

From the Desk of
Lou Rakszawski
 Vice President
Polish American Congress
 Eastern PA District
 Representing Bucks County,
 Pennsylvania



Polish American traditions continue to add to the growing mosaic of America. I am pleased to extend warm wishes to Polonia in Bucks County, PA and across America as we mark October as Polish American Heritage Month and bring attention to the values of Polish faith and heritage. As chairman of the Polish American Festival at America's Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA held during the first two weekends of September, I take this opportunity to compliment the volunteers and thank the thousands of people that attended the Festival. For more than 50 years, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania has been a gathering place for Polonia and for people of all nationalities. Everyone is welcome to visit this special place in Bucks County. For more information, log on to the Shrine's Internet site: PolishShrine.com. My best wishes to members of the Polish American Congress and Polonia during Polish American Heritage Month.



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Colonel Cas Lenard Receives Grand Cross



On July 15, 2007, Col. Casimir I. Lenard (U.S. Ret.), the Executive Director of the Washington D.C. office of the Polish American Congress, was honored with the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland by Lech Kaczynski, President of the Republic of Poland.

Lenard received the award for his life's work in the cause for Poland in a ceremony at the Polish Embassy in Washington, hosted by His Excellency Janusz Reiter, Ambassador from the Republic of Poland.

Lenard, born in Chicago, was sent to Poland by his parents for studies and spent eight years in a Jesuit Academy. In 1940 he joined the armed conflict in the defense of Poland's freedom.

In 1994 and then in 2000, Lenard with his late wife, Myra, had received the Commander Cross and then the Commander Cross with Star, bestowed upon them individually, by Poland's Presidents Lech Walesa and Aleksander Kwiasniewski, respectively.

Lenard was the Executive Director of the Washington D.C. office of the Polish American Congress from 1970 to 1974, and currently serves in that office since May 2000. It was mainly during Myra's tenure as Executive Director of the Washington office from early 1980's to the time of her death in May, 2000, that great things were accomplished for the benefit of the people of Poland and the American Polonia through the teamwork of the Lenards.

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