Polish American Congress
Volume 6, Number 3

Your Voice in America!

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Future PAC Newsletters will be sent out:

Deadline for submission          Publication date
Friday, August 2, 2019            Friday, August 9, 2019
Friday, October 4, 2019           Friday, October 11, 2019
Friday, December 6, 2019          Friday, December 13, 2019

“Your Voice in America” is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Polish American Congress. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer PAC National Directors and PAC Executive Committee members the opportunity to share news and information about their state divisions and offices. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source. The editor is Dr. Mark Pienkos.

Articles should be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints, as well as correcting grammatical errors. We do not send proofs for approval. When sending photos, please include captions with names, official titles. All submitted materials become the property of the Polish American Congress and may be used to promote the mission of the PAC. Materials will not be returned unless requested.

Articles are due according to this schedule. Send your submissions to PAC National VP for Public Relations, Mark Pienkos at markpienkos2012@gmail.com.

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The National Polish American Congress will celebrate the organization’s 75th anniversary during its annual meeting in Chicago scheduled for November 14-15, 2019.

Throughout 2019, PAC State Divisions will be holding events to mark this milestone. Please send articles with photos regarding those events for publication in the Polish American Congress “Your Voice in America” Newsletter. One such event was recently held on June 1st by the PAC – Western New York Division. The following article details their splendid celebration!
Editor’s Note: The 75th anniversary of the Polish American Congress was celebrated on Saturday, June 1, 2019 in Buffalo – the site of the organization’s founding in 1944. The PAC – Western New York Division is to be congratulated for its efforts to mark this special anniversary. The article that follows captures highlights of this special day. The logo on the program for the Mass is the one used 75 years ago as the PAC was about to become a major force in Polish American life. Thank you to James Lawicki, President of the PAC – Western New York Division, and his fine executive committee for organizing this special event.

On June 1, 2019 at 4 p.m., a Mass celebrating the 75th Diamond Jubilee of the founding of the Polish American Congress took place in St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church. In honor of the 75th Diamond Jubilee event, a special commemorative bronze plaque was dedicated and placed in the vestibule of St. Stanislaus Church by the PAC – Western New York Division. Also, a special reception took place following the Mass, which was hosted by the Western New York Division, at the Clement Mansion in Buffalo, New York.

According to historian and author of “White and Red Umbrella”, Joanna Wojdon, “The first public appearance of the Polish Congress took place on Sunday, May 28, 1944 at 10:30 a.m. during a Holy Mass in St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo, New York . . . an official opening ceremony of the Congress started at 4:30 p.m. in Memorial Auditorium.”

Commemorative Plaque Blessed
PAC – Western New York Division officers attending the special Mass at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church honoring the 75th anniversary of the Polish American Congress: (L-R): Ted Czudzinski, Treasurer; Dina Szymanski, Secretary; Rev. Czesław Krysa, Chaplain; James L. Lawicki II, President; Mark Pienkos (PAC National Vice President for Public Relations); Denise Oliansky, Director; Andrew Gołębiowski, Director. (Absent from picture: Irena Woszczak, Vice President and James Serafin, Director).
Understanding that there is strength in numbers, PAC – Western Florida Division President, Walter Golebiewski, has reached out to Mitchell Panek, President of the Polish-American Association of Sarasota, to develop closer ties between the two organizations. Besides supporting each group’s activities and events, the possibility of joining each other’s groups in membership is being discussed. Geographically, the two groups are approximately 35-40 minutes apart. The Western Florida Division meets at the beautiful St. John Paul II Center in St. Petersburg, while the Polish-American Association of Sarasota meets monthly at the Church of the Incarnation – where a Polish Saturday School is located. There is a large number of people of Polish descent on the Florida Gulf. An excellent opportunity to engage these folks in all things Polish!

The quarterly meeting of the PAC – Western Florida Division was held on April 27th. With over 30 members present, those gathered viewed an outstanding video highlighting the 2018 performances of Mazowsze in Siberia. Following the video, an interesting presentation was given by Maciej Zaborowski, who is Senior Staff Officer in the Polish Air Force and a liaison to the United States Central Command. He spoke about Poland’s security, European Union activities affecting Poland, and finally the upcoming Polish Parliamentarian elections this fall. The meeting ended with the serving of a delicious array of Polish desserts that were enjoyed by all!

Traveling to St. Petersburg from Sarasota to actively participate in the Polish Constitution Day events were members of the Polish-American Association of Sarasota.

On Sunday, May 19th, the Polish-American Association of Sarasota held its monthly meeting. Thirty-two members were present, plus several guests. Besides general business, the main focus of the meeting was the awarding of scholarships to three graduating high school seniors: Jonathan Chaplin, James Duffy, and Christopher Genewick – all of Polish descent – who will be continuing their education at major universities in the fall.

Efforts will continue to bring not only these two organizations closer together, but also include overtures to other Polish groups in Sarasota and Venice, as well as the Tampa - St. Petersburg area.

(Continued on next page with photos...)

**INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: GRAPHIC DESIGN INTERN**

- **Hours:** 15-25 hours per week
- **Supervisors:** Administrator
- **Compensation:** Unpaid
- **Application deadline:** Friday, June 28
- **Internship dates:** July 1 - September 30 (possibility of working remotely)

This internship is for an undergraduate or graduate student who is either working towards a Graphic Design degree or is a student passionate about graphic design.

Depending on the semester and the number of interns in the office, the intern may be asked to work as a team member with other interns. A detailed, individualized program will be prepared to fit each intern’s interests.

**Duties include but are not limited to:**

- Creating graphics for all projects, printed materials, ads, announcements, and any materials for the upcoming 75th Jubilee of the Polish American Congress.
- Aiding in the creation of graphics for the PAC website.
- Helping to create visual presentations and info graphics.
- Ensure all designs meet the goals and legal standards of the Polish American Congress.

**Qualifications and requirements:**

- Proficient in Photoshop.
- Creative mindset, conceptual abilities, and ability to create compelling visuals.
- Portfolio of work.
- Must also possess a strong interest and motivation to work for a Polish American organization.
- Ability to learn new techniques and work with new technologies.
- Candidates with the ability to read and write in the Polish language at minimum to intermediate level preferred.
- Basic HTML and CSS skills a plus.

If interested, please e-mail resume, cover letter, and a portfolio to the attention of Klara Z. Wisniewska at kwisniewska@pac1944.org.

