Dear Directors and Members of the Polish American Congress,

Once again, I would like to say thank you to the Directors who gave the time to participate in the Annual Meeting of Council of National Directors in Chicago, this October.

Congratulations to all the re-elected officers and a hearty welcome to Ms. Mary Anselmo, Vice President of Financial Development and Ms. Bozena Nowicka-McLees as Vice President of Education. Also, thank you to Mr. Hubert Cioromski for his continued efforts in serving as Vice President of Financial Development for the last two terms. The two new following candidates for Directors at Large were approved by the Executive Council and introduced to the Council of Directors: Mr. Darek Barcikowski, the Publisher and Managing Partner of the White Eagle publication, and Mr. Mark Grzymala, the President and Founder Grzymala Law Offices P.C., in Skokie, Illinois. To witness how new individuals represented their divisions and participated in various discussions was also very encouraging. Even more importantly, it’s inspiring that many have volunteered their services to the Executive Officers in various matters.

The issue of dual taxation is still very important within the Polish community; specifically, to those individuals who either trying to secure or maintain social security benefits from Poland and the United States. The Missouri Division, lead by Mr. Bryski, has been studying the matter for months. PAC member and Polish Honorary Consul in Missouri, Dr. Wojciech Golik, presented facts concerning this complex issue. (Continued on next page...)
Professors Donald Pienkos and James Pula provided exceptional presentations on both the value and contributions of the Polish American Congress, and on Polish luminaries who contributed to the world. The following individuals attended as the PAC’s guests: Polish Senator Jan Maria Jackowski, U.S. Congressman Dan Lipinski, Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools Rev. Miroslaw Krol, and lastly, Margaret Schulz, a producer of the “Auschwitz Volunteer.”

On Sunday, October 21st, the Polish American Congress was one of the prominent sponsors of the “Songs of Freedom” concert held at the Chicago Symphony Center, the most prestigious concert hall in the windy city, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence. Over 2,400 guests attended this event, and the acts included the Paderewski Orchestra and performers who had traveled from Poland and Chicago which made it an event of the season. I recognize many celebrations are being promoted throughout by our divisions in various states, and I wish them all a great success and attendance.

October being Heritage Month is an excellent opportunity to highlight the success of our ethnic community, whether it be by inventors, scholars, or business. Acknowledgment should be extended to the President of the Philadelphia Division, Michael Blicharz for being the initiator of Heritage Month.

With elections taking place in our communities in the next few weeks, we should make an effort to encourage our community to vote and make a difference.

Thank you for all your involvement within the Polish American Congress,

Sincerely,

Frank J. Spula
Frank J. Spula, President

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**V Congress of the World Council of Polonia**

Submitted by Bozena Kaminski
PAC Vice President for Polish Affairs

From September 19th through September 23, 2018, in Warsaw, Poland over six hundred delegates of World Council of Polonia (“WCP”) from around the world met in the Polish Parliament buildings and deliberated on the subjects relating to Polonia’s education, culture, clergy and member organizations. In commemoration of the 100 years of Polish Independence, the meeting was organized by “Rada Polonii Świata”, “Wspolnota Polska” “Senat RP” under the slogan “Lanczy nas Niepodlegla” (Our Independent unites us).

These delegates representing 44 countries met for three days as the organizers provided a full program of events which included on the first day, a Mass offered for “Our Country” at the Warsaw Cathedral and wreath laying ceremony by the WCP representatives at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Independence Square.

The official opening ceremony was held in the Parliament building (Sejm) with remarks by Speaker of the House, Marek Kuchciński and Speaker of the Senate, Stanisław Karczewski. Their welcoming remarks were followed by President of “Wspolnota Polska” Dariusz Piotr Bonielski, Bishop Wieslaw Lechowicz representing the Ministry of Polish Emigration, followed by the Teresa Borozowski, the President of the World Council of Polonia (RPS), Tadeusz Pilat President of the EUWP and by Bozena Kaminski, Polish American Congress Vice President for Polish Affairs, and Andzelika Borys, the President of “Polacy na Bialorussi.”

