

From the Desk of  
**Michael Blichasz, President**  
**Polish American Cultural Center**

308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 922-1700

**Internet: [PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com)**



Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,

Polam Month, 2014

As the founder of Polish American Heritage Month and the chairman of the committee, I would like to thank everyone for their participation over the last 33 years. From the time I suggested the idea of a month-long Polish American Heritage Month celebration in Pennsylvania in 1981, this effort has been a rewarding one for me. I want to compliment the leadership of the Polish American Cultural Center and Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, for helping me get this idea off the ground and for joining forces with Polonia across Pennsylvania to make this effort a state-wide success. After five years of Heritage Month celebrations in Pennsylvania, the national leadership of the Polish American Congress, in 1986, joined with the Polish American Heritage Month Committee to expand this event to a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. Over the years Polish American organizations, churches, schools and individuals have become united in celebrating the history, culture and pride of the Polish people.

The Polish American Heritage Month Committee, headquartered at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum at 308 Walnut Street in historic Philadelphia, works closely with its participating groups, and the national affiliates of the Polish American Congress. Together, we work to coordinate everyone's efforts by providing information packets with ideas on sponsoring local celebrations, coloring and essay contests, and suggestions that highlight great men and women of Polish descent, as well as great moments in Polish history. Now available on the Committee's Internet site.

I also want to thank the leaders of the national Polish American fraternal organizations who help encourage the celebration of Polish American Heritage Month among their members and supporters through their newspapers and group representatives. Compliments also to the organizations, churches, schools, libraries and individuals who continue to work on this effort for the purpose of preserving Polish history and culture for future generations. I want to also thank the Polish American press and radio for helping get the word out about Polish American Heritage Month to the general public. Everyone's efforts are appreciated and very much needed. We live in an ever-changing time, and it is vital for ethnic groups in America to continue to highlight their individual heritage so the great mosaic of America remains vibrant.

On behalf of the members of the National Polish American Heritage Month Committee, I thank you for 33 years of cooperation and participation and urge everyone to continue sponsoring activities in your local community during October, Polish American Heritage Month.

**Visit our Internet site at: [PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com](http://PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com)**

# October "Polish American Heritage Month"

A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride!

From the Desk of  
**Michael Blichasz, President**  
**Polish American Cultural Center**  
**National Chairman**  
**Polish American Heritage Month Committee**  
308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106 • (215) 922-1700  
[PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com](http://PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com)



Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jameston, VA, Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture. In 2014, Polish Americans will mark the 33rd Anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month, an event which began in Philadelphia, PA, and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. During 2014, we will also mark the 235th Anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry.

You are asked to spread the word about Polish American Heritage Month events in your local community and invite people to view the information which is linked below, including:

- [First Polish Settlers in America](#)
- [235th Anniversary of the Death of General Casimir Pulaski](#)
- [2014 Coloring Contest](#)
- [Things to Do During October "Polish American Heritage Month"](#)
- [Tracing Your Heritage](#)
- [Recent Editions of the \*Polish American News\*](#)
- [Some Reasons Why Polish Americans are Important to America](#)

There is always something happening in the Polish American community across the United States. It's great to see that Polish American history and pride are well represented in the "**Great Mosaic of America**". One way that you can help us spread the word is by welcoming family and friends to join the Museum's email list. The [guest book registration form](#) is on the home page of the Museum's Internet site at: [PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com).

As you read the articles in the *Polish American News*, I ask that you spread the word to others. Your participation is always appreciated. **My best wishes to you and yours for an enjoyable Polish American Heritage Month celebration!**

# October

## "Polish American Heritage Month"

A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation with the Polish American Congress and Polonia across America

### News Release

Dear Editor:

PolAm Month, 2014

**Kindly make the following announcement for our organization:**

#### **Polish Americans Celebrate During October**

Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, VA, Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture. In 2014, Polish Americans will mark the 33rd Anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month, an event, which began in Philadelphia, PA, and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. During 2014, Poles will mark the **406th Anniversary** of the First Polish Settlers who were among the **first skilled workers in America**. We, therefore, will also **Salute All American Workers** and urge people to purchase the products and services offered by American workers. Polish Americans will also mark the 235th Anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry. For additional information about these historic events and Polish and Polish American history, visit the Museum's Internet site at: **PolishAmericanCenter.com**.

