



WE MUST STOP NORD STREAM 2 PG. 2 ■ JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE PAC AND THE UCCA ON
NORD STREAM 2 PG. 3 ■ PRESIDENT BIDEN NOMINATES MARK BRZEZINSKI AS US AMBASSADOR TO POLAND
PG. 4 ■ REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION PAC-NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVISION PG. 5 ■
WHAT I LEARNED THIS SUMMER ABOUT ADVOCACY PG. 6 ■ ARTHUR BLISS LANE, ŚWIADEK HISTORII.
RALACJA Z WARSZAWY 1945 ROKU PG. 7 ■ POLES COMMEMORATE WARSAW UPRISING VICTIMS PG.
9 ■ THE INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE PG. 10 ■ FROM STRANGERS TO FAMILY: HOW
BEING POLISH FOUND ME MY BEST FRIEND PG. 12 ■ PEASE HITS HOMERUN IN FIRST PAC-
SPONSORED ZOOM PG. 13 ■ CEPA EVENT SUMMARY PG. 15 ■ FROM THE BOOKSHELF PG. 16

August 2021

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 4

Your Voice
in America!

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Future PAC Newsletters will be sent out:

Deadline for submission	Publication date
Friday, October 1, 2021	Friday, October 8, 2021

President's Message



Frank J. Spula,
President

Dear Members,

This coming October's Polish American Congress Council of National Directors' (CND) Meeting will be the first virtual in our 77 years' history. It is very likely that National Directors will be numerous at this virtual meeting because they will not have to travel during these uncertain and dangerous times marked by mutations of COVID-19.

Polish American Congress National Directors face several challenges this year. First, at the upcoming meeting the National Directors need to put forward ways to make the Polish American Congress more effective and efficient. Effective means developing new ways to achieve our goal of strengthening the bi-lateral relationship between the United States and Poland. Secondly, making attempts to reach out to our local elected officials. Efficient requires new ways to accomplish these goals in an economical way.

Last month, I underlined the importance of our State Divisions' compliance with Legislative Alerts. This month, I encourage presidents of our State Divisions and member organizations to post on their web sites, for the information of their members, the material which approximately 120 National Directors see on the forum.

Continued on next page...

"Your Voice in America" is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Polish American Congress. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer PAC National Directors and PAC Executive Committee members the opportunity to share news and information about their state divisions and offices. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source. The editor is Dr. Mark Pienkos.

Articles should be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints, as well as correcting grammatical errors. We do not send proofs for approval. When sending photos, please include captions with names, official titles. All submitted materials become the property of the Polish American Congress and may be used to promote the mission of the PAC. Materials will not be returned unless requested.

All articles are due according to this schedule. Send your submissions to PAC National VP for Public Relations, Mark Pienkos at markpienkos2012@gmail.com.

Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/Polish-American-Congress



Above all else, this information posted on the National Directors' Internet Forum needs to reach the members of our State Divisions and member organizations. Mrs. Klara Wisniewska, Administrator of our Washington, DC Office, frequently visits the web sites of our PAC State Divisions and member organizations and does not see on these web sites information posted on the forum. Information posted on the forum needs to get to all of our members via the web sites of our State Divisions and member organizations.

The postings on the Internet Forum include information on three important near term issues, which are: support for the Senate confirmation of Mark Brzezinski as United States Ambassador to Poland, response to the Russian Federation's quadrennial ZAPAD War Games which will be played this September, and opposition to Nord Stream 2.

Polish American Congress members will be well informed on these very important policy issues only if PAC Division presidents and web masters of our member organizations post on their web sites information from the National Directors' Internet Forum.

Wishing you safe and healthy summer!

Sincerely,

Frank J. Spula

Frank J. Spula, President



WE MUST STOP NORD STREAM 2

Written by John Czop
PAC Director of Policy and Planning

On issues like NATO and the THREE SEAS INITIATIVE (3SI) that affect all countries in the Central and East European region, the PAC takes action to influence Congress as a member organization of the CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COALITION (CEEC). This organization established in 1994 represents the interests of 20 million United States citizens whose ancestral countries border on the Adriatic, Baltic, and Black Seas. In the recent past, these countries have been subjected to both German and Russian (Soviet) imperialism. Nord Stream 2 will allow both Germany and Russia to use energy policy yet again to establish imperium over the CEEC countries.

This is why the top near term goal of the CEEC is to stop Nord Stream 2. The key role of Congress is to correct misguided decisions taken by the Executive Branch. President Biden's recent decision to have the United States, with Germany's support, agree to the Russian project to construct the Nord Stream 2 pipeline so natural gas may move under the Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany is an immediate and direct threat to NATO cohesion and to moving 3SI from rhetoric to realization.



The goal of 3SI is for the countries between Germany and Russia to integrate their economies on a north-to-south axis so they may stand strong and avoid domination by Germany and Russia.

This summer during Congressional Recess is a splendid opportunity for Polish American Congress members and their friends, who want to see a strong Transatlantic response to Kremlin revanchism, to phone the District Offices of their members of Congress and ask them to oppose the Biden Administration's position on Nord Stream 2. Ask your members of Congress to stop Nord Stream 2 for some or all of the reasons posted on the HOMEPAGE OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS web site: Nord Stream 2 Talking Points. Members of Congress who represent states and districts where CEEC members vote already have received the Talking Points which explain why they should stop NORD STREAM 2. When you phone your members of Congress mention the points which you consider most compelling.

We can stop Nord Stream 2 if we all pick up our phones and call our members of Congress at their District or State offices during this summer's Congressional recess. In the case of Nord Stream 2 the people are right, and the Administration is wrong.



JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE PAC AND THE UCCA ON NORD STREAM 2

*Submitted by Joseph Mikolaj Rej
PAC National Director-at-Large
President, Buffalo's Pułaski Association
hr.josephmikolajrej@gmail.com*

July 29, 2021

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), which represents some 30 national associations of Ukrainian Americans, and the interests of nearly 2 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, and the Polish American Congress (PAC), an umbrella organization representing over 10 million Americans of Polish descent, stand united in the wake of the official announcement of an agreement reached between US President Joe Biden and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the completion of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project. Following the Biden-Merkel announcement on July 21, PAC and UCCA were distraught to discover that neither President Biden, nor Chancellor Merkel reached out to their respective legislative branches before entering into negotiations on this issue. For the German side, it was equally rash to not have consulted with the EU Council, which has repeatedly called for stepping back from the current over-reliance on Russia-dominated energy routes.