The next two days were Plenary Sessions devoted to group discussions and appearances of various government officials as guest speakers. Noted was the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jacek Czaputowicz, who stated that world Polonia is extremely important to Poland and is an important partner in forming the proper image of Poland in the world for promoting investments and trade. A meeting with the Polish President Andrzej Duda and his wife was arranged for participants at the Presidential Palace gardens followed by presentations and performances of songs with the theme: “Nasza Niepodlegla II 1918-2018” by leading Polish artists at the Grand Theatre.

The first “Stelmachowski Award” was given that evening at the Grand Theatre to the Prime Minister of Poland, Tadeusz Morawiecki, and it was presented to him by Wspolnota Polska President, Dariusz Bonielski and by the son of late Professor Andrzej Stelmachowski. The third day celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony and a reception at the “Wspolnota Polska” building, unveiling a plaque naming that facility: “Dom Polonii im. Andrzeja Stelmachowskiego.” The fifth “World Council of Polonia Congress” ended with a special Mass for Polonia at the “Swiatynia Opaczynski” Basilica, where Cardinal Nycz declared that a chapel in that church is being dedicated exclusively to Polonia.
The Regaining of Poland’s Independence

Submitted by Tomek Kolodziej
PAC - Washington Metropolitan Division

The strong ties between Poland and the United States are based on the shared values of personal liberty, republicanism, and strong support for common military ties within the NATO alliance.

Within British North America, numerous of Polish immigrants have thrived since the historical establishment of the Jamestown Colony. Furthermore, Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski stand out as important figures that heroically fought to secure American independence with Pulaski ultimately sacrificing his life for the cause of freedom. Consequently, America’s Founding Fathers’ observed that Poles and Americans possessed a mutual passion for personal freedom and political liberty.

The Polish Constitutionalism can be traced back to the Nihil Novi Diet in the year 1505 which established consent of the governed as the fundamental value of Polish political life, and also, to the creation of the Polish Constitution on May 3, 1791 which was the first penned constitution in Europe based on the Enlightenment ideas of representative government.

However, Poland fell victim to the Third Partition in 1795 and lost its sovereignty to the Russian Empire, the Prussian Kingdom, and the Habsburg Monarchy for 123 years. Despite the absence of statehood, Poles preserved their national identity through the steadfast commitment to fight for national independence, and to the propagation of Polish culture among the masses against the efforts by the partitioning powers to suppress Polish aspirations for independence and a viable national culture.

Eventually, President Woodrow Wilson acknowledged the depth of Poland’s passion for independence in his Fourteen Points, and through the adept leadership of titans such as Roman Dmowski, Ignacy Paderewski, and Jozef Pilsudski, Poland was able to achieve statehood on November 11, 1918. Additionally, a total of 23,000 U.S. volunteers helped construct the Polish army for battles in France during WWI, and continued the fight within Poland to hinder the Bolshevik invasion during the Polish–Soviet War (1919-1920) which aiding in the salvation of Western Civilization from the Bolshevik menace.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Polish American Congress will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the revival of Poland’s statehood back in November 1918, and will use this opportunity to honor all individuals who dedicated their life to reconstituting Poland as an independent nation. The noble sacrifice of all those who gave their life to the cause of Polish independence will be honored, including victims of all national uprisings between the years 1795 and 1918, including both the November Uprising of 1831 and the January Uprising of 1863, and the undying efforts of the Polish Falcons of America to organize the Polish-Americans during 1918 to battle for independence.

Lastly, the Polish American Congress strongly reaffirms the close bonds between Poland and the United States and the continual commitment from Polish-Americans to spread the concepts of personal liberty, republican constitutionalism, and hard work in their adopted nation.

The above Resolution was unanimously approved at the PAC Council of National Directors Meeting held in Chicago, October 18-20, 2018.

