

# BULLETIN

## Polish American Congress of Eastern Massachusetts

July 2008

### **I. MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE PROCLAIMS POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS DAY**

Massachusetts has a cherished and venerable history which includes an often leading role in the development of political traditions in the United States of America. Among all thirteen colonies under British rule, Massachusetts had been the hotbed of Revolution, particularly in Boston. Indeed, it had been the Massachusetts militia in 1775 that was the first to engage in fighting British forces at the Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill – all of which ignited America’s War of Independence.

Massachusetts also has been the center of precedent-setting achievements on behalf of the interests of Poland and Americans of Polish descent.

In recent times, it was the Massachusetts legislature that had been the first-in-the-nation to pass in May 2004 a Visa Waiver for Poland Joint Resolution. In February 2007, Massachusetts Senate and House members of Polish descent and other non-Polish legislative colleagues created the first-in-the-nation Polish Legislative Caucus. In April 2008, the Massachusetts legislature became the first-in-the-nation to issue a Joint Resolution congratulating the Polish American Congress on Its First Annual Day of Recognition.

From May 2004 through April 2008, there were two constants in all three achievements for Polonia in Massachusetts, namely, Anthony J. Bajdek, President of the Polish American Congress of Eastern Massachusetts and Polish American Congress National Vice President for American Affairs, and Dr. John W. Scibak, Member of the House of Representatives.

On May 3, 2004 it had been Bajdek – a long-time Associate Dean and Senior Lecturer in History at Northeastern University in Boston – who approached Scibak with the proposition that he should consider sponsoring the nation’s first Visa Waiver for Poland Joint Resolution in the legislature. On February 28, 2007, it had been Bajdek who, along with Joseph Kos, President of the Polish American Congress Western Massachusetts Division, met with Representative Scibak, Representative Peter Kocot, Representative Todd Smola, and Representative Michael Kane, for the express purpose of establishing a Polish Legislative Caucus in the legislature. On April 30, 2008, the Joint Resolution for the Polish American Congress Day of Recognition had originated with Bajdek, who – requested by Scibak to do so -- drafted the wording for what originally was to have been a Governor’s Proclamation of Polish American Congress Day in the Commonwealth, but in reaction to a technicality that prevented the Executive Office from issuing the proposed Proclamation, fortuitously ended as a Joint Resolution of the legislature instead, its sponsorship, passage, and promulgation being the work of the Polish Legislative Caucus, led by Scibak, and as well, an illustration of the influence of the Caucus in the legislature.

The April 30 Joint Resolution is particularly noteworthy because in contrast with other Polonia-related legislation in the state (e.g., Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 Day; Thaddeus Kościuszko Day; Polish Heritage Month), it focuses purely on the Polish American Congress and its major achievements since 1944.

In Massachusetts, the state legislature is known as the Massachusetts General Court. The Resolutions were signed on April 29, 2008 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the members of the Polish Legislative Caucus in both the House and Senate.

The breadth and depth of the membership of the Polish Legislative Caucus in Massachusetts is reflected by its members: in the House of Representatives, John Binienda, Daniel Bosley, Mary Grant, Louis Kafka, Michael Kane, Peter Kocot, Robert Koczera, Paul Kujawski, Stephen Kulik, David Linsky, Denise Provost, Kathi-Anne Reinstein, John Scibak, Todd Smola, and Joseph Wagner; and finally, in the Senate, Michael Knapik and Richard Moore. Not all are Americans of Polish descent, but they are friends and colleagues of those who are, and indeed friends of Poland as well.

The wording of the Resolution speaks for itself (check our website for a view of the original copy):

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**The Massachusetts General Court Resolutions Congratulating the Polish American Congress  
on Its First Annual Day of Recognition**

**WHEREAS**, The Polish American Congress was established nationally in 1944 to represent the international and domestic concerns of Americans of Polish descent before the government of the United States, and

**WHEREAS**, The Polish American Congress sought to sustain hopes for freedom of the people of Poland as the years of terror and suffering under brutal Nazi German oppression were ending, only to be followed by another oppressive communist government imposed by Soviet Russia, and

**WHEREAS**, The Polish American Congress resolutely articulated and advocated the moral and strategic imperatives for sustaining aid and support for Poland beginning with the disheartening days following revelation of the Yalta Agreement, thence throughout the bitter, dark days of the Cold War, and through the oppressive period of martial law on the eve of the demise of communism in Central and East Europe, and