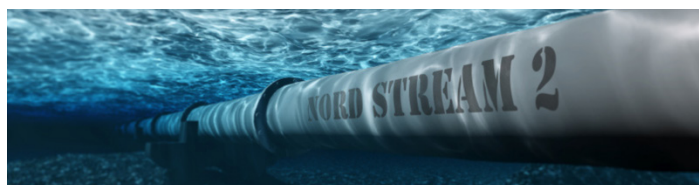
In this respect, we commend and support Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba's response to the EU, in which he pointed out that according to Article 274 of Ukraine's 2014 European Union Association Agreement, the EU and its member states are obliged to "consult and coordinate" with Ukraine on energy "infrastructure developments" and "shall cooperate on matters related to trade in natural gas, sustainability and security of supply." In response to the Biden-Merkel announcement on July 21, the foreign ministers of Ukraine and Poland issued a joint statement lamenting that "the hitherto proposals to cover the resulting security deficit cannot be considered sufficient to effectively limit the threats created by NS2. We call on the United States and Germany to adequately address the security crisis in our region, that Russia is the only beneficiary to." While every new administration looks to take a fresh approach to foreign policy, our constituents took President Biden at his word when he described the Nord Stream 2 pipeline as "fundamentally bad deal for Europe" specifically because, in his words, it would "lock in great

reliance on Russia [which] will fundamentally destabilize Ukraine." The only certain financial beneficiaries in Russia are Kremlin insiders, Gazprom's subcontractors and members of the European business and political elites who derive remuneration from their support for the project. Completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project will only serve to increase corruption in Europe and enhance Russian soft power inside the EU. A completed Nord Stream 2 pipeline would provide roughly 30% of Russia's GNP—money that Putin's Russia will undoubtedly use to continue its aggressive behavior and invasions of neighboring countries—not to mention their hybrid war tactics used against the west, including the United States.

Any attempts to agree on the future of energy relations and security of Europe without the participation of Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, and the Baltic Nations, whose security will suffer first once the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project is completed, must not become the norm in international relations between our respective countries. Such attempts undermine the stability of the entire transatlantic region and hurt trust between transatlantic partners. The Nord Stream 2 project needs to be stopped. The United States should not only fully implement congressionally mandated sanctions against the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project, it should further sanction any of the subcontractors that work on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to ratchet up the pressure on Russia to finally leave Ukrainian territory. Together, we all call on President Biden to maintain the commitments made to our allies in Eastern Europe and continue America's bipartisan record of support for Ukraine.

Frank J. Spula, PAC President
pac1944.org; facebook.com/Polish-American-Congress

Andrew J. Futey, UCCA President
ucca.org; facebook.com/UCCA.org





PRESIDENT BIDEN NOMINATES MARK BRZEZINSKI AS US AMBASSADOR TO POLAND

President Joe Biden has nominated Mark Brzezinski to serve as his ambassador to Poland. Brzezinski, an Obama-era diplomat with deep ties to Poland, to serve as his ambassador to Warsaw. If confirmed, Brzezinski would be dispatched to Poland at a moment when Central and Eastern European allies of the United States are closely watching the Biden administration's approach to Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Biden administration announced last month that it had reached a deal with Germany that will allow the completion of the Russian Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Europe without the imposition of further U.S. sanctions. That project allows Moscow to bypass Ukraine, Poland, and other countries in Eastern and Central Europe that collect transit fees on the energy.

Brzezinski served in Barack Obama's administration as the first executive director of the White House's Arctic Executive Steering Committee and as the U.S. ambassador to Sweden. He also served on the White House National Security Council during Bill Clinton's administration, first as a director for Russia and Eurasia and later as director for the Balkans. Additionally, he spent time in Poland as a Fulbright scholar and is the author of "The Struggle for Constitutionalism in Poland."

Brzezinski is the son of Zbigniew Brzezinski, who served as national security adviser under President Jimmy Carter. His sister, Mika Brzezinski, is a host of MSNBC's "Morning Joe." Zbigniew Brzezinski was born in Warsaw, spoke fluent Polish and was well known and respected in Poland.





POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS
Northern California
DIVISION, Inc.



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION PAC – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVISION

*Submitted by Gordon Black, Chair Committee for Education
Committee for Ethnic Relations
PAC – Northern California Division
(707) 937-4107
gblack@mcn.org*

As reported in the previous PAC Newsletter, this office proposed inclusion, in the developing California Model Curriculum for Ethnic Studies, of a lesson plan about the 1619 strike for voter equity, by Polish craftsmen, in the English colony at Jamestown. The proposal received no recognition or an answer to repeated requests for a status report, until our attorney's demand brought a prompt response from State Education Department deputy counsel, seeking to smooth the issue and concluding: "CDE [California Department of Education] invites your client to engage with the state's LEAs [Local Education Agencies, school boards] about its lesson plan."

Given that response, it's apparent that the plan hasn't been dismissed for any particular reason by the SEAs [State Education Agencies]. With communications thus opened, I then inquired of senior staff about a website intended to offer supporting resources including lesson plans. I received this reply: "If the funding is provided, that work will likely be carried out by a county office of education or a consortium of county offices of education. When more information is available, we will post it on our website." That prospect remains open. However, this would require the significant participation of Polonia in Local Education Agencies. There is little such public participation by Polish families with local schools and boards in California, and perhaps even in other states with more concentrated Polish communities. Of course, the national PAC has its separate, dedicated Saturday schools, but sustaining the public reputation of Polish culture and history is a further reach.

Thad Radzilowski once noted that the concerns of Polonia are so much required by the ongoing situation of Poland that less attention remains for domestic affairs in the New World. Since that observation, however, some emphatic interventions have taken place in the general public sphere, not only the earlier inclusion of the Polish case in the California Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide, but also more recently the defense of the

Katyn memorial in Jersey City, the vigorous public interventions by Polish Media Issues (PMI), and certainly the Capitol visits in some 300 Congressional offices concerning the J.U.S.T. Act—causing Congress to pretend, grotesquely, that there was, and is, no objection heard, thus exposing a flawed moral argument, a disconnect in the fair procedure, invalidity.

Yet as the Polish presence is an ethnicity, how does it relate to Ethnic Studies, as presented in the long-debated Model Curriculum? The final Model draft was adopted by the State Board at its March 2021 meeting, but with a call to add a definition of Critical Race Theory (CRT). I asked senior staff what definition emerged as included in the final document, and received this reply:

The definition is provided in a footnote on page 18 of chapter 3 of the model curriculum, which can be found **here**. It reads:

"Critical race theory (CRT) is a practice of interrogating race and racism in society. CRT recognizes that race is not biologically real but is socially constructed and socially significant. It acknowledges that racism is embedded within systems and institutions that replicate racial inequality—codified in law, embedded in structures, and woven into public policy." Janel George (2021). *A Lesson on Critical Race Theory*. American Bar Association. [Americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/civil-rights-reimagining-policing/a-lesson-on-critical-race-theory](https://americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/civil-rights-reimagining-policing/a-lesson-on-critical-race-theory).

