

Chevalier Leonard J. Suligowski



On Thursday, June 19, 2008, at 6:25 P.M. at New York City's Bellevue Hospital, Leonard J. Suligowski passed away, from complications of a stroke-induced coma, which took place on the evening of Monday June 16th, somewhere between the hours of 9 P.M. and 5 A.M., when he was found near his home computer. His son, Rik (Suligowski) Fox immediately flew in from Los Angeles overnight to attend him. A neurosurgeon team advised that there was too much damage to the brain, and that there was no hopeful outcome. It was Leonard's wish not to live on any form of life-support, should anything ever happen to him. At 12 noon, a decision was made to administer a sedative and allow him to pass naturally, without discomfort or pain, which took place at 6:25 P.M. with his only surviving son, Rik at his side, 'A Polish Winged Hussar knight returned home to bury his Father'...

Chevalier Leonard J. Suligowski was one of the very few Truly Polish Heraldic Artists in America. His dozens of years of research on the subject became widely known and respected the world over. He was a resident of Greenpoint, Brooklyn all his life. For many years, he had been the Director of Heraldry and the College of Heraldry for The Polish Nobility Association Foundation headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, having been affiliated with them since 1975. During his tenure with the P.N.A.F., he was the recipient of the following Chivalric awards:

Knight's Grand Cross in both, Royal Order of Piast and Royal Order of Jagiello, both with the titles of Chevalier. In addition, he was awarded the Polish Restituta, Officer First Class, from the past President-in-exile, for his contributions to the continuation of promoting The Arts and Culture associated with Polish Heraldry. He also held the title of Knight of Grace with the Sovereign Hospitaler Order of St. John, Knights of Malta. The walls of his Brooklyn home are literally lined with framed awards accolades and diplomas and certificates of various Organizations as well as his Navy memories. His Glen Miller collection is famous as is his Jazz Collection from his days as a radio announcer for WGBB, Freeport, N.Y., after his Navy tenure.

Chevalier Suligowski was a U.S. Navy Korean Veteran who served aboard four aircraft carriers, including the famous Bon Homme Richard, built at the Brooklyn Navy yard. He was honorably discharged with five years of service as an Aviation Machinist Mate-Second Class Petty Officer, and receiving the following awards: Navy Combat Action Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation; Navy Unit Citation; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Medal; Korean Service Medal (with Star); Korean Presidential Unit citation; Korean War Service Medal; and United Nations Service Medal; American Legion & VFW Service Medals. Leonard was a published author of several short stories and newspaper articles in addition to his editorial work as Editor of 'The White Eagle' Newsletter Journal for the P.N.A.F. until recent years due to the organizations' internal issues.

Leonard Suligowski was a Life Member of The American Legion and a member of The Veterans of foreign Wars. Additionally, he was a member and consultant to the Polish Genealogical Society of America. Leonard was 79 years old, passing just before his 80th birthday.

He is survived by his only living son, Rik (Suligowski) Fox, in his own right, a world-famous musician/celebrity, current Vice-President of the Polish American Congress of Southern California, and founder of the 'Living-History' re-enactment group named after him: "Suligowski's Regiment", now dedicated to his memory, a group which has produced the first official portrayal of the Polish winged hussar cavalry in American History by his son Rik, due directly, to Leonard Suligowski's Influence on his son, the last of the Suligowski line in the U.S., who, in his own right, Rik is the recipient of dozens of awards and accolades for his own work and contributions to Polish Historical awareness and culture, and made his Father very proud. Leonard Suligowski's efforts were the reason responsible for getting Rik's winged hussar presentation to make U.S. History in the 2002 NYC Pulaski Parade, for the first time in American History.

Interestingly enough, among his many personal interests, Leonard was also a large fan and believer of Medium, John Edwards, and for those who can believe, Leonard has passed the testimonial message to his son, thru his fiancée's ability to receive, that, "Everything that John Edwards says is true", among many other messages.

It has been said about him:

"Chevalier Leonard Suligowski was a Nobleman, a Gentleman, and a True Patriot who served his country both in times of Peace and War. He is also one of the best read historians on Polish history that anyone ever had the pleasure to know. He has been for many years one of the driving forces behind the success of The Polish Nobility Association and a number of other ventures focused on raising the profile of nobility and Polish nobility in particular. He truly touched the lives of everyone as he walked through his. And that is a LOT of people."

"Leonard J. Suligowski is now among the other great members of the Sulima Ancestry, that he researched and wrote about, both in spirit and in fact. Many have given up their lives for Poland, in many different ways. We hope that he will be counted among them, and his unceasing contribution(s) and effort(s), to and about, Polish History and Heraldry, of, to, and for, the Polish Cause, should never be forgotten."

Bless you all, who have taken the time for a moment of silence and recognition with bowed heads, to remember the passing of a great and noble knight, Historian, Father, and best friend, Chevalier Leonard. J. Suligowski.