**WHEREAS**, The Polish American Congress sought to educate all Americans about the origin of the contributions of the Polish people to the rich diversity of American life that began with the arrival in 1608 of the first Poles in the Jamestown Colony of Virginia and blossomed with the distinguished military service of Thaddeus Kościuszko and Casimir Pułaski during America's War of Independence, and

**WHEREAS**, The Polish American Congress initiated actions and prevailed on the United States Senate to ratify the Protocols of Accession to the NATO Treaty on April 4, 1998, thereby granting membership to Poland; and beginning in 1999, worked with our Department of State to prevail on the governments of Germany and Austria to compensate Poles who were victims of forced industrial and farm labor during World War II, and

**WHEREAS**, The Polish American Congress in the Commonwealth prevailed on the legislature to enact in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6, the annual state-wide observances of Polish Constitution Day, Thaddeus Kosciuszko Day, and Polish American Heritage Month in 1953, 1977, and 1996 respectively, and

**WHEREAS**, The Polish American Congress in Massachusetts prevailed on the legislature to pass the first-in-the-nation Visa Waiver for Poland Joint Resolution in May 2004, and

**WHEREAS**, The Polish American Congress representing the fifth largest European ethnic group in the United States has always stressed the principles of social responsibility, service, and civic virtue among all citizens of our great nation, the United States of America; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that upon April 30, 2008, the Massachusetts General Court hereby extends to the Polish American Congress its gratitude for its contributions to greater society; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of these Resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Polish American Congress.

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The Resolutions were signed on April 29, 2008 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the members of the Polish Legislative Caucus in both the House and Senate.

No other legislative or executive branch of government in the United States -- either on the state or federal level -- had ever passed such legislation or issued such a proclamation honoring the Polish American Congress, until Massachusetts did it. Thanks to the pioneering efforts of Bajdek and Scibak who have created a model of political activism by Americans of Polish descent, hopefully Polish Americans in other states also will pursue similar political activism with their legislatures for a most compelling reason, that being, that better than one of every two members of the United States Congress in Washington, DC begin their political careers as members of state legislatures. And it is with regard to this latter point that Bajdek continues to work for establishment of Polish American Congress Divisions in other states to further expand its influence in state legislatures across the nation.

On April 30, 2008 at the State House in Boston, all members of the Polish Legislative Caucus, along with twenty-three members (including Joseph Kos, President of PAC/W. Mass. and his delegation) and friends of the Polish American Congress gathered in Hearing Room A-2 to celebrate the legislature's recognition of Polish American Congress Day.

Several months earlier, Bajdek had been invited to participate on a panel titled "Into the Future: Thoughts on the Agenda of the Polish American Congress in a New Era" at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Philadelphia of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America on June 13, 2008. The panel was moderated by Professor Donald Pienkos of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and included as other panelist, Dr. Susanne Lotarski, President of the Washington Metropolitan Area Division, and Richard Piershalski of Pittsburgh, PA, the National Vice President for Financial Development.

During his remarks to PIASA, Dean Bajdek proposed that Massachusetts has provided since 2004 a successful working model for an "American Agenda" on the state level, citing three major achievements of the Polish American Congress in the state legislature of Massachusetts:

- Visa Waiver for Poland Joint Resolution (passed in May 2004)
- Polish Legislative Caucus (created in February 2007)
- Polish American Congress Day Joint Resolution (passed in April 2008)

In supporting his thesis, Bajdek displayed the email invitation (see below) sent by Representative John Scibak to members of the Massachusetts legislature, inviting them to participate on April 30, 2008 in the First Annual Polish American Congress Day of Recognition:

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Dear Colleagues,

The Polish Legislative Caucus, in partnership with the Polish American Congress, cordially invites you to attend the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting of the Polish Caucus to be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Hearing Room A-2.** Come and celebrate our state and nation's first Polish American Congress Day along with members of the Polish American Congress from across the Commonwealth.

This brief meeting will allow legislators to introduce themselves to Congress members, convey their commitment to the Caucus, raise potential Caucus objectives or legislative priorities and engage in a dialogue with Congress members.

If you are interested in participating in this historic event, please respond to this email or contact Eve Wilder, my Administrative Aide at 617-722-2014.  
Thank you. Dziękuję!

