



**Polish Independence Day  
Veterans Day November 11, 2018**

## **Roll Of Wisconsin's One Hundred and One Sons and Daughters of Poland**

*These outstanding individuals were active mainly between 1918 and 1968:*

**Roman Tylko** of the *Polish Falcons Alliance* in Milwaukee and **S.H. Worzalla** of Stevens Point, recruiting officers for the Polish Army from America (1918-1919)

**Stanislaw Nastal, Bronislaw Szpot, Anton Leszczynski, Zygmunt Woldanski, Jozef Karas, Jozef Tyczkowski, and Michael Kopaczewski:** Volunteers from among the 750 from Wisconsin who served in the Polish Army from America, in France and in Poland, and who became active in the *Polish Army Veterans Association* after World War I

**Antoni Lukaszewski**, World War I Polish Army veteran, journalist and educator

**John Czajka**, the First U.S. officer to be killed in combat in France in World War I

**Leo Kossak** of Milwaukee's *Kosciuszko Guard* and distinguished participant in the fighting in France in 1918

**Walter Lewandowski**, Soldier in the U.S. army in World War I and later a founder of the *Polish Legion of American Veterans*

**Ralph Ignatowski**, Heroic Marine from West Allis who gave his life at the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima in 1944

**Edward Listowiak**, Recipient of the *Purple Heart* for his service in the European theater of World War II, 1942-1945

**Walter Polewski**, Chaplain; one of six brothers who served in World War II, killed in the line of duty

**Right Rev. Paul Rhode**, Auxiliary Roman Catholic Bishop of Chicago and from 1916 Bishop of Green Bay; national leader of the organized World War I effort in the Polish community to assist Polish war victims and to support Poland's independence

**Rev. Bronislaw Celichowski**, pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius parish and World War I leader in the *Polish National Council* for Poland; chaplain of the *Polish Roman Catholic Union* fraternal

**Rev. Wacław Kruszka**, Pastor, St Wenceslaus parish in Ripon and St Adalbert parish, Milwaukee; the first historian of the Poles in America; supporter of Poland's independence in World War I

**Rev. Boleslaw Goral**, Pastor of St Hyacinth parish, founding editor of the *Nowiny Polskie* daily newspaper, and supporter of Polish independence **Monsignor Michael**

**Domachowski**, Pastor of St Vincent de Paul parish; recipient of the *Polonia Restituta* medal in 1922 from Ignacy Jan Paderewski for his dedicated work for Poland's cause

**Rev. Felix Baran**, long time pastor of St Josaphat parish and leader in the effort to complete the church's beautification and the Vatican's recognition as a Basilica in 1929

**Right Reverend Francis Bonczak**, Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church and organizer of the Church's work in post 1918 Poland

**John C. Kleczka of Milwaukee**, the first U.S. Congressman of Polish heritage (1918-1922): a supporter of Poland's independence, he led the effort to bring home the Polish Army from America in 1920; he was later a founder of the Casimir Pulaski Council of Milwaukee County and a county judge

**Thaddeus Wasielewski of Milwaukee**, U.S. Congressman (1940-1946): strong supporter of Poland's freedom in World War II; present at the founding of the *Polish American Congress* in Buffalo in 1944

**Charles Kersten of Milwaukee**, U.S. Congressman (1946-48, 1950-54): championed the cause of the liberation of Poland from Soviet domination in the early 1950s

**Alvin O'Konski of Kewaunee**, U.S. Congressman (1942-1972): co-author of the GI Bill of Rights; member of the special committee that in 1952 found the Soviet Union responsible for the tragic Katyn Massacre of 1940

**John Gronouski of Dunbar**, economist and John F. Kennedy supporter in 1960, Postmaster General of the United States and U.S. Ambassador to Poland in the 1960s; later president of the *Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America*

**Karol Wagner**, *Polish National Council* leader in World War I and delegate to the great *Congress of the Emigration in Detroit* in 1918 that underscored the Polish community's commitment to Poland's independence and its people's well-being

**Alexander Heller**, leader in the *Polish Central Relief Committee* in World War I and delegate to the *Congress of the Emigration* in Detroit (1918); later a longtime community activist

**Felicia Kwasieborska**, social worker and member of the *Polish Grey Samaritans*, volunteers who served in devastated Poland after World War I under the supervision of the American Relief Committee chaired by Herbert Hoover; years later a founder of *Polanki* in 1953

