



# POLISH AMERICAN News



April 2024

## Polish American Cultural Center Museum

308 Walnut Street - Philadelphia, PA 19106



The Museum Exhibit Hall, established in 1988, is a focal point for tourists visiting America's Most Historic Square Mile. Annually millions of tourists visit Historic Philadelphia, where America's Independence began. The Polish American Cultural Center Museum is proud to be the only Polish related institution located on an American Historic Trail, just 3 blocks from Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and other historic area sites.



You're Invited to Visit the  
**Polish American Cultural Center Museum**  
308 Walnut Street (3rd & Walnut Streets)  
in Historic Philadelphia, PA

**Open Admission Free**

**Monday through Friday  
11 A.M. to 4 P.M.**

(215) 922-1700 • Internet:

[PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com)

**Everyone is invited • Welcome - Witamy!**

### The Museum Exhibit Hall Features:

- Polish and Polish American History and Customs
- Great Men and Women of Polish Heritage
- Pictorial Display of Actual World War II Photos
- First Polish Settlers in America on October 1, 1608
- Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791

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### Greetings to Polonia

from the



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308 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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[PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com)

**April 2024**

Read the Polish American News Online at:  
[PolishAmericanNews.com](http://PolishAmericanNews.com)

## Remembering the life of Pope John Paul the Great

See timeline of his life on pages 11 and 12 of this newspaper.

### Pope John Paul The Great A Historic Pontificate • 1978-2005



Holy Father of the Universal Catholic Church • 1978 to 2005  
 Born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920  
 Entered the Seminary in 1941  
 Ordained a Priest on November 1, 1946  
 Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Krakow in July, 1958  
 Appointed Archbishop of Krakow in December, 1963  
 Elevated to Cardinal of the Catholic Church on May 29, 1967  
 Elected as Holy Father of the Universal Catholic Church on October 16, 1978  
 Died at His Vatican Home in Rome on Saturday, April 2, 2005  
 Beatified on May 1, 2011  
 Announcement of Canonization Approval, July, 2013  
 Canonized a Saint of the Catholic Church, April 27, 2014



From the Desk of Michael Blichasz

Dear Supporters of the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia,

We are working to make the **91st Annual Pulaski Day Parade** scheduled for **Sunday, October 6, 2024**, on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Center City Philadelphia, a success this year.

The Pulaski Day Parade is a community-wide event that brings many people and organizations together to celebrate Polish History, Culture and Pride. As always your participation is very important.

During the **91st Annual Pulaski Day Parade**, we will highlight the music and dances that have united Poland and Polish Americans for centuries. We also will mark the **416th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Polish Settlers in America and the 43rd Anniversary of October as Polish American Heritage Month.**

For now, kindly mark **Sunday, October 6th** on your calendar and look for additional information to be announced on the Polish American Radio Program and in the Polish American News.

Thanks to all Pulaski Day Parade divisions and promoters. Please help us maintain this outstanding community tradition which will be televised on **WPVI TV6 ABC.**

Working together we always accomplish great things for Polish American heritage and the proud history and culture we represent.

If you have any questions or suggestions kindly forward them to me at **Michael@PolishAmericanCenter.com** or call me at **215-922-1700**. On behalf of the Pulaski Day Parade committee, I wish you and yours the very best.



**2701 E. Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19134**  
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For additional hours and locations, visit William Penn Bank on the Internet at: **www.WilliamPenn.Bank**

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# Looking Forward to Welcoming You to Visit America's Most Historic Square Mile

## Bus Groups Welcome at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum



Philadelphia welcomes many bus groups and tour groups visiting the Historic District every day. If you are planning a group tour to Philadelphia, be sure to visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum at 308 Walnut Street and the Kosciuszko House at 3rd and Pine Streets.

When you make your plans, call the Museum in advance so that a representative can greet your group and give them a tour.

Call the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, Monday through Friday, between 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. and let them know when your group is planning to visit. Call 215-922-1700. For more info, visit: [PolishAmericanCenter.com/busgroups.html](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com/busgroups.html)



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- Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791

"Second Oldest Written Democratic Constitution in the World"



## During Your Next Visit to Historic Philadelphia, Visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia, PA



South view of the exhibit hall which highlights great men and women of Polish heritage and the customs and traditions of Poland for more than a thousand years.



On the east side of the Museum's Exhibit Hall, internationally known Polish greats include: Fryderyk Chopin, Marie Skłodowska Curie (Madame Curie), Pope John Paul the Great, Cardinal John Krol, and Jozef Pilsudski. **The showcases contain information about these Polish heroes and highlight Polish customs which continue to unite Polonia across the world.**



On the west side of the Museum's Exhibit Hall, internationally renowned Polish heroes include Lech Walesa, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Henryk Sienkiewicz and Mikolaj Kopernik (Nicholas Copernicus).



The Poland-at-Arms exhibit highlights the fact that Poland was the first to fight against Hitler's Nazi's invaders during World War II. The exhibit has drawn hundreds of thousands of people remembering the tragic event that took place in Poland beginning on September 1, 1939.



The Museum's Jamestown exhibit highlights the 416th Anniversary of the First Polish settlers who arrived in America on October 1, 1608.

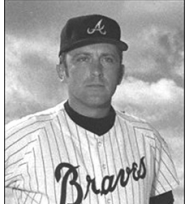


Museum visitors are able to learn more about treasured Polish customs such as Wigilia, Swieconka, Dozynki, as well as Polish Wedding Traditions.

## Museum's Historic Reflections Project April

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Historic Philadelphia presents Historic Reflections from Polish and Polish American history on the Polish American Radio Program. The reflections are organized in a daily format. Some of the dates may be the birthday or death date of a prominent person. Other dates may celebrate a milestone in a prominent person's life such as a career promotion, invention date, or some accomplishment that contributed to science, medicine, sports, or entertainment history. Other dates may be an anniversary of a historical event in Polonia or Poland's history.

For your information, we have listed a brief outline of historic reflections for the months of April.



### April 1, 1939 - Phil Niekro (Born)

Phil Niekro was a proud Polish American and well-known pitcher in Major League Baseball. He was one of the most successful knuckleball pitchers of all time, with 318 career victories. Niekro was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997.

### April 2, 2005 - Blessed John Paul II (Died)

Pope John Paul II, the beloved Cardinal of Krakow, Poland, was elected to be the shepherd of the Universal Catholic Church in October, 1978, and served as Pontiff until his death on April 2, 2005. During his 27 years as Holy Father, he was recognized as a true son of Poland and an international leader of faith and justice. He was beatified on May 1, 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI and canonized a Saint in 2014.



### April 3, 1849 - Juliusz Slowacki (Died)

Juliusz Slowacki was a poet and playwright who wrote "The Trilogy of Polish History". Pope John Paul II quoted Juliusz Slowacki's works on more than one occasion. Slowacki had an influence over other great Polish poets such as Krasinski, Norwid, and Ujejski. His ashes were laid to rest in the Royal Crypt in Wawel Castle.



### April 4, 1989 - Round Table Talks Ended

The Round Table Talks took place in Warsaw, Poland, between February 6th and April 4th in 1989. As a result of the Round Table Agreement, Solidarnosc became a legal political party, free elections would be scheduled and massive changes for the better began to take place in Poland. It was the beginning of the fall of Communism in central Europe.



### Pulaski, Wisconsin



### April 5, 1804 - Vincent Dziewanowski (Born)

Vincent Dziewanowski was an American pioneer who established the city of Pulaski, Wisconsin. This was the beginning of many schools, bridges, roads and towns named after General Casimir Pulaski.

### April 6, 1953 - Janet Nowicki (Born)

Janet Nowicki is well known by her stage name, Janet Lynn, a champion figure skater who won five consecutive United States Women's National Skating Championships.



### April 7, 1890 - Adam Styka (Born)

Adam Styka was a world renowned painter, born in Poland in 1890. Styka's paintings of the Wild West are regarded by some critics as the best Western paintings ever painted by an artist. His religious paintings are located in churches in Europe and the United States. He is buried in the Alley of Merit at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.



### April 8, 1909 - Helena Modjeska (Died)

Helena Modjeska was a Polish actress of international fame who immigrated to the United States in 1876. She became a star of American stages for many years with her portrayals of Shakespearian characters. Modjeska was the mother of Ralph Modjeski, the builder of the Benjamin Franklin and Tacony Palmyra Bridges in Philadelphia and several others across America.