Sincerely,

**Rep. John W. Scibak**  
*Second Hampshire District*  
State House, Room 39  
Boston, MA 02133-1054

P.O. Box 136  
South Hadley, MA 01075

In concluding his presentation, Bajdek directed the attention of the audience in Philadelphia to the **operative phrase** of Scibak's invitation – “in partnership with the Polish American Congress” – as evidence of his unprecedented achievement for the Polish American Congress, that being, partnership with Massachusetts legislators, and concluded with a summarization of the salient points that underscore the importance of the Massachusetts legislature's Joint Resolution honoring the Polish American Congress:

- It **advances** knowledge of and respect for the Polish American Congress and its mission in the legislative branch of state government, the source of law-making and policy in the state.
- It **advances** mutual trust between the legislative branch of state government and the Polish American Congress in a substantive manner.
- It **raises** the consciousness of Massachusetts legislators on the range of interest in civic responsibility practiced by the Polish American Congress.
- It **sets** the stage for the Polish American Congress to propose legislation on matters of concern to *all* Americans – not just Polish Americans – by way of the Polish Legislative Caucus in the House of Representatives and Senate.
- It **establishes** a Polish American Congress – Polish Legislative Caucus partnership, the first such partnership in the nation and a model for others.
- It **sustains** awareness in the legislature of the Polish American Congress.
- It **facilitates**, in recognition of the foregoing, proposing and passing Poland-specific and Polish American-specific legislation by both branches.

This, in short, is the importance of the precedent-setting event at the State House in Boston on April 30, 2008 of which the Polish American Congress is proud nationally because it has enhanced the “American Agenda” to a new dimension of activity, all of which began in Massachusetts.

## **II. NEW YORK STATE SENATE PASSES MATT URBAN RESOLUTION ON JUNE 3, 2008**

As reported in the January 2008 issue of the **BULLETIN** (part E, page 8), Anthony J. Bajdek, since November 1999 appointed by the PAC Council of National Directors to be the National Executive Chairman of the Lt. Colonel Matt Louis Urban Commemorative Stamp Committee, drew up a Matt Urban Resolution for use by both the Michigan and New York state legislatures to bring pressure to bear on the United States Congress to demand that the United States Postal Service finally issue a commemorative stamp honoring Matt Louis Urban (1919-1995), one of America's two most highly-decorated combat soldiers of World War II. Contrary to his expectations that the Michigan legislature would be the first to act, Bajdek was pleasantly surprised to learn that New York's legislature acted first as had been reported in the **AM-POL EAGLE** of Cheektowaga, NY in its related story “NY State Senate pushes for Matt Urban stamp” that is replicated here:

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“The NY State Senate adopted a legislative Resolution June 3 calling on the New York Congressional delegation to urge the United States Postal Service to consider the issuance of a stamp in honor of Lt. Colonel Matt Urban, a Buffalo native and the most decorated U.S. combat soldier.

The Resolution calls on ‘the New York State Congressional delegation be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to urge the United States Postal Service to consider the issuance of a stamp in honor of Colonel Matt Urban, one of our Nation's highest decorated combat soldiers during World War II.’

The Senate also had copies of the Resolution sent to James Tolbert Jr., executive director of Stamp Services for the United States Postal Service; The Honorable John E. Potter, Postmaster General and chief executive officer of the United States Postal Service; Ronald A. Robinson, chairperson, Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee; Boyd Barclay, past national commander (Military Order of the Purple Heart); as well as each member of the Congressional delegation from the State of New York; and members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.

The Resolution was sponsored by Senators Stachowski, Rath, Volker, Kruger, Larkin, Maltese and Sampson.

The Resolution stated: 'It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York and the Nation to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant sacrifices so that we, as citizens, could retain the freedoms we so enjoy.'

The Resolution referred to Lt. Col. Urban as 'one of our Nation's highest decorated combat soldiers during World War II' and it noted that in 1999, the United States Postal Service 'honored the second combat hero — Audie Murphy of post-War Hollywood fame — sharing the singular distinction for being one of our nation's two most decorated combat heroes of World War II by including him in a commemorative stamp.'