**Prakseda Sawicka**, World War I leader in relief efforts for Poland, longtime leader in the *Polish Roman Catholic Union*, and delegate to the founding meeting of the *Polish American Congress* in Buffalo in 1944

**Michael Blenski**, Censor of the Polish National Alliance in World War I; Milwaukee County judge

**Mary Kryszak**, leader of the *Polish Women's Alliance* fraternal in Wisconsin, editor of its national publication, *Glos Polek*, and Wisconsin state legislator

**Judge Frank Gregorski**, President of the *Casimir Pulaski Council of Milwaukee County* and the first head of the *Wisconsin Polish American Congress*; participant in the founding meeting of the *Polish American Congress* in Buffalo in 1944

**Stasia Pokora**, Polish community cultural leader from the 1920s, activist on behalf of the American Relief for Poland organization in World War II, and member of *Polanki*

**Yolanda Majkowska**, writer and publicist for the *American Polish Information Service* founded in Milwaukee in 1939 to present the facts about Poland to the U.S. media; in 1944 a delegate to the founding meeting of the *Polish American Congress* in Buffalo

**Joseph Tobola** of Thorp, longtime fraternalist in the *Polish National Alliance* and delegate to the founding meeting of the *Polish American Congress* in Buffalo in 1944

**Harriet Gostomska, Maria Laskowska, and Angela Mischke**, founders of *Polanki, the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee* (with Felicia Kwasieborska) in 1953

**Emil Pankiewicz**, one of the founders of the *Polish Combatants' Association* after World War II

**Michael Kruszka**, founder, editor and publisher of the *Kuryer Polski* daily newspaper in 1888; nationally known defender of Polish immigrant rights in America and supporter of Polish independence in World War I

**Roman Kwasniewski**, community activist and outstanding Milwaukee southside photographer whose priceless body of work (30,000 photos in all) details the life of Milwaukee's Poles before World War II and is preserved at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee library

**Adam Bartosz** and **Alfons Heryng**, longtime editors of the *Gwiazda Polarna* newspaper of Stevens Point

**Thaddeus Borun** and **John Gostomski**, journalists with the *Nowiny Polskie* daily who created the remarkable publication, *We the Milwaukee Poles*, to celebrate the city's centennial in 1946

**Edward Kerstein**, *Milwaukee Journal* writer sent to devastated post World War II Poland whose articles detailed the country's takeover by the Soviet Union; his observations were later published in a book, *Red Star over Poland*

**Leon Gurda**, community activist and fraternalist, local government official

**Anthony Szymczak**, longtime radio personality and community activist, most notably in the Wisconsin *Polish American Congress* and *Polish National Alliance*

**Sylwester Wabiszewski** and **Casimir Janiszewski**, industrialists, benefactors, and participants in the founding meeting of the Polish American Congress in Buffalo in 1944

**Francis X. Swietlik** of Milwaukee, U.S. Army officer in World War I, later Dean of Marquette University Law School, Censor of the Polish National Alliance, Chair of *American Relief for Poland (Rada Polonii Amerykanskej)* in and after World War II that raised over \$150 million for Polish refugees, prisoners of war, and in Poland itself; present at the founding of the *Polish American Congress* in Buffalo in 1944, later a Milwaukee County Judge

**Thomas Rozga**, Decorated Marine pilot in the Pacific theater in World War II and later a longtime community leader in Milwaukee

**Edmund Banasikowski**, World War II Polish Army Officer fighting for a free Poland and later served for seventeen years as President of the Wisconsin *Polish American Congress*

**Ted Cisek**, soldier in the Polish Army during the Normandy Invasion of France in 1944; later Treasurer of the *Wisconsin Polish American Congress*; and **Leonard Jendrzeczak**, Polish Army officer under Gen. Wladyslaw Anders in the Battle of Monte Cassino; later an activist in Milwaukee's Polish community

**John Joachimczyk** and **Waclaw (Zurowski) Michalski**, soldiers in the Polish Army during World War II and later leaders in Milwaukee's Polish community, its veterans' groups, and the *Wisconsin Polish American Congress*

**Antoni** and **Bianca Rogozinski**, World War II fighters for Poland. Antoni was the longtime editor of *Polish Veterans' magazine* in the United States

**Alfons Prabucki**, World War II soldier; leader of the *Polish Legion of American Veterans*

**Right Reverend Aloysius Wycislo**, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and later Bishop of Green Bay; for decades into the 1980s he headed the fund raising efforts on behalf of Poland's people

**Monsignor Raymond Punda**, World War II veteran, long time pastor and beautifier of St Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr parish of Milwaukee, and dedicated high school principal.