**BUILDING BRIDGES . . . BECOMING STRONGER!**

*Co-Written by:
Walter Golebiewski
PAC President - Western Florida Division
Mitchell Panek
President
Polish-American Association of Sarasota*

*Traveling to St. Petersburg from Sarasota to actively participate in the Polish Constitution Day events were members of the Polish-American Association of Sarasota.*
1. 2018 Mazowsze Performance in Siberia (as shown on video)

2. Maciej Zaborowski, Senior Staff Officer – LTC, Polish Air Force

3. Polish delicacies!

4. (L-R) Dr. Mark Pienkos, PAC National Vice President for Public Relations; Zbigniew Bak, PAC-Western Florida Division Member; Krystyna Pawlowski, PAC-Western Florida Division Board Member. All helping to represent the State Division at the Polish Constitution Day festivities in St. Petersburg on May 5, 2019.

5. Over 100 People gather to celebrate Polish Constitution Day.

6. The proud Polish Saturday School students participating in the Polish Constitution Day festivities!

7. Honor Guard and Flag Bearers help salute Poland’s Constitution Day.

8. Polish-American Association of Sarasota Members (PAAoS) attending the Polish Constitution Day events in St. Petersburg, Florida. Pictured from left to right: Mitchell Panek President; Sue Wardynski, Corresponding Secretary; Bernice Trzos, Scholarship Committee Member; Holly Panek, Adam Trzos, Director at Large; Zofia Mirozewsk, Treasurer of both PAAoS and the Polonian Echo Newsletter; Zofia Cegielnik (Polonian Echo Contributor), Dr. Mark Pienkos (PAC National Vice President for Public Relations), and Ann Pienkos.

9. (L-R) Jonathan Chaplin, Scholarship recipient; Mitchell Panek, President; James Duffy, Scholarship recipient; Malgorzata Gasior, Scholarship Chairperson. Not in photo: Christopher Genewick, Scholarship Recipient.
Editor’s Note: Seventy-five years ago, the Polish American Congress was founded in Buffalo. Please enjoy a story of a very successful Polish business in Buffalo – there are oh so many – that is celebrating its centennial of operation in 2019. Congratulations! And thank you to Sue Wardynski of Sarasota, who brought this family business achievement to my attention. Sue is a member and officer in the Polish-American Association of Sarasota, and is also the daughter-in-law of Lottie and Frank Wardynski.

Frank X. Wardynski was born in Kazimierz, Poland in 1893. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1913 to work with his uncle who was operating a small sausage business in Rochester, NY. Expecting to be drafted into WW I, Frank agreed to a non-compete (within a certain radius of Rochester) with his uncle, which turned out to be unnecessary given that the war ended soon thereafter!

Eager to start his own business, Frank moved to Buffalo in 1917 and settled in the heart of the Polish community which was, at that time, near St. Stanislaus Parish. He opened a small sausage shop and retail market at 344 Peckham Street. The business outgrew that building in short order, so he bought the three story property at 336 Peckham Street which stands, to this day, as the factory and offices of Frank Wardynski and Sons, Inc. Frank married Charlotte (“Lottie”) Tomczak in 1920. She was the daughter of a prominent Polish family involved in the beer brewing business. They were blessed with three children: Raymond, Edmund, and Alice.

The sausage business prospered and grew, but WW II intervened: both sons left for army service. Upon their return, Frank retired in 1945, and son Ray took over the reins of running the business and became its president in the early 1950’s. Edmund worked in the factory, and Edward Posluszy, spouse of daughter Alice was the sales manager, Lottie, one should note, ran the office and the finances of the company all along, and died at her desk in 1973. Ray’s son, Raymond M. (“Skip”) Wardynski, Sr. assumed both the ownership and running of the business in 1985.

Few family businesses survive through the years; many have succumbed to a national buyout. Frank Wardynski and Sons has managed not only to survive for 100 years but to thrive. It is a testament to its founder, Frank, to his wife and partner Lottie, and to the continued perseverance and hard work of their son, the late Ray, and his son Skip, who continues in the same tradition.
Resolution Passed by the New York Legislature

INITIAL RESOLUTION CO-SIGNERS

Submitted by Teresa Bunk


From left to right: Maria Glowacki; Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy; Ryszard Joachim; Urszula Zemanek; Assemblyman John McDonald; Walter Brzozowski; Janina Kowalik - Treasurer; Krystyna Lizak; Tomasz Mroczek - President; Tadeusz Szyszka - Vice - President; Jan Lopatniuk; Theresa Bunk - National Director.
STATE OF NEW YORK

The Legislature

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Polish American Congress

WHEREAS, it is the custom of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Polish American Congress; and

WHEREAS, The Polish American Congress (PAC) is a nationwide umbrella organization representing thousands of Polish-American organizations including fraternal, educational, veteran, business groups, churches, leaders of the Polish clergy, Polish-American press, social clubs and benefit societies such as the Polish National Alliance, Polish Women's Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Falcons of America, as well as individual and student membership; and

WHEREAS, Divisions are represented in many states, including Central Division of New York from Albany to Utica; Western Division in Buffalo, as well as Long Island and New York City; and

WHEREAS, The PAC promotes civic and educational programs designed to further the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, as well as to stimulate Polish-American involvement and accomplishments; its Charitable Foundation administers educational scholarships through various trusts and estates; and

WHEREAS, The PAC was founded in May of 1944, when 2,500 Polish-Americans convened in Buffalo to develop the organization as a result of Poland having been invaded by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, initiating World War II; following the ending of the war in 1945, the PAC continued its support for a free Poland and oversaw donations of medical supplies, food and non-perishable items which were sent to the battle worn country; and

WHEREAS, In 1946, a delegation of PAC officers travelled to Germany and France to observe the conditions of thousands of Polish displaced persons, and successfully lobbied for legislation which led to the admission of more than 100,000 war victims and veterans of Polish Armed Forces to the United States; the PAC then played a major role in resettling the survivors; and
WHEREAS, The formation of the Solidarity Trade Union in Poland in 1980, at a time of extreme economic and political crisis, brought an immediate endorsement for its cause, and the PAC supported it wholeheartedly by sponsoring efforts to raise money and materials; the Charitable Foundation initiated a drive of delivering medical goods, infant foods, clothing, shoes, farm equipment and seeds to Poland with the cooperation of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland; and

WHEREAS, Once Democracy was restored after the collapse of communism in 1989, the PAC continued its support of Poland resulting in its admittance into NATO in 1999; and

WHEREAS, After the terrorist attack in New York City on September 11, 2001, the Charitable Foundation raised significant funds to distribute to the Fire and Police Fund; and

WHEREAS, The PAC is rightfully proud of its many millions of sons and daughters who emigrated to the United States to build their own lives, as well as contributing to the growth of a great America and cooperates with organizations of other ethnic and cultural communities in promoting the principles of mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, Following its creed, "For Our Freedom and Yours," the PAC remains faithful to its 75 years of traditions in representing millions within the Polish American Community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Polish American Congress; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Polish American Congress, Central Division of New York State.

