

*"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

— CELEBRATION —

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026

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



2026 PULASKI DAY COMMITTEE

Richard Owsiany – Chair

Agnieszka Bastrzyk

Micheline Jaminski

Małgorzata Kot

Teresa Sromek

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Mariusz Boruch

Kamil Bundyra

Zbigniew Habina

Ewa Kowcz-Fair

Czeslaw Mogilinski

Polish American Police Association

Tadeusz Kościuszko Polish Lancers Society

Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company of PRCUA

Richard Jaminski, Artistic Director and Choreographer

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM

Iwona Bożek

Agnieszka Dobrzycki

Mark Dobrzycki

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Krystyna Grell

Lidia Kowalewicz

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Anne Moschopoulos

Beata Pawlikowska

Julie Prado

Sergio Romero

Kevin Ryba

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Conrad Wiecek

Marcel Wiecek

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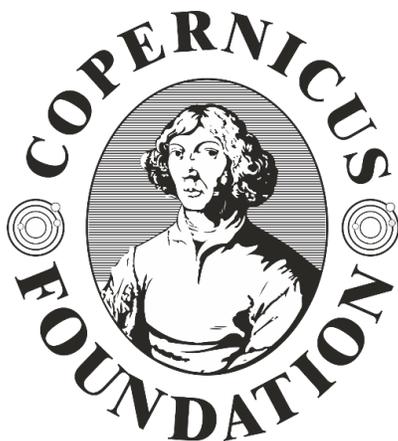


The 2026 Official State of Illinois Pulaski Day Celebration

hosted by



generously sponsored by



Małgorzata Palka & Daniel Sobol

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Casimir Pulaski met Benjamin Franklin when Franklin was recruiting volunteers to fight in the American Revolutionary War; and,

WHEREAS, Pulaski was defiantly opposed to England's plan to partition Poland in 1772 and enthusiastically responded to Franklin's plea for assistance; and,

WHEREAS, in his letter of introduction to George Washington, Franklin wrote of Casimir Pulaski as "an officer famous throughout Europe for his bravery and conduct in defense of the liberties of his country against... great invading powers;" and,

WHEREAS, in September 1777, while awaiting his formal appointment by Congress, Casimir Pulaski was invited by Washington to serve during the Battle of Brandywine; and,

WHEREAS, Pulaski's performance earned him a commission as Brigadier General of the entire American cavalry; and,

WHEREAS, in 1779, when Casimir Pulaski joined General Benjamin Lincoln in his campaign to recapture Savannah, Pulaski assumed command after French General D'Estaing fell from his wounds; and,

WHEREAS, Pulaski valiantly raised the soldiers' spirits through his courage but was mortally wounded himself; and,

WHEREAS, Casimir Pulaski was named the Father of the American Cavalry and remains a hero of the American Revolutionary War; and,

WHEREAS, General Pulaski is a testament to the contributions that Polish Americans have made in this country, as well as Americans of all backgrounds and ethnicities; and,

WHEREAS, his strong work ethic and great cultural pride serve as a model for all of us to follow; and,

WHEREAS, with Chicago boasting the largest Polish population of any city outside of Poland, we take the time to recognize the contributions of Casimir Pulaski; and,

WHEREAS, since 1977, the first Monday in March has been designated Casimir Pulaski Day in Illinois;

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 2, 2026, as **Casimir Pulaski Day** in Illinois and encourage all residents to join in commemorating the life and accomplishments of the American Revolutionary War hero and Polish patriot Casimir Pulaski.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-FOUR day of FEBRUARY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-SIX, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and SEVENTH.

Alexis Giannouli
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

February 20, 2026

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

Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the celebration of Casimir Pulaski Day hosted by the Polish Museum of America (PMA) and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA). This occasion offers an exciting opportunity for everyone in attendance to recognize the heroic contributions of Pulaski and his impact on U.S. History.

Nicknamed the “Father of the American Cavalry”, General Pulaski displayed valiant and fearless opposition to British forces. General Pulaski earned praise from several high-ranking members of the military, including General Benjamin Lincoln, and was eventually named Brigadier General. He is testament to the contributions that Polish Americans have made to this county.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker".