Information about ways to celebrate Polish American Heritage Month can be obtained by visiting the Polish American Heritage Month Committee's site at **PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com**. On this site you will find a list of "Things To Do During Polish American Heritage Month", the 2014 coloring contest artwork for schools, and Heritage Month posters that can be downloaded and printed. Copies of the coloring contest artwork can also be obtained by calling the Heritage Month Committee, Monday through Friday between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M. at 215-922-1700.

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Thank you for including this press release in your newspaper. If you need further information, kindly contact me at the telephone number listed below. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,  
**Michael Blichasz**  
Chairman

**Polish American Heritage Month Committee**

**National Headquarters: Polish American Cultural Center Museum**

308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

**Telephone:** (215) 922-1700 • **Internet:** PolishAmericanCenter.com  
or PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com

# Polish American Cultural Center Museum



Map found on NationsOnline.org

# Polish American Cultural Center Museum

PolishAmericanCenter.org

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum invites you to “Trace Your Heritage.” America is a great mosaic of many nations. However, much of our family history is undocumented. This brief outline will help you collect and organize information about your family and your heritage.

## “Tracing your Heritage”

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Where is your family's point of origin (town/region)?

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2. What was your family's means of transportation to America?

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3. Where was your family's port of entry and original place of settlement in America?

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4. How many of your family members immigrated to America?

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5. Why did your family members immigrate to America?

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6. What challenges has your family had to overcome?

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7. What other family members remained in their country of origin?

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## Detailed family information:

### My Mother

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Her Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Her Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_

### My Father

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

His Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

His Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_

### Brothers and Sisters

List Names, Dates and Places of Birth:

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Other Information:

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## Information About Myself

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_

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### Grandparents (Mother's Side)

Grandfather's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_

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Grandmother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_

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### Grandparents (Father's Side)

Grandfather's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_

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Grandmother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_

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## Brief Story of My Family

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What stories can you tell about your family, and what special customs do you celebrate?

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Why are you proud of your heritage?

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# Things to Do During Polish American Heritage Month

Listed below are suggested activities for your October celebration.

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## Community Wide

1. **Meet with your local Polish American organizations** to discuss a successful, well-coordinated Polish American Heritage Month event.
  2. **Request local elected officials to present a proclamation or special greetings to the Polish American community.**
  3. **Offer a Mass at your local church** for the intention of your area Polish American community and invite everyone to attend. Following the Mass, hold a reception with Polish pastries and refreshments, welcoming all in the spirit of Polish hospitality.
  4. **Sponsor an event to honor noted men and women of Poland.** During October we mark the death of American Revolutionary War Hero General Casimir Pulaski on October 15th. You can conduct a tribute ceremony in front of a portrait of Pulaski. You can also consider honoring people such as Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Fryderyk Chopin, Marie Sklodowska Curie and others.
  5. **Encourage people to display Polish and American flags and Polish American Heritage Month posters in their homes, organizational headquarters, banks, businesses, etc.** Flags, posters and banners help bring attention to the fact that October is National Polish American Heritage Month and that Polonia is celebrating proudly. Sample posters are available from the Heritage Month link on the Museum's Internet site at: [PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com)
  6. **Sponsor a lunch or dinner social** with Polish food, music and entertainment.
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## Youth Activities

1. **Organize an essay contest in your local schools.** Complete information on sponsoring an essay contest is available from the Museum's Internet site. You can award prizes during a school assembly or public event to encourage participation from parents and students alike. Ask local businesses and organizations to help sponsor the event and offer prizes. This is also a way to involve local teachers as judges of the essay contest.
2. **Sponsor a coloring contest.** Art work samples are available upon request from the national committee or you can download coloring forms from the Museum's Internet site. The coloring contest remains very popular in schools.

Ask local art students to organize and judge the entries. Ask a local printer to reprint

the artwork for your committee at no charge with the name of his business at the bottom as an advertisement.

3. **Sponsor a children's music or dance recital** to highlight Polish music or dance in a local auditorium, school hall or recreation center. There are children's groups that would appreciate this type of exposure. It's a great way to get people together for a positive event involving young people. Invite the general public to attend.

4. **Sponsor a Polish poster art contest** requesting area schools to highlight Polish history and culture through student art. Display their art works and sponsor an award ceremony.

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## **Cultural Displays**

1. **Organize a display at your local shopping mall or library** featuring Polish books, arts and crafts, wycinanki and paintings by Polish American artists. Contact local artists and request them to display their works at the local library, parish hall, organization hall, public or office building lobby.

