Dear Members,

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe during this time. Many events, including our heritage banquets, have been cancelled due to the safety concerns resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic. I hope you are continuing to hold meetings virtually or telephonically.

The Polish American Congress remains connected and fully operational to be able to work on behalf of the Polish-American community. I encourage you to continue reaching out and being visible in your local communities. October is Polish-American Heritage Month, and it is important to take this time to honor those who came before us, and to continue the incredible legacy of Polish Americans. The history of the Polish people, and the Polish communities that are thriving today, give us so much to be proud of. The uncertainties that we face due to this pandemic have deeply affected us all on a business and personal level. However, we come from a long line of people who stayed resilient through hardships. The same strength that our ancestors possessed to get through the crises of their times will carry us through this time.

Continued on next page...
I ask that you remind your members to vote in the upcoming general election. Early voting has already begun in many places. You can register to vote online, by mail, or in-person. Voting is about more than just who becomes the next U.S. President; it is equally important to choose the local representatives that you believe will make the best decisions regarding education, zoning, transportation, and many other aspects of our day-to-day lives. The right to vote is our right to choose representatives that will best serve our communities. It is one of the most important things we can do to determine our futures, so let’s make sure we do so.

We are in the 4th quarter of a challenging year, but we are optimistic that things will change for the better, and that a sense of stability will return soon. I look forward to seeing you all again.

Wishing you good health and best wishes during this fall season.

Frank J. Spula
Frank J. Spula, President
Central and East European Coalition Questions for the 2020 Presidential Candidates

The Central and East European Coalition is comprised of 18 national membership organizations that represent more than 22 million Americans of Central and Eastern European (CEE) descent. As we represent communities in the United States with heritage from countries that neighbor Russia, our constituents have a vested interest in the U.S.-Russia relationship and U.S. policy toward the region.

The CEEC strongly believes that the Kremlin’s aggression must be contained and condemns its disregard for the sovereignty of its neighbors. We advocate for the enforcement of all sanctions against Russia to ensure the withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian, Georgian, and Moldovan territories, and the deterrence of any future encroachment on other CEE states. We also condemn the recent fraudulent elections in Belarus and the ensuing violent crackdown against unarmed and peaceful protesters throughout that country, and support sanctions against Belarusian officials responsible for the crackdown. Authoritarian governments in the region must act responsibly and abide by international law. It is vitally important that the U.S. maintain its leverage and leadership in the development of multinational policy in the region. The President must embody and aggressively work toward these goals.

To facilitate assessment of the candidates’ positions on these issues, we respectfully request that the campaigns submit responses to the following questions:

1. What is your position on the U.S. implementing sanctions in response to the elections in Belarus and their aftermath?

2. What are your plans for continued U.S. leadership in NATO as the cornerstone of transatlantic security? Please include comments on your view of the ideal level of U.S. troop presence in Germany.

3. What are your views on any possible “resetting” of relations with Russia?

4. What is your position on the sanctions against Russia with respect to both Ukraine and Crimea? How would you approach ensuring that the Russian government understands the basis for these sanctions and their implementation?

5. How will you work to combat disinformation coming into the U.S. from sources within Russia and elsewhere, and the misinformation being fed to the Russian people about the U.S. and its allies?

6. How would you characterize the effect of the Putin regime’s policies toward Central and Eastern Europe on U.S. national interests? Are there Kremlin policies that you consider to be contrary to U.S. geo-political interests in the region?

7. What are your thoughts on the Putin regime’s serial violation of numerous standing agreements—such as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Helsinki Final Act of 1975, NATO-Russia Founding Act of 1997, and Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances of 1994 – while the U.S. is still abiding by them, at least to some extent? How would you approach reversal of these violations while ensuring effective deterrence of further violations and better protection for CEE countries?

8. Considering the Kremlin’s long history of using gas and oil as a means of political and economic pressure, what is your position on U.S. assistance to ensure energy security and independence in the CEE region, to include working to end the Nord Stream 2 project and supporting the Three Seas Initiative?
CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COALITION

Established in 1994, CEEC is composed of eighteen national, membership-based organizations representing Americans of Armenian, Belarusan, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Georgian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, and Ukrainian descent.

TOP BIDEN CAMPAIGN FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER BRIEFS CEE

Written by John Czop
PAC Director of Policy

NOTE: Both the Biden Campaign and the Trump Campaign were invited to brief the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC). The Trump Campaign has not yet responded to the CEEC’s invitation.

