

Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release: October 3, 2011 (West News, of West, Texas assisted in drafting this release.)

Texan Receives Czech Award

La Grange—Sunday, September 25, was a special day in the life Ray Snokhous of West, Texas, the Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic for the State of Texas.

The day began with a Solemn Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D. C., celebrating the 170th birthday of Czech composer Antonin Dvorak and the 200th anniversary of St. John Neumann's birth. Archbishop Dominik Duka of Prague, Czech Republic, was the main celebrant.

The Mass attendance included Czech embassy staff and representatives of the both the Czech government and parliament.

Following the Mass, a reception was held at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D. C. where Archbishop Duka bestowed the commemorative Medal of Saint Agnes of Bohemia to three recipients: Raymond Snokhous, Jan Tomecek and Murry Sidlin.

This special award of the Archdiocese of Prague was first presented in March 2011 on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the birth of St. Agnes of Bohemia. The year of St. Agnes was opened by Archbishop Duka on March 2 with various academic conferences, concerts, competitions and other celebrations in the Czech Republic and abroad.

The medal was bestowed upon Raymond Snokhous for his ardent involvement in promoting Czech heritage and culture in the United States and monetary support of the

renovation of several village churches in the Czech Republic. Mr. Snokhous remains staunchly dedicated to the promotion of Czech culture and heritage and to deepening the friendship between the Czech Republic and the United States, bearing diplomatic values of Saint Agnes of Bohemia.

John Tomecek received the award for his active role in fostering the growth of the Czech community and its cultural heritage in New York, namely through his devotion to Christian values and ideals.

Murray Sidlin was bestowed the medal for preserving the memory of the innocent, healing the souls of the persecuted, and safeguarding human dignity and compassion for future generations. Mr. Sidlin served eight years as Dean of the School of Music of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C. He has conducted many additional concerts in the Czech Republic and remains profoundly devoted to the conservation of spiritual and moral values, demonstrating the qualities of Saint Agnes of Bohemia.

Antonin Dvorak's composition of the Mass in D Major was sung by the choir of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C.

Ray and his wife Clarice were accompanied to Washington, D. C. by a delegation of family and friends from Texas and Louisiana.

Snokhous, among his many associations and memberships, is on the board of directors of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center of Texas that is located in La Grange, Texas.