

Prime Minister Andrej Plenković Addresses UN General Assembly Meets with Croatian Diaspora at New York Reception

By Edward W. Pazo / National President

PITTSBURGH, PA - Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković addressed the General Debate of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 22, 2026. In his speech, the Prime Minister drew upon Croatia's modern history of establishing a democratic republic in early the 1990's which led to the successful integration of Croatia into the United Nations, NATO and the European Union. The Prime Minister spoke eloquently and effectively on three central principles: Rules as a common compass, Transformation as a driver of resilience, and Trust being earned strictly through delivery.

From the official website of Vlade Republic Hrvatske, The Prime Minister's speech is quoted in part with his statement:

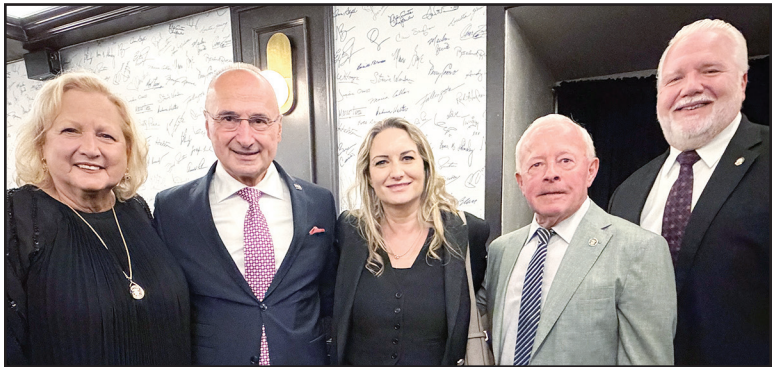
"We support rules-based multilateralism as the pinnacle of human cooperation not because we are naive, but because we have seen and experienced the alternative."

"For smaller and medium-sized states, international law is not an abstraction. It is the line between order and tyranny, between sovereign equality and the rule of force."

"The rule of force such as witnessed by Croatia during the brutal aggression and occupation of more than one quarter of our territory in the 1990s, in the war which claimed nearly 20,000 lives. And after which, more than three decades later, Croatia continues to search for 1,725 missing persons - a poignant example that the consequences of war do not end when the weapons fall silent."

"Instead, peace requires courage, credible institutions, and rules that apply equally to everyone. Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine is a direct assault on those rules."

"Croatia will continue to support Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on the UN Charter. Peace cannot reward conquest, and recovery cannot be separated from justice."



MEMBERS OF THE CFU EXECUTIVE BOARD enjoy pleasantries with Gordan Grlić-Radman, Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, and Renee Pea, Consul General of Croatia, Los Angeles, CA.



PRIME MINISTER OF CROATIA ANDREJ PLENKOVIĆ is greeted by Members of the CFU Executive Board, Executive Vice President Franjo Bertović, National President Edward W. Pazo and National Secretary/Treasurer Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras during his recent visit to New York City.

There can be no arguing of Croatia's record of winning its independence through the crucible of war. Now after a full three decades of nurturing freedom and integration with the Western democracies, Croatia and its people may rightfully be proud of the recognition that it has earned. We are proud to call ourselves CROATIAN and share in the joy that freedom and independence provide each citizen of a sovereign Hrvatska.

That pride was on full display on the evening of September 24, 2026, where Croatian Ambassador Pjer Šimunović and Croatian Consul General stationed in New York, Nikica Kopačević, hosted a festive reception in honor of Prime Minister Plenković at one of the oldest Steak Houses in the United States, Delmonico's of Manhattan. The restaurant also happens to include Croatians among its ownership group who masterfully run a fine dining establishment in the heart of the world's financial capital, WALL STREET.

Our Executive Board members and co-editor of **Zajedničar**, Brother Ivan Begg were among over two hundred fifty guests, the majority of whom were of Croatian descent, who were on hand to welcome Prime Minister Plenković and his official delegation to New York. Assembled in the usual private gathering place of the restaurant located on the lower level, guests were entertained by a fine group of young tamburitza musicians, Zadnja Runda from the local Croatian Folklore ensemble Kardinal

Stepinac of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church in New York.

Our officers were very pleased to converse with Ambassador Šimunović, Croatian Defense Attache General Kranjčević, and Consul General Kopačević prior to the arrival of the guests of honor.

Upon arrival to the reception area, the Prime Minister was met with usual fanfare accorded an esteemed statesman. In fact, Prime Minister Plenković, who has ably led the Croatian Government for the past ten consecutive years, holds the distinction of "the cur-

rent longest-serving prime minister among the member nations of the European Union".

Following personal greetings, photos and handshakes with many of the gathered guests, the program began with Consular Official Lidia Babić serving as mistress of ceremonies. Consul General Kopačević welcomed the Prime Minister and his delegation to the city of New York prior to Ambassador Šimunović extending greetings to all in attendance as well. Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

(Continued on page 11)

Every Step Makes a Difference at the Inaugural CFU 5K

PITTSBURGH, PA - The inaugural **CFU 5K: Strides for Scholarships & Hope** will bring CFU members, families and friends together on Sunday, October 11, at the North Park Boathouse in Allison Park, Pennsylvania, for a day centered on fitness, fellowship and giving.

Participants can choose the traditional 5K, a 3.1-mile course open to runners and walkers, or the one-mile Fun Run/Walk. The shorter event is perfect for anyone who may not feel ready to complete the full 5K—and it is a great option for children and families who want to participate together. You do not need to be an experienced runner to be part of this special day!

For CFU members who live

outside the Pittsburgh area, the Virtual 5K offers an opportunity to participate from anywhere. Virtual participants can complete their miles in their own neighborhoods while supporting the same important causes and joining fellow CFU members across the country and beyond.

Live music will add to the excitement both before and after the race. Once participants cross the finish line, they can spend time with friends and fellow members and join us for a special celebratory toast for adults. More than simply a race, the CFU 5K will be a wonderful opportunity for our local Croatian community to come together and celebrate what can be accomplished when we work toward a common goal.

(Continued on page 6)

Zajedničar

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...LORRAINE TURKALL

Steps with a Purpose

In just a few days, on October 11, runners and walkers will participate in the inaugural **CFU 5K Strides for Scholarships and Hope** at a scenic park venue in the Pittsburgh area. Proceeds from the event will benefit two worthwhile causes: the CFU Scholarship Foundation and UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Zabok, Croatia. The idea of sponsoring the 5K Race to enhance the CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc., merits our attention since members of our fraternal organization have long placed the highest significance upon educating our CFU youth and have supported the academic efforts of CFU students for decades through the CFU Scholarship Foundation and through numerous individual lodge funds. Operational since 1958, the CFU Scholarship Foundation has been instrumental in assisting thousands of CFU members in their educational pursuits and continues to address the needs of young members striving to reach their academic priorities for career potential and growth. In addition, sharing the proceeds from the first-ever CFU 5K Race with the UPMC Hillman Cancer

Center in Zabok, Croatia was met with equal enthusiasm since the Croatian Fraternal Union has long maintained strong ties with Croatia and has consistently responded to the needs of the people living in the old homeland, particularly when it involves the well-being of its residents. When the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Pittsburgh announced a collaboration between UPMC and Croatian health leaders in March 2025, CFU applauded the decision to bring this idea to fruition. Zabok General Hospital is UPMC's first endeavor in Croatia. The center offers comprehensive cancer services, including radiation oncology, medical oncology and PET-CT diagnostics, significantly improving access to high-quality cancer care in the region. Acknowledging this significant action, the Croatian Fraternal Union is proud to extend our support to the newly-established UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Croatia since it brings advanced cancer treatments and state-of-the-art care to impact the lives of cancer patients and families in Croatia. Positively affecting the

physical and mental well-being of CFU members and Croatian families worldwide, the Croatian Fraternal Union recognizes the need for partnerships and building bridges of cooperation to achieve success in education and healthcare. It is hoped this community event will raise awareness for these important programs and will serve to make a difference in the lives of those who will benefit from this endeavor. We extend our good wishes to all of the runners and walkers who will participate in this inaugural CFU 5K event, the event organizers and promoters, and all those who have financially supported this effort. We are grateful to all involved for championing these two important causes which serve to ensure well-being objectives and advanced healthcare for those in need, and higher learning opportunities for deserving students. Every dollar raised will benefit someone in need.

CFU Lodge 170 Meeting Schedule

MERRILLVILLE, IN - Please remember there is no Lodge Meeting in October. Join us at the next Lodge Meeting on November 22. At this meeting, we will be taking nominations for the 2027 board. Our last meeting of 2026 will be December 20. Meeting time is 11:30 a.m. Meetings take place at 8550 Taft Street, Merrillville, IN. Please use north doors. **Cindy Mayer** Recording Secretary

News From Lodge 270

CALUMET, MI - We had a wonderful gathering in September for our 50-year member dinner. Bingo was played using fun Croatian facts. Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 19, at 6 p.m. We will meet at our usual place, Merchants and Miners Building in Calumet. Social time and dinner with meeting to follow. Come and join us. **Donna Preston**/Secretary



By Edward W. Pazo/National President

There is an often-used phrase when a good person passes away, "Heaven received another Angel!" In our humble estimation, this is an appropriate thought at the passing of Dr. Marion Vujevich, M.D., this past September 27th. It has been a pleasure and honor to have known Dr. Marion for most of my adult life. Dr. Vujevich was not only a respected physician, scientist and humanitarian, he was a very good friend. We share Croatian Heritage through roots which emanate from the Imotska Krajina region of Croatia. His father from Podbablje and my grandfather from nearby Lokvičići. We always shared a smile when discussing our Croatian heritage and Dr. Vujevich proudly wore a gold ring with the Vujevich family crest prominently displayed on top.



DR. MARION VUJEVICH with CFU National President Edward Pazo and Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković.

When you think of fraternalism it distills down to the basic desire to help others. We believe that Dr. Vujevich answered a call to help others in a number of ways throughout his lifetime. First, he pursued a medical degree at University College Galway in Ireland during difficult economic times following the loss of his father with the altruistic goal of becoming a physician to help others. This led to his enlistment in the US Army as a medical officer serving in Vietnam during the war. Professionally, he began the practice of Vujevich Dermatology which grew to include his son, Dr. Justin Vujevich, M.D., as well as his daughter Deirdre Gardiner, MSN, CRNP, among the professionals he employed.

While his professional duties kept him very busy, Marion still found time to enjoy his family life with wife, Barbara, and their four children and families. A regular at Croatian Day at Kennywood Park, Dr. Vujevich would fill a whole pavilion with his family and friends enjoying the day's festivities which always included barbequed lamb and tamburitza entertainment. He was a member and past officer of the Croatian American Professional and Business Association of Pittsburgh and was a staunch supporter of the National Federation of Croatian Americans organization. A member of St. George Lodge 248 in Clairton, Pennsylvania, Dr. Vujevich also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the CFU Scholarship Foundation for over thirty years.

All that Dr. Vujevich accomplished during his lifetime exemplifies his compassion and desire to help those souls less fortunate than him. Whether it was through his expert medical care in the field of dermatology or cosmetic surgery or his humanitarian efforts to raise funds for medical and other philanthropic needs both here in the United States and in his beloved Croatia, Dr. Marion made a difference. He is one of the original founders of the Angels Fund whose charitable mission was to provide tangible assistance for the medical care of the less fortunate in Western Pennsylvania as well as in the homeland of his parents, Croatia. His philanthropy was natural and did not seek recognition, yet it was on display in many ways. A little know example was when he joined with Croatian Fraternal Union in matching our funding for the restoration of two large and prominent stained glass windows in the baroque Church of St. Filip & Jakov in Vukovar which were badly damaged during the war of aggression in waged in Croatia. (Continued on page 12)

Youngstown St. George Lodge 66 Plans Coming Events

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - St. George Croatian Home Lodge 66 located at 3200 Vestal Rd., Youngstown Ohio, is pleased to announce several fundraisers they are having during the months of October and November 2026. All are open to the public. We invite all of our friends to come out for some great food and fraternalism.

We are having a Ćevapi sale on any Friday between the hours of 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., or

arrangements can be made for other days for pick up. You will receive two (2) dozen frozen Ćevapi, five (5) pita breads, and a jar of ajvar, all for only \$30. The Ćevapi are lovingly made on premises by our Chef and kitchen staff. Order some for your tailgate parties and the holidays. To order or for more information, call Tim at 330-519-9036. Payment by cash or check only.

On Thursday, October 15,

between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., the lodge will hold a pasta dinner, eat in or carry out dinners both available, for only \$15 per dinner. No reservations are needed.

On Tuesday, October 20, and Wednesday, October 21, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., we will have a rummage sale at our lodge hall, open to the public. We invite you all to come and search for items. Lunches will be available for sale on both days between the hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are asking all of our friends to donate clean, used items for our rummage sale such as antiques, dishes, glassware, working electrical items, (no appliances), books, collectables, tablecloths, etc. No clothing or broken items. Drop-off will be on Thursday, October 15, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information or to make arrangements for drop-off, please call Jeff at 330-519-6642.

On Thursday, November 19, we will host an Italian Evening/ Frank Sinatra Night with Angeo Babbaro (Frank Sinatra impersonator) at our Lodge Hall on the Westside of Youngstown, Ohio. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m., dinner at 5 p.m., show at 6 p.m. Dinner will include Hors d'oeuvres (Italian meats and cheeses, peppers in oil), Entrees (Eggplant Parmesan, Chicken Parmesan, Veal Parmesan, and Pasta), Desserts will be Cannoli and Lemon Cake. For only \$20 per ticket, you get a show, dinner and one complimentary drink. All tickets are sold in advance. We are expecting a sell-out (limited seating available). For more information and to reserve your tickets, call Tim at 330-519-9036.

Since 1968 our kitchen has been selling award-winning fish and seafood dinners every Friday. All dinners are available for eat in or to go orders, between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., or until we sell out. We have Fish dinners, both baked or fried, Shrimp, Scallops, and Potato Pierogi dinners, and Combo Platters. All dinners include one side (fries, mac 'n cheese, haluski, pierogi or green beans) and a choice of applesauce, or coleslaw. We also have side orders available consisting of: pieces of fish, haluski, mac 'n cheese, potato pierogi, French fries, and green beans. All of our food is made from scratch, right down to our tartar sauce and cocktail sauce. To place an order or for more information, please call 330-270-9056 on any Friday between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

We hope to see you at one of our fundraisers.

Tim Komara
President/Lodge 66



Phoenix Cravat Day Celebrates Croatian Culture

PHOENIX, AZ – Free Phoenix event invites the public to experience Croatian traditions and discover the Croatian connection to the modern necktie.

What does the necktie have to do with Croatia? More than you might think.

CRAVAT invites the public to discover the connection at the Arizona Cravat Day Festival on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Frasher's Smokehouse, 3222 E. Indian School Road in Phoenix.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Arizona Cravat Day brings together Croatian Americans, families, friends and neighbors for an afternoon of food, culture and connection. Whether guests grew up with Croatian traditions or are discovering the culture for the first time, the festival offers an opportunity to experience a piece of Croatia right here in Arizona.

"Cravat Day is about celebrating where we come from, while inviting others to be part of it," said Dawn Stančec-Kelly. "You don't have to be Croatian to join us. Come enjoy the food, meet some new people and maybe learn something about that necktie hanging in your closet."

At the heart of the celebration is the cravat, the forerunner of the modern necktie. Its history dates to Croatian soldiers in the 17th century whose distinctive neckwear inspired a fashion that eventually evolved into the necktie worn around the world today.

Croatian food will be available for purchase from Frasher's Smokehouse: Roast lamb: \$28 per pound; Lamb plate: \$32; Ćevapi plate: \$20. Plates include potato salad, salad and lepinja, a Croatian flatbread. Food orders may be placed in advance by calling Frasher's Smokehouse at 602-314-5599 and mentioning Cravat Day.

Guests are encouraged to bring friends and family and wear a cravat or favorite necktie in the spirit of the celebration.