Mr. Tom Kolodziej, Vice President for the PAC - Washington Metropolitan Division (and National Director), explains his support for Resolution #8: “Defending the Good Name of Poland.”
Poland Flag Raising in Philadelphia

Written by Debbie Majka
PAC Vice President for Cultural Affairs

Bloomberg Businessweek
October 5, 2018

On the morning of August 31, 2018, there were clouds and the skies threatened rain. This, however, did not deter a determined group of about sixty persons from coming to Paine Plaza, in front of Philadelphia’s Municipal Services Building, near City Hall. They were there to witness the raising of the Polish flag on one of the tallest flagpoles in the city to mark the precise 38th Anniversary of the founding of Poland’s Solidarity movement. This was also an occasion to celebrate the centennial year of Poland’s rebirth and existence as a sovereign independent country on the map of Europe.

As Honorary Consul for Southeastern Pennsylvania, I greeted the assembled crowd with remarks that connected Solidarity’s drive for basic human rights to FDR’s famous “Four Freedoms” speech. Then, City Representative Sheila Hess read the Mayor’s proclamation which further elaborated on the historic occasion and its significance. Poland’s Vice-Consul Mateusz Gmura, who graciously came from New York with his wife Marta, spoke about the long-time bonds between the United States and Poland that date back to the Revolutionary War.

After, the flag was raised to the top of the mast as the national anthems of Poland and the United States were sung by the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich PSAA Chorus led by David Zagorski. Many of those present joined in. The PKM Folk Dance Ensemble dressed in Krakow traditional folk attire, made a short presentation on Polish customs and culture. Not only were representatives of Philadelphia’s Polonian organizations present, but also dignitaries representing Philadelphia’s city government as well as Honorary Consuls of Lithuania and Latvia, also marking their respective 100th anniversaries this year.

Afterward, many of those present took part in a delicious Polish-themed luncheon served in City Hall’s Caucus Room. The flag remained in place throughout the Labor Day weekend, at half-staff to mark the passing of Senator John McCain, in a fitting tribute to the Gdansk shipyard workers whose efforts brought such monumental changes to the lives of their fellow Poles and European neighbors.

I urge all PAC State Divisions and Polonian organizations to look into holding such an event in your city. It gives you great visibility. If your city doesn’t have such a Flag-Raising program, you may wish to work with your city officials to establish such a program.

In addition to securing the location, in this case, Philadelphia’s City Hall, you will need a 10’ x 13’ flag. If there are none available in your area, you may order from Humphry’s Flag through their email: http://humphrysflag.com. You should also secure a Proclamation from your Mayor, or City Representative, which officially recognizes the day and its significance. Some type of entertainment may also be included. Since this program was outdoors, that was a bit problematic. A light reception afterward caps off the event nicely.

From the left: John F. Smith III, Chairman, Global Philadelphia Assn., Vice Consul RP Mateusz Gmura, Kasia Gmyr and Michael Matulewicz in Krakow area attire, Philadelphia City Representative Sheila Hess, Hon. Consul Debbie Majka, President of Citizens Diplomacy International Siobhan Lyons

Photography by Albert Lee, City of Philadelphia
WHY POLAND IS PLANNING EUROPE’S BIGGEST AIRPORT

A new hub is aimed at boosting flag carrier LOT.

Written by James M. Gomez and Maciej Martewicz

Bloomberg Businessweek
October 5, 2018

The village of Baranow, Poland, is a bucolic place, with little more than a general store, a school named after Pope John Paul II, and a church whose spire juts right above groves of apple and pear trees. However, Rafal Milczarski wants to see all this bulldozed and filled with screaming jetliners.

