

# ◆ Floridian Slovak ◆

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Floridský Slovák

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 48th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE SLOVAK GARDEN, A HOME FOR AMERICAN SLOVAKS, INC.

March 6, 2000

Dear Members, Directors, Guests and Residents of the Slovak Garden,

I would like to welcome you to our 48th Annual Slovak Garden Convention. It is my great pleasure and honor to speak to you today once again.

We all have many reasons to be here today.

Thanks to our great country, which was established by our ancestors who were seeking freedom

many years ago, the Slovak people can continue

preserving their heritage, language and customs. This uniquely formed and very diverse nation sets an example for all countries around the world. It sets an example of how people should live in peace and harmony, regardless where they come from, their customs or religion. Each individual or

group can choose his or her role in this society.

A married couple from Kosice, John and Mary Jergo, founded the Slovak Garden in 1939. They donated their savings of \$10,000.00 and invested it into an organization with an uncertain future. They did it simply because they placed their trust in us and hoped that we would continue with their dream. Their dream was to build a place where all Slovak people that need help could live together peacefully. At the same time, continuing their customs, promoting the Slovak language and listening to the heartbeat of this country.

They left this place for us without any argument or conditions. They did not expect any money in return. Their only dream was to preserve the Slovak Garden for many generations. Do we have a right to tear it to pieces, or do we have a moral obligation to preserve it? I often

hear comments about the "Floridský Slovák" concerning articles written in the

Slovak language. Dear fellow Slovak American brothers, please understand that this organization has a responsibility to promote the Slovak language of your parents and grand parents. They loved it so much that many gave up their lives during the Hungarians suppression of the Slovak people. Individuals like your parents and



*Pani Zora Dutorová, veľvyslanec Slovenskej Republiky v USA Martin Butora a Frank Rudzik predsedu Slovenskej záhrady*

### *Na ďalších stránkach sa dočítate:*

Príhovor predsedu Slovenskej Záhrady

Slovenský veľvyslanec Martin Butora a kozmonaut Ivan Bella v Slovenskej záhrade

Traditional Slovak Easter Foods

Zaujímavosti zo sveta kultúry a športu