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## **Media Contact & General Advertising**

1. **Display Polish American Heritage Month posters.** Sample posters are available from the National Committee, or they can be downloaded from the Heritage Month link on the Museum's Internet site at: [PolishAmericanCenter.org](http://PolishAmericanCenter.org). You can reprint these posters and encourage local stores, banks, supermarkets, churches and organizations to display the posters throughout the month of October.

2. **Contact your local newspapers, radio and TV stations** to tell them about National Polish American Heritage Month and your local activities.

3. **Ask local radio programs to mention your area Polish American events during October as part of their community bulletin board or public service announcements.** (Every radio station is required to give time for public service announcements.) You can also ask your radio stations to play a few selections written by Polish composers over the centuries and recorded by internationally famous artists. This is a way for them to bring attention to Polish American Heritage Month and highlight Polish composers.

4. **Ask local organizations, banks, businesses and elected leaders to place a "POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH SALUTE"** advertisement in local newspapers or on local radio or TV programs. Placing these salutes each week during the month of October will remind everyone about POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH. (The National Committee has an artwork for the newspaper, radio and TV salutes available upon request.)

5. **Ask area high school and college students of Polish descent to assist you with press releases, public service announcements and other activities.** Often this is a way for younger students to get extra credit for school and will allow them to be part of the Polish American Heritage Month celebration. Possibly there are individuals in your community with children who could be called upon to assist you with publicity and other efforts.

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## **Family & Friends**

1. **Start your family tree** and invite all the members of your family to get involved.
2. **Review a map of Poland** and learn more about the town or city of your ancestors.
3. **Read a book on Polish history** and share that information with family and friends.
4. **Attend a Polish American event** and invite others to attend with you.
5. **Display a Polish and American flag**, a red and white bow, or a Heritage Month poster in your home or place of business.
6. **Learn more about Polish customs** and share that information with others.
7. **Join a Polish American organization** and get involved in some way.

For more information contact the National Headquarters:

**Polish American Heritage Month Committee - Michael Blichasz, National Chairman**  
**National Headquarters: Polish American Cultural Center Museum**  
**308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106 • (215) 922-1700**



# October

## "Polish American Heritage Month"

A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation  
with the Polish American Congress and Polonia across America

### Suggestions on How to Sponsor a Coloring Contest

1. Announce that your organization is sponsoring a coloring contest.
2. Announce to area schools that will be participating in your organization's coloring contest that the contest will begin on a specific date. Also announce that all entries will be collected on a specific date. (This allows the principal to inform teachers that there is a time line for the coloring contest.)
3. **Objective** - The objective of this coloring contest is to allow students to learn something about the history of Polish people and their contributions to the world.
4. **Prize Notification** - The committee should announce on each of the coloring contest forms the type of prizes that will be awarded, as well as the date and place of the award ceremony.
5. **Prizes** - This is an excellent opportunity for you to ask area businesses, banks and organizations to provide prizes for the winners. Prizes can be cash, savings bonds or other types of articles that would be appropriate.

Each year the national committee distributes a new coloring contest artwork. Copies are free and they can be reprinted by your local printer.

If the Polish American Heritage Month Committee can be of any further assistance to you, please contact us at the address or telephone number listed below.

#### **Polish American Heritage Month Committee**

Michael Blichasz, National Chairman

308 Walnut Street - Philadelphia, PA 19106 - (215) 922-1700

Web: [www.polishamericancenter.org](http://www.polishamericancenter.org)



**Lieutenant Colonel Matt Louis Urban (1919-1995)**

This artwork depicts Lieutenant Colonel Matt Louis Urban, the most decorated combat soldier in United States history.

## Lieutenant Colonel Matt Louis Urban (1919-1995)

Born to Polish immigrant parents in Buffalo, NY, on August 25, 1919, Lt. Col. Matt Louis Urban has been recognized as the "most decorated American combat soldier of World War II." Urban was awarded a total of 29 decorations, virtually every combat medal possible, including seven Purple Hearts and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

As a U.S. Army Infantry Captain, Urban was actively involved in six major campaigns in Tunisia, Sicily, France and Belgium over a 20-month period, during which he was wounded seven times and returned to combat within days of each injury. German soldiers, who nicknamed him the "Gray Ghost" for his persistence in returning to battle, were known to aim small-arms and artillery fire at him personally and reluctantly admired him for his superior combat leadership. The legend of Urban's heroism under fire began in an assault on Hill #609 in North Africa. Despite seemingly overpowering German forces, young Captain Urban singly and successfully charged against the enemy, steadily firing and reloading his weapon and shouting words of encouragement to his troops behind him.