As the chief executive officer of LOT Polish Airlines SA, he states that both his company and his country need a modern airline hub to serve Warsaw, 40 kilometers (25 miles) to the east. In exchange for modest farmhouses surrounded by flower beds, Milczarski envisions terminals, hangars, and runways—a 70 billion zloty project (equaling $19 billion) including new rail links and highways—to handle 45 million passengers a year and rival Heathrow in London, Charles de Gaulle in Paris, and Schiphol in Amsterdam. “Central Europe needs a proper aviation hub,” Milczarski explains in his office located at state-owned LOT’s current home base, a cramped air facility named after composer Frederic Chopin that opened in 1934. “We are going to be part of planning and building it.” The new airport, which would be 15 minutes from Warsaw’s central station by train, is key to LOT’s ambitions to triple passenger traffic and boost long-haul service to Asia and the Americas. Construction is slated to begin in 2021, after the government acquires the land in Baranow and nearby towns, and flights will begin in 2027. Further phases would add more runways and terminals, increasing capacity to 100 million passengers a year—more than Heathrow, Europe’s busiest airport.

Although Chopin was updated with a new train station and terminal in 2012, it will reach its annual capacity of 20 million passengers within four years. During 2017, 16 million people passed through the low-slung terminal’s silver facade, more than double the traffic in 2005. With Poland’s economy growing at an average of 3.3 percent annually in recent years, “the region is getting richer and richer,” Milczarski says. “Our aspiration is to become the favorite network airline of central Europe.”

With a projected 9 million passengers this year, LOT is only Europe’s 19th largest airline, but it has some distinct advantages. It’s one of just a handful of independent flag carriers still operating in the region. Its home base is a country of 38 million that’s seen millions emigrate over the past century, many with lasting ties to their homeland. LOT’s fleet of 73 airplanes includes 11 Boeing Dreamliners it uses to serve Polish enclaves such as Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles, as well as routes to Asia. “Of all the Eastern European airlines, LOT has the greatest chance of succeeding,” says John Grant, director of advisory firm JGAviation Consultants. “Family ties and bonds are still quite strong.”

But LOT isn’t even the biggest airline in its home market, with discounters Wizz Air Holdings Plc and Ryanair Holdings Plc both carrying more passengers to Poland. LOT’s operating profit is on track to fall 22 percent this year, to 225 million zloty—mainly because of rising fuel and leasing costs—even as revenue is projected to rise 25 percent, to 6 billion zloty. At about 2 million residents, its home city, Warsaw, is also relatively small. Skeptics say the money would be better spent on highways, rail lines, and updating Chopin and another airport 40km north of Warsaw that’s served by Ryanair. The first phase of the project will cost 3 billion zloty, or more than 10 percent of this year’s national budget. Some part of that would come from the EU, but the government says it’s also likely to take on debt. Ryanair CEO Michael O’Leary calls the idea “stupid” and a “shiny cathedral in the middle of nowhere.”

Also, the residents of Baranow have voted against the plan. “I see more megalomaniacal self-aggrandizement than any realistic analysis in this project,” says Marcin Swieczkiewicz, a former Warsaw mayor and member of parliament from Civic Platform, the biggest opposition party.

The government insists the project is sound and is moving ahead. Officials say expanding Chopin makes little sense, because it’s inside Warsaw’s city limits, with hundreds of thousands of people living nearby. But for Milczarski and government leaders, building a new facility is the most effective way to ensure LOT and Poland secure a role within the global economy. “We are Polish, and we are proud of that,” Milczarski says. “But we define the scope of our activity more broadly.”
 Celebtrating the Centennial of Poland Regaining Its Independence!

This is the fifth in a series of bi-monthly statements issued by the Polish American Congress regarding the centennial of Poland regaining its Independence: November 11, 1918 – November 11, 2018.

Dr. Mark Pienkos, National Vice President for Public Relations, has assembled a team of eminent Polish American Political Scientists and Historians to alert readers as to the importance of Poland’s contributions to the United States and the World.

Pienkos, and the authors, sincerely appreciate the efforts of Klara Wisniewska, PAC Washington, D.C. Office Administrator, for her work in disseminating these statements to various media outlets.

WOODROW WILSON’S FOURTEEN POINTS AND THE “POLISH QUESTION”

Written by Dr. Patrice M. Dubrowski

On January 8, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson went before Congress to elucidate the United States’ war aims. The so-called “Great War” (later to be known as World War I) had been raging for three and a half years. The United States had entered the war only the previous spring, joining the Allies who were fighting the Central Powers. Wilson thought it high time the Allies declared their war aims, but Britain and France were not keen on doing so. Thus, the president laid out his own vision of a peaceful and just world, a vision he hoped to make reality.