**Clement J. Zablocki of Milwaukee**, U.S. Congressman (1948-1983), devoted supporter of freedom for Poland, sponsor of legislature funding a special Children's Hospital in Krakow, Poland, and chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives

**Gerald Kleczka of Milwaukee**, U.S. Congressman (1984-2004), strong supporter of the Polish Solidarity movement and a free and democratic Poland; as state senator in 1978 he backed the creation of the Polish Studies Committee at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

**John Plewa**, Wisconsin state legislator and community activist who promoted knowledge of the Polish heritage at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and elsewhere; in the 1990s he supported the Milwaukee County/U.S. government project for local democracy in Poland

**Gladys Podkomorska**, dedicated leader in Wisconsin's *Polish National Alliance* fraternal

**Adam Brzostowicz**, long time leader of the *Casimir Pulaski Council of Milwaukee County*

**Maria Komornicka**, post World War II émigré; host of a popular patriotic Polish radio program

**Angeline Jagodzinska**, leader in the *Polish Women's Alliance* and *Wisconsin Polish American Congress*

**Janet Dziadulewicz Branden**, tireless promoter of Poland's culture in Milwaukee as president of *Polanki*; her father **Chester Dziadulewicz** had managed the *Kuryer Polski* daily newspaper before World War II

**Rita Michalak**, dedicated activist in *Polanki* with her husband **Edward Michalak**

**Edward Tomasik**, *Polish American Congress* activist and creator of the "Wisconsin Plan" aimed at mobilizing support for a free and independent post World War II Poland

**Edward Simarski**, dedicated activist and advocate for promoting understanding of Poland's history and culture, particularly among young people

**Janusz Oksza-Czechowski**, founder-director of the Milwaukee's *New Life Chorus* from the 1950s

**William Kowalkowski**, longtime president of both the *Federation Life Insurance of America fraternal* and the *Casimir Pulaski Council of Milwaukee County*

**Roman Witkowiak**, dedicated Milwaukee Polish American community activist and civic leader

**Adrian Choinski**, longtime community activist and co-chair (with Conrad Kaminski) of the first *Polish Fest* in 1982

**Sophie Thom**, educator and leader of *Polanki* and the *Wisconsin Polish American Congress*

**Hedy Rabiega**, activist in the *Polish National Alliance* and the *Polonia Sport Club*

**Leonne Wozinska**, community activist and Cong. Zablocki's representative in Milwaukee

**Edmund Lewandowski**, nationally renowned artist and creator of the design for the Mural of the War Memorial Center in Milwaukee

**Alfred Sokolnicki**, director of Marquette University's Slavic Institute during the Cold War; activist in the community's celebration of *Poland's Millennium* (1966), and founder/director of the *Mazur Dancers of Milwaukee*

**Barbara Zakrzewska-Borowiecka**, participant in the World War II Polish resistance, *Polanki* leader, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee professor and promoter of Polish studies there

**Edmund Zawacki** (University of Wisconsin-Madison), **Waclaw Soroka** (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point), and **Szymon Deptula** (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), promoters of Polish studies as professors at their respective institutions of higher education

**Marian Kamil Dziewanowski**, World War II Polish army veteran, renowned historian of modern Europe, and the first Historian of Poland at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

**Waclaw Szybalski** of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, world renowned scientist and humanitarian active in the World War II Polish resistance

**Joseph Budziszewski**, opera singer in Milwaukee and spirited community activist

**Jerzy Bojanowski**, composer and symphony conductor; he staged a memorable performance of *Halka* in the 1970s

**Henry Wantoch**, fraternalist, long time city official and supporter of free Poland

**Norb Stefaniak**, professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, businessman, fraternalist, and leader in the creation of the Polish Center of Wisconsin

**Casey Janiszewski**, industrialist and generous benefactor of the Polish Center of Wisconsin and countless other Polish cultural causes

**Israel Wolnerman** and **Bruce Fetter**, dedicated to Polish/Jewish understanding and good will

**Ada Dziewanowska**, inspiring artistic director of the *Syrena Dance Ensemble*, internationally renowned authority on Polish music, dance and culture

**Robert Modrzejewski**, graduate of Milwaukee's Pulaski High School a U.S. Marine Captain awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam.