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Philadelphia and the Tri-State Area  
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**860 AM Radio**

Music, News from Poland, Local News and Special Features in the Polish Language with Hostess Barbara Ilnicka



**Saturday Variety Program**  
**Saturday • 11A.M. to 12 Noon**  
**and**  
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**Wednesdays • 11 A.M. to 12 Noon**  
**860 AM Radio**  
 in the English Language  
 Hosted by Michael Blichasz



**The Pauline Fathers Radio Broadcast**  
**Thursdays • 11:45 A.M. to 12 Noon**  
**860 AM Radio**  
 in the Polish Language from the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA



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**Historic Reflections Continued • April**

**April 9, 1241 - Henry II the Pious (Died)**

Henry II the Pious (Polish: Henryk II Pobożny), was a Piast Duke of Silesia (Wroclaw), Krakow and Southern Greater Poland from 1238 until his death. During 1238 - 1239 he served as a regent of two Piast Duchies: Sandomierz and Opole-Raciborz.

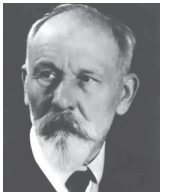


**April 10, 1943 - Andrzej Badenski (Born)**

Andrzej Badenski won a bronze medal in the 400 meter race in the Tokyo Olympics.

**April 11, 1877 - Tomasz Arciszewski (Born)**

In 1944, Tomasz Arciszewski became the Prime Minister of the Polish Government-in-Exile in London, England. In this position he was adamantly opposed to having new boundaries and a new Communist government imposed on Poland.

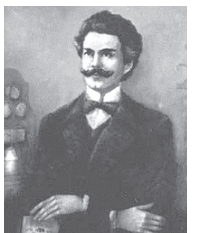


**April 12, 1973 - Krzysztof Oliwa (Born)**

Krzysztof Oliwa, born in Tychy, Poland, was an NHL hockey player for the NJ Devils, Pittsburgh Penguins, NY Rangers, Boston Bruins and Calgary Flames. Krzysztof Oliwa, known as the "Polish Hammer", always played a very physical game of hockey. He is the only player from Poland to have won a Stanley Cup.

**April 13, 1872 - Jan Szczepanik (Born)**

Jan Szczepanik was a Polish inventor who held several hundred patents and made over 50 discoveries, many of which are still used today in the motion picture industry, photography and television. Jan Szczepanik also worked on airplanes, helicopters and submarines.



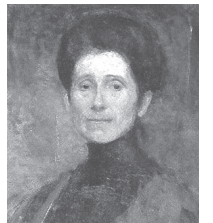
**April 14, 1895 - Wiktor Labunski (Born)**

Wiktor Labunski, a Polish pianist and composer, was the director of the Kansas City Conservatory in Missouri from 1941 to 1958. Among his many musical accomplishments, Wiktor Labunski received an honorary Doctorate Degree from the Curtis Music Institute

of Philadelphia and was also a guest conductor of the Warsaw Philharmonic.

**April 15, 1865 - Olga Boznanska (Born)**

Olga Boznanska was a prominent Polish painter who was awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta in 1938. She is known for her famous portrait called Girl with Chrysanthemums.



**April 16, 1935 - Bobby Vinton (Born)**

Bobby Vinton is the popular singer and entertainer, who proudly celebrates his Polish American heritage. My Melody of Love is one of the many recordings associated with Bobby Vinton.

**April 17, 1025 - Boleslaw Chrobry (Crowned)**

Boleslaw Chrobry was King of Poland in 1025. He is known as Boleslaw the Brave for uniting and protecting the territories of Poland. He was a member of the Piast Dynasty.



**April 18, 1988 - Mary Angela Truszkowska (Beatified)**

Mary Angela Truszkowska founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice, the Felicians. Today the Sisters are engaged in education, health care, social service and pastoral services. Blessed Mary Angela was beatified April 18, 1988 by Pope John Paul II.

**April 19, 1943 - Warsaw Ghetto Uprising**

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was another major resistance against the Nazi troops who brutally occupied Poland during World War II.



Visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum online at:

**PolishAmericanCenter.com**

**Historic Reflections Continued • April**



**April 20, 1920 - Vilna Offensive**

The Vilna offensive was a campaign of the Polish-Soviet War of 1919–1921. The Polish army launched an offensive on April 16, 1919 to take Vilnius (Polish: Wilno) from the Red Army. After three days of street fighting from April 19–21, the city was captured by Polish forces causing the Red Army to retreat.

**April 29, 1926 - Paul Baran (Born)**

Paul Baran was one of the early developers of the Internet, ATM technology, and DSL modem technology. He was born in Poland in 1926 and his family emigrated to Boston in 1928. Mr. Baran has connections to Philadelphia through Drexel University where he did his undergraduate work.



**April 21, 1978 - Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz**

Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz of Poland became the first woman to sail around the world alone in a 31-foot vessel. The trip took 401 days and covered 31,166 nautical miles. On April 21, 1978, Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz completed her solo trip and gained her title "The First Lady of the Oceans".



**April 30, 1632 - Zygmunt III Waza (Died)**

Zygmunt III Waza (20 June 1566 – 30 April 1632) was Grand Duke of Lithuania and Crown King of Poland, a monarch of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from 1587 to 1632, and King of Sweden (where he was known simply as Sigismund) from 1592 until he was deposed in 1599. He was the son of King John III of Sweden and his first wife, Catherine Jagellonica of Poland.



**April 22, 1915 - Founding**

The Polish Museum of America's Library was founded on April 22, 1915 in Chicago, Illinois, by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. The Library collects books and information on the history of Polonia in America and on the history of Poland.

**April 23, 1989 - Mother Frances Siedliska (Beatified)**

Mother Frances Siedliska was the foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in 1875. The Sisters serve in education, health care and social services in Poland, France, England and the United States. Mother Frances Siedliska was beatified on April 23, 1989, by Pope John Paul II.



**April 24, 1908 - Józef Goslawski (Born)**

Józef Goslawski was an author of numerous monuments and portrait sculptures, sculpture caricatures, medals, coins, renovations and drawings. His early works, generally not conserved, show some influence of cubism (self-portrait, portrait of Witold Chomicz), Szukalski's ideas (sculpture caricature of Henryk Uziembło), as well as forms similar to ideas of the Polish Applied Art Society (design of the St. Franciscus altar).

**April 25, 1333 - King Casimir the Great (Coronation)**

Poland's King Casimir the Great reigned between 1333 and 1370. In 1364, Casimir the Great, known by his Polish name, Kazimierz Wielki, established Poland's first university in Krakow, which became Jagiellonian University.



**April 26, 1919 - Napoleon Cybulski (Died)**

In 1895, Napoleon Cybulski discovered Adrenaline, a hormone which regulates brain and muscle activity.

**April 27, 1941 - Marian Batko (Polish Teachers' Day)**

On April 27, Polish Teachers' Day of Remembrance and Peace, about a thousand Polish teachers and students paid homage to the victims of the Auschwitz Nazi camp. The date coincides with the anniversary of the martyr-death in Auschwitz of the teacher Marian Batko, who gave his life for a 16-year-old fellow prisoner.



**April 28, 1943 - Nicholas Minue (Died)**

Nicholas Minue (birth unknown – died April 28, 1943) received the Medal of Honor for military service on behalf of the United States of America in World War II. He received this recognition for charging a group of German soldiers that had a machine-gun position near Medjez El Bab, Tunisia. He died during the charge. Born in Sedden, Poland, he enlisted in the United States Army in Carteret, NJ. He served in Company A, 6th Armored Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division.

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# KNIGHTS IN UNITY

## UKRAINE MISSION OF MERCY - PHASE II



KofC #2531 in Vineland, NJ is working closely with the KofC #15267 St. Wojciech in Poland and John Paul II Council #15801 in Lviv, Ukraine. United in charity and fraternity, these Knights are supporting the brave Ukrainian citizens who stayed behind to defend their country, and the Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

- Vineland Knights have previously sent nine 40-foot containers filled with donated items and items purchased by Vineland KofC with donated funds. The items have been shipped to the Knights in Poland and the Ukraine for distribution to refugees and displaced Ukrainian citizens. This was only accomplished through the generosity of many Knights and fellow New Jersey citizens.
- We are planning to ship container #10 after Easter. **However, our funds have been depleted from filling the 9 previous containers and shipping them overseas. Therefore, we are humbly asking for your donations and financial support to help with this effort.**

**YOU CAN HELP**

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### Polish Roman Catholic Union of America **PRCUA**

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**Telephone: 1-800-772-8632 • Internet: [PRCUA.org](http://PRCUA.org)**

### Polish Museum of America America's First Ethnic Museum

984 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642

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Founded in 1935, the Polish Museum of America is one of the country's first and largest ethnic museums. Polish and Polish American history is promoted through music, artworks, and historical and cultural displays.

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# Polish American Social Services "PASS"

[PolishAmericanSocialServices.com](http://PolishAmericanSocialServices.com)

## Polish American Social Services "PASS" United Social Services Outreach Program

### Main Office:

308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Open Monday to Friday • 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Telephone: (215) 923-1900

Outreach Services in and around the Philadelphia area

If you, a family member, or friend have a question concerning social services, call PASS and discuss your needs with a representative. All calls are CONFIDENTIAL, and PASS will either give you the information you need, handle your service directly, or refer you to the proper agency that can assist you.