Wilson’s idealistic program, which has gone down in history as the Fourteen Points, was comprised of basic principles that he believed should govern the postwar world. The American president sought an end to secret covenants and behind-the-scenes diplomacy, which he believed had caused the war in the first place. He advocated the freedom of the seas, free trade, a reduction of armaments, and an adjustment of colonial claims that would take into consideration the wishes of the colonized. Wilson’s vision importantly included a “general association of nations” (the future—if short-lived--League of Nations) that would guarantee the territorial integrity and political independence of states great and small.

A number of Wilson’s points invoked the principle of nationality, which the president rather optimistically hoped would prevail in ethnically heterogeneous Europe. The Central Powers were to evacuate Russian territory as well as occupied Belgium, Montenegro, Serbia, and Romania. France should regain Alsace-Lorraine, which Prussia/Germany had annexed in 1871, while the Italian-Austrian frontier was to be adjusted along national lines. The numerous peoples of Austria-Hungary as well as the non-Turks living under Turkish rule were to be assured autonomous development. Landlocked Serbia should gain access to the Adriatic Sea, while at the same time any disagreements between the Balkan states were to be settled amicably.

Of Wilson’s points, the thirteenth was of a different magnitude, in that it postulated the restoration of a country that had not existed for over a century. That was Poland. The Thirteenth Point reads as follows: “An independent Polish state should be erected that should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.” Wilson had been sensitized to Polish needs and concerns by the world-renowned Polish pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski, who had the ear of the president’s adviser, Colonel Edward M. House, the man who helped Wilson prepare to write the Fourteen Points.
While Wilson’s support for Polish independence was much appreciated, some of the details of the Thirteenth Point nonetheless proved problematic. After over a century of Russian, German, and Austrian rule, “territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations” were hardly easy to determine; even the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth that had been partitioned at the end of the eighteenth century had a heterogeneous population. Furthermore, assuring Poland free access to the Baltic Sea (in the form of what later would be termed the “Polish Corridor”) would require Germany to give up even more territory, something it was loath to do. Indeed, all three beneficiaries of the 18th century partitions – Russia and Austria-Hungary as well as Germany – would have to cede territory to the new Polish state for it to be established. These issues notwithstanding, Woodrow Wilson’s support for an independent Poland undeniably helped to ensure the creation of such a state.

**Contributing Authors:**

**Dr. Patrice M. Dabrowski** is an historian with degrees from Harvard University (A.B., A.M. and PhD) and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (M.A.I.D.). She has taught at Harvard, Brown, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and recently completed a three-year stint at the Doktoratskolleg Galizien at the University of Vienna. Dabrowski is currently an Associate of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and editor of H-Poland. Dabrowski is the author of two books: Poland: The First Thousand Years and Commemorations and The Shaping of Modern Poland. In 2014, she was awarded the Knight’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

**Dr. John Radzilowski** is an historian with degrees from both Arizona State University specializing in Modern U.S. History, Public History, Russia/East. Currently, Dr. Radzilowski is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Alaska Southeast. Among his many activities, Dr. Radzilowski is a fellow at the Piast Institute: A National Center for Polish and Polish-American Affairs and past president of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. He is also a contributing editor for the Encyclopedia of American Immigration (second edition), plus the author or co-author of 13 books.

**Dr. Donald Pienkos** is Professor Emeritus (Political Science) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He earned his Doctorate (in Russian and East European politics) from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. His many publications include the histories of the Polish National Alliance (1984, 2007), the Polish Falcons (1987, 2012) and the Polish American Congress (1991). He is an associate editor of The Polish American Encyclopedia (2012). In 2010, he was awarded the Officers Cross of service by the President of Poland.

