

**Historic Reflections Continued • April / May**



**April 20, 1920 - Vilna Offensive**

The Vilna offensive was a campaign of the Polish-Soviet War of 1919–1921. The Polish army launched an offensive on April 16, 1919 to take Vilnius (Polish: Wilno) from the Red Army. After three days of street fighting from April 19–21, the city was captured by Polish forces causing the Red Army to retreat.

**April 21, 1978 - Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz**

Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz of Poland became the first woman to sail around the world alone in a 31-foot vessel. The trip took 401 days and covered 31,166 nautical miles. On April 21, 1978, Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz completed her solo trip and gained her title “The First Lady of the Oceans”.



**April 22, 1915 - Founding**

The Polish Museum of America’s Library was founded on April 22, 1915 in Chicago, Illinois, by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. The Library collects books and information on the history of Polonia in America and on the history of Poland.



**April 23, 1989 - Mother Frances Siedliska (Beatified)**

Mother Frances Siedliska was the foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in 1875. The Sisters serve in education, health care and social services in Poland, France, England and the United States. Mother Frances Siedliska was beatified on April 23, 1989, by Pope John Paul II.



**April 24, 1908 - Józef Goslawski (Born)**

Józef Goslawski was an author of numerous monuments and portrait sculptures, sculpture caricatures, medals, coins, renovations and drawings. His early works, generally not conserved, show some influence of cubism (self-portrait, portrait of Witold Chomicz), Szukalski’s ideas (sculpture caricature of Henryk Uziembło), as well as forms similar to ideas of the Polish Applied Art Society (design of the St. Franciscus altar).



**April 25, 1333 - King Casimir the Great (Coronation)**

Poland’s King Casimir the Great reigned between 1333 and 1370. In 1364, Casimir the Great, known by his Polish name, Kazimierz Wielki, established Poland’s first university in Krakow, which became Jagiellonian University.



**April 26, 1919 - Napoleon Cybulski (Died)**

In 1895, Napoleon Cybulski discovered Adrenaline, a hormone which regulates brain and muscle activity.



**April 27, 1941 - Marian Batko (Polish Teachers’ Day)**

On April 27, Polish Teachers’ Day of Remembrance and Peace, about a thousand Polish teachers and students paid homage to the victims of the Auschwitz Nazi camp. The date coincides with the anniversary of the martyr-death in Auschwitz of the teacher Marian Batko, who gave his life for a 16-year-old fellow prisoner.



**April 28, 1943 - Nicholas Minue (Died)**

Nicholas Minue (birth unknown – died April 28, 1943) received the Medal of Honor for military service on behalf of the United States of America in World War II. He received this recognition for charging a group of German soldiers that had a machine-gun position near Medjez El Bab, Tunisia. He died during the charge. Born in Sedden, Poland, he enlisted in the United States Army in Carteret, NJ. He served in Company A, 6th Armored Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division.



**April 29, 1926 - Paul Baran (Born)**

Paul Baran was one of the early developers of the Internet, ATM technology, and DSL modem technology. He was born in Poland in 1926 and his family emigrated to Boston in 1928. Mr. Baran has connections to Philadelphia through Drexel University where he did his undergraduate work.



**WHY MY VOTE MATTERS**



Nathan Branton

Many people believe that one vote won’t make a difference, that even if they go out and cast their vote they won’t affect the outcome. However, this is not necessarily the case. Beliefs that many people share today began with only a few people, one idea sometimes from only one person. Even though those people were in the minority in terms of their beliefs, they held onto their convictions. Over time, others joined the few and became many. The Democratic and Republican parties started with one idea, with only a few people, and then they both became large enough to be two of the most influential parties

in U.S. history. Most religions started with a small group telling tales about a man who knew a man, and now many of those religions are practiced throughout the world. Freedom, equal rights, ending discrimination, all of these started as a small minority holding their beliefs until enough joined them. One became few, few became many, many became enough, and enough can become more than enough. But it all has to start with one. It can all start with me. As long as I wholeheartedly believe in my ideology and don’t bend to the majority just because I am outnumbered.

When people decide their vote won’t matter is the moment it loses value, not before, not when an opposing side has more votes, but when they give up. Voting isn’t just a trip to the booths, casting a ballot, and leaving. It’s about a person’s conviction, about how he or she wants to see the future, even if in the end that individual vote doesn’t change the outcome, it makes a statement. It tells people who they are and that others should listen to what they have to say, that they don’t switch sides simply because they are outnumbered. A vote defines where a person stands. I realize that there are many ways that a vote matters in terms of verifiable information, backed up by statistics and experts. However, to me the most important part about voting is one that isn’t so easily explained: the claim that I make when I cast my vote. The world is built on ideas of people with the resolve to stand with their beliefs.

Citizens of the United States can decide whether they want to vote to destroy what exists already, to create something new, or to protect what is already present. All of the people that can vote affect the scenario. Some people feel fear because of this, for many reasons. Some fear that when they choose a side, they will become the enemy of the opposing side and thus subjected to ridicule or constant targeting; some fear that they will be on the losing side, some fear the change that could occur brought about by their vote. Ultimately, they all can be whittled down to their core, which is the same for each: fear of responsibility—fear that a heavy weight will be placed on them when they cast their vote. Nonetheless, I find it not only selfish but woefully irresponsible to have such a powerful tool and be too afraid to use it. If you want to get something done, you stand up and tell others of your belief. Tell others in the hope that they will join, and tell the ones who disagree. Let them know you won’t be oppressed by fear, that you will not be silenced by aggression. You have the power to stand up and make a difference. Use it. I plan to.

Written by Nathan Branton, 2018-2019 winner of the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest sponsored by the Gloucester Post 3620 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

**Polish Museum of America**

**America’s First Ethnic Museum**

984 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642

773-384-3352, ext. 104 • PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org

Founded in 1935, the Polish Museum of America is one of the country’s first and largest ethnic museums. Polish and Polish American history is promoted through music, artworks, and historical and cultural displays.

**Polka Deli**

2719 E. Allegheny Avenue - Philadelphia, PA 19134  
Meats & deli products - fish, pierogi & baked goods

**Telephone: (215) 634-3750**

Download and print out archived editions of the  
*Polish American News*  
from the Internet at: **PolishAmericanNews.com**

**Visit: PolishAmericanCenter.com**