Clients wishing to visit the main office at 308 Walnut Street, or one of the outreach sites, are asked to call in advance so that a Social Service Representative can tell you what documentation you will need to bring with you to process your request.

You can view an outline of several programs available to senior citizens and individuals of all ages on the PASS Internet site at [PolishAmericanSocialServices.com](http://PolishAmericanSocialServices.com).

For additional information, call PASS, Monday through Friday, between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. at (215) 923-1900.



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- have an annual household income of less than \$38,800, (approximately \$3,233 per month.)

Additional Requirements include:

- Proof of Age
- Proof of Address
- Proof of Household Income

Those who qualify will receive a 25% discount on every monthly water bill. There are many people still eligible who have not applied.

For more information or an application contact PASS at 215-923-1900. For more info visit: [PolishAmericanSocialServices.com](http://PolishAmericanSocialServices.com)



"PASS" works closely with the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging to provide information and assistance to the elderly. For information regarding services available in Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania, call PCA's helpline number at (215) 765-9040 or PASS (215) 923-1900.

[www.PCACares.org](http://www.PCACares.org)

View and print the Polish American News at:  
[PolishAmericanNews.com](http://PolishAmericanNews.com)

## Property Tax/Rent Rebate

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is being administered now. New applications are available. Homeowners and renters can get back as much as \$1,000 on last year's real estate taxes or rent. The income limit is \$45,000 annually for homeowners and renters to qualify. It is important to know that only half of your Social Security or SSI counts toward the income guideline. Age requirements are 65 years or older, living with a spouse that is 65 years or older, widow or widower between the ages of 50 to 64 or permanently disabled between the ages of 18 and 64. For more information call PASS at (215) 923-1900.



## Attention Employers!

People seeking employment often contact PASS. The staff will be pleased to alert job seekers of **Job Openings** that have been reported.

If your place of employment is about to or has posted an employment opportunity, kindly let PASS know. Call Monday through Friday, between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. (215) 923-1900, or send the job information to:

**Attn: Employment Information**  
**Polish American Social Services**  
**308 Walnut Street**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19106**

Kindly include qualifications needed, starting salary and where to go for an application and interview.

## Job Seeker and Job Training Outreach

If you are considering a job training program that can help you attain or retain long-term employment, contact PASS for more information. The outreach program is especially important to individuals who are unemployed due to company closings or relocations. PASS will share information about Pennsylvania area Job Training Programs to help you become more employable in a changing job market. Call PASS's Employment Outreach Representative for more information at (215) 923-1900.

## Do You Have A Resume?

PASS encourages job-seeking clients to prepare an outline of their work experience, or a resume, before they apply for any type of employment. A written resume helps job seekers present their job qualifications to a prospective employer. A PASS staff associate can review your current resume, update it, or develop a new one with you to prepare you for your job interview.

This service is available at the office of Polish American Social Services, 308 Walnut Street in Center City Philadelphia. Call to make an appointment for this free service at (215) 923-1900.

## What If I Am Satisfied With My Current Resume?

If you are already satisfied with your resume, live in the State of Pennsylvania and want to share your availability with potential employers, mail your resume to PASS and your resume will be shared with prospective employers. Mail your resume to:

**Polish American Social Services**  
**Employment Outreach**  
308 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
**Fax to: (215) 922-1518**  
Email to: [Staff@PolishAmericanSocialServices.com](mailto:Staff@PolishAmericanSocialServices.com)

For more information call PASS, Monday through Friday between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. at: (215) 923-1900.

## City of Philadelphia Property Tax FREEZE

If you are a senior citizen living in the City of Philadelphia and interested in applying for the Property Tax Freeze, call United Social Services. To qualify for the City of Philadelphia Property Tax Freeze Program, you or your spouse must be 65 years of age or older, or if you are a widow or widower over 50 years of age and your spouse was over 65 years of age, call our office for the income guidelines and an application.

Call PASS's United Social Services Outreach Program, Monday through Friday, between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. at (215) 923-1900 and a staff worker will assist you with the application.

# United Polish American Social Services

Serving Philadelphia and Surrounding Counties since 1908

Well known to constituents as:

**Polish American Social Services "PASS"**

**United Social Services**

308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106 • Telephone: (215) 923-1900

Internet: PolishAmericanSocialServices.com or: UnitedSocialServices.com

## **PASS Annual Service Review 2023**

During calendar year 2023 (January 1st to December 31st), 7,890 individuals received information/referral or direct assistance through Polish American Social Services and its United Social Services Outreach Programs. Services included benefits and housing counseling, advocacy, emergency services, and health care issues, with a focus on low-income elderly Eastern Europeans with language and cultural barriers to self-sufficiency. Sixty percent of them were 65 or older with an annual income in the range of \$19,000. Forty percent of the elderly benefited from our agency's cultural sensitivity. PASS assists individuals who are skeptical about the social services bureaucracy by helping them apply for programs with confidence or by referring them to an appropriate agency for specialized services, such as legal, medical, home health care, employment, and outreach assistance. PASS's broad knowledge and understanding of the social service delivery system, along with translation services; permit the agency to provide a powerful resource to its constituents. Services are provided weekdays on a regular schedule at the main office at 308 Walnut Street or through community outreach efforts. PASS works with an ongoing number of people annually and receives many contacts from PASS's radio outreach, community organization referrals, local newspapers, and PASS's Internet site.

### **Senior Citizen Outreach Services include:**

- Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- Water Discount application & Water Department related issues
- Pharmaceutical Assistance Program issues
- Liaison services with city, state or government and community services
- LIHEAP, Fuel Rebate Program
- Homebound individuals were assisted with a variety of services
- Health care/home care/elder care information & referrals
- Health care insurance information & referrals

### **Outreach services to individuals under the age of 65 include:**

- Individuals received assistance with employment information & referrals.
- Individuals were assisted with information or applications for LIHEAP, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
- Individuals were assisted with liaison services between city, state and federal agencies and elected officials regarding social service-related issues and community services.

### **Ongoing Aftermath of Changing Times**

Because of its extensive contact with senior citizens, UPASS is fully aware of the needs of seniors, and low and moderate income individuals. Due to the intense desire of seniors to remain self-sufficient, the demand for our outreach services has remained steady.

### **Special concerns of seniors include:**

1. Access to family members and friends, especially those living at a distance.
2. Language barriers are often difficult for many constituents.
3. Limited income and rising costs have prompted constituents to rely on income-enhancing services provided by the staff at UPASS.
4. Our radio programs provide essential social service information, as well as entertainment.
5. Reports of crime have increased constituents' concerns.

### **Community Outreach Education Programs**

In addition to the individuals described earlier in this report, approximately 3,625 people contacted PASS seeking information and referral after hearing self-help, and educational public service announcements sponsored by the agency on the daily Polish American Radio Program. Announcements informed listeners about special services offered by the agency and updated them on additional services offered by other social service agencies, especially resources for the elderly and for informal caregivers assisting aging parents or family members. Specific information was provided about eligibility requirements, application procedures, and common misconceptions about programs and services.

### **Internet Outreach**

Between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023, 4,890 visitors reviewed program information on PASS's Internet site: PolishAmericanSocialServices.com or UnitedSocialServices.com

### **Additionally PASS welcomes contacts from:**

- Senior citizen groups on an on-call basis.
- 52 churches, representing several denominations and over 50 organizations refer individuals to PASS for a variety of social service information.

Through its outreach efforts, largely in multi-cultural communities, PASS helps promote positive relations and mutual appreciation among varied ethnic and racial groups and community leaders. The agency's outreach program also addresses the needs and concerns of many individuals whose needs could not be effectively met by other agencies because of language and cultural barriers. Many of these individuals would not approach another agency for initial assistance.

PASS remains a significant partner in the Southeastern Pennsylvania area social service delivery system. PASS helps social service dollars achieve their intended positive impact on the community by linking at-risk individuals with available social programs and services, including legal, medical and mental health services, in an efficient and cost-effective, yet highly personal manner.

## The life, work and trials of the World's Greatest Pole John Paul II timeline: from boyhood to sainthood

Compiled by Robert Strybel



**MAY 18, 1920:** Emilia née Kaczorowska Wojtyla gives birth to a baby boy against the advice of her doctor who said the infant didn't have a chance to survive and should be aborted.

**JUNE 20, 1920:** The Wojtyla baby is baptized at the Wadowice parish church and receives the name Karol (the Polish equivalent of Carl or Charles).