JOINT DECLARATION ON DEFENSE COOPERATION REGARDING UNITED STATES FORCE POSTURE - JUNE 2019

The United States of America (the United States) and the Republic of Poland (Poland) share a history of friendship based on common efforts, shared values, and mutual respect. We have fought shoulder-to-shoulder around the globe, including in Iraq and Afghanistan, to secure peace and security for our nations and the world. This friendship underpins an increasingly close strategic and defense relationship focused on threats to the security, peace, and prosperity of each country and of the North Atlantic Treaty area.

Both the United States and Poland reaffirm their commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), including the commitments made in Articles 3 and 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, as the cornerstone of our defense relationship. The United States and Poland believe that the presence of United States military personnel in Poland strengthens not only NATO’s deterrence efforts but also the defense of the United States, Poland, and the Alliance. Therefore, the United States plans to enhance the United States military presence within Poland.

We share key values, including a strong commitment to democracy, freedom, individual rights, free markets, and a mutual respect for the independence and sovereignty of each other’s country.

I. The United States is planning to enhance its current military presence of approximately 4,500 rotational United States military personnel in Poland. This enduring presence is expected to grow by about 1,000 additional United States military personnel in the near-term, and would focus on providing additional defense and deterrence capabilities in Poland.
II. With the understanding that the increased United States force presence in Poland is made sustainable due to Polish support, Poland plans to provide and sustain jointly determined infrastructure for the initial package of additional projects listed below, at no cost to the United States and taking into account the planned level of its use by United States forces. Poland also plans to provide additional support to United States forces, above the NATO host-nation standard.

A. Establishment of a United States Division Headquarters (Forward) in Poland.

B. Establishment and joint use by the United States Armed Forces and Polish Armed Forces of the Combat Training Center (CTC) in Drawsko Pomorskie, and eventually in a few other locations in Poland. The United States intends to continue to provide United States advisors to support the Polish Armed Forces in the establishment of the CTC.

C. Establishment of a United States Air Force MQ-9 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance squadron in Poland. The United States intends to share any information derived from this squadron’s operations, as appropriate, that supports our defense objectives.

D. Establishment of an aerial port of debarkation to support the movement of forces for training or contingency.

E. Establishment of an area support group to support current and future United States forces in Poland.

F. Establishment of United States special operations forces capability in Poland to provide support for air, ground, and maritime operations.

G. Establishment of infrastructure to support the presence of an armored brigade combat team, a combat aviation brigade, and a combat sustainment support battalion.

III. Both countries seek to conclude international agreements and other arrangements necessary to realize the common vision for enhanced defense cooperation, including the streamlining of the functioning of the United States forces in Poland. The United States and Poland are to have a regular process to consult and plan for potential force posture adjustments and related infrastructure requirements for the United States forces deployed to Poland.

We look forward to growing and enhancing our defense cooperation in the years ahead.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 13, 2019

President Donald Trump and Polish President Andrzej Duda met yesterday in Washington, D.C. to discuss various initiatives to bring the two allies even closer together economically and militarily.

One of the issues discussed was Poland’s inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program. Presently, thirty-eight countries are in the Visa Waiver Program. Poland is not.

Poland has been an important friend and ally to the United States dating back to the American Revolutionary War with Polish heroes Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz Kościuszko fighting on behalf of George Washington’s Continental Army. Throughout our history, Poles emigrating to the U.S. helped build our nation. Poland has also been an ally during the fight against Terrorism, sending troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, Poland is fulfilling its obligations to contribute 2% of its GDP to the NATO Alliance which Poland has been a member of since 1999.

The Polish American Congress, historically representing nearly 10 million Americans of Polish descent, is encouraged and happy to hear President Trump’s support for Poland’s inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program – and President Duda indicating that an agreement has been signed to move Poland forward towards inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program. We are also grateful to Georgette Mosbacher, U.S. Ambassador to Poland, for her supportive Visa Waiver efforts. The Polish American Congress, an organization founded seventy-five years ago in May 1944 to support a free and independent Poland, strongly endorses Poland’s inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program. We are especially grateful to the United States and Poland working together to make this become a reality in the very near future.
Written by John Czop  
Director of Policy Planning  
Polish American Congress

Polish American Congress President Frank J. Spula organized a Congressional Briefing: Poland’s Painful Past and Promising Future. The briefing took place in the Cannon House Office Building on 20 May 2019. With all seats in the Briefing Room occupied, there was only standing room for the unexpectedly large number of Metro Washington Polish American participants, many of whom served within the government.

The content of the Congressional Briefing is as follows: Poland’s Painful Past and Promising Future was prepared by the National Office of the Polish American Congress in Washington, DC. The Washington Office sent invitations to members of Congress. The offices of the following members of the House of Representatives were present at the Briefing:

1. Congressman Ron Kind (D-Wisconsin 3rd District)
2. Congressman Conor Lamb (D- Pennsylvania 17th D)
3. Andy Harris (R-Maryland 1st District)
4. Chris Collins (R- New York 27th)
5. Ann Kuster (D-New Hampshire 2nd)
6. Troy Balderson (R-Ohio 12 District)

The officials serving in the Executive Branch Departments of Commerce, Energy, and State, with Mr. John Grondelski, Poland Desk, also participated.

The Congressional Briefing was a success. There was no time for questions and answers after briefings by: Professor Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, first incumbent and present holder of the Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies at the Institute of World Politics (IWP) in Washington, DC, Mrs. Ann Bankowski, president of the Michigan Division of the Polish American Congress, and Mr. Ian Brzezinski, Senior Resident fellow at the Atlantic Council.

