

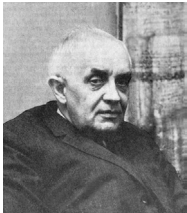
Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Philadelphia, PA

Museum's Historic Reflections Project June / July - Part 1

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Historic Philadelphia presents Historic Reflections from Polish and Polish American history on the Polish American Radio Program. Some of the dates may be the birthday or death date of a prominent person. Other dates may celebrate a milestone in a prominent person's life such as a career promotion, invention date, or some accomplishment that contributed to science, medicine, sports, or entertainment history. Other dates may be an anniversary of an historical event in Polonia or Poland's history.

For your information, we have listed a selection of historic reflections for the months of June and July.

To see additional Historic Reflections visit:
PolishAmericanCenter.org/hr



June 1, 1913 - Jerzy Pniewski (Born)

Jerzy Pniewski and his colleague Marian Danysz made important contributions to the development of physics. In 1952, Jerzy Pniewski helped discover the elementary particle known as hypernuclear material.

June 2, 1935 - Stanley Switlik (First Public Jump)

Stanley Switlik emigrated from Poland to New Jersey in 1907 and founded the Switlik Parachute Company. On June 2, 1935, the Switlik Parachute Company tested the first Parachute Training Tower on Mr. Switlik's farm in Ocean County, NJ, with the famous aviator Amelia Earhart as the first jumper. Stanley Switlik's Parachute Company is still in business in Trenton, NJ.



June 3, 1890 - Oskar Kolberg (Died)

Oskar Kolberg was an ethnographer who specialized in Polish folklore. Today, the Polish Ministry of Culture of the Polish government awards the Oskar Kolberg Award, considered the highest ethnographic honor, to individuals and groups that research, study, uphold and display Polish folklore, dancing and singing.

June 4, 1960 - General Jozef Haller (Died)

General Jozef Haller commanded Polish units under French Command in 1916 during World War I. Haller's Army became known as the "Blue Army" from the color of its French uniform. Haller's Army also seized Pomerania and entered Gdansk in the name of Poland in 1920. Many Polish Americans from the United States, numbering 20,000 plus, volunteered and served with Haller's Army.

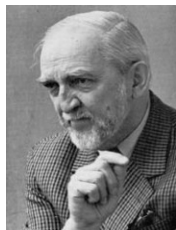


June 5, 1944 - Jozef Beck (Died)

Jozef Beck was a Polish statesman, diplomat, military officer and close associate of Jozef Pilsudski. Jozef Beck served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1932 to the outbreak of WW II.

June 6, 1929 - Boguslaw Schaeffer (Born)

Boguslaw Schaeffer was a Polish composer, musicologist, and graphic artist born in Lwow in 1929. Schaeffer is a member of the avant garde "Cracow Group" of Polish composers along with Krzysztof Penderecki and others.



June 7, 1982 - Meeting of President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II

The historic meeting of President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II took place on Monday, June 7, 1982 in the Vatican Library. At that meeting, the two leaders agreed to undertake a clandestine campaign to hasten the dissolution of the Communist empire.

June 8, 1983 - Grzegorz Fonfara (Born)

Grzegorz Fonfara is a Polish soccer player from Katowice, Poland. He has represented the Polish soccer team at key matches and continues to play for a leading soccer team in Tarnowskie Gory, Poland.



June 9, 1922 - Jozef Tykocinski - (Made sound possible in motion pictures)

Jozef Tykocinski was a Polish engineer and inventor from Wloclawek, Poland. In 1922, Tykocinski publicly demonstrated for the first time that sound was possible on film in motion pictures. He was awarded the patent in 1926.



June 10, 1982 - Tara Lipinski (Born)

Tara Lipinski is a Polish American who at the age of 15 became the youngest winner of the Women's Figure Skating Championship. She then proceeded to win a Gold Medal at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games held in Nagano, Japan.

June 11, 1857 - Antoni Grabowski (Born)

Antoni Grabowski was a Polish chemical engineer known for compiling the first chemistry dictionary in the Polish language. He was also an activist of the early Esperanto movement, and his translations had an influential impact on the development of Esperanto into a language of literature.



June 12, 1887 - Polish Falcons of America (Founded)

The Polish Falcons of America is a fraternal insurance benefit society headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA. It also sponsors youth groups, sporting activities, social, civic and Polish cultural events and publishes the Sokol Polski, their official publication.

June 13, 1907 - Stanley Ketchel (Won Middleweight Boxing Championship)

Stanley Ketchel was a Polish American who won the middleweight boxing championship on June 13, 1907. He kept the title for many years. A native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Stanley Ketchel's real name was Stanislaus Kiecal. Ketchel is in the International Boxing Hall of Fame, and in 2004 was ranked number six among boxing's all-time best punchers by Ring magazine.



June 14, 1811 - Antoni Patek (Born)

Antoni Patek was a famous watchmaker and co-founder of one of the most famous Swiss watchmaking companies, Patek Philippe & Company. The 20 most expensive wristwatches sold at auction are all from Patek Philippe & Co.

June 15, 2006 - Dominic Pacyga (Named Acting Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences)

Dominic Pacyga, Ph.D., assumed the post of Acting Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Columbia College in Chicago. Dr. Pacyga is an accomplished scholar and administrator. He has authored or co-authored four books concerning Chicago's history, including Polish Immigrants and Industrial Chicago.



June 16, 1943 - Joseph Sarnoski (Died)

Recognized with the nation's highest military award as the "bravest of the brave," 2nd Lt. Joseph Sarnoski, of the United States Army Air Corps and a member of the elite crew of "Eager Beavers", lost his life during a combat mission over the Soloman Islands, near Australia, in 1943. He was known as one of the best gunners and bombardiers of the Air Corp.



June 17, 1966 - (One Thousand Years of Christianity in Poland)

Polish American leaders, along with Polish American Congress President Charles Rozmarek, joined President Lyndon Johnson at the White House on June 17, 1966, to unveil a painting of Our Lady of Czestochowa to mark the millennium, one thousand years of Christianity in Poland.



June 18, 1949 - Lech Kaczynski (Born)

Lech Kaczynski, former president of Poland, was born this day in 1949. He held a Ph.D. from Gdansk University in Labor & Employment Law and served as President of Warsaw from 2002 to 2010. Kaczynski died tragically in a plane crash en route to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre in Russia on Saturday, April 10, 2010.



June 19, 1873 - Valerian Sulakowski (Died)

Valerian Sulakowski served as Colonel of the 14th Louisiana Infantry and later as chief engineer to Major General Magruder of the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. One of his principal accomplishments was the construction of fortifications that protected Richmond, VA.