It also stated:

'*WHEREAS*, Matt Louis Urban (1919-1995), a native of the State of New York and later a long-time resident of the state of Michigan, earned the singular distinction of sharing recognition for being one of our Nation's two highest decorated combat soldiers during World War II; and

*WHEREAS*, His shared singular distinction was based on at least four extraordinary acts of bravery above and beyond the call of duty in battles that occurred on French soil first in Renouf, then near Orglandes, then at Saint Lo, and finally, near Heer, Belgium, at the Meuse River, during the period from June 14, 1944 through September 3, 1944, as described in his Congressional Medal of Honor citation; and

*WHEREAS*, The records of his battlefield feats of heroism and inspirational combat leadership having been lost in Washington, DC for some 35 years delayed formal, public acknowledgment of his fame until 1980 when President Jimmy Carter presented him the Congressional Medal of Honor citing his personal leadership, limitless bravery, and repeated extraordinary exposure to enemy fire during the aforesaid battles; and

*WHEREAS*, The near-paralyzing neck wound that Matt Louis Urban suffered during his final battle earning him his 7th Purple Heart required some two years of reconstructive surgery to his vocal chords thereby causing him to concentrate on rehabilitation rather than combat notoriety and peacetime fame during the outpouring of public accolades directed to our nation's combat veterans in the press, tabloid, and entertainment industry following the end of the War.'"

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It should be noted that each *WHEREAS* of the Senate's Resolution was used verbatim as Bajdek had written in the "boilerplate" for the Resolution. In regard to the passage of the Resolution by the NY State Senate, Bajdek expressed his gratitude to his fellow National Directors -- Theresa K. Bunk, President of the PAC Central District of New York Division; Frank Milewski, President of the PAC Downstate NY Division; Richard Solecki, President of the PAC Western NY Division; Joseph Macielag, former President of the PAC Western NY Division; and Rev. Carl A. Urban (not related to Matt Urban), Pastor of the Church of St. Adalbert in Schenectady, NY – for their work with their legislators in the Senate. Bajdek is hopeful that fellow National Director in Michigan, Attorney Jerry Surowiec, will be equally successful in attracting sponsors for a Matt Urban Resolution in Michigan's legislature.

For those who may not remember, Matt Louis Urban's surname had been shortened from Urbanowicz. He was born in Buffalo, NY in 1919 and died in Holland, MI in 1995.

### **III. POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS TO ASSIST JEWISH AMERICANS IN RESTORATION OF JEWISH CEMETERIES IN POLAND RAVAGED BY NAZI GERMANY IN WORLD WAR II**

During its National Directors' Meeting in Phoenix, AZ on May 8, 2008 both President Frank J. Spula and National Director Joseph Macielag announced a proposal – subsequently approved by the National Directors – that the Polish American Congress join with a Jewish American group that seeks funding from the German government for the restoration of Jewish cemeteries in Poland ravaged and desecrated by Nazi Germany in World War II.

The idea of restoration of some 1200 Jewish cemeteries in Poland was the work of Dr. Norman Weinberg of Buffalo, NY. Several years ago at Canisius College in Buffalo he distributed and discussed a videotape film which he had produced under the title, "Return to Ożarów." The film depicted in documentary form his successful partnership with Ożarów's mayor and pastor who acted for the successful restoration of the town's Jewish cemetery in which his ancestors were buried. With funds collected by Dr. Weinberg from

Jewish American friends and associates, the town fully restored its Jewish cemetery, the work having been done by Polish workers, craftsmen, and historians.

According to Joseph Macielag, Dr. Weinberg has always been a good friend of Polish Americans in western New York state, and the Polish American Congress benefits by cooperating in this venture.

It is planned that either in the summer or fall of 2008, Dr. Weinberg and his associates, along with Polish American Congress President Frank J. Spula, will journey to the Vatican in Rome for a private audience with Pope Benedict XVI to whom they will propose that he encourage the German government to assign an initial twenty million dollars to launch the project and the balance amounting to one hundred eighty million dollars for restoring the full 1200 Jewish cemeteries across Poland.

The idea of approaching Pope Benedict in the matter was that of Bishop Zygmunt Zimowski of Radom. In addition, the mayor of Ożarów, Dr. Jerzy Kropiwnicki, traveled to the United States to discuss the matter with both Jewish Americans and Polish Americans.

#### **IV. SIXTH ANNUAL KOŚCIUSZKO'S BIRTHDAY – WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY POLITICAL FORUM AND BANQUET ON FEBRUARY 23, 2008 A SUCCESS**

Some 45 members of the Polish American Congress of Eastern Massachusetts and other friends of Polonia, including a delegation from the Chicopee-Springfield area in western Massachusetts and others from Uxbridge in central Massachusetts, gathered in the Hamilton Room of Northeastern University's Kerr Hall on 96 The Fenway on a pleasant wintry afternoon in snow-covered Boston to consider and react to the presentations of three distinguished panelists on the topic, "Domestic and International Considerations of Being Polish American or Polish in Today's World."

