



Building of the former French Embassy (at 2460, 16th Street), which assisted Štefánik, then a French soldier and future Minister of War of Czechoslovakia, during his visits to Washington in April 1917 and in August-September 1918.



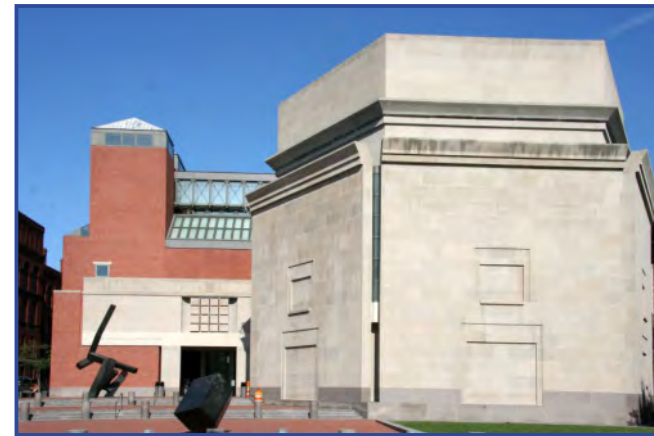
Statue of the first Czechoslovak president Tomáš G. Masaryk (born in 1850 in Hodonín, today the Czech republic), who had a Slovak father. It is situated at the Massachusetts Avenue, near Dupont Circle, not far from the house of President Woodrow Wilson, with whom Masaryk negotiated the creation of Czechoslovakia, following the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a well-known research institution established by Congress, serves as a memorial to President Wilson. In November 1999 bust of famous Slovak Alexander Dubček (born in 1921 in Uhrovec, Czechoslovakia) by Teodor Baník was unveiled in an auditorium on the 6th floor (not open to the general public).



Building of the former Czechoslovak embassy (at 2349 Massachusetts Avenue), in which Vladimír S. Hurban served from 1936 as envoy to the United States, and since 1943 continued as ambassador. He was replaced by another well-known Slovak Juraj Slávik Neresnický in June 1946. Slávik stayed in office until March 1948, when he resigned in protest of Communist coup in his country and remained to live in exile.



The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Opening ceremonies for the Museum took place on April 1993, and included several heads of state, among them the first President of Slovakia Michal Kováč. It was the first visit of a Slovak head of state to the USA. There are several items related to the suffering and heroism of the Slovak Jews in the Museum, among them the „Medal of Resistance“ to the brave “Nováky Group” from World War II.



Famous Marine Corps War Memorial, know as Iwo Jima Memorial. The leader of the six soldiers who raised the flag at Mt. Suribachi on the Japanese Island Iwo Jima was an American Slovak, Sergeant Michael Strank (born in 1919 in Jarabina, Czechoslovakia). Clint Eastwood made a film “Flags of our Fathers” based on the story of these soldiers in 2006 .



Grave of Michael Strank of Pennsylvania, who was killed in military action on March 1, 1945. First interred on Iwo Jima, his remains were returned to the United States to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. American citizenship certificate was given to Strank posthumously only in 2008



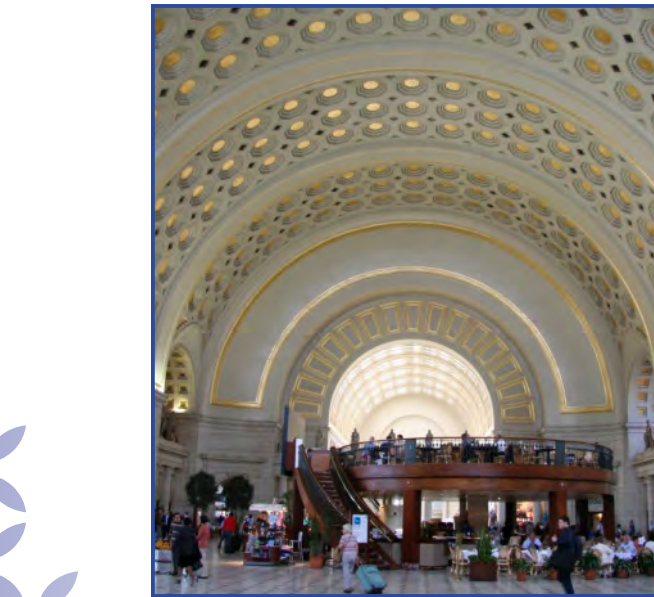
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest Roman Catholic Church in North America, was built between 1920-1961. Since September 1965, it has also beautiful chapel dedicated to Our Mother of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia.

Life-size Trani marble pieta by Ernest Morenon dominates the Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows, which is a gift of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada (Jednota).



Visitors to the National Air and Space Museum can learn about the Gemini 9, Apollo 10 and Apollo 17 missions, which have a special meaning for Slovaks. The grandfather of well-known astronaut Eugene Cernan, who was on these three space missions, was a Slovak immigrant to the United States.

Apollo 17 brought back the record lunar sample - 110.5 kg of rocks and soil. A piece of moon rock can be touched by the visitors to the Museum. Apollo 17 commander Cernan still holds the distinction of “the last man to walk on the Moon”, as no other human has stepped on the Moon since December 14, 1972.



Washington Union Station is the main train station. It was completely renovated (with the participation of Slovak artists) and reopened to the public in 1988. Two Slovak artists – sister and brother -Zuzana Rudavská and Ondrej Rudavský, spent almost two years decorating the walls of the Union Station during demanding renovations.



