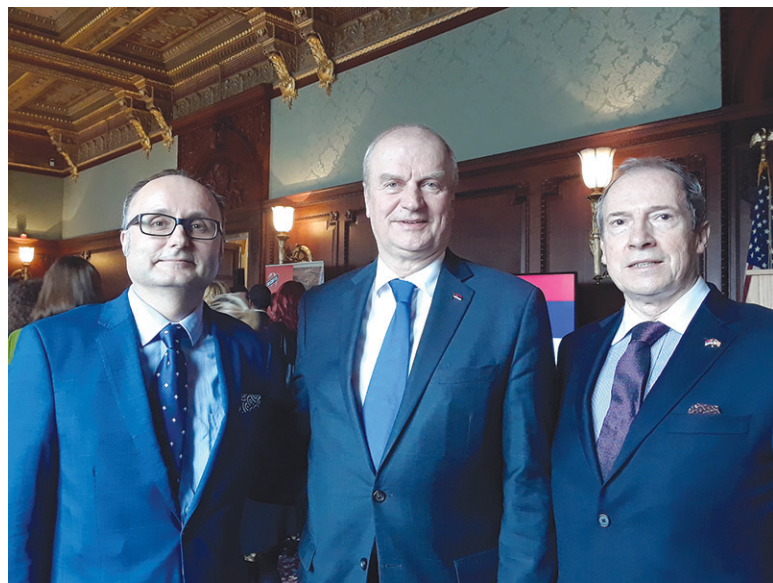


## SNF OPERATIONS STATUS, SEE PAGE 4



## CELEBRATION AT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

National Day of the Republic of Serbia

From left, Milos Rastovic, Cultural Outreach Coordinator of the SNF, H.E. Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the USA, and Djordje Jovanovic, Vice President of the Serbian National Defense Council of America for Eastern America

by Milos Rastovic

WASHINGTON, DC – On February 11th, a celebration of the National Day of the Republic of Serbia took place at the Library of Congress, sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with the Co-Chairs of the Serbian Congressional Caucus, the Honorable Steve Stivers, and the Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II.

The Republic of Serbia celebrates February 15th as an official Statehood Day, as both the beginning of the First Serbian Uprising against the Ottoman Empire took place in Orasac on that date in 1804, and the founding of the Candelmas or “Sretenje” Constitution in Kragujevac in 1835.

The event began with the singing of both Serbian and American anthems. At the opening of the ceremony, guests were welcomed by H.E. Mr. Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the United States. He praised Serbian achievements in politics,

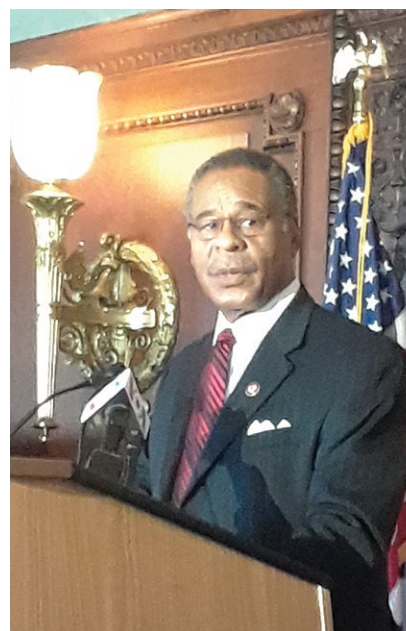
economy, science, culture and other fields of cooperation with the United States. The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II spoke kindly of his experience with Serbian people and food in his Congressional District in Missouri.

Luis E. Borunda, Deputy Secretary of State Maryland, said, “...the people of Maryland join together in appreciation of the mutual respect, admiration and friendship our great countries,” as he conferred the Governor’s Citation to Ambassador Matkovic.

Philip T. Reeker, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at U.S. State Department of State, emphasized the previous and current relationships between the United States and Serbia.

All guests at this wonderful reception had a chance to socialize while enjoying Serbian food.

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The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II