Governor JB Pritzker



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Chicago is home to a proud and vibrant Polish American community that has led to its recognition as the largest Polish city outside of Poland, shaping culture, industry, and society through significant contributions to the arts, education, business, government, social services, and scientific and technological advancement; and

WHEREAS, Casimir Pulaski, known as the “Father of the American Cavalry,” was a military leader who fought for independence and freedom in Poland and against British troops during the Revolutionary War in the United States. Pulaski’s heroic efforts on the battlefield earned him the rank of Brigadier General and recognition as the first Commander of the American Cavalry; and

WHEREAS, Polish Americans who faced hardships championed Casimir Pulaski as a national and Polish American hero, and in 1977 the Polish American Congress successfully lobbied to designate the first Monday of March as Casimir Pulaski Day. Many tributes to Casimir Pulaski can be found throughout Illinois, including Pulaski County, the Pulaski International School of Chicago, and Chicago’s well-known Pulaski Road; and

WHEREAS, the Polish Museum of America, founded in 1935 and opened to the public in 1937, has long upheld its mission of promoting the legacy, traditions, and history of Polish Americans in Chicago and beyond, including the annual celebration of Pulaski Day on the first Monday of March to commemorate Casimir Pulaski’s birthday with parades, gatherings, and ceremonies across the city; and

WHEREAS, Chicago proudly welcomes Polish President Andrzej Duda to the City of Chicago to join in the celebration of Casimir Pulaski Day, recognizing the strong historical and cultural ties between Poland and Chicago’s Polish American community:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRANDON JOHNSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim March 2, 2026 to be CASMIR PULASKI DAY IN CHICAGO in recognition General Pulaski’s heroic efforts and the many contributions of Polish Americans.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BJ", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

February 23, 2026

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Polish Museum of America (PMA) and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America's (PRCUA) 2026 observance of Casimir Pulaski Day. This gathering is a special opportunity to honor Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski and his contributions to the United States.

Since 1873, the PRCUA has united Polish Americans and preserved the traditions, arts, and culture of Poland. PRCUA has pioneered social programs for members, advocated for women's rights, and created a foundation for the Polish American community. In 1935, PRCUA founded the Polish Museum of America, one of the largest ethnic museums in the United States, dedicated to preserving and sharing Polish heritage with visitors from around the world.

Today's ceremony commemorates Brigadier General Pulaski, the "Father of the American Cavalry", who gave his life fighting for American independence. His leadership throughout the Revolutionary War exemplifies the contributions that Polish Americans have made to our country.

Again, I extend my warmest wishes to today's attendees for your dedication to the PMA, the PRCUA, and the Polish American community. Congratulations on all your work and achievements.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

United States Senate

March 2, 2026

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

Greetings Friends:

I would like to thank the Polish Museum of America for hosting this Pulaski Day Event.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, General Casimir Pulaski helped secure America's independence through his brave service in the Revolutionary War. Today, Casimir Pulaski serves as a symbol of the long-standing contributions of the Polish-American community that help enrich our country.

I join the community in thanking the Polish Museum of America for hosting this special event. You play a vital role sharing Polish culture and history, and we are grateful for your continued efforts. I wish you all further success in the years ahead.

Again, we thank you for your remarkable contributions to the community.

My very best to all of you on this special occasion.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



SUSANA A. MENDOZA
ILLINOIS STATE COMPTROLLER

GREETINGS

March 2, 2026

As Illinois State Comptroller, I would like to welcome Chair Agnieszka Bastrzyk, Vice Chair Micheline Jaminski, President Richard Owsiany, and everyone gathered at the Polish Museum of America to celebrate Casimir Pulaski Day.

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 for American independence at the Siege of Savannah in 1779. To this day, his legacy is celebrated by Polish Americans throughout the United States.

Casimir Pulaski Day holds special significance in the State of Illinois. Chicagoland boasts a Polish population surpassing any metropolitan area outside of Poland. While I may not be Polish myself, I am fortunate to have married into a proud Polish family and have witnessed firsthand the remarkable contributions of this community.

From sending us Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko to helping us win our war for independence; to the laborers who built and continue to build Chicago; to the artists, writers and scientists who have enriched our lives, we can’t thank Poland enough.

Thank you to the Board of Directors and Polish Museum of America Executive Committee. You honor us with your presence as we celebrate this momentous occasion. We all owe General Pulaski a debt of gratitude. May his heroism continue to inspire future generations.

