CSA Fraternal Life
A Bittersweet Community

# Journal

November 2026





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## On the Cover

Lodge Brookfield members pictured with amber medicine bottles that seem to magically appear at the doorstep overnight. As long as they keep coming, the lodge will continue to collect them and pass them along. See page 24 for more details.

# Membership Matters

## Quarterly Financial Update Available on Video

*Brothers and Sisters,*

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

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

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

Here in the Chicago area, things remain well at the office. We're keeping busy gearing up for year-end, and as I mentioned in previous articles, both Kelly Deegan and I are out and about quite a bit, meeting with local lodges and others. We hope to see you somewhere during the holiday season.

Our CSA members are at the heart of what we do, and we want to keep you informed about what's happening at BetterLife. BetterLife CEO Chris Campbell has started a video series to share updates every three months on topics that matter to our members. I'm happy to share his first video, where he talks about BetterLife's financial strength and what we're doing to grow. Watch Chris's latest update!

Scan the QR code or visit https://bit.ly/ceo-updates-csa to hear about BetterLife's financial position and plans for growth.

And with that, another short and sweet article from me this month. Health and happiness to all!

Thanks again for your continued support.



**John J. Kielczewski**
Senior Vice President
Fraternal Development
BetterLife

Until next month…

*John J. Kielczewski*
*Senior Vice President*
*BetterLife/CSA Fraternal Life*



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Member & Community Engagement

**John J. Kielczewski**
Senior Vice President,
Fraternal Development

# Upcoming Events

**November 11**
**Veteran's Day**

**November 26 – 27**
**Home Office Closed for Thanksgiving**

**December 1**
**DEADLINE**
CSA Serves Matching Funds Request Due.


# *CSA Journal*

**Volume 139 No. 10 NOVEMBER 2026**






***A Dynamic Magazine "Dedicated to Our Membership"***

**ÚŘEDNÍ ORGÁN JEDNOTY CESKOSLOVENSKYCH SPOLKŮ V AMERICE**



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*CSA MISSION STATEMENT*

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

**Home Office Hours**
Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.


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# Folklife Festival, Photos, and More This Fall

*Brothers and Sisters,*

Fall is here! The leaves are changing colors, the temperatures are getting cooler, and before we know it, the holidays will be upon us. I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful time of year and finding time to spend with family and friends.

This past month, I had the pleasure of attending the Czech & Slovak Folklife Festival in Virginia, along with Josie and Rita Schretter. Although the weather was rainy and chilly, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits! The company was wonderful, the food was delicious, and we had our pick of kolaches. What more could you ask for? It is always nice to attend these events, catch up with familiar faces, and meet new friends.

While at the festival, members of Lodge Virginia No. 230 had the pleasure of meeting Sarah Cavalcanti, BetterLife's Director of Marketing and Innovation. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to visit and get to know one another. Thank you to Lodge Virginia No. 230 for the warm welcome and for another enjoyable festival!

I would also like to thank everyone who participated in this year's photo contest. We received some wonderful entries, and I appreciate everyone taking the time to share their pictures with us. All entries have now been submitted to the judge, and the winners will be announced in the December *Journal*. Choosing the winners is never easy, and I am glad I don't have to make those decisions! Good luck to everyone who entered!

As Veterans Day approaches, I would like to take a moment to thank all of our military service members, past and present, for their service and sacrifices. I would also like to recognize their families, who make sacrifices of their own. Your dedication and service to our country are truly appreciated.

As we head further into fall and the busy holiday season, I hope everyone takes a little time to enjoy the season



**Kelly Deegan**
Senior Membership Engagement Specialist

and all the wonderful things that come with it. Stay safe, stay warm, and enjoy time with those who mean the most to you.

Happy Thanksgiving!

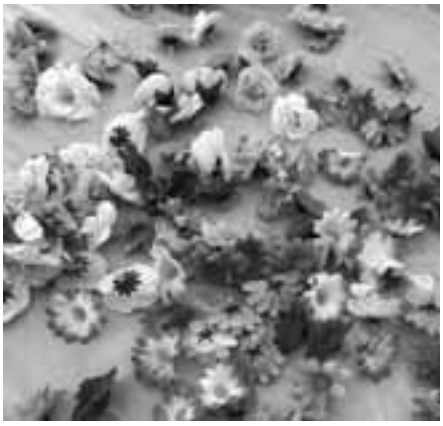
*Fraternally,*
*Kelly Deegan*













# Miss National CSA

## Great Visit at the Czech Slovak Folklife Festival

*Hello Brothers and Sisters,*

I hope everyone is well and having a nice start to fall. Recently, I got to go to Virginia for the Czech Slovak Folklife Festival! This fest was so different from Texas. It was very cold and rainy and in a very small, tight knit community. It was, however, just as much fun. We met some of the nicest people. We got to participate in a Czech tradition where you pin rosemary onto each other as a sign of love and respect. I loved getting to know a little more about the culture, language, and history. I met the sweetest group of girls who asked if I would like to make a flower crown with them. They were so much fun to talk to and had so many stories.

After, we got to eat. We had pork, potatoes, cabbage dumplings, and green beans. The food was incredible. I ate it so fast. We, of course, also had to check out the pastry stands and grab some kolaches.

We visited the museum next to the fest which was full of history. I had a blast walking through, looking at everything.

I was so happy to be in Richmond, not only for the fest but also because my best friend goes to University of Richmond! So, the day after the fest I got to visit her. All her friends were so great and the campus was gorgeous.

Overall, it was such a great trip and the fest was so cool.

Other than that, I have been working very hard in school to build my skills and become faster in my timing. I have also been going to see my sister, Delaney, at school more often. It is always a good time when I get to see her!

*All the best,*
*Josie Schretter*
*Miss CSA 2026-2027*













# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

## Effective Ways to Support Veterans Year-Round

(Family Features) For the approximately 18 million veterans in the United States – roughly 6% of U.S. adults ages 18 and older, according to the U.S. Census Bureau – the return to civilian life can present challenges.

Because many veterans need assistance as a result of their military service, consider these impactful and meaningful ways to support veterans and ensure their sacrifices are honored and needs are met.

**Engage in Community Outreach Programs**

By participating in community events, you can help bridge the gap between veterans and civilians, fostering a sense of understanding and appreciation. Events such as parades, public ceremonies, and educational forums can be organized to highlight the contributions of veterans. Additionally, volunteer opportunities within your community can also provide support to veterans, such as helping with home repairs, providing transportation to medical appointments, or simply spending time with veterans who may feel isolated.

**Provide Employment and Career Support**

Gaining employment is an issue for many veterans transitioning back to civilian life. To help ease the transition, community members can support veterans by offering resume writing workshops, interview coaching, and career fairs specifically targeted at veterans. Employers can also actively seek and hire veterans to leverage their unique skills and experiences. Veteran-friendly hiring practices and mentorship programs can also be beneficial toward ensuring veterans find the financial stability and purpose they need to thrive.

**Contribute to Veteran-Focused Charities**

Donating to veteran-focused charities can help provide essential services such as housing, health care, and educational assistance. In addition to monetary donations, consider volunteering your time or skills. Many charities need volunteers to help with various tasks, from organizing events to providing administrative support.

**Advocate for Veteran Health Care Initiatives**

Many veterans require specialized medical care due to their service. Advocating for better health care policies and initiatives can help ensure they receive quality care. This includes supporting legislation that improves access to medical and mental health services for veterans. You can also work with local health care providers to develop programs specifically designed for veterans.

**Promote Mental Health Awareness and Resources**

Mental health is a critical aspect of overall well-being, and many veterans face unique mental health challenges, including post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Promoting mental health awareness and providing resources can help veterans cope with these issues. This includes organizing mental health awareness campaigns, providing information on available resources, and reducing the stigma associated with seeking help.

*Find more ideas for supporting veterans in your community at eLivingtoday.com.*

*Photo courtesy of Shutterstock*



# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

## "G.I. DOGFACE"

**Lodge Benjamin Franklin No. 02, Seven Hills, Ohio –** This being November and Veterans Day being recognized, it is fitting that I search the archives and remember a short story that Brother George Sevcik had written as an assignment for their senior citizens group at the Estabrook Recreation Center in Cleveland. It is titled "G.I. DOGFACE."

This episode goes back to the dark ages when most people were squares. To make it more clear, let's say the years of the early 1940's when the government was giving free vacations to all young men and women at no cost to them, plus a little spending money.

To make it short, I happened to be one of those lucky ones. I had the honor to get into the Army. The good part is you take a test to see what you do best. I had a little foot trouble and was a bit overweight, 230 pounds. You guessed it, I landed in the infantry.

This one incident I remember well, tickles my ribs and flattens the nose.



My company was fighting its war somewhere in the Black Forest in Germany. As we advanced, we captured six of the enemy that day. What do you do with them as the company was forging ahead? So, you have to get rid of them. Being a democratic Army, I was elected to do the job.

Little ole me was going to take six prisoners back to the Military Police compound. The catch was, it was about a quarter mile or more back, located in a small farm town.