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**ZBIORY EL PASO W TEKSASIE W ARCHIWUM AKT NOWYCH**

Submitted by Jerzy Rozalski,
PAC National Director – Michigan Division

Do Archiwum Akt Nowych trafiły unikatowe zbiory polonijne z El Paso, w Teksasie. Są to pamiątki po żołnierzach walczących w Wietnamie i Korei w szeregach drugiego pułku Armii Amerykańskiej.


Materiały zostały sprowadzone do Polski przy wsparciu Ministerstwa Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego.

Informacyjna Agencja Radiowa/IAR/M.Jędrzejczyk/kj
PAC COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS MEETING

Presentations highlight important message to leaders.

During the Friday, October 19th session of the PAC Council of National Directors Meeting, the following special presentation took place: Titled “Reaching Out To Share The Story of Poland and the Polish Experience in America,” it featured remarks by Professor Emeritus Donald Pienkos of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Professor James Pula of Purdue University.

Professor Pienkos, a past PAC National Director, called upon leaders of the Polish American Congress to continue and expand their community activities to organize programs dealing with the Polish experience, and to work with academic people in their areas to promote public programs that build knowledge about Poland. He urged that knowledge of such events be better and more widely shared with PAC leaders across the country. He called on the PAC to work with the Polish government to develop public programs that raise awareness and appreciation of Poland among Americans and Polish Americans alike.

Pienkos suggested that in 2019 a terrific subject meriting special emphasis that relates to the thirtieth anniversary of Solidarity’s extraordinary election victory of June 4, 1989, a victory that led to the disappearance of the communist regime in Poland, the collapse of communist domination throughout Eastern Europe, the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and the end of the Cold War. A second major theme would involve a focus on the dedicated work of the Polish American Congress in support of a free Poland, including Poland’s entry into NATO - in connection with the PAC’s own 75th anniversary.

Professor Pula, who is the editor of the widely acclaimed Polish American Encyclopedia, discussed the significant role played by Polish Americans in American life – particularly in the field of science and technology. He invited the National Directors to identify the many individuals whose photographs he projected during his Power Point presentation, many of whom were not well known despite their very impressive contributions.

His point was that Polish Americans in fields like engineering, medicine, mathematics, and computer technology have been major participants in these fields. The same is true in other areas such as the arts, education, government and military service. If more Americans and Polish Americans knew more about these people, it would greatly enhance their appreciation of the Polish American contribution to American life. He also proposed that the PAC establish a clearing house to enable people to identify films and other materials they can use for public presentations. Professor Pula expressed his willingness to share the materials he presented at the meeting with all who wish to use it in their communities.
Recognition and Appreciation: Dr. Mark Pienkos, PAC Vice President for Public Relations, presented certificates to State Divisions, individuals, and organizations for their contributions to the PAC “Your Voice in America” Newsletter. (L-R) Mark Pienkos, Barbara Lemecha and Ann Bankowski (PAC - Michigan Division), Tim Kuzma (Polish Falcons of America), Stephen Flor (PAC National Director representing the Polish Falcons of America), and David Rydzewski (PAC - Wisconsin Division). PAC - Long Island Division was also recognized.

Elections Report

Elections for Polish American Congress Executive Committee Officers were held at the annual PAC Council of National Directors Meeting in Chicago, October 18-20, 2018. Elected for two year terms were:

Frank Spula                            President
Rick Pierchalski                     First Vice President
Timothy Kuzma                        Secretary
Micheline Jaminski                   Treasurer
Anthony Bajdek                      Vice President for American Affairs
Bozena Kaminski                    Vice President for Polish Affairs
Deborah Majka                         Vice President for Cultural Affairs
Mark Pienkos                         Vice President for Public Relations
Mary Anselmo                         Vice President for Financial Development
Bozena Nowicka-McLees                Vice President for Education & Learning
Rick Mazella                         Vice President for Membership Development

Dr. Pula’s Power Point presentation provided listeners with “food for thought” as he engaged them with several examples of how Poles and Polish Americans have contributed greatly to society.