Professor Chodakiewicz delivered a masterly tour d’ horizon of Poland’s history from early times to the present, which included the following observations. The tendentious distortion of Polish history perpetrated by the imperial powers that partitioned Poland at the end of the eighteenth century continues in the present. Today, influential publicists and academics compound the errors of the past with new falsehoods. This is why the important mission of the Kosciuszko Chair at IWP includes correcting the prevailing false narrative of Poland’s history.

Moreover, the accurate and fair-minded understanding of Poland’s past, with its five-centuries as a multi-ethnic and pluri-religious republic with, for early modern times, a broad base of enfranchised citizens, approximately 10% of the population, shapes in the present the Polish idea of freedom. The Polish Res Publica was the first sustained modern experiment in republican government since the collapse of the ancient Roman Republic. Well before Western European countries, the Polish Res Publica, or the Polish-Lithuanian-Ruthenian Commonwealth, enacted habeas corpus, property rights for women, religious liberty, and political freedom. Only after the democratic reforms of the 1830s in England and the United States were political freedoms as broadly based as they were in Poland. This is why the imperialist autocracies of Russia, Prussia, and Austria collaborated to end Poland’s independence at the end of the 18th century. These autocrats feared their subjects would demand the freedoms possessed by Poles.

Lastly, Poland remains an important country today because of its strategic position in Europe, its role in the defense of Western civilization, and its affinities and alliance with NATO and the United States. Professor Chodakiewicz states that the basis of this affinity of Americans with Poles is a steadfast commitment to freedom. For those who value truth and honor, it is painful to read the willful and self-serving distortions of pundits and academics who degrade Poland’s proud and honorable past.

On a different note, the president of the Michigan Division of the Polish American Congress, Mrs. Ann Bankowski, introduced Anna Poray’s book, Those Who Risked Their Lives. Mrs. Bankowski told the stories of Polish people who assisted Jewish neighbors and observed that Nazi German occupied Poland was the only place where those assisting Jews to avoid persecution were subject to execution. This explains the title of Poray’s book; those Poles who assisted Jews did so at the risk of their own lives.
President Bankowski, Vice-President Barbara Lemecha, and the other members of the Michigan Division prepared the index of *Those Who Risked Their Lives*. Also, the Congressional staffers at the Briefing received a copy of this book that belongs in municipal and college libraries.

Mr. Ian Brzezinski delivered a briefing on Poland’s promising future through the Three Seas Initiative. Croatia and Poland launched this initiative in 2015 for the purpose of integrating, on a north-to-south axis, the economies of the countries bordering the Baltic, Black, and Adriatic Seas. Brzezinski explained that the goal is to complete the project of making Europe whole, prosperous, and free and by doing for East Central Europe what Western Europe already achieved in the 1950s. Improvements in infrastructure, transportation, especially better north-to-south roads, and telecommunications are at the heart of this initiative.

Moreover, the Three Seas Area needs to be energy independent, which means that it can no longer rely on the Kremlin’s natural gas which carries a heavy political price. The economic infrastructure in this part of the former Soviet space was deliberately neglected to make this zone dependent on the Kremlin. A prosperous Three Seas Area will benefit American business; Poland already is a top customer of liquefied natural gas produced in Texas. President Donald Trump’s administration strongly supports the Three Seas Initiative. Readers recall President Trump’s pro-Polish speech at the opening of the July 2017 Three Seas Summit in Warsaw. It was good to see so many Democrat members of Congress at the Briefing because the Three Seas Initiative is a win-win opportunity and well merits bi-partisan support.

On May 2, 2019, during the Days of Remembrance at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, DC, several members of the Polish American Congress (PAC), Washington Metropolitan Area Division, participated in the commemoration ceremony. PAC members Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Bozenna Buda, Karol Klonowski, and Malgorzata Rogoyska along with Stephen Gilbride, took turns reading aloud the names of Polish citizens who perished in the Holocaust during WWII. They did this at the Podium in the Hall of Remembrance at the USHMM as an eternal flame burned nearby.

Mrs. Bozenna Urbanowicz Gilbride, a Polish Catholic survivor of the Holocaust now residing in Long Island, and her son Stephen Gilbride sent the names of the Holocaust victims which were read. Mrs. Gilbride had requested and obtained the lists from the Main Commission for the Investigation of Hitler’s Crimes Against Poland. The lists contained names of Poles sentenced to death in Auschwitz and were received from the Auschwitz Museum. The notation with it stated that these “Documents [are] representative of a fractional amount of victims.” They included the names of children as well as of adult men and women.

Mrs. Gilbride has spoken about her experiences as a survivor of the Holocaust at public gatherings and schools. She has written about them in her books, Children of Terror (2009) and Waiting for Mama (2017). Her state of health no longer permitted her to travel to Washington, DC, for this commemoration.

Reading the names aloud was a symbolic and loving act undertaken to ensure that the names of the victims will not forgotten. May they rest in eternal peace! “Wieczny odpoczynek racz im dać, Panie, a światłość wiekuista niechaj im świecie na wiek wieków. Amen.”

The 2019 Remembrance Day at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Stephen Gilbride and PAC members Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak and Bozenna Buda.

PAC member Bozenna Buda, who is also a member of the Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP, reads aloud names of Polish citizens who perished in the Holocaust during WWII at the 2019 Remembrance Day at USHMM.
A couple of years ago, I saw the Auschwitz Exhibit in the Polish and Slavic Center in Greenpoint (Brooklyn New York). I immediately decided that it must be shared as an excellent educational tool to teach Americans about an important part of the tragic Polish history and Nazi Germany’s unthinkable cruelty. My three uncles, brothers of my mother, were caught in the random round-up on the streets of Cracow and taken to the concentration camp in Oswiecim (Auschwitz in German) — that was used as one of ways to terrorize Poles. I felt personally responsible to let the world know that not only Jews were sent there, but Poles as well. I tried in vain to get a name and contact info in order to rent the exhibit.

