Dear Members,

Over the past several months, the COVID-19 pandemic has had significant effects on our day-to-day lives and our mental well-being. During these chaotic times, it is very normal to feel overwhelmed.

People across the country and world protested the unjust death of George Floyd from Minneapolis, Minnesota. During moments of anger and frustration, there was a minority of those who looted businesses and terrorized the streets. In Washington D.C., the century-old statues of Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski were among many defaced by ignorant individuals. We must not forget to educate the public about these historical figures.

Recently, you have received information concerning S. Resolution 566 with a plea to call your local Senators. As Polish Americans, we need to continue to spread awareness and support for S. Resolution 566 which commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre.

"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.

Join us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/pages/Polish-American-Congress

Continued on next page...
Dear Polish American Congress Members,

I am writing to let you know that you are receiving a 20% discount on genealogy resources, including and not limited to “Genealogy at a Glance,” and book titled “Polish Roots” by Rosemary A. Chorzempa, highlighting research leads and topics in Poland such as ethnic groups, surname origins, maps, church records, and language. We are also offering this benefit to our current and past Interns.

With the code pac, which must be entered in lowercase, all PAC members and Interns are entitled to a 20% discount off the retail prices for ANY TITLE(S) in the entire collection on the following website: genealogical.com/store/?gpc_search=1&pa_region=world-poland-polish.

Below we provided links to the book and the genealogy research resource mentioned above:

Book ”POLISH ROOTS"
genealogical.com/store/polish-roots-second-edition/

Genealogy at a Glance: POLISH GENEALOGY RESEARCH
genealogical.com/store/genealogy-at-a-glance-polish-genealogy-research/

Even in the present day, the Russian Federation still attempts to censor what really happened to the 22,000 Polish soldiers, military personnel, and civilians. The goal of this bipartisan resolution is to educate the American public about historical truths. Let us honor those who have lost their lives. There are mixed opinions about this resolution among some members of the Polish American community in the choice of wording, however, right now we need to be united in the efforts of support for this movement through traditional and social media. Please continue to contact your local senators and remind them to support this resolution.

Due to the uncertainty, the Council of National Directors meeting scheduled for September had to be postponed and rescheduled for April 15th and 16th, 2021 in Washington D.C.

Being this is the year of the 2020 Census, it’s important that we encourage our community to complete and return the census forms, while responding to question number 9 on page 2, country of origin, with the answer Poland.

As I’m sure you’ve all heard, the 2020 Polish presidential election was rescheduled to take place on the 28th of June.

Wishing you a safe and healthy summer.

Frank J. Spula, President

Written by Klara Z. Wiśniewska
PAC National Office Administrator

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the PAC National Executive Committee reaches out to all of our Polish American Congress National Directors, members, and friends with the wish that you and your loved ones are well. Hopefully, we will soon be able to greet one another in person. Until then:

Stay Strong & Stay Healthy!

A Message from Klara Wiśniewska

Here is background information on Genealogical.com:

Established in 1959, Genealogical.com is the leading — and oldest — publisher of genealogy books in the country. Under the Genealogical Publishing Company (GPC) and Clearfield Company imprints, Genealogical.com features a catalog of more than 2,000 publications, many of which — such as Val D. Greenwood’s Researcher’s Guide to American Genealogy and Elizabeth Shown Mills’ Evidence Explained — have set the standard for their fields.

By using this website, we hope to expand the ways researchers can access the useful — and in many cases unique — information in our publications by offering not only our extensive catalog of print books but also eBook editions of an ever-increasing number of our publications. We’re also making available subscriptions to collections of our titles. We hope this affordable alternative will allow more of our customers to access not only data but also the stories of their ancestors, much of which written by their contemporaries.

Our mission is to provide the best published resources for genealogists and historians looking for assistance in their research.

I hope you are all in good health during the coronavirus pandemic.

Sincerely,

Klara Z. Wiśniewska, PAC National Office Administrator
THE WAY FORWARD:
America and Poland Partners in Freedom

Written by John Czop
PAC Director of Policy Planning

In this Presidential and Congressional election year, marked by Kremlin revanchism, the Polish American Congress must persuade our fellow Americans that: America and Poland are partners in freedom. Recently, Putin proclaimed that Poland was responsible for the outbreak of World War II in Europe. He did this to delegitimize the suffering of Poland and the Poles during World War II and to justify Stalin’s decision to mass murder Polish prisoners of war in this 80th anniversary year of the Katyn Forest Massacre.