Sincerely,

Susana A. Mendoza
Illinois State Comptroller

555 West Monroe Street, 1400SA
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3713
(312) 814-2451

201 State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois 62706-0001
(217) 782-6000

325 West Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704-1871
(800) 877-8078



*...protecting **Life** through all its stages!*

A Message for Pulaski Day 2026

Celebrating Heritage, Honoring Courage, Furthering Unity

Dear Friends,

It is my distinct honor and deep privilege to welcome you to the 2026 Casimir Pulaski Day celebration here in the State of Illinois.

Pulaski Day, observed each year on the first Monday in March, commemorates the birth and enduring legacy of General Casimir Pulaski, the Polish-born hero of the American Revolutionary War who is forever remembered as the “Father of the American Cavalry.” His courage, his commitment to liberty, and his wholehearted embrace of the American cause symbolize the very ideals upon which this nation was founded. Born in Poland and destined to be forever linked to the story of American independence, Pulaski answered the call of freedom and came to these shores to “hazard all for the freedom of America.” His sacrifice continues to resonate with all who cherish liberty and justice.

In 2026, we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, a milestone marking two and a half centuries since the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This year’s commemoration is especially poignant as we gather not only to honor a great military leader but also to reflect on the broader contributions of Polish Americans to the history and fabric of the United States. From the earliest waves of immigrants to the vibrant, thriving communities that enrich our cities, towns, and cultural life, Polish Americans have shaped every corner of American society with character, faith, and resilience.

Illinois, as the only state in the nation to formally recognize this observance, stands as a testament to that heritage. For decades, the Pulaski Day celebration has brought together government representatives, civic leaders, cultural organizations, and families from across the region to honor the bonds between our nations and to remind future generations of the shared values that unite us.

In recent years, our observances have also served as bridges between generations -connecting young people with their history and inspiring all of us to carry forward the legacy of service, community, and solidarity. Today, we also celebrate the role of institutions like the Polish Museum of America and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America in preserving culture, promoting understanding, and fostering unity among all Americans.

As we look forward to this year’s program let us honor not only a heroic past but also a hopeful future. May this day renew our commitment to the principles of freedom and equality for which Pulaski fought, and may it strengthen the bonds of friendship among all who proudly call this nation home.

To all who stand with us today in celebration and remembrance: thank you for carrying this legacy forward with pride, dignity, and an unshakeable belief in a brighter tomorrow.

Respectfully,

Agnieszka Bastrzyk

President
Polish Roman Catholic Union of America

Chair of the Board of Directors
Polish Museum of America



***Proud Supporter of the
2026 Pulaski Day Celebration***

***Polish Roman Catholic
Union of America***

founder, sustaining financial contributor and home of

***The Polish Museum
of America***

Join us!

Be a part of a proud tradition of supporting and celebrating Polish culture and heritage for over 150 years.

Become a member today!

2026 PULASKI DAY PROGRAM

GREETINGS

Agnieszka Bastrzyk

*Polish Roman Catholic Union of America President;
The Polish Museum of America Chair*

Richard Owsiany

The Polish Museum of America President

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Tadeusz Kościuszko Polish Lancers Society

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

Ewa Kowcz-Fair

soprano

Kamil Bundyra

pianist

INVOCATION

Rev. Robert Będziński

*Holy Trinity Polish Mission Director;
The Polish Museum of America Chaplain*

Polonez – A National Dance of Poland

Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company of PRCUA

PAST PULASKI DAY COMMEMORATIONS

at the Polish Museum of America

REMARKS

Hon. Michael Frerichs

State of Illinois Treasurer

Consul General Regina Jurkowska
Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago

Hon. Brandon Johnson
City of Chicago Mayor

Hubert Cioromski
Polish American Congress President

Hon. Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer

THE PULASKI COLLECTION
at the Polish Museum of America

RECOGNITION OF PSFCU UNDERWRITING

Bogdan Ogórek
Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union Director;
The Polish Museum of America Director

Frank Spula
Polish National Alliance President

Hon. Robert Martwick
10th District IL State Senator

Jan Król
Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America President

Dances and Songs from the Region of Łowicz
Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company of PRCUA

