ANNOUNCEMENT

Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship 2027

This $5,000 scholarship is granted by Milady "Bunny" Blaha, the eldest child of Albert J. Blaha, founder of the Czech Heritage Society of Texas (CHS), to a graduating Texas high school senior or college, university or vocational/technical school first-year student of Czech descent. Primary qualification (unlimited points) is high school-age Czech heritage-related involvement. Proof of registration and student ID number at a college, university or vocational/technical school is required of the selectee prior to disbursement of the financial award which will be made to the school, not directly to the selectee. Applicants must have less than 30 post-high school credit hours to be eligible.

NOTE: CHS of Texas awards two scholarships each year: the Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship and the Victor Peter Memorial Scholarship. Applicants may apply to both but will be limited to receiving one award. Follow these requirements carefully. Items submitted for Peter Scholarship may not meet these requirements. Please tell us how you learned of this scholarship (not required).

Please submit the following: (All personal documents and, preferably, attestations and recommendations as well are to be in Times New Roman font, 14-point, single-spaced, one-sided, with one-inch margins. Title each page. No excess pages.)

1. One cover sheet with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address; high school name, address, and phone number; college name, address, phone number and student ID number.
2. Copy of final official high school transcript (preferably State of Texas Academic Achievement Record) or college, university or vocational/technical school transcript.
3. Documentation of your Czech heritage/lineage origin. Two pages maximum. On busy pages, circle or highlight items relevant to your lineage. Possible ideas:
   - Family tree or lineage back to Czechoslovakia or Czech Republic (with first and last names, birth and death dates, and village or region of origin as much as possible) (This may be an existing document or created by the applicant).
   - Birth or baptismal certificate, passport, visa, or immigration record of ancestor(s) showing country of origin.
   - Immigration ship manifest showing name(s) of ancestor(s) and country of origin.
4. Two letters of recommendation only (200 words or less each): 1) one from a teacher, counselor, employer or other cognizant adult attesting to your academic or vocational/technical promise; 2) one from a cognizant adult attesting to your interest and involvement in Czech heritage. (Letters not from parents) (No extra letters)
5. An original 100-200-word essay describing: 1) what your Czech heritage means to you; 2) your planned or current studies in a college, university, or vocational/technical school; 3) your intended career; and 4) why you should be selected.
6. An original 500-600-word essay discussing: the difference between Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, when the change occurred and why; Jan Hus, his legacy, the Hussites, their beliefs; Cyril and Methodius and their legacy; when and why Protestants (Hussites, Moravians, Brethren) emigrated from Czechoslovakia; when and why Catholics emigrated; percentages of various religions or non-religious people in the Czech Republic today.
7. A numbered list of ways in which you have been involved with Czech heritage activities while in high school. Include one numbered piece of evidence only (e.g., copied photo or program) or one attestation (150 words or less from one cognizant adult, not a parent) for each item. You may include more than one item per page. No loose photos. Possible ideas:
   - Take Czech language or history lessons.
   - Interview a senior (80 or more years) person of Czech descent about his/her life or parents' lives.
   - Help clean up or mow a cemetery with Czech graves.
   - Membership in CHS. Submit attestation that you are a dues-paying member and have attended 2 meetings.
   - Organize, volunteer with or actively participate in a Czech-related program, e.g., the CHS Queen Pageant, a Czech celebration, festival, play, polka band, or dance group.
   - Make kolache, klobase, or other traditional Czech food.
   - Visit the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCHCC), the Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogy Center, Czech painted churches of Texas, or another Czech center, museum or historic site.
   - Attend a Czech festival, program, pageant, play, other Czech event.

You may list more than one activity of the same type. You may list activities of other types. In photos, any historical markers, signs, etc. must be legible to count for points; state the Czech heritage significance in caption if not obvious. No AI essays!

Do not submit SAT or ACT scores, a resume' or any other documents not requested. All items must be submitted (recommend obtaining a tracking number) and received in one envelope via USPS, FedEx, or UPS no later than March 7, 2027, at:

The Czech Heritage Society of Texas
Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship
Attn: Kyle Stuckly
712 Mosley Rd
Ennis, TX 75119

Revised Aug 2026