During the November 2019 Polish American Congress Council of National Directors’ Meeting in Chicago, Very Reverend Canon Miroslaw Król, who is Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools, delivered a moving speech to remind us of the two centennial anniversaries we will commemorate in 2020. Both these anniversaries show that America and Poland are partners in freedom.

The first is the centennial of the birth anniversary of Saint John Paul II, our Polish Pope, who asked us to: “Be not afraid.” Saint John Paul II assured us that: "The truth will set us free.” These moral precepts emboldened the Polish people successfully to challenge communist authoritarianism in the name of freedom. During the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, President Ronald Reagan established diplomatic relations with the Holy See. President Reagan and Pope John Paul II worked together for the collapse of communism in the name of freedom.

The second is the centennial of the Polish victory at the Battle of Warsaw on August 12-25, 1920, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15). This victory turned-the-tide in the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1920. This Polish victory stopped, for a generation, the Soviet Union from imposing communism on a war ravaged Central and Eastern Europe until the end of World War II in 1945. American gentlemen volunteer combat aviators, the Kościuszko Squadron, helped Poland win the Polish-Soviet War. Their battle cry, "Kościuszko we are here," proclaimed reciprocity in the struggle for freedom against tyranny. Colonel Cedric Fauntleroy of Chicago was the squadron’s leader. Hollywood film producer and director, best known for “King Kong,” Merian C. Cooper, was the most famous of the gentlemen volunteers who stopped Budenny’s Red Cavalry, the Koń Armia, from attacking Warsaw. The Polish-Soviet War again shows America and Poland as partners in freedom against communist tyranny.

Any plans to schedule events in Washington, DC to commemorate both of these centennial anniversaries can’t move forward due to the uncertainty linked with the pandemic. The PAC may need to call to public attention both of these centennial anniversaries through Congressional Resolutions. However, we can only do so with your help to implement such resolutions. Your compliance with legislative alerts, and your encouragement of your friends to do so too, will help to get out our message that: America and Poland are partners in freedom.
Us Troops from Germany Rebasing to Poland

President Donald Trump has ordered the Pentagon to transfer thousands of American troops from Germany by September, some of which would be rebased to Poland. The move reflects growing tensions between Washington and Berlin mainly over military spending. The transfer would reduce current US troop strength of 34,500 in Germany by 9,500. “The 9,500 troops would be sent to Poland, some to other allied countries, while the others would return home,” a senior US administration official said. Last September, former US Ambassador to Germany Richard Grennell threatened such a move if Berlin did not increase its defense spending. Poland is among a handful of NATO countries that earmark the required 2% of GDP for defense, while Germany falls short of that mark. Trump’s announcement was welcomed by the Polish government but must have set off alarm bells at the Kremlin.

Epidemic “will not end so soon” — Health Minister

Poland’s Minister of Health Łukasz Szumowski recently stated that the Coronavirus epidemic in Poland is not expected to end anytime soon. He was speaking as public-health authorities confirmed a record daily increase of 599 Covid-19 cases in Poland. “The epidemic is not over, and it will not end so soon. We will have hotbeds here and there, most often in workplaces.” Officials said Poland would temporarily shut down 12 coal mines after coronavirus infections rose sharply in the country’s southern coal region in recent weeks. So far Poland has fared better than most other countries in terms of its relatively low pandemic-related death toll, but it appears premature to suggest that the crisis is already winding down.

NATO Maneuvers Spark Kremlin-Instigated Fake-News Attack

Poland was hit by a huge wave of fake news in the run-up to major NATO maneuvers. “Hackers used cyber-attack tools to post bogus content on various news websites,” America’s military newspaper “Stars and Stripes” quoted Polish security-services spokesman Stanisław Żaryn as saying. The attack included a fabricated interview with US Army Europe commander Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, Żaryn explained and blamed Moscow for the disinformation. The attack coincided with June’s Defender Europe-20 maneuvers in Poland in which some 6,000 Polish and US troops took part. Originally planned for May with the participation of 37,000 troops from the US, Poland and other NATO countries, the maneuvers were moved to June and scaled down over Coronavirus pandemic concerns.

