

**Wlodek Ilnicki Awarded the
"The Cross of Freedom and Solidarity"
by Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski**



On September 26, 2012, Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski presented Wlodek Ilnicki with The Cross of Freedom and Solidarity medal at the Polish Consulate in New York. This high honor was awarded to Mr. Ilnicki for his patriotic efforts in Poland related to Solidarity movement activities. On December 14, 1970, demonstrations protesting price rises broke out in Gdansk, and then in Gdynia on the next day. In that town, five thousand workers marched to the headquarters of the Communist Party and City Hall to voice their demands. At the head of this march was Wlodek Ilnicki, urging the crowd to remain calm so the Communists could not accuse the people of provocation or vandalism. For the first time in history, the protesters formed the PRL (Polish People's Republic), a legal Strike Committee for the City of Gdynia. Ilnicki was elected vice president. That evening, while debating the workers' next move, all Committee members were brutally beaten, arrested and jailed in Wejherowo. Meanwhile in Gdynia soldiers, who had orders to keep workers from returning to work, fired into the crowd of workers emerging from trains on December 17, 1970. Eighteen people were killed and thousand wounded on a day that has become known as "Black Thursday." In prison, Wlodek was beaten again and harshly interrogated by secret police. At a discussion of the VI Congress of the Communist Party, Wlodek, although not a member of the Party, demanded the publication of the government's report on the December, 1970, events and called for a statement to honor the fallen workers. For years afterwards, he was harassed by the secret police who conducted illegal searches of his home and prohibited him from work and travel. He was even accused of being a spy. Despite all the harassment, Wlodek Ilnicki never cooperated with the secret police. For his heroic efforts in support of Polish workers' rights, Ilnicki was awarded the high honor of The Cross of Freedom and Solidarity by Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski on September 26, 2012, at the Polish Consulate in New York City.

The Polish American Congress and Polonia extend congratulations to Wlodek Ilnicki for his patriotic efforts in Poland and for his participation with the Polish American community from the time he immigrated to America. Wlodek is the husband of Barbara Ilnicki, hostess of the daily Polish American Radio Program on 860 AM Radio in the Philadelphia and tri-state areas. Their daughter Kasia, her husband Krzysztof, and grandson Oliver participate in Polish American community efforts. Sto Lat!

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**Polish National Alliance Lodge #3106 and
Polonia of South Jersey Sponsors
Polish American Heritage Month in
Vineland, New Jersey**



Following the Polish American Heritage celebration on Sunday, September 30, 2012, members of the PNA Lodge #3106 and representatives of Southern New Jersey Polish organizations gathered for a photo at Vineland's City Hall. The Polish Heritage Month Celebration consisted of a Polish Mass in Sacred Heart Church, followed by a Flag Raising Ceremony and Polish Dinner. In addition to various speakers and presentations from area elected officials, and Polish American community leaders, the P.K.M. Polish Folk Dancers performed along with the PNA Lodge #3106 Chorus.

Polish Eagles Sports Club

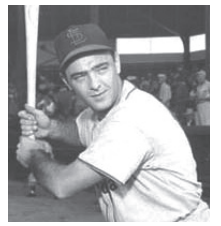
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Museum's Historic Reflections Project Part 6

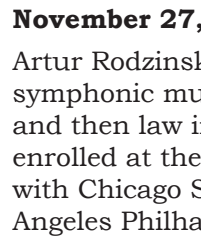
November 25, 1985 - Ray Jablonski (Died)

Ray Jablonski was a third baseman in Major League Baseball who played for the St. Louis Cardinals, Cincinnati Reds and the New York Giants. Ray Jablonski was elected to the National League All Star Team in 1954.



November 26, 1855 - Adam Mickiewicz (Died)

Adam Mickiewicz was known for his poem Pan Tadeusz and is considered one of Poland's greatest romantic poets. All of his greatest works were written in the Polish language. He is buried in Wawel Castle.



November 27, 1958 - Artur Rodzinski (Died)

Artur Rodzinski was a Polish conductor of opera and symphonic music. Rodzinski studied music in Lwów, and then law in Vienna, where he simultaneously enrolled at the Academy of Music. He was associated with Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic.



November 28, 1948 - Agnieszka Holland (Born)

Agnieszka Holland is one of Poland's most prominent filmmakers. Agnieszka Holland is best known for her movie, Europa Europa, which brought her the Golden Globe Award and her second nomination for an Academy Award.



November 29, 1830 - Polish Uprising (Event)

The famous Polish Uprising of 1830 was a revolt against Russian rule in Poland which caused one of the largest waves of immigration in Polish history to France, the United States and several other countries around the world.



November 30, 1768 - Jędrzej Sniadecki (Born)

Jędrzej Sniadecki was a Polish writer, physician, chemist and biologist. Sniadecki's most important book was entitled The Beginnings of Chemistry, the first Polish-language chemistry textbook. It is believed that Jędrzej Sniadecki was the original discoverer of the element ruthenium in 1807.

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