The first link in the above is to a page containing a footnote with the definition as quoted; the full page is worth reading as representing the 900-page document. The second link is to an article from which the definition was drawn, written by CRT theorist Janel George, who is the co-author, with CA State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond, of several articles on racial issues. This definition of CRT may be the most authoritative official public formulation, backed by the State, and published in a document that is to be widely inspected. Criticizing the Critical Theory goes beyond the range of this report, except to suggest awareness when advancing Polish history, such as the 1619 Jamestown voter equity strike, into contemporary New World public education.

Continued on next page...

Complaints against heavy-handed use of CRT in schools, with claims of oppression by designated oppressors, may violate state Education Codes and be actionable. For example, see California Code Sections 51500-1:

- **51500.** A teacher shall not give instruction, and a school district shall not sponsor any activity that promotes a discriminatory bias on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation...
- **51501.** The state board and any governing board shall not adopt any textbooks or other instructional materials for use in the public schools that contain any matter reflecting adversely upon persons on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation...

Further, the California codes, along with other states, includes a requirement for accuracy:

- **60045. (a)** All instructional materials adopted by any governing board for use in the schools shall be, to the satisfaction of the governing board, accurate, objective, and current and suited to the needs and comprehension of pupils at their respective grade levels...

This is as expected in public education. But further, and before the introduction of lessons into the classroom, more broadly in the area of public information, in forums and media, pro-active challenges can be mounted against inaccuracies and adverse reflection, by engaging parties and institutions that would seek to enter inaccuracies and unjust reflections into the public education system. With Education Committees, Polonia can engage in rhetoric and effective negotiation in advance of legal action over any possible introduction of educational materials.

For example, 1600, did you say? And not a certain famous address on Pennsylvania Avenue? That number will not survive the Code requirement for accuracy. If you don't know the number, you don't know the event. Re-examine premises; inaccuracies and adverse reflection cannot be allowed to drift into public education.



What I Learned This Summer About Advocacy



*Written by Malgorzata Schulz
PAC National Director-at-Large*

Recently, I participated in a course, Understanding Washington, on advocacy taught by successful professional Washington, DC lobbyists. This three days' course, which took place online because of the COVID-19 pandemic, not at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. CSIS a bi-partisan "think tank" established in 1962, and home of the Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski Institute of Geostrategy, which is just around the corner from the Polish American Congress, K Street Office in central Washington, DC.

For eight hours each day, from June 15th to June 17th, at lectures by experienced lobbyists followed by questions from students, many of whom are employees at embassies and consulates, I learned about the "players" and the "playing field" in today's Washington. Most importantly, I learned how to analyse the risks and rewards of advocacy campaigns using social media.

Moreover, the most valuable aspect of learning more about modern communication platforms is evaluating risks associated with using and misusing them. This is why issue advocacy organizations, like our PAC, need strategic communications plans to be effective, that is accomplishing the goal of strengthening the bi-lateral relationship between the United States and Poland. The professional lobbyists who taught these courses on advocacy underlined the need for skilful communications management to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.

Prudent use of targeted social media campaigns will publicize our PAC messages at minimal cost. Understanding Washington" taught me the specific ways to achieve these general goals.

Mr. Fred DeSousa, a public affairs manager at Bechtel Nuclear, Security & Environmental described several case studies on the uses and disuses of social media in crisis management and damage control in order to promote an organization's good image before the public in unfavourable situations. His lectures gave me new perspectives on how simultaneously to narrowcast and to broadcast the PAC message to a wider public. For example, Facebook now stands out as a regular news source for 36% of Americans. Twitter is next, at 15% and then LinkedIn and WhatsApp. DeSousa analysed why and how a story goes viral, giving an example of a story that got legs on a recent Election Day. Social media can be used as a platform to educate and to inform, but it can do damage by spreading fake news that travels extremely fast. In less than an hour an original post can get 20,000 plus likes and 10,000 retweets when it goes to Twitter. This is a very important piece of information to keep in mind as we build a positive image for the PAC.

Nevertheless, we must be mindful of the downside risks as well and be prepared to respond with alacrity to contingencies. It is important to keep in mind that there is a safe and risky outrage. The safe one is characterized by being voluntary, natural, familiar, and fair. Risky posts are morally relevant and come from untrustworthy sources.

Continued on next page...

Scott Miller, a senior adviser with the Abshire-Inamori Leadership Academy, focusing on leadership development programs for public-and-private-sector executives shared his expertise and knowledge with Understanding Washington participants in a lecture on Power Structures: The U.S. Constitution and Power in Operation.

Mr. Miller also was one of the instructors during crisis simulations. In one of the case studies, all students were divided into groups. A CSIS official evaluated each group's work which was supervised by an experienced lobbyist/public relations practitioner. To illustrate, this exercise simulated a high pressure crisis management situation where my fellow students and I to work as a team and stay on message during a rapidly changing situation that threatened to damage an organization's image. I learned much from this exercise revolving around critical thinking under time pressure that required us to exchange information very quickly and to make decisions to manage communications for our organization within a crisis.

This exercise taught me specific ways to use social media to get out a positive message for an organization faced with a crisis and to burnish its image before public opinion.

Lastly, Eric Paloma, Director of Partnership at CSIS in a comment made especially to the author of this article said this: "Despite the unprecedented challenges of the past year—and at a time of shutdown and isolation—programs like Understanding Washington brought together professionals from around the world and across the country. Małgorzata Margo Schulz representing PAC, was among 64 other participants from 16 countries and multiple time zones who woke up early or stayed up late to learn from CSIS experts, connect with one another, and contribute to a truly global dialogue about decision making in Washington. We're proud of our global classroom at CSIS and encourage anyone interested in honing their public policy expertise to connect with us about upcoming opportunities."

Arthur Bliss Lane, świadek historii. Ralacja z Warszawy 1945 roku.

*Written by Małgorzata Schulz
PAC National Director-at-Large*

Co naprawdę stało się z Polską i jak wyglądało lato 1945 roku w doszczętnie zburzonej Warszawie spisał w swoim opowiadaniu o upadku Rzeczypospolitej amerykański ambasador, który przybył na Okęcie tuż po zakończeniu powstania.

Sierpień jest dla Polaków ważnym miesiącem pamięci Powstania Warszawskiego 1 sierpnia obchodzona był 77 rocznica rozpoczęcia najważniejszej akcji zbrojnej polskiego podziemia.

