

**Greetings of Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States**  
**H.E. Petr Kolář**

Spectabilis, Ambassadors, Mr. President, my dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased that we gathered here today and privileged to speak to this SVU elite group of people, who promote the Czech Republic and its interests in the world, by their activities, by their credit, and by their intellectual abilities, for which they are respected in their own communities.

I am very proud that I can consider myself to be your friend, one of you, one that has so many common interests with those of yours, as I learned during my numerous visits to your various SVU Chapters as the Ambassador representing the Czech Republic in the United States of America, our most strategic ally, a country with which we share common values as well as most of foreign policy priorities.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy indeed that we are meeting in the southern part of Bohemia, my birthplace! So I am welcoming you at home! In this regard, may I also suggest that apart from work, attending panels and discussions, I hope that you will enjoy the beauties of Southern Bohemia and that by visiting the fabulous places around here you will be able to struck the right balance between intellectual and cultural enlightenment. I wish you a very pleasant stay!

Thank you and, once again: welcome!