Dr. Mieczysław Biskupski, Blejwas Professor of Polish and American Studies at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT; Wojciech Flera, the Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC; and Lt. Colonel (USAF, ret.), James Ogonowski, Republican candidate for the United States Congress and resident of Dracut, MA, each provided an enjoyable and thought-provoking discourse on the topic to the great satisfaction of those in attendance.

Professor Biskupski began with a robust, comprehensive, and eloquent review of Poland's stunning achievements in contemporary history and world affairs. "The 21<sup>st</sup> century provides a revolutionary change for everyone who has come to regard himself as a Pole.... The changes...in Poland's circumstances are revolutionary," he proposed, therefore "let us reflect on what has happened in just a few years:

- Poland's security is more assured now than in any time since 1648.
- The baleful consequences of geography though permanent are less pressing than earlier.
- Poland has a more intimate relationship with the United States than ever before. (In this regard, he stated that the relationship 'still leaves a great deal to be desired, and Washington has been grudging and parsimonious in its gratitude to Poland's sacrifices, but this flawed situation is better than any we have had in history.')
- Poland has been improving an already quite decent relationship with Israel, and thus the promise of an increasingly favorable climate in which Polish-Jewish relations can develop (not only benefits Poland internationally but also benefits Polish American and Jewish American relations in the United States).
- Poland is quite obviously the dominant country in East Central Europe, a model for the region."

He then pointed to the conspicuous growth of a new Polonia across Europe, especially in countries such as Ireland, Scotland, and Norway which each have experienced a large influx of Poles, so much so that Dublin, at the current rate, and not Chicago, will soon have the largest percentage of Poles than any other city in the world outside of Poland. Poles in Ireland and Scotland, for example, will likely influence the politics of those two countries more so than they have in the United States.

Wojciech Flera began by reminding everyone that “any government must ensure the security and prosperity of all its citizens,” and that “it is also true that the world looks slightly different from Washington and in Warsaw.” After 1989, Poland had two objectives, one was to become a member of NATO, the other was to become a member of the European Union, objectives achieved in 1999 and 2004 respectively.

Poland is very pro-American, but “we pay a very high price” for our pro-Americanism, he offered, and “our love for the United States is not always reciprocated.”

“Poland as well is the most EU-enthusiastic country in Europe. It is in Poland’s best interest to have a strong Europe...(even though there is) sometimes a lot of criticism in the United States of the European Union.... As for Poland, we always say that we have to live with the United States and with the European Union.”

“Poland proves to be a credible ally. We proved that in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans. We are getting stronger...more and more able to define by ourselves what is good for us, and we expect that our friends in the United States and Europe...will make genuine efforts to understand that,” he concluded.

The final panelist for the Forum was Congressional candidate of the Republican Party, Jim Ogonowski, who began with the statements: “I am proud to be an American. I am proud to be a Polish American.”

An Air Force ROTC graduate of the University of Lowell (now the University of Massachusetts at Lowell), he traced his Polish roots in America to the year 1904 when his widowed grandmother decided to leave Europe with her three children for a better life in America. She aspired to the American dream for her children, risked a transatlantic ocean journey of three weeks in steerage devoid of dignity to achieve it, and left Ellis Island in New York for Massachusetts where she purchased land for farming, and with her children cleared the land, and lived without electricity for twenty years on what had become the family homestead. He pointed proudly to that fact that the Ogonowski family in America developed both a “farming tradition and a military tradition.” His grandfather returned to Poland to serve in the Polish military in the struggle for Poland’s independence. He and his older brother, John, graduated from Air Force ROTC at the University of Lowell and became USAF commissioned officers. Sustaining that family tradition of military service, Colonel Ogonowski’s son graduated from Air Force ROTC at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell in the spring of 2008.

In declaring himself a candidate for the United States Congress, Ogonowski’s decision rested on the premise that, as he stated it, “Washington was broken and not doing anything for the American people” and that incumbent Senator “Kerry is more interested in being on the national stage than representing the people of Massachusetts.”

His political themes were expressed concisely and to the point. On the matter of illegal immigration, he proposed that all foreigners desiring to come to America should “follow the rule of law” as his widowed grandmother had done in 1904. On the matter of taxes, a favorite Republican theme, he pointed out that as a farmer in Massachusetts he had to pay a “\$1 tax on every bale of hay” that he baled through his own labor.