**APRIL 19, 1929:** Karol suffered his first major tragedy at the age of nine, when his mother died. Right after the funeral, his father Lieutenant Karol Wojtyla senior, an army administrative official and devout Catholic, took him and his elder brother to the Marian shrine in nearby Kalwaria Zebrzydowska to pray for the repose of her soul.

**SEPTEMBER 1930:** Karol, known to his friends and classmates as Lolek, enrolled in the Wadowice middle school. He did well in his studies, was good at sports and was goalkeeper in school soccer matches between Catholic and Jewish students. It was there that his literary and acting inclinations began emerging. He also stood out for his piety and served as an altar boy.

**DECEMBER 5, 1932:** A mere three years after his mother's death, tragedy struck again, when his 26-year-old brother Edmund, an MD, died of the scarlet fever he had contracted from a patient he was treating.

**MAY 14, 1938:** Karol Wojtyla passed his secondary-school-leaving exam with flying colors and decided to study Polish Language and Literature at Kraków's Jagiellonian University. He and his father moved to Kraków to facilitate his academic studies and lived in a two-room rented basement apartment.

**1939:** Karol readily absorbs the intellectual and artistic climate of the Jagiellonian and the city of Kraków in general. He makes new friends and joins a student theater group.

**SEPTEMBER 1, 1939:** World War II begins with Hitler's attack on Poland.

**SEPTEMBER 6, 1939:** German troops march into Kraków. Nazi Governor General sets up his headquarters in Poland's historic Wawel Castle.

**NOVEMBER 6, 1939:** The Germans close down Jagiellonian University and sends its professors to a concentration camp. To help shore up his and his father's deteriorating financial situation, Karol finds work in the limestone quarry of the Solvay Chemical Works..

**FEBRUARY 18, 1941:** One day, when he brings home dinner, Karol finds his father dead. The loss of his last family member comes as a devastating blow to the 20-year-old who moves in with the friendly and supportive Kydrynski family.

**SPRING 1941:** Karol is promoted to the job of blaster's assistant at the quarry under head blaster Franciszek Labus, a devout Catholic. Labus is believed to have suggested that Karol study for the priesthood. Karol attends a religious retreat where he meets tailor Jan Tyranowski, an expert on the teachings of St. John of the Cross and St Theresa of Avila, who helps him find his religious vocation. Karol takes part in the activities of the now underground Rhapsodic Theater.

**1942:** Karol surprises his fellow student actors when he decides to enter a clandestine seminary to study for the priesthood. In the early morning he serves mass for Metropolitan Archbishop Prince Adam Sapieha before going to work at the Solvay; at night he studies.

**FEBRUARY 29, 1944:** Karol is struck by a German truck, but a German officer stops a car and orders its driver to drive the Pole to hospital. He is treated for a brain concussion and lacerations to the head.

**AUGUST 6, 1944:** Startled by Warsaw Uprising on August 1, the Germans seek to prevent a similar outbreak in Kraków by rounding up all young males. Karol and other seminarians take refuge at the Episcopal Palace.

**JANUARY 18, 1945:** Soviet troops march into Kraków – a sign that World War II is winding down. Like people all over Poland, Karol is not sure whether Poland is being liberated or whether one totalitarian occupation will be replaced by another.

**NOVEMBER 1, 1946:** After successfully completing his studies, on All Saints Day, Karol Wojtyla is ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Sapieha and celebrates his first mass at St Leonard's Crypt in Wawel Cathedral.

**NOVEMBER 15, 1946:** Father Wojtyla is sent to Rome to study at Angelicum, the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas. While in Rome, he gets to meet the famous mystic Father Pio who, according to some accounts, predicts that the Polish priest is destined for the papacy.

**JULY 1948:** Father Wojtyla's first assignment is that of vicar at the parish in Niegowic, a village not far from Kraków, where he serves 13 months.

**AUGUST 1949:** Cardinal Sapieha re-assigns Father Wojtyla as vicar to St Florian parish in Kraków. There he has good rapport with the parish youth for whom he organizes excursions, theater outings, discussion circles and Gregorian Chant practice. He also attracts throngs of faithful to his religious retreat.

**1950:** Father Wojtyla begins publishing his poetry in Kraków's Catholic weekly "Tygodnik Powszechny" under the pen-name Andrzej Jawien.

**JULY 1951:** Following the death of Cardinal Sapieha, who had looked after Father Wojtyla. Archbishop Eugeniusz Baziak, serving as archdiocesan administrator, urges him to continue his post-graduate studies.

**DECEMBER 12, 1953:** His dissertation is unanimously accepted by the council of the Jagiellonian's Theology Department, but the communist education authorities do not approve the subject until 1957, when he is given the title of docent (assistant professor). He begins lecturing at the Kraków Theological Seminary and Jagiellonian University as well as the Catholic University of Lublin (KUL), 170 miles away.

**JULY 28, 1958:** At the age of 38, Father Wojtyla becomes Poland's youngest bishop and is given the post of auxiliary bishop of the Kraków Archdiocese.

**1959:** Bishop Wojtyla heads KUL's Ethics Chair, where his lectures attract crowds of students. He shows he has a way with young people who affectionately call him "Wujek" (uncle) and whom he takes on mountain hikes and canoe trips. During that period he publishes extensively in the Catholic journal "Znak" and "Tygodnik Powszechny".

**1960:** Bishop Wojtyla begins petitioning the communist authorities for permission to build a church in Kraków's new industrial suburb of Nowa Huta; the regime regards it as a model socialist workers' community which should be devoid of religion. His book on marriage "Love and Responsibility" triggers controversy in conservative Catholic circles for its treatment of sexuality.

**1962:** Bishop Wojtyla becomes actively involved in preparations for the Second Vatican Council ordered by Pope John XXIII. He deals with media issues and favors replacing Latin with national languages in the liturgy.

**DECEMBER 30, 1963:** Pope Paul VI appoints Bishop Wojtyla the Metropolitan Archbishop of Kraków, a post that has been vacant since the death of Cardinal Sapieha in 1951.

**1964:** Archbishop Wojtyla helps convince Polish Primate Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński to approve a crucial letter to the German Episcopate containing the words: "We forgive you and ask for forgiveness."

**1965:** The letter sent to the German Episcopate infuriates Poland's communist rulers who accuse the Church of meddling in Poland's international affairs; the regime penalizes bishops by denying them passports for travel to Rome and by drafting their seminarians into the army.

**1966:** The communist regime celebrating the Thousand Years of Polish Christianity throws obstacles in the path of the Church celebrating the Millennium of Christian Poland.

**MAY 1967:** Pope Paul VI announces Archbishop Wojtyla's elevation to the rank of cardinal.

**AUTUMN 1967:** Cardinal Wojtyla declines an invitation to attend the First Bishops' Synod in Rome to express his solidarity with Primate Wyszyński, barred by the regime from traveling outside Poland. But the cardinal does take part in subsequent synods.

**JULY 1968:** Many of Cardinal Wojtyla's views, including his opposition to abortion and contraceptives, are reflected in Pope Paul VI's encyclical "Humane vitae".

**AUGUST 12, 1978:** Polish Cardinals Wyszyński and Wojtyla travel to Rome to attend the funeral of Pope Paul VI and elect his successor.

**AUGUST 26, 1978:** The Archbishop of Venice Albino Luciani is elected pope, but dies on September 28.

**OCTOBER 4, 1978:** The funeral of Pope John Paul I is held, followed by preparations for the next conclave.

**OCTOBER 16, 1978:** Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla is elected pope and takes the name John Paul II. He is the first non-Italian elected to the papacy in 455 years. Church bells ring out and a wave of euphoria sweeps Poland and Polonia in celebration of the unprecedented event. Alarm bells ring at the Kremlin and other Soviet bloc capitals as communist leaders deliberate how to react to this new challenge.

**OCTOBER 22, 1978:** The official inauguration of John Paul II is held. It is memorable for the historic embrace of the new people and his mentor, Cardinal Wyszyński, as well as the words "Do not be afraid", due to become a key element of the Wojtyla pontificate.

**JANUARY 25, 1979:** The new pope visits Mexico, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas in his first apostolic trip abroad. The most traveled pontiff in history, John Paul visited 129 countries and logged 725,000 miles during his 27-year pontificate, earning the title of "Pilgrim Pope".

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**PolishAmericanNews.com**

**JUNE 2, 1979:** John Paul II arrived in Poland for his first papal homecoming, and some 10 million Poles turned out to meet him as he toured the country. The rest watched the live TV coverage of his pilgrimage. The highpoint of the trip was the pope's farewell address in Warsaw, when he said: "Let your Spirit descend and renew the land....this land!" Those words instilled new hope in his countrymen. A year later, a strike wave erupted which would snowball into the Solidarity movement, the Soviet bloc's first free labor union. This is the first of his nine visits to his native land.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 1979:** The Polish-born Pontiff makes his first pilgrimage to the United States, drawing record crowds wherever the visits. In New York, he addresses the United Nations General Assembly, appealing for world-wide peace.

