



# POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2

Your Voice  
in *America!*



## President's Message



Frank J. Spula, President

Dear Members, Officers, and Friends of the Polish American Congress,

As we enter Spring, I hope things are going well for you and your family. 2019 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Polish American Congress. We can be proud of the many actions our organization has taken over the past seven-plus decades on behalf of the Polish American community here in the United

States, as well as in Poland. I hope you will join me as the Council of National Directors meets in Chicago, May 9 & 10. This gathering will highlight the important contributions the PAC has made during its existence.

One of the signature moments of the PAC was its efforts to secure Poland's admission into NATO. This event officially took place on March 12, 1999. During the ensuing twenty years, no one can dispute the significance of this action on the national security of Poland in Eastern Europe. During our meeting, Professor Emeritus Donald Pienkos will share the background of the Polish American Congress' efforts to lobby successfully for Poland's inclusion in the NATO Alliance. I know you will enjoy his presentation entitled, "Eyewitness to History." Another highlight of the May meeting will be a special banquet held to honor and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Polish American Congress. Several dignitaries have been invited. I am hopeful many will join us in marking this special occasion in our organization's history.

During our business meeting, each state division will be asked to give a 3-5 minute summary of their divisions' accomplishments throughout the span of their organization's existence. *(Continued on next page...)*

## DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Future PAC Newsletters will be sent out:

Deadline for submission	Publication date
Friday, June 7, 2019	Friday, June 14, 2019
Friday, August 2, 2019	Friday, August 9, 2019
Friday, October 4, 2019	Friday, October 11, 2019
Friday, December 6, 2019	Friday, December 13, 2019

"Your Voice in America" newsletter is published bimonthly 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.

Articles are due according to this schedule. Send your submissions to PAC National VP for Public Relations, Mark Pienkos at [markpienkos2012@gmail.com](mailto:markpienkos2012@gmail.com).

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[www.facebook.com/pages/Polish-American-Congress](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Polish-American-Congress)



I look forward to these presentations as I know all present will gain a greater appreciation of the efforts expended to share our proud Polish history, traditions, and culture with those we serve in our respective communities.

Please make a special effort to attend the 2019 Council of National Directors Meeting in Chicago on May 9 & 10. Registration and hotel information is being sent out from our national office in Washington, D.C., as well as can be found in our PAC newsletter.

Easter is Sunday, April 21st. I wish you, your family and friends a blessed time during this special time of the year.

Sincerely,

*Frank J. Spula*

Frank J. Spula, President

## THE 2019 COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS AND 75TH JUBILEE OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

**The Council will take place at Hyatt Rosemont located at 6350 N River Rd, Rosemont, IL 60018 Chicago from May 9-10, 2019.**

Early Bird registration will run until April 30, 2019. After this date registration for CND will be \$100 more expensive.

To download the registration form and for information about fees, please visit: <http://www.pac1944.org/meetings/>.

**Start: Thursday, May 9 at noon**

**75th Jubilee Banquet: Thursday, May 9 in the evening**

**End: Friday, May 10 around 5:00 pm**

After conference: option to visit The Polish Museum of America or tour of Chicago on Friday in the afternoon. The trip is contingent upon number of participants.

Please send your checks for 2019 CND, 75th Jubilee Banquet and trip to the National Office c/o Klara Wisniewska, 1612 K St. NW, Suite 1200, Washington D.C. 20006.

To book a room at Hyatt Rosemont, please visit <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/ROSEM/G-PNAL>. The price is \$139 per night and includes breakfast.

For the CND, each President should prepare a 3 to 5 minute presentation on their division's history in the PAC, and major accomplishments.

Due to our office not being open on Mondays and Tuesdays, please call the National Office if you have any questions; the National Office can be contacted Wednesday through Friday during business hours at 202-296-6955.

**Please Plan To Attend!**



## Polish Army Developing Dynamically in NATO



Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak  
at the Air Force base in Mińska Mazowiecki.