Work on Baltic Canal Defies Moscow and Domestic Opposition

President Andrzej Duda and other top officials recently visited a major construction site which will provide Poland with a new direct outlet to the Baltic Sea. The project will transform the northern city of Elbląg into a full-fledged, independent seaport. At present, Polish ships need Russia’s permission to access the sea via its territorial waters. The project is currently on track despite attempts by Moscow to block the planned waterway which is also criticized by Poland’s liberal-leftist opposition. “We do not plan to limit or, God forbid, abandon this project,” Duda said recently. The project may cost close to two billion zlotys ($505 million).

Poland to Get €8 Billion From EU Recovery Fund

Poland was initially to receive €2 billion ($2.2 bn) from the European Union. But after the European Commission, the EU’s executive unit, upped its community’s recovery package to €40 billion ($44.8 bn), Poland’s share grew to quadruple that amount. Poland is now in line for up to €8 billion ($8.8 bn) under the EU’s Just Transition Fund, more than any other community nation. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki welcomed the announcement and called the European Union’s recovery plan “good news and a starting point for further negotiations.”

Poland’s LOT Airlines Must Be Saved at All Costs

Poland’s conservative government is determined to save the country’s national carrier PLL LOT at all costs. “If need be, we are prepared to subsidize LOT with outside funds,” State Assets Minister Jacek Sasin said recently. “The main thing is for Polish airliners to continue transporting passengers and not disappear from Poland’s skies.” Over two months of pandemic lockdown, LOT suffered huge losses, but domestic flights to major Polish cities have now resumed and international service will soon follow. Unlike the previous administration, which had discussed selling LOT to Turkish Airlines or Lufthansa, after coming to power in 2015 the Law and Justice government set about upgrading the national airline. LOT acquired a fleet of cutting-edge Boeing 787 Dreamliners and last year served 10 million passengers for the first time.

Continued on next page...
Cardinal Wyszyński’s Beatification Postponed

A solemn Beatification Mass for the late Polish Primate Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński had been scheduled to take place in Warsaw’s Piłsudski Square on June 7th but was canceled for fear that a large congregation might pose a public-health hazard. A new date has not been set, but the event is expected to take place once the Covid-19 pandemic subsides. Wyszyński led the Polish Church from 1948 until his death in 1981, shepherding it through the darkest days of Stalinist rule. During that period he witnessed the regime’s open persecution of the Church and survived a brutal character-assassination campaign and three years of communist imprisonment. Beatification is the penultimate stage leading to Catholic sainthood (canonization).

Baltic Pipe to Lessen Dependence on Russian Gas

Italy’s Saipem company has signed a €280 million ($317 mn) deal to build a gas pipeline under the Baltic Sea. Poland imports most of its natural gas from Russia, and the new pipeline has been hailed in Warsaw as a way of reducing dependence on Moscow. The European Union has provided €215 million in funding for the Baltic Pipe Project. It will pipe North Sea gas to Poland and also allow Poles to supply gas to the Danish market. The pipeline is scheduled to be launched on October 1st, 2022. Under a disadvantageous contract signed by the previous government, Poland has been charged more for Russian gas than any other country.

Lednica Catholic Youth Gathering Held Online This Year

Up to 100,000 young Polish Catholics have attended the Lednica Youth Meetings now in their 24th year. Although the pandemic lockdown is being gradually eased, it was decided to hold the event online this year. The event was pioneered by the late Dominican Father Jan Góra and attracted young people from all over Poland as well as young Polonians and foreigners from other countries. The gathering takes place in the Lednica Fields near where Poland’s first ruler, Mieszko I, is said to have been baptized in 966 AD. The event includes sing-alongs, liturgical dancing, discussions, Holy Mass, an opportunity to go to confession and a prayer vigil. It culminates with a walk at midnight under a massive structure known as the Fish Gate which symbolizes Christianity.

German News Site Praises Poland for Resilient Economy

Germany’s Focus news site has praised Poland for what it called the country’s resilient economy during the pandemic lockdown. The reasons for Poland’s resilience amid the coronavirus crisis include “a broad-based economy, with no sector accounting for more than 15% of its share in foreign trade,” Focus quoted political scientist Ernst Hildebrand as saying. The Polish government has ensured that the economy is not overly dependent on exports and takes domestic demand seriously, and that has made the Polish economy less vulnerable to international crises. Another factor is Poland’s early response to the Covid-19 crisis with a multi-billion aid and stimulus package, the website explained.