Natomiast 5 sierpnia Polacy upamiętnili ofiary niemieckich zbrodni we Warszawskiej dzielnicy Wola.

W ciągu 3 dni Niemcy wymordowali tam od 40 do 60 tysięcy ludności cywilnej. Pośród bestialsko zamordowanych były kobiety, dzieci, starcy oraz ranni. Uczczenie pamięci powstańców na obczyźnie zwykle odbywa się w różnych stanach i miastach amerykańskich, wszędzie tam gdzie jest Polonia i gdzie żyją jeszcze weterani z czasów II wojny światowej.

Autorka tekstu, podczas uroczystości upamiętnienia powstania, w kościele polskim w Los Angeles w Parafii Matki Boskiej Jasnogórskiej, przypomniała zebranych najważniejsze fakty z Powstania Warszawskiego. Na uroczystości obecna była także mieszkająca od ponad 50 lat w Los Angeles Hanka Gutkowska pseudonim Wilga, która walczyła w Śródmieściu.

Godzina W, czyli godzina 17:00, 1 sierpnia 1944 roku. Kiedy to dowódca, Komendant Główny AK Tadeusz Komorowski, pseudonim Bór wydał rozkaz rozpoczęcia powstania. W okupowanej przez

Niemców Warszawie, 1 sierpnia 1944 roku do walki stanęło około 50 tysięcy powstańców. Planowano na kilka dni powstanie trwało ponad 2 miesiące. W czasie walk w Warszawie zginęło około 180 tysięcy powstańców a 250 tysięcy zostało rannych, w tym dzieci. Potem 500 tysięcy mieszkańców spalonej Warszawy, zostało wypędzonych z miasta.

O kalekich polskich dzieciach, które, żebrały na ulicach doszczętnie zniszczonej Warszawy pisze ambasador amerykański, w Warszawie w latach 1945–1947. Arthur Bliss Lane przybył do Polski latem 1945 roku. W książce „Widziałem Polskę zdradzoną”, „opisuje dramat Warszawy. Wspomnienia ambasadora Lane'a, który był świadkiem zdarzeń tuż po upadku powstania a także orientował się w kulisach tego jak doszło do Jałty są ważnym dokumentem historycznym. We wstępie do swojej książki Arthur Lane napisał, że ostatecznym celem polityki dyktatorów, takich jak Hitler i Stalin jest panowanie nad światem. „ Droga do osiągnięcia tego celu prowadzi przez kolejne opanowywanie jednego po drugim, państwa europejskich aż nadejdzie kolej na Stany Zjednoczone. Z tego względu tkwi w losie Polski poważna stawka narodu amerykańskiego. Taką samą stawkę ma naród amerykański w losie całej Europy, dlatego nie wolno nam bez zagrożenia naszego własnego istnienia zamykać oczu na niebezpieczeństwo imperializmu. komunistycznego.” Takie słowa wypowiedział w 1945 roku Arthur Bliss Lane.

Warto a wręcz konieczne jest aby zagłębić się teraz w lekturę książki „Widziałem Polskę zdradzoną”, która oczyma świadka historii pokazuje rany zadane Polsce i Polakom z perspektywy Amerykanina, który znał Polskę przed wojenną, Polskę wolną.

Continued on next page...

Po raz pierwszy przybył tam w 1919 roku, ponownie przyjechał z Ameryki wraz ze swoim zespołem, żoną i pracownikami ambasady amerykańskiej w ostatnim dniu lipca 1945 roku. Samolot wojskowy, którym przyleciał wynurzył się z olowianych chmur wiszących nad lotniskiem na Okęciu, pod Warszawą. Wylądował na wysokiej trawie zaniedbanego lotniska, pełnego dziur i okolonego zniszczonymi hangarami. To był tylko to była tylko zapowiedź tego, co Lane miał zobaczyć w wypalonej w Warszawie, którą pamiętał sprzed wojny.

Po raz trzeci, w ciągu ostatnich 26 lat znajdował się w Warszawie. Po raz pierwszy przybył tutaj jako młody sekretarz poselstwa, drugi raz w drodze na placówkę, jako minister amerykański w państwach bałtyckich. W 1945 jako nominowany ambasador amerykański przy polskim, tymczasowym rządzie jedności narodowej. Jednak ta wizyta, w przeciwieństwie do wszystkich innych nie była radosna, ponieważ Lane zorientował się, że polski rząd nie był suwerenny, w amerykańskim tego słowa znaczeniu.

Po przyjeździe wraz z żoną i zespołem, zamieszkali w hotelu Polonia, naprzeciwko dawnego wspaniałego dworca kolejowego, z którego pozostały tylko pogięte i osmolone stalowe rusztowania. Zarząd hotelu czynił jednak wszystko, co było w jego mocy, ażeby kwatery ich umeblować i umożliwić im stosunkowo wygodne życie. Dano im również służbę w osobie lokaja i pokojówki. Tuż po przyjeździe uraczono ich w hotelowej restauracji wspaniałą kolacją i pomimo informacji o głodzie panującym w Polsce a szczególnie w zniszczonej Warszawie, na kolację był wędzony łosoś, sery, chleb i masło. Wszystko było znakomite. Mniej radosną niespodziankę, jednak stanowiły ceny.

Zrównanie kursu złotego polskiego z wartością sowieckiego rubla i nawet pomimo przyznania im tak zwanego dyplomatycznego kursu wymiany, cena przekąski dla 4 osób wyniosła 1200 zł, czyli równe 100 dolarów. Ambasador pamiętał Polskę z 1919 roku, kiedy to Hugh Gibson został mianowany przez prezydenta USA, Thomasa Woodrowa Wilsona Ministrem Spraw Amerykańskich w Polsce. Uważany był powszechnie za jednego z najzdolniejszych i najbardziej pracowitych dyplomatów. Lane jako młody 25- cio letni mężczyzna rozpoczął, pod jego kierownictwem pracę w Warszawie.

Pamiętał doskonale przedwojenną Warszawę, wspaniałą niegdyś arterie stołeczną, Aleje Ujazdowskie, przezwaną w 1945 roku Aleją Stalina. Słysnęła swymi starymi drzewami i historycznymi budynkami, ciągnącymi się od Pałacu Belwederskiego do serca miasta. Warszawa przedstawiała widok niewiarygodnego zniszczenia, gruzy zburzonych przez Niemców domów zaścielały chodniki.

Arthur Lane porównywał tragedię powstania z pełnymi nadziei pierwszymi dniami odrodzonej do niepodległego życia Polski, z roku 1919. Doskonale pamiętał dzień 30 kwietnia 1919 roku, kiedy to Gibson składał swe listy uwierzytelniające marszałkowi Józefowi Piłsudskiemu, naczelnikowi państwa.

