“I came here where freedom is being defended, to serve it and live or die for it”

Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski
To George Washington

OFFICIAL STATE OF ILLINOIS

Pulaski Day
VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

Monday, March 7, 2022 at 10 a.m.

hosted by
The Polish Museum of America
and the
Polish Roman Catholic Union of America

Streamed live on
www.PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org

from the
Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642
The 2022 Official State of Illinois Pulaski Day Celebration is generously sponsored by

PNC

POLISH & SLAVIC

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION

PRCUA Life
2022 PULASKI DAY COMMITTEE

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Iwona Bozek
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Andrzej Pawlowski
James Robaczewski
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SPECIAL THANKS TO

Mirosława Sojka-Topór
Kamil Bundyra
Academy of Music of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra
Tatra Mountain Cultural Foundation Ensemble
Tadeusz Kościuszko Polish Lancers Society
2022 VIRTUAL PULASKI DAY PROGRAM

GREETINGS
Richard Owsiany
President, The Polish Museum of America

James J. Robaczewski
President, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America;
Chairman, The Polish Museum of America; PMA Life Member

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
Tadeusz Kościuszko Polish Lancers Society

NATIONAL ANTHEMS
Mirosława Sojka-Topór
soprano
Kamil Bundyra
pianist

WELCOME
Hon. Michael Frerichs
Treasurer, State of Illinois

REMARKS
His Excellency Marek Magierowski
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States of America

POLONAISE
Composed by Carl Bohm

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH
Written by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller, 1955
Academy of Music of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra

REMARKS
Hon. Lori Lightfoot
Mayor, City of Chicago

VIDEO REMARKS
Hon. Richard Durbin
U.S. Senator, State of Illinois
REMARKS
Serhiy Koledov
Consul, Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago

Hon. Delia Ramirez
IL State Representative, 4th District

Frank J. Spula
President, Polish American Congress;
President, Polish National Alliance

THE PULASKI COLLECTION
at the Polish Museum of America
Jan M. Lorys
Historian & Director Emeritus, The Polish Museum of America;
PMA Life Member

6 Songs Op. 18, No. 4. NAD WODA WIELKA I CZYSTA
Composed by Ignacy Jan Paderewski, words by Adam Mickiewicz, 1894
Mirosława Sojka-Topór

RECOGNITION OF PSFCU UNDERWRITING
Bogdan Chmielewski
President/CEO, Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union

THE BATTLE OF SAVANNAH
A Painting by Stanislaw Kaczor Batowski

REMARKS
Hon. Maria Pappas
Treasurer, Cook County

RECOGNITION OF PNC UNDERWRITING
Uzma Kazmi
Senior Vice President –Business Banking, Chicago & Wisconsin,
PNC Financial Services Group

PAST PULASKI DAY COMMEMORATIONS AT THE PMA
REMARKS
Hon. Aurelia Pucinski
_Appellate Judge, IL First District, 2nd Division_

HIGHLANDER DANCE SUITE
Tatra Mountain Cultural Foundation Ensemble

THE TREASURE OF POLONIA – THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA
Małgorzata Kot
_Managing Director, The Polish Museum of America_

MAZUR
Composed by Emil Mynarski
POLONAISE FAREWELL TO MY HOMELAND
Composed by Michał Kleofas Ogiński, 1794
Academy of Music of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra

HYMN OF THE MORAVIAN NUNS OF BETHLEHEM
At the Consecration of Pulaski’s Banner
Written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1839

LAYING OF THE WREATH
Polskie drogi
Composed by Andrzej Kurylewicz, 1976
Kamil Bundyra

BENEDICTION
Rev. Andrzej Totzke, SChr
Pastor, Holy Trinity Polish Mission;
Chaplain, The Polish Museum of America

FINALE
God Bless America
Mirosława Sojka-Topór
Szanowni Państwo!
Drody Rodacy oraz amerykańscy Przyjaciele Polski!

Dzień Kazimierza Pułaskiego, święto stanowe obchodzone w Illinois bardzo uroczyście, jest szczególną okazją, aby przypomnieć, czym jest polski duch wolności i solidarności; czym jest polski etos mądrzej, nieugiętej walki o poszanowanie przyrodzonych praw człowieka i całych narodów.