For festival updates and information about future events, follow Cravat Arizona on Facebook at Cravat Arizona Facebook

About CRAVAT: CRAVAT brings Arizona's Croatian-American community and the broader public together through cultural celebrations and shared experiences. Guided by its mission, "Tying our Croatian heritage with American touches," CRAVAT preserves Croatian traditions, shares Croatian history and creates opportunities for connection across generations and cultures.

Sonja Schroder/Lodge 978

SPOTLIGHT

A Message from the Executive Vice President
FRANJO BERTOVIĆ

ONCFU PROGRAMS

CFU'S ANNUITY/IRA
AND LIFE INSURANCE PRODUCTS

WE cannot control inflation, interest rates or any component of the money market. But we can control other sources of income, ways to reduce your taxes, savings for retirement and maximize savings for an emergency fund.

The Croatian Fraternal Union of America offers to its members and prospective members the opportunity to plan for their retirement future. The opening of an Annuity/IRA (Traditional/Roth) account can prove to be a very sound financial decision. CFU has always paid a generous minimum guaranteed interest rate on all of our Annuity/IRA products.

It's never too early to start savings for retirement! You can start with a minimum amount of \$3,000 to open an annuity/IRA account at the CFU.

Why purchase an Annuity/IRA product?

- Provides an opportunity to save for the future and supplement income at retirement age.
- Offers the option to have tax-deferred accumulation of interest dollars.
- Ability to have the interest compound and save for the future.

The following are the current products and rates available for savings opportunities:

CHOICE TWO PROGRAM – The Present Annuity/IRA Interest Rate on the Choice Two Program is 4.5% with a 3.00% guaranteed interest rate. (Guaranteed for initial Two Year Term)

EASY ACCESS ANNUITY CONTRACT - The Present Annuity/IRA Interest Rate is 3.00% with a 2.40% guaranteed interest rate for contracts issued through 12/31/26. There is NO Surrender Charges for Withdrawals.



Don't miss your saving opportunities with CFU's Life insurance products:

- Take advantage of the 250th Anniversary of our Great Country Offers with the 20 Pay Life plan - Face amount \$10,000 to \$25,000 ... ages 24 to 25 ... the first year premium is only \$17.76!
- Ages 26 to 70 ... Minimum Face Amount \$10,000 ... with eligibility for up to \$250 in a one-time fraternal dividend credit towards the first year premium.
- Single Premium Ordinary Life ... with a saving opportunity up to \$1,000. The CFU is offering a 15% discount up to age 40 and 10% for ages 41+ on this lump sum premium through a fraternal dividend credit.

Current interest rates and life insurance offers are available through December 31, 2026.

If you have any further questions, or wish to review any specific CFU product or benefit, please feel free to contact the Home Office at 412.843.0380 or visit our website at www.cfu.org.

Lodge 126 Croatian American Civic Club Calendar of Events

FARRELL, PA - Oct. 10, Saturday: Croatian Indoor Picnic; Experience the warmth of Croatian hospitality at our annual indoor picnic. Enjoy delicious traditional Croatian foods, lively fellowship, and an afternoon filled with authentic Tamburitzan music performed by multiple talented ensembles. It's a celebration of Croatian culture, heritage, and community for all ages.

The "50 Year Members Celebration" will be held to honor individuals who have maintained membership in Lodge 126 for five decades. It recognizes their long-term dedication, service, and contributions while bringing together members, leaders, family, and guests to celebrate this remarkable milestone.

Oct. 18, Sunday: Lodge 126 Meeting, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; Croatian American Civic Club Meeting 2 p.m.-3 p.m.; Following the meeting, join us for a tasty ethnic meal and great fellowship.

Nov. 14, Saturday: Lamb An'a Band; Join us for one of our signature events featuring expertly roasted lamb, traditional side dishes, and live performances by talented Tamburitzan musicians. Gather with family and friends to celebrate Croatian culture through delicious food, spirited music, dancing, and lasting memories.

Nov. 15, Sunday: Lodge 126 Meeting, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; Croatian American Civic Club Meeting 2 p.m.- 3 p.m. Following the meeting, join us for a tasty ethnic meal and great fellowship.

Dec. 6, Sunday: Lodge 126 Meeting, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; Croatian American Civic Club Meeting 2 p.m.-3 p.m.; Christmas Party, 3 p.m. Celebrate the festive season with a traditional Christmas dinner, live entertainment, dancing, and a visit from Santa Claus.

Regular Monthly Activities:

Every Wednesday from 6 p.m., a variety of tasty ethnic meals are served at our Croatian Home: 412 Staunton St., Farrell, PA 16121.

New Members Welcome - Join anytime and enjoy exclusive member benefits.

The Croatian Club thanks all members, volunteers, sponsors, and guests for their continued support throughout 2026. We look forward to sharing another wonderful year of friendship, tradition, and community.

Susan Yazvac/Rec. Secretary

Zajedničar

Publication Dates

■-Publication dates are highlighted in black

○-All Material Deadline dates are circles

■-Office Closure

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				①	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	⑮	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	⑒	30	31

NOVEMBER

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29	30					

DECEMBER

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	⑒	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Submissions may be mailed to "Zajedničar", 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235; faxed to 412-823-1594. If you are e-mailing material for publication, please direct them to editor@cfu.org. E-mailed articles should be sent in the body of your e-mail and not as an attachment. Only photographs should be sent as an attachment. All material must be received at least one week prior to the issue date. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Hvala! —Editors

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

National President Pazo called the Meeting of the Executive Board to order at 10:00 a.m. with customary greetings.

In attendance were National President Edward W. Pazo, Executive Vice President Franjo Bertović (online) and National Secretary/Treasurer Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras. Minutes of the Wednesday, July 14, 2026 meeting of the Executive Board were read and officially approved.

President Pazo began the meeting with a review and discussion on the progress of the implementation of the new policy administration system. Data has been transferred and the actual conversion is underway. The next step will be data validation which will start with basic member information to be sure that the data was converted without problems. There remain a few decisions to be made on the handling of certain issues involving lodges and past products that are in run-off. Data validation will begin in mid-September and will be performed by a designated group of employees.

President Pazo gave a status report on the new “CFU 5K” fraternal event that will take place on October 11, 2026 in North Park, Pittsburgh, PA. The proceeds of this event will benefit the CFU Scholarship Foundation and the new UPMC Cancer Hospital in Zabok, Croatia. Fraternal Programs Director Derek Hohn and CFU staff member Lauren Ricci are organizing this event. We are currently collecting sponsorships and registering racers/walkers. The racing team with the most participants will receive a prize.

President Pazo reminded the Members that the annual conference of the National Federation of Croatian Americans Cultural Foundation (NFCACF) will be held on October 24 in Cleveland, Ohio. Their Croatian American Sports Hall of Fame Banquet will be held that evening in conjunction with the conference. The Executive Board will be in attendance.

President Pazo announced that the 59th CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada at the Westin Harbour Castle the weekend of July 2 - 4, 2027.

Executive Vice President Franjo Bertović presented the following summary of new business activity for the month of July 2026:

Insurance	
• Year to Date New Members	174
• Year to Date Certificates	212
• New Insurance in Force	3,964,857.00
• Annual Premium	\$136,037.94
Annuities	
• Year to Date New Members	42
• Year to Date Certificates	168
• Face Value	\$9,362,782.74

National Secretary/Treasurer Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras presented the report of death claims settled during the period July 1-31, 2026:

United States	Amount	Number of Certificates	Number of Members
California.....	\$ 2,000.00	1	1
Illinois	16,540.00	4	4
Indiana	4,055.00	2	2
Michigan	3,000.00	2	2
Minnesota	3,250.00	3	3
Ohio	1,000.00	2	2
Pennsylvania	213,717.38	32	20
Wisconsin	6,689.00	4	2
TOTAL	\$250,251.38	50	36
CANADA			
Ontario	\$ 10,125.00	3	3
TOTAL	\$ 10,125.00	3	3
FOREIGN/PUAS			
Foreign/PUAS	\$ 5,000.00	1	1
TOTAL	\$ 5,000.00	1	1
GRAND TOTAL.....	\$265,376.38	54	40

Secretary/Treasurer Luketich-Sikaras then submitted the Statistical Report for the period July 1-31, 2026 as follows:

	Number of Certificates	Amount	Number of Members
Certificate:			
Lapses/No Value	26	\$ 795,259.61	26
Cash Surrenders	23	108,500.00	22
Expired	7	107,000.00	7
Matureds (Pending)	5	7,787.63	5
Deaths (Pending)	4	27,000.00	4
Certificate:			
New Sales	23	\$ 320,000.00	23
Increases	4	31,648.00	4
Annuity:			
New Sales	10	\$ 57,000.00	10
Increases	10	811,476.30	10

With no further business to come before this meeting of the Executive Board, President Pazo adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras, National Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST:
EDWARD W. PAZO
FRANJO BERTOVIĆ



2026 Johnstown Slavic Festival

PITTSBURGH, PA - On Saturday, September 19, I once again had the opportunity to attend the Polcek Family Johnstown Slavic Festival. Now in its 11th year, this very popular event celebrates the heritage, traditions and stories of the region’s Slavic communities. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, large numbers of immigrants from Slavic countries came to Johnstown in search of employment in the area’s mines and mills. Together, they established churches and social organizations that helped preserve the culture and traditions of their homelands—many of which continue to thrive today.

Our CFU Lodge 5 “Sv. Rochus” is one such organization that has maintained a strong presence in the Johnstown community. Many Lodge 5 members

play an active role in the annual festival, volunteering their time and serving on the festival committee. This year, Brother Brian Subich, a member of Lodge 5, celebrated his ninth year as festival chairman.

The Johnstown Slavic Festival offers numerous activities that provide attendees with an opportunity to connect with their Slavic heritage while introducing the general public to the beautiful customs, delicious foods and music of more than a dozen countries. The festival features folklore performances, traditional cooking and culinary demonstrations, vendors and craftsmen offering cultural merchandise, and lectures and presentations exploring the immigrant heritage of Slavic populations. Families can also enjoy the “Slavic Kids’



Zone,” which provides supervised activities for children. New this year were classes in traditional pysanky egg decorating and a Slavic costume photo experience.

A variety of food vendors offered delicacies representing Croatia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy and Serbia, much to the delight of festival-goers. The bar featured beers from the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Poland, as well as wines from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia. Croatian and Polish specialty cocktails were also served.

Of course, one of the highlights of the festival is the outstanding entertainment. We are especially proud that Croatian perform-

ers are well represented on the festival stage each year. This year, the Junior Tamburitzaans of Duquesne, the Duquesne Dads, Javor Pittsburgh Adult Tamburitza Ensemble and the Šarena Tamburitza Orchestra delivered excellent performances that were enthusiastically received by the audience.

Other cultural performances included Polka Floyd (Polka Rock), Turli Tava (Macedonia), Brača Balkana (traditional mixed Balkan), Pravi Rojaki (Slovenia) and accordion soloists.

The festival concluded Saturday evening with a spectacular fireworks display, followed by an afterparty at the Lodge 5 Croatian Home.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues on the CFU Executive Board, I congratulate our Lodge 5 members on another successful festival. We commend them for their dedication and commitment to this wonderful event and for playing such a significant role in bringing people together each year to celebrate and share our rich Slavic heritage.

The 2027 Johnstown Slavic Festival has already been scheduled for September 17 and 18. I highly recommend marking your calendars and making plans to attend. You won’t be disappointed!

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
National Secretary/Treasurer



BRIAN SUBICH, FESTIVAL CHAIRMAN; Bill Polacek, Festival Name Sponsor; and CFU National Secretary/Treasurer Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras.

Cash Bash in Aliquippa

ALIQUIPPA, PA - Aliquippa Croatian Center, located at 2365 Concord Street in Aliquippa PA, will hold a CASH BASH on Saturday, November 14.

Tickets are \$30 each and include entry, cash prize eligibility, food and keg beer. Each ticket has FIVE numbers, so that’s FIVE chances to win! We will be giving away \$3,500 throughout the night.

Doors open at 5 p.m., and multiple drawings will be held between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. We are only selling 200 tickets, so call Shayla and get your tickets before they are gone. Shayla can be reached at 412-908-1541. See you there!

Michelle Janicki/Lodge 720

4-Counties United Lodges Celebrates Fraternalism

FOUR COUNTIES, PA -
 On Sunday, October 25th, the United Lodges of Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland Counties will host a grand event to honor our 2026 Fraternalist of the Year and to recognize the members of our United Lodges who are celebrating 50 years of membership in our Society. Honoring our dedicated fraternalists and celebrating the commitment of our longtime members is a cherished tradition within our Society. We invite you to join us for this special occasion as we come together to recognize these outstanding individuals, celebrate their accomplishments and honor their many years of dedication and service.

This celebration will begin at 2:00 p.m., in the upper hall of the “St. George” Lodge 354 Croatian Home located at 32 Grant Street in Cokeburg, PA and will consist of a brief program recognizing all honorees, a buffet lunch and live tamburitza music throughout the afternoon.

We are very proud to announce our **2026 Fraternalist of the Year**, Brother **Daniel Turkall** of Lodge 3, McKeesport. Daniel is well-known throughout the Croatian Fraternal Union, having attended and supported numerous CFU national and local events over the years. Daniel is the son the co-editor of the **Zajedničar** and Executive Assistant to our National President, Lorraine Turkall and husband Dan.

Daniel exemplifies the true spirit of a fraternalist through his outstanding commitment and contributions to our organization. His genuine concern for others, compassion, and unwavering dedication are evident in all that he does.

Daniel is a valued member of our CFU family and a wonderful example of what it means to be a true fraternalist. He is truly deserving of this distinguished honor and we are proud to recognize him as our 2026 Fraternalist of the Year.

In addition to our Fraternalist of the Year, the United Lodges will be recognizing its members

who have achieved 50-year status in 2026. We are quite proud to announce that there are a total of 61 individuals belonging to our member Lodges who have reached the 50-year milestone this year.

A warm invitation is extended to all of our CFU members and friends to join us on Sunday, October 25th, to celebrate our dedicated fraternalists.

A delicious buffet dinner at the reasonable cost of \$10 per person will be served with all honorees and children free of charge. We ask that honorees and guests kindly RSVP by contacting Darja Maroš at the CFU Home Office (412-843-0380 or dmaros@cfu.org), Monday through Thursday 9:00 am-5:00 pm, to assist us with planning for seating and meals.

We hope that you and your families can join us for what promises to be a memorable celebration. For additional information, please watch for updates in upcoming issues of the **Zajedničar**.

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
 President/4-Counties United Lodges



Daniel Turkall

Born into a family whose parents have held strong fraternal ties in two Croatian communities, Monessen, PA and McKeesport, PA, Daniel Turkall has enjoyed a cultural upbringing that has included many Croatian traditions, favorite family customs, and memorable events filled with tamburitza music. Being selected as the 2026 Fraternalist of the Year by the United CFU Four County Lodges is an amazing honor for Daniel as he takes great personal pride in being a part of an organization that celebrates his Croatian ancestry and identity.

From his first trip riding in a stroller around Kennywood Park on Croatian Day when he was just two months old, Daniel Turkall was destined to enjoy his Croatian heritage and his bond with the Croatian Fraternal Union. Since then, he has attended many CFU festivals, picnics, banquets, sports events

and fraternal gatherings and has enjoyed every minute of it. As a member of CFU Lodge 3 of McKeesport and with a long family affiliation with CFU Lodge 194 of Monessen, Daniel has benefited from his interactions with many outstanding fraternal members and role models.

Residing in Mt. Lebanon, PA, Daniel is a graduate of Mt. Lebanon High School and has enjoyed taking part in numerous activities in the local community, including dance groups, art exhibits and other events.

Working at the CFU Home Office remains a source of pride and fulfillment for Daniel. He respects the opportunity to be a part of the office staff and also enjoys the social involvement of participating in CFU tamburitza festivals, cultural and sporting events.

For many years, Daniel has enthusiastically volunteered his services at Four County picnics and banquets, always ready to assist with ticket sales, banquet preparations, and any variety of jobs that require attention. Need someone to lend a helping hand organizing and preparing for an event? Looking for a willing volunteer or a fun dance partner at a CFU festival? Dan’s Your Man!