Poprzedzeni szwadronem sławnej konnicy polskiej, pojechali do hotelu Bristol przez Nowy Świat i Aleje Ujazdowskie. Do Belwederu wiezieni byli otwartą karocą, ciągniętą przez dwa siwe konie. Przed Belwederem orkiestra wojskowa grała hymn narodowy Stanów

Zjednoczonych. Marszałek Piłsudski, z charakterystyczną prostotą powitał nowego wysłannika Ameryki i jego współpracowników. Po kilku dniach, 3 maja porwani byli entuzjazmem patriotycznych tłumów demonstrujących w dniu polskiego Święta Narodowego. Jarzmo Rosji, Niemiec i Austro-Węgier było zrzucane.

Marszałek Piłsudski uczynił przegląd wojska nowej Rzeczypospolitej, każdą czapkę żołnierską zdobił Biały Orzeł z koroną. Polska nie była królestwem, ale ukoronowany orzeł był symbolem pełnych chwały dni przyszłości i nawiązania do demokratycznych zasad Konstytucji 3 Maja. To były czasy, kiedy przyjaźń Polsko-Amerykańsko kwitła.

Rola USA w niesieniu pomocy Polakom, a szczególnie dzieciom polskim, przez organizacje amerykańskie była szeroko znana. Na czele jednej z nich stał Herbert Hoover. Niezapomniane przyjęcie, jakiego doznał Hoover w Polsce, w sierpniu 1939 roku było wyrazem prawdziwych i szczerych uczuć Polaków. Nie przypominało to przyjęcie w niczym demonstracji, które Lane widział w Polsce w roku 1947. Agenci rządowi musieli zmuszać dorosłych i dzieci do wydawania okrzyków radości. Laine tak to wspomina: „**Piłsudski mógł mieć przeciwników i przeciwników mogli mieć ludzie, którzy pod jego rozkazami rządili w Polsce ale byli Polakami. Byli panami we własnym domu, nie otrzymywali rozkazów z Moskwy ani z Berlina, ani znikąd indziej.** W lipcu 1919 roku ówczesny ambasador Amerykański, wraz z małżonką przeniósł się do Błękitnego Pałacu, własności hrabiego Maurycygo Zamoyskiego, ówczesnego posła polskiego w Paryżu. Niejednokrotnie mieli zaszczyt gościć w błękitnym Pałacu Jana Ignacego Paderewskiego, premiera rządu polskiego. Wpisał się nawet kiedyś do książki gości kilkoma zwrotami muzyki, który na poczekaniu skomponował. Nikt wówczas nie pomyślałby, że Błękitny Pałac będzie leżał w gruzach zniszczony, przez Niemców.

Podobny los spotkał Pałac Saski, który był wizytówką przedwojennej Warszawy. Wyburzony przez Niemców po upadku powstania, pad ofiarą zaplanowanej strategii doszczętnego zniszczenia stolicy Rzeczypospolitej. Właśnie dzisiaj, 6 sierpnia, Senat RP przyjął ustawę o przygotowaniu i realizacji inwestycji w zakresie odbudowy Pałacu Saskiego. Jest to bardzo ważne wydarzenie, ponieważ odbudowanie pałacu Saskiego to jakby przywrócenie Warszawie serca oraz jednego najznamienitszych zabytków, które też pamiętał Ambasador Lane z przedwojennej Warszawy. Zakończenie budowy przewidziane jest na rok 2028.





(NOTE: English version of previous article below)

In August, Poles Commemorate Warsaw Uprising Victims.

*Written by Malgorzata Schulz
PAC National Director-at-Large*

August 1st marks the 77th anniversary of the beginning of the most important military action of the Polish Home Army—Operation Tempest. The Warsaw Uprising was militarily directed against the German occupiers of Warsaw and politically directed against the Soviet Army, then standing on the east bank of the Vistula River. The Home Army's goal was for Poles to liberate their capital without help from their untrustworthy Soviet ally, which on 26 July 1944 recognized a Soviet sponsored communist front organization, the Polish Committee of National Liberation, which was established on 22 July 1944, as the government of Poland.

On August 5th, Poles commemorated the victims of German crimes in the Wola district of Warsaw. Within 3 days, Germans murdered in Wola between 40,000 and 60,000 civilians. Among the brutally murdered were women, children, elderly, and the wounded. Commemoration of the insurgents usually takes place in various American states and cities, wherever Polonia is and where veterans of World War II are still alive. During the commemoration ceremony at the Polish parish in Los Angeles, Our Lady of the Bright Mount Roman Catholic Church, this writer reminded the gathered of the most important facts about the Warsaw Uprising. Mrs. Hanka Gutkowska, Warsaw uprising soldier, who has been living in Los Angeles for more than 50 years, was present at the ceremony.

The “W” hour – 5:00 pm on August 1, 1944 marks the time when Commander-in-Chief of the Home Army, Armia Krajowa, General Tadeusz Komorowski Bór, gave the order to start the uprising. On August 1, 1944, about 50,000 underground army soldiers, together with civilians attacked the German soldiers who were occupying Warsaw. The Poles who believed they had the advantage of surprise expected the battle for Warsaw to last a few days, but the furious fighting continued for more than 2 months. Approximately 180,000 civilians were killed and 250,000 wounded, including children. Then 500,000 inhabitants of burned Warsaw were driven out of the city. The capital of Poland was then burnt to the ground by Germans, with Soviet approval in a purposely planned action of total destruction of the city, that was the heart and soul of the Republic of Poland. The most elegant buildings like Saski Palace and Blue Palace were burnt to the ground.

United States Ambassador to Warsaw from 1945 to 1947, Arthur Bliss Lane arrived in Poland in summer of 1945. In his book, *I Saw Poland Betrayed*, he describes the tragedy of Warsaw. Ambassador Lane, who served in Warsaw as a junior diplomat under Ambassador Hugh Gibson in the early 1920s knew Poland's capital both before

and after the 1944 Uprising. Ambassador Lane movingly described the devastation wrought by the Germans on Warsaw after the uprising. He remembered Poland proud and growing very fast between the two world wars. Seeing Warsaw completely destroyed and the Soviet Union installing a new Yalta order broke his heart and he quit his work as an ambassador. He was not able to prevent communism from being installed in Poland, but he could not bear to watch what the communists were doing to Poland and the Poles and resigned in the middle of his term.