So, as I took the prisoners, who were marching down the road in front of me, we were about half way in no man's land when all hell broke out. I tripped on the damn communication wire that crossed the road. I kissed the ground so hard that my rifle and helmet flew out in front between me and the prisoners. I was lying on the ground saying to myself, "boy you blew this one!"

Looking up, not to my surprise, I saw the prisoners picking up my rifle and stepping toward me. When they reached me, they picked me up and brushed me off and gave me the rifle and helmet. I slung the rifle over my shoulder and we went down the road laughing and singing all the way to the compound. The Military Police must have thought I was crazy. Huh, only a little!

I wonder if they ever thought about the clumsy American soldier who doesn't know how to walk. For them, the war was over, but for us the Battle of the Bulge and many more battles were yet to come.

Corporal Sevcik said, "There is humor and sad parts in every war." He remembered both.

To all the veterans, thank you for your service and bless all the courageous patriots who wore the uniform and those who continue to keep our country the land of the free!

*Respectfully,*
*Jeff Zidlicky*

# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

CSA sends its sincere thanks to all its military members, past and present.

See a listing below.

Aurelio Abarca
Gayland Abbott
Richard Abbott
Alex Akulik
Frank J. Albrecht
Henry A. Albrecht
Arthur Lee Aldridge
Joseph James Aldridge
Samuel Aldridge
Ralph Allen
Bruce Alt
Kenneth Amann
Henry Ancinec
Joseph Andricosky
Charles Antos
Donald Antos
George Antos
Jerry Antos
Theodore Apel
Joseph Arnold
Anthony P. Bajena
Frank Balaja
David Balentine
James Baley
Donald Balson
Fred Balson
Richard Balvin
Scott Balvin
Andrew Banchak
Michael Banchak
Jeff Banes
Alan Bardoun
Chuck Bares
Frank Bares, Jr.
Karel Bares
John Barker
William Barnett
Carl Baroch
Rudolph Baroch
Donald Barta
John Barta, Jr.
John Barta, Sr.
Joseph C. Barta
Frank Bartal
Jerry Bartosek
Charles Bartosh
Joseph Bartosh
Jon B. Bartoshek
Emil Basl
Carlyle Lee Batha
Frank Batha
Frank M. Batha, Jr.
Hynek Batka
Hope Bauer
James Baxter
Joseph Becca
Donald Becker
George Becvar
Jan Bednar
Anton Bejcek
John A. Belavek
Salvatore Belfiore
George Belica
Milada Belohlavek
James Benes
Frank Benesh
Richard Benesh
Amos J. Beran
Jerry Beran
Jerry Beran, Jr.
Raymond Beran
Robert J. Beran
Joseph Beranek
Rudolph Beranek
John Best
John Best, Jr.
Robert C. Bethel
Charles A. Bezdek
Charles D. Bezdek
Gary Bickham
Frank Bihlmayer
Charles Bily
James Bithell
William Blabolil
Charles Blactecky
Emil Blahovec
A.W. Blankenbach
Robert Bobzien
Arnie Bohm
Joseph Bolek
Michael Bongner
Charles L. Borcsany
Frank Borcsany
Laddie Bosak
George Boucek
Glennon Bourisaw
James Boxa
Michael C. Boyer
Cindy Braun
Jerry Braun
Robert Braun
Jerry Brdicka
Donald Breidenbach
Ryan Breidenbach
Bernard Broucek
Raymond Broucek
Robert Brown
Tony Bubenicek
Arthur Buccigrossi, Jr.
Arthur Buccigrossi, Sr.
Albert Buchta
Jason Bugliari
Martin Bujaky
Morgan Bulman
Andy Bultas
William Bures
Leon Burkett
Wilbert Burkhammer
Ralph W. Burnett III
Dale J. Burton
Richard R. Cahnovsky
Peter A. Caram
Jerry Castulik
Joseph C. Castulik
Joseph J. Castulik
Marshall Cecconello
Albert Cecka
George Ceithaml
Charles Censky
George F. Cepak
Elsa Cermak
Fred Cermak
Michael Cermak
Walter Cernik
Jared Cernosky
Elmer Cerny
Joseph Cerny
Joseph J. Cerny
Louis Cerny
Charles Cervenka
Edward Cervenka
Jim Cervenka
John F. Cervenka
Josef Chlubna
M.A. Chludil
Miroslav Chmela
Ronald J. Chmelina
Joe Chocola
Adolph Choura
Charles Choura
Frank Choura
Lawrence J. Chrastka
Dennis Chrisman
Jerry Chvatal
Laddie Chvatal
Edward J. Chvosta
Richard Chylisky
Frank Cibulka
Walter Cich
James Cichra

# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

George Cicovsky
Erwin F. Cihak
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Albert E. Cinibulk
Robert L. Cinibulk
James Cizak
Adolph Cizek, Jr.
Fred Cizek
Johnie Cmach
Karel Cmach
Gregory Cowles
Lee Cowles
Matthew Crowell
Miles Crowell
Milos Alyn Crowell
James Cuda
Ronald R. Culey
Charles Cupita
Jan Karel Cupita
Jerry Cvarovsky
John Cvarovsky
Joseph Cvarovsky
Chester Czarsinski
John J. Dana
Anton J. Danek
Antonin Danek
Edward Danek
James Danek
Tony Danhelka
Edward Davis
Michael A. DeBias
Charles Dedera
Eugene Dembowski
Gerald DePatie
Adam DeValk
Neal DeValk
Randal DeValk
Harvey Devorak
Delbert Ditch
Stanley Ditch
Milan Divina
Joseph Dobias
Joseph Dobry
Harry Dohnal
Laddie Dolansky (pictured)
Timothy Dominik
William Dominik
Anthony Dorsek, Jr.
John Dorsek
James Doyle
Timothy Drahokoupil
Elmo Drilling
Joseph Drlik
James Drnek
Benton K. Drozd
Harry Duewell
Blanche Duffey
James Duffey
Frances Dvorak
Joseph J. Dvorak
Richard Dvorak
William Dvorak
Kevin Dvorsky
Michael Dvorsky
Kenneth Easha
Charles Ebright
Charles R. Ebright
Josef Eckert
Frank Edmunds
George Eisenstein
Stanley Eisner
Sinclair Ender
Fred Engelthaler
David Eppinger
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Samuel Fajnor
Andrew H. Faltynek
Otto Faltynek
Robert Faltynek
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Rick Fenby
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Joseph Filipek
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Robert Friedel
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John Brian Gaydusek
John F. Gaydusek
Harry Geerling
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Robert Gerwitz
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John Goles
Lawrence Gotthard
Ronald Gould
Keith Graf
Stephen Grega
Jack Griffin
Frank Guzak
J.E. Hacko
Anton Hajek
Carl Hajek
Edward Hajek
Irvin Hajek
Ronald J. Halcarz
Otto Haller
Dale Hamilton
Donald Hamous
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Steve Hancko
James F. Haney
Rockford G. Hanken
Emil Hanzal
George Hanzel
Milton Harris
Edward Hartl
Ray Hausch
Donald Hauser
Edward Havlik
Fred Heindl
Gerald Heindl
Jeremy Heindl
Joseph Heindl
Keith Heindl
Alan R. Helisek
Jerry S. Helisek
John S. Helisek
Anton Hemzacek
Edwin Hemzacek
Raymond Hemzacek
Gerald “Spike” Hendershot
Frank Henry
James Herda
Ludwig Herink
Phil Hermanek
Philip Hermansen
Richard Herout
Charles Hersch
William J. Hersch
Joseph Hii
Frank Hladky
Raymond Hlavacek
Richard Hlavarek

# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

Rudolf Hlavaty
Joseph Hobl
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Charles Holada
Russell Holdych
Emil Holecheck
John Holman
James Holoubek
Joseph Holoubek
Oliver Holsinger
Emil R. Holub
Joseph Holub
Anthony Holubik
Jerry Holubik
John Holubik
Steven Holubik
Thomas Holubik
Victor Holubik
John Honus
Patrick Hoover
Robert R. Horesovsky
Tom Horky
George Hornak
Robert Hornak
Ted Hosnedle
Charles Hosticka
Frank Hosticka
John Howe
Dennis Hrabak
James Hrasky
Jim Hrasky
Robert Hrasky
Donald Hrebec
Charles Hribal
Anton Hruby
Albert Hrudka
Frank Thomas Hruska
James Hruska
Emil Hurtik
Louis Hurtik, Jr.
Miro Hurych
James Husa
Jerry Husa
Joseph Husa
Kenneth Hylsky
Mark Hylsky
Norbert Hylsky
Thomas Hylsky
Mary Ann Inga
Ernest Irmler
Louis Irmler
Joseph Ivan
Edward J. Janca
Edward Joseph Janca
Frank Jancura
Tony Jandacek
Lester Janes
Andrew Janik
Frank Janik
Pavel Janik
Frank Janosik
Miro Janosik
Otto Janoushaver
Charles Jarasek
Edward Jedlicka
Frank Jedlovec, Jr.
Frank Jedlovec, Sr.
Lewis Jegla
Terry L. Jelenek
Ed Jelinek
Jerry Jelinek
Roy Jensen
Charles D. Jerabek
Stephen Jerabek
Charles Jetensky
Frank Jetensky
Jerry Jetensky
Frank Jezek
Rudolph Jezek
Edward Jindra
George J. Jindra
Louis J. Jiricek
Charles C. Jirik
Jerome Johnston
Jerry A. Jones
Robert Julek
Otto Kaderabek
Alois Lewis Kadlec
Walter Wesley Kadlec
Robert Kadrle
Glen E. Kaemmerer, Jr.
Oldrich Kala
Frank Kalivoda
Leonard Kalivoda
Vaclav Kalivoda
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Kevin Kantor
Kenneth Kaplan
George Kapr
Edward Karasek
Blanche A. Kasparik
Joseph Kassly, Jr.
Jerry Kavan
John Kay
Jerry Frank Kebrdle
Frank Kebrle
James H. Kellmann
Russell Kelly
Russell Kesl
Herb Kirian
Joseph Kirian
Theodore Kish
Norman Klamert
Emil Klecka
Richard Klecka
Emil Klejko
Daniel Klepac
Walter Klepac
Allen Klotz
John M. Kmet
Charles Knapton
George Knedlhans
John Knedlhans
Marlin Knight, Sr.
Frank Kocian
George Kocian
Carl Kocis
Joseph Kocis
Mike Koenig
Charles Kohout
George Kohout
James Kohout
Edward Kolar
Josef Kolar
Robert Kolar
William Kolar
Wesley Kolb
Frank Kominek
Richard J. Kominek
Edward Konar
Charles Konas
Elmer Konas
James Konas
Irwin Koncal
Laddie Koncal
Joseph Konecny
Robert Konecny
J. Louis Konicek
L. Delmar Konicek
Donald Kopac
Jerry Kopac
Joseph Kopacek
Charles Kopecek
Ervin J. Kopecky
Eugene Kopecky
Roland Kopecky
Rudy Kopecky
William Korpecki
John B. Kos
Jack Kosinski
George Koss
Otto Koss

# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

William Kostecki
Joseph Kotrba
Emil Kott
Laddie Kott
Milton Charles Kounovsky
George Kourim
Otto Kourim, Jr.
Edward Kovac
Rudolf Kovac
Joseph Kovar
Jerry Kovarik
George Kozler
Stanley J. Kozlik
Edward Kragenbrink
Robert Kragenbrink
James Krakora
Rudolph Krakora
David Kralik
Anthony Krapel
Don "Satch" Kratochvil
Frank Kratochvil
Joseph W. Kratochvil
Charles Kraus
Edward Kraus
Rudolph Kraus
Frank Krcek
Jerry Krcek
Norman Krizek
Frank Krmel
David W. Krob
George J. Kroeck
Joseph Krull
William Krull
Charles Kruta
Joseph Kruta
Joe Krystof
Jerome Kubat
Felix Kubik
Fred Kucera
George Kucera
Philip Kucera
Jerry Kuchar
Anthony Joseph Kucharczyk
Joseph Kudelka
John Kulisek
Milton Kulisek
Tony Kuna
Emil Kuncl
John Kunik
Sylvestr Kunik
V. Kunik
William Kunik
James M. Kurtz
James Michael Kurtz
Clarence Kus
Raymond Kus
John Kusman
George Kustka
William Kustka
Rudy Kutak
Fred Laber
Ralph Laedtke
Jerry Landa
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Patrick J. Langbein, Sr.
Charles Langen
Laddie Lankas
Benjamin Lasovsky
William Laudon
Dominic LaVerde
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Robert Lepic
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Richard Liley
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Edward Liska
James Liska
Jerry List
John List
Joseph List
William Litrib
Edward Locinskar
John Locinskar
Robert Locinskar
Dave Loebsack
Arthur Loeffelman
Raymond F. Lomicka
Gordan Long
Ronald Lorne Loomis
Miro Lukas
James Lukes
Frank Lunga
Joe Lynch
Edward Macak
George J. Macak
Rudolph Mahach
Joseph Makes
Frank Malosky
Frank Malus
Frank Maly
Joseph Maly
Stephen Maly
Karl Mandl
Arthur Mara
Fred R. Marek
Thomas Marek
Richard Mariman
Jerome Marinek
Joseph Marion
John Martanovic
Johnny Martanovic
Frank Martinek
James Martinek
Leonard Martinek
Laddie Masek
Louis Masek
Norman Masek
William Masek
Frank Masin
Frank Maton
Jerry Maton
James Matousek
Joseph Matuna
Louis Matustik
Gregory Mayer
Yaro Mazany
Frank McClintic
William McFee
Terry McGowen
Michael McGuire
Ron McKee
Harry McNamara
William E. Medal
Jerome Meixner
Ed Melka
Curt Mentzer
Lew Meyer
Lewis Meyer
Arthur Michael
Charles Michalek
Daniel Michalek
Emil Michalek
Ernest Michalek
Frank Michalek
Jerry Michalek
Joseph J. Michalek
Robert Michalek
Todd Michalek
Melvin Michalske
Michael Mihok
Francis Paul Mika
John Mikeska
Harvey Miller
Clement Mily
Douglas Mily
William Mily
Frank Misek
Paul Misik
Robert Mlazovsky
Wesley A. Moberg
Jerry Mokry
Nicholas Molitor

# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

Donald Molner
Frank Moore
Joseph Moore
Milton Moravek
Richard A. Morec
James E. Morris
Kenny Morrison
James M. Morsovillo
Edward Motycka
J. Bernard Motycka
Raymond Moulis
Donald F. Mraz
William Mrazek
Emil A. Mrizek
Benjamin Mrkva
Edward Mukarovsky
Kenneth Myslik
Josef Nachtman
John Nagy
Samuel Nagy
Leonard Navratil
Lorraine Nayder
Thomas Nayder
Frank Neadly
Louis Nedved
Ladimer Nekl
Bohumil George (Bob) Nekolny
Edward Joseph Nekolny
George Bohumil Nekolny
John Nekolny
Miles Edward Nekolny
Darrell Wayne Netolicky
Frank Netolicky, Sr.
Frank John Netolicky, Jr.
Warren Keith Netolicky
Robert Newcomer
James W. Nikl
Vlaseimil Nohejl
Joseph Norris
Alfred Novacek
Dale Novak
Frank Novak
Joe Novak
Louis Novak
Murray Novak
Jerry Novotny
Richard J. Novotny
Myron Nudera
Frank Oblak
Joseph Ondra
Allan Ontl
Frank Oplatek
Marcus (Pat) Pace
Allison Paddock
Milan Paddock
Laddie F. Pajkrt
Paul Palcsak
Arthur R. Palecek
Pete L. Palek
Martin Palla
Frank Pallick
Ronald Jerry Pancner, MD
Michael Panepucci
Mike Panepucci
William Parizek
Rudolph Patopasty
Joseph Pavka
John C. Pavlik
Ralph Pavlik
Ervin Pazdera
H.T. Pazdernik
Jerry Pech
Anthony Pekarek
Charles Pekarek
George Pekarek
Karel Pekarek
Richard Pekarek
Gerald J. Perk
Joseph Perosovich
Emil Perout
Ray Pesek
Robert Pesek
Rudy Pesek
William Pesek
John Peterkovich
Allan Peterson
Joseph C. Petrik
John Petro
Donald W. Petrosky
Joseph D. Petrosky
John Piader
George M. Picha
Joseph Picha
Milton Picha
Joseph Pichert
Donald Pichner
Ladd Pilous
Laddie Pilous
Rudolph M. Piskule
Louis J. Pivonka
Charles Piza
Adolph Placek
Anton Plachy
Charles Plactecky
Josef Player
Edward Plomer
Harold Plomer
Rudy Pohanka
Thomas Pohanka
John Polasek
Milton Polehna
Stanley Polnicky
Keith W. Porter
Frank Posta
Lloyd Posta
Eugene Potucek
Jan Prazek
Russell Vlad Prech
James Precosky
Robert Prible
Frank Pros
Richard Prusha
Joseph Psenicka
Robert (Bohumil "Red") Ptacek
Donald Pulkrab
Steve F. Pultorak
Franklin A. Puncochar
Antonin Rada
Edward Rada
Frank Raidl
Henry Rak
Joseph Rak
Barry R. Randle
Aldrich Ratay
Otto Regentik
Fred Reigel
James Reigel
Norbert Reiman
Ron Renaud
John Rendl
Frank Rericha
Shawn Rericha
Frank Rezny
Jerry Rhia
Joseph Richter
Joseph Richter, Sr.
Edward Ridl
Andrew Riecan Jr.
Marvin Rigel
Charles J. Riha II
Charles J. Riha III
Paul Riha
Raymond Riha
Annette Rinaldi-Reichman
James J. Rodgers
George Rohler
Vern Rompot
Benjamin Rott
Paul C. Rozsypal
Charles Rubuikan
John (Alex) Rudd-Yaklin
Albert Rus
Joseph Rus
Jan Russell
William Rustic

# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

George Ruzicka
Stanley Ruzicka
Charles Rybnikar
Anton Ryjacek
Helen Ryznar
Edward J. Sabados
James Safranek
Dennis Sailer
George Salaba
Robert Salay
Tony Sanda
Anthony Santavy
Raymond Sasseen
Donald Sauer
John Scheffel
Milton Scheffel
Henry Schmit
Frank Schoiber
Charles Schultz
Jerry Schultz
Peter Scoutelas
Stanley Sebek
Joseph Sedlak
Rudolph Seibert
Henry Seidel
George R. Semenek
Stanley Semerad
George Mitchell Sempkowski
Thomas Sep
Donald Serapiglia
Frank Sevcik
George Sevcik
Frank Seymour
John Seymour
James Shikner, Jr.
Andrew W. Shost, Jr.
Andrew W. Shost, Sr.
Joseph P. Shost
Stanley Shost
Frank Shourek
Frank Shramek
Stephen Shulin
Vince Shulin
Edward Shumbera
Robert Sika
Albert Sikora
John Silhan
Joseph Silhavy
Charles Simecek
Jaroslav Simecek
Milos Simecek
Stanley Simek
Tony Simek
Charles Simonovic
George Simonovic
Karel Simonovic
Michael Simonovic
E. M. Simunek
Emil Simunek
F. Simunek
Frank Simunek
Ulrich A. Sinkora
Frank Siroky
Alice Skala
A. W. Skalak, Jr.
Adolph William Skalak
Carl Skalak
Joseph William Skalak
Frank Skaryd
LaVerne Skaryd
George J. Skoumal, Jr.
Jack L. Skoumal
Robert Skoumal
William J. Skoumal, Jr.
Mildred Skudrna
Allen R. Skyler
Frank Sladek
William Sladky
Charles A. Slanina
Raymond Slapak
Ed Slavik
Robert Slavik
Josef Slezinger
Edward Smahay
Jerry Smahay
Anthony Smazenka
Tony Smazenka
George Smazik
Joseph Smazik
Milton Smazik
Joseph Smejsik
Rudolph Smidl
Robert Smira
Jack Smith
Edward Smola
Jim Smolucha
Michael Smolucha
Frank Smrchek
Charles Smunt
Robert Smunt
Mildred Smutny-Skudrna
Jack Snider
John Snider
Charles E. Snyders
Frank Sobkowiak
Frank Sobkowiak, Sr.
Josef Solarik
Joseph Soldat
Ronald G. Soltis
Jim Sommer
Elmer Soos
Dennis Sopko
Louis D. Sounik
Jerry Souta
Jerry T. Souta
George Spala
Robert L. Spatenka
Laddie Srahola
Stanley Sramek
Milan Stasa
George Stecha
Edward J. Steffek
Jerome J. Steffek
Joseph A. Steffek
Michael J. Steffek
Adolph Stehno
Henry Stehno
James Stejskal
Karel Stekl
Frank Sternes
Frank Stetina
Emil Stetkar
Frank Stetkar
Alfred Stewart
Rudolph Stika
Rudy Stika
John Stock
Jerry Stodola
John Storcel
Walt Strach
John Straka
George Stransky
Joseph Stransky
John Stribrny, Jr.
John Stribrny, Sr.
Jerry Strnad
James Strobl
Jerry Strobl
Gus Stupka
Vlad (Walter) Suchy
Frank Suda
Terry Sula
Thomas C. Sula
Ralph Sulek
Ralph Surowiec
Charles Svatek
Frank Svaty
Stanley Svaty
Allen Svehla
George Svejda
Edward Svitil
Arthur Svoboda
Carl Svoboda
Edward Svoboda

# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

Frank Svoboda
George Svoboda
Josef Svoboda
Karel Svoboda
Laddie Svoboda
Norman Svoboda
Walter Svoboda
William Svoboda
Ruth Swanson
Edward Swigunski
George Sykora
Jaroslav Syptak
Henry Szost
Robert Szost
Walter Szost
William Tary
George E. Tejcek
Herbert Temple
Barbara Thomas
Evelyn Tichy
Frank Tichy II
Joseph Tichy
Robert Tichy
Rudolph Tichy
Vil Tichy
Karel Tittl, Jr.
Zane Tittle
Frank Tomaskovic
Joseph Tomaskovic
Matthew C. Tomaszewski
Peter R. Tomaszewski
Lloyd Tomcal
Chad Tomes
John J. Toncar
Joseph Topinka
Joseph B. Topinka
Theodore Townsend
Harold Trejbal
Joseph Trejbal
Robert Trejbal
George M. Tresnak
Oliver J. Tresnak
Tom L. Tresnak
Charles Trnka
Frank Trnka, Jr.
Joseph F. Trpik
John Tuinenga
Frank Turek
James Turek
George Tyll
Marge Tyll
James Uhlik
Clarence Ulman
Norman Ulrich
Henry Vajcner
Charles Valek
George Valek
Jiri Valek
John Valenta
Charles Valestin, Sr.
John Valusek
Ladd Valusek
Milo Vanek
Vlad Vanek
Vladimir Vanek
Robert Vanicek
Ross Varcelli
Alexander Varga, Jr.
Peter Vasicek
Stanley Vasicek
Jerry Vasko
Walter Vaverka
Donald Anthony Vavra
Joseph Vavrasek
Lee Vavrasek
Paul Vavrasek
Beri Vavrin
James Vejsicky
Jerome Velky
Frank Versnick
Henry Versnick
Edward A. Vesely
Edward C. Vesely
Ernest V. Vesely
Joseph Vesely
George Vetovich
Russell Vetovich
Frank Veverka
Richard L. Veverka
Paul Vican
Jim Vimr
John Vimr
Laddie Vitek
Charles Vitous
Jerry Vitovsky
Thomas Vitovsky
Robert Vittengl
James Vitter
Rudolph Vitter
John Vittoe
Joseph Vlasak
Frank Vlcek
Elmer Vodacak
Joseph C. Vodraska
Robert L. Vodraska
D. J. Vodrazka
Charles Vokracka
Jerry Vokracka
Joseph Vokracka
Raoul Vonderau
Charles Vondracek
Frank Vondracek
Frank Vondrak
Anton (Tony) Vopenka
Edward Voraty
Joe Vorel
William Vorel
William A. Vorel
Leopold Vorlicky
Anthony Vsetula
Josephine Mary Vsetula
Emil Vydareny
Jerry Vyskocil
James Vyslysel
Jerry Vyslysel
George C. Vytlacil, Sr.
Louie Vyvijal
Robert E. Watzl
John C. Weiss
Vincent Welzien
Benjamin Wencl
Donald Wencl
Robert L. Wencl
Elizabeth White
Don Whitenach
Gary Wilt
Joseph Wimmer
Joseph Windsor
Robert Wisneskey
Edward Wolf
Emil (Sonny) Wolf
Emil (Sonny) Wolf, Jr.
Francis Wolf
Otto Wolf
Wayne Wolf
William Wolf
James Wozniak
John M. Wright
Leon S. Yackymetz
George V. Yeck
Tony Yeck
Al Yedlicka
Andy Yedlicka
Frank J. Yurka
George E. Yurka
John R. Yurka
Joseph E. Yurka
George Yuska
Frank Zabransky
Roman Zach
Adolph Zahradka, Sr.
James Zahradnicek
Henry Zajic
Jerry Zajic
Rudy Zak

# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

Jerry J. Zalmanek
John Zaloudek
Jerry Zamrzla
Woodrow Zamrzla
John Zanini
Steve Zarski
Joseph Zaruba
Charles Zastresek
Milan Zavodny
Charles Zavora
Joseph Zavora
Charles Zboril
Frank Zboril
John Zboril
Charles Zdenek
Josef Zelenka
William Zelenka
William R. (Bill) Zelenka
Anton Norbert Zeman
Jerry Zeman
Zdenek Sidney Zeman
Emil J. Zemanek
Louis Zembalis
George Zidlicky
John Zitek
Raymond Zitek
John Zitney
Dominic Zronek

**Thank you for your service!**



# Honoring Military Members, Past and Present

## Bridging the Gap Between Military Experience and Civilian Careers

(Feature Impact) Every year, approximately 200,000 service men and women transition from military life to corporate America. Finding the right civilian career is a transition, but it's an opportunity to leverage military leadership and mission-driven talent.

Traditional hiring processes often focus on conventional resumes, but forward-thinking organizations recognize military experience as a competitive advantage in today's workforce. The resilience, integrity, and adaptability of America's veterans and military families make them uniquely positioned to drive growth and innovation in their communities.

"Veterans bring unmatched discipline, adaptability, and a results-driven mindset that directly translates to high-impact corporate careers," said Drew Matheson, senior director at Capital One's Commercial Bank and retired U.S. Army infantry officer. "While military experience doesn't always fit perfectly on a traditional paper resume, employers like Capital One who know how to decode these unique leadership skills are able to unlock an incredible pipeline of proven performers."