Hockey jersey of the champion who scored more than 500 goals in the NHL. This personal gift of Peter Bondra of Washington Capitals decorates the walls of the Slovak Embassy.



Arena of the Verizon Center is the home to the Washington Capitals of the NHL, where numerous Slovak professional ice hockey players, among them Richard Zedník, Milan Jurčina, Ivan Majeský, Andrej Podkonický played. Peter Bondra was between 1990-2004 one of the most effective players. Fans knew him as one of the NHL's greatest goal scorers.

SLOVAK FOOTSTEPS IN WASHINGTON

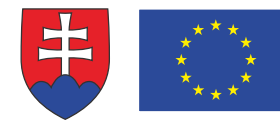
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SLOVAKIA

The Slovak Republic, or Slovakia, is a country located in the heart of Europe, bordered by Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine. Slovakia has a population of more than five million and is about 49,000 square kilometers in area. The capital city of Bratislava sits on the banks of the Danube River and is also Slovakia's largest city, with half a million people.

Slovakia became an independent state in January 1993 after the peaceful split of Czechoslovakia. It joined the European Union in May 2004.



Devin Castle sits at the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers, near Bratislava, and is a special site because it symbolizes Slovakia's rich history.

Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States, has numerous landmarks and sights recalling America's past and present ties with the people and country of Slovakia. Key chapters of Slovak history were written in this city situated on the Potomac River. Many Slovaks who came to Washington, D.C. in various periods of time, whether to live, work or study, contributed to the development of the nation's capital or to the United States as a whole. This collection of photographs, from the author's series Slovak Footsteps, aims to depict at least part of the wealth of these relationships and to invite its readers to begin discovering them.



The flags in front of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, which came to being in January 1993 (after the peaceful split of Czecho-Slovakia) and joined the European Union in May 2004. Since Slovakia's independence, Branislav Lichardus, Martin Bútora, Rastislav Káčer, Peter Burian and Peter Kmec have served as Slovak ambassadors to the United States.



Milan Rastislav Štefánik, born in 1880 in the village of Košariská, Austro-Hungarian Empire, today in Slovakia, together with Tomáš G. Masaryk played a key role in the creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918. This historic portrait, depicting Štefánik as French General, is located at the entrance hall to the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C.



Modern building of the Slovak Embassy was designed by the team of Slovak architects - M. Bogár, D. Fischer, L. Králik, P. Lizoň, L. Urban. It was opened in June 2001 and serves also as an exhibition hall, especially for a contemporary fine art.



Friends of Slovakia (FOS) Wall of Honor, located in the garden of the Slovak Embassy building, contains bronze plaques with the names of significant donors, who contributed to the promotion of better relations between the United States and Slovakia. FOS founding Chairman Theodore Russell was the first U.S. ambassador to Slovakia



Library of Congress. Numerous valuable documents important for Slovaks are housed here. Among them is the correspondence of Count Maurice Benyovszky (Móric Beňovský in Slovak), born in 1746 in the Austro-Hungarian Empire (Vrbovce, in today's Slovakia). Benyovszky personally negotiated with George Washington, the future president of the United States.

The White House, official residence and principal workplace of the president of the United States. Since the Velvet Revolution in November 1989, several Slovak personalities have been received here, namely all three Slovak Presidents – Michal Kováč, Rudolf Schuster and Ivan Gašparovič, as well as Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda.



The United States Congress. John Mica and Peter Visclosky are among congressmen of Slovak ancestry. Several other members with Slovak roots, among them Joe Sestak and Bart Stupak, served in Congress. Well-known Senator Claiborne Pell (died in 2009) established the U.S. Consulate General in Bratislava in 1948, and is well remembered in Slovakia.



National Portrait Gallery, formerly the Old Patent Office Building. Two Slovak inventors had their patents registered here – Jozef Murgaš of Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania (born in 1864 in Tajov, today Slovakia) patented the first wireless telegraphy and transmission between 1904-11 and Štefan Banič of Greenville, Pennsylvania (born in 1870 in Neštich-Smolencec, today Slovakia) patented the first actively used parachute in 1914.

In the National Portrait Gallery Andy Warhol's famous print of Marilyn Monroe is located in a prominent place. As is the case with many other Slovaks, Warhol's parents came to the USA, from the Slovak village of Miková, and settled in Pennsylvania.



M. R. Štefánik negotiated creation of the Czechoslovak legions at the Departments of State, War and Navy, then located in this building. Currently White House employees have their offices in this structure, known as the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.



Grave of the well-known diplomat Štefan Osuský (born in 1889 to a Slovak family in Brezová pod Bradlom, Austro-Hungarian Empire). This grave memorial is located at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Georgetown, on the right side at the entrance.



Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajčák (middle) and Ambassador of Slovakia to the United States Peter Burian (second from the left) together with Congressmen John Mica (second from the right), Joe Sestak (left), and Joe Wilson (right) at a gala dinner in Washington on November 18, 2009. Minister Lajčák received copy of the resolution adopted by Congress to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and praise the contributions of the Slovak and Czech Republics as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) in promoting and defending democracy and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and the Slovak and Czech Republics.

Pavol Demeš is an internationally recognized expert in the field of foreign affairs and civil society, based in Bratislava, Slovakia. He is, moreover, an accomplished photographer. He is grateful for the advice and help of a number of people who assisted with the preparation of this publication, namely: Peter Burian, Martin Bútora, Veronika Demešová, Oliver Gunovsky, Paul Hacker, Ann Johnson, Michal Kovács, Richard Kvasňovský, Slavomír Michálek, Miroslav Musil and Jana Svehlova.