

# VIDOVDAN SUMMIT – HORIZON 2050

by Milos Rastovic

A virtual Vidovdan Summit of the Leaders of the Serbian-American Diaspora in the United States Horizon 2050 was sponsored by the American-Serbian Association for Prosperity (ASAP), Los Angeles, California, on June 27, 2020. They gathered together virtually to open a dialogue and create a new platform for united actions of Serbian-American organizations, societies, and distinguished individuals.

The event has three goals: to develop cooperation among Serbian-American organizations, societies, and distinguished individuals to perpetuate and preserve Serbian ethnic and cultural identity by working on the joint projects; strengthening the social and political influence of the Serbian-Americans in the United States; and developing and maintaining the relationship with the homeland and its representatives.

The event began by the intonation of both anthems of the United States and Serbia. The chairmen were Marina Schwabic, ASAP President, and the Honorable Branko Terzic, Royal Adjutant and Member of the Privy Council of HRH Crown Prince Alexander Karadjordjevic of Serbia.

Opening remarks included these comments: "We are privileged to have at this virtual Summit the most important and successful group of Serbian Diaspora leaders, who have contributed to the Serbian American community over the last 30 years, as well as the younger generation, which we expect to carry the torch of success for the next 30 years. While we

have all previously acted independently, the time has come to work together and dedicate ourselves to establishing effective partnerships, coalitions, and alliances. We have a long way to go before Horizon 2050 – but this is not a sprint; this is a marathon. Our mantra will be and will remain: 'Only unity will save the Serbs.'"

Terzic added, "The importance and significance of the remembrance tomorrow of the Battle of Kosovo, which occurred 631 years ago, cannot be ignored. Let us consider how Vidovdan was described in 1915 by the great Serbian diplomat and public servant Count Cedomir Mijatovich in his book *The Memoirs of a Balkan Diplomatist* (Cassell & Co. London and New York 1917):

*"I would not be a true Serb if I did not carry, in the purest sphere of my soul, the associations of Kosovo...What is Kosovo? ...for us Serbs Kosovo is much less a geographical and strategic term than a term of our national psychology, a term announcing a historical synthesis, proclaiming to the world that the Serbs have been able to transform a military defeat into a moral victory, to develop a national tragedy into a national glory."*

*"The bloody Battle of Kosovo on June 15, 1389 (o.s.) between the Turks under Sultan Murad I and the Serbians under Tsar Lazar, exercised a deep and lasting influence on the Serbian nation...The Serbs went to Kosovo to fight "...for the Holy Cross and Golden liberty" (Za Krst časn i slobodu zlatnu)... Contemporary bards ...have described the battle and its most striking incidents in songs, of which many portions have been preserved from*

*century to century...In that way the battle of Kosovo has been re-acted before the eyes of Serbs of every generation."*

"The words of the bard's epic poetry about the various incidents of the battle of Kosovo have inspired not only generations of Serbs, but global literary figures such as Germany's Johan Wolfgang von Goethe and the early 19th century British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Lord Bulwer-Lytton. Writing under his pen name of Owen Meredith, Bulwer-Lytton translated some of the cycle of Kosovo poems into English. The translations were published in 1864 as 'Serbski Pesme – The Battle of Kosovo.' We open and dedicate this meeting to the memory of our ancestors who fought on that day in 1389 and to the many generations of our ancestors who, during the most difficult oppression, slavery and genocide preserved and treasured the struggle 'Za Krst časn i slobodu zlatnu.'"

## An extract from THE BATTLE OF KOSOVO

There resteth to Serbia a glory,  
A glory shat shall not grow old;  
There remaineth to Serbia a story,  
A tale to be chanted and told!  
They are gone to their graves grim and gory,  
The beautiful, brave and bold;  
But of the darkness and desolation,  
Of the mourning heart of a widow'd nation,  
Their memory waketh an exultation!  
Yea so long as a babe shall be born,  
Or there resteth a man in the land-  
So long as a blade of corn  
Shall be reapt by a human hand-  
So long as the grass shall grow

On the mighty plain of Kosovo-  
So long, so long, even so,  
Shall the glory of those remain  
Who this day in battle were slain."

