recollections kept everyone chattering, discussing memories of parents and relatives, clambakes at DTJ Taborville, and lodge Christmas parties at the old Bohemian National Hall on 49th and Broadway. Dave was gifted with a bag full of salted horns that would have gone well with some tripe soup. With that, the high price of ox tail came up, along with the stories of all that good old Czech cooking. Brother Kus, happy birthday to you and many more!

Lodge Franklin will be holding an Election of Officers on November 18, 2024, at our regular meeting haunt of Mama Romito's Pub and Pizzeria, 8611

Ridge Road, North Royalton, Ohio, promptly at 6:30 p.m. Seems like we did this three months ago.

Finally, a shout out to all our mem-

bers and friends for a relaxing and blessed Thanksgiving!

Fraternal regards, Jeff Zidlicky





Summer Concert, Eagle Scout









Lodge Laurel No. 452, Ashford, Connecticut – Two members were able to attend the summer concert of Valerie Voboril Rogers in Willington in early August. Many of us were in Nashville at the time, so we missed it. Val performed with her Red Satin Band. She sings jazz along with several other genres. It was an excellent night for listening to such beautiful music. In the pictures you see Larry and Jill with Val, and Val with her band in the background. Val is a Lodge Laurel member and we always enjoy listening to her.

We have a new Eagle Scout in Lodge Laurel, Mason Varga. Mason's Court of Honor was held recently. To receive Eagle Scout status, a scout must complete at least 21 merit badges and complete a project which enhances the community. Mason earned 41 merit badges. He worked with Joshua's Trust, a local land conservation organization. Joshua's Trust owns many properties in the area. Mason created signs for five







of the properties. He held a bottle and can drive to earn money to pay for any materials he needed to purchase. The wood was donated by Home Depot. He cut the wood and then painted it with the help of troop members. He then needed to route the letters and paint them. With the help of troop members, he dug the holes and installed the signs. He then needed to write up all the aspects of his project, from the initial planning and meetings with Joshua's Trust, to the completion. The last step was that he had to go before a Scout Board of Review to answer questions. Once the Board of Review accepted his project, he received the Eagle Scout status. The pictures show Mason standing beside one of the signs, Mason at the Court of Honor lighting the twelve candles which represent the twelve points of the scout law as each point was read, his mom pinning his Eagle Scout pin on him, and his dad reading a proclamation for him. We are all very proud of Mason.

Fraternally, Marion Varga





D-Day Celebration

Lodge Lincoln No. 7, Berwyn, Illinois – During the month of November, we honor and remember our veterans both currently serving our country and those who have gone before us. Major Michael Smolucha, a member of our lodge who is presently serving our country, is stationed in Vicenza, Italy. For the past three years, he has been involved with the coordination of the D-Day celebration which takes place in Normandy, France, each June.

This year was the 80th anniversary of this historic event. Mike and his wife, Joy, have shared their experience with us this month.

"Being in Normandy for the 80th Anniversary has been absolutely incredible. Meeting and talking with veterans and locals who were living here during the invasion are memories we will cherish forever. Our thanks will never be enough for what those men endured and







accomplished 80 years ago. We will always remember and honor their sacrifice. Being here for D-Day 80 was nothing short of amazing this year! This was our third time for the D-Day celebrations, and it just continues to be so very special and memorable. The culminating event in Sainte-Mere-Eglise is always the big and exciting airborne operation that happens on Iron Mike Il DZ at La Fiere Manor. This event is to honor the World War II Veterans who jumped onto this same DZ during the allied invasion. The last two years, weather made it unsafe to jump, but this year was perfect. Fourteen hundred paratroopers jumped that day and it was spectacular!"







The photographs that follow here and on the front and back cover of this issue are from Mike and Joy's experience in Normandy, France.

Lodge Lincoln will be meeting on Sunday, December 8 for a holiday celebration and meeting. The place and time will be determined.

Please remember to do your part and vote on November 5.

