

# BULLETIN

## POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 2008

### A. SUPPORT THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

This time of year, particularly the period between the Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King, Jr. holidays, the typical American is besieged via the mail with appeals for financial support through donations sought by many very worthy national and local organizations ranging from, to name but a few examples, the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Children's Hospital, March of Dimes, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Rosie's Place, Salvation Army, United States Olympic Committee, to Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Although we all do the best we can to respond to these appeals within the limits of our financial resources, there is one organization – the Polish American Congress – that needs the financial support of Polish Americans whose welfare and interests it represents to the United States Congress and the Executive Branch of government in Washington, DC but rarely asks Polish Americans for it. Rarely as well do Polish Americans themselves think of making donations to the Polish American Congress. Since its establishment in 1944 the Polish American Congress continues to be **Polonia's only nationally-structured political lobbying entity in the United States**. Therefore, one may wonder why the absence of greater financial support persists among Polish Americans whose welfare and interests it serves.

This brief article will not propose to identify and analyze the factors causing the financial dilemma for the Polish American Congress. Yet the reality of financial constraints diminishes the Polish American voice in American government and politics as is documented in the illustration on page 3. This article simply reminds all members and friends of the Polish American Congress that it is on the basis of the renewal of annual dues that the Polish American Congress marshals its financial resources to carry out its mission.

Under Part C of this **BULLETIN**, National Vice President for American Affairs Anthony J. Bajdek offers a strategy for enlisting greater national support for the Polish American Congress, a report that he submitted to the Executive Committee in September 2007, in which he illustrates the current scope of the PAC's political lobbying campaign.

In short, though the Eastern Massachusetts Division is grateful for your loyalty in renewing dues in years past, it also appeals to you for renewing your dues for 2008. Please remember as well that 80% of your dues of necessity are sent to the national office so that the Polish American Congress can sustain its lobbying efforts benefiting you and Poland.

### B. KOŚCIUSZKO'S BIRTHDAY – WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY POLITICAL FORUM AND BANQUET

On February 23, 2008, the Polish American Congress of Eastern Massachusetts will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Kościuszko's Birthday – Washington's Birthday Political Forum and Banquet in Kerr Hall, Northeastern University, Boston from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Featured panelists will be Dr. **Mieczysław B. Biskupski**, Blejwas Professor of Polish and Polish American Studies at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Lt. Colonel **Jim Ogonowski**, Republican candidate for the 5<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Congressional District, and a representative (not yet determined, but perhaps Deputy Chief of Mission **Wojciech Flera**) of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC.

This is the only fund-raising event organized by the Polish American Congress of Eastern Massachusetts that is planned for 2008. Please join us. Refer to the enclosed flier or visit our website ([www.paceasternmass.org](http://www.paceasternmass.org)) for details.

In addition to a thought-provoking discussion of both domestic and international factors influencing Polish American and Poland's welfare, a pleasant dinner, and musical entertainment, members and friends of the Polish American Congress will have an opportunity to demonstrate their support for the various federal and state legislative initiatives organized and sponsored by the Polish American Congress by participating in this annual venue.

## C. PROPOSING A POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

### I. COMPOSITION OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS (2005-2007):

The Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress has reported in its profile of the membership of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress that of the 540 individuals who went on comprise the House of Representatives and the Senate, 275 members (236 in the House and 39 in the Senate) had been former state legislators, and that 35 other members of Congress had been mayors, 10 had been state governors, and 9 had been lieutenant governors before their federal service.

Therefore, a total of 294 (54.5%) had served at the state level either in the legislative or executive branches, and 35 (6.5%) had served at the municipal level of government. As such, members of the United States Congress with combined prior state level and municipal level service represented **61%** of the members of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. While they served in the state legislative or executive levels of government and in the municipal level of government, access to them locally by the voting public was relatively easier than it was to be once they became national legislators in Washington, DC.

