



Congressman David B. McKinley Recognized

On September 21, the Serb National Federation sponsored a virtual reception to honor Congressman David B. McKinley, P.E., the U.S. Representative of West Virginia's 1st District. Throughout the years, Congressman McKinley supported the Serb National Federation's activities and the Serbian-American community in the United States.

Milos Rastovic, served as Master of Ceremonies, and introduced the SNF Board Members, staff, and other distinguished guests to Congressman

McKinley by detailing his support of SNF activities.

The event began with both anthems of the United States and the Republic of Serbia performed by George Milosh. Milosh is a singer who holds a Bachelors Degree in Music in voice performance from the Boston Conservatory. He is currently working on his Master of Music Degree in voice performance at West Virginia University. He is one of the most promising young musicians in the region.

Dane A. Medich, President of the SNF, extended his gratitude to Congressman McKinley for his support of the Serbian people in the United States and the homeland. Medich said that Congressman McKinley is a tremendous asset to represent Serbian people in the US Congress, adding, "You are one of the best."

John Martich, Immediate Past President and Ad hoc Member of the Board of Directors, emphasized his

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SNF Launches YouTube Channel

WWW – As we all move, willingly or otherwise, toward the digital world of virtual meetings and instant international access, the SNF has followed suit by establishing their own YouTube channel.

One of the things that will comprise the content is a series of interviews by SNF Cultural Outreach Director Milos Rastovic. He begins by speaking with former President, Publisher and CEO of The Plain Dealer Alex Machaskee. Even in this electronic age, The Plain Dealer remains a pillar of Ohio journalism, and continues to publish seven days a week, and is delivered four days a week by a group of dedicated essential workers to

readers who still love the feel of a newspaper in their hands.

In this hour-long exchange, Machaskee explains his rise to the top of an exciting journalism career that opened doors throughout the world. He also speaks about his lifelong love of Serbian music and culture, his strong Orthodox faith, and the work he has done or tried to do to improve the image of Serbia to the world. His reputation for honesty and integrity shine through his words brightly. He does not hesitate to speak of missed opportunities and disappointing outcomes that could have made a world of difference. He also offers some strong

advice, particularly to young people, on how to move forward and what to hold onto along the way.

To his enormous credit, Rastovic did some intense research in preparing the stimulating questions he put to Machaskee, making the interview in depth.

The SNF YouTube channel will continue to expand by including more interviews of influential Serbs by Rastovic and other videos on or by SNF members and SNF life. Some technical difficulties during this first interview will be addressed in the future, reported Rastovic.

To visit and subscribe to the SNF YouTube Channel, search for "Serb National Federation" on YouTube or go directly to: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRFiVFa3iaUj5EbXg6bQYrw> Part of the success of the channel will rely on the number of subscribers.

For those who are not inclined to jump on their computer or phone, an article covering the interview of Alex Machaskee and written by Milos Rastovic will be published in a future issue.

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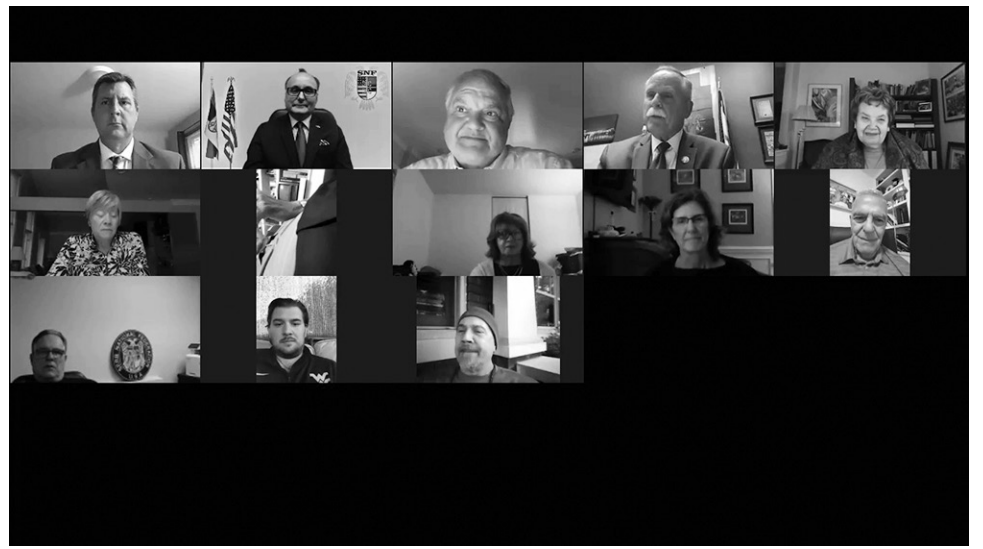
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relationship with Congressman McKinley, which has lasted over 20 years, beginning at a picnic at the Serbian grounds in Weirton. He mentioned that Congressman McKinley moved West Virginia in the right direction. Martich said, "Congressman McKinley comes to the Serbian picnic every year. He is a person who keeps his promise, and that is why we are gathered tonight. One of our SNF missions is to perpetuate our Serbian culture, tradition, and rich history in the United States. He personally made arrangements for the SNF to have a voice in Washington, D.C. He came with his staff members to the event '100 Years – When the Serbian Flag Flew over the White House' in 2018, which was the first foreign flag to do so. He and his staff accommodated each of our requests and provided a perfect venue to reach the entire U.S. Congress. If any members of the U.S. Congress had never

heard about Serbs, they heard that day. Congressman McKinley has ensured the SNF and Serbian people have a loud voice in the United States Congress."