From 4 pm to 5 pm on Tuesday, October 6, 14 CEEC delegates were briefed by Mr. Brian P. McKeon, top foreign policy adviser to the Biden Campaign, who served as Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy in the Obama administration. This briefing with questions and answers took place in the context of continuing Kremlin revanchism, and recent proposals, especially by influential members of Kissinger Associates, a highly regarded Washington public affairs firm with special expertise in foreign policy, of the need for yet another reset of United States relations with Russia.

The prospect of a possible reset without any change in Kremlin policy alarms the CEEC. We recall that as vice-president in the Obama administration, candidate Biden enthusiastically supported the ill-advised reset with Russia.

Mr. McKeon also made it clear that a Biden administration has no interest in a reset with Putin’s Kremlin. Candidate Biden sees Putin as a tyrant.

The Polish American Congress is a member of the CEEC, which was established in 1994 to advocate accession to NATO of the three Baltic States, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and in the Caucasus, Armenia and Georgia. To date, Armenia, Georgia, Belarus, and Ukraine are not member countries of NATO. This fact formed the second question for Mr. McKeon who said that a Biden administration is favorable to the further enlargement of NATO, because Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, and Georgia are sovereign countries. If these countries seek accession to NATO, a path should be offered to them, said Mr. McKeon.

This writer asked Mr. McKeon for the views of a Biden administration on the Three Seas Initiative. Mr. McKeon answered that a Biden administration will favor making the 12 Three Seas Initiative countries independent of Kremlin controlled natural gas through renewable energy, wind and solar, rather than nuclear power. Overall, a Biden administration will favor “green solutions” to achieve the goal of bringing the economic infrastructure of the Three Seas Initiative countries up to the standards prevailing in western Europe and west central Europe, Germany, and Italy.

The Biden Campaign will soon deliver their detailed responses to the CEEC questionnaire and the answers will appear on the CEEC web site.

The CEEC continues to reiterate its invitation to the Trump Campaign to brief the CEEC on its policies toward Central and Eastern Europe. If the Trump Campaign takes affirmative action and delivers a briefing to the CEEC, an article about it will appear on the web sites of both the CEEC and the PAC.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Donald J. Trump
The White House Office of the Press Secretary
October 9, 2020
General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2020

The life of the Polish-American hero General Casimir Pulaski is a testament to our Nation’s ideals and a paragon of the cause of human freedom. General Pulaski’s devotion to country—and the shared values upon which our Nation and Poland were both founded—accentuates our common commitment to liberty. On General Pulaski Memorial Day, we honor and celebrate his courage and expertise in the Revolutionary War, which helped found a Nation conceived in the ideals he held most dearly.

Moreover, General Pulaski was a military leader renowned for his bravery and tactical acumen. In Poland, he fought valiantly in defense of his country’s sovereignty and against the scourge of foreign tyranny. In 1777, recognizing our burgeoning Nation’s cause, Pulaski eagerly joined General George Washington’s Continental Army upon the recommendation of Benjamin Franklin. Pulaski spent the next 2 years in service to America and its battle for self-determination and liberty.

Throughout his time in the Continental Army, General Pulaski distinguished himself as a military leader of tactical brilliance and tremendous valor. At the Battle of Brandywine, he famously saved General Washington’s life, who later promoted him to Brigadier General and gave him command of a cavalry division. Dubbed the “Pulaski Legion,” his division played a key role in the fight for American Independence. Tragically, though, the “Father of the American Cavalry” was mortally wounded while leading his men during the Battle of Savannah in October of 1779.

General Pulaski once wrote to General Washington: “I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it.” General Pulaski’s ultimate sacrifice for a young Nation that was not his own illustrates what is still true today—America is the shining city on a hill and a symbol of freedom and opportunity for the entire world.

The United States of America is more than a name to rally around; it is the land of a people committed to universal values that inspired a young Polish soldier to fight over 200 years ago, thousands of miles from his place of birth, and it continues to inspire freedom-loving people near and far.