Participants discussed current challenges, initiatives, and opportunities for partnership and cooperation among Serbian-American organizations and the homeland. The Summit was attended by the following Serbian-American organizations, societies, and distinguished individuals: American-Serbian Association for Prosperity, Serb National Federation, Serbian-American Leadership Conference, Serbian National Defense Council of America, Serbs for Serbs, Tesla Science Foundation, Serbian Entrepreneurs as well as the Honorable Alex Machaskee, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Serbia, David Vuich, the Honorary President of the Tesla Science Foundation, Obrad Kesic, Director of the Republic of Srpska Office for Cooperation, Trade and Investment, Steve Radakovich, Businessman, Milo Stevanovic, a candidate for the U.S. Congress, Desko Nikitovic, Former General Consul of the Republic of Serbia in Chicago, IL, among others.

Ms. Schwabic emphasized that the "Serbian Diaspora ecosystem has a rich tradition, but it is still a wide-open and uncharted territory that needs new leadership. There is space for all of us, but if we can unite our efforts and harmonize, coordinate, and support each other, we can turnaround the game we are losing. It is high time to set our differences aside and congregate under one umbrella. I am very thankful for your overwhelming response. I can see - that among those as-





ASAP President Marina Schwabic

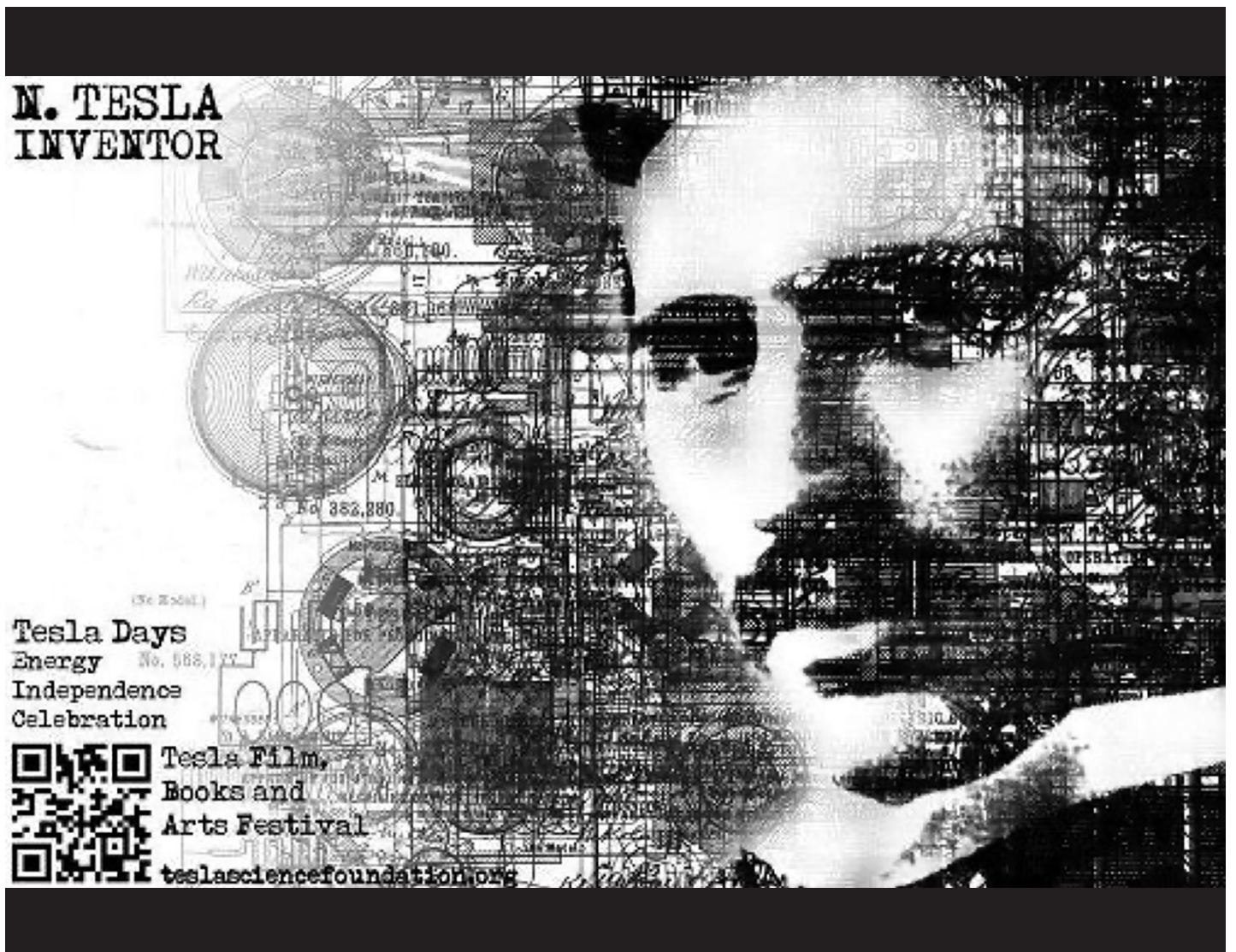
Hon. Branko Terzic



sembled here tonight - is a widely diverse array of Serbian Diaspora leaders - each with amazingly important initiatives and organizations or circle of influence ready to help our nation flourish. We span political, gender, economic, geographic, and generational spectrums...I suggest we try to build on each other's talents, capabilities, initiatives, and achievements so that jointly we can achieve triumphant success, the one we deserve for centuries - something that we lost 631 years ago at the Kosovo battle and we must reclaim now - or we will perish. That is why our common mantra should remain: 'Samo Sloga Srbina Spasava' - in unity we flourish, otherwise, we perish...We have taken it upon ourselves to openly discuss what actions we can individually and collectively take to promote the overall well-being and sustainability of the Serbian Cause now as we strategize a more robust and engaged Diaspora ecosystem - and finally establish an umbrella organization - formed as a network of mighty peer-organizations as we look up to a Horizon 2050."