To help transitioning service members successfully navigate this career pivot, military community leaders at Capital One offer these five essential tips for service members entering the civilian workforce:

**Start With What You've Already Earned**

Opportunity starts with preparation. Beyond the well-known Post-9/11 GI Bill, which can cover tuition, housing, and books, transitioning service members can look into vocational rehab or the SkillBridge program, which allows them to do civilian internships during the last 180 days of service. Many employers also offer internal tuition reimbursement programs. Taking the time to proactively map out these benefits ensures you aren't leaving valuable opportunities or money on the table.

**Find Employers with Veteran Support Structures**

With almost half of veterans leaving their first post-military job within a year, according to research published by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families and VetAdvisor, finding the right culture and community is key to a successful transition. Look for employers with active veteran networks and dedicated mentorship.

For example, Capital One's Salute Business Resource Group serves as a thriving internal community of more than 6,000 members, offering peer support, year-round professional development and mentorship for veterans, reservists, and military spouses. Additionally, partner organizations like Hiring Our Heroes provide career workshops, fellowships, and job fairs to ensure veterans are employment-ready from day one.

**Lean Into and Translate Your Soft Skills**

Veterans bring a distinct competitive advantage to the applicant pool. You should confidently lean into the cross-functional "soft skills" learned in the line of duty such as risk management, crisis resolution, and building trust under high-pressure scenarios.

The trick is translating these capabilities out of military jargon on your resume. Swap military terms like "NCOIC" for "Operations Manager" or "commanded' for "directed." To make this easier, look for military-friendly employers that employ dedicated military recruiters who specialize in decoding military resumes to align skills with the right roles.

**Prioritize Support for the Whole Family**

Military service is a family commitment, and the transition out of uniform affects everyone. Military spouses often face unique career hurdles, including frequent relocations and employment gaps. When evaluating employers, look for companies that offer holistic benefits and flexible structures.

For example, Capital One, recognized by "U.S. Veterans Magazine" as a Top Veteran Employer and Top Military Spouse Employer, actively supports military spouses and families through dedicated spouse hiring initiatives and internal support mechanisms. Furthermore, look for organizations that support continued military training and active-duty leave, ensuring military associates never have to choose between their service and their careers.

**Build Your Civilian Network Early**

In the military, your network is built in. In the civilian world, you have to cultivate it. Long before your terminal leave begins, connect with veterans who work at companies you admire. Reach out for brief, 15-minute informational interviews to learn about their transition journeys rather than simply asking for a job. With more than 70% of civilian jobs filled through networking, according to estimates from Career Horizons, making organic connections early is a powerful tool for getting your foot in the door.

*To find additional resources and learn more about how to support the hiring of veterans and military spouses, visit CapitalOneCareers.com/Military.*

*Photo courtesy of Shutterstock*
*Source: Capital One*



# Five Simple Steps to Prepare Before Disaster Strikes

(Feature Impact) Disaster preparedness doesn't have to be expensive or complicated. It's all about the small, simple steps you can take to protect yourself, your family, and your community.

Yet, as severe weather becomes more frequent, many people aren't prepared for the impact.

New research from United Way Worldwide and Verizon revealed that although 60% of U.S. adults are concerned a natural disaster could affect their household in the next year, only 15% would feel very prepared for one.

While many people understand the risks, they face real barriers to preparation. Cost remains the primary obstacle to disaster preparedness with 45% of those surveyed naming it as the top barrier. In addition to cost, lack of time (25%), and not knowing where to start (28%) prevented people from taking action.

That's why preparedness should be practical and affordable.

For example, the United Way's United We Prepare initiative, supported by Verizon, offers free disaster preparedness workshops, emergency kit distribution, information on local emergency services, and practical guidance to help people plan and be ready to weather a storm.

When individuals and families are better prepared, communities are more resilient. Get started with these simple, zero-cost steps:

**Identify Key Emergency Contacts**
Choose a relative or friend outside of your immediate community who can act as a central check-in point or offer shelter during an emergency. Also, take a few moments to create updated digital and physical emergency contact lists with names, phone numbers, and addresses of loved ones as well as service and healthcare providers.

**Enable Local Alerts**
Identify trusted local emergency services and news that can provide weather and emergency information. Turn on wireless emergency alerts in your phone settings, bookmark local news weather pages, and save other important website links to ensure you're in-the-know when disasters strike.

**Build a Support System**
Before severe weather, touch base with at least two neighbors or family members to identify what help they may need (or what assistance they can provide) and create a plan for checking in with each other in the event of an emergency.

**Plan for Special Needs**
It's easiest to make clear-headed decisions before you're stressed and rushing in the heat of the moment, so sit down and sketch out basic plans for special needs related to transportation, prescriptions, caregiving, and pets before severe weather arrives. Decide where you would meet if separated, how to get there if transportation is disrupted, who would pick up children or take care of pets, what health needs or medications need to be considered, and more.

**Save Key Information and Documents Digitally**
During a crisis, you likely won't have time to search filing cabinets, desks, and glove compartments for important documentation. Take photos or make digital copies of identification documents, insurance information, medical cards, prescription details, important household records, and other key documents to access if you need to leave home quickly. For insurance purposes, it may also be helpful to take a video of your property and valuable belongings in your home in case they're damaged or ruined.

The goal isn't to do everything at once; it's to start. An hour spent making connections, gathering information, and talking through a plan today can make it easier to act when time matters most.

*For more simple preparedness tips and resources, visit UnitedWePrepare.org.*



*Photo courtesy of Shutterstock (preparation supplies)*

# Seven Fire Prevention Tips to Protect Your Home and Community

(Feature Impact) Fall is a good time to review your fire safety habits at home and in your neighborhood. Fires can be devastating, but many of them are preventable with simple precautions and smart everyday choices.

Consider these tips to reduce the risk of fires and keep your household, family, and community safe.

**Test Your Smoke Alarms**
Smoke detectors are one of the simplest yet most important tools for protecting your home, loudly alerting you to potential danger at any time of the day or night. Test them monthly, follow manufacturer's instructions for replacement, and change batteries as needed.

**Heat Your Home Safely**
Depending on how you heat your home, there can be different hazards to remain aware of. Never leave fireplaces unattended when in use and have them inspected and maintained as recommended by a trained professional. If you use portable heaters, keep them at least three feet away from curtains, bedding, furniture, and other flammable materials.

**Prevent Electrical Fires**
Frayed cords, damaged outlets, or overloaded appliances can pose real danger to your home when they overheat or spark. Particularly if you live in an older home or have outdated appliances, keep an eye out for warning signs like tripped circuit breakers, malfunctioning devices, or the smell of burning. If you're concerned, have your system inspected by a qualified electrician.

**Store Flammable Objects Carefully**
Keeping matches and lighters out of reach of children is always a smart first step for household fire safety. Also follow safe storage practices for items like lighter fluid, propane, aerosol cans, and other household products that could potentially ignite when exposed to heat or a stray spark.

**Practice Smart Kitchen and Grill Habits**
From sparks flying off the grill to hot oil forgotten in the frying pan, cooking is the leading cause of household fires. Stay attentive in the kitchen, never leave cooking food unattended, and avoid setting combustible materials like paper plates or fabric towels too close to a stove or grill. Also keep your appliances cleaned and well-maintained.

**Plan Your Escape Route**
Fires can spread quickly, which is why it's important for everyone in your household to know the plan (and backup plan) for safely exiting different areas of the house during an emergency. Decide on a specific meeting place outside and practice quick fire drills together to build muscle memory.

**Observe Local Fire Safety Rules**
Where you live determines what kinds of fire risks affect your community, so make sure you stay informed about local regulations. For instance, areas prone to drought or wildfire may have rules about outdoor burning, and local fire prevention ordinances may outline specific requirements for smoke alarms in your home.

*Find more home safety tips at eLivingtoday.com.*

*Photo courtesy of Shutterstock*



# Five Ways to Make a Difference in Your Community

(Feature Impact) Communities are strengthened every day by local organizations working to address challenges close to home, whether that's helping families access food, supporting students, expanding opportunity, or providing essential resources to those who need them most. Often operating with limited resources, these organizations are finding practical solutions that make a meaningful difference in neighborhoods and communities across the country.

Many of these efforts happen quietly, powered by people who volunteer their time, share their expertise, donate resources, or simply help spread awareness of causes they care about.

For individuals looking to make a difference where they live, community involvement doesn't have to start with a large commitment. Consider these five options to get involved.

**Give Your Time**
Giving your time is one of the most direct ways to support organizations serving your community. Whether it's packing meals, mentoring young people, or participating in neighborhood cleanups, volunteering allows people to contribute directly while gaining a deeper understanding of local needs.

**Share Your Skills**
Nonprofits often need specialized skills in addition to hands-on volunteer support. Communications support, technology expertise, event planning, photography, financial guidance, and other professional skills can help organizations expand their reach and strengthen their operations. Contributing the skills you've developed can often be just as valuable as donating time or resources.