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION KINDLY REQUESTS THAT FORT BRAGG BE RENAMED "FORT KOSCIUSZKO"

An Open Letter to President Donald Trump

Dear President Trump:

The U.S. Army has ten bases named after confederate officers, such as Braxton Bragg, who were traitors and declared war on the United States. That makes no sense. Bragg’s unit killed U.S. Army soldiers. Why should American soldiers serve at a base that honors their enemy? That is why we kindly request that Fort Bragg be renamed “Fort Kosciuszko.”

Thaddeus Kosciuszko was educated as a military engineer in Warsaw, Poland, and Paris, France, before using that education to free the colonies from the British monarchy. Kosciuszko built Fortress West Point, which he suggested be used as the United States Military Academy. Among Kosciuszko’s credits was devising the winning strategy for the Battle of Saratoga which was the important turning point of the revolution.

Kosciuszko fought to free the white indentured peasants of Europe, he stood up for the rights of enslaved Africans, Native Americans, Jews, Women and all. He set aside his salary from the American Revolution with instructions that it be used to purchase and free slaves, and that money be left over for their education and to purchase them land, cattle, and farming tools so they could support themselves in our free country.

If ever there were a military man of virtue that all Americans can be proud of, it is Kosciuszko.

Respectfully,

Alex Storozynski, Chairman of the Board
Marek Skulimowski, President and Executive Director
June 1, 2020

The Polish American community, as well as other communities, are saddened and horrified by the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN, which has caused so much outrage in our nation. We understand the agony and resentment that African Americans feel in our society and sympathize with them. Our sympathy also goes to his family and friends.

We are also extremely troubled to learn that the statues of Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski in Washington D.C. were thoughtlessly vandalized. Both Polish American military heroes contributed to the fight for our country’s freedom and democracy.

Kosciuszko’s monument, erected by the Polish National Alliance in 1910, commemorates a Polish American hero for his courage and quest for freedom. In General Kosciuszko’s Last Will, he desired for his estate to be used for freedom and education of slaves. General Kosciuszko was known as one of the first abolitionists. He pleaded with President Thomas Jefferson to eliminate slavery, making him his Will’s executor.

In addition, other monuments were vandalized including that of General Casimir Pulaski. The young man was known for his prominent role in defending Poland. In 1777 he joined the fight for America’s independence. During his short life he became known as the “Father of the American Cavalry.”

During these chaotic and trying times, as we still deal with a global pandemic, there are no excuses for ignorant actions. Our country was founded on democracy and freedom which permits for peaceful demonstrations during times of injustice. Destroying communities is not what our country stands for and is not going to accomplish justice. Vandalism does not bring honor to the tragic death of George Floyd.

At this time we should come together and move towards bettering our communities. This is what both Kosciuszko and Pulaski would have fought for, and we should be more empathic, compassionate and show respect and come together as a country.

Frank J. Spula
President
A Walk Down Memory Lane!

Written by Judy Hevrdejs
Chicago Tribune
September 14, 1989

An article from the Chicago Tribune archives regarding Brighton Park. (Brighton Park is a neighborhood community located on the South Side of Chicago.)

Down on 43rd Street off of Archer Avenue, stood the 44-year-old Sliz’s Delicatessen in 1989. The popularity of the homemade pierogi rivaled the dozens of sausages made by Ray Sliz. "Anybody can make great Polish sausage if they begin with the right recipe, take the time and effort to trim well and use quality meats and spices,” said Sliz. “Sometimes the wholesalers use too much fat and don’t take the time to trim the meat. But we do all hand trimming here.” The boss since 1971, Ray began working in the shop in 1955. His father, Stanley, had come from Krakow and founded the shop in 1945, working with a half dozen family recipes for kielbasa. So popular was Sliz’s Sausage, a second shop was opened on Archer Avenue, a few miles west of the original store. During the 1980s, the family-run business managed to turn out over 2,000 pounds of Polish sausage a week. Although the sausage makers produce an incredible number of sausage varieties, they refer to them all as kielbasa. At its most basic, kielbasa can be all pork or a mixture of beef and pork, finely chopped or coarsely chopped.

Then it is up to the sausage maker and the type of sausage he is making to mix in seasonings such as garlic, coarsely ground pepper, marjoram, allspice, coriander, and nutmeg. The chopped and seasoned meat is then stuffed into casings and tied off into foot-long links and sold fresh, or after a stay in the hickory-perfumed smokehouse, as smoked kielbasa. The types found at the supermarket are indeed kielbasa. Yet at smaller shops, the meat is usually ground coarser and the smoky quality is more mellow.

