



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
BUCHAREST • ROMANIA

November 2010



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American Citizen Services eNewsletter

NOVEMBER 11- *A DAY TO REMEMBER*

VETERANS DAY

By Taylor Weinman



*Representing the red, white and blue
The colors of our flag stand out proud and true.
The white stars on blue background with red and white stripes
Remind me of these veterans, who all risked their lives.
Just so the people of the U.S. could all live in peace and be free
These are the heroes that represent you and me.
They stood up strongly, united as one,
And kept up the fighting until they were done.
And although some have fallen, and lost their lives in war,
We pray for each one of them.
And now that their souls live on forever more,
Above in God's hands.
They watch over our nation,
And give us strength to triumph over others with strong anticipation.
So every year, when this day comes by,
Think of all the veterans that while fighting, had to die.
And remember that they were people
With fire and passion embedded inside.
They die for this country,
So remember and honor them with pride.*



All **non-emergency** ACS services (renewal of U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and notarial) are provided by appointment **ONLY**.

Please visit our website - <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html> - to make an appointment.

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Address: St. Filipescu 26, Bucharest

E-mail: acsbucharest@state.gov

Tel: +40- 21- 200 3300

Fax: +40- 21- 200 3578

In the event of an emergency involving an American citizen, please, call +40-21-200-3433

For information about public hours, please visit <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html>.



U.S. PASSPORT CARD



On July 14, 2008, the Department of State began production of the U.S. Passport Card.

The passport card is the wallet-size travel document that can only be used to re-enter the United States at *land border-crossings and sea ports-of-entry* from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. The card provides a less expensive, smaller, and convenient alternative to the passport book for those who travel frequently to these destinations by land or by sea.

The passport card is as secure as current technology permits. Laser engraving and state-of-the-art security features minimize the possibility of counterfeiting and forgery. The card is issued with a protective sleeve that prevents the card from being read when not in use. To increase speed, efficiency, and security at U.S. land and sea border crossings, the passport card contains a vicinity-read radio frequency identification (RFID) chip. **There is no personal information written to the RFID chip.** This chip simply points to a stored record in secure government databases.

All U.S. citizens may apply for a passport card. In fact, as of March 2010, more than 2,700,000 Passport Cards have been issued to U.S. citizens. If you have a U.S. passport book and are eligible to use [Form DS-82](#), you may apply for the card by mail. You can use [Form DS-82](#) to renew your passport book **at the same time that you apply for your passport card.** If you have never had a U.S. passport book or are not eligible to use Form DS-82, you must apply in person using [Form DS-11](#).

If you are interested in how to apply for the passport card at the Embassy in Bucharest, please visit our website at <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/passportcard.html>.

INTERNATIONAL SCAMS: AVOID BEING FOOLED

By Michelle Bernier-Toth, Director of American Citizen Services in the Bureau of Consular Affairs

“U.S. citizens lose upwards of a quarter of a billion dollars annually in [international financial scams](#). Victims report to us that they meet scammers in chat rooms and on all the well known dating websites. Scammers are also found on special-interest sites for Christian singles, widows, or singles with disabilities. Unfortunately, not even the most reputable sites are guaranteed to be scam-proof.



Anyone can become a victim of a scam, regardless of age, sex, race, education or economic status. From our experience, those most at risk are the elderly, the disabled, and those who are overly empathetic. Romance scams make up close to 80 percent of the incidents we see, making them the most common one we encounter in our work. Many scams targeting women tend to be from West Africa and South America, while many scams aimed at men are generated out of Asia. Many of the scams appear to occur on Friday evenings or weekends, when government offices are closed...

Other scams we see include alleged business ventures or bank holdings. Although a number of these scams are sourced in several West African countries, it seems that much of the money is being sent to Nigeria. Each week, the U.S. consulate in *Lagos, Nigeria* receives about 200 e-mails and 50 phone calls related to scams that average losses of about \$4,500 per victim. However, scams can come from anywhere in the world. The FBI regularly publishes new e-scams and warnings [here](#).

If you, or someone you know, needs [emergency assistance abroad](#), you may call our overseas citizens services line at **1-888-407-4747**, or if you are overseas you may call **202-501-4444**. In addition, you should report scams to: [Internet Crime Complaint Center](#).”

If you are interested in reading the complete article, please visit http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/avoid_international_scams.

BASIC INTERNET SAFETY FOR KIDS

The Internet is a wonderful place for learning and entertainment, but like the world around us, it can pose dangers if precautions are not taken. Allowing free access puts your child, your computer and your personal data at risk.