Fraternally, Pat Smolucha (s.smolucha@sbcglobal.net)







Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com

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In Memoriam

Claim	Name	Lodge	Location	Date of Death	Age
55759	Pytlak, Edward M.	004	TARRS, PA	09/11/2024	64
55754	Keith, Mable	211	TRENTON, NJ	07/20/2024	81
55757	Collymore, Gerald W.	302	RICHTON PARK, IL	09/10/2024	84
55758	Sladewski, Walter W.	366	DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MI	09/08/2024	78
55748	Karas, Rosemarie	378	ROCHELLE, IL	09/18/2024	83
55752	Schelling, William P.	388	WAPELLO, IA	08/28/2024	79
55746	Koch, David E.	419	CHICAGO, IL	01/23/2024	67
55747	Antos, Edward J.	422	NEW CASTLE, DE	02/08/2024	65
55755	Manno, Thomas G.	450	STATEN ISLAND, NY	09/04/2024	74
55749	Gullo, Anthony J.	475	CRYSTAL LAKE, IL	09/10/2024	80
55751	Smallwood, Jeanette	481	ATLANTIC CITY, NJ	10/18/2016	85
55756	Patterson Jr, William H.	481	WILLINGBORO, NJ	08/04/2024	82
55745	Morgan, Marie	484	WARMINSTER, PA	02/18/2024	91
55753	Boskie, Arlene	484	PHILADELPHIA, PA	05/27/2024	75



Chuck Michalek Honored

Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No 77, Lombard, Illinois – Chuck Michalek was honored by the lodge at our September meeting. Chuck was named Fraternalist of the Year at the CSA Get-Together.

Chuck has spent many hours volunteering at the Bohemian National Cemetery. He is behind many projects there including the Eastland Memorial, restoration of the Columbarium, and restoring the World War I and World War II Memorials. The cemetery also requires a lot of ground maintenance. You can find Chuck helping with that as well. There are many trees and they are constantly losing limbs and branches that need to be removed. The Cemetery also offers Fall and Spring tours. Chuck is involved with those as well!

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving



is right around the corner! Hope you have fun spending time celebrating with family and friends.

Fraternally, Mary Ellen Janda

Go, Tigers!

Lodge Pingree, Dearborn Heights, Michigan – Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. We are now in the autumn season and rapidly approaching the holiday time of year. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer!

Lodge Pingree once again hosted another Detroit Tigers game on September 11 at Comerica Park. We had 17 people attending, and, although we only had two members participating, we had many more there in spirit!

Marie Palmer has quite a story to tell:

The year 2024 turned out to be truly memorable for me, Marie Palmer, because of almost every family member living out of town returning to Michigan for various celebrations. The highlight was the Cibulka clan (Chuck, Cathy, Larry, and Bill) coming in from California, Arizona, and New York to celebrate their brother Bill's initiation into the Fordson Alumni Athletic Association. Bill achieved this honor for excelling in three sports for three years while attending Fordson High School. In 2024, he received his special ring and Chuck, Larry, along with wife Lisa, daughter Ruby, and I were in attendance along with Mr. and Mrs. Greg Bruno and Howard Pingston, Jr., who was the presenter.

As 2024 is coming to an end, we're looking forward to the last few baking demos that resumed in September after a hiatus during the summer. Recently, they made a chocolate cake roll and prune kolache. Looking forward to future delicacies on the third Wednesday of each month. So, mark your calendar and join our Sokol friends for fun and fellowship.

We still volunteer for the Food Pantry the third Saturday of every month. We start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. We



have a 15 minute meeting immediately after. The pantry is at H.I.S. Church Anglican on Six Mile Road, about 1/2 mile west of Farmington Road.

If you have any experiences to share, or news, text or call me at 734-751-8013.

Fraternally yours, Jeff Teichman

Youth Members are Out and About





Lodge Groveton No. 4, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania – Our October meeting had 17 members in attendance. Many topics were discussed at the meeting, including the Ohio/Penn Bowling Tournament and lodge donations. Several members headed down to The Meadows Racetrack and Casino in Washington, Pennsylvania, to compete in the bowling tournament on October 19 and 20. Check out next month's *Journal* to read more about how our members did! Lastly, we decided on our end-of-year lodge donations. Lodge Groveton made donations to the Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Fund, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Honor Flight. We also donated \$100 to Racers for Tots for toy purchases.

