

REPORT FROM FUNERAL OF LONGIN KOMOŁOWSKI President of Wspólnota Polska and former Deputy Prime Minister

On January 9, 2017 at the Soldier's Cathedral in Warsaw, President Frank Spula and I paid tribute to the late Longin Komolowski, the President of "Wspolnota Polska."

A special Mass organized by Wspólnota Polska was celebrated by his Excellency Bishop Lechowicz and attended by representatives of Polonia from around the world, we prayed together with family of the late former Vice-Premier, a Parliamentarian, the President of Paralympic Organization of Poland and a former high official of the Solidarity movement.

On January 10, 2017 at Świątynia Opaczności Bożej [Shrine of Divine Providence], before the State Funeral Mass the artists paid a tribute with songs and a concert. The Mass was celebrated by his Excellency Cardinal Nycz and attended by the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, by former Polish Premier Jerzy Buzek, by vice-chair of Polish Senate Maria Koc and by many Polish government officials and Polonia representatives from all five continents. A letter was read during Mass from Polish Premier Beata Szydło. It stated that Poland has lost a great man, who devoted his life to a public service and a "man of dialogue" who was always uniting people. Our President Frank Spula also spoke and expressed his condolences to the family of the deceased. The late Vice-Premier's body was then placed in a crypt of the Shrine, next to which Polish soldiers laid a wreath from the Polish-American Congress.





On a personal note, I can state that Longin Komolowski was a great friend of Polonia and a friend of the Polish American Congress. He attended a number of our PAC meetings in Chicago and each time, he made us all feel like a one big family. Thanks to him, Polonia and World Polonia spoke with one voice on all of the matters concerning our interests. His emphasis was the East, where after WWII a hundreds of thousands of Poles were forced to live outside of Poland, but they still have not forgotten their language or their roots. He traveled there constantly. It is my hope that President Komolowski's last project "Dom Polski we Lwowie" will be completed and that it will bear his name. Finally, Premier Komolowski would often repeat Winston Churchill's saying " We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give. " Hail to his memory, may he rest in peace.

Sincerely,
Bozena Kaminski
VP for Polish Affairs