



## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Péter Balázs has appointed Mr. Nick Bartsch to be Hungary's Honorary Consul to Sacramento with jurisdiction over the Metropolitan Area of Sacramento. The appointment expresses how important is the capital of the State of California for Hungary. The appointment has officially been announced by Ambassador Balázs Bokor, Hungary's Consul General to Los Angeles.

Nicholas Bartsch was born in Budapest, Hungary. His mother was teaching at an elementary school, his father was a tax attorney in the Hungarian Finance Ministry. He was elected by his colleagues to the revolutionary council of the Finance Ministry during the 1956 uprising. The family had to flee Hungary in early December 1956 because the family feared he would be arrested by the returning Communists.

Following a short stay in an Austrian refuge camp, the family was admitted to the United States and settled in Pittsburgh, PA, where he completed high school and began college at the University of Pittsburgh. At this time Mr. Bartsch became a proud citizen of the United States. When his family moved to Minneapolis, he transferred to the University of Minnesota, where he received a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in international relations/trade. He covered his college expenses from scholarships and part-time jobs.

After receiving college diplomas, he worked for Cargill (a Minneapolis-based international commodities firm) for five years as broker/analyst in Minneapolis, New York City and Sacramento. During this time, he also fulfilled his military obligation by serving in the U.S. Army. When Cargill was going to transfer him from Sacramento to Omaha, he decided to stay in Sacramento and accepted a position with the California Legislature as a budget/economic analyst/consultant. He spent over 20 years in that position which gave him complete familiarity with California's administrative, fiscal, policy, advocacy and political systems, as well as the opportunity to develop and maintain valuable professional connections. In 1994, he accepted a manager position in the Executive Office of the California Energy Commission (CEC) as an economic/energy development adviser. This position gave him the opportunity to establish and foster international contacts and cooperative agreements between California economic and energy concerns (private as well as public) and their foreign counterparts, especially in the emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in Southeast Asia.

During the last 15 years, he has often assisted foreign consulates in California with establishing and expanding academic, business, cultural, energy, and tourism connections and relations between their respective countries and California. He retired from the CEC April 2009. Currently, he is co-owner (with his wife, Peggy) and managing partner of Bartsch and Associates, a Sacramento-based financial and management company. He is a Certified Financial Planner®, owner and manager of rental properties, as well as part-time adviser/advocate for a local alternative energy/fuel association. He also continues his work to foster California's international connections, concentrating on Central/Eastern Europe.

Ten years ago he helped to organize and became vice-president of the Hungarian-American Club of Sacramento. Currently, he is president of the Inland International Trade Association, Inc. (IITAI) and the Northrop Estates Owners' Association, as well as a member of the Sacramento World Affairs Council and the Northern California Financial Planning Association.