**MAY 13, 1981:** John Paul survives an assassination attempt in St Peter's Square, where he is shot in the abdomen and hand by a young Muslim Turk, Mehmet Ali Agca. His life is saved by prompt medical attention at Rome's Gemelli Clinic, but he will never fully regain his former robust state of health.

**MAY 28, 1981:** In Poland, Cardinal Wyszyński dies following a long and debilitating bout with cancer. He is succeeded as primate by Archbishop Józef Glemp.

**MAY 12, 1982:** On the first day of the Holy Father's visit to Fatima, Portugal, a deranged Spanish monk lunges at him with a bayonet, but the pope escapes unhurt.

**MAY 28, 1982:** In an attempt to prevent future assassination attempts, an enclosed bullet-proof vehicle known as the Popemobile makes its appearance for John Paul's visit to Great Britain.

**DECEMBER 27, 1983:** The pope meets and forgives his would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Agca, in a Roman prison.

**MARCH 1983:** The pope visits Nicaragua torn by civil strife between the communist Sandanista government and US-backed contra rebels. The regime buses in people for all over the country to heckle John Paul and drown out his sermons about "godless communism" with their revolutionary chants and songs.

**AUGUST 16, 1983:** The Polish Pontiff arrives in his homeland for his second papal pilgrimage and uplifts the spirits of his downtrodden countrymen following the regime's 1981 crackdown to crush Solidarity. The pope persuades communist strongman General Wojciech Jaruzelski to lift martial law, a move announced the following month.

**APRIL 13, 1986:** John Paul pays a visit to and prays at Rome's main Synagogue, the first pope since St Peter ever to cross the threshold of a Jewish temple.

**OCTOBER 27, 1986:** John Paul holds the first World Day of Prayer for Peace by inviting 160 Christian and non-Christian religious leaders from around the globe to Assisi, Italy

**JUNE 8, 1987:** The Holy Father arrives for this third pilgrimage to his homeland and takes part in a National Eucharistic Congress.

**DECEMBER 1, 1989:** Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is received by the Pope at the Vatican. Their discussion includes the question of religious freedom in the USSR.

**JANUARY 15, 1991:** In separate letters to US President Bush and Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, the pope seeks to avert a war in the Persian Gulf.

**JUNE 1, 1991:** During his first papal pilgrimage to free Poland, John Paul elaborates on the subject of freedom and expresses alarm at the "anything goes" interpretation of that concept. He urges people to guide themselves by the ethical concepts of Christianity and not use the notion of freedom as an excuse to violate the moral order.

**JULY 15, 1992:** The pope is hospitalized for 11 days in connection with a surgical procedure to remove a benign intestinal tumor.

**APRIL 28, 1994:** The Holy Father slips and falls at the Vatican, injuring his hip. Following hip-replacement surgery, he has to walk with a cane and appears visibly weakened by the experience.

**MAY 30, 1994:** In a letter to bishops, John Paul reaffirms the Church's opposition to the ordination of priestesses, saying that the Church "has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women." That statement predictably infuriates radical feminists.

**OCTOBER 20, 1994:** The pope's autobiographical book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope" is published.

**MARCH 25, 1995:** John Paul II issues an encyclical titled "Gospel of Life" containing his strongest denunciation of the "spreading culture of death" which includes abortion, euthanasia and experimentation on human embryos.

**MAY 22, 1995:** During an Apostolic Visit to the Czech Republic, the pope pays a brief several-hour visit to the neighboring Polish town of Skoczów, where he canonizes St John Sarkander.

**OCTOBER 8, 1996:** The Holy Father undergoes an appendectomy.

**MAY 31, 1997:** The Polish Pontiff makes another pilgrimage to his homeland, whose theme is "Christ yesterday, today and forever." It includes celebrations of the 1000th anniversary of St Adalbert's (Wojciech's) martyrdom. Although his age and infirmities have slowed him down, but he still displays much of his former verve and enthusiasm.

**JANUARY 21, 1998:** John Paul II brings hope to the religiously persecuted Catholics of Cuba during a six-day pilgrimage and meets communist leader Fidel Castro.

**JUNE 5, 1999:** Apparently fearing it may be his last, John Paul II begins what will be his longest pilgrimage to his homeland due to last until June 17. Health issues prevent him from celebrating mass at Kraków's grassy commons, but he manages to visit his hometown of Wadowice.

**MARCH 20, 2000:** Papa Wojtyła, as he is known in many places ("papa" means pope), arrives for a six-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He celebrates Mass in Bethlehem and prays at Jerusalem's Wailing Wall, where he inserts a note asking God's forgiveness for Christian persecution of Jews.

**MAY 13, 2000:** On his third pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, John Paul beatifies two of the shepherd children who had visions of the Virgin Mary in 1917. The Vatican reveals that the Third Secret of Fatima foretold the 1981 attempt on the pope's life.

**AUGUST 16, 2002:** John Paul II manages to make his ninth and last trip to Poland. Its highpoint is the consecration of Kraków's Church of Divine Providence, a major religious center. The three-day visit to his homeland is also a nostalgic trip down memory lane for the aging and ailing Pontiff.

**MARCH 2003:** "Roman Triptych," John Paul's first book of poetry since becoming pope, is published; it is a three-part meditation on nature, life, and death.

**MAY 17, 2003:** The pope's trembling hand and slurred speech has been noticeable for quite some time, but now for the first time a senior Vatican official announces that the Pontiff suffers from Parkinson's disease.

**AUGUST 15, 2004:** The pope breathes heavily and gasps for air during an open-air mass in Lourdes, France, one of just two foreign pilgrimages in 2004.

**FEBRUARY 1, 2005:** The Holy Father is rushed to a Rome hospital with breathing problems, but released nine days later when his situation stabilizes.

**FEBRUARY 25, 2005:** The pope agrees to a tracheotomy after doctors assure him he will be able to address the faithful following the procedure. Catholics around the globe hold prayer vigils in his intention.

**MARCH 21, 2005:** Recovering from throat surgery John Paul II is unable to address the faithful from his balcony window. He presses his hand to his head and pounds the lectern in apparent frustration at not being able to respond to his congregation in St Peter's Square.

**MARCH 25, 2005:** For the first time in his 27-year papacy a dying 84-year-old John Paul passively participates in the Good Friday Way of the Cross around Rome's ancient Colosseum; he is shown watching the procession on a video link in his apartment while embracing a large crucifix.

**MARCH 27, 2005:** Although his doctors assured him he would be able to speak following his tracheotomy, John Paul, once known as the Great Communicator, is unable to utter the seven Latin words of an Easter Sunday blessing from his window overlooking St Peter's Square. Instead, he blesses the crowds with the Sign of the Cross made with an unsteady hand.

**MARCH 31, 2005:** The Holy Father's health continues to deteriorate. The medical team attending him at his Vatican apartment issues daily communiqués on his condition to the media.

**APRIL 2, 2005:** For days, thousands of worshipers have been witnessing the dying pope's agony and taking part in prayer vigils below his apartment. At exactly 9:37 PM, the pope's personal physician Dr Renato Buzzonetti announces the death of John Paul II. It turns out that the pope did not want any exceptional methods to keep him artificially alive and said: "Let me go to the Home of the Father."

**APRIL 8, 2005:** Numerous heads of state and other foreign dignitaries as well as some 3,000,000 worshipers attend the papal funeral in St Peter's Square. Two billion viewers across the globe watch the live televised proceedings. The remains of John Paul II are laid to rest in the crypts of St Peter's Basilica. During the funeral banners and chants of "Santo subito" (immediate sainthood) go up.

**MAY 13, 2005:** The beatification process of John Paul II is officially launched when his successor, German-born Benedict XVI, waives the five-year waiting period normally required after a candidate's death.

**MAY 28, 2006:** During his visit to Poland, Pope Benedict XVI encourages prayers for the early canonization of his predecessor and expresses the hope it will occur "in the near future".

**DECEMBER 19, 2009:** John Paul II is proclaimed venerable by his successor Benedict XVI – the initial pre-beatification stage in a candidate's road to sainthood.

**MAY 1, 2011:** Following several years of investigation into the life and work of John Paul II as well as the validation of a cure attributed to his intervention, the late Pontiff is beatified and given the title of Blessed. The ceremony is attended by 87 international delegations, including 22 world leaders. Beatification is the penultimate step leading to Catholic sainthood.

**APRIL 27, 2014:** The canonization of a man many have called "John Paul the Great" took place on Mercy Sunday (the Sunday after Easter), a feast day introduced by the Polish-born Pontiff. He was co-canonized with Pope John XXIII.