Back in 2017 during the PAC Conference in Washington D.C., my resolution to publicize the Auschwitz Exhibit and have it be presented to an American audience was passed unanimously. However, no one attempted to implement it. In 2019, I got lucky. During a conversation with Wieslaw Wierzbowski, PAC President of the Massachusetts Eastern Division, I mentioned my search. He gave me the name and phone number to Dr. Andrzej Pronczuk, President of Polish Cultural Foundation in Boston, whom he knows personally. Andrzej and I immediately found a common language. I traveled to Andrzej’s house where we had an interesting meeting, and he asked me to become a steward of two exhibits: Auschwitz and Poles Saving Jews. I signed the agreement, made a donation, and drove back to New York — a 9 hour round trip. I brought the exhibit entitled “They risked their lives” to the PAC – Long Island meeting and it caught the attention of Marta Wesolowski, VP for Cultural and Youth Affairs. She took the exhibit and presented it in a few schools on Long Island.

In the meantime, I received an email from the Polish Department of mobile exhibits in Oswiecim that a high school in Baraboo, Wisconsin was interested in renting the Auschwitz Exhibit. So far, the exhibit has traveled only by a car and was never shipped, so I had to invent a safe method to pack 31 posters, weighing 125 pounds.

In Baraboo, Wisconsin, Kari Nelson, an English teacher at the local High School, volunteered to be responsible for the exhibit. To her credit, not only did she showcase the exhibit at her high school, but she also managed to arrange for it to be presented at the Baraboo City Hall.

Instead of shipping the exhibit back to Long Island, following the recommendation of Mark Pienkos, I got in touch with David Rydzewski, President of the PAC – Wisconsin Division who was kind enough to temporary store it. Wherever possible, President Rydzewski plans to share the exhibit locally in the Milwaukee area, including the Polish Center of Wisconsin.

Towards the end of October, the exhibit must be shipped back to me because it will be needed for the planned conference in Washington, D.C. commemorating 80th anniversary of the beginning of WWII. Hence, I encourage all the members of the Polish American Congress and their friends living in Wisconsin or Illinois, to use this opportunity to view the exhibit, or arrange for ways to have the exhibit showcased in your area. Please contact me. I will be happy to let you know what you need do to secure it and any associated costs. I can be reached by phone at 718-343-4316.

Editors NOTE: The following message was written by Kari Nelson, English teacher at Baraboo High School, who coordinated the exhibit in the Baraboo, Wisconsin community.

June 11, 2019

Dear Community Members,

Subject: Konzentrationslager Auschwitz Exhibit Display at City Hall

Exhibition Update: The Auschwitz exhibition that was installed for two weeks in the BHS library has now moved to the main lobby area of Baraboo’s City Hall where it will remain available to the public from 8 AM-4:30 PM this week and Monday, June 17th — all day. (It is also available this evening, Tuesday, when the City Council is in session.)

To read a full description of this 30-panel educational exhibit, see below. A special thank-you goes out to Mayor Mike Palm for his assistance in making the exhibit available to the wider community.

Within the next week, the Exhibition will travel to Milwaukee, courtesy of the Polish American Congress - Wisconsin Division, for its next stop on this important tour.
I think you will appreciate the panels below. It is clear this exhibit has been a somber learning opportunity for our young people.

Best regards to you all,

Kari

(her message continues...)

Exhibition Overview and Announcement:
We are so happy to announce that this important exhibition has arrived in Baraboo and is on display for the next two weeks in the Library Media Center at BHS. With the help of Barry Flesch’s World War Two history classes, the 31 educational panels of “German Nazi Death Camp Konzentrationslager Auschwitz” have been installed. The exhibition presents the most important issues of the “history of the camp, as well as the genesis of the Nazi movement and the specific face of German occupation in the Polish lands.”

The exhibition has traveled from Poland to us through Boston, where it was on display via the Polish Cultural Foundation and the Polish American Congress (New York, Long Island Division).

The exhibition details the:
• Reasons for the founding of the camp
• Political background of its functioning
• Course of the extermination of Jews
• Various forms of extermination
• Harsh living conditions and employment of prisoners
• The forms of resistance and assistance provided to prisoners from outside
• Specific groups of victims such as women, Roma, children, and the captured Soviet prisoners of war.

(Source: www.auschwitz.org/edukacja/wystawy/)

Staff members, students, and community members who take in this powerful exhibit are encouraged to sign the guest book at the end of the display. Let’s see how many of us can take time in these final weeks of a very trying school year to learn more so we can continue to educate our students and community about the Holocaust, specifically, and genocide, more broadly.

Lastly, our sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to the following individuals and organizations who have helped us make all of this possible:
• The International Center for Education About Auschwitz and the Holocaust
• The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
• Andrzej Kacorzyk, Director of the International Center for Education About Auschwitz and the Holocaust
• Zuzanna Janusik, Exhibitions contact
• Miroslaw Obstarczyk, Screenplay and Materials Selection
• Piotr Kutryba, Design and Graphic Design
• Zbyszek Koralewski, Polish American Congress and PACT - Educational Project
• David Rydzewski, Polish American Congress - Wisconsin Division, President
• The Baraboo Education Association, Executive Board
• Mr. Bill Froelich, Wisconsin Education Association Council - Region 5
• Wisconsin Education Association Council (Ron Martin, President)
• National Education Association (Lily Eskelsen Garcia, President)
• Baraboo High School Social Studies Department
• Mr. Barry Flesch and his WWII classes
• Baraboo High School LMC, Mr. Lawrence Gillick and Mrs. Jan Wolfe
• Baraboo High School Art Department
• Mr. Glenn Bildsten, BHS Principal
• Baraboo School District, Dr. Lori Mueller - Administrator
• Mayor Mike Palm, Baraboo, Wisconsin
• All those who contributed to this fundraiser in December

We eagerly hope that everyone is able to not only visit the exhibition but also experience the profundity of its message.

Sincerely,

Kari Nelson
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VICTORY ON THE HUDSON

The Polish American Congress in Action...

Written by John Czop
PAC Director of Policy Planning

The Polish American Congress (PAC), led by President Frank J. Spula, played a key leadership role in the struggle to keep sculptor Andrzej Pitynski’s Katyn Monument in Exchange Place. The larger than life size statue of a Polish soldier bayonetted in the back symbolizes the betrayal of Poland by Stalin’s Soviet Union and her erstwhile allies in World War II. Pitynski’s powerful statue stands in Jersey City on the west bank of the Hudson River opposite of Freedom Tower, which was home to the World Trade Center before September 11, 2001.