As I told the Polish people during a trip to Warsaw in my first year in office, the United States and Poland share a special bond forged by unique histories and national characters, and a fellowship that exists only among people who have fought and bled and died for freedom. As we join together in celebration of General Pulaski’s commitment to the cause of liberty, we reaffirm the enduring bond between our Nation and his native Poland. His legacy, carried in the hearts of nearly 10 million Polish Americans, will forever be etched into the great American story.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2020, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage all Americans to commemorate on this occasion those who have contributed to the furthering of our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, JOE BIDEN

Joe Biden
October 11, 2020

Today we join Polish-Americans in celebrating General Pulaski, whose heroism built the American cavalry and saved the life of George Washington. America will always stand with the Polish people against the common threats we face.
This year the Michigan Division had the opportunity to celebrate Polish Heritage Month earlier. Following appropriate social distancing and safety requirements, on September 8, 2020, a 15-member team from PAC-MI presented an orientation program to 69 Michigan National Guard soldiers, whose unit is being deployed to serve 10 months with NATO security forces in Poland. Upon receiving the invitation this summer from the unit’s commander, Captain Robert McNamara, our Division went to work to organize a day of informational presentations about Poland tourist, cultural, historical, language, music, social, and political—to help better prepare them for this experience abroad. Most of the soldiers have not traveled beyond Michigan before. Each one received an informational folder covering many of the topics presented, as well as a bag of interesting reading about Poland and all things Polish, with pamphlets, brochures, and colorful reference materials. The wide-ranging program included expert speakers with Powerpoint presentations, videos, audience participation, music, and sharing of personal experiences. Among some of our presenters were: Wayne State University Polish Studies professor, Dr. Alina Klin, who travels regularly to Poland with her students; the Honorary Consul for Poland, Richard Walawender; Stella Szczesny, PNA officer and our Division’s National Director, who gave an interesting comparison, gleaned from her numerous visits to Poland, of life under the Communist regime to changes and vast improvements in Poland today; Teresa Wiacek, of the Polish Scouting Organization, who prepared an interesting array of representative Polish music; and (Retired) Col. Chester Szczotka who shared his life journey from a pre-war childhood in Poland, to surviving the Gulag in Soviet Russia, followed by growing up in Uganda and England, immigrating to Texas and Michigan, completing university studies and serving in the US Army Reserves, achieving the rank of colonel. We even had a member of the Polish Winged Hussars Re-Enactment Group visit in impressive full gear, sharing the strategies and significant contributions of these bold warriors to Polish history.

The soldiers were able to view interesting and informative displays about Polish culture and history prepared by our Executive VP Barbara Lemecha. Together with the presentations, they were able to learn, probably for the first time, about Poland’s past and present, and what has influenced and shaped the country and the nation’s character. The day was highlighted with a delicious luncheon featuring Polish style cuisine from Polish Village Café in Hamtramck and freshly baked pączki for dessert donated by Bożek Market. The afternoon’s program featured a motivational speech by (Ret.) Colonel Andrew Raczkowski, who impressed on the soldiers the importance of the mission for which they were being sent.

Our Division is especially grateful to all who participated, presented, donated, and lent helping hands to realize this unique project and opportunity. PAC-MI received a commemorative recognition plaque from the Michigan National Guard in appreciation for our efforts. We are also proud to have received a recognition communication from the Polish Embassy for organizing the event, thus helping to improve and strengthen US-Polish relations.

See next page for additional photos...
Photo Captions:
1. Plaque presentation
2. Michigan National Guard soldiers at orientation
3. Presentation about Poland
4. Enjoying Polish food and hospitality
5. Locating site of deployment
6. Soldiers from 2 different centuries
7. Thank you plaque
PULASKI PARADE COMMITTEE CELEBRATED GENERAL PULASKI AND THE POLISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAN CAUSE

General Pulaski’s Revolutionary Legacy in New Jersey

Arthur Submitted by Richard Brzozowski
PAC – Long Island Division, President

General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, Inc.
Richard Zawisny, President
Post Office Box 3723
Union, NJ 07083-1892

www.pulaskiparade.org
Twitter: @PulaskiParadeNY
Calendar of Events: goo.gl/bvMOkt
facebook.com/groups/PulaskiDayParade

To Honor American history, and the Polish contribution to the American cause, in commemorating the Defense of Little Egg Harbor; Sunday, October 11, 2020, 2 p.m. Pulaski Monument, Little Egg Harbor. (The Historical Site opened early at 12:30 p.m. for a Socially-distanced Meet & Greet and a discussion of the Historical background.

The Ceremony: Solemn commemoration included flag lowering and wreath-laying.

Historical narrative offered the context of the Battle of October 15, 1778 during the Defense of Little Egg Harbor in the American Revolution. This year’s ceremony was preceded by an outdoor ‘open-house’ at the monument where a historical discussion with the public was held regarding Gen. Pulaski’s distinctive perspective on winning battles.