**Tap Into Your Workplace**
Many employers offer opportunities to support causes that matter to their employees, such as volunteer programs, community grants or other charitable opportunities.



In communities across the country, local nonprofits can receive support through programs like the PepsiCo Foundation's Community Impact Awards, where employees can nominate nonprofit organizations in their local communities for grant funding. Since 2022, the program has invested more than $3.7 million into organizations working on issues ranging from food access to education and community development.

"Across North America, there are organizations showing up every day for their communities, often without recognition and with limited resources," said Monica Bauer, SVP of social impact, PepsiCo and president of the PepsiCo Foundation. "The Community Impact Awards help shine a light on organizations that are creating opportunities, solving local challenges, and making a real difference in people's lives. What makes this program special is that the recognition comes from PepsiCo associates who know these organizations firsthand and have seen their impact up close."

This year, 100 organizations across the U.S. and Canada received $500,000 total in grants and teamed up with their respective nominating employees for volunteer activities supporting their missions, giving employees another opportunity to engage directly.

**Give What You Can**
Financial contributions are a valuable way to give back, but they aren't the only option. Many organizations need non-monetary donations such as school supplies, canned goods, clothing, toys, and technology. Before collecting items, check with organizations to learn what is most needed and how contributions can make the greatest impact.

**Use Your Voice**
One person can make a difference. When that person gets a friend or family member involved, more people can discover and support organizations doing important work. Sharing a nonprofit's mission on social media, inviting others to volunteer, or connecting people with causes you care about can help organizations reach new supporters and expand their impact.

Making a difference doesn't require doing everything at once. Whether you contribute your time, skills, resources, or advocacy, small actions can help make a big impact over time.

Across the U.S., nonprofit organizations are helping improve lives, create opportunities, and respond to community needs every day. Their work is a reminder that meaningful change often starts locally with people willing to get involved.

*Learn more about how individuals and organizations can help address some of the most pressing needs in their communities by visiting PepsiCo.com/about/social-impact.*

# New Fall Favorites?

## A Twist on a Classic Pie

(Culinary.net) While apple pie is a traditional seasonal dish, you can add unique flavor with this skillet version. Simply toss Honeycrisp apples with brown sugar, cinnamon, and lemon juice then spoon between two pie crusts simmering in a thin layer of brown sugar and cinnamon, then drizzle with caramel sauce for a deliciously gooey evening treat.

**Skillet Apple Pie with Caramel Sauce**

4 large Honeycrisp apples, peeled, cored and sliced
1/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 tablespoons cinnamon, divided
1 tablespoon lemon juice
6 tablespoons butter
1/4 cup, plus 2 teaspoons, brown sugar
2 refrigerated pie crusts
2 teaspoons whipping cream
caramel sauce

Heat oven to 350 F.

In large bowl, combine apples, sugar, 1 tablespoon cinnamon, and lemon juice until apples are covered. Set aside.

In oven-safe, 10-inch nonstick skillet, melt butter. Add 1/4 cup brown sugar and remaining cinnamon; mix until combined. Boil 5-8 minutes.

In same skillet, place one pie crust over brown sugar mixture. Pour apples over pie crust. Cover apples with second pie crust. Cut slits in top to release steam. Brush whipping cream over crust. Sprinkle with remaining brown sugar.

Bake 35-45 minutes until crust is golden brown.

Drizzle with caramel sauce.





## A Festive Fall Treat

(Culinary.net) This ultimate fall dessert is filled with caramel sauce, topped with a fluffy cream cheese frosting, and drizzled with even more caramel sauce. Family and friends can enjoy every morsel of this moist, autumn-themed cake.

**Pumpkin Caramel Spice Cake**

Nonstick cooking spray
1 box spice cake mix
1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
1 cup water
1/2 cup canola oil
3 eggs
1 1/2 cups caramel sauce, divided
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese
2 tablespoons milk
1 cup powdered sugar
1 carton whipped topping

Heat oven to 350 F. Lightly spray 9-by-13-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray.

In bowl, mix cake mix, pumpkin, water, oil, and eggs until smooth. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake 30-33 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in middle of cake comes out clean.

While cake is hot, using end of wooden spoon, poke holes throughout top of cake. In microwave, heat 1 1/4 cups caramel sauce. Pour sauce into holes of cake. Let cool completely.

In bowl, mix cream cheese and milk. Gradually add powdered sugar while mixing. Mix until smooth. Fold whipped topping into mixture.

Spread frosting over cake, pressing frosting into holes of cake. Smooth out frosting.

Drizzle remaining caramel sauce over frosting.

*Find more dessert recipes at Culinary.net.*

# Members Voice Concerns and Opinions

**District Council No. 12, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin –** President Ken Dvorsky called to order the October 15 meeting with 15 members in attendance from Lodges Lincoln, Anton Cermak, Century of Progress/Bila Hora, Woodrow Wilson, DuPage Pioneers, and Brookfield.

Ken introduced two topics for discussion:

1) It's been about 18 months since we merged with BetterLife. Has your lodge adjusted to the change?

2) Let's discuss the future of District Council No. 12. Should it be disbanded? Should we continue to meet? What would be our function?

Members present agreed the External Change Register needs to revert to its original form. Of special importance is the mention of deceased members which can alert the lodge of the passing of a member they may not have seen for a while. Also, the total number of members dictates annual and monthly allocations. Sis. Kelly Deegan is working on this request with the Compliance Department of BetterLife. Bro. John Kielczewski added that Compliance is aware of the issue, but is extremely conservative about sharing insurance records.

Sis. Hemzacek mentioned questions from her lodge regarding communications with BetterLife via the phone. Kelly asked that we report back to our lodge and that any concerns or requests for assistance should be funneled through her, and she will do her best to help members reach the proper representative.

Bro. John and Bro. Ken talked about the organization of BetterLife, their various committees, Boards, and functions. Former CSA Board members have been integrated into these committees so that CSA's voice will be heard and recognized.

We did discuss the future of District Council No. 12 with no final decisions made. We will continue into 2027 to further plans for the future.

Our District Council No. 12 Christmas gathering will be held at McCook Inn on Saturday, December 12 at 2 p.m. Please plan on attending to celebrate the holidays with a traditional Czech meal, fun, fellowship, and camaraderie.

*Fraternally,*
*Gerri Romanelli*




*Fraternal*

*Well*

*Wishes*

**Judy Genco**
Lodge Cleveland Chapter
No. 219

**Danny Gorman**
Lodge Cleveland Chapter
No. 219

# CSA Fraternal Life

## Lodge Missouri No. 1

**of Better Life**

## Donation Drive for Home Sweet Home

home sweet home

furnishing hope



**COLLECTING NEW/GENTLY USED HOME AND KITCHEN ITEMS**

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- CLICK HERE TO GO TO OUR AMAZON WISH LIST AND SKIP THE DROP OFF - HAVE IT DELIVERED TO US!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOME SWEET HOME AT HOMESWEETHOMESTL.ORG

FOR PICKUP, PLEASE CONTACT MIKE (314-608-6533) OR CONNIE(314-805-2526)

# Medicine Bottles Continue to Magically Appear



**Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois –** We never did determine the source of the ongoing deluge of amber medicine bottles that just seem to magically appear at the doorstep overnight. Our plan is as long as they keep coming, we will continue to collect them and pass them along. The pharmaceutical industry is definitely thriving in this country.

Continuing with the "Thank a Driver" program this year, we are honoring Kurt Tokarski, a local postal carrier in LaGrange Park, Illinois. We caught up with him on a truly spectacular autumn day in late September. Kurt says he has been delivering mail for 13 years and thoroughly enjoys being out and about in such fine weather. When asked how he feels about working outdoors in the rain and snow, he answered that there is actually something relaxing about the peace and quiet that occurs when the weather is not quite perfect. Good attitude!

Lodge Brookfield has an expert fisherman amongst its ranks, namely Fred Chiappetta. At a recent lodge meeting, Fred explained how knowledgeable people can make good money in fishing tournaments. He said it is even possible to earn one's living as professional sport fishermen if you know what you're doing and have the proper equipment. Fred amazed us with a photo of the largest bass he ever caught. He landed it this summer in 383-acre Long Lake, part of the Chain O'Lakes near the Illinois-Wisconsin border.

*Fraternally,*
*Kimberly Silhan*





# On Our Way to Another Platinum Award









**Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Maple Heights, Ohio –** Our small but mighty group, Mary Ann, Kris, Bruce, Donna, Johnny, Diane, and I, met on September 24 at the DTJ in Taborville, Ohio. It was a gorgeous fall day!

Mary Ann Toncar was sworn in as our revered president.

Diane updated us about how we're doing with the LRP. We are well on the way to another Platinum Award.

Diane, Donna, Johnny, and I attended Lodge Cleveland Chapter's meeting on September 8. Their guest speaker was member Jan Russell who gave a great talk about her and her hubby Rick's hiking trip on Mont Blanc. She had a lot of wonderful pictures. They had to have plenty of stamina for all the hiking they did! Afterwards, we enjoyed a nice lunch of salad and pizza.