REMARKS

Hon. Frederick Kaegi
Cook County Assessor

RECOGNITION OF PNC UNDERWRITING

Jakub Nowak
PNC Bank Senior Vice President & Regional Manager

VIDEO REMARKS

Hon. Nikki Budzinski
13th Congressional District of IL US Representative

REMARKS

Hon. Aurelia Pucinski
IL First District Appellate Court Justice

LAYING OF THE WREATH

Polskie drogi
Composed by Andrzej Kurylewicz, 1976
Kamil Bundyra

BENEDICTION

Rev. Zdzisław Torba
St. John Brebeuf Pastor

FINALE

God Bless America



Program subject to change

CASIMIR PULASKI

A Biography by Jan M. Lorys

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.

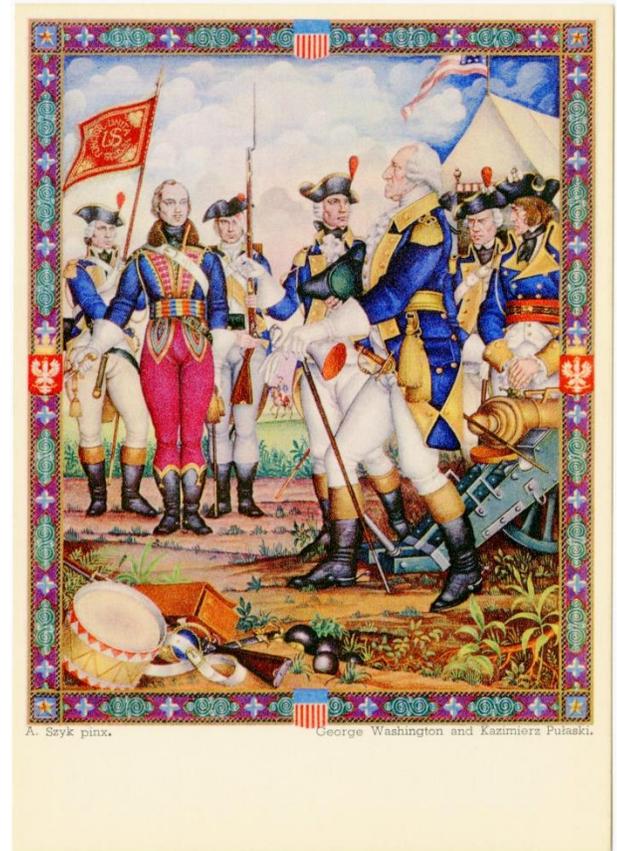
Pulaski was one of the luckier commanders, winning some battles, but losing others. Though of an offensive frame of mind, he became proficient at fighting defensive battles, first at Berdyczów, then at Okopy Świętej Trójcy, or the bastions of the Holy Trinity. The war ebbed and flowed. Bar was captured 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



A. Szyk pinx.

George Washington and Casimir Pulaski after the battle near the Brandywine river
Jerzy Washington i Kazimierz Pulaski po bitwie nad rzeką Brandywine.

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



A. Szyk pinx.

Pulaski mortally wounded in the battle of Savannah.
Pulaski ranny śmiertelnie w bitwie pod Savannah.



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.

A British fleet was reported to be sailing towards the South and Admiral D'Estaing, rather than a siege, made plans for an all-out assault to take the city. Again treachery was afoot. A British loyalist, in the American Army, warned the British. In the attack, D'Estaing was wounded and the French wavered. Pulaski led his cavalry to rally the French and was wounded by grapeshot. Taken off the field, he never regained consciousness. He was placed on the brig *WASP* to be taken to Charleston for medical aid. On October 11, 1779, he died at sea. Knowing that Russia's reward for Pulaski, either dead or alive, might be taken up by the British, they reported the body as buried at sea. Other reports state that he was buried at the Greenwich plantation, near Savannah. Remains were disinterred in 1853, and placed in the Casimir Pulaski Monument in Monterrey Square in Savannah's historic center the following year. In 2009, on the eve of the 230th anniversary of his death, Pulaski was declared an honorary citizen of the United States by an Act of Congress.