In the introduction to his book, Ambassador Lane correctly observed that the stated purpose of dictators such as Hitler and Stalin is world domination. “The path to achieving this goal leads to a further one-by-one invasion of European countries and eventually United States will be the next one. For this reason, the American people have the same stake in the fate of the whole of Europe, so we must not close our eyes to the danger of imperialism without endangering our own existence,” writes Ambassador Lane in *I Saw Poland Betrayed*. Let us take a closer look at *I Saw Poland Betrayed*, the best eyewitness account of wounds, both psychic and physical, inflicted by the communists on Poland and Poles from the perspective of an American diplomat. As a junior diplomat, Lane first came to Poland in 1919. His second tour of duty was as Ambassador, and he came from America with his wife and employees of the United States Embassy on the last day of July 1945. The United States Army Air corps plane that carried them to Poland landed at Okęcie, near Warsaw. This was a neglected airport, with holes on the runways and hangars showing war damage. This first sight of Poland was just a preview of what Lane was about to see in Warsaw, which painfully contrasted with the elegant city he remembered before the war. Warsaw was called the Paris of the North.

At communist demonstrations that Lane saw in Poland in 1947, government agents had to force adults and children to give cheers of joy. Lane wrote in his book, that: “Pilsudski could have opponents and opponents could have people who under his orders ruled in Poland, but they were Poles. They were in charge of their own country, but they did not receive orders from Moscow or Berlin and nowhere else.

In July 1919, the then American ambassador Hugh Gibson, together with his wife, moved to the Blue Palace, in the grace of Count Maurice Zamoyski, then Polish MP in Paris. On several occasions they had the privilege to host Jan Ignacy Paderewski, prime minister of the Polish Government, in the Blue Palace.

Continued on next page...

Paderewski once wrote a few phrases of music in the guestbook, which he composed while waiting. No one would have thought then that the Blue Palace would lie in ruins, destroyed by Germans. A similar fate befell the Saski Palace, which was the jewel of pre-war Warsaw. Demolished by the Germans after the uprising, the palace was included in a planned strategy of complete destruction of the capital of the Second Polish Republic. On August 6, 2021, the Polish Senate adopted a law on the preparation and implementation of investments in the reconstruction of the Saski Palace.

All in all, this is a very important event, because the reconstruction of the Saski Palace is like restoring Warsaw's heart and one of the most distinguished monuments, which Ambassador Lane also remembered from pre-war Warsaw. Construction is expected to be completed in 2028.



Małgorzata Schulz is a native of Poland has lived in the United States for 20 years. She is a television, newspaper journalist, and reporter. She graduated from the University of Cardinal Wyszyński in Warsaw, Poland with a B.S. in Theology and Journalism.



INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE

THE STATUTORY TASKS OF THE INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE

The Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation is a Polish state research institute in charge of education and archives with investigative and lustration powers. Since 2020, the headquarters of Institute of National Remembrance is located at Postępu 18 Street in Warsaw. The institute has also eleven branches in other cities and seven delegation offices in additional towns.

The mission of the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej—Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu—the IPN) is to research and popularize the modern history of Poland and to investigate crimes committed from November 8, 1917, throughout the Second World War and the communist period, to July 31, 1990. The Institute was established by the Polish Parliament by virtue of the Act of December 18, 1998. However, its actual activity began in the middle of the year 2000, after the Sejm (the lower chamber of the Polish Parliament) with the Senate's consent appointed the first President of the IPN. This post was taken by a lawyer, Professor Leon Kieres, who headed the Institute until December 2005. In the years 2005–2010, the function was held by Professor Janusz Kurtyka. Łukasz Kamiński, Ph.D. headed the IPN from June 28, 2011 until July 22, 2016. Jarosław Szarek, Ph.D. was nominated for President on July 22, 2016. The Institute is headed by the President appointed by the Polish Parliament.

The IPN's Council, consisting of nine members, is an advisory body to the President.

Mission

The main principles, considered as the fundamental reasons for the establishment of the Institute were thus defined. These principles were later to become the foundations of the work of the Institute.

Continued on next page...



The following are the principles that define the work of the Institute of National Remembrance:

- the preservation of remembrance about the enormity of the number of victims, losses and damages suffered by the Polish Nation during the Second World War and after it ended,
- the patriotic traditions of the Polish Nation's struggles with its occupants, Nazis and communists,
- the obligation of prosecuting crimes against peace, crimes against humanity and war crimes,
- the actions of Polish citizens in support of the independence of the Polish State and in defense of freedom and human dignity,
- the obligation of the state to compensate all the aggrieved by a state which violated human rights; as an expression of the belief that no unlawful action by the state against the citizens can be classified or forgotten.

These words were transformed into years of arduous work and hundreds of published books, seminars, exhibitions, and conferences concerning various, sometimes previously undiscussed, issues. Moreover, this work has resulted in uncovering the truth about the most difficult but also the most triumphant moments in the history of Poland and the Polish Nation. These are also activities aimed at popularizing recent history among the youngest generation, including rallies, competitions and reaching out to them through the Internet and social media. In certain cases the IPN's work has proved to be a race against time in order to honor the heroes who have been consigned to oblivion for years.

The IPN's headquarters are located in Warsaw. Eleven branch offices were also established in all of the cities where there are courts of appeal, namely: Białystok, Danzig, Katowice, Cracow, Lublin, Łódź, Poznań, Rzeszów, Szczecin, Warsaw, and Breslau. There are also 7 subbranches located in Bydgoszcz, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Kielce, Koszalin, Olsztyn, Opole, and Radom.

The Institute of National Remembrance consists of:

- The IPN Archive – extensive archives of the 20th-century history of Poland,
- The Chief Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation – a commission prosecuting perpetrators of crimes committed during both the German and communist totalitarian regime,
- The National Education Office – an educational center,
- The Historical Research Office – an academic research center,
- The Office of Search and Identification – a team searching for burial places of victims of totalitarian regimes and ethnic cleansing in 1917–1989,
- The Vetting Office – dealing with the lustration process,
- The Office for Commemorating the Struggle and Martyrdom – commemorating important Polish historical events, places and figures,
- A publishing house – a publisher of historical books, educational materials, historical journals, popular magazines and more.





FROM STRANGERS TO FAMILY: HOW BEING POLISH FOUND ME MY BEST FRIEND



*Written by Julia Rutkowski
PAC Intern*

When I first got into college, there was always that looming thought of who my roommate would be. The standard process is that you can reach out to people through

Facebook or Instagram, get to know them and strike up rooming in the conversation, hopefully smoothly and unawkwardly. The other option presented to us soon-to-be first-year students was choosing randomly; my university would send out a form where you can list your rooming preferences and some well thought-out algorithm would supposedly perfectly match you with someone.

To me, knowing my roommate before starting school was really important. There was so much to get to know about one another and especially during the Covid-19 quarantines and lockdowns, what better way to pass the time than forming new friendships?