The History: The Pulaski Monument marks the site where Continental Army General Casimir Pulaski successfully repulsed a brutish attack on October 15, 1778 during the Defense of Little Egg Harbor. During the campaign, which began October 5, the British enemy would retreat twice in 9 days in front of the Pulaski Legion’s dragoon cavalry. The British finally gave up their objective, in the week after the Battle of October 15, of reaching Batsto-at-the-Forks on the Mullica River some 18 miles away. Batsto’s warehouses, ship-fitting facilities and iron works were the heart of the port of Little Egg Harbor.

General Pulaski’s defensive scheme on October 15 during a renewed British assault proved effective even though the enemy clumsily attacked and butchered an infantry outpost of the Legion (site of the Pulaski Monument). The attack betrayed a strategically-envisioned, carefully-laid, but ultimately useless British plan of secret advance by 250 crack infantry, already 8 hours in execution. 17 American infantrymen and 2 foreign-born officers were lost at the outpost.

Pulaski’s ‘trap’ was then sprung in a decisive counter-attack unleashed from his ¾ mile distant headquarters at the Willits-Andrews farm. American dragoon cavalry, some 60 horses, and a swarm of infantry, caused another panicked withdrawal of British light infantry back to an island and onto ships. The British lost 3 soldiers killed, some wounded and a dozen missing—scattered by the charging horses. Some enemy prisoners were taken.

On October 16, a loyalty oath to the Continental Congress was also administered at the Willits-Andrews farmstead by Legion officers to area residents. The war would go on, but the enemy would never again attempt to show its flag so brazenly in South Jersey. Such were the events of October 1778 in the American Revolution during the Defense of Little Egg Harbor. May their service and sacrifice be remembered!

The Location: People wishing to visit this Historical Site may follow these directions: From Garden State Parkway, take Exit 58 (Route 539) toward Tuckerton [3.3 miles] to Route 9. In Tuckerton, turn RIGHT onto Route 9; proceed one block to traffic light at Great Bay Blvd. Turn LEFT onto Great Bay Blvd and proceed one third mile and turn RIGHT onto Radio Road. Proceed 2.25 miles down Radio Road, passing through the intersection of Harbortown Blvd/Mathistown Rd (traffic light). The Pulaski Monument is on the LEFT, just past the fire station.

National Register of Historic Places: The Pulaski Monument site on Radio Road, and the associated Headquarters site ¾ mile away, are found on the historic register maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior – NPS.

Sponsor: AEHHS, Inc.
Affair at Egg Harbor Historical Society, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation
Call AEHHS (609-709-8031) for information

American Revolutionary War Hero
Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski
November 7, 2009

General Casimir Pulaski became an American citizen, 230 years after the Polish nobleman died fighting for the United States. President Barack Obama signed a joint resolution of the Senate and the House making Pulaski an honorary citizen.
Celebrating Polish-American Heritage Month

2ND ANNUAL “GENERAL CASIMIR PULASKI DAY” EVENT

Car-a-van Replaces Large Group Event!

Written by Polish-American Association of Sarasota
www.polishsarasota.org

Last year, the Polish-American Association of Sarasota (PAAoS) held its first annual “General Casimir Pulaski Day” event in downtown Sarasota. Over 200 people attended. It was a great success.

Due to COVID-19, the PAAoS was unable to hold a large group gathering this year. Undeterred, the organization decided to celebrate the life of this great Polish and American patriot by hosting a car-a-van. On Sunday afternoon, October 11th, approximately 60 members gathered, decorated cars, and drove through Sarasota. The car-a-van of 30 cars tooted their horns as they slowly made their way through the downtown area where many diners, enjoying their meal in outside restaurants, waved to car-a-van drivers as they saw it was an event to celebrate Pulaski, as well as Polish-American pride. It was fun to see the expressions on the onlookers smiling faces. The car-a-van eventually made its way to J.D. Hamel Park where last year’s event took place. There, more photos were taken before PAAoS participants left for home. They all expressed how very happy they were to have been a part of the 2nd Annual “General Casimir Pulaski Day” event.

Polish-American Association of Sarasota President Mitch Panek said, “I am so very proud of our organization. The pride shown during today’s car-a-van event is so gratifying. We all know General Pulaski, the “Father of the American Calvary” would have been pleased to witness a different kind of “horsepower” celebrating his life’s achievements.”

Start; Church of the Incarnation  Thirty car car-a-van  Downtown Sarasota  Finish: J.D. Hamel Park  PAAoS President Mitch Panek  Decorating!
The PAC Goes Virtual!

