

**General Thaddeus Kosciuszko  
1746 - 1817  
Hero of America and Poland**



Thaddeus Kosciuszko was born in Poland on February 4, 1746, son of Ludwik and Tekla Kosciuszko. He attended school in Lubieszow and then the Cadet Academy in Warsaw before continuing his engineering studies in Paris, France. By the time Kosciuszko arrived in America from Poland in 1776, he was a skilled engineer who came to offer his services to the American colonies in their struggle for independence.

On October 18, 1776, Kosciuszko was commissioned as Colonel of Engineers by the Continental Congress and began his outstanding service of fortifying battle sites, many of which became turning points in America's fight for independence against the British.

Shortly after arriving in Philadelphia in 1776, Kosciuszko read the Declaration of Independence and was moved to tears because he discovered in this single, concise document everything in which he truly believed. When he discovered that Thomas Jefferson was responsible for drafting the Declaration, he felt compelled to meet him. A few months later, while moving south with the Continental Army, Kosciuszko stopped in Virginia to meet with Jefferson. After a very warm reception, the two men spent the day comparing philosophies and eventually became the best of friends.

In the early days of the war, Kosciuszko helped to fortify the Philadelphia waterfront at Fort Mercer. Shortly after, he was transferred to New York, where he helped with fortifications along the Hudson and planned the defense for Saratoga. The Battle of Saratoga became known as one of military history's most famous struggles for independence and proved to be a turning point in the war.

In 1778, Kosciuszko was made chief engineer of West Point, New York. This fortification became known as the American Gibraltar because it was unable to be penetrated by the British Army. Eventually West Point became a military academy, as suggested by Kosciuszko to General George Washington.

In 1783, Kosciuszko was appointed Brigadier General and was awarded the Cincinnati Order Medal by General George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. Washington also presented Kosciuszko with two pistols and a sword as gifts for his outstanding service to America.

After the colonies won their independence, Kosciuszko returned to Poland in 1784, to help his own country win independence from the surrounding European powers. Kosciuszko was wounded in the failed revolt and taken prisoner by the Russians. Upon his release from prison, he returned to America on August 18, 1797, which he considered his "second home." He received a hero's welcome when he reached the Philadelphia waterfront along the Delaware River. Afterward, he secured a residence at 3rd and Pine Streets, which is now the Kosciuszko House, a national memorial to this hero of the American Revolution.

Kosciuszko was admired by general and foot soldier alike, both for his technical knowledge and for his sympathetic understanding and generosity. Jefferson wrote of Kosciuszko, "He is as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known." Tragically, Kosciuszko, a devoted champion of the poor and oppressed, never witnessed the arrival of freedom in his homeland, Poland.

Kosciuszko was a firm believer of equality and requested that the money from his American estate be used to buy freedom for slaves, help to educate them and provide them with enough land to support themselves.

Kosciuszko spent the last years of his life in Switzerland, where on October 15, 1817, he died at the age of 72. He is buried in Wawel Castle, in Krakow, Poland, among the tombs of the Polish Kings.

You can learn more about General Thaddeus Kosciuszko when you visit the Kosciuszko House, Third and Pine Streets, or the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, both in historic Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Or you can visit the Kosciuszko House on the Internet at: [www.nps.gov/thko/](http://www.nps.gov/thko/) and the Polish American Cultural Center on the Internet at: [www.PolishAmericanCenter.org](http://www.PolishAmericanCenter.org).

**Radio Zblizenia**

**Friday 12 Noon to 1 P.M. • 1540 AM**

Polish language program with your hostess Walentyna Adamczyk

**Everyone Is Invited To Attend a  
Polish American Community Celebration!**

The celebration begins with the Annual Tribute Ceremony Honoring  
**General Thaddeus Kosciuszko**

American Revolutionary War Hero and Freedom Fighter for Poland  
**Saturday, February 3, 2007  
12 Noon**

**Kosciuszko House  
3rd & Pine Streets in Historic Philadelphia**

Sponsored by the  
**Polish American Congress  
Eastern Pennsylvania District**



This year we will mark the 261st Anniversary of Kosciuszko's birth and mark the 31st Anniversary of the opening of the Kosciuszko House as a National Memorial.

**Following the public ceremony a mini-parade will march down 3rd Street to the Holiday Inn Hotel Ballroom 4th & Arch Streets for a luncheon at 1:30 P.M.**

**During the luncheon program, guests will be treated to a show highlighting General Kosciuszko, "The Seeds of Freedom."**

**Courtesy of the Copernicus Society of America and the Pizek Family**

**For additional information or luncheon reservations call:**

Polish American Congress at (215) 739-3408 or call the Polish American Cultural Center, Monday through Friday between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M. at (215) 922-1700.

In the event of inclement weather the Tribute Ceremony will take place in the Holiday Inn Ballroom, 4th and Arch Streets.

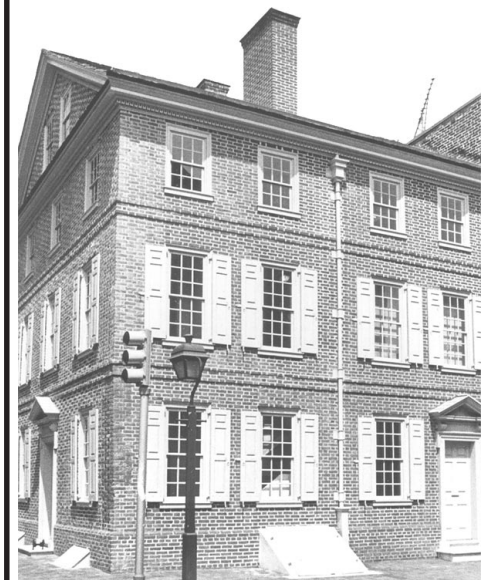
**General Tadeusz Kosciuszko  
Well Represented in Philadelphia**



**General Tadeusz Kosciuszko Memorial  
Located at 18th and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA.**

**General Tadeusz Kosciuszko  
Hero of Poland and the United States of America**

**This Monument was a Gift From the People of Poland to the People of the United States of America Commemorating 200 Years of American Independence 1776-1976**



**Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial  
3rd and Pine Streets  
Historic Philadelphia**

Visit the house where Polish freedom fighter Thaddeus Kosciuszko lived and hear how this brilliant military engineer designed successful fortifications during the American Revolution. See the room where he received notable visitors such as Chief Little Turtle and Thomas Jefferson, who said he was "as pure a son of liberty, as I have ever known..."

Donation to the  
Polish American Cultural Center Museum  
in Memory of **Edward Pizek**  
Offered by the **Pizek Family**