

POLISH AMERICAN news

Polish American Heritage Month - October 2006

From the Desk of
Michael Blichasz, President
Polish American Cultural Center
and
Polish American Congress
Eastern Pennsylvania District
PolishAmericanCenter.org



Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,

As the founder of Polish American Heritage Month and the chairman of this committee, I would like to thank everyone for their participation over the last 25 years. From the time I suggested the idea of a month-long Polish American Heritage Month celebration in Pennsylvania in 1981, this effort has been a rewarding one for me. I want to compliment the leadership of the Polish American Cultural Center and Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, for helping me get this idea off the ground and for joining forces with Polonia across Pennsylvania to make this effort a state-wide success. After five years of Heritage Month celebrations in Pennsylvania, the national leadership of the Polish American Congress, in 1986, joined with the Polish American Heritage Month Committee to expand this event to a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. Over the years Polish American organizations, churches, schools and individuals have become united in celebrating the history and culture of the Polish people and in publicly demonstrating Polonia's unity, strength and pride.

The Polish American Heritage Month Committee, headquartered at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum at 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia, works closely with its participating groups, and the national affiliates of the Polish American Congress. Together, we work to unite everyone's efforts by providing information packets with ideas on sponsoring local celebrations, coloring and essay contests, and suggestions that highlight great men and women of Polish descent, as well as great moments in Polish history.

I also want to thank the leaders of the national Polish American fraternal organizations who help encourage the celebration of Polish American Heritage Month among their members and supporters through their newspapers and group representatives. Compliments also to the organizations, churches, schools, libraries and individuals who continue to work on this effort for the purpose of preserving Polish history and culture for future generations. I want to also thank the Polish American press and radio for helping get the word out about Polish American Heritage Month to the general public. Everyone's efforts are appreciated and very much needed. We live in an ever-changing time, and it is vital for ethnic groups in America to continue to highlight their individual heritage so the great mosaic of America remains vibrant.

On behalf of the members of the National Polish American Heritage Month Committee, I thank you for 25 years of cooperation and participation and urge everyone to continue sponsoring activities in your local community during October, Polish American Heritage Month.

Visit our Internet site at: PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com

During October We Salute Our Members
Friends and Neighbors Celebrating
Polish American Heritage Month



A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride
in Cooperation with the Polish American Congress
and Polonia Across America

Visit our Heritage Month link on the Internet at:
PolishAmericanCenter.org

We Thank You • Dziękujemy Bardzo!

On behalf of the members of the Polish American Heritage Month Committee, the Polish American Cultural Center and Museum and the Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who offered greetings to Polonia during this special time. Kindly review the heritage month greetings and when you see those that offered greetings, be sure to let them know that you appreciate their salute to Polonia and their support of our ongoing efforts to highlight Polish history and culture to the public.

Michael Blichasz



Polish American Cultural Center
308 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 922-1700

When You're in Philadelphia's
Historic District Visit The
**Polish American Cultural Center
Museum Exhibit Hall**

308 Walnut Street
Featuring Polish History and Culture

**Open 10 AM to 4 PM
FREE ADMISSION**

January through April
Monday to Friday

May through December
Monday to Saturday

Gift Shop is Open During
Regular Exhibit Hall Hours

Closed on Holidays

**Visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum
on the Internet at: www.PolishAmericanCenter.org**

Featured on the web site are brief outlines of Great Men and Women of Polish Heritage, information about Polish customs and traditions, and information about organizations and activities in the Polish American Community.

Let Everyone Know You're



Join the
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Eastern Pennsylvania District

Newsletter

**308 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

Telephone: (215) 739-3408
PolishAmericanCongress.com

**October, 2006
Polish American
Heritage Month**

Come Out and Enjoy the 2006 Pulaski Day Parade

The Parade Salutes Two Proud Sons of Polish Heritage

General Casimir Pulaski and Pope John Paul The Great

Sunday, October 1st • 19th and the Parkway in Center City Philadelphia



Theresa B. Romanowski
Pulaski Parade Coordinator

As the coordinator of the 2006 Pulaski Day Parade, sponsored by the Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, I invite you, your family, and friends to attend the Pulaski Observance events and the Pulaski Day Parade. The Pulaski Parade, on Sunday, October 1st, is one of the opening events in Philadelphia for the national celebration of Polish American Heritage Month and an opportunity to demonstrate our pride

in Polish heritage.

This year's parade theme is "Saluting Heroes of Freedom", which will provide us an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices that Poles have made to the cause of freedom. Poles such as Casimir Pulaski, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Pope John Paul II, Lech Walesa, Ignacy Jan Paderewski are some examples. All Pulaski Observance events are listed in this newsletter.

This year we are proud to honor as our 2006 Grand Marshal, Richard Klimek, and salute our Military Marshal, Major John Nawoichyk, United States Army. Kindly review the articles prepared about our honorees in this newsletter and encourage others to take part in this year's Pulaski Day Parade on Sunday, October 1, 2006. If you need more information call me at the PAC office at (215) 739-3408.

I wish all of you a very enjoyable Polish American Heritage Month!