On Monday, October 5, 2020, PAC President Frank Spula invited members of the PAC Executive Council to meet virtually via Zoom. PAC Secretary Tim Kuzma was the moderator for the nearly two hour meeting that featured a variety of topics, including how the various State Divisions are staying connected with their members during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Polish American Congress Executive Council consists of the State Divisions Presidents and the PAC Executive Committee.

Joining President Spula were the following participants:
- Ann Bankowski – President, Michigan Division
- Richard Brzozowski – President, New York Long Island Division
- Andrzej Burkhardt – President, New Jersey Division
- Tomasz Kacki – President, Ohio Division
- Andrew Kaminski – President, New York Downstate Division
- Joseph Kos – President, Massachusetts Western Division
- James Lawicki – President, New York Western Division
- Ted Mirecki – President, Washington Metro Area Division
- Michael Niedzinski – President, Illinois Division
- Andrzej Niemyjski – President, Arizona Division
- David Rydzewski – President, Wisconsin Division
- Steve Tokarski – President, Indiana Division
- Marek Waniolka – President, Missouri Division
- Mary Anselmo – PAC Executive Committee, Vice President for Development
- Anthony Bajdek – PAC Executive Committee, Vice President for American Affairs; President, New Hampshire
- Micheline Jaminski – PAC Executive Committee, Treasurer
- Bozena Kaminski – PAC Executive Committee, Vice President for Polish Affairs
- Tim Kuzma – PAC Executive Committee, Secretary
- Debbie Majka – PAC Executive Committee, Vice President for Cultural Affairs
- Rick Mazella – PAC Executive Committee, Vice President for Membership
- Bozena Nowicka McLees – PAC Executive Committee, Vice President for Education and Learning
- Mark Pienkos – PAC Executive Committee, Vice President for Public Relations
- Rick Pierchalski – PAC Executive Committee, First Vice President
- John Czop – PAC Director of Policy and Planning

The Executive Council heard updates regarding the finances of the organization, the Three Seas Initiative, House Resolution 566 and House Resolution 986 concerning Katyn. Given the unknowns surrounding the coronavirus and possible vaccine availability, President Spula listened to those in attendance suggest the possibility of holding a Virtual Meeting of the PAC in February 2021. Also, depending on the progress made regarding a COVID-19 vaccine, as well as other precautions being met that may provide a sense of security for travelers, it was agreed to hold an in-person meeting of the organization in October 2021. More information will be provided at a later date. President Spula thanked all in attendance for a very productive meeting. He also thanked State Division Presidents, and PAC Executive Committee members, for their efforts to keep our members informed during this exceedingly difficult time. Finally, President Spula thanked PAC Secretary Tim Kuzma for his moderating the Zoom Meeting in an excellent manner. State Division Presidents shared their activities during the past several months, especially during the trying times of the pandemic. Here is just a sampling of what’s going on in our State Divisions:

PAC Executive Council Zoom Meeting

- PAC – New Hampshire Division: Prior to the pandemic, sponsored two Polish films with audiences of 25 each; Continuing to contact U.S. Congressmen and U.S. Senators in Washington, D.C. regarding issues related to Poland.

- PAC – Michigan Division: Quarterly meetings held, for example the recent September 25th meeting saw 25 members in attendance—socially distancing of course; Created and published a booklet honoring the Battle of Warsaw, 1920. (Copies are available and have been distributed to members, legislators, and have been also sent to PAC State Division Presidents. Contact Ann Bankowski for ordering information.)

See next page for additional photos and reports...
PAC – New York Western Division: Working with the State Legislature to approve a Holocaust Curriculum at the secondary school level educating students about the Jewish and Polish victims; Held a Polish Survivors’ Mass; Working with local radio to promote Polish traditional music and culture; Securing a PBS Grant to sponsor six 20-minute episodes featuring “Everyday Polish Cooking.”

PAC – New York Downstate Division: Unable to meet, using this time to update and enhance the division’s website.

PAC – Massachusetts Western Division: Unable to meet, using this time to redo the division’s website; prior to the pandemic, held a flag raising ceremony last October in Holyoke, MA to celebrate Polish American Heritage Month.

PAC – Long Island Division: Actively promoting “The Flavor of Poland” PBS cooking and travelogue program; Responded to President Trump’s invitation to submit names for the “Garden of Heroes” Project; Working with local and federal lawmakers on issues.

PAC – New Jersey Division: Submitted a Resolution to their U.S. Senators commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre.

PAC – Ohio Division: Unable to meet in person, trying to stay connected by email and other means of communication.