Ogonowski’s American patriotism and pride in his ancestry was inspirational and informative.

## **V. A WORD ABOUT OUR COLORS (Being an Article Submitted by Robert Matusik)**

The Polish American Congress of Eastern Massachusetts has functioned for more than six decades and has accomplished some notable things. To my way of thinking, it is and has been a mature organization and should present an image of formality on those occasions when we gather for dignified proceedings attended with ceremony. We needed our own set of colors so as not be dependent on the graciousness of others. Even more important in my mind was that our flags be matched in size and quality so as to not present one being inferior to another and thus convey some inferred slight, however unintentional.

Thus we have the flag of the United States, the flag of the Republic of Poland, and the Polish State flag. The latter looks like the flag of the Republic of Poland, except it has a red cartouche centered in the flag's white field. Displayed on the red cartouche is the Polish Eagle in white bearing the golden Piast Crown. We display this Polish State Flag when we are honored by the presence of the Polish Diplomatic Corps, and especially when the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland is present among us.

The poles for these flags are of lightweight aluminum, grossly unsuitable for carrying in a parade, but clearly appropriate for display during convocation. The stands have been designed for stability in the face of indoor breezes or drafts caused by artificial or natural ventilation. The pole for the flag of the United States has a gold-like American Eagle as an ornament. The poles for the other two flags came with a spear-point ornament that I was unhappy with.

Initially, I had been unable to find suitable ornaments for the two flag poles in any Polish American stores selling art, jewelry, etc. Then, while I was summering in Kraków, I began to make enquiries among antique dealers in the old city. An army surplus type store on Smolensk (I think that was the name) Street was recommended. That proved to be a lucky find, for they had some ornaments from WW II military flag poles carried by Polish soldiers that had not fallen into the hands of the Nazis. These already had been converted into desk ornaments by the addition of metal bobèches (salvaged from chandeliers), so it became a simple matter to change them back, when I returned home to the United States.

Now those two Polish flags are on poles having Polish Eagle ornaments. Even better, those Polish Eagles have Piast Crowns. Not many people would notice these Polish Eagle ornaments, but I feel good just knowing that they are there.

NOTE: Robert Matusik has been a Director of the Polish American Congress of Eastern Massachusetts for well over a decade. Through his thoughtfulness and generosity, he donated the aforementioned three flags, poles, and stands to PAC/E. Mass. so that we would not have to borrow them from veterans' groups whenever the occasion called for the display of flags. Since 2000 at least, we have hosted two Polish Ambassadors to the United States (Przemysław Grudziński in 2004 and Janusz Reiter in 2006) and one Deputy Chief of Mission of the Polish Embassy (Wojciech Flera in 2008) to be our keynote or otherwise principal speakers for our Annual Tadeusz Kościuszko – Geroge Washington Political Forum and Banquet held in February, an occasion ideally suited for display of the three flags.

## **VI. PAC/E. MASS. TO CELEBRATE OCTOBER POLISH HERITAGE MONTH IN 2008 BY SPONSORING A DAY TRIP TO THE POLISH CENTER OF DISCOVERY AND LEARNING AT ELMS COLLEGE IN CHICOPEE, MA**

The trip will take place on Saturday, October 11, leaving Boston by coach bus holding 24 passengers at 10:30 a.m. The Center is the only one of its type (i.e., for purposes of being a museum, cultural facility, research facility, artistic performance facility, and educational facility tied into other colleges and universities providing Polish and Polish American studies) in New England. The fee of \$55 for the trip includes transportation, food and refreshments, a tour of the Center, a special Polish Heritage Month presentation, and music. Those having email capability who may be interested in the trip should use the PAC/E. Mass. email connection (located on the "About Us" page at **email:PAC/EMASS**) on our website which is **paceasternmass.org** to express their interest and submit payment no later than September 1, 2008. All others should call Aniela Ślusarz, PAC/E. Mass. Director, at (781) 843-7290 and submit payment no later than September 1, 2008. All payments should be sent to Richard Pilat as noted below in part VII.

## **VII. APPEAL FOR RENEWAL OF DUES FOR 2008**

If you haven't yet paid your dues, please consider doing so at your earliest convenience. Your check or money order for \$35 (individual dues) or \$60 (corporate dues) should be made payable to PAC/E. Mass. and sent to Richard Pilat, Vice President and Treasurer PAC/E. Mass., 20 Thayer Rd., Braintree, MA 02184. We thank you for your support!