### II. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS:

Currently, the Polish American Congress has divisions and chapters in 17 states (AZ, CA, CT, DE, FL, IL, IN, MA, MD, MI, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, TX, WI) and the District of Columbia. From a practical perspective, PAC influence with legislators in those 17 states revealed its strength when all except for our CA, DE, FL, IL, IN, RI, TX, and WI divisions passed Visa Waiver for Poland (VWP) Resolutions starting in May 2004 as reported in earlier Council of National Directors (CND) meetings. Moreover, to the credit of our PAC, three other states (ME, NE, VT) -- not having PAC divisions or chapters -- also passed VWP Resolutions. IL went on to pass its own VWP Resolution in a process that appeared to accelerate on May 18, 2007 when **SJR0017** -- sponsored by Senators J. Bradley Burzyński and Dan Kotowski -- was adopted by the Senate and referred to the House of Representatives for action. But then the process became delayed since House Chief Co-Sponsors, namely, Representatives Patricia Bellock and Michael McAuliffe, did not materialize until July 31, the same day SJR0017 was referred to the Rules Committee where it awaited further action. On September 26, both Representatives Robert W. Pritchard and Angelo Saviano were included as Added Alternate Co-Sponsors. On October 12, Representatives Jack D. Franks, Linda Chapa LaVia, Elizabeth Coulson, Rosemary Mulligan, Richard T. Bradley, and Kathleen A. Ryg also were included as Added Alternate Co-Sponsors, all of which led to achieve passage of SJR0017 in the House on the very same day, thereby completing the Joint Resolution process that began on May 18, 2007 when the Illinois Senate passed SJR0017. This is yet another example of successful lobbying by the Polish American Congress, an effort spearheaded by National Vice President for American Affairs Anthony J. Bajdek acting in concert with fellow CND members Barbara Miller and Jerzy Różalski.

Given the fact that our Polish American Congress is represented in only 17 (**34%**) of our nation's 50 states, we as the largest politically-focused Polonia organization in America must strive to expand our presence to more states, especially to those having significant Polish American populations in the six digit range (CO = 101,190, MN = 240,405, VA = 124,647, WA = 102,553) along with those states with Polish American populations approaching the six digit range (GA = 82,765, MO = 90,448, NE = 62,475, NC = 87,968). Expanding our divisions to these states should be as much a top priority as is sustaining our current presence in 17 states and the District of Columbia. Our VWP campaign hasn't ended, and in this regard, I again call on our CA, DE, FL, MD, RI, and TX divisions **to engage in this effort**. I am aware of the problems inherent in the legislatures of IN (it doesn't engage in resolutions because of limited annual time in session) and WI (it voted VWP down). However, it doesn't mean that we should abandon efforts to change matters in IN and WI.

Of our nation's 50 states, just 17 have PAC divisions. This is a matter that should demand our serious attention. If we do not pursue expansion to other states now constituting a vacuum for politically-minded Polonia activists, who will press their legislatures on matters of interest to Polish American voters there? It should be our PAC, not some other entity.

### III. EXPANSION AS MUCH MISSION-DRIVEN AS IT IS FINANCIALLY-DRIVEN:

By stepping up our visibility via tangible examples of mission-based achievements both in our nation's capital and in our state legislative and executive branches of government, we are more likely to make ourselves attractive to Polish Americans who are **inclined to fight** for Polonia's place in the sun. Our guiding philosophy, therefore, must reflect a strategy to **sustain an offensive rather than a defensive posture**. Though finances are important, so is PAC's mission. In the energetic fulfillment of our mission (e.g., VWP), I propose, rests the secret to division and membership expansion.

Consider the facts concerning our current 17 state divisions and that of the District of Columbia appearing in **IV** on the next page. A given PAC state's Polish American population, accompanied by its percentage in the state's entire population, and its percentage in the total population of Polish Americans in our 17 PAC division states and the District of Columbia, are correlated with the given state's annual dues paid to the national office in 2006 and the percentage of that state's dues among the other states and the District of Columbia that submitted dues as well. (2006 was used as the year for the illustration because financially the books on division dues submitted for that year are closed.)