See next page for additional photos...
PAC – Illinois Division: Just prior to the pandemic quarantine, held its annual Pulaski Day Celebration on March 2; Created a hotline to assist people in need of financial, medical, or administrative help to complete Federal Relief applications; Established weekly evening programming on WPNA Radio; Partnered with the Polish Consulate in Chicago to assist in Poland’s Presidential Election; Mass to be celebrated commemorating “The Victory on the Vistula,” 80th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre, 40 years of Solidarity, and 100th anniversary of the birth of Pope St. John Paul II.

PAC – Arizona Division: Holding virtual meetings; planning a hybrid meeting later in October allowing people to meet in person following social distancing guidelines or remotely via Zoom; Supporting Polish School; Awarded five scholarships; Planning November 11th and Christmas celebrations, if possible; Developing youth programs.

PAC – Washington Metro Area Division: Unable to meet, using this time to review and update by-laws; continue to keep PAC members informed by emailing weekly summaries of articles regarding Poland and its connection to the United States and the world.

PAC – Indiana Division: Unable to meet since March, the division has maintained contact with members via email.

PAC – Missouri Division: Celebrated a Mass commemorating major anniversaries this year including 1920 Battle of Warsaw, establishment of the Solidarity Movement, 80th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre, 100th anniversary of the birth of Pope St. John Paul II; Conducting forums virtually to answer questions and stay connected.

PAC – Wisconsin Division: Unable to meet, using this time to add to its website well-researched text, photos, and stunning videos telling the stories of the 1920 Battle for Warsaw, the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, and the rise of the Solidarity Movement beginning in 1980; In October, planning to piggyback on Zoom programs and lectures through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Polish Studies Committee to be shared with PAC members.
As we are in the 2020 political season, please find below a list of prominent Polish Americans who have served in national political office or have held high public office (Source: Wikipedia). This list is not all-inclusive. If you have additional names, please email them to the editor. Thank You.

- **Mark Begich**, United States Senator from Alaska, 2009-2015
- **Dan Benishek** (born 1952), physician; U.S. Representative for Michigan’s 1st congressional district (R-MI)
- **Jackie Biskupski**, politician and businesswoman from Utah
- **Michael Bloomberg** (born 1942), businessman and politician, and the former Mayor of New York City
- **Zbigniew Brzezinski** (1928–2017), Polish-American political scientist, geostrategist, and statesman
- **Susan Bysiewicz** (born 1961), Lt. Governor, Connecticut
- **John D. Cherry** (born 1951), Lt. Governor, Michigan
- **Florian Chmielewski** (born 1927), Minnesota musician; politician; former legislator; former President of the Minnesota Senate University
- **Andrew R. Ciesla** (born 1953), State Senator, New Jersey, Republican
- **Mark Critz**, Pennsylvania, Democrat
- **Ed Derwinski** (1926–2012), former U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs
- **John Dingell** (1926–2019), former Democratic representative from Michigan
- **Ehrlich Kendel** (born 1961), former first lady of Maryland
- **Renee Ellmers** (born 1964) U.S. Representative for North Carolina’s 2nd congressional district since 2011
- **John A. Gronouski** (1919–1996), Postmaster General and ambassador
- **Chuck Hagel**, United States Senator (R-NE); U.S. Secretary of Defense
- **Kyle Janek** (born 1958), Texas State Senator
- **Leon Jaworski** (1905–1982), a special prosecutor involved during the Watergate scandal
- **Mike Johanns**, United States Senator, Nebraska (R)
- **Paul E. Kanjorski** (born 1937), Pennsylvania Congressman, Democrat
- **Marcy Kaptur** (born 1946), U.S. Representative for the Ninth Congressional District of Ohio, Democrat
- **Casimir Kendziorski** (1898–1974), Wisconsin State Senate (1949–74)
- **Jerry Kleczka** (born 1943), United States House of Representatives from 1985 to 2005, representing the Fourth Congressional District of Wisconsin Democrat
- **Ted Kulongoski** (born 1940), Governor of Oregon
- **Raymond Lesniak** (born 1946), New Jersey State Senator
- **Corey Lewandowski** (born 1973) Lobbyist and campaign manager of Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign for President of the United States
- **Bill Lipinski** (born 1937), United States House of Representatives (D-IL) from 1983–2005, representing the 3rd District of Illinois; son of Bill Lipinski
- **Dan Lipinski** (born 1966), member of the United States House of Representatives (D-IL), representing the 3rd District of Illinois; son of Bill Lipinski
- **George D. Maziarz** (born 1953), Republican state senator from New York’s 62nd district
- **Christopher Murphy** (born 1973), United States Senator (D-CT); mother of Polish descent
- **Barbara Mikulski** (born 1936), United States Senator (D-MD)
- **Frank Murkowski** (born 1933), former United States Senator and Governor (Republican); father of Lisa Murkowski
- **Lisa Murkowski** (born 1957), Junior United States Senator from Alaska; first U.S. Senator born in Alaska; Alaska’s first female senator (Republican); daughter of Frank Murkowski
- **Edmund Muskie** (1914–1996), Democratic politician from Maine, served as Governor of Maine, a U.S. Senator, as U.S. Secretary of State, and ran as a candidate for Vice President of the United States
- **Alvin O’Konski** (1904-1987), Republican Congressman from Wisconsin (1942-1973)
- **Marian P. Opala** (born 1921), Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice

Continued on next page...
• Tim Pawlenty (born 1960), Governor of Minnesota, Republican
• Ed Pawlowski, Mayor of Allentown, Pennsylvania
• Gene Pelowski (born 1952), Representative in the Minnesota State Legislature for District 31A
• Roman Pucinski (1919–2002), House of Representatives, Illinois
• Nicholas Andrew Rey (1938–2009), United States Ambassador to Poland from 1993–97
• Dan Rostenkowski (1928–2010), served in the U.S. Congress as a U.S. Representative from 1959–95 (D-IL)
• Susan Sadlowski Garza (born 1959), Chicago City Council member
• Bernie Sanders (born 1941), United States Senator from Vermont
• Scott Stringer (born 1960), New York City Comptroller and Borough President of Manhattan
• Bart Stupak (born 1952), former U.S. Representative (D-MI)
• Richard Trumka, American labor movement leader
• Alexander Vershbow, United States Ambassador to South Korea
• Jackie Walorski, United States Representative (R-IN), representing the 2nd district of Indiana's 2nd congressional district
• Aldona Wos, United States Ambassador to Estonia until 2006
• Clement Zablocki (1912-1983) Congressman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1949-1983); Chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Relations (D)
• Marion Zioncheck (1901–1936), United States House of Representatives from 1933–36 from the State of Washington, District 1
2020 Annual Meeting, Awards, Polish Food, Fun, & Performances!

JOIN US IN ANDERSON, TEXAS!

Honoring Msgr. Chester Borski, Msgr. Adam McClosky and Fr. Joseph Szymczak

MEMBERS & DIRECTORS MTG
8am - 9am
in parish hall

WELCOME CEREMONY
9:30am
at Grimes Co. Courthouse

LUNCH
Noon in parish hall

MEAL TICKETS
$15 AT DOOR
$10 IN ADVANCE

Buy Tickets at PACTx.org

Sponsors!

Contact PACofTexas@yahoo.com or 830-779-2636

Silent Auction
to benefit Scholarships!

More info at PACTx.org

NOV. 14
at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church
MASS AT 11:00AM
SAINT JOHN PAUL II
100th ANNIVERSARY
2020 WORLD CONCERT SERIES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th 2020 at 2:00 pm CST

POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TEXAS

Marek Eneti
Violin & Viola

Hubert Pralitz
Violin & Viola

Bethany Wildes
Viola

Marcin Parys
Piano

Tereska Grynia
Voice

Juliette Buchanan
Harp

Monika Idasiak
Viola

Vilma Peguero
Cello
Poland is a stalwart ally in Central Europe and is also one of the United States’ strongest partners in fostering security and prosperity regionally, throughout Europe, and the world. The United States and Poland partner closely on NATO capabilities, counterterrorism, nonproliferation, missile defense, human rights, economic growth and innovation, energy security, and regional cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe.

Poland jointly hosts the NATO Multinational Corps and Division Northeast Headquarters, hosts a NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU), is a framework nation under the very high readiness joint task force (VJTF) for 2020, and will host the forward command post of the U.S. Army’s newly-established V Corps headquarters. Poland acted as the host nation for the 2016 NATO Summit in Warsaw and continues to meet its NATO defense spending commitments. Poland has contributed to operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, as well as operations against ISIS. It also co-hosted with the United States, the 2019 Ministerial to Promote a Future of Peace and Security in the Middle East in Warsaw. A U.S. aviation detachment is located in Poland and the country will host a ballistic missile defense site under the European Phased Adaptive Approach. Units from a rotational U.S. Armored Combat Brigade Team, Combat Aviation Brigade, and a NATO enhanced Forward Presence battalion (with the United States as the framework partner) are present in Poland. In total, Poland hosts approximately 4,500 rotational U.S. military personnel on any given day. A newly-signed 2020 U.S.-Poland Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) will enable a larger rotational U.S. presence in Poland, including the additional rotational capabilities established in the June 2019 Joint Declaration by President Trump and President Duda. Poland facilitates numerous military exercises. In 2020, Poland hosted the DEFENDER-Europe 20 Plus exercise with approximately 6,000 U.S. and Polish soldiers.