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



HONORARY GUESTS

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Kosciuszko Museum President, Solothurn, Switzerland

Marek Adamczyk
Jan Karski Polish School Director

Laura Adams
Parkway Bank VP Branch Manager

Michael Agan
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association CEO

Commissioner Frank Aguilar
Cook County Board of Commissioners 16th District

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Niles Mayor

Peter Alter
Chicago History Museum Chief Historian

Commissioner Alma Anaya
Cook County Board of Commissioners 7th District

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40th District IL State Representative

Wanda Antczak
Fryderyk Chopin Polish School Director

Tadeusz Antoniak
*Polish Army Veterans Association of America
First Vice Commander*

Hon. Omar Aquino
2nd District IL State Senator

Lucyna Arytmiuk
*Polish Museum and Archives President,
Essendon North, Victoria, Australia*

Anna Awakowicz
Thaddeus Kosciuszko 7th Air Escadrille Polish School Principal

Eugene Bak
PMA Life Member

Sigita Balzekas
Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture

Maria Baran
Holy Trinity Polish School Director

Chester Barbasiewicz
PMA Life Heritage Member

Dr. Jacek Barski
*Porta Polonica Documentation Centre for the Culture
and History of the Poles Head, Bochum, Germany*

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Circuit Court of Cook County Circuit Judge

Rev. Andrzej Bartos
Ss. Bruno & Richard Pastor

Hon. Charles Beach
Circuit Court of Cook County Chief Judge

Hon. Gerald Bennett
Palos Hills Mayor

Pamela & Harlan Berk
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Elzbieta Berkowicz
Maria Sklodowska Curie Polish School Director

Louis & Charlene Bielakowski
PMA Life Heritage Members

Bob & Eleanor Bielenda
PMA Life Members

Halina Bielowicz
PMA Life Member

Zofia Biernadska
*Polish Army Veterans Association of America Post 90
Veteran of the Polish II Corps*

Barbara Bilszta
Paderewski Symphony Orchestra General Director

Dee Blicharski
PMA Life Member

Rev. Michal Blicharski
Our Lady Mother of the Church/ Polish Mission Director

Dr. George Bobinski
PMA Life Member

Kathy Bojczuk
Advocates Society President

Brenda Bokowski
*PNC Financial Services Group
Client and Community Relations Specialist*

Colleen Bonkowski
PRCUA District 10 Director

Hon. Mike Bost
12th Congressional District of IL US Representative

Ralph Brandt
Polish Legion of American Veterans Illinois Commander

Commissioner Scott Britton
Cook County Board of Commissioners 14th District

Brenda Bruce & Alvin M Fountain II

Valerie Brumm
PRCUA District 10 Director

Marta Bryszewska
*Ignacy Domeyko Polish Library Director,
Buenos Aires, Argentina*

Piotr Brzek
Chicago Union of Upper Silesians President

Hon. Walter Burnett
City of Chicago 27th Ward Alderman

Anna Buchmann
Polish Museum Director, Rapperswil, Switzerland

Rev. Antoni Bury
St. Zachary Administrator

Thomas & Ann Burzycki
PMA Life Members

Rev. Anthony Bus
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Illinois Governor Daniel Walker signing the Pulaski Day bill at the Polish Museum of America, September 9, 1973.
From the PMA Photography Archives Collections



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Bust of Kazimierz Pulaski by Kazimierz Chodzinski, painted plaster, 1909.
From the PMA Pulaski Collection



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Equestrian monument of Kazimierz Pulaski in a studio of the sculptor Kazimierz Chodzinski, 1910.
From the PMA Photography Archives Collections



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Pulaski at Savannah by Stanislaw Batowski, oil, 1931.
From the PMA Pulaski Collection



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National Shrine of St Maximilian Kolbe Rector

Bozena & Arie Zweig



Dear General

I have taken my quarters about seven miles
from Savannah, at the widow Gibbon's house, on the
way to Ogeechee's ferry, it is very essential post, the
Enemies got an advanced one about two miles from
the town, that they have posted there since last
night, being alarmed by the detachment which was
on their lines yesterday, it will be necessary that
my detachments should be reinforced not only by
the Cavalry, but with some infantry to give me
the facility of attacking their pickets, I shall pursue
two miles further on the Sunbury's road to keep a
free communication with Count D'Estaing, the enemies
send on that road very soon often some parties.