Luis E. Borunda, Deputy Secretary of State Maryland

## CLEVELAND’S SERBIAN HERITAGE NIGHT



Nikola Jokic with Serbian fans and Morava dancers



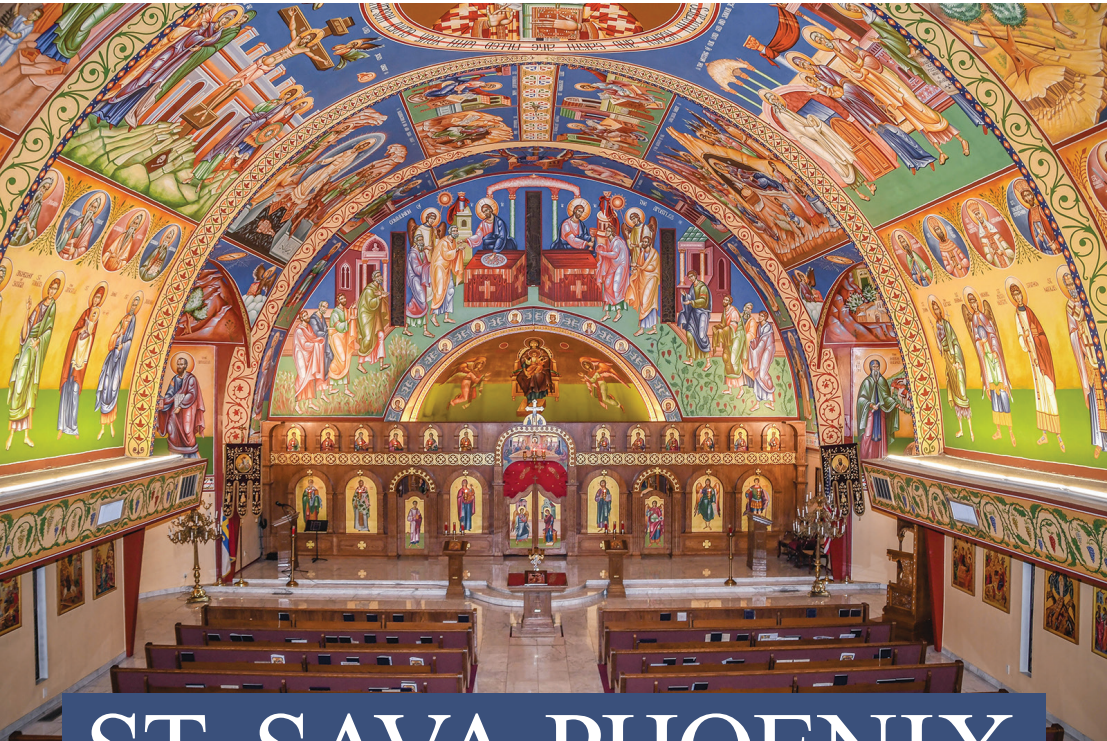
Morava performing in the Quicken Loan Arena



Dancers holding the American Flag

continued on page 11





# ST. SAVA PHOENIX

St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Phoenix was incorporated in 1958 by a small number of families who wanted to preserve their precious Orthodox faith and pass it on to future generations. Just three years later, in 1961, the church hall was built and was used for worship temporarily. The hall also hosted gatherings and fund raising functions with the ultimate goal of building a church. In 1974 the church was erected and the campus was nearly complete. Since that time, the church hall was expanded and an addition was used to house the church school classes.

“St. Sava Phoenix Parish has expanded from a few pioneering families to a few hundred parishioners on a weekly basis and over a few thousand Serbs and Orthodox faithful of other nationalities during the holidays of Easter and Christmas,” it says on their website [www.stsava.com](http://www.stsava.com).

From the early days, the St. Sava parish and local Serb National Federation Lodge have hosted numerous SNF tournaments and events, bringing people together in the Valley of the Sun. They have an annual Serb Fest that has gained a wide reputation for top entertainment and delectable foods. The Serbian Singing Society Stefan Hristic, Circle of Serbian Sisters, Senior Citizens and the talented dancers of the Gavril Princip Folklore Group are all an integral part of this parish. The parish also consists of affiliated groups, the Arizona Serbs Soccer Club, the Breze Ethno Vocal Group and the Arizona Serbian American Professional and Business Network.

St. Sava’s is located at 4436 East McKinley Street. Very Rev. Dragomir Tuba serves the community. “Our church is open to everyone and everyone is welcome.” Visit them.

Photo of interior by Jelena Mulin



# CELEBRATION AT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

continued from page 1  
After several centuries of Ottoman rule, the First Serbian Uprising against the Ottoman Empire was led by Karadjordje Petrovic in 1804. Although the First Serbian Uprising was broken, it gave Serbs the courage to continue their fight against the Ottoman Empire. In 1815, Milos Obrenovic, along with Serbian fighters, continued to fight in the so-called “Second Serbian Uprising” which resulted in the recognition of Serbia at the Berlin Congress in 1878.



Philip T. Reeker, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. State Department of State

On February 15, 1835, Duke Milos Obrenovic announced the first Serbian Constitution in Kragujevac, which was one of the first modern democratic constitutions in Europe. The Serbian Constitution expressed freedom of people and the end of feudal rules and autocracy. The Constitution served as the beginning in the development of the modern Serbian state.

Ambassador Matkovic



“Takovo Uprising” by Paja Jovanovic

# The State of Maryland

Governor of the State of Maryland, to

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. DERD MATKOVIĆ  
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA , Greetings:

Be it Known: That on behalf of the citizens of this State, in recognition of the joyful observance to honor and applaud the celebration of The National Day of the Republic of Serbia... with best wishes as we commemorate this important occasion; and as the people of Maryland join together in appreciation of the mutual respect, admiration and friendship our great countries share, we are pleased to confer upon you this

# Governor's Citation



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, this 11th day of February, Two Thousand and twenty

*[Signature]*  
Governor

*[Signature]*  
Lt. Governor

*[Signature]*  
Secretary of State