Lt. Col. Urban was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Jimmy Carter on July 19, 1980, and was properly recognized for his outstanding service to his country. While awarding Lt. Col. Urban the Medal of Honor, President Carter identified him as the "most decorated American combat soldier of World War II" and described his bravery in a battle on September 3, 1944, on the Meuse River in Belgium. "Captain Urban quickly moved from his command post to the lead position of the battalion. ...He personally led a charge towards the enemy's strong points. As the charge moved across the open terrain, Captain Urban was seriously wounded in the neck. Although unable to talk above a whisper from the paralyzing neck wound, and in danger of losing his life, he refused to be evacuated until the enemy was routed and his battalion had secured the crossing-point on the Meuse River. Captain Urban's personal leadership, limitless bravery, and repeated extraordinary exposure to enemy fire served as an inspiration to his entire battalion. His valorous and intrepid actions reflect the utmost credit upon him and uphold the noble traditions of the United States Army."

Lt. Col. Urban died in 1995 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

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### Let us know about your heritage!

Before returning this coloring contest entry, list the country (or countries) from which your ancestors immigrated to America:

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When You're in Philadelphia's Historic District, Visit the  
Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall  
308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 - (215) 922-1700  
Open Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. - Admission Free

# October

## "Polish American Heritage Month"

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### **America, the Nation of Many Nationalities**

People of all nationalities can reflect on their heritage and remind themselves that they are all part of the "Great American Mosaic." For centuries people from all over the world immigrated to America in search of freedom, peace and justice. From Europe, the Irish, Polish, Germans, Italians and many other nationalities came in large numbers to live in the new land of opportunity. Today, people from all over the world make up America's ethnic and racial mosaic.

In October, Polish Americans celebrate national "Polish American Heritage Month". This year everyone is asked to take time to trace their family history. To help you trace your heritage, there is a [Trace Your Heritage](#) form on the front page of the Cultural Center's website at: [PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com)

It was on October 1, 1608, that the English ship Margaret and Mary arrived at Jamestown, Virginia. The ship carried eight people of Polish descent who had been hired by the Glass Company of England to help open a glass house in the New World. After their arrival in Jamestown, this group of skilled glassmakers, along with other immigrant settlers, experienced many hardships. They did, nevertheless, accomplish their mission of building and operating the first glass house, and first factory, in America. As time passed and they made enough glass to serve the needs of the Jamestown colony, their products were then shipped to England. These glass items became the first products to be exported from America to Europe. Another noteworthy fact is that, in 1619, after eleven years in the Jamestown colony, the resolute Polish settlers staged the first labor strike in order to extend the right to vote to all members of the colony.

The arrival of the first Polish settlers in America marked a humble, yet significant, entry into American history. Over the years, people from Poland continued to emigrate to America. Today, people of Polish descent are the sixth largest ethnic group in America, residing in all fifty states and participating in every aspect of American life. They are among the tens of millions of immigrants who came to America from all over the world and are proud to call America their home. This anniversary celebration provides an excellent opportunity for persons of all national origins to reflect on the journey of their immigrant ancestors who continue to add color to the American mosaic.

**The coloring contest artwork depicts** (1) the first Polish settlers who immigrated to Jamestown, Virginia, (2) the Statue of Liberty, known as the welcoming beacon for all immigrants in search of freedom, peace and justice in the New World, and (3) maps of Poland and America to symbolize the lasting bond between these countries.

# October

## ***“Polish American Heritage Month”***

### **How to Sponsor an Essay Contest in Your Local Community**

The national Polish American Heritage Month Committee encourages all organizations to sponsor an essay contest in their area parochial or public elementary or high schools. This is an excellent way for you to involve the teachers in your area schools in a project that can benefit all of us. Area business people and banks should be contacted to donate the prizes. **We have listed below some suggestions to help you organize your essay contest.**

**TOPIC** - Select a topic on Polish history or the accomplishments of Poles or Polish Americans. You can also select a topic on Poles who are presently making history through current events.

**OBJECTIVES** - The objectives of the contest are to help inform students of the importance of our past and to gain an understanding of the history and contributions of the Polish people.

**ELIGIBILITY** - Students could be selected from grades 4 through 10, or whatever grade level your area coordinators feel is appropriate.