Etos ten głęboko przeniósł życie i dokonania generała Pułaskiego, marszałka konfederacji barskiej, znakomitego oficera wojsk polskich dążących do pokonania rosyjskiego imperializmu u schyłku XVIII wieku. Kazimierz Pułaski zasłynął też jako jeden z wybitnych dowódców w wojnie o niepodległość Stanów Zjednoczonych. Nazywany ojcem amerykańskiej kawalerii, ocalił życie Jerzego Waszyngtona w bitwie nad Brandywine. Zginął od ran odniesionych w szturmie na miasto Savannah w roku 1779. Polacy i Amerykanie do dzisiaj otaczają go czcią, ponieważ poniósł najwyższą ofiarę w imię idei, który streszcza hałdu widniejące na sztandarach polskich powstańców: za naszą i waszą wolność. To wspólna myśl przewodni Polaków i innych narodów walczących z tyranią carskiej Rosji, z zaborcami, absolutystycznymi monarchiami Prus i Austrii, a później z nazistowską niemiecką III Rzeszą i komunistycznym Związkiem Sowieckim. To zawołanie jest aktualne także dzisiaj, w sytuacji, gdy bezprawna agresja Federacji Rosyjskiej na niepodległą Ukrainę naruszała pokojoowy ład od dziesięcioleci utworzony przez narody Europy – tak po II wojnie światowej, jak i po upadku imperium sowieckiego.

Jednak warto pamiętać, że wyzwania współczesności nigdy nie przytłaczają tych, którzy potrafą czerpać wiedzę i inspirację z doświadczeń historycznych oraz mają oparcie w silnej wspólnocie. Wiedzieli o tym założyciele Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce, jednej z najstarszych placówek tego typu w Stanach Zjednoczonych, mającej wiele zaszczytów na polu utrwalania i przekazywania wiadomości o kulturze, historii oraz wspaniałych osiągnięciach Polaków i Amerykanów polskiego pochodzenia. Rozumieli to twórcy sponsorującego Muzeum Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce, czyli jednego z najważniejszych gremiów w historii tutejszej Polonii, troszczącągo się nie tylko o byt materialny rodaków-immigrantów – ale też o to, aby tworzyli oni własne, dynamiczne środowisko, spajane przywiązaniem do języka, wiary i narodowych tradycji ich ojczyzny jako Stanów Zjednoczonych.

Członkom obu tych organizacji przekazuję wyrazy szacunku i uznania za wieloletnią, owocną pracę społeczną oraz za przygotowanie dzisiejszej uroczystości. Wszystkim Państwu dziękuję za uczestnictwo w niej oraz za wszelkie starania, aby przyjaźń i współpraca między narodami polskim i amerykańskim przyniosła jak najwięcej dobra zarówno im samym, jak i całemu wolnemu światu.

Panie i Panowie, życzę udanych obchodów Dnia Kazimierza Pułaskiego oraz wielu nowych sukcesów w utrwalaniu dziedzictwa polskości na ziemi amerykańskiej. Najserdeczniej Państwa pozdrawiam.
Chicago, dnia 7 marca 2022 r.

Konsulat Generalny Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Chicago

Pan Ryszard Owsiany
Prezes Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Pani Małgorzata Kot
Dyrektor Wykonawcza
Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Sercznie dziękuję za możliwość świętoowania Dnia Pułaskiego w tak znanym i doznanej gwiazdzie polskiej historii w Polsce i poza granicami kraju. Zawsze z radością wracam do Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce, gdzie jest ono matecznikiem polskości na amerykańskiej ziemi, a także miejscem, w którym od lat utrwała się i promuje pamięć o historii Polski. To tutaj możemy oddać hołd wybitnemu Polakowi, generałowi Kazimierzowi Pułaskiemu.