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[www.prcua.org](http://www.prcua.org)

## Organizations

### Polish American Congress

Eastern Pennsylvania District  
308 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106 • 215-922-1700

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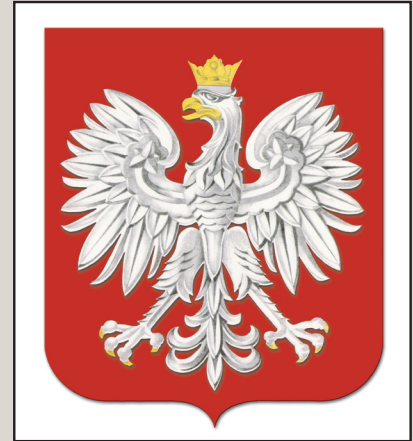
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## Happy "100th" Birthday Zofia Wroblewska Mularczyk



Zofia Wroblewska Mularczyk

The Adam Mularczyk Theatre Group in Philadelphia (Polski Teatr Dramatyczny im. Adama Mularczyka w Filadelfii), honored their director Zofia Wroblewska Mularczyk on her 100th birthday on Sunday, March 10, 2024, with a beautiful afternoon event. The event took place at the Associated Polish Home in northeast Philadelphia.

The event began with the introduction of guests, greetings from various organizations and individuals, a play performed by the theatre group, followed with songs, a birthday cake and reception. During the program, the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, Adrian Kubicki, presented the "Zasluzony Kulturze Gloria Artis" medal, "Zasluzony Kulturze Gloria Artis" medal to Mrs. Mularczyk for all her cultural endeavors.



Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, Adrian Kubicki, presenting flowers and the "Zasluzony Kulturze Gloria Artis" medal to Zofia Wroblewska Mularczyk



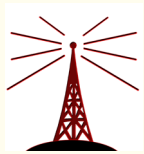
The "Zasluzony Kulturze Gloria Artis" medal

The Adam Mularczyk Theatre Group in Philadelphia was organized by Adam Mularczyk. After his death, his wife, Zofia, took it under her directorship. She invited from Poland many actors/actresses and directed many successful plays bringing it to the high esteem to the present time.

The entire Polonia, along with the Adam Mularczyk Theatre Group in Philadelphia, Polish American Cultural Center Museum in historic Philadelphia and Polish American Congress Eastern PA District, extend good health, best wishes and Dwiescie Lat to Zofia Wroblewska Mularczyk! "Dwiescie Lat"



The Adam Mularczyk Theatre Group in Philadelphia performing a special play for Zofia Wroblewska Mularczyk & Guests



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From the Desk of  
**Mary Ann Zerkowski, President**  
Berks County Polish American  
Board of Education  
[mazredwing@aol.com](mailto:mazredwing@aol.com)



The Berks County Polish American Board of Education and the Berks County Polish American Heritage Association will award eleven college scholarships valued at \$27,500 to Berks County high school seniors of Polish descent. The scholarships will be awarded at a luncheon scheduled to be held at 12 noon on Sunday, May 19th 2024, at Gianotti's Restaurant, 3118 Pricetown Road, Fleetwood, PA. The menu will consist of a choice of Broiled Crab Cakes or Chicken Piccata or Lasagna. Ice Cream will be served for dessert. The cost of the luncheon is \$40. Reservations can be made with Susan Bolognese, Vice President of PABEBC, 4908 Farming Ridge Blvd., Reading, PA 19606. Phone: 610-781-9575.

# Dyngus Day Celebration Was a Great Success at Dagwood's Pub

4625 Linden Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19114

Easter Monday - April 1, 2024

Dyngus Day in Philadelphia was a special time to enjoy a cherished Polish custom on Easter Monday. Large crowds gathered at Dagwood's Pub to enjoy great food, entertainment by the P.K.M. Polish Folk Dancers, live music and traditional Polish hospitality, which started at 10 A.M. and continued until 10 P.M.

Dyngus Day is on Easter Monday. On this day, many Poles and Polish Americans celebrate a very ancient Slavic spring tradition called Smingus-Dyngus, or the custom of sprinkling water on one another. Along with the Easter Swieconka, this is a custom followed by many Polish American families.







From the Desk of  
**Michael Blichasz**  
**American Workers Advocate**

Host of Saturday Variety Program at 11 A.M.  
& American Workers Radio, Wednesdays at 11 A.M.  
860 AM Radio, WWDB • Philadelphia, PA

**I welcome you to review the information from my recent weekly commentaries and ask that you share this information with others.**

[AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com](http://AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com)

### America's Students Need Us to Speak Up!



**Everyone of us sees that America's schools need to promote and educate students for the jobs that are currently needed in America.** In the new world economy, basics like reading, writing and math skills certainly remain important, along with career paths in medicine, education,

law, research and development, or operating a small business. **HOWEVER**, a lot more of America's schools must offer trade classes like: plumbing, heating and air conditioning, welding, construction and manufacturing. **These are jobs badly needed in America RIGHT NOW.**

**In addition to not offering skilled trade classes, the news media is not reporting the fact that 10,000 Americans are retiring from the workforce EVERY DAY.** This means that the first 300 thousand new jobs announced each month represent people replacing retiring workers and not brand new job opportunities. **The reality is that a large portion of the people retiring represent skilled trade jobs and there are fewer schools offering trade classes and fewer people graduating from America's schools with the ability to replace America's retiring workforce.**

**The need to expand the Trades and Industrial Arts Programs is very urgent** and because this is the time of year when school boards are meeting to make budget plans for the next academic year, it is the opportunity for all taxpayers to contact school principals and school board members and ask for a written report on the type of programs they are offering to prepare students for today's workforce. Remember, it's every taxpayer's dollars that help educate America's young people in public schools, so don't hesitate to ask questions and expect answers.

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### How Quickly Times Moves Forward!

They say a picture is worth a 1,000 words. We can agree with that statement as we look at pictures of ourselves and consider **How Quickly Time Moves Forward.** It is the same when we look at pictures of the changing landscape of America as our industries were lost to foreign countries. **The lack of concern demonstrated by America's leaders, as businesses and jobs left America and took with them the long-term well-being of American workers and America's families, is staggering.** It's time to change the landscape of our great country and restore industries and jobs for our fellow-Americans.

None of us can understand how businesses continued to move out of the United States without America's national leaders questioning how Americans would be able to be employed and support themselves. Each of us knows that businesses left America to escape rising taxes, higher operating costs and growing government regulations. **Why haven't America's national leaders been able to receive this message? Rising costs simply made it necessary for businesses to look outside of the United States to produce their products.** This has unfortunately been happening for **over 35 years** and now with rising inflation costs, America's businesses have another reason to make more products outside of the United States.

**A quick look at America's most recent jobs report posted on the U.S Debt Clock** shows us that every year America's population increased, but the number of jobs for working age and able-bodied Americans has NOT increased during the last 20 years. This simply means that **valuable time continues to be lost because a growth in population always requires a growth in employment opportunities.**

**Contact Your Elected Officials Here:**

Thanks to all who are contacting National elected leaders to offer your concerns. The **Contact Your Elected Leaders** link is posted on the front page of: [AmericanWorkersRadio.com](http://AmericanWorkersRadio.com).

### Innovation, Technology, Skilled Workers & Customers!

Every day more Americans are uniting behind efforts to **support American workers** representing small and large businesses, non-union and union, and the self-employed. As we continue our campaign, we ask that you consider the following points:

- 1. Innovation: For more than two centuries tens-of-thousands of products were invented and manufactured in America. Today, America's private sector businesses have the power to restore tens-of-millions of jobs, so it's time for national elected and business leaders to show us what can be accomplished when all levels of leadership work together.**
- 2. Technology: There is no reason why Americans can't produce competitive products of every type and help restore America's industries and jobs.**
- 3. Skilled Workers: Businesses need to inform the American people and America's School Boards what skilled workers they need now and in the future. That information should be the focus of school systems across the United States.**
- 4. WE All Need to Speak Up** where we shop and encourage businesses to seek out more American made products from their suppliers. There are more American made products available but they are not promoted by merchandisers mainly because they can receive more profits from imported items.
- 5. Every business needs customers** so your words at the cash register and your spending habits let business owners know what their customers are thinking and how they are spending their dollars. I never heard of a business stating they need less business, so spend your dollars in support of American made **FIRST.**

Create and Save American Jobs online at:

**MadeInAmericaStore.com**



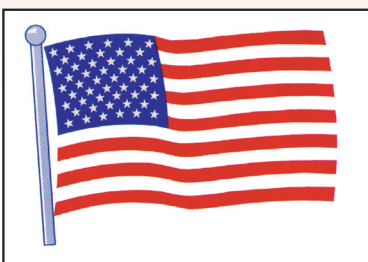
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**American Workers Radio Panel**



Michael Blichasz  
Founder  
American Workers  
Need You  
Program Host  
American Workers Radio



Larkin Connolly  
East Region V.P.  
Score Association



Mark Andol  
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Greetings to Polonia as we mark the  
**1,058th Anniversary of Documented Polish History**  
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**Richard L. Krzyzanowski, Esq.**  
Krzyzanowski Foundation

**More Than 20 Million Americans  
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Polish Americans are part of every aspect of life in America. They are well known for their contributions to the Arts, Music, Education, Politics, Engineering, Communications, Medicine, Religion, Military, Travel, Research and Development, and community events. They are inventors, builders, and professionals that make up the Great Mosaic of America.