Above all, Daniel is an avid Pittsburgh sports fan, solid and true to his hometown teams... Steelers, Penguins and Pirates. He cheers the loudest, follows as many games as humanly possible, is ecstatic when his teams win, defends them when they lose, never counts them

out, and remains proud of them no matter the outcome. Known to carry along the Terrible Towel on numerous vacations, Daniel even carried it with him to Croatia in 2018, sharing the powerful vibes of the Terrible Towel as the Croatian Soccer Team advanced in the World Cup games and played their way to the championship game. Daniel’s Pittsburgh hometown enthusiasm plus his Croatian cultural pride is indeed a force to be reckoned with at any venue!

Never was it more evident than earlier this year when Daniel was presented with the honor of throwing out the first pitch at CFU’s Croatian Heritage Night at a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game. The moment was a singular thrill for Daniel and will remain a lifetime memory for him, forever appreciative and proud of the incredible opportunity.

With an infectious smile, deep-rooted enthusiasm and a warm heart, Daniel has endeared himself to many friends and acquaintances he has met along life’s way. He has been blessed with family members and great friends who have enriched his life in countless ways, as he continues to benefit from these remarkable relationships.

The CFU Four County Lodges’ 2026 Fraternalist of the Year recognition is an accolade that reflects Daniel’s determination to do his best and the commitment he shares with his CFU Fraternal Family.

NOTICE TO ALL CFU ACTIVE JUNIOR CULTURAL FEDERATION GROUPS



CFU JUNIOR CULTURAL FEDERATION FALL MEETING NOTICE / October 17, 2026

PITTSBURGH, PA – The Annual Meeting of the CFU Junior Cultural Federation will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at the CFU Home Office, 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

Nominating Committee Meeting: 9:30 AM
Bylaws Committee Meeting: 9:30 AM
Executive Board Meeting:.....10:30 AM
Delegates Meeting: 12:00 PM

Agenda: Recap of the 2026 Festival in Cleveland, Ohio
 Information on the 2027 Festival
 Selection of the 2027 Guest Conductor

Teams Meeting: For those that want to join the meeting without traveling to the Home Office, we will have a Teams Meeting for the Noon Delegates Meeting. Derek Hohn will have this set up and a few days before the meeting we will send out a link to connect to our meeting at the CFU home office.

Nominations for the Board of Directors: Anyone wishing to be considered for board positions must be recommended by an affiliated junior group, must be a member of the Croatian Fraternal Union in good standing, must be a delegate of an active CFU Junior Cultural Federation Tamburitza Group, be willing to attend all meetings and work at the CFU, Junior Cultural Federation Festival. All board positions are on a voluntary basis. Should you be interested in being considered for a position on the board, please send a request by email at least 15 days prior to the October meeting to Natalie Kosta, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, at nat2kosta@gmail.com

Bylaws: Any proposed changes and recommendations to the current By-laws should be sent by email to Michelle Janicki, Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee, at michellejanicki@comcast.net. All considerations and recommendations must be sent in writing, at least 15 days prior to the October meeting.

Nominations for the 2027 Guest Conductor: Nominations for the 2027 Guest Conductor must be submitted in writing to the Federation Secretary no later than October 14, 2026. The person nominated must be presently (or previously) associated with a CFU Junior Cultural Federation group. Basic information regarding the individual nominated should be limited to one typed page, double-spaced and emailed to cfujuniorfed@gmail.com. Thank you for your cooperation!

Lodging: For hotel reservations, search hotels in Monroeville, PA or reservations can be made at the Residence Inn Marriott, 3455 William Penn Highway, Monroeville, PA 15235 phone: 412-816-1300. Or the Holiday Inn Express 3936 Monroeville Blvd. Monroeville, PA 15146 phone: 412-357-4490.

Michael Ricci/President
Robert T. Keber/Secretary/Treasurer
 CFU Junior Cultural Federation

Nominations Now Open for CFU Junior Festival Guest Conductor

PITTSBURGH, PA - The CFU Junior Cultural Federation is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 59th Annual Junior Cultural Federation Festival Guest Conductor.

We invite your group to submit a formal nomination letter for consideration. All nomination letters should be sent via email to cfujuniorfed@gmail.com no later than October 14, 2026. The person nominated must be presently (or previously) associated with a CFU Junior Cultural Federation group. Basic information regarding the individual nominated should be limited to one typed page, double space.

This annual event serves as a distinguished platform for our junior groups to celebrate our cultural heritage, artistic expression, and fraternalism. We encourage your participation and look forward to receiving your nomination.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at cfujuniorfed@gmail.com .

Robert T. Keber/Secretary/Treasurer
 CFU Junior Cultural Federation

Rankin Croatian Home 100th Anniversary Celebration

RANKIN, PA - On Saturday, October 17, 2026, the Rankin Croatian Home will celebrate our One-Hundredth Anniversary with a banquet to be held at the Dom. The Croatian Home is located at 236 – 4th Avenue, Rankin, PA 15104.

Cocktails will be at 3:30 p.m., with dinner to follow at 5 p.m. After dinner, enjoy dancing to the big band sounds of the Adam Lee Morgan Big Band from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tickets for the event are \$60 and can be purchased by sending an email to: RankinCroatianHome1926@ gmail.com or by calling 412-926-8918.

We are looking forward to celebrating this 100-year milestone of the founding of our Rankin Croatian Home in grand style.

The Croatian Home in Rankin has withstood the test of time and has remained an important gathering place for members, friends, and families, enjoying lodge and club meetings, banquets, showers, weddings, parties, dances and many other business and social gatherings. Countless memories have been shared here among CFU members and Croatian families, with many more memories yet to be made.

We cordially invite you to be a part of this historic celebration on October 17 in Rankin, Pennsylvania. We hope you will plan to come and join in this commemorating this amazing centennial event at the “Dom” with us.

Dobro Nam Došli!

Bob Pollack/President

Notice to Lodge 602 and Narodni Dom Members

VERONA, PA - The members of the Narodni Dom CFU Lodge 602 are encouraged to attend a meeting on November 9, 2026, at 10 a.m., at the office of Dillon McCandless King Coulter & Graham, LLP, 600 Cranberry Woods Drive, Suite 175, Cranberry Township, PA 16066.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and approve the prospective sale of real property located at 312 Arch Street, Verona, PA 15147, Parcel IDs 0365-A-132 and 365-A-67.

Over the recent years the membership has dropped to a point where the lodge does not adequately sustain itself. Currently, it has been rented to the local Moose lodge.

If you plan to attend this meeting, please R.S.V.P. to Dan Uvodich at 724-316-8855 or by email danuvodich@gmail.com.

Dan Uvodich/Lodge 602



Protect your family with insurance from the Croatian Fraternal Union - The Society That Cares!

412-843-0380

Every Step Makes a Difference at the Inaugural CFU 5K

(Continued from page 1)

Most importantly, the event is already making a meaningful difference. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and donors, we have collected \$12,750 for the CFU Scholarship Foundation and the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Zabok, Croatia. That remarkable total comes before the additional support generated through participant registrations and personal donations. All proceeds from the event will benefit these two

worthy causes, helping students pursue their educational goals and supporting vital health care in Croatia.

We extend our sincere thanks to every business, CFU lodge, family, and individual who has contributed. Your generosity has given this first-year event an incredible start and demonstrates the strength and compassion of our CFU community.

There is still time to register for the 5K, Fun Run/Walk or Virtual 5K. CFU members can

receive \$5 off their registration by entering the discount code CFUGroup at checkout. Participants may also make an additional personal donation online during registration. Whether you run, walk, participate virtually or simply contribute, every registration and every donation help us move closer to our goals. Visit cfu.org/cfu5k to register or learn more.

For questions or additional information, please contact Derek Hohn at the CFU Home Office at 412-843-0380 or dhohn@cfu.org.

Derek Hohn
CFU Fraternal Programs Director



Croatian American Sports HOF Induction Celebration October 24

EASTLAKE, OH — Tickets are officially on sale for one of the most anticipated nights on the Croatian American sports calendar, and organizers are urging fans to reserve their seats now before tables sell out. The Croatian American Sports Hall of Fame (CAS-HOF) will host its 3rd Induction Ceremony and Banquet on Saturday, October 24, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the American Croatian Lodge in Eastlake, Ohio, honoring eight legendary Croatian American athletes.

Tickets are available now at croatianamericansports.com with individual tickets at \$100 per person and table of eight is \$750. Also, one can send a check made out to the NFCACF and to: Ron Zivic, 90 East 238th St., Euclid OH 44123.

Every ticket includes a family-style dinner with three entrée choices and an open bar. Fans, former teammates, longtime supporters and members of the public are all warmly invited. Organizers note that tables have historically sold out ahead of the event, and encourage guests to reserve early. The event website also has details on program book advertising and sponsorship opportunities. Emmy Award-winning sports broadcaster Jerome Jurenovich will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

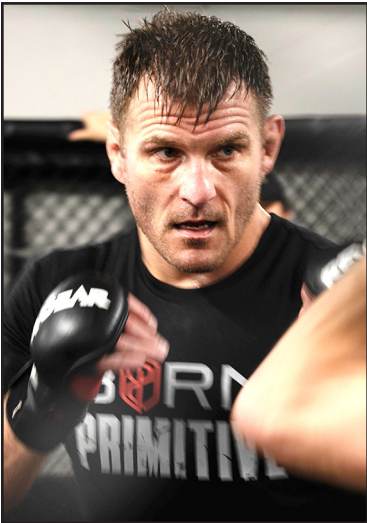
The NFCACF is proud to announce that Croatian American singer and songwriter, Tommi Mischell and Croatian guitarist, Zvone Antolos will perform at the Saturday induction ceremony banquet.

Headlining the 2026 induction class is **Stipe Miočić**, the greatest UFC Heavyweight World Champion in history and

son of Croatian immigrants, widely regarded as the greatest heavyweight in mixed martial arts history. He'll be joined by seven additional Croatian American legends:

- **Meri Abbado** - Bodybuilding (Two-Time Masters World Champion)
 - **Fred Arbanas** - Football (Six-Time All-AFL Selection)
 - **Gary Beban** - Football (1967 Heisman Trophy Winner)
 - **Bobby Grich** - Baseball (Four Gold Glove Awards & Six-Time All-Star)
 - **Jack Marin** - Basketball (Two-Time NBA All-Star, known as "Mr. Consistency")
 - **Rob Ninkovich** - Football (Two-Time Super Bowl Champion, New England Patriots)
 - **Johnny Pesky** - Baseball (Boston Red Sox icon as player, manager and announcer)
- Out-of-town guests are encouraged to book early at the official host hotel, the Four Points by Sheraton Eastlake (35000 Curtis Blvd.), where a discounted rate of \$139 per night (Friday and Saturday) is available through September 23rd. Please send a note to [Mark Plavetic](mailto:Mark.Plavetic@receive.com) to receive the link: mplav96@gmail.com.

"This 2026 induction class is among the most accomplished in our history," said Steve Rukavina, CAS-HOF Chairman and President of the National Federation of Croatian Americans Cultural Foundation. "From world champions to Heisman Trophy winners and Hall of Famers, these Croatian American sports legends will be inducted that evening — a night that honors not only their extraordinary careers, but the heritage that shaped them. We



STIPE MIOČIĆ
UFC Heavyweight World Champion



TOMMI MISCHELL
Croatian American singer and songwriter

expect this to be our biggest banquet yet, and we encourage everyone to get their tickets soon."

Don't miss this unforgettable night celebrating Croatian American athletic excellence. Secure your seats or table today at croatianamericansports.com. For questions, contact: Steve Rukavina, CAS-HOF Chairman sjrurukavina@gmail.com or croatianamericansportshot@gmail.com.

Steve Rukavina/Lodge 760

Nova Nada Folklore Ensemble Hosts International Night

DETROIT, MI - During our numerous performances throughout the year, "Nova Nada Croatian Folklore Ensemble" comes into contact with countless folk-dance groups of many nationalities. We quickly become friends and look forward to seeing them again as we travel to many of the same festivals to perform. We thought it would be fun to invite them to our Croatian Club to share their cultures with our Croatian community and friends!

And so, "Nova Nada" is hosting "International Night" on Saturday, October 17 at our

Croatian Home, located at 32851 Ryan Rd., Warren, Michigan! Starting at 6 p.m., our friends "Šarena" from Cleveland will create a festive atmosphere with their wide variety of music and merriment! The American Croatian Club will be decorated and showcase the flair of countries coming together in friendship. Our entertainment lineup features the "Zakopane Polish Dancers", "Carpathia German Dancers", "Mexican Folklorico Dancers", and "Nova Nada Croatian Folklore Ensemble".

Food will be available for purchase. You'll surely want

to indulge in the "Around the World" platter prepared by our very own "Nova Nada" members. A cash bar will be available to help quench your thirst. And who can pass up on the irresistible desserts?

Come join us for another new and fun event! Showcase your own individual heritage by wearing it proudly!

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from any "Nova Nada" member, or call or text 586-214-4647, to make your reservations. Limited seating available.

Anna Talan/Lodge 351

Maria Jukić For Congress



CLEVELAND, OH — Many CFU members already know Maria Jukić from her leadership roles within the Croatian community. She has served as President of the Association of Croatian American Professionals - Cleveland Chapter, President of American-Zagreb Jr. Tamburitzaans, and was a helpful friend and advocate for many of our people during her 24 years as a healthcare administrator within the Cleveland Clinic system.

But what they may not know is that Maria has also been politically active for years, and now she is running as the Democrat candidate for U.S. Congress. Ohio's 14th Congressional District in the House of Representatives stretches across the northeastern corner of Ohio, bordering Lake Erie and Pennsylvania. It includes Lake, Trumbull, Ashtabula, Geauga, and portions of Mahoning and Portage counties.

In the May Primary, she swept ALL SIX counties and won 50.8% of the vote in a three-way race. No one expected it. EVERYONE noticed! Not because she had the most money, but because her authenticity is contagious.

Her campaign is rooted in a simple conviction: most Americans aren't on the far left or the far right. They're in the massive middle, waiting for someone in Washington who actually sees them. In OH-14, that message crosses party lines. Traditional Republicans, Independents, and Democrats are all listening. That's not just a compelling message. That's a winning coalition.

Maria has local strength with a strong grassroots campaign. That's because she relates personally and personally to her constituents and community. She grew up in a working-class Cleveland neighborhood, was raised in a large immigrant Croatian family that escaped communist Yugoslavia for the promise of America. Her mother was a proud UAW member, sewing seat covers for General Motors. Her father helped design X-ray and MRI imaging systems.

As a child, Maria was a Girl Scout and had a paper route, and always had a hunger for learning. She was her high school class valedictorian, graduated from the University of Notre Dame, graduated with honors from Cleveland State University College of Law, became a Fulbright Fellow, and earned a Master's Degree in Theology and Religious Studies from John Carroll University. She's been an attorney, a city councilwoman, and a healthcare administrator with 24 years at the Cleveland Clinic. And now she's prepared and ready to represent Northeast Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Her commitment to human rights was forged on the front lines. A Fulbright Fellow in Croatia during the war, she also translated for foreign journalists and worked for international aid organizations. Most profoundly, she served as a translator for human rights groups interviewing men released from concentration camps in Bosnia.

She witnessed first-hand what happens when governments fail to protect human dignity – and what resilience looks like when ordinary people are forced to endure the unimaginable. She carried those lessons home, and she will carry them into our Congress.

Many agree – the system is broken, people are struggling, and Washington is looking away while Ohioans and Americans struggle. Maria intends to change that – she's the real thing. She's a woman forged by hard work, driven by service, proven by results, and genuinely built to win. She is ready to take our shared values to Washington and fight for the middle ground that brings us all together.

It's very expensive to challenge an incumbent, and OH-14 is not an easy seat to win as a Democrat. But, in this General Election on November 3rd, it IS winnable, and here's how you can support Maria, even if you don't live in OH-14:

- learn more about her (Why I Am Running for Congress - Maria Jukic for Ohio's 14th Congressional District)
- vote for her if you live within OH-14 District
- donate online (Support Maria - Maria Jukic for Ohio's 14th Congressional District)
- donate by mail (Friends of Maria Jukic, 360 Walworth Ave., Euclid, OH 44132)
- host an event (events@MariaJukicForCongress.com)
- volunteer on her campaign (volunteer@MariaJukicForCongress.com)

Let's show Washington that our American-Croatian community supports an accomplished, sincere, and courageous woman who will bring a strong work ethic, empathy, lifelong learning and experiences, diplomacy, and cultural values to work every day in the U.S. House of Representatives. Maria's win will bring more balance and reason back into Congress, where the work of representing ALL Americans can finally begin again.