**IV. POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS STATE DIVISIONS/POLAM. POPULATION/DIVISION DUES 2006:**

<b>(1) State</b>	<b>(2) #Divisions</b>	<b>(3) #PolAms. 2000*</b>	<b>(4) %Polams.&lt;</b>	<b>(5) Dues 06</b>	<b>(6) %PAC Dues</b>	<b>(7) Dues/Pop.</b>
AZ	one	126,665 (2.4**)	1.7	\$1,344	2.8	Dues exceed
CA	two	491,325 (1.5**)	6.6	\$5,610	11.6	Dues exceed
CT	one	284,272 (8.3**)	3.8	\$1,248	2.6	<i>Dues under</i>
DC****	one	7,910 (1.4**)	0.1	\$3,240	6.7	Dues exceed
DE	one	40,636 (5.2**)	0.5	\$437	0.9	Dues exceed
FL	two	429,691 (2.7**)	5.8	\$1,076	2.2	<i>Dues under</i>
IL	one	932,996 (7.5**)	12.5	\$4,751	9.8	<i>Dues under</i>
IN	one	183,989 (3.0**)	2.5	\$1,128	2.3	<i>Dues under</i>
MA	two	323,210 (5.1**)	4.3	\$2,440	5.0	Dues exceed
MD	one	183,364 (3.5**)	2.5	\$90	0.2	<i>Dues under</i>
MI	one	854,844 (8.6**)	11.5	\$5,790	12.0	Dues exceed
NJ	three	576,473 (6.9**)	7.7	\$4,976	10.3	Dues exceed
NY	three	986,141 (5.2**)	13.2	\$7,184	14.8	Dues exceed
OH	two	433,016 (3.8**)	5.8	\$1,950	4.0	<i>Dues under</i>
PA	three	824,146 (6.7**)	11.1	\$4,350	9.0	<i>Dues under</i>
RI	one	43,159 (4.1**)	0.6	\$392	0.8	Dues exceed
TX	one	228,309 (1.1**)	3.1	\$1,406	2.9	<i>Dues under</i>
WI	one	497,726 (9.3**)	6.7	\$1,008	2.1	<i>Dues under</i>
		<b>7,447,872</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$48,420</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

\* The number of Polish Americans by state or federal district is based on the 2000 United States Census.

\*\* In column 3, the figure in parenthesis represents the %-age of Polish Americans in the total population of the state and District of Columbia.

\*\*\*\* (The District of Columbia is not a state but rather, a federal district.)

< In column 4, the state's number of Polish Americans is divided by 7,447,872, producing the %-age of the PAC state's share of the 7,447,872.

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**V. CONSIDERATIONS FOR PAC REFLECTED IN THE FOREGOING CHART:**

Inasmuch as the payments of annual dues by our divisions to the national office are conducted confidentially and independently of one another, it is impressive, and unfortunately, less than positively so in some cases, that:

- The percentage of dues submitted (in column 6) in 8 state divisions (AZ, CA, DE, MA, MI, NJ, NY, RI) and that of the District of Columbia exceeded -- in some cases not spectacularly but at least on the positive side of the ledger -- the percentage (in column 4) of the constituent division's Polish American population among the total (7,447,872 in column 3) of Polish Americans residing in our 17 state divisions and the District of Columbia. In a couple of these divisions the percentage of dues over that of population is very impressive -- even spectacular -- with the percentage of dues exceeding that of the population (in column 4) by a quite considerable number of percentage points in our CA and DC divisions. We commend our CA and DC divisions for their great success.
- Of our 9 remaining states (CT, FL, IL, IN, MD, OH, PA, TX, WI), the percentages of dues submitted to our national office fell short, in varying degrees, of each division's share of the Polish American population (in column 4). In some cases, that shortfall in percentage points is cause for alarm (example being MD with a total population nearly equal to that of IN -- with only a 625 person difference between the Polish American population of the two states -- but with IN turning in \$1,128 to MD's \$90, and that being the second consecutive year for Maryland at \$90). Devising a strategy for saving MD from total demise must be considered in Phoenix.
- We must prevent the total demise of that division because it would reduce our PAC presence from 17 states and the District of Columbia to 16 states and the District of Columbia. In its 63<sup>rd</sup> year of existence nationally, our Polish American Congress should be moving forward, not backward. It should expand divisions into **new** states.
- In column 7 of **IV** above, especially problematical are those PAC states (FL, IL, PA, WI) with either single or multiple divisions statewide whose percentages of dues (in column 6) submitted to our national office fell two or more percentage points under the percentages of their Polish American populations (in column 4).
- In consideration of the fact that some significant annual dues deficiencies are in need of corrective attention, one might speculate that, all things considered, the Polish American Congress generally cannot expect to derive much more in the collection of dues from its divisions unless, as a start, the deficient states at least bring up their percentages of dues to equal that of their individual percentage share of Polish Americans constituted in PAC's 17 states and the District of Columbia.
- Though on a positive note in anticipation of the deficient states initiating corrective action, and in the hope that all the remaining states will sustain their efforts to remain in the "dues exceed" category in column 7 of the chart displayed in **IV** above, it would still be highly unrealistic to think that the Polish American Congress could derive a future financial windfall based on annual dues from just its current presence in 17 states and the District of Columbia. That's precisely why we must expand to **other** states as well.
- As it relates to dues, the matter of expansion generally, as opposed to expanding divisions to new states, has yet another dimension so well illustrated recently. In this regard, Frank Milewski and our Downstate NY division should be commended for demonstrating successfully the possibility for establishing chapters -- as they did with the Long Island chapter -- in states with very large Polish American populations.