I went about finding my roommate the social media way, scrolling through the newly admitted Northwestern 2024 student accounts, hoping someone would catch my eye. Eventually someone did, her Polish last name sticking out to me enough for me to introduce myself. Going to college in the Chicago area, it's common to find a decent amount of people with Polish heritage and it's always a good conversation starter. Soon enough, we were quickly messaging back and forth. To her, finding someone who understood that side of her was as essential as it was to me. With both of us coming into college as first generation Americans from working-class, Polish immigrant backgrounds, we could relate to one another uniquely. We swapped stories of our trips to Poland, shared familial anecdotes and reveled in our commonalities. Even though I grew up in the South and she in the Midwest, the Polish community remained fairly consistent, and we bonded over going to Polish school alongside our American educations. After a tumultuous period of quarantine and COVID-19 uncertainty, we eventually were able to move in together in January 2021. Since her family lived nearby, we'd get



periodic drop-offs of authentic Polish food: kabanosy, bułki, ciasteczka and more. For Tłusty Czwartek, we got delicious Polish pączki and on a daily basis we were able to converse between English and Polish, relishing in the freedom of language.

A stranger from a city I had never visited would become one of my closest friends, confidantes, and partners-in-crime because she was Polish. I don't know if I would've reached out if I hadn't felt that connection and it would've been a great unknown loss. Now as I get ready for her to come fly and visit my family this summer vacation, I'm filled with gratitude for our shared heritage that's helped build a long-lasting friendship.





PEASE HITS HOMERUN IN FIRST PAC-SPONSORED ZOOM INFO MEETING

On July 15, 2021, thirty baseball fans were in attendance as Neal Pease, Professor Emeritus in History at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, presented an exciting talk entitled “Polish Americans and Baseball Through the Years.” This was the first PAC Zoom Informational Meeting sponsored by the Polish American Congress.

Besides providing interesting information on Polish American baseball players like Stan “The Man” Musial, Al Szymanski (AKA Al Simmons), Stan Coveleski, Bill Mazeroski, Carl Yastremski, and Phil Niekro—all inductees into the National Baseball Hall of Fame—Dr. Pease gave his own incites on a number of other memorable players like “Big Klu” Ted Kluszewski, A.J. Pierzinski, Bill “Moose” Skowron, and Tony Kubek (who entered the Hall of Fame as a broadcaster following a fine career with the New York Yankees). Additional interesting facts Dr. Pease shared with those present were the migrations from Poland to America that eventually saw Poles take an active interest in the great game of baseball. Neal highlighted his comments with an effective and easy-to-follow Powerpoint, and the photos of ballplayers really drew the interest of all in attendance.

Among the many participants on the July 15th call were officials from the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame (NPASHF) located in Troy, Michigan. David Jansen, current Board Chairman of NPASHF, and NPASHF Board Director Tom Tarapacki added to the discussion. Plus, they announced that the following Polish-American athletes will be inducted into the National Polish-American Sports



Professor Neal Pease

Hall of Fame at its 47th Induction Banquet scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2021, in Troy, MI. Inductees to be honored are: A.J. Pierzynski (baseball), Mike Krukow (baseball), J.R. Celski (speedskater), and Bronco Nagurski (football). For more information about the NPASHF please visit polishsportshof.com. Or, if you would like to speak with David specifically about the Hall of Fame, or get info regarding the upcoming September Induction Banquet, please call David: 248-259-3428 or email: jansen@polishsportshof.com.

(Editor’s Note: The National Polish Sports Hall of Fame was featured in the February 2021 edition of the PAC “Your Voice in America” Newsletter.)

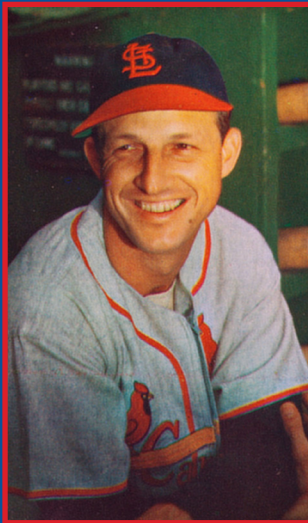
All in all, many thanks to Professor Neal Pease for sharing his insights. Readers should look for information on additional informational Zoom meetings offered by the Polish American Congress.



Continued on next page...



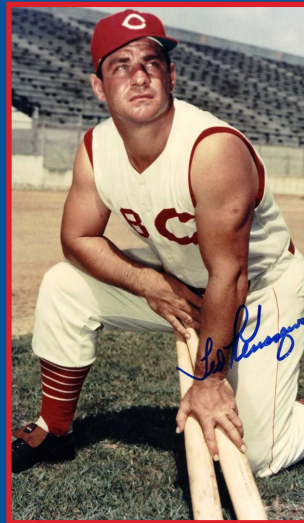
*And now, here a few of the many baseball players of Polish descent
(all, by the way, inductees in the NPASHF):*



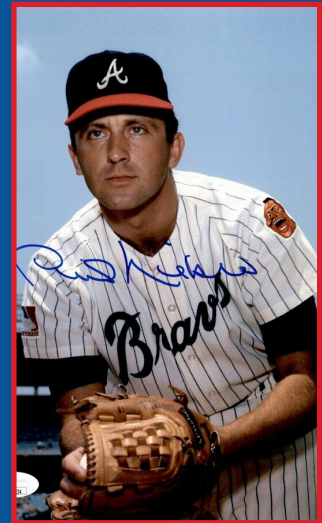
Stan Musial



Stan Coveleski



Ted Kluszewski



Phil Niekro



Jenny Romatowski



*Al Simmons
(Al Szymanski)*



Connie Wisniewski



Carl Yastrzemski

CEPA Event Summary



*Written by Caroline Nowak
PAC Intern*



On August 5, 2021, the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) hosted a virtual event titled “Zapad 2021: Implications for Defense & Military Mobility in Europe.” Zapad, the Russian word for west, is the quadrennial Russian war game played in the western parts of the Russian Federation. Its 2021 iteration is set to begin this September to showcase new technology and test military capabilities to repel an invasion by NATO. The scenario of previous Zapad war games also cast Russia as the victim of aggression by the West. Panelists included Ben Hodges, George Zambellas, Egle Murauskaite, and Alex Tiersky, with moderation by Lauren Speranza.

Zapad 2021 will follow the recent Biden-Putin summit and unrest in Belarus. Zambellas began by stating that the military exercise is of particular importance this year due to an increase of global attention on Belarus and a number of human rights abuses that have been exposed in the media, including the spectacle of Belarusian athletes refusing to return home from the Tokyo Olympics. Zapad intends to test the Russian military’s integration of Belarusian forces, so the context within Belarus is important to understanding Russia’s intentions for the event.