Please join us in supporting our friend, Maria Jukić, for Congress.
Judi and Ron Zivic/Lodge 859

Croatian Hall CFU Lodge 5 Fall Schedule

JOHNSTOWN, PA — Johnstown Croatian Hall CFU Lodge 5 will host the following fall events:

Friday, October 23: Kids Halloween Party, 6 p.m., Croatian Hall - 3rd Floor. Treats, snacks, and small games for kids under age 12. Pre-registration is required. Costumes are encouraged for spooky fun!

Saturday October 24: 5 p.m., Croatian Meal and entertainment. Meal includes: Čevapi, Pita bread, Pomme frites, Ajvar, Palačinke. \$15 per meal-limited meals available. Acoustic Music: "Ray, Roy & Mike" 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Join Lodge 5 for fall events!

Carol Booth/Lodge 5



Hrvatski premijer Andrej Plenković se obratio Općoj skupštini UN-a

Sastao se s hrvatskom dijasporom na svečanom prijemu u New Yorku

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

PITTSBURGH, PA – Na 22. rujna 2026. hrvatski premijer Andrej Plenković obratio se Općoj raspravi 81. zasjedanja Opće skupštine Ujedinjenih naroda (UNGA). U svom govoru, premijer se osvrnuo na suvremenu povijest Hrvatske u uspostavljanju demokratske republike početkom 1990-ih, što je dovelo do uspješne integracije Hrvatske u Ujedinjene narode, NATO i Europsku uniju. Premijer je eloquentno i učinkovito govorio o trima ključnim principima: Pravila kao zajednički kompas, Transformacija kao pokretač otpornosti, i Povjerenje koje se stječe isključivo kroz ostvarivanje rezultata.

Sa službene internetske stranice Vlade Republike Hrvatske, dijelom je citiran govor premijera s njegovom izjavom:

„Podupiremo multilateralizam utemeljen na pravilima kao vrhunac ljudske suradnje ne zato što smo naivni, već zato što smo vidjeli i doživjeli alternativu.

„Za male i srednje države međunarodno pravo nije apstrakcija. Ono je granica između reda i tiranije, između suverene jednakosti i vladavine sile.”

„Vladavina sile, kao što je Hrvatska iskusila tijekom brutalne agresije i okupacije više od četvrtine našeg teritorija 1990-ih. U ratu koji je oduzeo gotovo 20.000 života. I nakon kojeg, više od tri desetljeća kasnije, Hrvatska i dalje traži 1.725 nestalih osoba – potresan primjer da posljedice rata ne prestaju kada oružje utihne.

„Umjesto toga, mir zahtijeva hrabrost, vjerodostojne institucije i pravila koja se podjednako primjenjuju na sve. Ruska stalna agresija protiv Ukrajine izravan je napad na ta pravila.”

„Hrvatska će nastaviti podržavati suverenitet, neovisnost i teritorijalni integritet Ukrajine, kao i sveobuhvatan, pravedan i trajan mir temeljen na Povelji UN-a. Mir ne može nagrađivati osvajanja, a oporavak ne može biti odvojen od pravde.”

Ne može se osporiti hrvatski uspjeh u osvajanju svoje neovisnosti kroz kušnju rata. Sada, nakon puna tri desetljeća razvijanja slobode i integracije sa zapadnim demokracijama, Hrvatska i njezini građani mogu s pravom biti ponosni na priznanje koje su zaslužili. Ponosni smo što se nazivamo HRVATIMA i dijelimo radost koju sloboda i neovisnost donose svakom građaninu suverene Hrvatske.

Taj se ponos u potpunosti pokazao večeri 24. rujna 2026., kada su hrvatski veleposlanik Pjer Šimunović i hrvatski generalni konzul u New Yorku, Nikica Kopačević, organizirali svečani prijem u čast premijera Plenkovića u jednoj od najstarijih steakhousea u Sjedinjenim Državama, Delmonico's u Manhattanu. Restoran također uključuje Hr-

vate među svojim vlasnicima, koji vješto upravljaju vrhunskim restoranom u srcu svjetskog financijskog središta, WALL STREETA.

Članovi našeg Izvršnog odbora i suurednik Zajedničara, brat Ivan Begg, bili su među više od dvjesto pedeset gostiju, većinom hrvatskog podrijetla, koji su bili prisutni kako bi dočekali premijera Plenkovića i njegovu službenu delegaciju u New Yorku. Okupljeni na uobičajenom privatnom mjestu u restoranu na donjoj razini, gosti su uživali u nastupu izvrsne skupine mladih tamburaša, Zadnja runda iz lokalnog hrvatskog folklornog ansambla Kardinal Stepinac crkve Sv. Filipa i Metoda u New Yorku.

Naši odbornici bili su vrlo zadovoljni razgovorom s veleposlan-

(Nastavak na 10. strani)



POVODOM SUDJELOVANJA na 81. Zasjedanju Opće skupštine Ujedinjenih naroda, predsjednik Vlade Andrej Plenković i ministar vanjskih i europskih poslova Gordan Grlić Radman sastali su se s hrvatskom zajednicom u New Yorku među kojima su bili i izvršni odbornici Hrvatske bratske zajednice.



Godišnji prijem organizacije Odsjeka HBZ Četiri kotara

FOUR COUNTIES, PA

- U nedjelju, 25. listopada, Ujedinjeni odsjeci HBZ u kotarima Fayette, Greene, Washington i Westmoreland održavaju godišnji prijem kako bi odali počast našem Fraternalisti godine 2026. i počastili članove naših Ujedinjenih odsjeka koji slave 50 godina članstva u našoj Zajednici.

Odavanje počasti našim predanim zajedničarima i dugogodišnjim članovima naših odsjeka je tradicija u našoj bratskoj organizaciji.

Pozivamo vas da nam se pridružite na ovoj posebnoj prigodi dok se okupljamo kako bismo počastili ove izvanredne pojedince, proslavili njihova postignuća i odali počast njihovim mnogim godinama predanosti i članovanja.

Ovo će slavlje početi u 2 sata poslije podne u gornjoj dvorani doma društva Sv. Juraj odsjek 354 HBZ u Cokeburgu, i sastojat će se od kratkog programa

kojim će se odati priznanje svim svečarima, včerom po buffet stilu i tamburaškom glazbom tijekom popodneva.

Vrlo smo ponosni što možemo najaviti našeg **Fraternalistu godine brata Daniela Turkalla** iz odsjeka 3 u McKeesportu. Daniel je dobro poznat diljem Hrvatske bratske zajednice, budući da je tijekom godina sudjelovao u brojnim nacionalnim i lokalnim događanjima HBZ i pružao im podršku. On je sin suurednice Zajedničara i izvršne tajnice našeg Nacionalnog predsjednika, Lorraine Turkall, i supruga Dan.

Daniel je primjer pravog zajedničarstva kroz njegov izvanredan angažman i doprinos našoj organizaciji. Njegova iskrena briga za druge, suosjećanje i nepokolebljiva predanost očiti su u svemu što radi.

Daniel je cijenjeni član naše obitelji HBZ i divan primjer što znači biti pravi zajedničar. On zaslužuje ovu prestižnu čast i ponosni smo što ga možemo počastiti kao našeg Fraternalistu 2026. godine.

Uz našeg Fraternalistu godine, naši Ujedinjeni odsjeci će također odati priznanje svojim članovima koji će 2026. godine obilježiti 50 godina članstva. S ponosom najavljujemo da ukupno 61 osoba iz naših odsjeka ove godine dosegne 50-godišnji jubilej.

Srdačno pozivamo sve naše članove HBZ-a i prijatelje da nam se pridruže u nedjelju, 25. listopada, kako bismo proslavili naše odane bratske članove.

Bit će poslužena ukusna večera na švedskom stolu po pristupačnoj cijeni od samo 10 dolara po osobi, dok su svi svečari i djeca oslobođeni plaćanja. Molimo da 50-godišnji

članovi i gosti ljubazno potvrde svoj dolazak kontaktiranjem Darje Maroš u HBZ na broj 412-843-0380 ili dmaros@cfu.org, od ponedjeljka do četvrtka od 9 ujutro do 5 sati poslije podne, kako bismo mogli planirati sjedenje i obroke.

Nadamo se da ćete se vi i vaše obitelji pridružiti ovom događaju koji obećava biti nezaboravan. Za dodatne informacije, pratite naše službeno glasilo Zajedničar.

Daniel Turkall

Rođen u obitelji čiji su roditelji imali čvrste bratske veze u dvjema hrvatskim zajednicama, Monessenu, PA i McKeesportu, PA, Daniel Turkall uživao je u kulturnom odgoju koji je uključivao mnoge hrvatske tradicije, omiljene obiteljske običaje i nezaboravne događaje ispunjene tamburaškom glazbom. Biti izabran za Fraternalistu godine 2026. od strane Ujedinjenih odsjeka HBZ Četiri kotara ogromna je čast za Daniela, jer je izuzetno ponosan što je dio organizacije koja slavi njegovo hrvatsko podrijetlo i identitet.

Od svog prvog izleta vozeći se u dječjoj kolici po Kennywood Parku na Hrvatskom danu kada je imao samo dva mjeseca, Daniel Turkall je bio predodređen da uživa u svom hrvatskom naslijeđu i svojoj vezi s Hrvatskom bratskom zajednicom. Od tada je prisustvovao mnogim festivalima, piknicima, banketima, sportskim događanjima i bratskim okupljanjima te je uživao u svakoj minuti. Kao član odsjeka 3 iz McKeesporta i s dugom obiteljskom povezanošću s odsjekom 194 HBZ iz Monessena, Daniel je imao

(Nastavak na 10. strani)

Zajedničar

FRATERNALIST

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ALL FOR ONE – ONE FOR ALL SVI ZA JEDNOG – JEDAN ZA SVE

Official Organ Of The Croatian Fraternal Union of America

Službeno Glasilo Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice u Americi

Izlazi svaki drugi tjedan u mjesecu

Izdaje ga:

HRVATSKA BRATSKA ZAJEDNICA

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GLAVNI URED
Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice
u Americi
Organizirane 1894. godine

RIJEČ UREDNIŠTVA...LORRAINE TURKALL

Koraci s ciljem

Za samo nekoliko dana, naime 11. listopada, trkači i šetači sudjelovat će na prvom “CFU 5K Strides for Scholarships and Hope” na slikovitom parku u području Pittsburgha. Prihodi od spomenutog događaja će ići u korist dvaju vrijednih ciljeva: “CFU Scholarship Foundation i UPMC Hillman Cancer Center” u Zaboku, Hrvatska. Ideja sponzoriranja 5K utrke kako bi se unaprijedila Školarinska zaklada HBZ, zaslužuje našu pažnju jer su članovi naše bratske organizacije oduvijek imali najveći fokus na obrazovanje naše mladeži i podržavali akademske napore naših studenata desetljećima kroz ovaj Školarinski fond i kroz brojne pojedinačne fondove naših odsjeka. Školarinska zaklada HBZ, koja djeluje od 1958., bila je ključna u pomaganju tisućama naših članova u njihovim obrazovnim nastojanjima I dalje zadovoljava potrebe mladih članova koji teže ostvariti svoje akademske ciljeve za budući profesionalni razvoj i napredak.

Osim toga, dijeljenje prihoda od naše prve 5K utrke s UPMC Hillman Cancer Centrom u Zaboku, Hrvatska, naišlo je na jednak entuzijizam budući da Hrvatska bratska zajednica već dugo održava snažne veze s Hrvatskom i dosljedno odgovara na potrebe ljudi koji žive u staroj domovini, osobito kada je riječ o dobrobiti njezinih stanovnika. Kada je UPMC Hillman Cancer Center u Pittsburghu u ožujku 2025. najavio suradnju

između UPMC-a i hrvatskih zdravstvenih čelnika, HBZ je pozdravila odluku o realizaciji ove ideje. Opća bolnica Zabok je UPMC-ov prvi pothvat u Hrvatskoj. Centar nudi sveobuhvatne usluge za liječenje raka, uključujući radioterapiju, medicinsku onkologiju i PET-CT dijagnostiku, značajno poboljšavajući pristup visokokvalitetnoj skrbi za rak u regiji. Prepoznajući ovu značajnu inicijativu, Hrvatska bratska zajednica ponosna je što može pružiti našu podršku novootvorenom UPMC Hillman Cancer Centru u Hrvatskoj.

Budući da donosi napredne tretmane za rak i vrhunsku skrb kako bi utjecao na živote bolesnika od raka i njihovih obitelji u Hrvatskoj, Hrvatska bratska zajednica prepoznaje potrebu za partnerstvima i gradnjom mostova suradnje kako bi se postigao uspjeh u obrazovanju i zdravstvenoj skrbi. Očekuje se da će ovo događanje u našoj Zajednici podići svijest o ovim važnim programima i da će pridonijeti promjeni života onih koji će imati koristi od ovog pothvata.

Ovim putem upućujemo najbolje želje svim trkačima i šetačima koji će sudjelovati u ovom prvom CFU 5K događaju, organizatorima i promotorima događaja, kao i svima onima koji su financijski podržali ovaj projekt. Zahvalni smo svima koji sudjeluju u promicanju ovih dviju važnih inicijativa koje služe osiguravanju ciljeva dobrobiti i napredne zdravstvene skrbi za one kojima je potrebna te većim

mogućnostima obrazovanja za zaslužne studente. Svaki dolar koji se prikupi pomoći će nekome u potrebi.

BESMRTNA BALADA

(Uz 16. god. smrti VESNE PARUN)

Na dan Tvoga odlaska sa ovoga svijeta, 25. listopada, 2010. želim Ti reći HVALA, Pjesnikinjo - inspiraciju i putokazu... Ostavila si nam pregršti bisera i dragulja, ponovo HVALA, svojim si stihovima i pjesmama pravo bogatstvo Hrvatskoj dala!

Od Tvoje prve pjesme, 1932. pa do Tvoje selidbe, gore, među zvijezde nanizala si bezbroj magičnih ogrlica poezije, uvijek iznova ohrabrujući i sebe, i nas koji Te neprestano čitamo i zajedno s Tobom branimo Tvoje ideale i vizije.

Bila si i ostala jedinstvena i neponovljiva a tragični si život živjela... Svojom si Golgotom kročila hrabro, uzdignute glave i sa Križa velikodušno praštala i onima ubojitih, i onima nevinih ruku! Maštala si da se NARODI bratski slažu umjesto da se od pamtivijeka tuku.

Gledala si 'Trinaest tuga niz vodu Koranu'... Vidjela si bjegunce, i ranjene, i prognane, glavinjali su kroz noći... lutali, posrtali, padali (u njima si i sebe vidjela) i bila si im zvijezda vodilja dok je tmina zastirala vidičke, i postala si baklja u šumama, u rukama ogorčenih - 'nenaviklih na poslušnost zlu'.

Skrivala si suze kad si opazila zgaženo cvijeće na livadama koje je pod kopitima vojničkih konja umiralo, Tvoj krik ' gorko je čovjek biti dok se nož s čovjekom brati' i danas kroz cijeli Balkan odzvanja... zato će VESNU PARUN uvijek štovati i voljeti - miroljubivi i misleći Hrvati.

Noć je...Tišina je obgrlila cijelu Zemaljsku Kuglu, Tek, u Grohotama na Šolti, Cesarčev, tiho žubori Slap skladajući Besmrtnu Baladu, VESNI PARUN zahvaljuje... sklada notu po notu, dok spokoj kroz groblje rominja - kap po kap...