#### **VI. BECOMING ATTRACTIVE BY DEMONSTRATING AN OBJECTIVE-DRIVEN MISSION:**

One rightfully may ask, "What should we do?" I offer some considerations based on my experience with the response to my San Diego appeal for assistance with Visa Waiver for Poland Resolutions in state legislatures (with AZ, CA, IL, TX responding in San Diego), along with other recommendations based on the current political milieu as follows:

- With the national fraternal organizations that are represented in the Polish American Congress, surely there must be some individuals that through their organizational contacts nation-wide could provide us names of other individuals who might be inclined to start **new PAC divisions or chapters** in states not having a Polish American Congress presence at this time. This was the essence of my **Task Force Raclawice** appeal for help in San Diego.
- Only one such response, that being from the **Polish Women's Alliance of America**, has come forth with a suggestion, the result of which has Barbara Miller, PWAA Treasurer and National Director, working with me on a prospect, but PAC needs more such prospects and it needs them soon for the reasons identified above.
- The essential point, it should be remembered, for expanding divisions or chapters into **new** states should not be driven solely by the prospect of improving our finances, but rather by the objective of expanding our presence and voice to more of the 33 non-PAC states that currently do not have an experienced, politically-focused Polonia articulation. Achieving that articulation, supported by publicity, will influence increased membership.
- As we expand into new states, we are likely to attract more attention and importantly, influence many more of the typical 61% of state legislators and executive branch and mayors who became members, for example, of the

109<sup>th</sup> United States Congress. In general, it should be relatively easier for PAC activists to travel to their state capitals or travel to their local city hall for that matter in the case of a mayor expressing interest in becoming a candidate for the United States Congress than it is to travel to Washington, DC, although engaging members of the United States Congress in our nation's capital is also a very important obligation of our fellow CND members and others in the Polish American Congress. Furthermore, we must not forget that all members of the United States Congress maintain local offices in their home states, usually in the state capital.

- In short, once a year at the least, each PAC division president **should lead a PAC delegation to his/her state's capital** to begin the process of educating state legislators and executive branch officers and as well to their local city hall as referenced above on matters of concern to Polish American **voters** in their respective PAC states and cities, remembering full well that some two out of every three of these state and municipal leaders will typically become members of the United States Congress. Furthermore, all of our PAC states with multiple divisions will require that their presidents act in a concerted effort to support this day as a single unified event. That day should become known as **"Polish American Congress Day at the State House"**, another recommendation that I made in San Diego in 2006. As a related example, the presidents of the two PAC divisions in Massachusetts acted in concert to stage their first such day in the State House in May of 2007. If MA can do it, other PAC divisions should be able to do it as well. PAC divisions must let their state legislators and executive branch officers know, for example, that our PAC is constituted as a nationally organized body of political activists representing the concerns of all Americans of Polish descent in our divisions, and by extension, Polish Americans nationally.
- Similarly, I recommend again as I did in San Diego that we should select sites for our CND meetings based on strategic considerations. A Washington, DC site, for example, would enable us to initiate my recommended **"PAC Day on Capitol Hill"** venture on a trial basis at least, perhaps in June 2009 on an alternating year basis. But first we should meet in the Washington, DC area early in October 2008, and should now be planning a protocol to **invite both candidates for the office of President of the United States** to address us at separate times during our CND Meeting. By sending the invitations, we place ourselves in a win-win situation. If our invitations are accepted, that's great for us. If we are turned down or our invitation goes unacknowledged, we should then publicize widely – with mainstream American media included -- that the candidate is disinterested with the concerns of Polish American citizens and voters.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