Kazimierz Pułaski, wyjątkowy bohater polskiej i amerykańskiej historii, zasłużony uczestnik walki o wolność i niepodległość obu naszych narodów, zawsze był na tej ziemi traktowany z wielkim i należnym szacunkiem. Spotykając się z okazji kolejnych rocznic jego urodzin, wyrazamy podziw nie tylko dla mężczyzny znakomitego kawalerzysty, ale też składamy wyrazy uznania dla społeczności polskiej i wzmocniamy więzy braterstwa łączące od dwóch stuleci Polskę i Amerykę.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce pielęgnuję pamięć o dokonaniach Polaków w Stanach Zjednoczonych, nie tylko militarnych, ale również naukowych, literackich oraz politycznych. Jako kustosz narodowej dumy, uczy kolejne pokolenia Polonii patriotyzmu i szacunku dla przodków, którzy pomagali od podstaw budować ten kraj. Właśnie takich jak generał Kazimierz Pułaski, który w swoim niezwykłym życiu wykazał się odwagą, determinacją, uczciwością i pracowitością to jest cechami wyróżniającymi polską diasporę w USA.

Jeszcze raz dziękuję Muzeum Polskiemu w Ameryce za zaproszenie i życzę Państwu dalszych sukcesów w wypełnianiu powierzonej misji.

Małgorzata Bąk-Guzik
Konsul Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej

1530 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60610
March 7, 2022

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the Polish Museum of America’s virtual celebration of Pulaski Day. This gathering is a special opportunity to recognize the work of Polish Museum of America and celebrate the Polish-American community.

Since 1937, the Polish Museum of America has been at the forefront of chronicling and teaching Polish history and culture. Each year, the celebration of Pulaski Day is a shining example of the museum’s efforts to remember Polish-American history. I applaud your commitment to preserving Polish history and culture through your exhibits, programming, and services.

Pulaski Day honors General Kazimerz Pulaski who offered his services to the American Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. Today we celebrate his heroic actions and the overall contributions of the Polish-American community. As conflict continues in Eastern Europe we must also hold on to the sentiments of resilience and unity. I just returned from Poland, which is standing firmly in solidarity with Ukraine. I salute Poland for accepting hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians fleeing from Russia’s brutal invasion.

Again, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to today’s attendees and I wish you all a Happy Pulaski Day.

Very truly yours,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
March 7, 2022

James J. Robaczewski  
Chairman of the Board  
Polish Museum of America  
984 North Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60642

Dear Friends,

It brings me great pleasure to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Polish Museum of America (PMA) and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) on hosting the official State of Illinois observance of Casimir Pulaski Day once again. This event offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the civic, linguistic, and cultural history of the Polish-American community.

Over the years, the PRCUA and PMA have worked to serve the Polish-American community and preserve its rich history. Thank you for all that you do, and I hope that today’s virtual event is a great success!

Warmest regards,

[Signature]

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress
March 7th, 2022

Polish Museum of America
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago IL 60642

Szanowni Państwo! Przyjaciele Polacy!

The contributions of Poles can be seen all over Illinois. We have local place names such as Warsaw, Radom, and Posen which trace back to the land of the White Eagle. Chicago is home to noted monuments of Tadeusz Kościuszko and Nicholas Copernicus, who remind us of the international impact Poles have had throughout modern history.

Coming into Chicago as I travel north along the Interstate from my home in Champaign-Urbana, I’ll pass Pulaski Road, which honors the hero we have come together to pay tribute to today. Known as the Father of the American Cavalry, Casimir Pulaski not only saved the life of George Washington, the father of our country, he died fighting for American Independence at the Battle of Savannah. Although General Pulaski may have been the first, he was one of many Polish-American patriots who gave their life defending the United States. I greatly admire the love of country that is so deeply engrained in the culture of my Polish friends and neighbors.

Here in Illinois, the connections to Poland are all around us. Let us celebrate those links today as we honor the example set forth by this hero of two continents, Casimir Pulaski.

Sincerely,

Michael Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer
March 2022

Dear Friends of The Polish Museum of America,

The state of Illinois has been celebrating General Casimir Pulaski Day since 1977. We celebrate the man who, through his untraditional tactics, saved the life of George Washington at the battle of Brandywine. We mourn the loss of his life in Savannah, while he was fighting for the freedom of his adopted country. We celebrate his life as a patriot both in Poland and in the United States.