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**Memorial Gifts Are Appreciated**

**Memorial gifts in honor of relatives and friends continue to help maintain the Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia.** The Museum promotes public awareness of Polish history and heritage and welcomes tourists from across the United States and around the world who visit the Exhibit Hall during their tour of Historic Philadelphia. **There is a Memorial Gift Donation Form located on the front page of PolishAmericaCenter.com (memorial donations link)**

**Memorial Gift Obituary Notice**

**We would appreciate our members and supporters having the Polish American Cultural Center listed as a suggested charity in obituary notices.** Kindly list the following text in the obituary notice - Memorial donations in the name of the deceased can be made to the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106. For additional information, contact the Museum, Monday through Friday between 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. (215) 922-1700.

**Kindly use the form below to make a direct donation.**

**Memorial Donation Registration Form**

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Make check payable to: **Polish American Cultural Center**  
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Kindly return this entire form with your donation. Donations are tax deductible. Donations will be acknowledged in writing. The names of donors will be listed in the next edition of the Polish American News. This donation form can also be printed from the front page of: **PolishAmericanCenter.com** (Memorial gifts are appreciated link)

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**2024**

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**Polish Americans Stand United  
With Our Ukrainian Brothers &  
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Freedom, Peace, Independence,  
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U.S.A.



Poland



Ukraine

## **Campaign to Aid Ukrainian Refugees**

**Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,**

**Many people have been asking how they can help Ukrainian Refugees in Poland.**

**On the front page of [PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com), you will find a list of organizations worthy of your donation.**

**From that link you can click on the pages which provide details about each organization and how to make your donation.**

**All donations are appreciated.**

**Log on to: [PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com).**

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## Congratulations

### Rev. Father Krzysztof Wieliczko, OSPPE



On Monday, March 4, 2024, Fr. Krzysztof Wieliczko, OSPPE, was elected to serve as Provincial of the Pauline Fathers in the United States for a three year term.

Fr. Wieliczko is well known in Polonia. In 1989, he was directed to pastoral work among Polonia in the United States, served as Pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in New York and St. Luke's Parish

in Vernon, CT, and was instrumental in ensuring the dedication of an altar to Our Lady of Czestochwa at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

In 1999, he undertook studies at the Catholic University in Lublin, where in 2003, he earned a doctorate degree. From 2002-2008, Fr. Wieliczko served as the Provincial of the Pauline Fathers in the United States and the Prior of the Monastery at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. After two terms, he began to serve as Pastor of St.

Joseph's Church in Rockville, Ct., and Spiritual Counselor at Holy Apostles Seminary and during the academic years 2009-2010, he was teaching at the University in Cromwell, Ct.

From March 1, 2010 until February 28, 2023, Fr. Wieliczko worked as the Executive Director of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome, Italy.

He was awarded with the 2023 "Pride of Polonia Award" from the National Polish Apostolate Committee in the United States for his outstanding efforts to promote and make known the spiritual and cultural legacy of St. John Paul II across the world.

Polish American Cultural Center Museum in historic Philadelphia, Polish American Congress Eastern PA District, along with the entire Polonia, extend to Fr. Krzysztof Wieliczko congratulations, best wishes, much success and Sto Lat!



Place your business ad in the next edition of the Polish American News. For more information, call 215-922-1700, Monday through Friday, 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

## Polish Participated at the Cultural Heritage Mass



Participating at the Cultural Heritage Mass (from left to right), Danuta Eichler, banner carrier Wladyslaw Kaczmarek, Krystyna Kaczmarek, Monika Pisarczyk, St. John Cantius Polish Language School children, Archbishop Nelson Perez, Gabriela Kalinowski, Theresa Romanowski, and Jan Dabrowski.

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, a Cultural Heritage Mass took place at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul, in center city Philadelphia. The theme was "One Faith, Many Cultures, One Family".

Prior to the Mass, a procession of ethnic groups - Native American, Asian, African, European, Hispanic, Caribbean and Brazilian, dressed in their heritage attire, took place. The Polish Language schools, St. John Cantius Polish Language School and St. Adalbert Polish Language School participated at the Mass. The principal celebrant and homilist of the Mass was Archbishop Nelson Perez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, who took time to take photos with the groups after Mass.

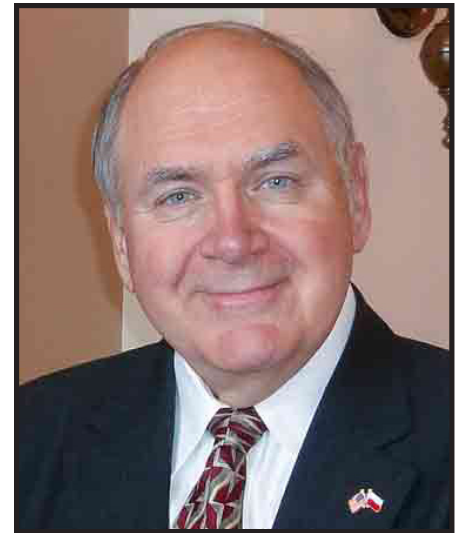
What a beautiful way of learning more about the various cultures!

## 25th Anniversary of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into the NATO Alliance

March 12, 2024, marked the 25th Anniversary of the entry of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into the NATO Alliance. To celebrate this historic event, the President and the Prime Minister of Poland met with the President of the United States and took part in ceremonies at the Polish Embassy.

The Anniversary was also celebrated in Independence, Missouri, at the President Truman Library. It was there in 1999, that the Foreign Ministers of the three new NATO members signed the accession agreement. Mr Frank J. Spula, National President of the Polish American Congress, was an honored guest at this event.

Professor Emeritus Donald Pienkos was generously invited by Mr Pawel Zyzak, Consul General of Poland in Chicago, to speak that day. His reminiscences about the Polish American Congress' role in NATO's expansion follow.



**Professor Emeritus  
Donald Pienkos**

### **MARCH 12, 2024 PRESENTATION**

It is a distinct privilege to speak at this Silver Anniversary of the entry of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into the NATO Alliance. It is most appropriate that this gathering is at the Presidential Library that memorializes Harry S. Truman. For it was President Truman who fathered the NATO Alliance 75 years ago.

Who am I to address you today? Fair question! So many others were active in bringing about the expansion of the NATO Alliance in 1999. We salute them all!

Back in the 1990s, I was teaching International Politics at my university in Milwaukee. But my academic work was deepened by my concern for the people of East Central Europe and for Poland, the land of my grandparents.

I was active in the Polish American Congress, which from its founding in 1944, had worked for the freedom, independence and well being of Poland and its citizens. Indeed, the Congress was the first American organization to denounce the Great Powers' decisions at Yalta as a betrayal of both their World War II ally Poland and the mission of the Atlantic Charter, which affirmed the territorial integrity of all states small and large. In August 1980, the Congress supported the Solidarity trade union movement, just days after its birth. And in Fall 1989, a delegation of leaders of the Congress headed by its President Edward Moskal was in Poland to affirm the Polish American community's support for Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki's newly created post communist government.

Furthermore, in 1992, the Congress formally backed Poland's entry into the NATO Alliance, which it recognized as vital to its future prospects.

However, after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, there were influential people who thought otherwise. Some proposed dissolving NATO since the Cold War was over. Others agreed to maintain the 16 member Alliance but opposed its expansion.

Poland's new government, headed by its President, Lech Walesa, saw things very differently. They knew Poland's and its neighbors' history and understood how important NATO membership was to their

national security and as a symbol of their inclusion in the great transAtlantic community of free nations.

In supporting this view the Polish American Congress organized a campaign in December 1993, to make President William Clinton aware of its position. Its members barraged the White House with thousands of telegrams, letters, postcards, e-mails and phone messages calling for NATO expansion. The effort worked and received the President's attention.

And here is where I came into the picture.

It was Monday January 2, 1994. I was at my University preparing for the Spring semester when I received a surprising call from the White House. I was told that President Clinton was to speak in Milwaukee on U.S. foreign policy that Friday, and that a substantial number of Polish Americans needed to be invited to attend this last minute event. Could I put together a list of local Polish Americans with their telephone numbers and fax it to Washington as soon as possible? Yes I could. And Yes I did.