Photo by TVP3 Warszawa

March 9, 2019

During his speech at an Air Force base in Mińsk Mazowiecki, central Poland, Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak said that for the last 20 years, the Polish army has been active in developing NATO security structures, contributing to many foreign missions. “Poland’s military forces have been developing dynamically since the country joined NATO 20 years ago,” said Błaszczak. Twenty military units in Poland, including the one in Mińsk Mazowiecki held picnics and military shows to celebrate the anniversary. Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary marked Tuesday, March 12, 2019 as the two decade anniversary of becoming members of NATO.

## U.S. AMBASSADOR VOWS TO HELP LIFT VISAS

The U.S. ambassador in Warsaw has vowed to help lift visas for Poles who are traveling to America by the end of her term in office.

*Polsat News*  
March 23, 2019

In an interview aired by private television broadcaster Polsat News on March 21, 2019, Georgette Mosbacher said she was working to make Poland part of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program by the time she leaves her post in Warsaw. When asked if the visa requirement for Poles could be scrapped still this year, Mosbacher replied: “Hopefully this year, but before I leave.” Moreover, U.S. State Secretary Mike Pompeo said during a visit to Warsaw last month that he hoped visa requirements for Poles traveling to America would be revoked “soon.” “There are a set of requirements that we have in place. Poland is getting closer and closer,” Pompeo said at the time.

As of right now, the threshold for a country to enter the U.S. Visa Waiver Program is a 3-percent refusal rate. According to the U.S. State Department, American consulates in Warsaw and Kraków in 2017 rejected 5.9 percent of visa applications submitted by Poles, up from a record low of 5.37 percent in 2016. Currently, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Croatia are the only EU member countries not included in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

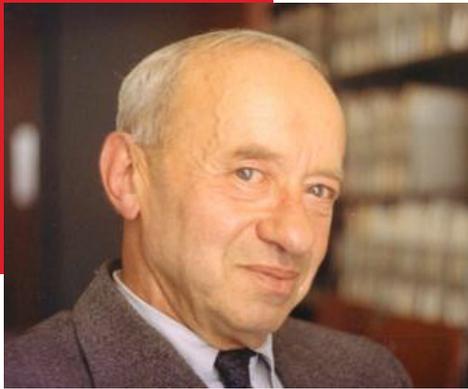


Georgette Mosbacher

Georgette Mosbacher/Twitter via U.S. Embassy in Warsaw

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# *Movers and Shakers*



***Alfred Tarski***

*Warsaw, Poland*

*January 14, 1901 – October 26, 1983*

Tarski was a Polish logician, mathematician, and philosopher. He was educated at the University of Warsaw and became a member of the Lwów–Warsaw school of logic and the Warsaw school of mathematics and philosophy. He later emigrated to the USA in 1939 where he became a naturalized citizen in 1945. Moreover, Tarski taught and carried out research in mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley from 1942 until his death. A prolific author best known for his work on model theory, metamathematics, and algebraic logic, he also contributed to numerous other subjects: abstract algebra, topology, geometry, measure theory, mathematical logic, set theory, and analytic philosophy.



***Pola Negri***

*Lipno, Poland*

*January 3, 1897 – August 1, 1987*

Pola Negri was a Polish stage and film actress who achieved worldwide fame during the silent and golden eras of Hollywood and European film for her tragedienne and femme fatale roles. Raised in the Congress Kingdom of Poland, Negri studied ballet and acting in Warsaw, becoming a well-known stage actress there. In 1917 she relocated to Germany, where she began appearing in silent films for the Berlin-based UFA studio, and afterward, she signed with Paramount in 1922, making her the first European actor in history to be contracted in Hollywood. Negri spent her later life largely outside the public sphere. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1951, and spent the remainder of her life living in San Antonio, Texas, where she died of pneumonia secondary to a brain tumor for which she refused treatment in 1987.

Portrait of Pola Negri for *A Woman Commands* by Russell Ball.