In April 2018, at the outset of the struggle for the future of the Katyn Monument, President Spula wrote a strong letter to the Mayor of Jersey City, Steven Fulop. This letter explained to the Mayor why the Katyn Monument must remain in Exchange Place. Unlike the presidents of other Polish American organizations, President Spula remained true to his straightforward position and opposed all plans to move the Katyn Monument to other locations in Jersey City.

President Spula ordered the Polish American Congress’s National Office in Washington, DC to set up a working relationship with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and other likeminded groups, including Jersey City reformers Jeanne Daly, Mike Kulowski, and Maria Scariati, who want to keep Exchange Place open for ALL THE PEOPLE of Jersey City and to stop selfish private interests, led by the Exchange Place Alliance, a foundation organized by real estate developers, from privatizing the Exchange Place and building an upscale restaurant on the spot where Andrzej Pitynski’s Monument now stands. The Katyn Monument still stands in Exchange Place because the PAC built a coalition in Jersey City, just as the PAC works with our coalition partners in Washington, DC – the CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COALITION. There are only approximately 5,000 Polish Americans in Jersey City. This is why we need to build coalitions, and this is what the Polish American Congress knows how to do. This is why President Spula deserves credit for our VICTORY ON THE HUDSON. If we had lost, President Spula would have received harsh criticism.

Moreover, Mr. Slawek Platta, founder of the very successful Platta Law Firm, and 2017 Grand Marshal of the New York/New Jersey General Pulaski Memorial Parade, played a decisive role by funding and organizing the successful petition campaign to overturn the Jersey City Council’s wrong decision, June 13, 2018, to move the Katyn Monument. Members of the Jersey City Branch of the NAACP collected many signatures to make this effort a success. The petition campaign broadened the largely Polish American effort to save the Katyn Monument from removal into a struggle of the people of Jersey City against the selfish real estate developers, who want to privatize Exchange Place and build a restaurant where the Katyn Monument now stands. The people of Jersey City support the Katyn Monument in order to keep Exchange Place open for public celebrations and commemorations.
Editor’s Note: While attending Mass at the Church of the Incarnation in Sarasota, Florida, the following message from the Orchard Lake Schools Chancellor, V. Rev. Can. Miroslaw K. Król, was also printed in the Polish-English Mass and Prayer Book.

As we begin a new Liturgical Year, I am filled with gratitude for the support and care that you have shown me during the short time I have been blessed to serve as the Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools. Since, 1885, our community has been a prestigious center of faith, education, tradition and culture. We want to continue on with this spirit. Our family builds on the individual strengths of each of our three main institutions: SS Cyril & Methodius Seminary, St. Mary’s Preparatory, and The Polish Mission.

Since my installation as Chancellor, I have greatly reflected a great deal on who we are as the prominent Polish-American community and who we might become in the months and years ahead. My prayer-filled hope is that the Orchard Lake community moves into the future embracing opportunities to evolve, grow, and flourish. As we were united in celebrating the 100th year of Polish Independence, let us continue this by building a fellowship of faith in which the Lord is its center. I am so humbled and excited to make this journey with you.

I am so blessed to be able to share with you this defining moment as we plan for our future. I thank you for everything that you do for the Orchard Lake Schools. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Every day one of our priests offer a Holy Mass for our friends and benefactors — both living and deceased.

I believe that this is the greatest gift we can offer to you in return for your generous heart. Please remember us within your prayers and, if possible, consider us in your will.

All in all, may the Lord bless you and protect you, and may our Lady of Częstochowa and St. John Paul II intercede for both you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

V. Rev. Can. Miroslaw K. Król
Chancellor

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Adrian Wojnarowski Named National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame Tony Kubek Media Award Recipient

The National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame (NPASHF) announced that Adrian Wojnarowski of ESPN is the recipient of the organization’s newly-originated Tony Kubek Media Award.

Wojnarowski will be the inaugural recipient of the NPASHF’s Tony Kubek Media Award; an award presented to a Polish-American media member for outstanding contributions to any form of sports media, including but not limited to, print, broadcast, and internet media. He will be recognized at the NPASHF’s Annual Induction Banquet on Thursday, June 20, in Troy, Michigan.

Wojnarowski (nicknamed “Woj” by his legion of followers) is proud of his Polish heritage. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut. Grew up in Bristol where he went to Bristol Central HS, then graduated from St. Bonaventure University. His media career has included stops with the Hartford Courant, Fresno Bee, The Record, Yahoo Sports, and since 2017, with ESPN where he is widely recognized as the top NBA insider and news breaker. Wojnarowski is integral to ESPN’s multimedia coverage of the NBA covering the league, its teams, players, free agency, the NBA Draft, the NBA Summer League and more.

His social media following is one of the highest of any U.S. media member. In 2006, Wojnarowski authored the New York Times best-seller, The Miracle of St. Anthony: A Season with Coach Bob Hurley and Basketball’s Most Improbable Dynasty. (Gotham Books.)

Tony Kubek is also a proud Polish-American. He was a former New York Yankees shortstop (1957-1965), a 4-time All-Star, 3-time World Series Champion and the 1957 American League Rookie of the Year. Following his on-field career, Kubek became perhaps the most famous network television baseball analyst, working alongside greats like Jim Simpson, Curt Gowdy, Joe Garagiola and Bob Costas on NBC Sports coverage of Major League Baseball. Kubek also worked games for Canada’s CTV and CSN, and Madison Square Garden Network.

Kubek was awarded the Ford C. Frick award in 2009 for broadcast excellence by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. He was enshrined into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame in 1982.

The 47th Annual Induction Banquet was held on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL POLISH-AMERICAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame (NPASHF) was founded in 1973 to honor and recognize outstanding American athletes, both amateur and professional, of Polish descent. The mission of the NPASHF is to recognize and preserve outstanding achievement by individuals of Polish heritage in the field of sports and to educate the entire community with the hope of encouraging and inspiring personal excellence. For more information, please visit polishsportshof.com.
New York State Sen. Chris Jacobs commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Week by announcing he has introduced legislation (S5431) that will strengthen and renew New York state’s commitment to educate citizens about the Holocaust. The senator said passage of the bill would address a pressing need for better Holocaust education in schools.

“I am troubled to learn of the growing lack of knowledge about the Holocaust, its atrocities and the people who were persecuted,” Jacobs said. “In a number of surveys, close to half of the respondents – and in some cases more – could not identify concentration camps or recall crucial details. We must do a better job of preserving the history of the Holocaust and passing its lessons on to future generations.”