By pursuing the practices identified in part VI of this report:

- Our state divisions will become more skilled in techniques that can be employed in Washington, DC as well. Engaging state legislators and executive branch officers, and occasionally, municipal level executive branch officers, is in short, **very good training** for engaging our nation's federal legislators and executive branch.
- Also as noted above, with our PAC having a clearly broader obligation to educate and influence federal legislators and executive branch in Washington, DC, our divisions should always be prepared to **respond energetically** to the legislative alerts originating in our Washington, DC office with Barbara Borzuchowska Andersen and Cas Lenard.
- Our state divisions will learn **not to be discouraged** by setbacks (e.g., VWP), because setbacks and advances are in the nature of the give and take of politics and political activity. Though the IL state legislative VWP process seems to be taking a long time, it also did in MI, but in MI fellow CND member Jerry Surowiec was relentless in pressing the matter by way of Representative Steve Bieda, and the net result was passage of a VWP Resolution in June 2006. In short, we must never give up the struggle.
- Therefore, despite the recent setback in the United States Congress that disallowed Poland's entry into the Visa Waiver Program, and the current second thoughts expressed by our government about the wisdom of the entire Visa Waiver Program which might enable al-Qaeda trained European terrorists to enter the United States easily, the Polish American Congress must not abandon its energetic and focused efforts to secure Poland's entry into the Visa Waiver Program so long as that Program remains in existence. **Anything less than that on our part would abandon Poland to a second or third-class relationship with the United States.**
- Finally, the Polish American Congress should, in my opinion, sustain and demonstrate its strategic objectives and mission-driven perspective in everything it does.

(NOTE: The preceding report was submitted to the Executive Committee of the Polish American Congress on September 26, 2007 by **Anthony J. Bajdek, National Vice President for American Affairs.**)

## **D. THE PASSING OF CASIMIR I. LENARD (1918 – 2007), AMERICAN AND POLONIAN PATRIOT**

Colonel (AUP, ret.) **Casimir I. Lenard**, veteran of three U.S. wars and fighter for the betterment of the Polish American community and the people of Poland, died in at age 89 in the late afternoon on Friday, December 7 after a long illness. At exactly the same moment, the Polish American Congress - the organization with which he was closely associated for more than 30 years - was holding a recognition ceremony during which Lenard was awarded with the first-ever **Polish American Congress Medal of Freedom**.

"Poles around the world are in mourning over this terrible loss of someone who served in the trenches fighting for freedom around the world," said Frank J. Spula, President of the Polish American Congress. "Cas and his late wife Myra, both of whom served as directors of the Washington D.C. office of the Polish American Congress, worked tirelessly on behalf of our organization for the betterment of more than 10 million Americans of Polish heritage. We honor his memory like we do for Kościuszko, Pułaski and all those who have honored the Polish motto 'For Your Freedom and Ours.'"

Cas Lenard was born on March 10, 1918 to a family of Polish immigrants in Chicago. At the age of 10 he was enrolled in the Jesuit Gimnazjum in Chyrów, Poland, where he completed the eight-year course of study. Upon his return to the United States he attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economic History. In reaction to the September 1, 1939, Nazi invasion of Poland he joined, as a private, the Chicago Black Horse Troop, 106th Cavalry, Illinois National Guard. In 1941 he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Cavalry with duty at Fort Riley, Kansas. He requested and was assigned to the 1st U.S. Infantry Division - "The Big Red One" - scheduled to be the first U.S. Army unit to go overseas (on the H.M.S. Queen Mary, August 2, 1942).

