

Recruitment poster by Władysław T. Benda, published in the USA in 1917

## The Polish American Congress, Wisconsin Division

cordially invites you to the annual luncheon in celebration of the

# POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY VETERANS DAY

including

**Congressman Zablocki Award Ceremony** (see back of this invitation for our 2025 Honorees)

# Sunday, November 9, 2025

The Polish Center of Wisconsin 6941 S. 68<sup>th</sup> Street, Franklin WI 53132

Cash Bar/Silent Auction begins at **12:00 P.M.**, luncheon at **1:00 P.M.**Tickets are \$55.00 per each adult, and \$20.00 per each child 12 and under

Please use the enclosed RSVP card to indicate the number of attendees, choices of vegetarian/non-vegetarian dinners, and seating preferences.

The RSVP cards and payments must be received no later than October 28, 2025.

## After celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2024 The Polish American Congress, Wisconsin Division commemorates the 2nd Polish Corps and its role in the battles of Monte Cassino, Ancona, and Bologna.

Our organization is one of the most active state divisions, and several examples of activities that fill us with pride include our members participating in talks that resulted in Poland's ascension to the NATO in 1999, designing the informative booklet "Do You Know Poland?" and organizing unforgettable events commemorating major events in Polish history.

To support our future endeavors, please consider making a sponsorship donation and/or placing an ad in our 2025 commemorative program booklet.

#### **Advertisement Rates per Size:**

\$200 - inside/outside cover  $(8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2})$ ;

\$150 - full page  $(5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2})$ ;

\$100 - half page ( $5\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ );

\$70 - quarter page ( $5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ );

\$20 per line - patron or memorial listing

Please send your print-ready ad artwork to <a href="mailto:irfra111@gmail.com">irfra111@gmail.com</a> by October 28, 2025

#### Sponsorship opportunities (with included benefits):

St. John Paul II Level \$2,500+ up to 8 paid guests
Thaddeus Kosciuszko Level \$1,000+ up to 6 paid guests
Casimir Pulaski Level \$500+ up to 4 paid guests
Marie Skłodowska Curie Level
Ignace Paderewski Level \$125+ up to 1 paid guests

Each donation include one paid PAC WI membership for 2026. Names of all sponsors will be listed in the program booklet

Please send checks in the enclosed return envelope. Thank you for your support!

Additional information will be available online at www.pacwisconsin.com

Direct any remaining questions to Irena Frączek at (414) 439-3830 or irfra111@gmail.com



# Congressman Clement Zablocki Civic Achievement Award

Awarded annually by the Polish American Congress, Wisconsin Division

### **Father Robert Cook**

A Rector of the Basilica Saint Josaphat since 2023, Father Cook wholeheartedly embraced its legacy and Polish connections, religious and patriotic. His strong support for making the amazing Basilica's story and its Polish roots better known continues to evoke the deep appreciation they merit. His great interest in working with the PAC Wisconsin Division made it possible to host a number of significant, Polish-oriented events at the Basilica. His outstanding service to the Order of Franciscan Friars also includes substantial contributions to preserving the ethos of St. Maximilian Kolbe. Our Polish American community could not have a more deserving recognition friend than Father Cook.

## **Gayle Phillip**

A proud Polish American, Gayle is a founding member and current president of the Polish Heritage Awareness Society of Central Wisconsin (PHAS), widely known for organizing the annual Dożynki Polish Harvest Festival in Historic Downtown Stevens Point. Since the 1980s, Gayle remains steadfastly active in promoting Polish culture, history, and language. Some of her most notable achievements include the critical role she played in designating Highway 66 as the Polish Heritage Highway, developing the Polish Heritage Trail, and creating the Cultural Commons, a beautiful sculpture park promoting the history and heritage of the area known as the second-oldest Polish settlement in the United States (1857).

## **Richard Rabiega**

A President of Polonia Sport Club (PSC), one of the leading and pride-inspiring Polonia organizations in the Milwaukee area. In this position for the last 17 years, he previously served in other capacities on the PSC Board of Directors from the age of 18. As a lifelong club member, he played with Polonia soccer team from midgets to old-timers, including conference championship teams. Continuing the impressive legacy of his family traditions, his praiseworthy dedication to the Polish community turned into countless hours devoted to the PSC's advancement as well as the Club's generous support to other Polonia groups - all for the purpose of building consciousness and pride in what we all stand for.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION for the POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN

After raising the needed funds for the long 18 years, the Polish Center of Wisconsin (PCW) opened its door in 2000 and now celebrates the 25th anniversary. During those 25 years, the PCW became the meeting place for Polish Americans and a permanent spot on the map of various Polish-oriented activities. Every year the PCW hosts countless events, including banquets, lectures, workshops, art exhibits, concerts, children programs, and much more. Its highly popular culinary offerings include the Polish Cafe operating over big stretches of the year, as well as the Fish Fry Fridays, Patio Sundays and other special food events. On this 25th anniversary, we congratulate PCW on its achievements and celebrate strong ties forged with the Wisconsin Division of the Polish American Congress.