Nina Novak/odsjek 515



Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

Često se koristi ovaj izraz kada dobar čovjek umre: „Raj je primio još jednog anđela!” Po našem skromnom mišljenju, to je prikladna misao prigodom smrti dr. Mariona Vujevića, M.D., ovog prošlog 27. rujna. Bilo je zadovoljstvo i čast poznavati dr. Mariona većinu mog odraslog života. Dr. Vujević nije bio samo cijenjeni liječnik, znanstvenik i humanitarac, već i vrlo dobar prijatelj. Mi dijelimo hrvatsku baštinu kroz korijene koji potječu iz imotskog kraja u Hrvatskoj. Njegov otac iz Podbabljega i moj djed iz obližnjih Lokvičića. Uvijek smo se smiješili dok smo razgovarali o našoj hrvatskoj baštini, a dr. Vujević je ponosno nosio zlatni prsten s obiteljskim grbom Vujević, vidljivo istaknutim na vrhu.



Dr. Justin (sin), nećak Stephan, brat Steve, Dr. Vujević i sin Mark.

Kad pomislite na bratstvo, to se svodi na osnovnu želju da se pomogne drugima. Vjerujemo da je Dr. Vujević tijekom svog života odgovorio na poziv da pomogne drugima na više načina. Prvo, studirao je medicinu na University College Galway u Irskoj u teškim ekonomskim vremenima nakon gubitka oca, s altruističkim ciljem da postane liječnik kako bi pomagao ljudima. To ga je dovelo do služenja u američkoj vojsci kao medicinski časnik u Vijetnamu tijekom rata. Profesionalno, započeo je praksu Vujevich Dermatology koja je kasnije uključila i njegova sina, Dr. Justina Vujevića, M.D., kao i njegovu kćer Deirdre Gardiner, MSN, CRNP, među profesionalcima koje je zapošljavao.

Iako su njegove profesionalne obveze držale vrlo zauzetim, Marion je još uvijek pronalazio vremena kako bi uživao u obiteljskom životu sa suprugom Barbarom i njihovo četvero djece i obitelji. Redovito je sudjelovao na Hrvatskom danu u Kennywood parku, a dr. Vujević bi cijeli paviljon ispunio svojom obitelji i prijateljima koji su uživali u dnevnim svečanostima, koje su uvijek uključivale janjeći roštilj i tamburašku glazbu. Bio je član i bivši odbornik Hrvatsko-američke profesionalne i poslovne udruge grada Pittsburgha, te je bio uporan podržavatelj organizacije Nacionalne federacije hrvatskih Amerikanaca. Kao član društva Sv. Juraj odsjek 248 u Clairtonu, Pennsylvania, dr. Vujević je također bio član Upravnog odbora Zaklade za stipendije HBZ više od trideset godina.

Sve što je dr. Vujević postigao tijekom svog života pokazuje njegovu suosjećajnost i želju da pomogne onima manje sretnima od njega. Bilo da je to bilo kroz njegov stručni medicinski rad u području dermatologije ili estetske kirurgije, ili kroz njegove humanitarne napore kako bi prikupio sredstva za medicinske i druge filantropske potrebe, kako u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama, tako i u njegovoj voljenoj Hrvatskoj, dr. Marion je napravio razliku. On je jedan od osnivača Angels Funda, čija je humanitarna misija bila pružiti stvarnu pomoć u medicinskoj skrbi onima koji su manje sretnici u zapadnoj Pennsylvaniji, kao i u domovini svojih roditelja, Hrvatskoj.

Njegova filantropija bila je prirodna i nije tražila priznanje; ipak, to je bilo vidljivo na mnogo načina. Malo poznat primjer je kada se udružio s Hrvatskom bratskom zajednicom u udvostručavanju naših sredstava za obnovu dva
(Nastavak na 11. strani)



Muzej Domovinskog rata Karlovac – Turanj

Priča s prve crte koja danas čuva sjećanje

S dolaskom jeseni, ne možemo se ne prisjetiti teških okolnosti u kojima se Hrvatska našla prije 35 godina i početka Domovinskog rata. Pogled se prirodno vraća na mjesta na kojima se branila sloboda. Jedno od takvih mjesta je i Turanj, južni ulaz u grad Karlovac i nekadašnja prva crta obrane grada. Na prostoru gdje su se nekoć čule eksplozije granata i odjekivali pucnjevi, danas odzvanjaju dječji glasovi i koraci posjetitelja. Umjesto rovova, uređene staze vode prema suvremenom Muzeju Domovinskog rata Karlovac – Turanj, mjestu koje čuva sjećanje na hrabrost hrvatskih branitelja i cijenu slobode koju danas živimo.

Muzej nije nastao na slučajnom mjestu. Izgrađen je upravo ondje gdje se tijekom Domovinskog rata branio Karlovac, grad na četiri rijeke, ali i jedan od najvažnijih prometnih pravaca Hrvatske. Obrana Turnja značila je obranu grada, zaštitu njegovih stanovnika i očuvanje prometne povezanosti između sjevera i juga zemlje. Zato svaki pedalj ovoga prostora nosi svoju priču.

Za mnoge Hrvate koji danas žive u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama ovo nije nepoznato mjesto. Tijekom ratnih godina upravo su članovi Hrvatske bratske zajednice i brojni naši iseljenici s velikom pozornošću pratili događanja u domovini. Organizirali su humanitarnu pomoć, prikupljali lijekove, odjeću i novčana sredstva te neumorno govorili istinu o Hrvatskoj. Iako kilometrima daleko, bili su dio iste priče.

Mjesto koje govori bez velikih riječi

Već pri dolasku pogled privlači zbirka oklopnih vozila, topništva i ratne tehnike izložene

na otvorenom prostoru muzeja. Nekada su ta vozila bila dio svakodnevice rata. Danas su muzejski predmeti koji svjedoče o vremenu kada je svaki dan donosio novu neizvjesnost. No prava priča počinje ulaskom u zgradu muzeja.

- Stalni postav vodi posjetitelja kroz kronologiju stvaranja hrvatske države, početak velikosrpske agresije, organiziranje obrane Karlovca i život na prvoj crti bojišnice. Ovdje se povijest ne objašnjava samo datumima i vojnim operacijama. Pričaju je osobni predmeti hrvatskih branitelja, fotografije, dnevnici, pisma, improvizirana oprema, ratne karte i video svjedočanstva – ističe voditelj Muzeja Domovinskog rata Karlovac Turanj Juraj Horvatin.

Poseban dojam ostavlja činjenica da se sve to nalazi upravo ondje gdje se događala povijest. Posjetitelj ne promatra rekonstrukciju rata. On stoji na prostoru na kojem su branitelji čuvali grad. Među eksponatima nema senzacionalizma. Nema želje za veličanjem rata. Umjesto toga, cijeli postav govori o cijeni slobode, hrabrosti običnih ljudi i snazi zajedništva koje je u najtežim trenucima povezalo hrvatske branitelje, civile ali i Hrvate diljem svijeta.

Ovdje eksponate čine i sve one priče o ljudima koji su bez kalkulacije stali u obranu svoje domovine. Baš kao i priča o svima onima koji su zaklon od granata potražili u podrumu obitelji Bogović. Ili oklopljena vozila poput Straška, sv. Juraja i Sokola, koje su branitelji, u nedostatku bilo kakvog naoružanja sami konstruirali na početku Domovinskog rata. I još stotine sličnih priča kroz isključivo originalne

eksponate i fotografije.

- U središtu muzejskog kompleksa nalazi se zgrada koju su hrvatski branitelji tijekom Domovinskog rata prozvali "Hotel California". Nadimak nije nastao slučajno. Tijekom najtežih dana obrane Karlovca u njoj su boravili, odmarali se i pripremali za nove zadaće pripadnici hrvatskih postrojbi. Ironičan naziv, preuzet iz poznate pjesme grupe Eagles, među braniteljima je postao sinonim za mjesto s kojega se odlazilo na prvu crtu, ali se u njega, srećom, uvijek vraćalo. Staklena ovojnica ne skriva staru građevinu, nego je naglašava, čuvajući njezinu memorijsku vrijednost i istodobno omogućujući suvremeni muzejski postav. Time "California" nije samo prostor u kojem je smješten muzej, ona je jedan od njegovih najvrjednijih eksponata - ističe Horvatin.

Da se pamti i prenosi dalje

Kada obilazak završi, posjetitelj još jednom zastane ispred muzeja. Pogled odluta prema Turnju, prema Korani i prema gradu koji je preživio rat te nastavio živjeti i razvijati se. Mi u muzeju vjerujemo da je to upravo najveća vrijednost ovog mjesta. Muzej koji ne čuva samo predmete. On čuva sjećanje. A sjećanje je most koji dobro razumiju svi naši iseljenici jer ih povezuje s domovinom, povezuje prošlost s budućnošću i one koji su slobodu stvarali s onima koji će je čuvati.

Zato je Turanj mnogo više od muzeja. To je mjesto na kojem povijest nije zaključena u vitrinu, nego nastavlja živjeti u svakom posjetitelju koji kroz njega prođe. I upravo zbog toga, svaki Hrvat koji dođe u Karlovac, bez obzira dolazi li iz Zagreba, Clevelanda, Pittsburgha, Toronta ili Sydneya, s Turnja odlazi s istim osjećajem – da je dotaknuo jedno od mjesta na kojem je ispisana suvremena hrvatska povijest.

Maja Luketić Raguz/izvjest.

MUZEJ KOJI ŽIVI...Danas Muzej Domovinskog rata Karlovac – Turanj nije samo mjesto čuvanja uspomena na ratne godine. On je i živo mjesto susreta, razgovora i zajedništva. U prostoru Muzeja održavaju se izložbe, predstavljaju knjige i publikacije, organiziraju predavanja, sastanci i različita okupljanja hrvatskih branitelja. Muzej tako povezuje prošlost i sadašnjost – čuvajući sjećanje, ali istodobno stvarajući prostor za susret ljudi čija su iskustva i priče dio novije hrvatske povijesti.

PROGRAMI HBZ-A

POD POVEĆALOM

ANUITETSKI/IRA RAČUNI I ŽIVOTNO OSIGURANJE KOD HBZ-A

MI ne možemo kontrolirati inflaciju, kamatne stope ili bilo koju komponentu tržišta novca. Ali mi možemo kontrolirati druge izvore svojih prihoda, načine kako umanjiti porez, štednju za mirovinu i uvećati svoj namjenski štedni račun za hitne slučajeve.

Hrvatska bratska zajednica u Americi daje svojim članovima i budućim članovima priliku planiranja za mirovinu i bezbrižnu budućnost. Otvaranje anuitetskog/IRA ili mirovinskog računa (Tradicijskog/Roth) pokazalo se je kao vrlo dobra financijska odluka. HBZ je uvijek plaćala velikodušnu kamatu na sve svoje anuitetske programe.

Nikada nije prerano otvoriti račun za mirovinsku štednju! Možete započeti s najmanjim ulogom od \$3,000 te otvoriti anuitetski/IRA račun kod HBZ-a.

Zašto otvoriti anuitetski/IRA račun?

- On vam daje mogućnost štednje za budućnost i dodatak je mirovini u mirovinskim godinama.
- Nudi izbor odgađanja uplate poreza na zarađenu kamatu na vašem dolaru.
- Mogućnost gomilanja zarađene kamate radi štednje za budućnost.

Slijedeći su navedeni trenutni programi s kamatnim stopama koji stvaraju štedne mogućnosti kod HBZ-a:

IZBOR DVA PROGRAM – Sadašnja kamatna stopa za anuitete/IRA račune, kod Izбора dva – (na dvije godine) je 4.5% s zajamčenom najnižom stopom od 3% (zajamčena za početno razdoblje od dvije godine).

OTVORENI PRISTUP ULOGU – Na ovom anuitetskom/IRA računu uložena sredstva su u bilo koje vrijeme dostupna. Kamatna stopa je 3.00% s jamčevinom od 2.44% minimum.

■ ■ ■

Ne zaboravite štedne mogućnosti i u životnom osiguranju kod HBZ-a:

- Iskoristite velikodušnu ponudu kod obilježavanja 250 rođendana SAD-a. U osiguranju otplaćenom u 20 godina ... iznos osiguranja \$10,000 do \$25,000 ... za starosne godine od 0 do 25 ... u prvoj godini premija iznosi samo \$17.76!
- Životna dob od 26 do 70 ... minimalni iznos \$10,000 ... s mogućnošću popusta do \$250 kroz fraternalističku dividendu u prvoj godini.
- Osiguranje s jednokratnom uplatom ... mogućnost štednje do \$1,000. HBZ nudi 15% popusta za osobe do 40 godina starosti i 10% za osobe od 41 naviše kroz fraternalističku dividendu.

Više navedene ponude u kamatama i životnom osiguranju vrijede do 31. prosinca 2026.

Ako imate bilo kakvo pitanje ili želite razmotriti bilo koji naš program i koristi koji iz toga proizlaze, molimo vas da nazovete naš Glavni ured na tel. 412-843-0380 ili posjetite naše internetske stranice na www.cfu.org.

Obavijest studentima odsjeka 530

ST. THOMAS, ON – Tiskanice zahtjeva za Školarinsku pomoć odsjeka 530 «Ogulin» su pripremljene za studente-članove.

Svaki student, član našeg odsjeka od dvije godine na više, i u dobrom stanju, stječe pravo na pomoć.

Obrazac zahtjeva zatražite i pošaljite na 5 Cider Mill Lane, St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 0C1 ili na e-adresi darinkacindric@gmail.com.

Zahtjevi se moraju zaprimiti najkasnije do 19. studeni 2026. godine.

Darinka Cindrić/tajnica

Svaki korak čini razliku na prvoj CFU 5K utrci

PITTSBURGH, PA - Prva CFU 5K utrka: Strides for Scholarships i Hope okupit će članove HBZ-a, obitelji i prijatelje u nedjelju, 11. listopada, u North Park Boathouseu u Allison Parku, Pennsylvania, na dan posvećen fitnessu, druženju i darivanju.

Sudionici mogu odabrati tradicionalnu 5 km, stazu od 3,1 milju otvorenu za trkače i šetače, ili jednomiljsku Fun Run/Walk. Kraći događaj savršen je za svakoga tko se ne osjeća spremnim završiti punih 5 km — i odlična je opcija za djecu i obitelji koje

žele sudjelovati zajedno. Ne morate biti iskusan trkač da biste bili dio ovog posebnog dana!

Za članove HBZ-a koji žive izvan područja Pittsburgha, Virtualni 5K nudi priliku za sudjelovanje s bilo kojeg mjesta. Virtualni sudionici mogu završiti svoje milje u vlastitim kvartovima, podržavajući iste važne ciljeve i pridružujući se ostalim članovima HBZ-a diljem zemlje i šire.

Živa glazba dodat će uzbudjenje i prije i nakon utrke. Nakon što sudionici prijeđu ciljem, moći će

provesti vrijeme s prijateljima i kolegama te nam se pridružiti na posebnom svečanom nazdravljanju za odrasle. HBZ 5K nije samo utrka, već će biti izvrsna prilika za našu lokalnu hrvatsku zajednicu da se okupi i proslavi što se može postići kada radimo prema zajedničkom cilju. Najvažnije je da događaj već čini značajnu razliku. Zahvaljujući velikodušnosti naših sponzora i donatora, prikupili smo 12.750 USD za Školarinski fond HBZ i UPMC Hillman Cancer Center u Zaboku, Hrvatska. Taj impresivan iznos je prije dodatne podrške

prikupljene kroz registracije sudionika i osobne donacije. Svi prihodi od događaja ići će u korist ova dva vrijedna cilja, pomažući studentima u ostvarivanju obrazovnih ciljeva i podržavajući ključnu zdravstvenu skrb u Hrvatskoj.

Iskreno zahvaljujemo svakom poduzeću, odsjecima HBZ, obitelji i pojedincu koji su doprinijeli. Vaša velikodušnost dala je ovom događaju prve godine nevjerojatan početak i pokazuje snagu i suosjećanje naše Zajednice.