As a member of the 1st Reconnaissance Troop, Lenard was engaged in overseas combat duty from 1942 to 1945. He participated in "Operation Torch" with the 1st Infantry Division as part of the Center Task Force amphibious landing on November 8, 1942 at Oran, North Africa; in "Operation Husky", one of the largest combined operations of World War II- for the invasion of Sicily, on July 10, 1943 at Gela, Sicily; and, in the D-Day amphibious landing of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry Division on June 6, 1944 at Omaha Beach, Normandy, France. He also served as press and radio censor with the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in London, Paris, Spa (Belgium), and Luxembourg City.

After his discharge from Army active duty in 1945, he married **Casimira (Myra) Lamot**, and participated in his family restaurant business, known as "Lenard's Little Poland" in Chicago and "Lenard's Casino" Summer Resort in Beverly Shores, Indiana.

During the Korean War, he volunteered for active army duty from August 1951 to 1957, under special assignment with the Headquarters Berlin Command and later at Headquarters Fifth U.S. Army in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1962, he was selected from more than forty candidates nationwide, for a five-year tour of active duty with the General Staff at the Pentagon, where he became Chief of the Army Intelligence Reserve Office. Starting in 1967 he served one year in Vietnam, as Commanding Officer, Technical Intelligence Detachment, and later as director, U.S. Element Combined Military Interrogation Center in Saigon (disseminating studies and reports world-wide.) From September 1968 to June 30, 1970 he was a military intelligence research analyst at the U.S. Army Institute of Land Combat at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Colonel Lenard retired after 30 years of distinguished military service, for which he was awarded the **Silver Star Medal with Cluster**, the **Legion of Merit**, the **Meritorious Service Medal**, the **Bronze Star Medal with "V" for Valor**, the **French Croix de Guerre with Palm**, and seven overseas campaign ribbons (Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes-Alsace and Rhineland) and numerous other citations, the last being the **Normandy Medal of the Jubilee of Liberty**, presented by Virginia Congressman Thomas M. Davis III on Capitol Hill on May 15, 2001.

Upon retirement from the military, he became the first Executive Director of the Polish America Congress, Washington D.C. Office, from July 1970 to 1974.

After leaving the Polish American Congress Washington D.C. Office in 1974, he became Project Manager of the US Bicentennial Ethnic Racial Council, which organized nationwide conferences and coordinated local and national U.S. Bicentennial activities, providing many opportunities for Polonia participation. From 1991 to 2000, as a volunteer and team member he worked with Myra on a large number of projects, such as: the administration of grants from the National

Endowment for Democracy (NED), totaling several million dollars, through the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation (PACCF), to support the budding Polish underground, Solidarity, and Citizens' Committees with urgently needed technical resources and finances; playing a lead role with Myra in supporting Poland's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); reinvigorating national ethnic community leaders into the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) to work harmoniously on common issues, precipitated by threats of Russian moves at re-establishing its sphere of influence in Central and Eastern Europe, most specifically US Foreign Assistance programs and NATO enlargement; forming, in the final days of the campaign, the NATO Ratification Working Group, going beyond the ethnic organizations to include nationwide veterans, religious, and union groups to support the ratification in the US Senate of the accession of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO.

Colonel Lenard also served on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, Baltimore Office, which is the seat of the International Tracing Center for uniting families separated by war; as well as membership as a board member of the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition of more than 140 nationwide organizations including 13 Polish American organizations, working for the passage of the Flag Protection Amendment to the US Constitution. He was well-known for his advocacy of close relations between Poles and Jews, the two groups that suffered the most under German Nazi rule.