In 2005, a poll by the American Jewish Committee found 46% of Americans could not identify what Auschwitz, Dachau or Treblinka were. A worldwide survey conducted by the Anti-Defamation League in 2014 found 54% of the 53,000 people polled never heard of the Holocaust. Similar surveys in the U.S. and Canada showed equally disturbing results with the lack of awareness substantially greater among people between the ages of 18-35.

The legislation introduced directs the commissioner of education to conduct outreach and provide resources to school districts across the state for course work, instruction and curriculum related to the Holocaust, including grants for speakers, field trips, lectures and events. The bill also directs the regents of the State University of New York to update the prescribed courses for Holocaust education currently provided for under state education law, and to fully fund the republication of volumes I and II of the Teaching About The Holocaust and Genocide textbooks.

The Jewish and Polish populations suffered tremendous losses during the Holocaust, and leaders in those Western New York communities attended the announcement of Jacobs’ legislation. “Everyone needs to recall, remember and know, in this time of rising anti-Semitic bigotry, the suffering and misery unleashed by the Nazi death machine against humanity,” said James Lawicki, president of the Western New York Division of the Polish American Congress. Sen. Jacobs’ proposed legislation to have the 1985 Teaching About The Holocaust and Genocide textbooks republished and reintroduce Holocaust and genocide studies into New York state schools is timely and proper, and the Polish American Congress wholeheartedly endorses his efforts.”

“Now, more than ever before, it is vital that teachers have the best training and resources possible to teach the Holocaust,” said Elizabeth Schram, executive director of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo. “If Sen. Jacobs’ bill becomes law, our teachers would be properly prepared to teach such a large and complex topic and ensure that students have a much deeper understanding of the Holocaust. With such a strong educational background, students would be armed with the ability to negate deniers and be prepared to identify and stand up to hatred and bigotry wherever it occurs.”

Jacobs cited bipartisan support for improving Holocaust education, noting a companion bill was being introduced in the Assembly. The senator said he hoped the commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Week would serve as a catalyst for speedy passage in both houses.

“It is so important that we use the memory of the millions of lives lost in the Holocaust as an antidote to hate and intolerance, and never allow this type of genocide to ever occur again,” he said. “With fewer and fewer survivors and witnesses left alive, our responsibility to preserve and strengthen these lessons becomes even greater, and I think this legislation will help us meet that obligation.”

From left to right: Kelsey Reed, Program Director, Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo; Raymond Dziedzic, President, WNY Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation; James Lawicki, President, PAC - WNY Division; Dr. Larry Jones, Vice President, Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo; Elizabeth Schram, Director Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo; Michal Shmuel-Lewis, Hebrew teacher, Kadimah Academy; Kadimah Academy students.
“Polish Jewish Relations” – Essay Contest

Submitted by Zbyszek Koralewski
PAC - Long Island Division

The Jan Karski Humanitarian Awards was an event organized by the Polish Jewish Dialogue Committee (PJDC). This year, it took place at the Kosciuszko Foundation, located near Central Park, in Manhattan on May 20th.

For the first time, besides awards for adults, we had awards for youths. The idea to organize an Essay Contest for High School students came from Co-Chair of PJDC, Prof. Jeff Gottlieb. As per Jeff’s request, I got involved in this project. With a flyer and info about our previous events, I visited seven high schools, most of them in the north part of Long Island, as well as two Jewish, two Catholic, and three Public Schools. I asked principals and teachers to encourage their students to participate in the contest. I also involved the VP for Cultural and Youth Affairs for the PAC-Long Island Division, Marta Wesołowski. She contacted three additional high schools in the southern portion of Long Island. Originally, this event was supposed to take place in 2018 at the Polish Consulate, but it was canceled at the last moment – one week before the scheduled date – due to the unfounded accusation that one of our nominees for the award was antisemitic. The postponing of the event gave me a chance to visit schools once again with the hope that more students would get involved.

This project revealed interesting facts:

- There is little interest on the subject of Polish - Jewish relations among young people.
- Two Jewish students in their essays concentrated on negative aspects.
- Polish students wrote about positive experiences.

We are thankful to all five participants, especially those who attended the event and read their essays. We extend our gratitude to the PAC Charitable Foundation for founding this important educational project.

Moreover, it is worth mentioning that Richard Brzozowski was among the main honorees of the Jan Karski Humanitarian Awards 2019. As depicted in the Program, Richard attended the U.S. Naval Academy and served in the Marine Corp during the Korean War. He is a National Director and Honorary President of the PAC – Long Island Division. During decades of service on the Boards of many organizations in Polonia, he has promoted and supported understanding and respect between Polish and Jewish cultures. Mr. Brzozowski exemplifies the humanitarian work of Jan Karski.

After the official portion of the program, refreshments were served allowing those in attendance the opportunity to informally meet the participants. Several distinguished guests also attended including the General Consul of the Republic of Poland, Maciej Golubiewski along with his wife.

1. Richard Brzozowski – Acceptance Speech
2. Zbyszek Koralewski – Presenting the Essay Project
3. Halina Koralewski – Introducing Essay Contestants
4. (L-R) Halina Koralewski congratulates Juliet Koszelak from Bayshore High School and Julita Wiechowski from Lindenhurst HS, after reading their essays. They both received a copy of the book: ‘The Zookeeper’s Wife, certificates, and monetary awards.
Poland has earned a reputation for being a country of courage, pride and heroic characters. The sometimes harsh nature of Poland’s history helped develop its strength and bounce back ability. However, the country can also boast people whose inventions improved lives the world over. The list of innovations, engineers and scientists goes on and on and their stories are fascinating. Here are just a few examples.

Kerosene Lamp
The Kerosene lamp is one of the oldest inventions on our list, dating all the way back to 1853. The inventor was Ignacy Łukasiewicz, who was based in Lwów, which was Polish territory at the time. The lamp was cheap and gave more light than candles, his creation consequently rapidly became popular all over the world. Despite its success, the lamp was in fact a byproduct of much more important scientific project. Łukasiewicz was looking for fuel that could be obtained quickly and inexpensively to replace the heavy oils. At the turn of 1852-1853 the petrochemical industry was kickstarted thanks to kerosene. Without his invention, modern refineries and advanced petroleum products would not exist today.