# U.S. PERMANENT MILITARY BASE IN POLAND: FAVORABLE SOLUTION FOR THE NATO ALLIANCE



*Grzegorz Kuczyński*  
Director of Eurasia Program, Warsaw Institute, Poland

*Krzysztof Kamiński*  
President, Warsaw Institute, Poland

*Special Report*  
February 11, 2019.

A U.S. permanent military base in Poland will unquestionably contribute to the improvement of the security in the key European region while dramatically increasing the potential for deterring Russia and preventing Moscow from carrying out its hitherto activities. Not only does this translate into a greater protection of the territories of Poland and other countries of NATO's eastern flank, but also those of the entire continent as such an undertaking results in a lower probability of an armed conflict. Militarily speaking, even a large U.S. unit is not capable of influencing the current balance of power while Russia will be granted a considerable advantage over the allied forces in all countries that would be most exposed to a potential conflict. Though, while envisaging the ongoing state of affairs, even the very presence of U.S. troops is perceived in terms of an important undertaking. Russia will not risk the death of American citizens, though; basically, a permanent U.S. presence will deter the Russians to the greater extent than a rotational one as the former is more resistant to any instances of political turmoil in Poland and the United States.

The idea of a U.S. permanent military base in Poland is also advocated by Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Romania, and Ukraine; all being most at risk from Russian military aggression. Nonetheless, such countries as Russia and Belarus and most of the Western European states, including Germany, seem rather skeptical or even negative about the plan to establish any U.S. military headquarters. Interestingly, the dividing line between both supporters and opponents of the U.S. permanent base fairly coincides with the one observed in the case of the construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.

Setting up a permanent military base would be of large geopolitical importance not only for Poland and its bilateral relations with the United States, but it would also positively influence the situation in Central and Eastern Europe. In the context of current security ties, it is difficult to talk about purely bilateral cooperation whilst such an alliance should not be opposed to any initiatives taken at a multilateral level. The Polish-American agreement would

not impede any NATO structures; quite the contrary, such a deal could potentially strengthen the alliance, complementing multilateral commitments of its allies. Here, two member states conclude a contract supposed to serve the same purpose as the aforementioned multilateral obligations (aiming to stop Russia's military undertakings), even in spite of any objection from another state, as could be the case of Germany.

A United States base will thus reinforce NATO's eastern flank while providing the U.S. with both political and economic benefits. First of all, the U.S. permanent military base in Poland will unquestionably bolster the potential for deterring Russia. The fact of deploying land forces to the Polish territory will give a strong signal that the United States respects its allied commitments towards Poland and all European states. Located at the strategic point of NATO's eastern flank, the permanent U.S. military base in Poland corroborates Washington's commitments to the Alliance and the fact that NATO is perceived by the Americans as the most important means of ensuring security both for Europe as well as for themselves.



Source: Sputnik News



Source: Reuters



To: *All Our National Directors, Members, And Friends*

From: *Your Polish American Congress Executive Committee . . .*





# From the Bookshelf



This incredible true story recounts how Henry Zguda, a Polish (Catholic) competitive swimmer, survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps to later live the American dream. At times humorous, always gut-honest, this account fills a huge gap in historical accounts of Poles during World War II. Henry's story is backed by authentic documents and photos and meticulous research that includes travel to Poland and Germany. The book has garnered many awards and is listed as recommended reading on Poland by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles. (<https://losangeles.msz.gov.pl/en/news/books/>)

Katrina Shawver is an experienced writer, speaker, and author. She wrote columns in the Arizona Republic for eleven years. In 2002, she met Henry Zguda, an eighty-five-year-old Polish (Catholic) survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald during WWII. He lived a mile from her house. She soon offered to write his story, knowing very little about Poland at the time, as she is not Polish. She spent fifteen years researching Poland, World War II, and the Holocaust. Katrina is the recipient of the 2018 Polish Heritage Award from the Polish American Congress of Arizona for "her contribution to the documentation of the suffering inflicted on Polish people during the Holocaust."

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# POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

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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.

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