For his work with the Polish American Community, the Polish American Congress, and dealing with improving Poland's position in the world, Colonel Lenard and his wife Myra, either jointly or as individuals, received, among others, the following awards:

- **Commander's Cross of The Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland with Star**, presented by Jerzy Kózmiński, Poland's Ambassador to the USA (individually, on February 25, 2000);
- **Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland**, presented by Poland's Foreign Minister, Władysław Bartoszewski (individually, on May 3, 1995);
- A Polish Cavalry saber with inscription "**For Your Freedom and Ours From the Grateful Nation of Poland**," presented by Poland's Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek during the NATO Summit in Washington DC (jointly, in April 1999);
- The Polish National Alliance's "**Gold Cross Legion of Honor**" (awarded jointly in December, 1998) by Mr. Edward J. Moskal, President of Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress;
- The Polish Apostolate "**Pride of Polish American Community Award**," presented by Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit on August 29, 1999 (awarded jointly);
- The **Founders Award** (presented individually on November 22, 1992) by the PAC Washington Metropolitan Area Division;
- The **Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland** by Lech Kaczyński, President of the Republic of Poland, presented by Poland's Defense Minister Mr. Aleksander Szczygło on July 15, 2007;
- The **Polish American Congress Medal of Freedom** (awarded individually) on December 7, 2007.

"Cas' loyalty and devotion were, outside of his family, always first and foremost to the Polish American community here in the United States," Spula added. "He was a soldier in every sense of that word and his example of selfless dedication was inspiring for all who had the privilege of working with him. This organization, like many others, needs many Cas Lenards to succeed."

When he was awarded the Polish American Congress Medal of Freedom, in a ceremony that due to his illness he could not attend, Lenard issued the following greeting: "*Of all of my associations, my involvement with the Polish American Congress and time with the Washington Office are some of the most memorable and rewarding. I know that my wonderful life partner, Myra, felt the same way. I accept this honor on behalf of both of us.*"

Myra Lenard died on May 1, 2000. They are survived by their three children: George, Antoinette and Elizabeth as well as their grandson Jeffrey Lenard, a member of the Washington D.C. Fire Department.

Colonel Casimir I. Lenard was buried with full military honors and laid to rest next to his beloved wife Myra at Arlington National Cemetery on February 14, 2008, following a Mass of Christian Burial in the Ft. Myer Chapel.

(Prepared by **Barbara Borzuchowska Andersen**, Ph.D., PAC Director of Research, Washington, DC Office.)

**E. BAJDEK INITIATES PROCESS FOR STATE RESOLUTIONS IN MICHIGAN AND NEW YORK AS WELL AS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS PURSUANT TO THE COMMEMORATIVE STAMP BEING ISSUED HONORING MATT LOUIS URBAN (1919 – 1995)**

So as to bring pressure to bear on the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring Matt Louis Urban, National Vice President for American Affairs Anthony J. Bajdek developed the following Resolution below for use of NY PAC Presidents **Theresa Bunk** (Central NY), **Frank Milewski** (Downstate NY), and **Richard Solecki** (Western NY), MI PAC President **Mariusz Szajnert**, and United States Congressman **John Larson** of CT which will be adjusted to reflect its tripartite origin:

**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 Lô, 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 acknowledgement 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 7<sup>th</sup> Purple Heart required some two years of reconstructive surgery to his vocal cords 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; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the legislature of the state of New York acting concurrently with the legislature of the state of Michigan, by way of this Joint Resolution of both houses of the legislature, respectfully directs the United States Postal Service to redress its partial recognition in identifying the most decorated American combat soldier of World War II by issuing a commemorative stamp honoring the worthy, shared singular distinction equally earned by Matt Louis Urban; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the United States Postal Service perform this necessary action expeditiously, both in the spirit of good will and of portraying accurately an historical aspect of World War II currently exemplified in other examples by way of Ken Burns’ acclaimed PBS documentary, *The War*, which not only serves to entertain but also, most importantly, educate our fellow Americans about the facts of our no-longer recent past, and its “Greatest Generation”.

**F. HELP PUBLICIZE THE 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF POLES IN JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA IN 2008**

Just mail or give one of the four enclosed “400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Polish Pioneers arriving at the Jamestown colony in Virginia” postcards to relatives and friends. It 1608 the Jamestown colony included not only English colonists but also Poles and Germans as well. **Don’t let anyone forget** that Poles constituted one of the three European nationalities in the colony.

Exhibit your Polish pride by being in Jamestown this coming fall for the commemorative ceremonies.

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