Još uvijek ima vremena za registraciju za 5K, Fun Run/Walk ili Virtual 5K. Članovi HBZ-a mogu ostvariti 5 dolara popusta na

registraciju unosom koda za popust CFUGroup pri plaćanju. Sudionici također mogu tijekom registracije napraviti dodatnu osobnu donaciju online. Bilo da trčite, hodate, sudjelujete virtualno ili jednostavno doprinosite, svaka registracija i svaka donacija pomažu nam da se približimo našim ciljevima. Posjetite cfu.org/cfu5k za registraciju ili više informacija.

Za pitanja ili dodatne informacije, molimo kontaktirajte Dereka Hohna u Glavnom uredu HBZ na broj 412-843-0380 ili dhohn@cfu.org.

Derek Hohn/direktor bratskih programa HBZ-a



DEATHS REPORTED

FROM SEPTEMBER 15 TO SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

5	Gloria E. Cernic	Johnstown, PA
32	George Biondic	Chicago, IL
32	Nicholas M. Latkovic	Chicago, IL
35	Vernon W. Morton	Kansas City, KS
66	Patricia A. Nesbitt	Youngstown, OH
75	Loretta Brady	Waukegan, IL
126	Richard G. Edeburn	Farrell, PA
146	Kevin C. Kucera	Versailles, PA
146	Peter Priselac	Versailles, PA
217	Millie Arden	Benld, IL
222	Stanley F. Serwatka	Madison, IL
229	Patrick M. Reuter	S. Chicago, IL
320	Dorothy S. Bradich	Duquesne, PA
530	Anne M. Sorensen	St. Thomas, ON
545	Joy N. Potts	Etobicoke, ON
545	Kenneth J. Searson	Etobicoke, ON
677	Olga Kosturin	Los Angeles, CA
993	Rose M. Pook	Mukwonago, WI

Godišnji prijem

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

koristi od svojih susreta s mnogim izvanrednim bratskim članovima i uzorima.

Daniel, koji živi u Mt. Lebanonu u Pennsylvaniji, diplomirao je na Mt. Lebanon srednjoj školi i uživao je sudjelovati u brojnim aktivnostima u lokalnoj zajednici, uključujući plesne grupe, izložbe umjetnina i druge događaje. Rad u glavnom uredu HBZ ostaje izvor ponosa i zadovoljstva za Daniela. Cijeni priliku biti dio uredskog osoblja, a također uživa u društvenom angažmanu sudjelujući na tamburaškim festivalima HBZ, kulturnim i sportskim događanjima.

Već dugi niz godina Daniel s entuzijazmom volontira na piknicima i banketima organizacije Četiri kotara, uvijek spreman pomoći oko prodaje ulaznica, pripreme za banket i raznih poslova koji zahtijevaju pažnju. Trebate li nekoga da pruži ruku pomoći u organizaciji i pripremama za neki događaj? Tražite li voljnog volontera ili zabavnog plesnog partnera na festivalu? Dan je vaš čovjek!

Prije svega, Daniel je strastveni navijač sportskih timova iz Pittsburgha, vjeran i odan svojim domaćim timovima...Steelerima, Penguinima i Piratesima. Navija najglasnije, prati što je više utakmica moguće, presretan je kada njegovi timovi pobijede, brani ih kada izgube, nikada ih ne otpisuje i ponosan je na njih bez obzira na ishod. Poznat po tome da na brojna putovanja nosi Terrible Towel, Daniel ga je čak ponio sa sobom u Hrvatsku 2018. godine, dijeleći snažne vibracije Terrible Towela dok je hrvatska nogometna reprezentacija napredovala na Svjetskom prvenstvu i igrala do finala. Danielska ljubav prema

domaćem timu iz Pittsburgha, uz njegovu hrvatsku kulturnu ponos, doista je snaga s kojom treba računati na bilo kojem mjestu!

Nikada nije bilo očitije nego početkom ove godine kada je Daniel dobio čast da iznese prvi zamah na Noći hrvatske baštine HBZ-a na baseball utakmici Pittsburgh Piratesa. Taj trenutak bio je jedinstveno uzbuđenje za Daniela i ostat će mu trajno sjećanje, zauvijek zahvalan i ponosan na nevjerojatnu priliku.

S vedrim osmijehom, duboko ukorijenjenim entuzijazmom i toplim srcem, Danielu su se mnogi prijatelji i poznanici privukli kroz život. Blagoslovljen je članovima obitelji i sjajnim prijateljima koji su obogatili njegov život na bezbroj načina, dok i dalje uživa u ovim izvanrednim odnosima.

Nagrada 'Fraternalist godine 2026.' koju dodjeljuju Odsjeci Četiri kotara odraz je Danielove odlučnosti da daje najbolje od sebe i predanosti koju dijeli sa svojom velikom obitelji Hrvatske bratske zajednice.

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
Predsjednica org. 4 kotara

Jednostavno, brzo
i sigurno štedite
kod svoje HBZ gdje
vam je najbolja
kamatna stopa.
Za više informacija
zovite na broj
412-843-0380

Hrvatski premijer Andrej Plenković...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

ikom Šimunovićem, hrvatskim vojno-pomorskim atašedom generalom Kranjčevićem i generalnim konzulom Kopačevićem prije dolaska uzvanika.

Po dolasku u prostor za recepciju, premijera je dočekaao uobičajen prijem koji se ukazuje uglednom državniku. Zapravo, premijer Plenković, koji je uspješno vodio hrvatsku Vladu proteklih deset uzastopnih godina, nosi titulu 'trenutno najduže službenog premijera među zemljama članicama Europske unije'.

Nakon osobnih pozdrava, fotografiranja i rukovanja s mnogim okupljenim gostima, program je započeo kada je konzularna službenica Lidia Babić preuzela ulogu voditeljice ceremonije. Generalni konzul Kopačević poželio je dobrodošlicu premijeru i njegovoj delegaciji u grad New York, prije nego što je veleposlanik Šimunović uputio pozdrave svima prisutnima. Ministar vanjskih i europskih poslova Republike Hrvatske, Gordan Grlić Radman, prethodio je premijeru vlastitim pozdravima i zapažanjima o aktivnostima tijekom tjedna u New Yorku i inozemstvu. Gospođa Babić tada je predstavila premijera Andreja Plenkovića uz topao i srdačan aplauz okupljene publike. Premijer je održao svoj tradicionalni stil govora obraćajući se gostima bez bilješki na impromptu način barem petnaest minuta. Smatramo da je njegovo razumijevanje položaja Hrvatske u svijetu, kao i njenih snaga i područja koja zahtijevaju dodatni rad, iznimno precizno i realno. Ukratko, nudimo sljedeći sažetak njegovih riječi:

Premijer je naglasio važnu povezanost dijaspore u SAD-u s Hrvatskom. Zahvalio se svima u hrvatskoj zajednici na njihovom doprinosu očuvanju hrvatskog identiteta, kulture, povijesti, jezika i baštine. Rekao je da Hrvati u SAD-u, bez obzira na generaciju, unapređuju i osnažuju ugled Hrvatske kroz svoj ugled i aktivnosti. Bili smo ponizni zbog njegovog priznanja Hrvatske bratske zajednice, među nekoliko drugih, tijekom njegovih izlaganja.

Komentirao je činjenicu da su hrvatski Amerikanci uklopljeni u američko društvo, ali i dalje ostaju važan most prema domovini Hrvatskoj. Prisjećajući se prvog predsjednika Republike Hrvatske, pokojnog dr. Franje Tuđmana, spomenuo je njegovo uvjerenje da jedinstvo Hrvata doma i u inozemstvu čini cijelu naciju jačom i utjecajnijom.

U podršci održavanju snažnih veza i izgradnji još jačih mostova suradnje, premijer je izjavio da je Hrvatska u posljednjih nekoliko godina ojačala institucionalne veze s dijasporom. Osim Središnjeg državnog ureda za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske, Ministarstvo demografije i mirovinskog sustava, Ministarstvo vanjskih i europskih poslova i drugi državni organi bili su ključni za postizanje ovog cilja. Konačni cilj je olakšati razvoj Hrvatske kroz njihovo zajedničko znanje, ulaganja i iskustvo.

Premijer je primijetio da se tog dana održao Hrvatsko-američki poslovni forum zahvaljujući trudu mnogih, uključujući hrvatskog veleposlanika u SAD-u, Pjera Šimunovića. Također je istaknuo dodatne goste koji su sud-



IZVRŠNI ODBORNICI HBZ-A u društvu ministra vanjskih i evropskih poslova Gordana Grlić Radman na svečanom prijemu u New Yorku.



GENERALNI KONZUL u New Yorku Nikica Kopačević bio je domaćin svečanog prijema.



MLADI TAMBURAŠKI SASTAV Zadnja runda zabavljao je nazočne na svečanom prijemu.

jelovali na forumu, uključujući predsjednika Hrvatske gospodarske komore, Luku Burilovića, te direktora Hrvatske turističke zajednice, Kristjana Staničića. Naglasivši da je forum okupio brojne hrvatske poslovne ljude i njihove američke partnere, potvrđuje ulogu Hrvata američkog podrijetla kao ključne poveznice između poslovnih zajednica dviju zemalja.

Premijer je nastavio svoje obraćanje o vrlo produktivnim bilateralnim sastancima koji su se održali između njegove delegacije i njihovih kolega iz drugih zemalja. Napomenuo je napredak u vezi s LNG-om uz hrvatsku obalu i važnu i značajnu ulogu koju energija igra u odnosima između SAD-a i Hrvatske. Dodao je da, uz napore u suradnji u obrani, Vlada želi proširiti partnerstvo SAD-a i Hrvatske na dodatna područja, ističući da je trgovina između dviju zemalja dosegla gotovo milijardu dolara u prvih šest mjeseci 2026. godine.

Premijer Plenković dao je kratak pregled svojih istupa na Općoj skupštini UN-a, u kojima je spomenuo stav Hrvatske prema članstvu u Organizaciji za ekonomsku suradnju i razvoj.

Napomenuo je da bi članstvo u OECD-u zaključilo višegodišnji proces uključivanja Hrvatske među zapadne demokracije.

Zaključio je svoj govor ističući želju svoje Vlade da podigne ili poboljša odnose sa Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama na najvišu razinu te pozivajući hrvatsku dijasporu u SAD-u da nastavi s naporima u održavanju mostova suradnje među dvjema zemljama.

Nakon što je premijer iznio svoje primjedbe, naši su odbornici bili zadovoljni što su mogli razmijeniti pozdrave s premijerom Plenkovićem i pozvali smo ga da posjeti naš glavni ured u Pittsburghu čim mu to bude najprikladnije. Iskreno možemo reći da je tijekom večeri bio vrlo ljubazan sa svojim vremenom, brinući se da svaki glas koji je želio biti poslušan zaista bude poslušan. I da je svaki pozdrav ili pitanje odgovoreno na odgovarajući način, s čvrstim stiskom ruke i otvorenim dijalogom.

Ovime iskreno zahvaljujemo organizatorima događaja i pohvaljujemo generalnog konzula Kopačevića za izvršno planiranje i provedbu prijema u čast premijera.

Službenoglasilo HBZ

Zajedničar je dostupan samo članovima HBZ a po želji može se primati u elektroničkom formatu preko računa: e.zajednicar@cfu.org



Konzularni dani u Pittsburghu i Clevelandu

WASHINGTON – Veleposlanstvo Republike Hrvatske iz Washingtona održat će konzularne dane u Pittsburgh-u u prostorijama Hrvatske bratske zajednice, na adresi 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, u vremenu od 10 sati ujutro do 4 sata poslije podne (**uz prethodni dogovor termina**) na sljedeće datume: **22. listopada; 12. studenog i 3. prosinca 2026. godine.**

Konzularni dani u Eastlake-u održat će se u prostorijama hrvatskog doma "Kardinal Alojzije Stepinac" na adresi 34900 Lakeshore Blvd, Eastlake, OH 44095, u vremenu od 9 sati ujutro do 4 sata poslije podne (**uz prethodni dogovor termina**) na sljedeće datume: **23. listopada; 13. studenog i 4. prosinca 2026. godine.**

VAŽNA OBAVIJEST:

Potrebno je unaprijed zakazati termin i to putem adrese elektroničke pošte: crocons.washington@mvep.hr ili nazvati na +1-202-588-5899, kućni 2.

Uz zahtjev za sastanak, potrebno je navesti vrstu usluge koja se zahtjeva i kontakt podatke (ime i prezime, broj telefona). Veleposlanstvo Republike Hrvatske u Washingtonu određuje vrijeme termina po redu zaprimanja zahtjeva i prema dostupnosti istih.

Mihovil Pažin/VRH

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik
(Nastavak sa 8. strane)



Predsjednik RH Stjepan Mesić osobno je uručio pismo imenovanja i službeni pečat dr. Vujeviću tijekom impresivne ceremonije u glavnom uredu HBZ.

Filipa i Jakova u Vukovaru koji su teško oštećeni tijekom rata agresije u Hrvatskoj.

Počasni konzul Hrvatske – Pittsburgh

Ljubav dr. Mariona Vujevića prema Hrvatskoj i želju da pomogne drugima prepoznala je Vlada Hrvatske kada je imenovan Počasnim konzulom Hrvatske ovdje u Pittsburghu na preporuku tadašnjeg predsjednika Hrvatske bratske zajednice Bernarda M. Luketicha. Predsjednik Stjepan Mesić osobno je uručio pismo imenovanja i službeni pečat dr. Vujeviću tijekom impresivne ceremonije u glavnom uredu HBZ u Pittsburghu 2002. godine pred velikim brojem članova obitelji, službenika HBZ-a i prijatelja. Tijekom svog mandata kao Počasni konzul dr. Vujević je pratio odbornike HBZ-a na mnogim putovanjima u Washington i sudjelovao na službenim prijemima u ime Hrvatske kad je to bilo potrebno. Svoj posao je obavljao s istaknutim uspjehom i nastavio ostvarivati mnoge humanitarne ciljeve dok je obavljao ovu ulogu do listopada 2024. godine, kada je službeno otišao u mirovinu.

Iz službene osmrtnice pripremljene u ime dr. Vujevića

Tijekom svoje karijere, dr. Vujević bio je poznat po iznimnim dijagnostičkim sposobnostima, vještom liječenju raka kože, stručnosti u estetskoj dermatologiji i spremnosti da prihvati inovativne terapije. Radio je kao šef dermatologije u bolnici St. Clair 30 godina, bio klinički instruktor na Odjelu za dermatologiju Sveučilišta u Pittsburghu te je predavao na nacionalnim dermatološkim sastancima. Također je razvio liniju proizvoda za njegu kože za svoje pacijente koja se razvila u ono što je danas poznato kao Vu Skin System. Duboko cijenjen od kolega i omiljen među pacijentima, stekao je reputaciju ne samo zbog kliničke izvrsnosti, nego i zbog suosjećanja i osobne pažnje koju je pružao svakom pacijentu.

Osim medicine, dr. Vujević posvetio se javnoj službi i humanitarnim ciljevima. Kao počasni konzul Hrvatske u Pittsburghu, ponosno je promicao hrvatsku kulturu i jačao veze između Hrvatske i Sjedinjenih Američkih Država. Zalagao se za očuvanje Hrvatske katoličke crkve svetog Nikole u Millvaleu, osnovao humanitarne inicijative za podršku siročadi pogođene Domovinskim ratom u Hrvatskoj, pomagao u financiranju ambulantnih medicinskih ustanova u Hrvatskoj i Bosni te poticao kulturnu i obrazovnu razmjenu između zemalja.

Ovime izražavamo najdublje suosjećanje obitelji dr. Vujevića, kojeg preživljava njegova voljena supruga Barbara Vujević, s kojom je bio u braku 62 godine; djeca, dr. Anne Ward (dr. John Ward), Deirdre Gardner (Steve Gardner), Mark Vujević (naš anđeo, Chrissie Vujević) i dr. Justin Vujević (Lisa Vujević); te njihovo trinaestero unučadi: Alexa (Nick Shah), Brian, Katie, Kelly, Nicole, Megan, Robby, Mark, Sofia, Marion, Leah, Silvana i Luca.