On Pulaski Day, we, Poles, have a chance to reflect on the achievements of our ancestors, some famous like Pulaski and Kosciuszko or others who are our close relatives who came to the United States to escape oppression. Those people had great internal fortitude to withstand the challenges they were facing in a new world, as they forged futures and secured their families. They, too, should be considered great patriots for what they did to help create this great country of ours.

With this in mind, let us look to places where we, as Americans, can assist the oppressed and help them achieve the freedoms that we enjoy in our nation.

Fraternally yours,

James J Robaczewski, ALMI, FIC, ACS
President
March 7, 2022

Richard Owsiany
President
Polish Museum of America
984 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60642

Dear Richard,

On behalf of myself and the entire office of Illinois Comptroller, I would like to honor the contributions to American independence made by Casimir Pulaski.

Known as the “Father of American Cavalry”, General Pulaski possessed incredible military skills and leadership qualities that earned the respect of his troops. Pulaski gave his life fighting alongside his troops at the Siege of Savannah in 1779. To this day, his legacy is celebrated by Polish Americans throughout the United States. It is only fitting that in 2009, President Barack Obama signed a joint resolution passed by the United States Congress conferring honorary U.S. citizenship on him.

All Americans owe General Pulaski a debt of gratitude. His dedicated service is another example of the contributions made by immigrants to the growth and success of our Country. May his heroism continue to inspire future generations.

Sincerely,

Susana A. Mendoza
Illinois State Comptroller

Susana A. Mendoza
Illinois State Comptroller
March 7, 2022

Mr. Richard Owsiany
President
Polish Museum of America

Dear Mr. Owsiany,

I am reaching out to send my special greeting to you and the Polish community on Casimir Pulaski Day.

Today, we pay tribute to Casimir Pulaski, a Polish-born soldier who made a significant contribution to American independence. We commemorate one of our Nation’s earliest embodiments of the belief that no matter who you are or where you come from, those who love this country can change it for the better.

Today, we also celebrate the commitment of Polish Americans to liberty and justice for all in the United States of America, and specifically, in the city of Chicago. The City of Chicago is lucky to have one of the largest Polish communities in the world outside of Poland. Chicago’s Polonia has always played a crucial role in the political, religious, educational, institutional, and cultural life of Chicago. Streets named Pulaski and Solidarity Drive are symbolic manifestations of the impact of Polish Americans.

On General Pulaski Day, we celebrate the rights and freedoms Pulaski fought for, and we honor the generations of Polish Americans who have contributed to our society and defended our Nation since its founding.