Hodges added that it is difficult to define a clear beginning to Zapad 2021, as Russia already has forces stationed on the Black Sea and spends a significant amount of money on military power in the region year-round. Murauskaite stated that the relationships between Belarus and the West and between Belarus and Russia have changed over the past several years, because Belarus is no longer simply an observer to the Russian military exercises. Instead, Belarus has actively encouraged Russia to bring in new military technology that will remain in the country indefinitely. Tiersky followed by noting that Russia is part of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which ought to increase transparency around military demonstrations. However, Zapad 2017 lacked transparency despite Russia’s OSCE membership and Russia recently boycotted a meeting that other OSCE member states hoped would dispel their fears of a lack of transparency for the upcoming exercise.

Hodges went on to explain that the exercise will be an opportunity for Russia to move ammunition and fuel into Belarus. The Russian military has a unique ability to move tools and technology in bulk, so the West must attempt to closely watch what enters Belarus and how quickly Russia can move its troops, though this will be difficult to accurately observe. Further, Hodges suggested U.S. and NATO troops conduct their own exercises moving from Poland into Ukraine to better prepare to counter Russian power in the region.

Tiersky added that the U.S. must put out the message that it is watching Zapad, but is not panicking about Russian military capability. The West must address Russia’s lack of transparency going forward and must also be united against Russian practices, but it is crucial to lead by example and remain calm in the face of Russian power. Murauskaite concluded by saying that the West must look inward to mitigate its domestic problems, as Russia consistently works to exploit tensions within other countries.

The military practices Hodges put forth are important, but nonmilitary resources must be used internally to most effectively counter Russia. Watch the full event [here](#).

Caroline Nowak is currently a student at Tufts University pursuing International Relations and Russian and East European Studies.

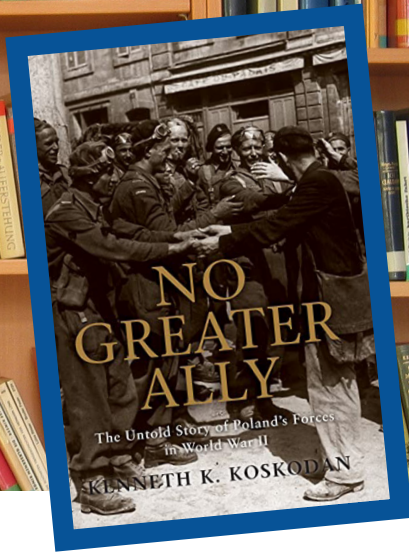


(From the CEPA website): The Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)’s mission is to ensure a strong and enduring transatlantic alliance rooted in democratic values and principles with strategic vision, foresight, and policy impact. Through cutting-edge research, analysis, and programs we provide fresh insight on energy, security, and defense to government officials and agencies; we help transatlantic businesses navigate changing strategic landscapes; and we build networks of future Atlanticist leaders. CEPA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, public policy institution.





From the Bookshelf



No Greater Ally: The Untold Story of Poland's Forces in World War II

By Kenneth K. Koskodan

(Citation from Amazon Books)

There is a chapter of World War 2 history that remains largely untold: the story of the fourth largest Allied military of the war, and the only nation to have fought in the battles of Leningrad, Arnhem, Tobruk and Normandy. This is the story of the Polish forces during the Second World War, the story of millions of young men and women who gave everything for freedom and in the final victory lost all. In a cruel twist of history, the monumental struggles of an entire nation have been largely forgotten, and even intentionally obscured. Available for the first time in paperback, *No Greater Ally* redresses the balance, giving a comprehensive overview of Poland's participation in World War 2. Following their valiant but doomed defense of Poland during 1939, members of the Polish armed forces fought with the Allies wherever and however they could. With previously unpublished first-hand accounts, information never before seen in English, and rare photographs, this title provides a detailed analysis of the devastation the war brought to Poland, and the final betrayal when, having fought for freedom for six long years, Poland was handed to the Soviet Union.

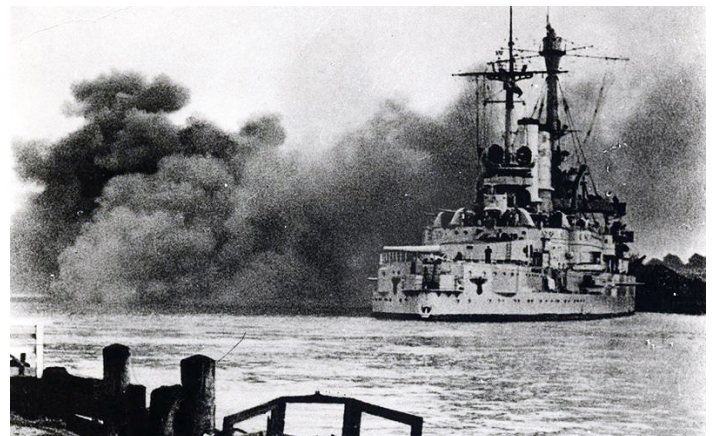


Photo by Hans Sönnke, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

PAC NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Anita Jedwabski (Massachusetts)
anitareliv@gmail.com

Ania Karwan (California)
ania_k@hotmail.com

Zbigniew Koralewski (New York)
zkoral@aol.com

Tim Kuzma (Pennsylvania)
tkuzma@polishfalcons.org

Mark Pienkos, Editor (Florida)
PAC National VP for Public Relations
markpienkos2012@gmail.com

LAYOUT AND DESIGN BY POLISH FALCONS OF AMERICA:

Courtney Caughey-Stambul,
Communications Director

Tiarra McGinnis
Communications Assistant



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

Founded in May, 1944, the Polish American Congress is a National Umbrella Organization, representing at least 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its membership is comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. We are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress, an “umbrella” organization, is a federation of over 3000 Polish American organizations and clubs, ranging from national fraternal benefit societies, such as the Polish National Alliance, Polish Women’s Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Falcons and others, including veteran, cultural, professional, religious and social associations, with aggregate membership of over one million. The PAC by-laws also provide for individual membership, as well as associate membership.

The PAC promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The governing body of the PAC is the Council of National Directors, consisting of directors elected by their respective State Divisions or National Organizations and up to 10 at-large directors elected by the Council. Day-to-day operations are conducted by the Executive Committee elected by the Council of National Directors for a two year term.

CONTACT US NATIONAL OFFICE

1612 K Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006
Tel.: (202) 296-6955
Fax: (202) 835-1565

Visit: www.pac1944.org

E-mail: pacwash@pac1944.org

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Polish-American-Congress