Bulletproof Vest
The Bulletproof vest was invented in 1897 by two Poles, the priest-engineer Kazimierz Żegleń and inventor Jan Szczepanik also known as the “Polish Edison”. They designed a multi-layered fabric, mainly consisting of silk which was one of the most durable materials at the time. The design was able to prevent bullets from piercing even pine boards. During the research, they decided to strengthen their invention with an additional layer thin sheet of metal. They tested it on the folded screen, which reflected not only the 8-millimeter Mannlicher rifle bullets, but also 12-millimeter projectiles capable of penetrating steel sheet from a distance of 100 meters. Once the vest was ready it was tested in the courtyard of Szczepanik Vienna studio. The trial was observed by representatives of the country’s authorities and the army. Director Borzykowski shot the servant John with a 7 mm revolver from a distance of three steps. John survived, as such they concluded that the new invention was a success. The vest became famous in 1902, when the bulletproof material installed on a carriage saved the life of Alfonso XIII, King of Spain during an assassination attempt in Paris on his wedding day.

Mine Detector
The first mine detector was created during the Second World War by two Polish officers - Józef Kosacki and Andrzej Garboś. At the time they both served in the Polish Armed Forces in the West. The first detector tests took place on March 5, 1942 in Scotland. The device worked very well, but the creators did not patent it. It was not long after its inception that it had its first moment of glory. Five hundred detectors were deployed by the English who managed to pass through minefields at El Alamein in Egypt in 1942. It would be no exaggeration to say that it was the Polish invention that contributed to the victory of the Eighth Army. On this occasion, Kosacki received an official congratulatory letter from the British king himself. Furthermore the detectors had such great longevity that it was used for over 50 years!

Graphene Production
In 2011 Polish scientists from the Institute of Electronic Materials Technology in Łódź developed a method for producing large sheets of graphene with particularly high quality. Graphene is a thin, single layer of carbon atoms forming a hexagonal honeycomb pattern. This futuristic material is stronger than steel, and yet incredibly flexible, thus graphene has enormous potential. The Polish method of producing graphene was granted a patent in the United States. Graphene is antibacterial and heat-conducting, which makes it useful in numerous areas, ranging from medicine to construction and technology. Graphene has already been described as a miracle in the material world, and it may also open the door for great possibilities for Poland too.

DID YOU KNOW?

Inventions you didn’t know were created in Poland.
Polish Constitution Day Celebrated in Wisconsin

Written by David Rydzewski
PAC President - Wisconsin Division

On Thursday evening May 2, more than 150 Wisconsin Polish Americans and their friends celebrated the 228th Anniversary of the approval of Poland’s historic Constitution of May Third, 1791. This year’s event was at the beautiful Polish Center of Wisconsin, located just outside of Milwaukee.

The program began with a brief presentation about the Constitution and its significance by Prof. Donald Pienkos. It was followed by a talk by Prof. Neal Pease on Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the world acclaimed pianist and patriot, who was the newly independent Poland’s first Prime Minister — one hundred years ago in 1919.

Afterwards, Judge and Pianist Francis Wasielewski then took center stage to perform a splendid program of music by both Paderewski and Fryderyk Chopin. After his performance, everyone enjoyed a bountiful wine and cheese reception and had the opportunity to view the special poster exhibit on Ignacy Paderewski created specially by the Polish Center for this year’s event.

Everything was possible thanks to the generosity of the Milwaukee Society of the Polish National Alliance and the Polish Center of Wisconsin, who with the support of the Wisconsin PAC combined to make this year’s Constitution Day Celebration truly memorable!
From the Bookshelf

The Volunteer
By Jack Fairweather

The incredible true story of a Polish resistance fighter’s infiltration of Auschwitz to sabotage the camp from within, and his death-defying attempt to warn the Allies about the Nazis’ plans for a “Final Solution” before it was too late.

To uncover the fate of the thousands being interred at a mysterious Nazi camp on the border of the Reich, a thirty-nine-year-old Polish resistance fighter named Witold Pilecki volunteered for an audacious mission: assume a fake identity, intentionally get captured and sent to the new camp, and then report back to the underground on what had happened to his compatriots there. But gathering information was not his only task: he was to execute an attack from inside—where the Germans would least expect it. The name of the camp was Auschwitz.

Over the next two and half years, Pilecki forged an underground army within Auschwitz that sabotaged facilities, assassinated Nazi informants and officers, and gathered evidence of terrifying abuse and mass murder. But as he pieced together the horrifying truth that the camp was to become the epicenter of Nazi plans to exterminate Europe’s Jews, Pilecki realized he would have to risk his men, his life, and his family to warn the West before all was lost. To do so, meant attempting the impossible—an escape from Auschwitz itself.

Completely erased from the historical record by Poland’s post-war Communist government, Pilecki remains almost unknown to the world. Now, with exclusive access to previously hidden diaries, family and camp survivor accounts, and recently declassified files, Jack Fairweather offers an unflinching portrayal of survival, revenge, and betrayal in mankind’s darkest hour. And in uncovering the tragic outcome of Pilecki’s mission, he reveals that its ultimate defeat originated not in Auschwitz or Berlin, but in London and Washington.

(Overview – Courtesy of Amazon Books.)

Dear PAC Members,

Please be advised that starting Monday, June 24, 2019, the National Office will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Sincerely,

Klara Z. Wiśniewska, Administrator

From Your Polish American Congress Executive Committee...

To All Our PAC National Directors, Members, and Friends:

Happy 4th of July!

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LAYOUT AND DESIGN BY POLISH FALCONS OF AMERICA:

Courtney Caughey-Stambul, Communications Director

Tiarra McGinnis
Communications Assistant
Founded in May, 1944, the Polish American Congress is a National Umbrella Organization, representing at least 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its membership is comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. We are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress, an “umbrella” organization, is a federation of over 3000 Polish American organizations and clubs, ranging from national fraternal benefit societies, such as the Polish National Alliance, Polish Women’s Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Falcons and others, including veteran, cultural, professional, religious and social associations, with aggregate membership of over one million. The PAC by-laws also provide for individual membership, as well as associate membership.

The PAC promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The governing body of the PAC is the Council of National Directors, consisting of directors elected by their respective State Divisions or National Organizations and up to 10 at-large directors elected by the Council. Day-to-day operations are conducted by the Executive Committee elected by the Council of National Directors for a two year term.

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