And it may show up at most any meal of the day, either in the fresh version, which needs simmering in a bit of liquid, or in the smoked style, which only needs to be heated through. Kielbasa may be sliced into omelets or accompany breakfast eggs. It may be served at lunch on a bun or rye bread and at dinner, simmered with sauerkraut or maybe a pot of beans.

And . . . it’s always preceded with “Smaczne!” (That’s “bon appetit” in Polish.)

A Personal Note
Written by Ann (Lesniewski) Pienkos

“During the late 60s, I had as my first job the opportunity to work for Mr. Stanley Sliz and his son, Ray, at the Sliz Delicatessen. What a wonderful experience! The owners and my fellow workers were fantastic, and I enjoyed serving the many customers that enjoyed the delicious assortment of Polish delicacies that the family-owned store made. I most enjoyed sampling the freshly made foods such as the kielbasa, pierogi, and dumplings.

These fond memories have remained with me throughout my life and I thank the Sliz family for giving me the chance to work there during my high school years. This store was about a mile away from where we lived in Brighton Park. Our home was across the street from our parish, Five Holy Martyrs — the site where Pope St. John Paul II said outdoor Mass attended by thousands of Poles on October 5, 1979.”

Pope John Paul II conducts an open-air Mass in Polish at Five Holy Martyrs Catholic Church at Richmond and 43rd streets on the morning of Oct. 5, 1979. The Mass was held in the parking lot and surrounding streets of the largely Polish Brighton Park neighborhood. Karen Engstrom / Chicago Tribune
Honoring Col. Romuald Lipinski

On Saturday, May 16, 2020 in Annandale, Virginia, Polish World War II Veteran, Col. Romuald Lipinski, was honored with a drive-by display of appreciation & remembrance on the eve of the 76th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino. The event was organized by Artur Orkisz and Matthew Stefanski. The Polish American community, friends, and neighbors drove by his house in Annandale, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, D.C., as they shouted greetings and honked their horns. Polish Defense Attache, Major General Cezary Wisniewski, represented the Polish Embassy. A reporter from Poland interviewed Col. Lipinski just before the drive-through. Officers from the County Police Department participated and supported the event. Everyone adhered to the social distancing protocol in effect because of the pandemic.

Romuald Lipinski’s Story

Born on 25 July in 1925, Romuald’s childhood was relatively happy and comfortable; his father was a railroad physician and his mother was a midwife. The family lived in Kijowskie Przedmieście, in the suburb of Brześc (Brest Litevsk), located in eastern Poland. Romuald was thirteen years old when World War II erupted.

As per the Molotov-Ribbentrop Agreement between Germany and Soviet Russia, one invaded Poland from the West on September 1, 1939, while the other invaded Poland from the East on September 17, 1939. This is also referred to as the fourth partition of Poland. Romek, as he was called at home, was fifteen years old when the Russians knocked on the door of his family’s house on the night of June 19-20, 1941, ordering them to pack for a long journey. Romuald and his parents were taken to Brześc Central station, held for a day, and then packed onto a freight train for the twelve day trip to ‘Vostochnyi Poselok’ or Eastern Settlement, near the Ob River in Russia.

The conditions were harsh. All of them were expected to do slave labor but Romuald’s father was too old to work. Fortunately, his services as a physician were in demand and he was able to obtain food for his family in this way, so they would not starve. Romuald was too young to help with pulling the logs of wood to the river on horses and was given a job of carrying mortar to the plasterer working on the building of permanent barracks. The harsh climate, the lack of food and adequate clothing, the rampant diseases and the heavy work required of the captives contributed to many deaths in the camps.

During 1941, Germany attacked Russia. Russia now looked to ally itself with Britain and the United States against Germany. A condition of this was that the deported Poles would be given “amnesty” and allowed to leave their captivity in Russia. General Wladyslaw Anders organized Polish prisoners of war freed from Soviet camps into units making up more than five divisions. Romuald joined Gen. Anders’ Free Polish Army, which was strongly anti-Soviet. He fought on the battleground when the Polish Second Corps captured the stronghold of Monte Cassino in May 1944, raising the Union Jack and the Polish flag side-by-side on the summit. After the war’s end, Romuald studied at the Italian Polytechnic in Turin followed by the French University in Beirut, Lebanon.

