

**Historic Reflections February / March Continued**



**March 25, 1970 - Shawn Antoski (Born)**

Shawn Antoski is a retired professional ice hockey left winger who played 8 seasons in the National Hockey League in the 1990s. He played for the Vancouver Canucks, Philadelphia Flyers, Pittsburgh Penguins, and the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim.

**March 26, 1996 - Edmund Marciszewski (Died)**

Edmund Marciszewski, known as Edmund Muskie, was a former senator from the State of Maine. The son of Polish immigrants, he served as the Governor of the State of Maine before his election to the U.S. Senate, where he served as the Secretary of the Senate. Senator Muskie also ran as a candidate for the United States Vice Presidency.



**March 27, 2004 - Edward Piszek (Died)**

Edward Piszek was a Polish American Industrialist and Philanthropist. He was the founder of Mrs. Paul's Kitchens, the frozen-food business that became a national giant. Mr. Piszek was an outstanding supporter of Poland and the Polish American community. Among his many accomplishments, Edward Piszek helped eradicate tuberculosis in Poland and was the main supporter of the Kosciuszko House in Historic Philadelphia.



**March 28, 1928 - Zbigniew Brzezinski (Born)**

Zbigniew Brzezinski was born in Warsaw, Poland, and was internationally respected as a political scientist and statesman. Brzezinski served as the United States National Security Advisor to President Carter and a major international foreign policy analyst. Brzezinski was a professor of American foreign policy at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. He died on May 26, 2017.



**March 29, 1963 - Pola Gojawiczynska (Died)**

Apolonia, "Pola" Gojawiczynska, née Kozniewska, was a prolific Polish writer. Gojawiczynska was one of the most popular women writers of the Polish literature of interwar period. Her works included psychological themes and social themes connected with proletarian and small town environment of Warsaw and Silesia.



**March 30, 1892 - Stefan Banach (Born)**

Stefan Banach was a mathematician who founded the branch of modern mathematics called functional analysis. A self-taught mathematics prodigy, Banach was the founder of the Lwów School of Mathematics.



**March 31, 1888 - Mieczyslaw Haiman (Born)**

Mieczyslaw Haiman was a leading historian of the Polish American community. Born in Poland in 1888, Haiman arrived in America in 1913 and settled in Buffalo. In 1935, Haiman became the curator of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago which was founded by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. The Polish American Historical Association bestows the Mieczyslaw Haiman Award annually to a scholar who has done exemplary work in the area of Polish American studies.



**172 Years Later, His Music Continues to be Featured Around the World  
Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849)**

One of Poland's greatest and most remembered musicians of Polish descent, Fryderyk Chopin, was born in Zelazowa Wola, Poland, near Warsaw. According to some, Chopin was born on March 1, 1810. However, his baptismal certificate, written several weeks after his birth, lists his birthdate as February 22, 1810. His father, Nicholas Chopin, came to Poland to secure a position teaching French. He met and married Justyna Krzyzanowska. Together in the city of Warsaw, Poland, they raised their son Fryderyk along with their three daughters.

At the young age of 7, much like that of Mozart, Chopin had already amazed people with his musical abilities. Chopin departed for Vienna at age 20 to continue his studies, compose and share his talents with composers of his time. By age 21, Chopin reached Paris and became friends with Berlioz, Liszt and Mendelssohn.

Despite his premature death in 1849, Chopin's music touched the hearts of many throughout the years of his life and continues, even today, to be admired by musicians and music lovers alike. Chopin is most noted for his unique approach to the piano, creating sounds unheard before his time.

Today amongst the masters of great musicians, the name Fryderyk Chopin is remembered not only as the greatest of Polish composers, but also as a great representative of Polish culture.

Chopin died on October 17, 1849. His body was laid in a tomb in Pere Lachaise Cemetery in France. In accordance with his wishes, the heart of this great composer was taken to Warsaw, Poland and enshrined into the wall of the burial nave of the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw where thousands of people come each year to remember him and his outstanding musical talents. Tourists can also visit Chopin's home in Zelazowa Wola, Poland, where from his garden one can still hear Chopin's music being played for visitors on a piano in his house by talented musicians.

You can learn more about Fryderyk Chopin when you visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum at 308 Walnut Street in historic Philadelphia, PA.

**Polish American Heritage Association "PAHA"**  
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