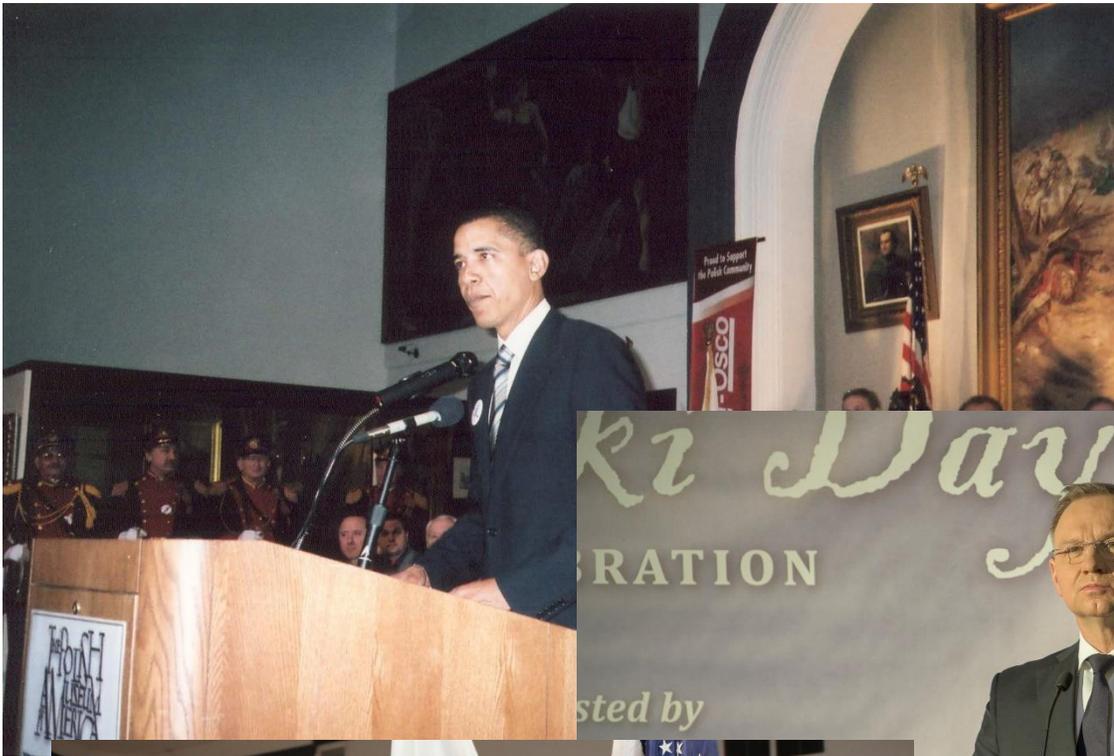
I have the honour to be
with respect Dear General

your most humble
Obedt. Pulaski

September the 14th 1779
at three o'clock in the morning.

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

Past Pulaski Day Celebrations





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46TH SUMMER GALA**



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Polish Americans in the Civil War