The strong U.S.-Poland relationship and shared commitment to freedom date back to the American Revolution, when Polish heroes such as Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski aided our cause. In 2018, Poland marked 100 years of its recovery of independence, support for which was one of the planks of President Wilson’s Fourteen Points. The United States became the first country to recognize independent Poland in 1919. Poland was invaded and occupied by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in World War II. A communist regime was imposed on Poland after the War; its demise in 1989 spurred peaceful democratic change throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Poland joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004.

People-to-People ties are an enduring feature of U.S.-Polish relations. Almost 10 million Americans claim Polish ancestry, providing unwavering support for close U.S.-Poland relations. Additionally, the U.S. and Poland exchange numerous visitors each year both through official exchanges and private travel, sharing history, culture, arts, and values.

U.S. Assistance to Poland

Poland graduated from USAID assistance in 2000 and capitalized on its successful transition experience to become a provider of assistance to other countries in the region.

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For example, Poland has been a regional leader in partnering with the United States through the Emerging Donors Challenge Program (EDCP)—a program overseen by the Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia. Through the EDCP initiative, the United States builds partnerships with donor nations like Poland by co-financing joint foreign assistance activities, especially in EU Eastern Partnership countries. The U.S. Government-financed Polish-American Enterprise Fund was a major investor in private Polish companies in the 1990s. The Polish-American Freedom Foundation continues this legacy by investing in training and education in Poland. Poland is active in the EU’s Eastern Partnership and spearheaded the launch of the European Endowment for Democracy.

U.S. security assistance enhances Poland’s capability to meet its NATO obligations and to deploy and sustain professional forces in multilateral operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The United States has devoted substantial funds to enhance Polish military facilities and sustain the U.S. troop presence in Poland via the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI). In March 2018, Poland signed a $4.75B letter of acceptance to purchase the Patriot air and missile defense system, marking Poland’s largest military procurement ever. In January 2020, the Polish government signed a contract to purchase 32 F-35 fighter jets from American partners. Poland was one of the first countries to meet its Wales and Warsaw burden-sharing commitments to spend at least two percent of GDP on defense and at least twenty per cent of that on major military modernization and equipment.

**Bilateral Economic Relations**

Relatively strong economic growth, a large domestic market, tariff-free access to the European Union (EU), political stability, and a relatively low-cost well-educated workforce are prime reasons that U.S. companies do business in Poland. Opportunities for trade and investment have attracted foreign investors into all sectors, and the United States is Poland’s top non-EU investor. In 2020, U.S. goods imports from Poland totaled $8.3 billion. As an EU member, Poland applies the EU’s common external tariff to goods from other countries, including the United States.

The United States and Poland have signed a double taxation treaty, an agreement pursuant to the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), and a bilateral treaty on business and economic relations which includes an investor-state dispute mechanism. The United States and Poland have a robust Science and Technology (S&T) relationship and cooperate under a bilateral S&T Agreement.

**Poland’s Membership in International Organizations**


**Bilateral Representation**

The U.S. Ambassador to Poland is Georgette Mosbacher; other principal embassy officials are listed in the Department’s Key Officers List. Poland maintains an embassy in the United States at 2640 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009 (tel. 202-234-3800).
From the Bookshelf

The Polish American Encyclopedia
Edited by James S. Pula

At least ten million Americans trace their roots to Poland, and Polish Americans have contributed greatly to American history and society. During the largest period of immigration to the United States, between 1870 and 1920, more Poles came to the United States than any other national group except Italians. Additional large-scale Polish migration occurred in the wake of World War II and during the period of Solidarity’s rise to prominence. This encyclopedia features three types of entries: thematic essays, topical entries, and biographical profiles. The essays synthesize existing work to provide interpretations of, and insight into, important aspects of the Polish American experience. The topical entries discuss in detail specific places, events, or organizations such as the Polish National Alliance, Polish American Congress, Polish American Saturday Schools, and the Latimer Massacre, among others. The biographical entries identify Polish Americans who have made significant contributions at the regional or national level either to the history and culture of the United States, or to the development of American Polonia.
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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