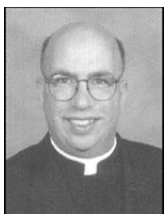
73rd Annual Pulaski Day Observance Update

Polish American Heritage Month & Pulaski Day Parade Proclamation Ceremony, Wednesday, September 27, 2006, 12 Noon at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. Winners of the Coloring Contest will receive awards, and refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

Pulaski Dinner Dance, Saturday, September 30, Associated Polish Home Ballroom, 9150 Academy Road in Northeast Philadelphia. Cocktails 5 P.M. - Dinner 6 P.M. For information or reservations call Jean McCloskey (215) 425-4783.

Tune in to the Weekly Mass at 5:30 A.M. Sunday, October 1, 2006 - WPVI-TV-6

Rev. Andrew McCormick, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Swedesburg, PA, will celebrate this Mass as the St. Cecilia Choir sings Polish hymns to mark the beginning of Polish American Heritage Month. The Mass also will be rebroadcast at 10:00 A.M. on LaSalle University's Channel 56.



Pulaski Observance & Heritage Mass, Sunday, October 1st, 9:30 A.M. in the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul, 18th & the Parkway. Cardinal Justin Rigali is the main celebrant and homilist.

Sunday, October 1st, Pulaski Tribute Program 10:30 A.M. at the Kopernik Monument, Torun Triangle Park, across from the Cathedral 18th & the Parkway.

Sunday, October 1st, Parade Formation begins at 11:30 A.M. from 20th & the Parkway.

Sunday, October 1st, Pulaski Parade steps off at 12:30 P.M. from 19th and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. It will march down the Parkway to 16th Street, u-turn on 16th Street and march West up the Parkway, around Logan Circle and end at 22nd Street.

Sunday, October 1st, Live Television Coverage on WPVI-TV 6, beginning at 1:00 P.M. You are encouraged to set your VCR and come out and enjoy the parade live on the Parkway in Center City Philadelphia. Kindly invite your family and friends to view the parade!

WPVI TV 6 Will Televis Philadelphia's Pulaski Day Parade

The PAC encourages you to inform your family and friends that they can view the 2006 Pulaski Day Parade on Sunday, October 1, 2006, beginning at 1 P.M. on WPVI-TV 6 ABC serving the Philadelphia and Tri-State area. Anita Brikman and Michael Blichasz will be co-hosting. Tune in and enjoy this annual display of Polish history, culture and pride.

Richard A. Klimek

2006 Pulaski Day Parade Grand Marshal

Richard Klimek is being honored as this year's Pulaski Day Parade Grand Marshal for his lifetime of dedication to Polonia. The son of Polish immigrants who settled in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia, Richard developed a deep appreciation for his Polish heritage, which was reinforced by attending St. Adalbert's School and St. Adalbert's Saturday Polish Language School, where he discovered his passion for Polish folk dancing and Polish history. Richard attended Northeast Catholic High School for Boys. In 1980, during his high school years, Richard founded the Polish Youth Organization (PYO), a local community organization for high school students.



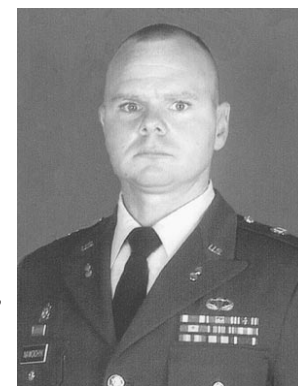
While earning a B.S. in History and Political Science at Drexel University, Richard began his active involvement in the Polish Intercollegiate Club. Besides holding the offices of president of the P.K.M. Board for one year and director of the P.K.M. Polish Folk Dance Group for ten years, he also served on the Board of the Polish American Folk Dance Association of the Americas.

After graduating from Drexel, Richard joined the staff of Polish American Social Services. He later earned a Master's degree in Social Work from Temple University. He is currently Program Supervisor for the agency and serves on the Board of Directors. An active member of the Polish American Congress, he is currently the Recording Secretary. He also serves on the Board of the Polish American Cultural Center and volunteers his time for the Museum Exhibit Hall. Richard is also a member of the Associated Polish Home, the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Polish American Association and the Polish National Alliance. For the past twenty-one years, Richard has portrayed General Thaddeus Kosciuszko at special events and particularly enjoys sharing the General's life story with area school children.

Richard and his wife, Dorothy (Prusik), have three children, Andrew, Monica and Thomas.

Major John Douglas Nawoichyk United States Army

Major John Douglas Nawoichyk currently serves as an instructor of Military Science and as Course Coordinator at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY. He also serves as the Officer Representative for the U.S. Military Academy's Kosciuszko Squadron, which is the Cadet Polish Heritage Club.



His first duty assignment was in Hanau, Germany, with the 127th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, where he served as Platoon Leader, Maintenance Officer, Assistant Operations Officer and Battalion Adjutant. He later served as the Battalion Operations Officer of the Ground Maintenance Company in the 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, and Task Force Maintenance Officer for the 26th Logistics Task Force, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Major Nawoichyk's operational deployments include Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint Guard (2000-2001) in Bosnia-Herzegovina and service in the Middle East as a Brigade Support Operations Officer for 15 months (2005-2006).

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three oak clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Medal second award, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.

A native of Pearl River, NY, and 1993 graduate of West Point, Major Nawoichyk holds an M.A. in History from Western Illinois University. He and his wife, Wendy (Robertson), have a six-year-old son, Grant Thomas.

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