

Polonia Bids Farewell to
Leon J. Fornal

A Great Promoter of Polonia and Polish Music



Leon J. Fornal, 89, of Lawrenceville, NJ, passed away on Sunday, March 3, 2019, at Morris Meadows in Lawrenceville. Known as the "Polka King" in the local area, Leon was born in Trenton, where he remained a resident in the local community.

After his years in the U.S. Marines, Leon was employed by the Mercer County Mosquito Commission and became the Superintendent, retiring in 1991 after 35 years of service to reside in Lawrenceville

with his wife, Dolores.

Leon entered the music business at an early age and started his own Polka band called the Polka Dots and later the Polka Kats. He played hundreds of weddings and events throughout Delaware Valley. He retired from the band in 1990 after nearly 40 years in the business.

Leon hosted the longest running Polka Show in New Jersey beginning in 1959. His career began at WAAT in Trenton. The 30 minute Polka Show grew to two hours at WTTM in Trenton and ultimately became "the Best 2.5 hours of Your Day" when he finally retired in 2004 from WBCB in Levittown, PA. Over the years, Leon enjoyed doing the Polka Show with his son, Tom, and his grandson, Kevin. During the 1980's and 90's, Leon organized and ran "Polka's in the Poconos" which was attended by numerous Polka performers and by thousands of fun loving Polka dancers.

As a promoter of Polish music, Leon participated in the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia, and was named the Man-of-the-Year by the Polish Police of Philadelphia. He was a member of the Polish American Congress of Trenton; he emceed radio-thons for the American Cancer Society. For nearly 20 years, Leon was the Master of Ceremonies at the Trenton Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Polish American Festival at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA.

Highlights of his professional life included a private audience he and his wife, Dolores, had with Pope John Paul II in Rome in 1996 and a luncheon at the White House with President Ronald Reagan in 1983. Son of the late Michael and Mary Honorska Fornal and husband to his late wife, Dolores Shelby Fornal, he is survived by his son, Thomas and Elizabeth Fornal; his daughter, Patricia and Dale Overton of Wentzville, MO; four grandchildren, Christopher Fornal (Carrie); Dale Overton (Gina); Shaun Overton; Kevin Fornal (Lily) and five great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Ann's Church, 1253 Lawrenceville Road. Lawrenceville, New Jersey, followed by Interment in St. Mary's Cemetery in Hamilton, New Jersey.

Memorials in Memory of

Leon A. Mankowski, Esq.
Maria Piascik
Anna M. Rakszawski
Ann Teska

In Memory of

Dorothy L. Walunas
From Joseph S. Walunas

In Memory of

Frank Romanowski
August 3, 1914 • May 22, 1996
Offered by Daughter
Theresa Romanowski

A Special Tribute To Our Supporters

Hedwig V. Kierbiedz
and
Richard J. Gastowich

Polonia Bids Farewell to
Our Friend and Supporter
Leon A. Mankowski, Esq.

LEON A. (LEE) MANKOWSKI, ESQUIRE of Audubon formerly of Valley Forge, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 28th. He was 84 years old. Son of the late Regina Czyzewski and Leon T. Mankowski, beloved husband of 57 years to Veronica (Bonnie Manno) Mankowski; Loving Father of Michael (Jennifer), Diane, Susan (Sanjiv Dhanjal). Pop of Alexander, Benjamin, Jonathan Mankowski and Roan Dhanjal.



He attended St. Adalbert's School, St. Joseph's Prep, and earned degrees from St. Joseph's University (1956) and Villanova Law School (1959) where he was a member of the Editorial Board of the Villanova Law Review.

He was a 50-year member of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States. He practiced law in Port Richmond since 1970 and enjoyed serving the community, where he was born, raised and schooled.

He served in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. The Law Alumni Chapter of St. Joseph's University awarded him the McClanaghan Award in 1999, for his service to its Board of Directors.

He was a Phillies and Eagles fan, enjoyed college basketball (especially "March Madness") and Little League (he coached in the 1970's) especially when it involved his grandsons.

In his younger years, Lee instructed Business Law at Manor College and served as a neutral Arbitrator in disputes between insureds and their carriers.

May he rest in peace.

Polonia Bids Farewell to

MARIA PIASCNIK

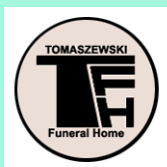
Maria Piascik passed away on Friday, March 22, 2019. She was the beloved wife of the late Zygmunt, loving mother of Richard (Elizabeth). Sadly missed by her brother Ks. Kan. Mgr. Wladyslaw, her brother in law Hank Piascik (Theresa), nephew Hank Jr., the Halasa family, along with family in Poland.



A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Czestochowa Cemetery Chapel and Interment in Czestochowa Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations were requested to the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Tomaszewski Funeral Home



Edward C. Tomaszewski, Inc. Funeral Home
2728-30 East Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134-5999
(215) 739-6624

In Recognition of a Donation to the
Polish American Cultural Center Museum
from

Casimir Kowalski

In Memory of:

Renee J. Kowalski + 2016
Katarzyna Kowalska + 1995
Stanislaw Kowalski + 1977