Lodge Groveton would like to congratulate Jonah Albert Chailou and Eva Tokar for receiving CSA scholarships! We wish you both the best of luck this school year and hope to hear more about your adventures!

Our youth members have been out and about! Cheyanne and Shauna Smith attended their Homecoming dance, and of course, they looked beautiful!

Jourdyn Forrester competed in her first cheerleading competition. Her team won first place! Congratulations, Jourdyn, and keep up the hard work!

Lodge Groveton meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Groveton Fire Hall. Members are encouraged to come a little early to enjoy food and refreshments at every meeting. The November meeting will involve the Election of Officers. Our December 4 meeting will be our Christmas dinner. We are looking into restaurants, but we will update everyone when we find a space.

We wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Fraternally, Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich

Fraternal Well Wishes

Dolores Clark

Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219

John Kustka

Lodge Queensdale No. 422

Elmer Soos

Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219

"Tote Me Home"

Lodge Estlian No. 404, Fairview Heights, Illinois – Hello, members. So far in 2024 we've had three meetings/luncheons: in March, June, and September. It's been nice to see familiar faces and catch up with each other

At our June meeting, I shared that Lodge Estlian received a Silver Award from the CSA Home Office for 2023. Requirements included having a minimum of four meetings during the year and a variety of other activities by members. I tallied our points and submitted them. Along with the certificate of recognition, we received \$250. With part of this, we elected to make a donation to "Tote Me Home," an organization that provides food that students can take home with them over the weekend to provide meals. This is a cause that was near and dear to Gina Kupinski's heart as she started it while working in the Collinsville schools. I'm tracking our progress this year as well, so we hope to get another award next year that we can also put toward a good cause. One activity that earned points was member entries to the photo contest and we even had a winner by my nephew, Peter Kassly with a picture of his son, Bennett. Way to go, Pete! Not only did he get bragging rights, but he also won a cash prize!

At all of our meetings, we continue to sell tickets for our Queen of Hearts Drawing which is currently at \$633. Mike Kupinski generously started it off again with \$250 after we had a winner last December (me!). The pot will grow until someone wins – so come to a meeting and buy some tickets or contact me if you can't make it but would like to support the lodge and take a chance. You don't have to be present to win, but your winnings are higher if your ticket is drawn and you're present!

Our December meeting/luncheon will be Sunday, December 8. Please join us and enjoy a nice lunch, a few games, but most of all, the opportunity to catch up with members you haven't

seen in in while.

Speaking of seeing members, I've included some pictures of members enjoying activities in 2024. If you have some shots you'd like to share, please contact me.

Charlie Kassly, Ken Kruta, Jenny Kassly, Libby Rich, and Scott Rich enjoyed the final "Tour de Belleville" bike ride on Friday evening, July 12. The 12 mile route was so much fun with over 800 riders and many spectators along the route in a party-like atmosphere.

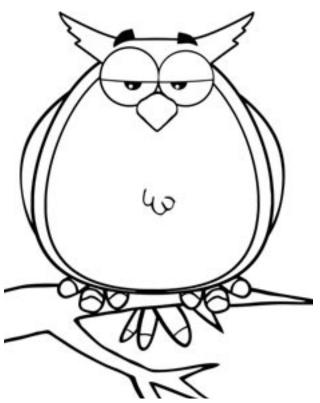
Libby Rich, Jenny Kassly, Pat Mertens, and Kenny Mertens participated in "Joshua's Great Things" 5K also in July. This really is a great event raising money for pediatric brain cancer and to help families with children going through treatment. Please share your activities with us – maybe at our next meeting Sunday, December 8. Details will follow in our communication, but please plan to bring food pantry donations if you can attend.

Fraternally, Libby Rich









Justkids

Send Just Kids your stories, riddles, etc.

Mail: Just Kids, c/o the CSA Journal, P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148 Email to: CSAJournalEditor@gmail.com

Czech to English

Listopad	November (lis-to-pad)
Voják	soldier (vo-ják)
Dělo	cannon (dě-lo)
Terč	target (terč)
Vojsko	army (vojs-ko)
Koně	horse (ko-ně)
Terénní cvičení	field exercises
	(Ter-én-ní cvi-če-ní)
Batoh	knapsack
	(ba-toh)