Our Christmas Luncheon will be on December 17. We are going to have a $2 gift exchange and play a White Elephant game. If you would like to attend, please let me know soon (remember to bring gift and an elephant!). Call 216-392-9077 and leave a message.

We had nominations for officers and it looks like it will be the same slate.

Congratulations to the 50/50 winners: Mary Ann and Kris. Both won twice!

The DTJ in Taborville, Ohio will have their Chicken or Duck Dinner November 1. All dinners require reservations and are served from noon – 2 pm. For reservations, call Kris Marek at 440-543-8489. Reservations must be in by Wednesday before the dinner. Meet up with friends and have a great dinner.

Thank you, Kris, for our snack of hot dogs with all the trimmings, chips, and brownies. Thank you, too, Mary Ann, for the ice cream to top the brownies!

Our meetings for 2026 will be November 19 and December 17 (Christmas Luncheon). We would love to see you! Come to a meeting, reconnect with friends, and have a tasty "snack".

*Fraternally,*
*Annette Reichman*

# Lodge Washington No. 30 Celebrates 150 Years

**Lodge Washington No. 30, St. Louis, Missouri –** The October meeting of the Czech Cultural Club at our American-Czech Center featured something very special – at least to our lodge members! This year marks Lodge Washington's 150th Anniversary, and I was happy to give a presentation on our history and our activities over the years. Only 21 years after CSPS (CSA) was founded, there were already two lodges in St. Louis, and enough Czechs had settled in the area that another lodge was formed. We took the name of the first U.S. President and since we were the eleventh lodge in the society, we were known as Lodge Washington No. 11 until the merger in 1933, when we took the number 30. I found lots of fun facts about us in doing research – including our connection to a recognizable name in entertainment. One of our founders was Václav Bakula, whose great-great-grandson is Scott Bakula, as in the star of *Quantum Leap*, *Star Trek: Enterprise*, and *NCIS New Orleans*!

We're so proud of our 150 years of participation in local and national activities, our events like the very popular Selsky Ples (Peasant Ball), our members who were bowlers, golfers, Miss CSA Contestants (including three who won the crown), our scholarship recipients, and our Fraternalist of the Year nominees and the two members who received the national honor. We can point to our community involvement that goes all the way back to committee work for Czech Day at the 1904 World's Fair, and volunteer work that continues to this day. We think our founders would be impressed and pleased!

We're looking forward to more upcoming events within the lodge and at the ACEC, especially the annual Czech Festival on April 24, and all the things that make our Czech community here in St. Louis so special.

*Fraternally,*
*Deborah Zeman*










# Gearing Up for Christmas Cheer

**Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Brookfield, Illinois –** Our craft-master Pat Satek once again designed our fall project to create holiday ornaments, this year using holiday cards for inspiration. Our annual tradition is to donate handmade ornaments to a senior and/or assisted living facility to brighten the holidays for residents. We set up this year's project in September, and our October lodge meeting was all about glue guns and sparkly trim, with which to complete our "Christmas trees with jingle bells" ornaments. We thought it might require another session to complete the project, but our members rose to the challenge and completed it all in one night! We are proud to be able to donate these ornaments to bring holiday spirit to the facility right across the street from our meeting location: how convenient! Our crafters were very creative and produced a widely diverse collection of cute and festive ornaments. One of the best surprises of the night was that we were joined by Amy Sullivan, in town from North Carolina for the weekend and happy to contribute to the crafting fun, along with her mom Jan DeValk from Indiana.

Don't forget our end-of-year traditions taking place at our December meeting: we have our annual holiday potluck, as well as a fun competition that always brings laughter and good times. There will be prizes, and maybe even a surprise or two. We would love to have more members join us for the fun: it's all happening on Friday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lombard office. Please let me know if you have any questions!

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







# Stockings for Operation Support Our Troops

**Lodge Lincoln No. 7, Berwyn, Illinois –** A big thank-you goes out to Sister Chris Lanzel who cooked and hosted a delicious dinner for Lodge Lincoln members at our September lodge meeting. Socializing over a home cooked meal is what we do best! We enjoyed roasted nuts with meat and cheese rolls as appetizers. Chris prepared a delicious bratwurst meal with sweet peppers, onions, buns, sauerkraut, and seasonal squash. For dessert, we enjoyed a variety of pastries, a pumpkin roll, and chocolate layer cake in celebration of Stan Smolucha's birthday.

Our President Matt Schultz called our meeting to order, and we began with the pledge of allegiance. Secretary Vera Wilt and Treasurer Stan Smolucha gave their reports. We then talked about the holiday stocking program for deployed service members that is taking place at Operation Support Our Troops America. After some discussion about the most needed items for holiday stockings, we voted to contribute $200 worth of items to be purchased by Pat Smolucha and delivered to their warehouse. Our time was also spent writing cards and letters to service members to be included in the Comfort and Care Packages being sent to our deployed troops.

With Veteran's Day only a few weeks away, we want to acknowledge all lodge members who have previously served or are currently serving in our United States military. We thank you for your dedicated service to our country, and the many sacrifices made by you and your families to secure our freedoms. Please remember to thank our veterans and to honor them for their service.

Lodge Lincoln's Annual Election of Officers took place at our October meeting which was held on October 28. We met at the home of John Pritasil for dinner, with members bringing sides or desserts. We will not be meeting in the month of November.

A Christmas Party is being planned for the weekend of December 12-13. Details to come later.

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







# Scholarship Fund Donation Form

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

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

Enclosed is my donation of $ _____

☐ For the general Scholarship Fund or ☐ In Memory of _____

Send acknowledgement of contribution to _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**"We were delighted to donate $5,000 from our t-shirt and mug sales to the CSA Scholarship Fund!"**
**— the 83rd Annual CSA Get-Together Committee**

CSA Fraternal Life
In New York Czechoslovak Society of America

www.csalife.com

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# In Memoriam

| Name | Lodge No. | Lodge Name | Location | Date of Death |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amy R. Euler | 432 | Mile-Hi Czechs | ASHEVILLE, NC | 08/20/2026 |
| Andrew M. Rose | 121 | Kruh Osvojenych-Zen A Panu | BRADENTON, FL | 09/12/2026 |
| Annamarie Miller | 004 | Groveton | LOYALHANNA, PA | 09/07/2026 |
| Anthony P. Scarpa | 484 | Blue Crystal | HOWELL, NJ | 09/07/2026 |
| Bessie B. Mattly | 181 | Quad City | DAVENPORT, IA | 09/21/2026 |
| Carl D. Mastis | 001 | Missouri | ST. LOUIS, MO | 03/19/2026 |
| Catherine E. Kosar | 378 | Carter Harrison/Jan Hus/Garfield | LEMONT, IL | 08/15/2026 |
| Deokali Bishnath | 448 | Empire State | LINDENHURST, NY | 09/11/2026 |
| Douglas Youmans | 211 | Bratri Od Sazavy | MANCHESTER, NJ | 09/08/2026 |
| Ernest F. Dostalik | 004 | Groveton | INDUSTRY, PA | 07/26/2026 |
| Frank H. Michalek | 077 | Yankee-Jungmann | PLAINFIELD, IL | 07/10/2026 |
| Grant C. Vytlacil | 377 | Woodrow Wilson | WOODRIDGE, IL | 09/07/2026 |
| James E. Knight | 211 | Bratri Od Sazavy | PLAINFIELD, NJ | 08/28/2026 |
| Jeremiah A. Sullivan | 377 | Woodrow Wilson | ALSIP, IL | 09/14/2026 |
| Jon E. Hicks | 463 | St. Petersburg | BOYNTON BEACH, FL | 08/15/2026 |
| Joseph E. Kuta | 409 | DuPage Pioneers/Edison | AMERICAN FALLS, ID | 04/27/2026 |
| Joyce Lamberson | 099 | Anton J. Cermak | ELK GROVE VIL., IL | 08/15/2026 |
| Leona M. Beltz | 279 | Karel Jonas | LAS VEGAS, NV | 09/02/2026 |
| Marshall Cecconello | 479 | Christa | IRWIN, PA | 09/02/2026 |
| Maryann Zabawa | 404 | Estlian | COLLINSVILLE, IL | 01/05/2026 |
| Mildred A. Koleske | 066 | Friendship | LA GRANGE PARK, IL | 08/11/2026 |
| Milo G. Salak | 077 | Yankee-Jungmann | WESTMONT, IL | 09/07/2026 |
| Nadine Johnson | 434 | Sokol Pilsen | CHICAGO, IL | 09/23/2026 |
| Randall Novak | 077 | Yankee-Jungmann | WOODRIDGE, IL | 08/23/2026 |
| Robert J. Dvorak | 409 | DuPage Pioneers/Edison | SHOREWOOD, IL | 09/20/2026 |
| Rosemary Civin | 310 | Bellaire | HOBE SOUND, FL | 09/05/2026 |
| Stella L. Johnson | 211 | Bratri Od Sazavy | RED BANK, NJ | 07/22/2026 |
| Stella L. Middleton | 121 | Kruh Osvojenych-Zen A Panu | DEFIANCE, OH | 08/31/2026 |
| Victor K. Graf | 001 | Missouri | KIRKWOOD, MO | 07/16/2026 |
| Walter J. Bikoski | 121 | Kruh Osvojenych-Zen A Panu | DILLONVALE, OH | 08/30/2026 |



# Christmas Party Planned

**Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio –** Our October 13 meeting was held at the Parma Heights Library at 10:30 a.m. Fourteen members and one guest (Barb, June Karecki's daughter) attended our meeting.