Sincerely,

Melissa Conyears-Ervin
Treasurer, City of Chicago
### HONORARY GUESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marek Adamczyk</td>
<td>Director, Jan Karski Polish School</td>
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<td>Laura Adams</td>
<td>Vice President, Branch Manager, Parkway Bank</td>
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<td>Hon. Frank Aguilar</td>
<td>Commissioner, Cook County Board of Commissioners 16th District</td>
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<td>Rev. Richard Alejunas, SDB</td>
<td>Pastor, Ss. James and John Bosco</td>
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<td>Hon. George Alpogianis</td>
<td>Mayor, Niles</td>
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<td>Peter Alter</td>
<td>Gary T. Johnson Chief Historian &amp; Director, Studs Terkel Center for Oral History, Chicago History Museum</td>
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<td>Hon. Alma Anaya</td>
<td>Commissioner, Cook County Board of Commissioners 7th District</td>
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<td>Hon. Jaime Andrade</td>
<td>IL State Representative, 40th District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wanda Antczak</td>
<td>Director, Fryderyk Chopin Polish School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tadeusz Antoniak</td>
<td>First Vice Commander, Polish Army Veterans Association of America</td>
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<td>Hon. Omar Aquino</td>
<td>IL State Senator, 2nd District</td>
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<td>Hon. Luis Arroyo, Jr.</td>
<td>Commissioner, Cook County Board of Commissioners 8th District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Awakowicz</td>
<td>Principal, Thaddeus Kosciuszko 7th Air Escadrille Polish School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teresita Aviles Bailey</td>
<td>Associate Director, Chicago Cultural Alliance</td>
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<td>Eugene Bak</td>
<td>PMA Life Member</td>
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<td>Małgorzata Bał-Guzik</td>
<td>Consul, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago</td>
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<td>Sigita Balzekas</td>
<td>Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture</td>
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<td>Joann Skvarek Banwich</td>
<td>Director, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association</td>
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<td>Maria Baran</td>
<td>Director, Holy Trinity Polish School</td>
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<td>Kazimierz Baranek</td>
<td>Polish Army Veterans Association of America, Post 90</td>
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<td>Chester Barbasiewicz</td>
<td>PMA Life Heritage Member</td>
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<td>Tom Barnes</td>
<td>United Polish Club of Elyria</td>
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<td>Hon. Ronald F. Bartkowicz</td>
<td>Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County</td>
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<td>Rev. Andrzej Bartos</td>
<td>Pastor, Ss. Bruno and Richard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agnieszka Bastrzyk</td>
<td>Secretary Treasurer, PRCUA; Vice President – Internal Affairs, Polish American Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Hon. Gerald Bennett</td>
<td>Mayor, Palos Hills</td>
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<td>Teresa Berezowski</td>
<td>Chair, World Polonia Council</td>
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<td>Pamela &amp; Harlan Berk</td>
<td>PMA Life Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stella Bezdziecki</td>
<td>Director, Mikolaj Kopernik Polish Language School</td>
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<td>Hon. Joseph Biden</td>
<td>President, United States of America</td>
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<td>Louis &amp; Charlene Bielakowski</td>
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<td>Bob &amp; Eleanor Bielenda</td>
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<td>Mitchell J. Bienia</td>
<td>Director, PRCUA District 5</td>
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<td>Zofia Biernadska</td>
<td>Polish Army Veterans Association of America, Post 90</td>
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<td>Barbara Bilszta</td>
<td>General Director, Paderewski Symphony Orchestra</td>
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<td>Malgorzata Blaszczuk</td>
<td>President, Polish Journalists Association in America</td>
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<td>Dee Blicharski</td>
<td>PMA Life Member</td>
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<td>Rev. Michal Blicharski, OCIS</td>
<td>Mission Director, Our Lady Mother of the Church/ Polish Mission</td>
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<td>Dr. George Bobinski</td>
<td>PMA Life Member</td>
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<td>Walter Bochenek</td>
<td>Vice President, Polish American Congress - Illinois Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleen K. Bonkowski</td>
<td>Director, PRCUA District 10</td>
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<td>Carlos Bossard</td>
<td>Executive Director, Haitian American Museum of Chicago</td>
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<td>Hon. Mike Bost</td>
<td>U.S. Representative, 12th Congressional District of IL</td>
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<td>Hon. Scott Britton</td>
<td>Commissioner, Cook County Board of Commissioners 14th District</td>
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<td>Brenda Bruce &amp; Dr. Alvin M. Fountain II</td>
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<td>Dr. Peter Brukasz</td>
<td>President, Polish American Medical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valerie Brumm</td>
<td>Director, PRCUA District 10</td>
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<td>Marta Bryszewska</td>
<td>Director, Ignacy Domeynko Polish Library, Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
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<td>Piotr Brzek</td>
<td>President, Chicago Union of Upper Sileans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Buchmann</td>
<td>Director, Polish Museum in Rapperswil, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hon. Elizabeth M. Budzinski</td>
<td>Associate Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County</td>
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<td>Hon. Anne M. Burke</td>
<td>Chief Justice, Illinois Supreme Court</td>
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<td>Hon. Michael Burke</td>
<td>Justice - Second District, Illinois Supreme Court</td>
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<td>Hon. Walter Burnett, Jr.</td>
<td>Alderman, City of Chicago 27th Ward</td>
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<td>Thomas &amp; Ann Burzyczki</td>
<td>PMA Life Members</td>
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<td>Rev. Anthony Bus, CR</td>
<td>Pastor, St. Stanislaus Kostka</td>
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<td>Marcella Bush</td>
<td>President, Polish Educational and Cultural Foundation</td>
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<td>Hon. Cheri Bustoas</td>
<td>U.S. Representative, 17th Congressional District of IL</td>
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<td>Hon. Michael M. Cabonargi</td>
<td>Commissioner, Cook County Board of Review 2nd District</td>
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<td>Hon. Nick Caiafa</td>
<td>Mayor, Schiller Park</td>
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<td>Hon. Felix Cardona</td>
<td>Alderman, City of Chicago 31st Ward</td>
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<td>Hon. Robert Carter</td>
<td>Justice - Third District, Illinois Supreme Court</td>
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<td>Hon. Sean Casten</td>
<td>U.S. Representative, 6th Congressional District of IL</td>
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<td>Hon. Cristina Castro</td>
<td>IL State Senator, 22nd District</td>
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<td>Very Rev. Joshua Caswell, SJC</td>
<td>Pastor, St. John Cantius</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stefan Chelinski</td>
<td>Polish Army Veterans Association of America, Post 90</td>
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<td>John Chitkowski</td>
<td>Legal Counsel, PMA</td>
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Kazimierz Chlebek  
_PMA Life Member_  

