

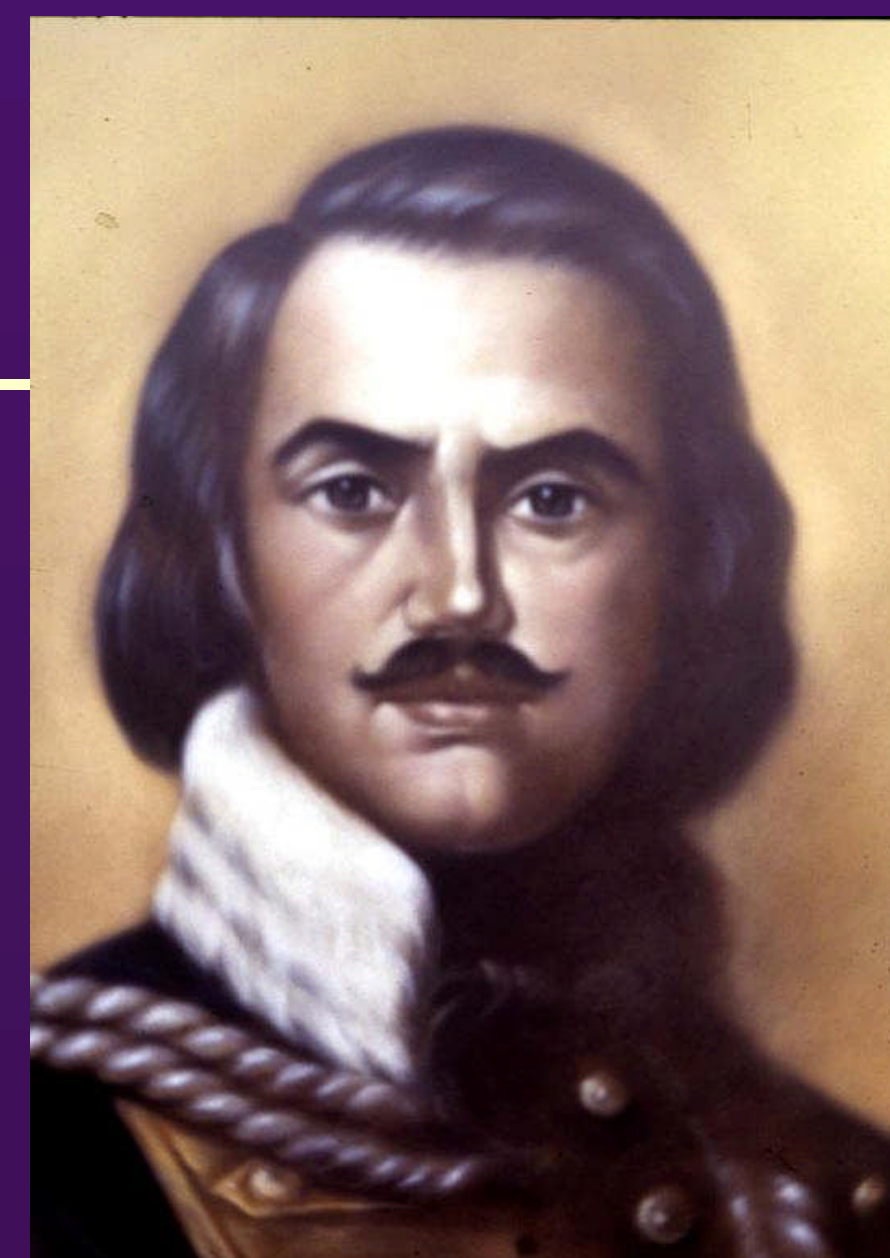
# POLISH AMERICAN HEROES

of American Revolution: Generals...



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO &

CASIMIR PULASKI



- Born on February 4, 1746 in Poland.
- In 1776 this skilled Polish engineer arrived to America and offered his services to the American colonies in their struggle for independence.
- In 1783 Kosciuszko was

appointed Brigadier General and was awarded the Cincinnati Order Medal by General George Washington.

- Close friend of President Thomas Jefferson
- Outstanding service fighting for independence:
  - Heroic defense at the Battle of Saratoga.
  - In 1778 Kosciuszko designed the fortifications at West Point - also known as the American Gibraltar.
- George Washington presented Kosciuszko with two pistols and a sword as gifts for his outstanding service to America.
- Kosciuszko referred to America as his "second home."
- When leaving America, Kosciuszko designated Thomas Jefferson the executor of his will. He specified that the funds from his estate were to be used for the emancipation and education of American slaves.
- Jefferson wrote of Kosciuszko, "He is as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known."

- Born on March 6, 1745 in Poland.
- On July 23, 1777 Pulaski came to America to fight for the country's freedom.
- Benjamin Franklin recommended Pulaski to George Washington:

*"The young Pole as an officer, renowned throughout Europe for the courage and bravery he displayed in defense of his country's freedom"*

- Fought in the first battle on American soil at Brandywine Creek between Chester & Philadelphia.
- In 1778, through George Washington's intervention, Congress approved the establishment of the Cavalry and put Casimir Pulaski at its head. Pulaski, who became known as the "**Father of the American Cavalry**," demanded much of his men and trained them in tried and tested cavalry tactics, many of which he used in his fight for freedom in Poland.
- Played a key role in the successful defense of Charleston.
- Died on October 9, 1779 during a battle in Savannah, Georgia.
- In 2009 President Barrack Obama proclaimed Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

## 100 YEARS

OF KOSCIUSZKO & PULASKI MONUMENTS IN WASHINGTON D.C.!

(Both unveiled on May 11, 1910)

Location: Lafayette Square on Pennsylvania Avenue, directly north of the White House on 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW

Created by Polish sculptor Antoni Popiel (1865-1910)

Dedicated on May 11, 1910 by President William Howard Taft

The inscription on the monument reads:

"Erected by the Polish National Alliance of America and presented on behalf of Polish-American citizens, May 11, 1910."



Location: Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street, NW

Created by Polish sculptor Casimir Chodzinski (1861- 1920) & architect Albert Randolph Ross

The plaque reads:

"Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski 1748-1779.

The bronze equestrian statue of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski portrays the Revolutionary War hero in the uniform of a Polish cavalry commander. Born in Winiary, Poland on March 4, 1748 to a noble family. Pulaski gained prominence in Europe for his role in defending liberty in Poland. Excited by the struggle of the emerging American Republic, Pulaski joined in its fight for independence, arriving in Boston on July, 1777. Pulaski was given a commission as Brigadier General and Chief of Cavalry in command of all cavalry of the

American forces. He was present at Germantown, Pennsylvania and led his legion at Haddonfield, New Jersey; Egg Harbor, New Jersey; Charleston, South Carolina; and Savannah, Georgia. At Savannah, Pulaski was mortally wounded and was taken aboard the American brig, WASP, where he died and was buried at sea on October 11, 1779. He was 31 years old. The statue was designed by the sculptor Kazimierz Chodzinski and architect Albert R. Ross. It was erected in 1910."

