

# Polish Constitution Day Reports

Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, Celebrates Polish Constitution Day 2009

## Polish Constitution Day in Chester, PA

On Monday, May 4, 2009, members of the Polish American community of Chester and Delaware County gathered at Chester's Historic 1724 Court House to celebrate the 218th Anniversary of Poland's May 3rd Constitution. The event is sponsored annually by the Council of United Polish Societies from Chester, PA, which welcomed political guests, community representatives and Polonia.

The principal speaker for the program was Edward Turzanski, a professor at LaSalle and Villanova Universities and a senior-fellow with the Center for Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia. Mr. Turzanski referred to the countries of the United States and Poland as "lovers of liberty", even though Poland suffered many years of oppression during the 20th century. He stressed the importance of basic human rights which are guaranteed under both constitutions and drew ties between Poland's struggles and the current fight against terrorism.

During the program, Chester's Mayor Wendell Butler presented a proclamation and joined with other elected officials to compliment the Polish people for their endless pride in Polish heritage. Also during the program, a plaque was presented to Frances Kwapisz, a proud participant in the Polish American community at St. Hedwig's Church in Chester and in Delaware County, for her outstanding community involvement.

Michael Blichasz, President of the Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, extended best wishes and thanked Polonia of Delaware County for their ongoing support and participation with Polonia in Southeastern Pennsylvania. He complimented Phil Tarashuk, President of the Council of United Polish Societies, Judy Kuchinski, the mistress of ceremonies, David Chominski, District Vice President of the Polish American Congress of Delaware County, and representatives of St. Hedwig's Church and the Polonia of Delaware County for another outstanding program and traditional Polish hospitality.



Polish Constitution Day, 218th Anniversary Observance, sponsored by the Council of United Polish Societies, Chester, PA, Monday, May 4, 2009, at the Historical 1724 Court House, Chester, PA. (First row) From left to right are: Judy Kuchinski, Mistress of Ceremonies; Philip Tarashuk, President, Council of United Polish Societies; Mayor Wendell Butler, Chester, PA; Ed Turzanski, Guest Speaker; Senator Dominic Pileggi's Representative; David Chominski, Polish American Congress (PAC) District Vice President of Delaware County; Michael Blichasz, President, PAC EPD; Stanley Zoltak, Treasurer, Council of United Polish Societies; and Gina Dubinski, Vice President, Council of United Polish Societies; (Back row) Polish Army Veterans, Post 104, and Szymanski - Rywacki, Post 546.



Pictured left to right are: Judy Kuchinski, Mistress of Ceremonies; Philip Tarashuk, President, Council of United Polish Societies; Frances Kwapisz, Outstanding Community Participant Award Recipient; Gina Dubinski, Vice President, Council of United Polish Societies; Stanley Zoltak, Treasurer, Council of United Polish Societies; Chester, PA on Monday May 4, 2009.

## Book Signing and 3rd of May Exhibit At the Museum



On Thursday, May 14, 2009, at 7 P.M., the Kosciuszko Foundation Philadelphia Chapter, held a special event at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia, to welcome Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and President of the New York-based Kosciuszko Foundation, Alex Storozynski, who highlighted his new book on the life of Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

The lecture was followed by a reception to open the special exhibit of Poland's May 3, 1791 Constitution which was prepared by the Polish Cultural Foundation of Boston, MA. The exhibit will remain on display at the Museum until the end of June. You can see the exhibit during regular museum hours, Monday through Saturday, between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. Admission is free.

Teresa Wojcik, president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Philadelphia Chapter, thanks the organizations who helped co-sponsor the event. They include: Polish American Cultural Center Museum; Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District; Jagiellonian Law Society; Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy (PUL) and Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia.

## Polish Constitution Day Exhibit presented by the Polish Cultural Foundation of Boston, MA.

This display is being hosted by the Polish American Cultural Center Museum until the end of June 2009.



## 218th Polish Constitution Day Commemorated at the Museum

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, Polonia gathered at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Historic Philadelphia as the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, and Museum Volunteers celebrated the 218th Anniversary of Poland's May 3, 1791 Constitution, the second oldest written democratic constitution in the world. Thanks to all who attended the celebration.

On Sunday, May 3, the annual community-wide Polish Constitution Day Commemoration Mass and Youth Program, sponsored by the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, took place at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. Thanks to all who participated.

Office Hours by Appointment

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