Continued on next page...
In 1947 he arrived in England with the Army where he was demobilized and began to study at the University of London in England. He married Iza Zienkiewicz in the summer of 1952 and they emigrated to Perth Amboy in New Jersey, USA. There he completed his studies at Newark College of Engineering and graduated in BSc and MSc in Civil Engineering. He worked in this profession for 42 years. He is a father and a grandfather. Now retired and residing with his wife, also a Siberia survivor, in Annandale, Virginia, he often participates in Veteran’s activities and memorial services. He has received many honors. The memoirs of his Kresy-Siberia experiences are online. He decided to write a memoir about his war-time experiences and gives his reasons for this task.

Col. Lipinski writes:

"It isn't easy to write about those turbulent years that went by then. It isn't easy to resurrect the people, the pictures in my imagination, recreate the whole climate and scenarios of those times. I tried many times and somehow always put down my pen with a sigh of helplessness. How to write about experiences that you would like to forget? But memories follow you around everywhere throughout your life and you cannot shake them off. Sometimes through the darkness of the sleepless night, people that I knew then, that I suffered with, fought with, drank with, shared the most scary experiences with and the most intimate thoughts, come and stand by me so vividly in my imagination that I have an impression that the image is real. Through the "mind's eyes" I see the places where we went to, the faces of the people, they come out of the darkness and seem to be so close...

There are two reasons for writing this memoir:

One, the most important, is that I want you, my dear children, to know more about the past of your parents, how and what we went through before we found peace and security and freedom in this new country of ours. Both of us, your mother and I were deported when we were practically children: your mother at the age of 10 and I at the age of almost 16 (I was deported on 21 June 1941 and my birthday is on 25 July). The war ended in 1945 but we did not resume "normal" lives for a long time due to the fact that we were in various camps as "dispersed persons." So, we went through our childhood, teens, and even early adulthood being tossed by circumstances all over the world. That certainly left its trace on our lives later. The other reason is equally important - millions of Poles were killed by both Germans and Russians. Proportionally, Poland lost more of its population than all the nations involved in the war. Twenty percent of Poland’s citizens perished. The fact that all of my siblings and I survived this terrible war was a miracle. This is the holocaust that we both, your mother and I, witnessed. There was a worldwide drama that was in front of us and we were the actors. We were on the stage. But the world does not want to remember this; nobody wants to talk about it. Why bother about a few million Poles who were uprooted from their homes, deported to some God-forsaken land, and left there to die? But this is exactly why I am writing about it. I want to give a testimony of what happened and how it happened.”

(Editor's Note: To learn more about Col Lipinski, please Google: "Romuald's story: Siberia 1941 - Time witnesses.") Also, readers will want to visit the Kresy-Siberia Virtual Museum, where Col. Lipinski’s story is also told. The website is kresy-siberia.org. (The term “kresy” refers to Poland’s eastern borderlands.) Lastly, the following excerpt is from a 2009 article Col. Lipinski contributed to “Our Parish Times” a publication in Montgomery County, Maryland published:

“The Kresy-Siberia Group is formed from the survivors of the Siberia experience and their descendants. The mission of the Kresy-Siberia Group is: Researching, remembering and recognizing the Polish citizens deported, enslaved and killed by the Soviet Union during World War Two. The group has grown in membership to include hundreds of people from all around the world. It has in its online gallery [www.Kresy-Siberia.org] thousands of photographs and documents posted by the members. They include their memoirs, poems, etc. Members of the group help to find traces of their relatives, who died from malnutrition or disease or those who were killed in combat in WWII. These documents represent a testimony of one more aspect of the history of Poland and the hardships its people endured.” Here, within the Washington, DC, area, the Kresy-Siberia Group is represented by Col. Romuald Lipinski, survivor of Siberia and World War II veteran. He came to the United States in 1953, after an odyssey through many countries that included Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon, and England. His story may be considered as typical of Poles of his generation, whose lives were greatly affected by the war.”

"Col. Romuald Lipinski, decorated National Color Guard Commander of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, previously worked as an engineer for the US Atomic Energy Commission under Richard Chitwood and was invited to the White House. He received a congratulatory letter from then-President Nixon when Mr. Chitwood cited him as an example of the "American Dream.”

We salute Col. Romuald Lipinski. He is an inspiration to all of us.

Sto Lat, Col. Lipinski!