**ESSAY LENGTH** - The essay should be a minimum of 200 to 250 words.

**ANNOUNCING THE CONTEST** - Select a day that the contest would be announced in all area schools. Request that teachers inform all those participating that the contest will begin on a particular day and be collected on a specific date. Teachers could help the committee by eliminating all but 10 essays from each of the grade levels that will be participating. When announcing the essay contest, be sure to list all of the prizes that will be awarded.

**PRIZES** - Three top winners should be selected from the overall amount of students that will participate. They could receive cash or other prizes; (i.e. U.S. Savings Bonds or gift certificates - 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$75, 3rd - \$50.) Other prizes could be awarded along with honorable mentions for those students who displayed special efforts in writing their essay.

**ENTRY DEADLINES** - All entries should be collected on the day announced by the committee allowing at least one week between the selection and announcement of prize winners.

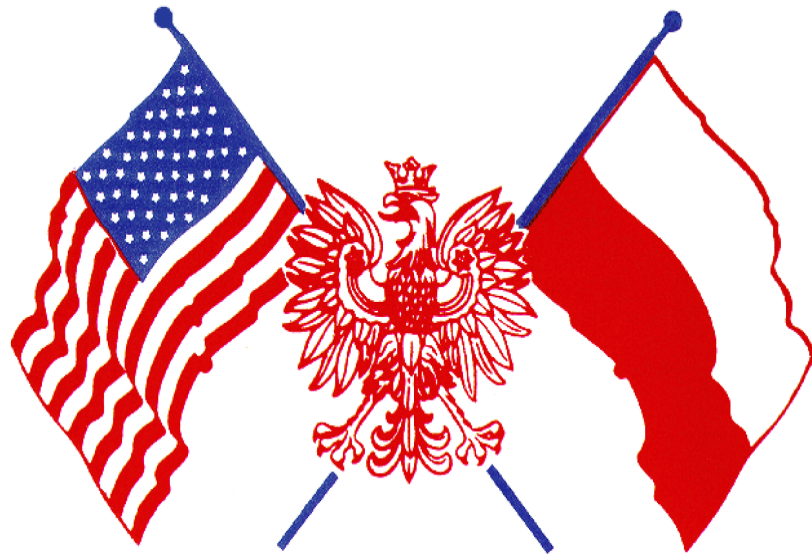
**IDENTIFICATION** - The students should use the following guidelines when returning their essays. Cover pages should include their NAME, ADDRESS, TOPIC SELECTED, SCHOOL NAME, GRADE AND DATE SUBMITTED.

**NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS** - The top winning entries should be notified at least 10 days in advance of the presentation of the awards.

**AWARD CEREMONY** - Organize an award ceremony in one of the area school auditoriums, libraries or another suitable place. Invite representatives of the participating schools to attend, and invite your area elected officials to participate in presenting the awards.

*During October We Salute Our  
Friends and Neighbors Celebrating*

# **Polish American Heritage Month**

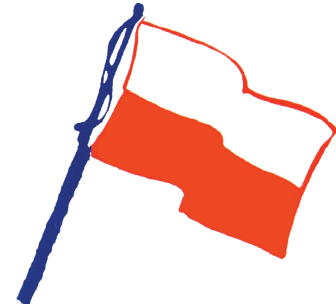


**A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation  
with the Polish American Congress and Polonia Across America**

During October We Salute Our  
Friends and Neighbors as They Celebrate



**Polish American  
Heritage Month**



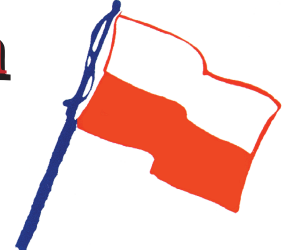
A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation  
with the Polish American Congress and Polonia across America

(Business or Organization Name Here)

*During October We Salute Our  
Friends and Neighbors As They Celebrate*



# **Polish American Heritage Month**



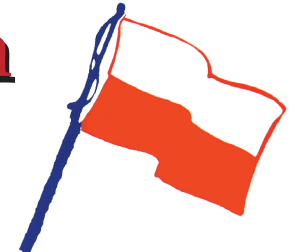
**A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation  
with the Polish American Congress and Polonia across America**

(Business or Organization Name Here)

*During October We Salute Our  
Customers, Friends and Neighbors As They Celebrate*



# **Polish American Heritage Month**



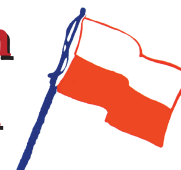
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