The National Cyber Security Alliance's k-12 Working group, that meets monthly to discuss cyber security and teaching our young people online safety, developed some tips for parents. *Follow those links to learn how to:*

[Remain positively engaged.](#)

[Support their good choices.](#)

[Protect your hardware.](#)

[Know the protection features...](#)

[Review the privacy settings...](#)

[Teach critical thinking.](#)

[Explain the implications.](#)

[Help them be good digital citizens.](#)

[Just saying "no" rarely works.](#)

[Empower your children to handle problems...](#)

[Encourage your children to be "digital leaders."](#)

[Additional ways to keep your children safer and more secure online...](#)

[For emergencies...](#)

[Additional Resources for Parents...](#)

Read more at <http://www.staysafeonline.org/in-the-home/basic-internet-safety-kids> and stay safe online!

Expatriate Community in Romania



New in town? Even if you've been here a while, you may be looking for new friends in Romanian expatriate community. Check these out!

<http://www.internations.org/expats/members/romania/bucharest/americans>

<http://www.expatsromania.com/>

<http://www.expatriate-blog.com/en/directory/europe/romania/>

http://www.alloexpat.com/romania_expatriate_forum/



TRAVEL.STATE.GOV

A SERVICE OF THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
U.S. Department of State

MEET OUR *NEW* TRAVEL.STATE.GOV!

Did you know that you can check the status of your passport application online, if you visit **Travel.State.Gov**, a public website of the State Department Bureau of Consular Affairs?

All you need to do is input your last name, date of birth, and the last four of your social security number and *voilà!* Here's the link, try it yourself:

http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/status/status_2567.html

As part of the Department's continuing efforts to better communicate consular information to the public, CA launched its completely re-designed website several months ago. Our webmasters tried to make it look and "feel" better, they fixed some navigation tools to make information search processes friendlier. Check it out and let us now what you think!

- [*Questions about passport application?*](#)
- [*Want to know the difference between a Travel Alert and Travel Warning?*](#)
- [*Would like to find an answer to a legal question?*](#)

All that *and more* is available on <http://travel.state.gov/>

As always, if you have questions and/or suggestions, please, don't hesitate to email us at ACSBu-charest@state.gov.

The mission of the Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) is to protect the lives and interests of American citizens abroad and to strengthen the security of United States borders through the vigilant adjudication of visas and passports.

CA issues the travel documents that allow Americans to travel the globe and lawful immigrants and visitors to travel to America and provides essential services to American citizens overseas.



**SIGN UP FOR TRAVEL INFO
[HERE](#)**

IT'S ALMOST THANKSGIVING: WHAT ARE WE THANKFUL FOR?



From your fellow Americans:

- “With so many troubles and stresses that go on in day to day life, it's great to sit and focus on what one has rather than what we don't. I am grateful for my life..”
- “I am thankful for my family...”
- “This Thanksgiving, I am thankful for my success, good health, and for my lord who watches over me. I am forever grateful for my family and friends...”
- “Some people are always looking for more to be thankful for. If they could just look around them and see what they already have, they may see they have plenty in their lives to be thankful for. The material things I can do without. To me my family is everything...”
- “I'm thankful for my pets Daisy, Blake, and Tiger which can always make me smile no matter what kind of day I'm having. I'm also thankful that in this struggling economy, that me and my husband both have jobs to go to, cars in which to get there, and a home to live in ...”
- “Thanksgiving is about learning to be kind to your fellow man and be thankful for the little things in life that you have been blessed with. I love that organizations like The Salvation Army try to gather non-perishable goods for those less fortunate. It makes me feel good inside that each little can I donate is making a difference in someone's life for one day. Thanksgiving gives me the motivation to be much more selfless and appreciative...”

Happy Thanksgiving!

For the remaining 2010, the Embassy will be closed on Nov 11, Nov 25, Dec 1, Dec 24 and Dec 31 in observance of U.S. and Romanian official holidays.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CORNER: *“What we can and cannot do for you”*

We **CAN** assist you with a variety of passport and birth registration services; registration in the Warden System for potential evacuation; provide notary and authentication services, provide list of local attorneys and doctors; provide public announcements and travel warnings; assist with transfer of funds in case of temporary destitution; visit incarcerated U.S. citizens and contact designated family members; assist next-of-kin in death cases; attempt to locate missing persons in *Romania*; relay emergency messages to and from family back home; provide voting information; provide federal tax forms; provide information on the Selective Service System; help you obtain a social security number; liaise with agencies on federal benefits; provide forms to process immigrant visas for non-U.S. citizen family members; provide general information on Romanian government visa requirements.

We **CANNOT** assist you as a travel, employment or real estate agent; locate lost property; prepare tax returns; prepare translations; issue U.S. birth/marriage/death certificates; issue U.S. police records; renew or replace driver's license; collect or forward mail or packages; cash checks; provide legal advice or intervene in judicial cases; locate or provide information on persons in the *United States*; divulge information on U.S. citizens registered with the Embassy.

As always, if you have any questions or require additional clarification, please, email us at ACSBucharest@state.gov.