Mi znamo da je znak dobro življenog života naslijeđe koje ostavimo iza sebe. Što se tiče našeg prijatelja dr. Vujevića, njegov trag je briga za njegove pacijente; odanost i služba Sjedinjenim Državama; filantropija i dobrotvorstvo prema ciljevima u Hrvatskoj i SAD-u; i, najviše od svega, ljubav prema obitelji. Neka ga Svemogući Bog kroz Isusa Krista, svog jedinog Sina, sada i zauvijek primi u svoje kraljevstvo, AMEN.

Prime Minister Andrej Plenković...

(Continued from page 1)

of the Republic of Croatia, Goran Grlj Radman, preceded the Prime Minister with his own greetings and remarks regarding the week's activities in New York and abroad.

Ms. Babić then introduced Prime Minister Andrej Plenković to a warm and hearty applause from the assembled audience. The Prime Minister honored his traditional style of speech by addressing the guests without notes in extemporaneous fashion for at least fifteen minutes. We find his command of the Croatia's place in the world and, in turn, its strengths and areas that require additional work to be spot on and realistic. In summary, we offer the following synopsis of his words:

The prime minister emphasized the important connection between the diaspora in the US with Croatia. He offered his thanks to all those in the Croatian community for their contributions toward preserving Croatian identity, culture, history, language, and heritage. He stated that Croatians in the U.S., regardless of generation, enhance and vitalize Croatia's standing through their reputation and activities. We were humbled by his recognition of the Croatian Fraternal Union, among a few others, during his remarks.

He commented on the fact that Croatian Americans are imbedded into the American society however still remain a vital bridge to the homeland of Croatia. Calling upon the memory of the first president of the Republic of Croatia, the late Dr. Franjo Tudjman, he recalled his



CROATIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES
PJER ŠIMUNOVIĆ addresses the gathering in attendance at a recent reception in New York City held in honor of the Prime Minister's visit.

belief that the unity of Croatians at home and abroad makes the entire nation stronger and more influential.

In support of maintaining strong ties and building even stronger bridges of cooperation, the Prime Minister stated that Croatia has strengthened institutional ties with the diaspora in recent years. In addition to the Central State Office for Croats Abroad, the Ministry of Demography and Immigration, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, and other state bodies have been integral to this goal. The end result sought being to facilitate Croatia's development through their shared expertise, investments and experience.

The prime minister noted that a Croatian-American Business Forum had occurred that very day through the efforts of many including Croatian Ambassador to the US, Pjer Šimunović. He recognized additional guests who participated in the forum

including the President of the Croatian Chamber of Economy, Luka Burilović, and the Director of the Croatian National Tourist Board, Kristijan Staničić. Noting that the forum brought together numerous Croatian businesspeople and their American partners, he affirmed Croatian Americans role as a vital link between the business communities of the two nations.

The Prime Minister continued his remarks concerning highly productive bi-lateral meetings that occurred between his delegation and their counterparts from other nations. He noted advancements with respect to LNG off of the Croatian Coastline and the important and significant role that energy plays in the relations between the US and Croatia. Offering that in addition to defense cooperation efforts, the Government is desirous to expand the US - Croatia partnership into additional areas while declaring that trade between the two countries reached nearly One Billion Dollars through the first six months of 2026.

Prime Minister Plenković provided a brief recap of his UN General Assembly remarks and referred to Croatia's stance on membership in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. He noted that membership in the OECD would conclude the many-year long process of placing Croatia among Western democracies.

He concluded his remarks stating his Government's wish to raise or improve its relationship with the United States of America to the highest level and urging the Croatian diaspora in the US to continue their efforts in maintaining bridges of cooperation among the two countries.

Following the Prime Minis-

ter's remarks, our officers were pleased to exchange greetings with PM Plenković and invited him to visit our home office in Pittsburgh at his earliest opportunity. We can honestly say that he was very gracious with his time throughout the evening ensuring that every voice that wanted to be heard was heard. And

that every greeting or question was answered in kind with a firm handshake and open dialogue.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to the organizers of the event and we commend Consul General Kopačević for this excellent planning and execution of the reception in honor of the Prime Minister.

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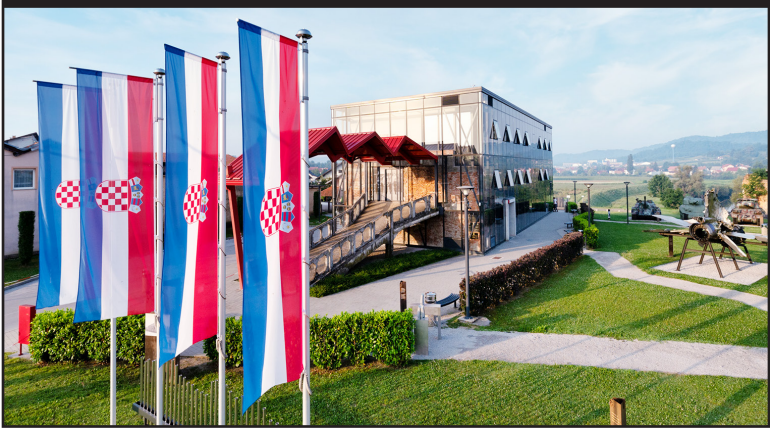
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Museum of the Homeland War Karlovac – Turanj

A Story from the Front Line, Preserving the Memory Today

As autumn arrives, we cannot help but remember the difficult circumstances Croatia faced 35 years ago and the beginning of the Homeland War. Our thoughts naturally turn to the places where freedom was defended. One of those places is Turanj, the southern gateway to the city of Karlovac and once the city's front line of defense.

Where explosions and gunfire once filled the air, today we hear the voices of children and the footsteps of visitors. Instead of trenches, landscaped paths lead to the modern Museum of the Homeland War Karlovac - Turanj, a place that preserves the memory of the courage of Croatian defenders and the price of the freedom we live in today.

The museum was not built at this location by chance. It stands precisely where Karlovac was defended during the Homeland War—a city of four rivers and one of Croatia's most important transportation routes. The defense of Turanj meant defending the city, protecting its residents, and preserving the vital transportation link between the northern and southern parts of the country. That is why every inch of this place carries a story of its own.

For many Croatians living in the United States today, this is not an unfamiliar place. During the war years, members of the Croatian Fraternal Union and countless Croatian immigrants followed events in their homeland closely. They organized humanitarian aid, collected medicine, clothing and financial contributions, and tirelessly worked to tell the truth about Croatia. Though thousands of miles away, they were part of the same story.

A Place That Speaks Without Grand Words

As visitors arrive, their attention is immediately drawn to the collection of armored vehicles, artillery pieces and military equipment displayed throughout the museum's outdoor area. Once, these vehicles were part of everyday life during the war. Today, they are museum objects that bear witness to a time when every day brought new uncertainty.

But the real story begins when visitors enter the museum itself.

The permanent exhibition takes visitors through the chronology of the creation of the Croatian state, the beginning of the Greater Serbian aggression, the organization of Karlovac's defense, and everyday life on the front line. Here, history is not told only through dates and military operations. It is brought to life through the personal belongings of Croatian defenders, photographs, diaries, letters, improvised equipment, wartime maps and video testimonies, says Juraj Horvatin, Head of the Museum of the Homeland War Karlovac - Turanj.

What makes the experience

particularly powerful is the fact that everything is presented in the very place where these events took place. Visitors are not looking at a reconstruction of the war. They are standing on the ground where Croatian defenders once protected the city.

There is no sensationalism among the exhibits. There is no attempt to glorify war. Instead, the entire exhibition speaks about the price of freedom, the courage of ordinary people, and the strength of the solidarity that, in the most difficult moments, brought together Croatian defenders, civilians, and Croatians around the world.

The exhibits also tell the stories of those who, without hesitation, stood up to defend their homeland. There is the story of all those who sought shelter from shelling in the basement of the Bogović family home.

And there are armored vehicles such as Straško, St. George and Sokol, which Croatian defenders built themselves at the beginning of the Homeland War when they had virtually no weapons at their disposal.

These are just a few of the hundreds of stories told through original artifacts and photographs.

At the heart of the museum complex stands the building that Croatian defenders nicknamed "Hotel California" during the Homeland War. The name was not accidental. During the most difficult days of Karlovac's defense, Croatian troops stayed there, rested and prepared for their next assignments. The ironic name, borrowed from the famous song by the Eagles, became among the defenders synonymous with a place from which they would leave for the front line—and, fortunately, always return to.

The glass enclosure does not hide the historic building; instead, it highlights it, preserving its memorial value while providing a contemporary setting for the museum exhibition. In this way, "California" is not simply the building that houses the museum—it is one of its most valuable exhibits - Horvatin emphasizes.

So That It May Be Remembered and Passed On

When the tour is over, visitors often pause once more outside the museum. Their gaze turns toward Turanj, the Korana River and the city that survived the war and went on to live, grow and develop.

We at the museum believe that this is the greatest value of this place. A museum does not preserve only objects. It preserves memory.

And memory is a bridge that all our emigrants understand well. It connects them with their homeland. It connects the past with the future. And it connects those who created freedom with those who will carry the respon-

sibility of preserving it.

That is why Turanj is much more than a museum. It is a place where history is not locked away behind glass, but continues to live in every visitor who walks through its doors.

And that is precisely why every Croatian who comes to Karlovac—whether from Zagreb, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto or Sydney—leaves Turanj with the feeling that they have touched one of the places where contemporary Croatian history was written.

A MUSEUM THAT LIVES...

Today, the Museum of the Homeland War in Karlovac - Turanj is more than a place where memories of the war years are preserved. It is also a living place of meeting, conversation, and community.

The Museum hosts exhibitions, book and publication launches, lectures, meetings, and gatherings of Croatian Homeland War veterans. In this way, the Museum connects the past with the present — preserving memories while also providing a place for people whose experiences and stories are part of Croatia's recent history to meet and share them.

Maja Luketić Raguž

Head of Marketing and
Public Relations
Karlovac City Museums

Croatian Genealogy Seminar in Lorain

LORAIN, OH – Join us for a Croatian Genealogy Seminar with Bob Jerin, renowned genealogist, on Saturday, October 24, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the American Croatian Club Hall, 4846 Oberlin Ave., Lorain, OH 44053.

Robert Jerin's extensive research has helped people discover their family histories and has connected dozens of families in the United States with relatives and families in Croatia and other countries.

Whether you are just beginning to explore your Croatian roots or have been researching your family for years, this is an opportunity to learn new techniques, discover valuable resources, and perhaps uncover a new family.

This seminar will provide valuable information for both beginners and those who have already started researching their Croatian heritage. Topics will include:

- The history of Croatia and the origins of the Croatian people
- Croatian immigration to America and the journeys our ancestors made
- Where and how to find important birth, marriage, and death records
- How to get started with your family tree
- How to translate Croatian genealogical records
- Tips and resources for uncovering more information about your Croatian ancestors

Cost for this seminar is \$60 per person (cost includes Bob Jerin's self-published handbook). Space will be limited. All attendees must register and prepay by October 14th.

If you are an active CFU Lodge 136 member, your registration fee of \$60 will be waived.

Any questions, please contact Donna, Lodge Secretary @136crosec@gmail.com.

Donna Perichak Katrincsak
Secretary

Croatian Mass Schedule for October

WASHINGTON, DC - October 11th at 11 a.m., at the Church of St. Nicholas (Pittsburgh, PA), 24 Maryland Ave., Millvale, PA 15209. Confessions before Mass.

October 18th in Washington, D.C., at 6 p.m., at Our Lady of Victory, 4835 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Washington, DC 20007. (The reason for this is because Our Lady of Victory parish will be celebrating their patronal feast that day, and we will not be able to have Holy Mass at our usual time.)

October 25th at 11 a.m., at the Church of St. Nicholas (Pittsburgh), 24 Maryland Ave., Millvale, PA 15209. Confessions before Mass.
Mir i Dobro! Peace and Goodness!

Father Maurus Dolčić

By Edward W. Pazo/National President

(Continued from page 2)

Honorary Croatian Consul – Pittsburgh

Dr. Marion Vujevich's love for Croatia and desire to help others was recognized by the Croatian Government when he was named Honorary Croatian Consul here in Pittsburgh at the recommendation of then National President Bernard M. Luketich. President Stjepan Mesić personally delivered the letter of appointment and official seal to Dr. Vujevich during an impressive ceremony at the CFU Home Office in Pittsburgh in 2002 in front of a large audience of family, CFU officers and members and friends. Throughout his tenure as Honorary Croatian Consul, Dr. Vujevich accompanied CFU officers on many trips to Washington, DC and attended official receptions on behalf of Croatia when called upon. He served with distinction and continued to fulfill many philanthropic goals while serving in this role through October of 2024 at which time he officially retired.



DR. MARION VUJEVICH and wife Barbara and Family.

From the official obituary prepared on behalf of Dr. Vujevich:

Throughout his career, Dr. Vujevich was known for his exceptional diagnostic abilities, skillful treatment of skin cancer, expertise in cosmetic dermatology, and willingness to embrace innovative therapies. He served as Chief of Dermatology at St. Clair Hospital for 30 years, was a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Pittsburgh, and lectured at national dermatology meetings. He also developed a skincare line for his patients that evolved into what is now known as Vu Skin System. Deeply respected by colleagues and beloved by his patients, he built a reputation not only for clinical excellence but also for the compassion and personal attention he brought to every patient encounter.

Beyond medicine, Dr. Vujevich devoted himself to public service and humanitarian causes. As Honorary Consul of Croatia in Pittsburgh, he proudly promoted Croatian culture and fostered stronger ties between Croatia and the United States. He championed the preservation of St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church in Millvale, founded charitable initiatives to support orphaned children affected by the Homeland War in Croatia, helped fund outpatient medical facilities in Croatia and Bosnia, and encouraged cultural and educational exchanges between nations.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Dr. Vujevich as he is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Barbara Vujevich; his children, Dr. Anne Ward (Dr. John Ward), Deirdre Gardner (Steve Gardner), Mark Vujevich (our angel, Chrissie Vujevich), and Dr. Justin Vujevich (Lisa Vujevich); and his thirteen grandchildren: Alexa (Nick Shah), Brian, Katie, Kelly, Nicole, Megan, Robby, Mark, Sofia, Marion, Leah, Silvana, and Luca.

We know that the mark of a life well-lived is the legacy left behind. With respect to our friend Dr. Vujevich, his is a vestige of care for his patients; allegiance and service to the United States; philanthropy and charity toward causes in Croatia and the US; and, most of all, Love for his family. May almighty God through Jesus Christ His only Son welcome Marion into His kingdom now and forever, AMEN.

A black and white portrait of an elderly woman with short, curly, light-colored hair. She is wearing glasses and a dark jacket over a light-colored turtleneck. She is smiling slightly.

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French Breakfast Puffs

1 1/2 c. all purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1/3 c. shortening
1/2 c. sugar
1 egg
1/2 c. milk
1/2 c. sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 c. butter, melted

Heat oven to 350°. Grease 12 medium muffin cups with shortening or cooking spray.

In bowl, mix flour, baking powder, salt and nutmeg.

In large bowl, stir shortening and 1/2 c. sugar and egg until mixed. Stir in flour mixture alternately with milk.

Divide batter evenly among muffin cups. Bake 20 to 25 minutes; until tops are light golden brown and bottoms are golden brown.

Mix 1/2 c. sugar and cinnamon. Place melted butter in another dish. Immediately roll hot puffs in melted butter; then in sugar/cinnamon mixture.

Serve warm.

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Cottage Cheese Pancakes

3/4 c. flour
1 Tbsp. sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
4 eggs
1 c. cottage cheese
3/4 c. buttermilk
3 Tbsp., melted butter

Sift flour, sugar and salt. Beat eggs well; add cottage cheese, buttermilk and melted butter. Beat thoroughly. Beat in flour mixture. Bake on greased frying pan or griddle. Serve with honey or jam.

Palaćinke (Crepes)

4 large eggs, separated
1/4 c. sugar
1 1/2 c. milk
1 stick butter, melted
1 1/2 c. flour
1/4 tsp. baking powder

Whip egg whites and set aside in fridge. In large bowl beat yolks, sugar, milk and cooled butter. Slowly add flour and baking powder. Last fold in egg whites. If batter is a little thick, just add a Tbsp. of milk. Brush butter on 8" frying pan. Add 1/4 cup of batter and tilt pan as you would for pancakes. Cook as you would for pancakes. If they stick brush butter again - (I only butter pan one time).