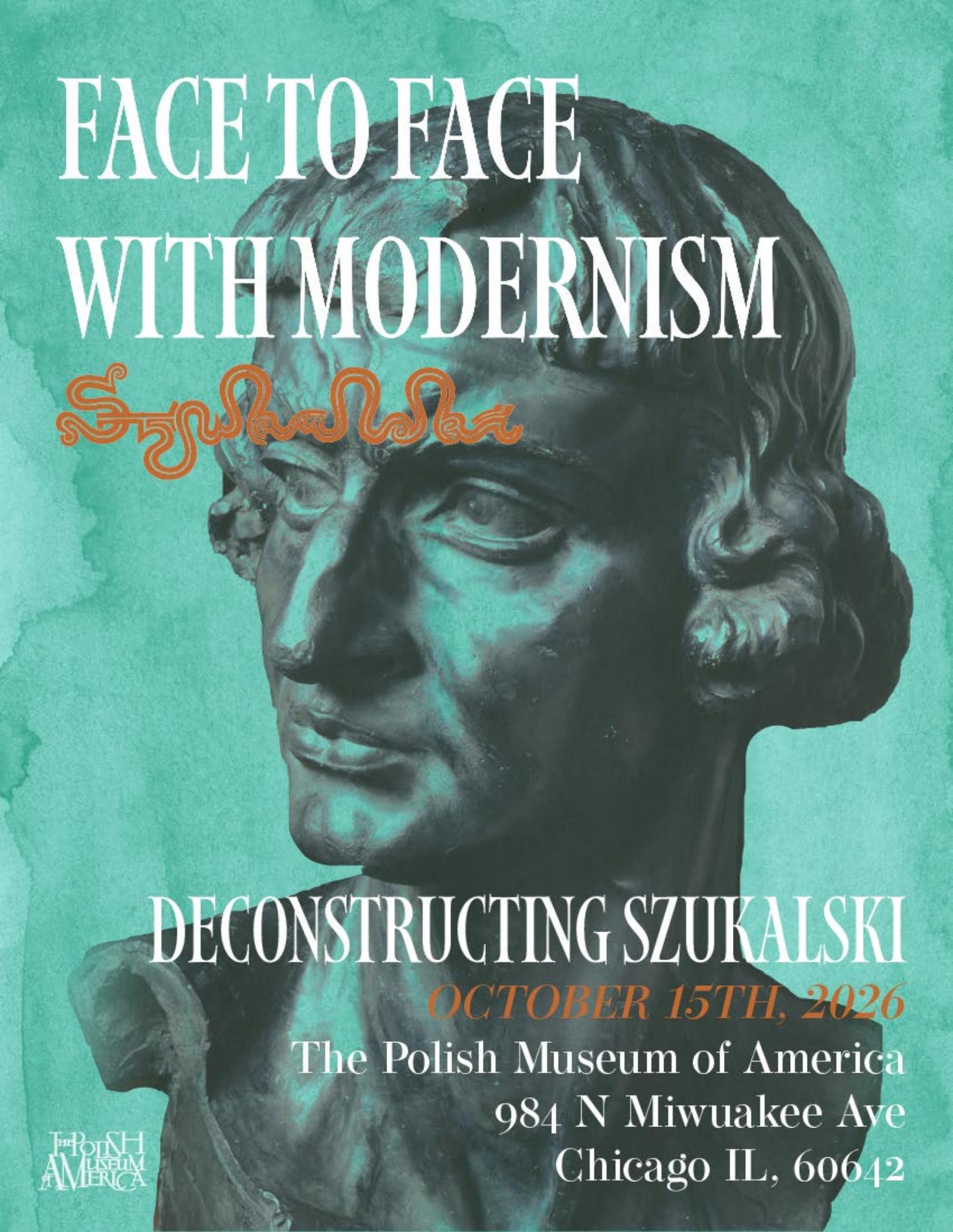
When the Civil War broke out in 1861, there were approximately 30,000 Poles living in the United States. Various sources estimated that up to 4,000 Poles and Polish Americans fought in the Union Army and approximately 1,000 fought for the Confederate Army.

The objects on display in this exhibit serve as a reminder of the divisiveness and destruction of the US Civil War. Brother often fought against brother. Immigrants joined the fight. Poles escaping the hardships imposed by the partitioning empires or fleeing from repression after fighting in failed uprisings, found themselves in states on either side of the war. The Polish Museum of America presents these objects as a testament to those men, who served and died in that tragic conflict. They included Capt. Alexander Bielaski, Capt. Piotr Kiołbassa, BG Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski, and Col. Walery Sułakowski, among others.



The new exhibit features historical items from the PMA Civil War Collection, including original objects donated to the PMA by Henry Archacki in 1944, as well as originals and reproductions courtesy of Dennis Kubicki on long-term loan.





FACE TO FACE WITH MODERNISM

Stygnia

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The Polish Museum of America

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Take advantage of this opportunity to gain visibility while supporting a truly deserving and unique project. Don't miss your chance to be involved in bringing this exhibition to life at the PMA.

Email julita-siegel@polishmuseumofamerica.org



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One of the oldest and largest ethnic museums in America, the Polish Museum of America (PMA) is dedicated to preserving the Polish and Polish American past for future generations. The Museum showcases a unique permanent collection and temporary exhibits, and also hosts workshops and programs to preserve Polish folk arts, customs and traditions for all generations. Its Archives and Library offer resources reflecting the Polish and Polish American past and present. Founded in 1935, the PMA celebrates over 90 years of service to the community. Please show your pride by joining as a supporting Member!

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