1. (L-R): Bozenna Buda (Polish Scouting Org-ZHP), Col. Lipinski, and Congressman Marcy Kaptur (9th Congressional District - Ohio), are seen in this November 9, 2017 photo at the opening of the “Trail of Hope” exhibit in Washington, D.C. regarding General Wladyslaw Anders and the army he commanded. Col Lipinski served under Anders’ command. Earlier, on September 22, 2017, General Anders’ daughter, Anna Maria Anders, who serves as the Republic of Poland Minister and Secretary of State, opened the exhibit at the Polish American Cultural Center located in Cleveland, Ohio.

2. The “Trail of Hope” Exhibit and Reception was held on November 9, 2017 on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. (L-R): Poland's Ambassador to the United States, Piotr Wilczek, Col. Lipinski, Republic of Poland Minister and Secretary of State Anna Maria Anders, and Bozenna Buda (PSO-ZHP).

National Directors, PAC Members & Friends,

If someone told you in 2019 that there was a chance for a 13-episode series about Poland that revealed the beauty, culture, history, and richness of Polish cuisine on public TV across America - none of you would probably believe it! But it is a fact. "Flavor of Poland" aired in January 2020 and is now being shown on 87% of American Public TV channels (PBS plus CREATE). The show is amazingly artistic, highly professional and we can’t get enough of it. For the first time, Poland is presented as a stunning, magnificent, modern, and friendly country. The producers are Edyta Slusarczyk and Robert Wachowiak, who several years ago approached WTTW Public TV and negotiated a contract to produce the series. A 16-person crew traveled to Poland for the filming and all expenses were funded by donations of the PSFCU, Baron Chocolatier/Veroni Brands and PLL LOT. The producers never received any compensation from the businesses shown in the series (who benefited from free advertising), and they used personal funds and loans to cover the post-production expenses needed to create 13 episodes from the huge filming material gathered.

Currently there are hundreds of requests from viewers regarding DVDs and an Album-Cookbook — with pictures of the 13 visited regions, their history, and food recipes. The producers are looking for a few good men & women, organizations, and foundations, who care about the positive image of Poland on American TV to support designing and producing "Flavor of Poland" DVDs and Album-Cookbook. Sponsors of the DVDs will receive two acknowledgements in each episode, one at the beginning and one at the end: 26 ads per set, 52,000 ads in total. The sponsor of the Album-Cookbook will be noted in a dedicated page(s) to acknowledge any person, family, company, organization, and the region with which they wish to be associated.

The best news is the opportunity for the continuation of the series (i.e. a second season!). If you truly care about the image of Poland in American TV and are interested in sponsoring:
• either DVDs and/or a Album-Cookbook,
• making a personal donation, or
• finance the second part of the series,

Please contact Halina Koralewski. Halina is a volunteer fundraiser and supporter of the "Flavor of Poland” projects. All donations will be deposited in account # 22 60 82 022 121 71 061 in the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union. Details on request via telephone or e-mail. Thank you in advance for your support!

Links to teasers:
BIALYSTOK
https://vimeo.com/380295263

OLSZTYN
https://vimeo.com/380297125

TROJMIASTO
https://vimeo.com/380299475

Alexandra August visiting an American military base near Torun.
Submitted by Barbara Lemecha
PAC Michigan Division Executive Vice President

The Polish American Congress Michigan Division continues in its resolve to promote and distribute the book “Those Who Risked Their Lives” by Anna Poray. For the past 2 years we have wholeheartedly, and with great determination, encouraged our members and the National Directors of PAC to disseminate this valuable document to our congressional leaders.

During the November 2019 National Directors Meeting in Chicago, Michigan Division President Bankowski and its National Director Henrietta Nowakowski offered the book to all National Directors in attendance to hand deliver it to their U.S. senators and have a photo taken to document this effort as “mission accomplished.” We are sure that everyone agrees it is a mission — a mission that will bring this historical truth of our countrymen’s bravery to light and will honor their sacrifice. Be assured this mission matters because we have a moral obligation to reveal the story of those courageous people who risked their lives.