The Honorable Alex Machaskee, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Serbia in the United States, corroborated those remarks. He stressed that Serbian people had not had a lot of support in the U S Congress since the late Senator George Voinovich who tried to promote both the United States and the well-being Serbs. He went on to say that Congressman McKinley is a "shining light" in terms of the relationships between the Serbian Diaspora, Serbia, and the United States. Rastovic cited the recognition bestowed on Congressman McKinley is for "his continuous effort to help the Serbian cause, positive impact on the reputation of Serbs in the United States, and promoting the relationship between Serbia and the United States."



Congressman McKinley thanked the Serb National Federation for his recognition, and for the opportunity to work with the SNF in its efforts to preserve Serbian heritage, tradition, and culture. He said that he missed the Serbian picnic in Weirton, WV, for the first time this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic: "The Serbian picnic reinforces the relationship and getting to know the people."

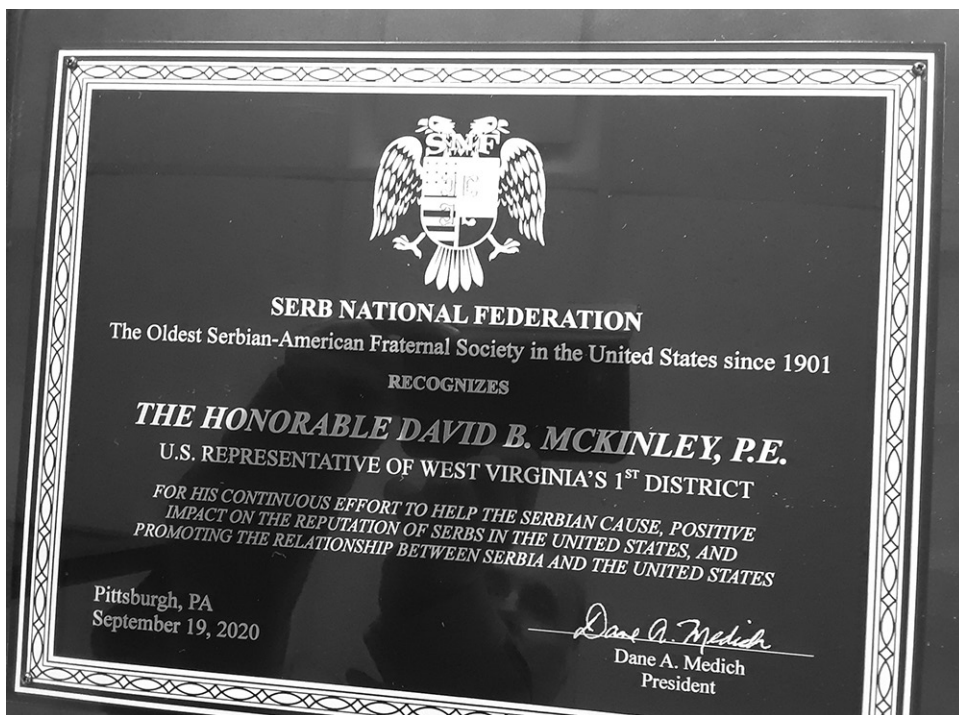
The SNF also presented Congressman McKinley with the book *The Serb National Federation First 100 Years* during the event, which he proudly displayed during the Reception: "That was the day when I met the Serbian Prime Minister...I am particularly honored that you include me as a part of your networking, friendship, and culture. We were able to do different events throughout the years. I love Serbian music and culture. The most important thing is your fellowship. "My wife, Mary, and I put Serbia on our bucket list. We will do the trip over there. If Serbia is all that you represent here, then I'd love to see the country. It is all about people in your organization.. People are genuine here, different than around the country. I see something genuine and authentic about the SNF. I am looking to continue this cooperation. Thank you for this recognition. I am optimistic about the relationship between Serbia and the United States."

Since January 3, 2011, Congressman McKinley has represented the 1st District of West Virginia. He graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Civil Engineering. After graduating, he worked in the construction industry as a certified professional engineer. He has over 51 years of experience as an engineer. He is the founder of McKinley and Associates, an architectural engineering firm. As one of two professional engineers in the U.S. Congress. As a Congressman he serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and is active in issues on the coal industry, environmental regulation, energy efficiency, and health care. He and his wife Mary have four children and six grandchildren.

Before the reception concluded, SNF Secretary Milana Milosh thanked Congressman McKinley for his leadership and enthusiasm. Milana Bizic, who was also in attendance, commented on the great value of the Congressman's spirit and offer to help.

The Serb National Federation congratulates Congressman McKinley for this recognition, and hopes that we will continue a successful cooperation in the future.

--Submitted by Milos Rastovic



MONACO ROYALTY IN BELGRADE

BELGRADE - The Office of the President of the Republic of Serbia announced that President Aleksandar Vucic welcomed Prince Albert II of Monaco on October 7 for an official visit designed to strengthen relations, further development and cooperation between the two nations. Vucic called it a historic step, adding that he asked not only "for additional support from Monaco in Serbia's European integration, but also the support of the Prince's family." It was Prince Albert II's first official visit to the Serbian capital.

An Agreement on Economic Cooperation was signed between the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and the Monaco Economic Board, which is expected to significantly contribute to strengthening economic cooperation and increasing trade between the two countries.

VIRTUAL TOUR

BELGRADE – If you have not yet visited the National Museum in Serbia's capital city, the pandemic may prevent you from doing so for a while yet. Either way, just as with other famous museums and art institutes throughout the world, the Serbia's Narodni Muzej is offering on its website a virtual tour through the exhibition dedicated to the work of Ivan Mestrovic (1883 – 1962). Go to www.stillinbelgrade.com and click on "Visit the virtual tour here" button.