Eugeniusz Chmielowski  
*President, Siberian Society of USA*_  

Wieslaw Chodorowski  
_Polish Resistance AK Foundation_  

Joanna E. Cholewinski  
*Director, PRCUA District 7*  

Steve Chybowski  
*President, Polish Center of Wisconsin*_  

Hon. Kathryn Ciesla  
*Mayor, Northbrook*_  

Maria & Richard Ciesla  
*President Emeritus, PMA; PMA Life Members*_  

Hubert Cioromski  
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General Casimir Pulaski
(1745-1779)
Handwritten letter by Pulaski, reporting to General Benjamin Lincoln on the enemy at Savannah, on September 14, 1779 – less than one month before the assault in which he was mortally wounded.

From the PMA Archives Gen. Kazimierz Pulaski Collection
Casimir Pulaski was born in Warsaw, Poland. Named after a Polish saint, his birthday has been established as March 6, 1745. Part of the aristocracy, he was educated on the family estate at Warka, south of Warsaw, and participated in activities befitting his rank and gender. In 1762, he was a page in the court of the Duke of Courland, a vassal of the Polish King. The Duke's court was interned by Russian forces occupying the area. Pulaski was later released and returned to Warka. Based on his experiences of Czarist expansionism, he learned contemporary military tactics. He was also educated in running farming estates, and took part in responsibilities of local and national government, as the aristocracy was the class that defended the State, elected the King, set foreign policy, and oversaw the economy.

The Bar Confederation

In 1764, along with his family, he participated in the election of King Stanisław Augustus Poniatowski. The Polish monarchy was elective, not hereditary, and only the nobility, which made up around 14% of the population, had the right to vote. Unfortunately, the system was open to bribery and intimidation. By 1766, a significant part of the nobility became convinced that the King was a weak monarch, and that the Russian ambassador was directing Polish decisions.

The Polish nobility invoked a Confederation on February 29, 1768, a feudal move consisting of a general mobilization of the nobility when the country was threatened. Based in the southeastern town of Bar, the Bar Confederation counted the Pulaski family amongst its leaders, and young Casimir became one of its military commanders. With the Royal Army divided on its loyalty, and as the Confederation did not maintain a standing army, its forces were composed of retainers representing various degrees of military training and equipment. Their well trained and equipped opponents, the Russian Army, was one of the largest in Europe. Relying on what would later be known as guerilla tactics, the Confederation forces, knowing the terrain and grouped as small bands, attacked elements of the Russian Army. Sometimes they would form larger bands and try to fight larger numbers of Russians. Sometimes they won, sometimes they lost.

Pulaski was one of the luckier commanders, winning some battles, but losing others. Though of an offensive frame of mind, he became proficient at fighting defensive battles, first at Berdyczów, then at Okopy Świętej Trójcy, or the bastions of the Holy Trinity. The war ebbed and flowed. Bar was captured early on, but the Confederation found a temporary ally in the Austrian monarchy. France, under the old maxim, the enemy of my enemy is my friend, secretly supported the Poles as a counterweight to the Russians. Reinforced, Pulaski captured the shrine at Częstochowa. Pulaski held off the Russians, but this was not a decisive victory to end the war.

