

400th anniversary commemoration of the arrival of the first Polish craftsmen in Jamestown

Frank Spula, PAC President, and Debbie Majka, Chairman, confirm the 400th anniversary commemoration of the arrival of the first Polish craftsmen in Jamestown, Virginia, on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, at the historic Jamestown settlement.

Polish craftsmen, skilled in the production of potash, soap, tar and glass manufacturing, arrived at the first English colony in the New World at the invitation of Captain John Smith, who had become acquainted with them in Europe and knew of their skills and industry. Eleven years after their arrival in 1619, the Poles successfully led the first strike in the New World for equal rights. They had contributed so much to ensure the survival of the colony that when advised by the Governor that they would be excluded from voting in an upcoming election, said, "no vote, no work". Such was their value to the colony that they were granted the right to vote.

To coincide with the commemorative ceremonies, the Polish American Congress will hold its Fall National Council of Directors Meeting and Elections in Williamsburg, VA, on Thursday, October 2, and Friday, October 3, if needed. Rooms at a rate of \$129/night at the Marriott listed

All Polonia is invited to participate in this historic event. For more information, contact the Chairperson: dziecko2@comcast.net.

below have been reserved and the room rate will apply to Sept. 30 and October 3, as well as to the Oct. 1 & 2 dates.

*Marriott Williamsburg
50 Kingsmill Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
Phone: 1-757-220-2500
Fax: 1-757-221-0653*

The hotel is ideally situated near Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown and Busch Gardens so participants may wish to make vacation plans and bring their children and grandchildren.

Representatives of both the United States and Polish governments and Labor Union representatives are expected to attend this event, which will include a wreath laying ceremony at the remains of the original glasshouse, placement of a commemorative plaque at the historic Jamestown site and indoor ceremonies with prominent speakers, musical selections provided by the Polish Singers Alliance of America and a concluding reception. Publication of a commemorative journal is planned as well.

JAMESTOWN LESSON PLAN

„Beginning of Democracy: The Polish Experience at Jamestown” is a 16-page lesson plan created by the Center for Politics, a federally sponsored project at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, through the involvement of the American Center for Polish Culture in cooperation with the National Conference for the Social Studies. It contains plans for two levels – high-school and middle-school – and is suitable for history, civics and other social studies classes. It's important to disseminate this as widely as possible in preparation for the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Poles at Jamestown in 1608. The lesson plan may be downloaded as a pdf file from the ACPC web-site: polishcultureacpc.org. Please, download it, feel free to use it and do your utmost to get it into the hands of educators in your respective areas. You may wish to establish a link from your web-site to the ACPC lesson plan.

Casimir Lenard, veteran of three U.S. wars and fighter for the betterment of the Polish American community and the people of Poland, dies at 89

WASHINGTON D.C. - Col. Casimir I. Lenard AUS (Ret.) died Friday, December 7, 2007, of a long illness.

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 Chyrow, 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 2nd Lieutenant, 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.

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 40 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.

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 of 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.