In May of 2019, President Bankowski and Executive Vice President Barbara Lemecha traveled to Washington to take part in a Congressional Briefing at the Capitol organized by PAC President Frank Spula, titled “Poland’s Painful Past and Promising Future.” There, President Bankowski had the opportunity to promote and distribute this book and emphasize its content describing the bravery and courage of Polish Christians saving Jews even though knowing that German-occupied Poland was the only country subject to the death penalty for assisting Jews and not only to themselves, but to the entire family and at times to the entire village. Once again, we remind PAC National Directors to honor your commitment to distribute this invaluable book and we invite you to re-examine the article below (reprinted from August 2018) and study its contents. It’s crucial that the brave efforts of these heroes be remembered. This book is an essential document and must be in the hands of our congressional leaders. In the cynical age in which we live, accounts of altruistic behavior by individuals who risked their lives for others during World War II should be especially welcome to readers. In wartime Poland, unlike in other German occupied countries, gentiles who extended any form of assistance to the 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. Recently, an Index to accompany the book was created by members of the Polish American Congress-Michigan Division (Henrietta Nowakowski, Barbara Gronet, Walter Bankowski, Richard Lapham, Greg Biesterk).

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It was an enormous project, but the Index was much needed as an aid in identifying the rescued Jews and their Polish Christian rescuers as well as the locations where these acts of mercy occurred. Inside the introduction to the Index its authors write: “This work pertains only to what the editor documented. It neither exhausts the topic nor covers all known cases. As such, it should be treated as a companion resource to other similar works.” The Talmud says that he who saves one life, saves the world. Thousands of Jews can bear the witness to the Poles who saved their world. “Those Who Risked Their Lives” was produced by the Heralds of Truth, a Michigan-based organization, and published by IRIS Publishing Services. The book with the accompanied Index is available for purchase ($20.00 + $5.00 shipping & handling) at the Polish American Congress Michigan Division office (11333 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212). Call 313-365-9400 to order your copy.

**About the Author**


Anna Poray or Anna Maria Poray-Wybranowska (10 February 1919 – 25 July 2013) was a Polish-Canadian scholar best remembered for her scientific research into the history of Christian Polish rescue efforts during the Holocaust in occupied Poland. She was a professional librarian with a PhD in political science, and Director of the Polish Library in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Poray-Wybranowska published a book entitled “Those Who Risked Their Lives” in 2007, featuring thousands of wartime stories and biographies of heroic individuals who, under the threat of death, helped Jews during World War II. Some 30,000 of them were murdered by the Nazis for trying to save Jews according to Poray.

Anna Poray-Wybranowska née Chościak Popiel, was born into a noble family bearing the Sulima coat of arms in Ściborzyce, Little Poland, soon after Poland’s return to independence. She finished primary education at home, and the private secondary school Sacré-Coeur near Poznań. She studied at the Université libre de Bruxelles in Belgium before World War II. Anna returned to her homeland during the September Campaign of 1939 and left after Poland’s defeat, to continue her education in Perugia and Rome, Italy. She spoke five languages. Poray joined the Polish Armed Forces in the West while in Italy. She served with the Women’s Auxiliary Service as an administrator, and a librarian in the Archives and Museum of the Second Corps of the Polish Army. Soon after the war ended, she went to Argentina with her new husband, Count Jan Poray-Wybranowski, whom she married in 1947. A few years later they immigrated to the United States.

Poray obtained her master’s degree in librarianship from Columbia University in New York, where she also enrolled for a PhD in political science. She then settled down permanently in Canada with her two small children in 1961, after her husband’s untimely death. Poray worked in a number of Montreal university libraries and for twelve years headed the main Polish Library in the city. In 1978 she began to research the life stories and whereabouts of Christian Poles who saved Jews during the Holocaust in occupied Poland, including those who perished as punishment for trying to do so. She began to submit testimonies to Yad Vashem in Israel on behalf of the rescuers she discovered, to receive recognition as Righteous Among the Nations for their heroism. About one hundred Poles have been awarded the status of Polish Righteous among the Nations thanks to her efforts. Also, around the same time, Anna founded a charitable organization, “Pro Justitia,” to help the most needy around the world with sponsorship from Pope John Paul II.

Anna Poray cooperated with the Institute of National Remembrance since 1986 and helped found the "Committee for the Memory of Poles Rescuing Jews" (Komitet dla Upamiętnienia Polaków Ratujących Żydów) in Warsaw. She was the recipient of numerous national and diplomatic orders and awards, including the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, received in 2001. She died in Montreal on 25 July 2013 at the age of 94, survived by her two sons. Her first child, daughter Joanna died of leukemia at the age of seven.
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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