

SPJST (January Vestnik Project) - Learning About Our Heritage

This project earns 1 point in the SPJST Youth Clubs Merit Points System. Mail completed project no later than February 10, 2009 to:
SPJST Youth Program c/o SPJST Home Office • P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503

Name _____ Age _____ Lodge _____

Learning About Our Heritage Teaches Us About American Values

What is your heritage? Do you know where your grandparents and great grandparents came from? Some of us know the continent — Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America or Australia. Others of us can be more specific and know the country or even the town within the country. Learning about your family's heritage and the cultural heritage of others can help you develop a greater awareness and appreciation for our American way of life.

The SPJST includes men, women, boys and girls of many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Still, in the SPJST, we talk a lot about Czech heritage because it was Texas pioneers of Czech background who established the SPJST in 1897. Even so, they weren't the first Czechs in America. Augustine Herrman, the first known immigrant from Bohemia — which is part of the present-day Czech Republic — came to New Amsterdam — present-day New York — in the employment of the West India Company in 1633. He became a surveyor and one of the founders of the Virginia tobacco trade. Ever since then, Czechs have been contributing to the American way of life.

High Achievers Honored

On November 18, two American astronauts of Czech heritage, Captain Eugene Cernan and Captain James Lovell were honored by the American Friends of the Czech Republic in Houston, Texas for the bravery and selflessness that they displayed on their missions to the moon. Captain Cernan was the second American to walk in space and the last to walk the moon. Born March 14, 1934, he was a crew



Captain Cernan

member on the Gemini 9 (1966), Apollo 10 (1969) and Apollo 17 (1972) missions. Cernan wrote the initials of his daughter, Tracy, in the lunar dust before leaving the moon. He is one of only three men to have visited the moon twice — the others are Jim Lovell and John Young. His last trip was with the Moonwalker expedition (Apollo 17, December 1972). His autobiography is called *Last Man on the Moon*. Cernan was born in Chicago of a Czech mother and a Slovak father. He attended Purdue University.

James A. Lovell, Jr. was born March 25, 1928. He is most famous as the commander of Apollo 13, which suffered an explosion on the way to the moon. After a tense delay, Apollo 13 was brought back safely to Earth. In the film, *Apollo 13*, Lovell is played by Tom Hanks. He is the only man to have flown to the moon twice without making a landing. Lovell was born in Cleveland to a Czech mother. They later moved to Milwaukee. An Eagle Scout, he attended the University of Wisconsin. After two years he transferred to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Later, he fought in Korea.



Captain Lovell

After reading the story, please answer the following true or false questions.

1. The SPJST includes men, women, boys and girls of many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. True False
2. On November 18, two American astronauts of Czech heritage were honored in Los Angeles, California. True False
3. Captain Cernan was the first American to walk on the moon. True False
4. Captain Lovell is most famous as the commander of Apollo 17. True False