The Sokol organization held their "Crock Pot" cook-off on October 3 with 75 people attending. Our own Denise Kubinski won third place in the contest. Several of our members won raffle baskets. It was a good night. They also had a pork dinner on October 28.

Our Pin Party will be held next July 18. Please check your policies to see when they were issued. If you have recently reached 50- or 75-years since your policy was written, please let us know so you can receive your pin.

We received a very nice thank-you letter from the "Community of Hope" organization for our gifts of money, clothing, personal items, and more.

Tentatively, we will have our Christmas party at the Ichiban Japanese Steak restaurant on Pearl Road on December 8 at 2:00 p.m. Sylvia L. will verify our reservation.

We have decided to donate to CSA's scholarship fund this month in memory of our past members.

We sang a rousing "Happy Birthday" to our member, Elizabeth Hoinke. Sue Garofalo brought in some yummy desserts and Freddie Shima gave everyone some Halloween chocolate bars. Thank you, ladies!

Our 50/50 raffle was won by Barb and Tony.

Freddie Shima's nephew got married in Colorado. Her brother officiated the wedding and everyone had a wonderful time.

Sue went on a nice vacation in California and Jan Russell is going on another vacation to Australia and New Zealand and then off to her Florida home. We'll see her in the Spring.

After our meeting, a group of us played games and had a good time.

Our next meeting will be on November 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Parma Heights Library.

I hope everyone had a fun Halloween and enjoys a nice Thanksgiving.

*Fraternally yours,*
*Judy (Sevcik) Genco*
*Scribe*













# Scholarship Fund Report



*October 10, 2026 – November 10, 2026*

**TO CONTINUE CZECH HERITAGE AND CSA'S TRADITION OF ASSISTING OUR YOUNG MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR EDUCATION**
Gilbert and Linda Lilly
Lodge DuPage Pioneers No. 409

**IN MEMORY OF DECEASED MEMBERS**
Lodge Paramount Southgate No. 372

**IN HONOR OF EUNICE SEMPLE's 100th BIRTHDAY**
Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77

**Total Donations:** **$1700.00**

Scholarship applications are available at CSALife.com

# 2026 Fraternal Calendar

**NOVEMBER**

26–27 — Home Office Closed (Thanksgiving)

**DECEMBER**

1 — Deadline: CSA Serves Matching Funds Request
24–25 — Home Office Closed (Christmas)

CSA Fraternal Life
A BetterLife Community

# November– Time to Celebrate and Give Thanks

**Lodge Kruh Osvojenych-Zen A Panu No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio –** November is a time to remember, give thanks, and celebrate the people and traditions that mean so much to us. As we welcome the fall season and look forward to the upcoming holidays, the members of Lodge No. 121 would like to extend warm wishes to everyone.

As Veterans Day approaches, we pause to honor all veterans, both those who are still with us and those who are no longer here. We are grateful for their courage, dedication, and the many sacrifices they have made to protect our freedom. To all our veterans, thank you for your service. You are remembered, appreciated, and honored.

November will also be a special month for our members as we join the Dillonvale Presbyterian Church in celebrating its 120th Anniversary! What a wonderful milestone to celebrate! A special homecoming celebration will take place during the worship service, followed by a luncheon for members, friends, and guests. Our lodge members will lend a helping hand by setting up, donating, and preparing food, and assisting with cleanup after the celebration. We are proud to be part of this memorable occasion and to help celebrate the church's many years of faith, fellowship, and service to the community.

We will also be helping with the church's November pancake breakfast, honoring church members and the guests they bring along. Our members will donate breakfast supplies, including pancake ingredients, sausage, fruit, orange juice, coffee, and other items needed to make the morning a success. These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to share good food, enjoy fellowship, and show our appreciation for our church family.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we hope each of you has a meaningful celebration surrounded by family, friends, and the people you hold dear. May your holiday be filled with gratitude, laughter, good food, and treasured memories. Let us remember that even the smallest act of kindness can make a difference in someone's day.

From all of us at Lodge No. 121, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Gobble, gobble, and have a wonderful month! And don't forget to check on someone you love today.

*Fraternally,*
*Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell*



















# Just Kids



# Czech to English

## Focus on Fall

**Happy Thanksgiving**
Veselé Díkůvzdání

**Honor Veterans**
Uctěte veterány

**Enjoy the fall colors**
Užijte si podzimní barvy

**Visit a pumpkin patch**
Navštivte dýňové pole

**Make time for friends and family**
Udělejte si čas na přátele a rodinu

**Plan a bonfire**
Naplánujte táborák

# Just Kids

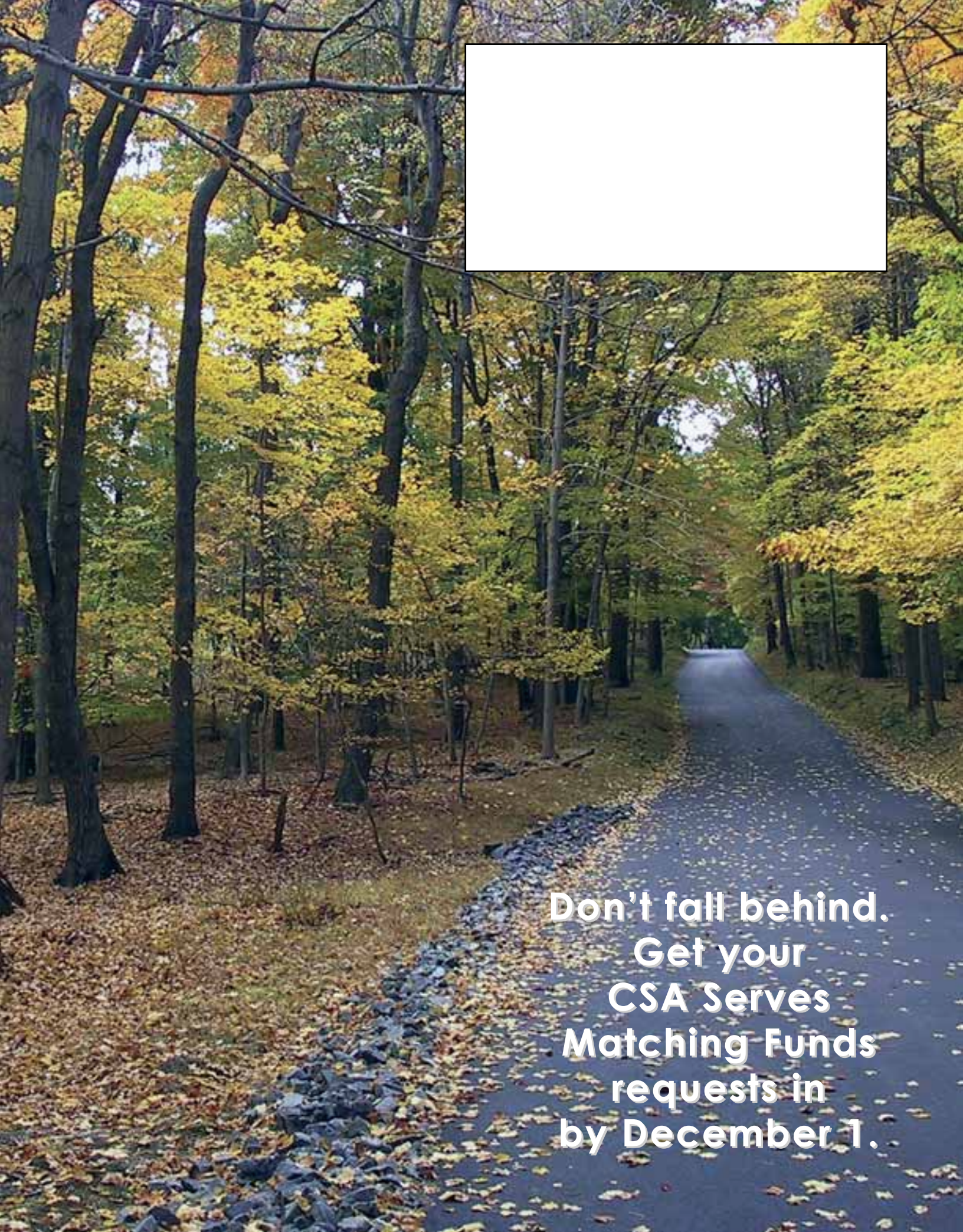
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*P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148*
*Email to: CSAJournalEditor@gmail.com*







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