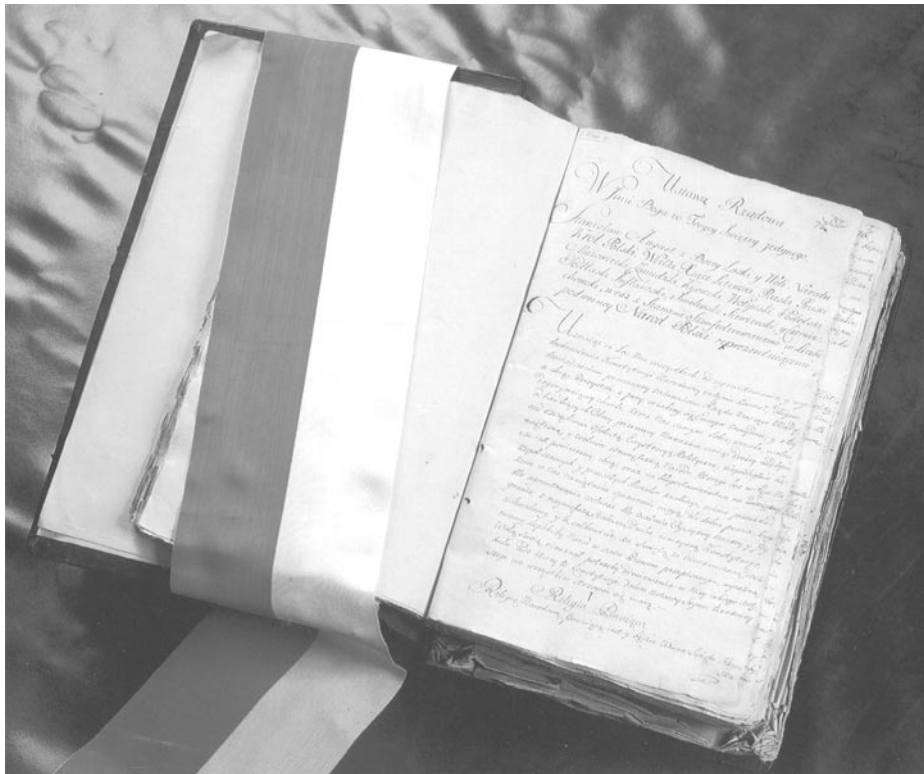


## Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791 Continues to Unite Polonia Around the World!



### Brief background of the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 The World's Second Oldest Democratic Constitution

Inspired by the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution of 1787, the people of Poland formed and adopted the first democratic constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791. This became the second democratic constitution in the world.

At one time, Poland was a powerful force in Europe. However, by the latter part of the 18th century, discord within the country made it a target for surrounding aggressors. In an attempt to unite the people of Poland against its enemies, the Constitution of the 3rd of May was adopted. Despite a tradition of monarchies and empire-building shared by the nations surrounding Poland, the authors of the May 3, 1791 Constitution proposed a democratic form of government. Their inspiration came from the American Revolution in which Polish patriots such as Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski had participated. The participants and observers of the American efforts to establish freedom and civil rights influenced the course of the new Polish government.

Now after many years of oppression, Poland has a free and independent government, a government dedicated to the same democratic ideals of the Polish Constitution of 1791. Over the years, the endless Polish quest for freedom, peace and justice, and the ideals of the May 3rd Constitution united the Polish nation and the world's Polonia. This same indomitable Polish spirit continues to unite Polonia worldwide.

Polonia all over the world celebrate the Polish Constitution as another opportunity to unite people of Polish heritage. It is another opportunity to publically bring attention to the fact that Poland was the second country in the world to recognize the rights of people in their pursuit of freedom, peace and justice.

See more info about Poland's May 3rd Constitution on the Internet at: [PolishAmericanCenter.org](http://PolishAmericanCenter.org).

### Congratulations Polish Museum of America 70 Years of Service to Polonia

The Polish Museum of America, founded in 1935 as the Archives and Museum of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), and the oldest ethnic Museum in America, is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year. In April, 1960, the museum was incorporated as The Polish Museum of America, an independent not-for-profit organization that is separate from PRCUA. Its mission is to preserve the Polish past in America and to promote study of the history and culture of Poland. It has rendered invaluable services to the Polish American community, especially to historians, researchers and students.

Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, the Polish American Cultural Center in historic Philadelphia and the entire Polonia extend congratulations to the Polish Museum of America. Not only Sto Lat but Dwiescie Lat!

### Polish Museum of America

America's First Ethnic Museum  
984 North Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60622

773-384-3352 • <http://pma.prcua.org>

### Polish Constitution Day Programs

The Polish American Congress will mark the **216th Anniversary of Poland's May 3, 1791 Constitution**, the second oldest Democratic Constitution in the world, at events in the Philadelphia area. **All of you are invited to attend.**

**Wednesday, May 2, 2007**, Commemorative Program, sponsored by the Council of the United Polish Societies, Chester, PA, at the **Historical 1724 Court House**, Avenue of the States, Chester, PA, **9:30 A.M.** Admission free.

**Thursday, May 3, 2007**, Commemoration Program, **St. Adalbert Auditorium**, Thompson Street & Allegheny Avenue, Port Richmond section of Philadelphia, **11:00 A.M.** Following the ceremony refreshments will be served. Admission free.

**Sunday, May 6, 2007**, Mass and Youth Day Program sponsored by the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, at the **National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA.** **Mass 12:30 P.M. Youth Day Program 2:30 P.M.** Admission free.

Visit the Exhibit marking the signing of the world's first two democratic constitutions: the U.S. Constitution drafted in 1787, ratified in 1789 and Poland's Constitution drafted in 1788, enacted in 1791, at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, **308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia**, Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Admission free.

For additional information, call the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, at **215-739-3408**.

### Tune in to the Daily Polish American Radio Program

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