

# Polish American Radio Program

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Local News, Music, Special Features and News from Poland  
in the Polish Language with hostess Barbara Ilnicka

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from Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA in the Polish Language

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In English hosted by Michael Blichasz

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##### Polish Language Variety Program

with hostess Barbara Ilnicka

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### Congratulations George Szymanski, Jr. & Marian Kornilowicz

Congratulations are extended to George Szymanski, Jr., who has been elected as President of the Jagiellonian Law Society, and to Marian Kornilowicz, who has been elected Vice President.

The Jagiellonian Law Society is an organization of attorneys and judges of Polish descent whose purpose is to promote the professional, cultural, educational and social interests of its members.

George Szymanski has his own law firm located in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia and also in Blackwood, NJ. Marian Kornilowicz is a law partner with the law firm of Cohen, Seglias, Pallas, Greenhall & Furman.

The Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, extends best wishes to its members George Szymanski, Jr. and Marian Kornilowicz. Sto Lat!



George Szymanski, Jr.



Marian Kornilowicz

### Yolanda Konopacka DeSipio

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**Barbara Ilnicka, Hostess of the  
Daily Polish American Radio  
Program was the  
Principal Speaker at the  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> Observance in  
Chester, PA., on  
Thursday, May 4, 2006.**



May I first extend my sincerest thanks to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Observance Committee for inviting me here today, to this historic courthouse, to share a few thoughts about the Polish Constitution of 1791, in celebration of this great document. I am truly honored.

The historical facts about the Constitution are well known and often repeated. But it is important to grasp the concept that the Polish Constitution was written by the aristocracy, with noble intentions, to have a government that serves as an instrument for the common good. They recognized that government must serve, not the interests of the few, but the welfare of the entire nation. It was a maverick political concept on the European continent, which at that time was ruled by kings and dictators.

This first European Constitution, which was adopted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 1791, gave Poland three independent branches of government, and introduced political equality between the nobility and the middle class, freedom of religion and special protection for minority groups.

But the most significant meaning of the Constitution was that it gave hope for generations to come. The values of the Constitution were so deeply ingrained in the minds and hearts of Poles that it helped the nation to survive for 150 years of the darkest moments in Poland's history when the country was wiped out from the map of the world.

Yet the Polish spirit was never defeated; Poles took up arms many times after that: the Kosciuszko Insurrection of 1794 and then in 1830, 1848, and 1861. All of those heroic efforts were possible because Poles believed in freedom, liberty, equality and God, all of which formed the very fiber of the Constitution of 1791. Unfortunately, Poland enjoyed freedom for a very short period of time from 1918-1939 and then again was attacked, this time by Hitler's and Stalin's forces. And after the Nazi era, a fifty-year period of communist oppression began.

During the post-war period, Poles always celebrated the anniversary of the Constitution even though, for many years, it was illegal to do so.

Let me share with you my personal experience. In 1971, I was a freshman in Law School at Gdansk University. We were told by the University President and police to spend the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May at home or in dorms. We were not allowed to leave our quarters.

Remember, that was just a few months after the bloody riots in shipyards so Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa (secret police) was especially brutal.

The students underground movement which was a network of brave people from different institutions of higher education, including Gdansk University and Gdansk Polytechnic, decided to resist the authorities and organized a march from Polytechnic to Kosciol Mariacki, where our chaplain would celebrate Mass.

On the way to church a few of our friends were badly beaten and then arrested. In the church we were joined by hundreds of others. Yes, when we were marching, we were full of fear because we were all surrounded by the overwhelming presence of police in full riot gear, but at the same time, we were full of hope that some day the tyranny must end as long as our values were the same as the creators of the Constitution. History has proven us victorious.

Another factor which gave us hope was that we knew that Polish Americans, thousands of miles away, were celebrating the same event. We were not alone. And for that I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Eighteen years after that march, Poland was free again and Poles could celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May openly, freely and proudly.

In Memory of

**Victoria Ciesielka**

offered by

**Caroline Ciesielka, Stanley J. Nanczuk  
& Helen Staranowicz**

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