Cheese Filling for Palacinke

1 - 8 oz. cream cheese
1/2 c. sugar
2 eggs (1 yolk - 1 whole egg)
1/2 stick butter, melted and cooled
1 tsp. vanilla
16 oz. lg. curd cottage cheese (2%)
7.5 oz. farmers cheese

Beat 8 oz. cream cheese - then add sugar, eggs, butter and vanilla. Drain cottage cheese if watery. Add both cheeses by hand. Mix well. Put heaping Tbsp. down center of crepe and fold over - both ends will be opened. Put in buttered pan and spread with apricot jam. Bake covered at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.



All Recipes from the Cooking Corner Archives

Attention All Cooking Corner Contributors:

All submissions for the **Zajedničar Cooking Corner** are greatly appreciated. However, since we do not operate a test kitchen to validate all recipes received, we kindly ask everyone to please review each recipe submitted to ensure its accuracy. We realize many “**Z**” readers enjoy trying the recipes and recognize the fact that cooking and baking involves considerable time, effort, and expense. Missing ingredients and incomplete details result in disappointing finished products. We appreciate your accuracy because we want all of our **Cooking Corner** readers to be happy cooks and satisfied bakers!

—Editors

RECIPES WANTED! If you have a Croatian or American culinary specialty of which you’re quite proud, please submit it to the “**Z**” by addressing it to **Zajedničar** at 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235, faxing to 412-823-1594 or e-mailing editor@cfu.org.

NEW ADDRESS?

Moving? Relocating for a new job? Forgot to update your records? We urge all CFU members to keep their addresses up to date for the Home Office files.

Having your current address on file is important in order for you to continue receiving the **Zajedničar** and other mailings from the Home Office.

It is also important to update the addresses of your beneficiaries for proper documentation.

If you are moving, or have moved, please be sure to notify the CFU Home Office at 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235, phone 412.843.0380.

We don’t want you to miss out on any pertinent information or benefits as a member of our Fraternal Society!

Farrell Croatian Home Picnic Performance Schedule

FARRELL, PA – Welcome to our Annual Indoor Picnic on Saturday, October 10, at the Farrell Croatian Home, 412 Staunton St., Farrell, PA 16121.

Six adult tamburica orchestras will perform in the Upper Hall:

1:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m., Ensemble Veseljaci; 1:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m., Od Srca; 1:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m., St. George; 2:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m., Žumberčani; 2:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m., Sevdah; and 3:15 p.m.-3:40 p.m., German Choir-Maennerchor Club.

Downstairs, starting at 4 p.m., entertainment will be provided by Orkestar Šarena of Cleveland, OH.

Dobro došli!

Charlotte Russo/Lodge 126

A REMINDER

From the Home Office

The Need For Keeping Beneficiaries Up To Date

Many of us have forgotten the last time we did anything with our beneficiary designation. Most of us probably designated a beneficiary when we applied for our original insurance. Many people never consider their beneficiary again, even though changes may have occurred in our life conditions. The goal of this article is to remind our policy-holders they may need to update that section of their insurance certificate.

It is important to know how to change the beneficiary designation. There are several points that should be addressed at the time you decide to update your designation and the Home Office staff will be more than willing to provide you with the necessary form required to change the beneficiary status. To obtain beneficiary information on a policy a request in writing is required due to the Privacy Act enacted by Congress on Nov. 13, 2000.

Please keep in mind the importance of reviewing all your insurance needs on a regular basis and if there is a need for additional insurance, the Home Office staff is always available to provide you with the necessary assistance.

Please call us at 412/843-0380.

Read the Zajedničar, Online

Our official newspaper is now available on **cfu.org** with a new digital viewing experience.

CULINARY DELIGHTS • SPECIAL DINNERS • BAKE SALES
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BREAKFAST MEETINGS • LUNCHEONS
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CULINARY DELIGHTS • BAKE SALES
LUNCHEONS • BREAKFAST MEETINGS
BREAKFAST MEETINGS • LUNCHEONS

BAKE SALES • SPECIAL DINNERS • CULINARY DELIGHTS

Farrell Holiday Strudel Sale

FARRELL, PA - The Veseljaci Orchestra from Farrell Lodge 126 and CACC is now taking strudel orders for the holidays. Call or text Tom at 330-502-4671 to place your order or email FarrellStrudel@yahoo.com by October 31st.

Strudels are frozen so you can bake them at home during the holidays. They are \$18 each and are available in apple, cheese or cherry. Strudel pickup is during the Lamb An’a Band event at the CACC on November 14th, featuring Mikey Dee.

This will be the last lamb roast and strudel sale of the year.

Charlotte Russo/Lodge 126

Lodge 993 Plans Chili Cook-Off

MUKWONAGO, WI - John Movrich Lodge 993 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, October 17th, at 5:30 p.m., at the Wendlandt home. We will have our annual chili cook-off. Everyone is asked to bring a crockpot of chili. We will vote on the best chili, with the top three winners being awarded a gift certificate from Elegant Farmer. The lodge will provide the fixings, bread and dessert.

After the meeting, many of us will be going to the Jack-O-Lantern Jaunt at Field Park. Our lodge will have a display there. We will meet at the park on Friday afternoon (the 16th), at around 3 p.m. or 3:30 p.m., to set it up. Lodge members, be sure to carve out a pumpkin for our display.

Our activities director, Destiny Froelich, is working hard on arranging a trip to the Janesville Botanical Gardens for their holiday display, and also hoping to get a group to attend the Milwaukee Folk Fair. MCT will be performing there on Saturday and we sure would like to cheer them on.

Carol Movrich Gedde/Secretary

Croat and Kraut Oktober Festa

PHOENIX, AZ - Phoenix Lodge 978 invites you to join us for a new fall tradition - “CROAT & KRAUT - OKTOBER FESTA” on Saturday, October 24, from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., at Sonja and Steve Schroder’s residence in Scottsdale, AZ.

Great Food. Great Friends. Two Great Traditions—Croatian Heritage Meets German Tradition! Brats, Beer and Wine will be provided.

Suggested Donation \$20. All proceeds will benefit the St Theresa’s Orphanage in Zagreb, Croatia.

Everyone is welcome! Bring your family and friends for an afternoon and evening of authentic food, live music, and great company!

Please RSVP to Sonja Schroder at 602-405-2059. Address provided upon RSVP.

Steven Schroder/President

Lodge 515 Annual Scholarship Luncheon on November 22

TORONTO, ON - CFU Lodge 515 "Bernard M. Luketich" will host its annual scholarship luncheon in memory of Magdalena Mary Smintich on Sunday, November 22. This year we return to gather at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 31 - Mount Dennis at 1050 Weston Road in Toronto.

Applications for the "2026 Magdalena Mary Smintich Scholarship Aid" awards are now being accepted. Application is open to current Lodge 515 members who are students pursuing full-time studies at an accredited post-secondary institution, college, or university. The deadline for submission of applications is September 15, 2026.

For the current application form and for further information contact the Lodge 515 Council or the Magdalena Mary Smintich Scholarship Committee Chair, Jakop Smintich at jakops@yahoo.com or 647.515.2966.

Jakop Smintich/Lodge 515

5 Reasons Why You Should Consider Life Insurance:

- 1. Protects your family financially
- 2. Help pay for funeral expenses.
- 3. Can cover your children’s education.
- 4. Helps with retirement.
- 5. Sets an example of financial responsibility.



CFU Junior Nest KIDS PAGE

The **Zajedničar** welcomes children and young adults to submit articles of interest and personal artwork for the CFU Kids Page which is published monthly in the first issue of each month. Original stories and artwork by CFU Nest Members may be submitted by *e-mail to: editor@croatianfraternalunion.org* or by *mail to: Editor/Junior Page, Croatian Fraternal Union, 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235.*

WORD SEARCH Happy Haunting

U H A I O G F F D I A D T E I R E E
 H E I W B R P H A N T O M H A R H U
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CAULDRON	HALLOWEEN	POTION
CREEPY	HAUNTED HOUSE	SCARY
CRYPT	HOWLING	SCREAM
DARKNESS	MIDNIGHT	SHADOWS
DEVIL	MONSTER	SKELETON
EERIE	MOONLIGHT	SPIDER WEB
FEAR	MUMMY	SPOOKY
FRIGHT	MYSTERIOUS	TOMBSTONE
GHOST	OGRE	TRICK OR TREAT
GOBLINS	PHANTOM	VAMPIRE

OCTOBER HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

(Junior Members Transferring into the Adult Lodge)

10	Merrillville, IN Nathan A. Lashenik
17	Chicago, IL Jenna N. Gornick
24	Los Angeles, CA Ivana Vulin
27	Versailles, PA Kaedan S.A. Sabol
29	Granite City, IL Victoria K. Obucina
32	Uniontown, PA Emma P. Fertal
38	Rankin, PA Georgia L. Tomasic
39	Clairton, PA Olivia H. Lujetic
54	Smoke Run, PA Corban J. Pavlack
67	Pittsburgh, PA Lonnie G. Robosson, Jr.
77	Gallup, NM Shawntal A. Ghafoor II
86	Cleveland, OH Paige E. Spolar
98	Benld, IL Milan A. Melinz
111	Pittsburgh, PA Emily A. Tanczos
167	Columbus, OH Mitchell T. Clark
190	Farrell, PA Makaleigh A. Churan
324	St. Louis, MO Matthew J. Zubovich
536	Oakland, CA Allison C. Maupin
651	Cleveland, OH Magdalena Coric
1994	Milwaukee, WI Taylen Dayak
CANADA	
525	Mississauga, ON Madelyn Flick-Elersich
603	Hamilton, ON Isabella Ann L. Paulic
	Luka Ducharme

Conversational Expressions In Croatian

- LISTOPAD – OCTOBER
 OSTATI – TO STAY
 ZAVISITI OD – TO DEPEND ON
 POZDRAVITI – TO GREET
 NASTOJATI – TO STRIVE
 SMATRATI – TO CONSIDER
 TAKO REĆI – SO TO SAY
 LJETO – SUMMER
 STOLJEĆE – CENTURY
 POGREŠKA – MISTAKE
 PISMO – LETTER
 PROZOR – WINDOW
 RAZBIJEN – BROKEN
 KUĆA – HOUSE
 OVE GODINE – THIS YEAR



LIVIA MAEVE HATFIELD was born on April 4, 2026 to Jordan Allvin and Tyler Hatfield. She was in a hurry to get here and came seven weeks early. She is a healthy precious gift of God. Big brother, Logan is thrilled to have a little sister. Both are members of Nest 318. Grandma Gloria Allvin enrolled them and she's a lifelong member of Lodge 351. Maternal great-grandparents were George and Margaret Babich of Lodge 351. They would be thrilled that their great-grandchildren are following in the tradition of the CFU in Warren, Michigan. **Gloria Allvin/Lodge 351**
Welcome to the Croatian Fraternal Union, Livia!



CARSON JAE SMITH... We are happy to greet you as the Newest Member of CFU Nest 122, Cokeburg, PA! Carson Jae Smith was born on January 9, 2026 to Parents, Katie Babirad and Andrew Smith. Carson's Mom Katie and his Great-Grandparents, Randy and Teddi Stevenson, are all members of St. George CFU Lodge 354 of Cokeburg. Bringing a bright ray of sunshine to everyone in his family, Carson is dearly loved and will surely have a wonderful future ahead of him. Please join us in welcoming Carson Jae Smith into our CFU Family!



Make Your IRA Contribution Today

Any time is a good time to invest, but investing earlier can maximize the compounding effect on your money. Consider making your 2026 IRA contribution as early as possible.

IRA CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Tax Year	Under Age 50	Age 50 or Older
2026	\$7,500	\$8,600

Note: You may not contribute more than your taxable compensation for the year.

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
National Secretary/Treasurer

IRA CONTRIBUTION COUPON

If you wish to make a deposit into an existing account with the Croatian Fraternal Union, simply complete this coupon and return it to our Home Office.

Name _____

Certificate No. _____

Deposit Amount _____

☐ Traditional IRA for Year 2026 _____

☐ Roth IRA for Year 2026 _____

Ontario Federation of CFU Lodges Scholarships

HAMILTON, ON - This year the Ontario Federation of CFU Lodges will be awarding two scholarships to qualifying members entering college, university or trade school. (Undergrad or Postgrad students with a full-time student load of courses).

This scholarship is only awarded once to each member.

Application forms can be emailed to you upon request from Mary Grubic at mgrubic.grubic@gmail.com.

The following must be included with your application, an Official copy of your transcript, completed application form, personal profile, reference from an executive from your lodge along with a photo. You must be a member of one of the Federation affiliated CFU Lodges for a minimum of three years and at least one parent or grandparent must also be a member of the CFU for at least three years. The chosen recipients will be notified by the Scholarship Committee.

Completed applications should be emailed to the above email or mailed to Mary Grubic, 4241 Sarazen Drive, Unit 24, Burlington, ON L7M 5B7 by October 15, 2026.

Mary Grubic/Chairperson
Ontario Federation of
CFU Lodges Scholarship
Committee

Notice to Lodge 530 Post-Secondary Students

ST. THOMAS, ON – Applications for scholarship aid are now available from “Ogulin” CFU Lodge 530. Any post-secondary student who has been a member in good standing of our lodge for two or more years may apply.

For an application form, please contact: CFU Lodge 530, at 5 Cider Mill Lane, St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 0C1; or email darinkacindric@gmail.com .

Completed applications must be received by no later than November 19, 2026.

Darinka Cindrić/Secretary

Consular Days in Pittsburgh and Cleveland

WASHINGTON, DC - The Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington, DC will hold Consular Days in Pittsburgh, PA at the premises of the Croatian Fraternal Union, 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., **(by appointment only)** on the following dates: **October 22; November 12; and December 3.**

The Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington, DC will hold Consular Days in Eastlake, OH at the premises of the American-Croatian Lodge Cardinal Stepinac, 34900 Lakeshore Blvd, Eastlake, OH 44095 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., **(by appointment only)** on the following dates: **October 23; November 13; and December 4.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Appointments can be scheduled via e-mail: crocons.washington@mvep.hr or by phone: +1 202-588-5899 ext. 2. Please include the type of request and your contact details.

Mihovil Pažin

Embassy of Croatia/Washington, DC

When is the last time you evaluated your insurance needs?

Check your CFU policy now to make sure you have adequate coverage.

Call the Home Office at **412-843-0380** and make sure your loved ones have the security and protection they deserve.

CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

EIGHTY FOUR, PA – National Secretary/Treasurer, Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras, husband John and son Adam, in memory of Dr. Marion M. Vujevich, dedicated member of CFU Lodge 248, longtime Member of the CFU Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors, retired Honorary Consul of the Republic of Croatia, our doctor and great friend. May he rest in eternal peace..... \$50.00
Towards the Martha and Bernard M. Luketich Scholarship Fund
MCMURRAY, PA – Dr. Steve and Judy Kruljac, in memory of Martha Luketich 50.00
Towards the Martha and Bernard M. Luketich Scholarship Fund
EAST PITTSBURGH, PA – “Hrvatska Vila” Lodge 141, in memory of Martha Luketich 100.00
Towards the Martha and Bernard M. Luketich Scholarship Fund
NATRONA HEIGHTS, PA – Cynthia Maleski Groch, in memory of Martha Luketich 100.00
Towards the Martha and Bernard M. Luketich Scholarship Fund
EUCLID, OH – “Jutarnja Zora” Lodge 337 Vice President Kurt Stanic, in memory of father and longtime lodge member, Pete Stanic 50.00
TOTAL THIS REPORT **\$350.00**
TOTAL COLLECTED..... **\$18,433.12**

DONATION

CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Yes! I want to CONTRIBUTE \$_____ to the CFU Scholarship Fund in order to aid CFU students seeking a higher education. Please include the following message or memorial with my contribution.

Name _____ Lodge _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Make all checks payable to CFU Scholarship Foundation and mail to:
Croatian Fraternal Union
100 Delaney Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235



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