That Wednesday I received another call from the White House. Would I be able to attend a meeting the next evening at the Pfister Hotel in anticipation of the President's visit? I agreed and that Thursday January 5th, I was one of 18 guests - nine of us Polish Americans - among them President Moskal, the Polish American Congress' Executive Director Leszek Kuczynski, Jan Nowak of Radio Free Europe, and Professor Stan Blejwas from Connecticut. Five members of the Hungarian American community were there, along with two each from the Czech and Slovak American communities. From Washington came Alexis Herman- who would later be U.S. Secretary of Labor, Deputy National Security Advisor Samuel Berger, and the State Department's Daniel Fried - later U.S. Ambassador to Poland, plus a bevy of staff persons.

Following dinner Ms. Herman opened our discussion by simply asking us "What's on your mind?"

What followed was amazing - for the next two hours everyone who spoke, including me, called on the Government to support NATO expansion. Folks handpicked by the White House and together for the very first time were all speaking with one voice. Significantly none of our White House hosts said a word.

continued on next page --->

## 25th Anniversary of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into the NATO Alliance

continued from previous page

Around 10 p.m. Ms. Herman rose to remind us of our meeting with the President following his public address the next morning. Was the meeting over?

No. President Moskal rose to say that he and several others had not yet had the opportunity to speak. Ms. Herman sat down and Moskal then succinctly condemned the Administration's failure to support NATO expansion, calling it nothing less than a "Second Yalta." His words brought a quick response from the till then silent White House delegation. "No don't say that!" It was as if Moskal had placed their fingers into an electric socket. Our discussion then continued past midnite. As we adjourned President Moskal, Professor Blejwas and I noticed that the White House people and their staff were staying put. Were they revising the President's speech for the next morning?

On Friday morning January 6, 1994, Vice President Albert Gore, substituting for President Clinton, whose mother had just passed away, spoke to some 1,000 people - over 200 of them Polish Americans. There he used words and phrases from our meeting the night before. NATO expansion, he implied, was indeed on the table. When our group met with Mr. Gore after his speech, we covered the same ground as the night before. At the end he invited us to the White House to meet with the President after his return from his trip to NATO headquarters in Brussels.

On March 2, 1994, we had that meeting. It was very frank. At the end, President Clinton said something that hit me hard. He declared, "The door to NATO expansion is open." Really?

How significant was our Milwaukee meeting? In January 1998, Mr Nicholas Rey, our former U.S. Ambassador to Poland, was in Milwaukee. His mission was to win over critics of NATO expansion - in Wisconsin and around the country. I hosted a luncheon for him attended by dozens of community leaders. There as we exchanged luncheon pleasantries I mentioned my participation at the January 5, 1994 meeting. He dropped his knife and fork and turned to me. "You were there! They were talking about that meeting for six months in Washington! You folks had a big impact in changing our country's foreign policy!" Then he added. "Well not only you!"

He was right. So many others had made the case for NATO enlargement. Madeleine Albright who would be Secretary of State in 1999 and General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski. U.S. Senators Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, Hank Brown of Colorado, Paul Simon and Richard Durbin of Illinois, Richard Lugar of Indiana and many many others.

Myra and Casimir Lenard of the Polish American Congress in Washington, DC. had played a key role too. Together they worked with our fellow Americans of East Central European origins to create the Central and East European Coalition. Its 19 organizations brought together 13 different nationality groups to express the support of 20 million Americans for NATO expansion. Their lobbying

efforts focused on the 100 members of the Senate of the United States since a two thirds vote of that body was required to amend the NATO treaty and enable its expansion.

Special Thanks here go to Edward Moskal who was engaged in the expansion effort for seven full years. I will never forget how he electrified that January 5, 1994 meeting! And to President Clinton - a Chief Executive who listened. And who acted.

One last personal memory. In early 1998, I had the chance to work with Ryszard Sarkowicz, Poland's Consul General in Chicago, and with members of the Wisconsin State legislature, to win a joint resolution in support of NATO expansion.

Did that vote mean much?

Well, on April 30, 1998, both of our U.S. Senators, Herb Kohl and Russell Feingold voted for NATO expansion. The Senate vote was 80-19. And in the fourteen states where the Polish American Congress was most active, the vote was 26-2 for NATO enlargement. Obviously, lots of other folks were doing similar things around the country.

Today we look back with pride at this singularly great achievement. Three countries whose citizens had courageously ended Soviet domination and without violence had joined NATO - ten long years after the extraordinary events of 1989.

NATO expansion represented a victory for peace, progress, solidarity, and national security, one that began a process of NATO expansion that today unites the citizens of thirty-two very diverse countries around the principle of collective self defense. NATO is the shield defending the lives and hopes of 950 million people. In Europe. In North America.

In short NATO matters. It mattered in 1949. It mattered in 1999. It matters today.

Thank you.

### Sources:

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Participants at the January 5-6 Milwaukee meetings:  
Czech Americans: Mojmir Povolny and Leopold Rozboril  
Hungarian Americans: Edith Lauer, Laszlo Hamos, Andrew Ludanyi, Laszo Papp, Peter Ujvagi  
Slovak Americans: Charles Chabron, Andrew Rajec  
Polish Americans: Edward Moskal, Jan Nowak, Leszek Kuczynski, Helen Wojcik, Delores Spejewski, Donald Versden, Lawrence Leck, Stanislaus Blejwas,

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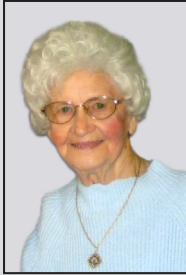


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**On May 3, 2024, Polonia Will Mark the 233rd Anniversary of the Second Oldest Democratic Constitution in the World (1791-2024)**

**You can view the Exhibit at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia.**

**More information about Poland's May 3rd Constitution will be published in the May 2024 edition of the Polish American News.**

**Comparison of the World's First Democratic Constitutions**

The Constitution of the United States of America was the world's first democratic constitution. Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791, became the world's second and Europe's first constitution. Although Poland's parliamentary system of representative government began in the early 1400's, it was not until 1791 that political leaders achieved democratic reform of the government, nearly two years after the ratification of the American constitution. Both constitutions were drafted in secret and later publicly ratified.

Following the American model, the Polish constitution established a system of checks and balances with three independent branches of government - executive, legislative and judicial. Both constitutions stressed the principles of equality, tolerance, liberty, secret ballot and rule by majority.

Both constitutions established an executive branch, a king in Poland and a president in America, each with specific privileges and limitations, monitored by a two-house legislative branch: the Polish general assembly, or Sejm, with an upper Chamber of Senators and a lower Chamber of Deputies, and the U.S. Congress with a Senate and House of Representatives. The American vice president presided over the Senate and the Polish king presided over the Chamber of Senators, each casting the tie-breaking vote when necessary. The king and president served as commanders-in-chief of the armed forces and chief guardians of the law and appointed persons to high offices in government, such as chief advisors or ministers, ambassadors and supreme court justices. Unlike the U.S. Congress, however, the Polish Sejm had the power, by two-thirds majority of the combined houses, to force the King to remove an undesirable appointed official.

continued next column ----->



**United States Constitution - First Democratic Constitution in the World**  
Drafted on September 17, 1787 - Ratified in 1789



**Poland's Constitution - Second Oldest Democratic Constitution in the World**  
Drafted in 1788 - Enacted on May 3, 1791

Both constitutions made provisions for change, amendments in the U.S. and a review of the constitution every twenty five years in Poland.

Also each nation's chief executive was selected by indirect election. U.S presidents were chosen by electors selected by state legislatures (the Electoral College), and the Polish king came from a prominent family selected by the Sejm. Only the House of Representatives and the Chamber of Deputies were elected directly by popular vote. Also, initially, American states selected federal senators and the Polish king appointed senators.

Both constitutions, landmarks in world history, were ultimately inspired by the principles of limited government, or shared authority, of John Locke and power to the people of Henri Rousseau.

"We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union...do ordain and establish this Constitution..." (U.S. Constitution, 1789)

"All authority in human society takes its beginning in the will of the people." (Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791)

**Make Sure Your Vote Counts**



**Polish Americans and all Americans are asked to go out and vote in the Primary Election in your state, as well as the General Election in November.**

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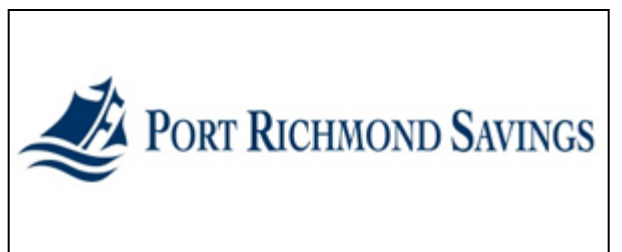
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