Confederation forces found refuge in Austria, which remained neutral. Here, the leaders of the Confederation proposed a plan to kidnap the King and have him become the figurehead of the struggle and rally the country to defeat the invaders of Poland. Pulaski at first opposed the plan, but eventually saw that the nation had to rally around someone. He stipulated that no harm come to the King.
The abduction on November 3, 1771 happened in such an amateurish style, that the king managed to outwit his captors. The Russians quickly declared that the king had been the target of an assassination attempt and named Pulaski as the chief instigator and accused him of attempted regicide. The botched kidnapping turned Austria against the Confederation, and lost support among those European powers that had been secretly supporting the Confederation against Russia. Pulaski, seeing that further struggle was pointless, ordered his troops in Częstochowa and other detachments to disband. He left Poland for good. In 1773, the Polish Royal Tribunal sentenced him to death *in absentia* and stripped him of "all dignity and honors."

Pulaski found himself in exile in the Ottoman Empire, then at war with Czarist Russia. He convinced the Ottoman Turks to organize a force of exiled Poles with him in command, but the Turks surrendered before these troops could be organized and trained. He barely managed to escape to Marseilles. In France, he tried to obtain a commission in the French Army, but was rebuffed. Stripped of his lands and income and with no other prospects of employment, he was placed in debtor's prison until his friends were able to raise funds to pay off his debts.

**THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

Fortunately, there were other wars going on in the world. It was 1777, and the American Revolution against King George III had been going on for nearly two years. At first, the Colonists fought to preserve their rights as British subjects, but on July 4, 1776, they declared independence from the British crown. As a fighter against the Czar of Russia and perceived of regicide, Pulaski had a certain renown among those recruiting European experts to train the Continental forces. The American agents were Silas Dean and Benjamin Franklin. Franklin wrote a letter of introduction to the American Commander in Chief, presenting Pulaski in glowing terms: "Count Pulaski of Poland, an officer famous throughout Europe for his bravery and conduct in defense of the liberties of his country against the three great invading powers of Russia, Austria... may be highly useful to our service."

Pulaski arrived in Marblehead, Massachusetts, near Boston on July 23, 1777, as a volunteer. He wrote ahead to General Washington, famously stating: "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it and to live or die for it." Although Washington did not have the authority to appoint Pulaski to any position or salary, Pulaski appeared at the Continental Army headquarters, near Philadelphia on August 20, 1777. While still without a command or rank, he participated in his first battle at Brandywine. When the tide began to turn against the American forces, Washington gave Pulaski command of his 30-man bodyguard to scout out what the British were attempting. The reconnaissance mission discovered that the British outflanked the Americans and
planned to cut off their line of withdrawal. Washington told Pulaski to hold off the British with his 30
horsemen and any infantry that would fight until the army could retreat. This Pulaski did, allowing the main
Army to escape in rather good order, and incidentally, saved the life of Washington. Had Washington been
killed or captured, the Revolutionary cause would have died out, because the Americans did not have anyone
with his prestige and determination.

On September 15, 1777, Congress issued orders commissioning Count Pulaski a Brigadier General and in
charge of the few hundred men in the four regiments of American cavalry. The next day, Brigadier General
Pulaski, doing a job normally performed by a lieutenant, spotted British forces moving towards the American
lines. Heeding Pulaski’s warnings issued in French and Polish, Washington organized for battle. However,
severe weather discouraged both sides from engaging.

On October 4, 1777, he fought at Germantown, the last battle before both sides went into winter camps.
Pulaski and his cavalry spent the winter of 1777/78 in the Valley Forge area. Pulaski, who had fought the
Russians in Poland in the winter months, argued that military operations should continue. However, he was
overruled and instead trained his four cavalry regiments. The American cavalry was not considered a decisive
arm of battle. Rather than being a screening force, to keep the enemy from finding out your intentions, the
regiments were used as escorts for supply columns, dispatch riders and bodyguards for the higher officers.
Pulaski rewrote the cavalry regulations based on his experiences. He even tried to get the Americans to adopt
the lance.