U.S. Congressman, Daniel Lipinski (IL - D), provides insight on issues related to Poland and Polish Americans. Congressman Lipinski is a member of the Polish American Caucus on Capitol Hill.

Klara Wisniewska, PAC Washington, D.C Office Administrator, gives her report on activities she is involved in, as well as the progress being made towards creating a new website.

Following their presentations, PAC Vice President for Public Relations, Dr. Mark Pienkos posed with (Left) Professor Emeritus Donald Pienkos and Dr. James Pula.

Comments/Questions from National Directors.
During the annual Pilsudski Institute of New York Awards Gala, in October 2018, two PAC members, Halina Koralewski and Richard Brzozowski, were awarded replicas of the famous Legionnaire Cross for their longtime support of the Institute.

Both Halina and Richard became members of the Honorary Legion, which was established in 2016 by the Pilsudski Institute of America to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Poland’s Independence. The Honorary Legion may have up to 145 members, which represents the number of soldiers of the famous first Pilsudski Legion (Pierwsze Kadrowe) who on August 6, 1914 started its historical march to freedom. The Legion Cross was established by the first Congress of Legionnaires in 1922 and was given personally by Jozef Pilsudski as a symbol of honor to Polish soldiers fighting for independence.

Receiving her medal, Halina Koralewski stated, “In Communist Poland, one could end up in jail for even mentioning the name of Pilsudski. In America, it is an institution geared towards the historical truth and preserving documents pertaining not only to Marshal Pilsudski, but also Polish history and independence.” Koralewski added, “In the Institute, there are millions of documents, which a few are as important as the original order of the famous Battle of Warsaw 1920, signed by Jozef Pilsudski. In my family heirlooms, there is a faded picture of the soldiers from the 1st Calvary Regiment (1st Pulk Szwolizerow) named after Jozef Pilsudski. I hope one day to find in the Polish Archives more about my family’s military connections to Jozef Pilsudski. I, therefore, became a member of the Legion to honor their memory.” In his remarks, Richard Brzozowski stated, “I was pleased to become a member of the Pilsudski Institute Honorary Legion and to accept the Legionnaire Cross on behalf of my father, Franciszek Brzozowski, who served in the Polish Army during World War I, as well as on behalf of my uncle, Jozef Brzozowski, who as an immigrant in Massachusetts, volunteered to serve in the Blue Army in France.”

If you wish to join the prestigious Honorary Legion and learn more info regarding this extraordinary award, please contact: Halina Koralewski at hkoralewski@aol.com or 917-226-4410, Richard Brzozowski at brozo@verizon.net or 516-354-4349, or visit the Pilsudski Institute’s website at www.pilsudski.org.
**From the Bookshelf**

**Those Who Risked Their Lives**  
*By Anna Poray*

Accounts of altruistic behavior by individuals who risked their lives for others during World War II should be especially welcomed to readers. In wartime Poland, unlike other German occupied countries, gentiles who extended any form of assistance to Jews risked execution by Nazis.

Despite cultural, religious, and linguistic differences between Polish Jews and Polish Christians, most Poles were sympathetic to the plight of the Jewish people. Hundreds of thousands of Poles sheltered, fed, clothed, provided forged documents and looked after the medical needs of Jews on a regular basis. There were additionally hundreds of thousands of Poles whose assistance, though occasional and indirect, was no less dangerous.

“Those Who Risked Their Lives”, compiled, edited and annotated by Anna Poray, offers a glimpse of some of the thousands of Poles who rescued Jews. The book records the names and experiences of many of these remarkable individuals. The Talmud says that he who saves one life, saves the world. Thousands of Jews can bear the witness to the Poles who save their world.

“Those Who Risked Their Lives” was produced by the Heralds of Truth, a Michigan-based organization, and published by IRIS Publishing Services. It is available for purchase (for $20.00) at the Polish American Congress Michigan Division office (11333 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212).

(Above description courtesy: PAC – Michigan Division website)

NOTE: As one of its many initiatives, PAC – Michigan Division is providing a copy of this book to all Members of Congress in 2019.
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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