It is planned that a summit of the Serbian-American Diaspora Horizon 2050 will take place several times a year. Ms. Schwabic concluded, "Vidovdan, the official Day of Serbian-American Diaspora, was a great opportunity for Serbian-American Diaspora leaders, influencers, and the power-brokers to assemble with a common purpose defined under the three goals above. Starting with an open, proactive dialog on challenges Serbs face on a day-to-day basis, and what opportunities are available to Serbs in the ever-changing 21st Century, it is the aim of this event to ideate on how to build a stronger Serbian Diaspora ecosystem over the next 30 years and beyond."

# Tesla's birthday marked with Zoom celebration



If Serbian scientist and inventor Nikola Tesla had a biblical lifespan, he'd be celebrating his 164th birthday this year. His fans continue to honor his life by reminding us of the debt we owe him and how his ideas are still relevant today in this coronavirus age.

Professor Michael Pravica (of Henderson, Nevada and member of SNF Lodge #195 Sv. Djurdj/Chicago) needs little introduction as the scientist who has done much to further the Serbian cause in the US and keep Nikola Tesla's bright light burning. Along with the Tesla Science Foundation and others, a Zoom presentation was arranged for Saturday 11th July.

The Zoom celebration reportedly included a variety of presentations and demonstrations honoring the life and

legacy of Tesla in modern science and education. Dr. Pravica spoke of How Tesla's Ideas May Help Solve COVID-19. A live Q&A followed.

Prof. Michael Pravica is an experimental condensed matter physicist and spectroscopist who earned his B.S. from Caltech and his Masters and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard University. He is currently a professor of physics at the University of Nevada Las Vegas where he is developing useful hard x-ray photochemistry as a means to drive novel chemistry by harnessing the highly ionizing and highly penetrating properties of hard x-rays.

## How Tesla's ideas may help solve COVID-19

"Nikola Tesla taught humanity about

the importance of resonance in nature. Like opening a door with the right key, by knowing and applying the resonance frequencies of natural systems, one could enable dramatic changes in these systems for better or for worse," said Dr. Pravica. "For the past three months, I have been developing three ideas pertaining to defeating the novel coronavirus and patients suffering from COVID-19 using resonant x-rays and sound waves as a means to damage the coronavirus in the hopes of creating a high quality vaccine, and help improve lung function in COVID-19 patients." His presentation described these ideas and discussed how they relate to Tesla's concepts of resonance.

SOURCE:  
BRITIC, the British Serb Magazine,  
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## SNF SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Brian Pyevich-\$350.00  
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