With winter coming to an end, General Anthony Wayne, one of the better junior generals of the Continental
Army, was sent on a foraging mission to gather supplies. He requested support from the cavalry. On February
29, 1778, 50 horsemen led by Pulaski convinced the British that they were being attacked by a much larger
force. The British retreated back into Pennsylvania.

Despite his good relations with the senior American officers, Pulaski and other foreigners were resented by
some American who thought that they should hold higher ranks. Also, while Pulaski spoke a few languages,
English was not one of them; often, his orders were misinterpreted or ignored. Congress was always behind in
paying the soldiers and reimbursing the commanders for their expenses. Pulaski’s request to arm his cavalry with lances was
also denied. Under such conditions, Pulaski resigned his
command and left the cavalry under the command of Colonel
Michael Kovats, a Hungarian volunteer.

At Yorktown in Virginia, Pulaski met with General Horatio
Gates, who recommended that Pulaski organize a new unit
that would act independently and according to his desires.
This unit, a mixture of cavalry and infantry, would be named
Pulaski’s Cavalry Legion. The unit was filled with European
volunteers and some Americans and headquartered in
Baltimore. It numbered about 330, mostly infantry. Due to
Congress’ chronic financial shortages, Pulaski supported the
unit from his personal fortune. The Legion received a standard
from the Moravian Sisters, a Christian religious grouping.

The Legion’s first mission was to defend Egg Harbor, New
Jersey, near present day Atlantic City. Without artillery, this
was a mission beyond the capability of the Legion. The British
force, made up of American Loyalists, was led by a deserter
from the Legion. They launched a surprise attack on the
infantry, killing 50 in their sleep and taking few prisoners.
Pulaski led the Cavalry in a counter maneuver and drove off
the attackers. From here, the Legion was transferred to lower New York in a campaign against American Loyalists and Native Americans supported by the English. He was unhappy that his European trained soldiers were best used against British regulars and that feeding the right fodder to the mounts was a constant problem.

Pulaski and his Legion were rescued by the British decision to hold in the North and take the offensive to the Southern colonies. On February 2, 1779, he was ordered to build up his Legion and to move to South Carolina. Pulaski arrived with his cavalry in Charleston on May 8, 1779. The city was threatened by the British under Brigadier General Prevost. Pulaski launched a series of attacks that stopped the British and also stopped the city officials of Charleston from surrendering to the British.

While Pulaski suffered from malaria in the South, he remained on active duty. The American commander, General Benjamin Lincoln, reinforced by the French Army and Navy, decided to retake Savannah from the English. The plan was to cutoff the city from British naval power by means of the French fleet under the command of Admiral Charles Hector d'Estaing. The American and French armies were to prevent the British from escaping and stopping any help that might come. Hopefully, the garrison would be starved into surrendering. Pulaski was placed in charge of the American and French cavalry. His missions were to prevent the British from going out into the countryside for food and to scout for any British units coming to the aid of Savannah.

Unfortunately, a large British fleet was reported to be sailing towards the South and Admiral D'Estaing decided for an assault rather than a siege. Plans were made for an all-out assault to take Savannah. Again, treachery was afoot. An American Loyalist, posing as an American soldier, warned the British. During the attack, Admiral D'Estaing was wounded and the French forces wavered. Pulaski led his cavalry to rally the French and was wounded by grapeshot. Taken off the battlefield, he never regained consciousness. He was placed on the brig the WASP to be taken to Charleston for better medical treatment. On October 11, 1779, he died aboard the WASP. Knowing that Czarist Russia’s reward for Pulaski, either dead or alive, might be taken up by the British, they reported the body being buried at sea. In truth, he was buried at the Greenwich plantation, near Savannah, Georgia. His remains were disinterred in 1853, and placed in Casimir Pulaski Monument in Monterrey Square in the historic center of Savannah the following year.

Illustrations:
Postcard images featuring Pulaski from the 1939 series, Pictures from the Glorious Days of the Polish-American Fraternity, by Arthur Szyk. From the PMA Archives Postcard Collections

Color photographs of the Pulaski Monument in Savannah, Georgia, with detail. From the PMA Photography Archives Collections
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