Services were held at Rago Evergreen Funeral Home and St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, respectively, both in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

His son asks that either Mass Cards be offered in lieu of flowers, or, donations to either Navy Relief, or the Salvation Army. Leonard was also a member of the Organ Donations Organization and has now helped the lives of others through his wishes. Being a former Navy man, it was his wishes to be cremated and have his ashes scattered among both, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, returning him to the sea, which he loved so fondly.

His unceasing contribution(s) and effort (s), to and about, Polish History and Heraldry, of, and for, the Polish Cause, should never be forgotten. His son, Rik, may be contacted through: wngdhussr@yahoo.com †

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American Council for Polish Culture Board Meeting in Trenton, NJ

By: *Jo Louise Winters*, PR Chair



L. - Mrs. Donna Chmara, Henry Talarsky, Student Awardee Sophie Krasucki

The recent weekend Spring Board Meeting of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) was hosted by the Polish Arts Club of Trenton, NJ. Led by the enthusiastic and energetic Club President, Mrs. Donna Chmara, the Council's Board members enjoyed a very hospitable reception Friday evening, and a splendid working lunch on Saturday. The superb climax was the Club's 62nd Annual Polonaise Ball and Scholarship Awards Dinner at the Trenton Country Club. Ceremonies included scholarship awards to eight high school graduates who will be attending a college or university this fall. Two distinguished Polonia activists in the region, Bożena Bienkowska and Karol Nawaryński, were recognized and honored at this event.

Mrs. Bienkowska emigrated with her husband and daughter to the U.S. in 1989. She continued her education and just two years after arriving in this country, she opened a travel and tax services business. While running a successful business she devotes herself to helping recent immigrants, assisting with translations in government offices, hospitals and the Immigration & Naturalization Service. She sings in the church choir, is president of the Rosary Society and helps organize the annual pilgrimage to Częstochowa.

Karol Nawaryński graduated *cum laude* from Alliance College in 1972 with a major in Polish studies. His service in the army included 21 years in the army reserve with the rank of Master Sergeant. Throughout his professional work experiences he continued studies in financial and accounting fields. He is credited with rejuvenating the Trenton Polish Arts Club by expanding membership, renewing participation in the Pułaski Day Parade, organizing a bus tour of Polish Philadelphia, arranging for interesting speakers and entertainment and showcasing a traveling Polish culture exhibit. His enhancements to the Club's annual Polonaise Ball included Polonaise performances. ACPC board members were delighted to participate Saturday evening in the Polonaise led by Richard Klimek and the PKM Dancers.

ACPC members will be fascinated to learn from a resume we obtained that the Trenton Club's current president, Donna Chmara spent the first two years of her life in a Nazi prison camp and, at age seven, came to the U.S. as a displaced person. She quickly learned English and lived the American dream by walking through all the doors that opened for her as a result of hard work and the benefits of public education. A very brief summary of her accomplishments reveals that she earned an MA degree from Temple University in Philadelphia with a major in English; taught composition at the College of NJ, literature and composition at Trenton Central H.S., and ESL in Turkey as a Peace Corps volunteer. As director for the NJ Assoc. of School Administrators, she supervised all public relations and production of publications. She received an award of excellence for these publications from the Natl. Assoc. of Education Information Officers.

Maintaining a very timely schedule for the business meetings on Friday and Saturday, ACPC President Thaddeus Mirecki, elicited full reports from Committee Chairs with ample time for discussion and the decision processes. Mary Flanagan reported on the

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Euro 2008

Soccer, a beloved game of many people all over the world, has become a focus of attention for the European public thanks to the inception of the European Championships 2008 which sparked on June, 7th. The opening ceremony and opening game took a big audience in front of their TV as well as on a fully packed stadium. The importance of Euro 2008 is doubled by Poland's participation (which is quite an achievement, honestly.)

My view on the event is quite biased, because I am not a football freak. I find soccer quite boring and monotonous, and, to my mind, the mere reasons that people glorify this sport are that it is easily accessible and well played around the world.

Being on a football team is one of little Mr. Smith's serious dreams; it's what his father would like him to do, this is why he is loved by his female friends, it's also a way to socialize. The list of reasons for a toddler to take on football is really long, but when it is stripped of its 'craze-generated' points, it seems apparent that Mr. Smith does not take into consideration that it's only his desire which might not well be followed by his skills and personality traits. What a disappointment! There is of course the bright side of the story, too. Mr. Smith will become the next top football player that will score many goals in his professional career; a man that will become an idol for many new Mr. Smiths all over the world. What a reward!

Mr. Smith's daddies should also be examined thoroughly. They are proud of their son's achievements, even though they know that it's not their sons who played the main role in winning another game. However, they find the team spirit exceptionally rewarding and accept the fact that their sons are still helping the coach to prepare statistics from each game. Their sons are so helpful and cool, because they don't need to sweat during games, and they profit from their serious involvement. Excellent! However, does it affect their abilities, motivations, desires? Oh yes. Would-be fathers will for sure repeat the manual of bringing up a male child in the future. They might, though, understand that the manual is not that effective and adapt new measures to keep on glorifying football – they will start consuming quantities of beer in front of TVs, socializing with their "same-brain" friends who are playing truants again as if they were in high school. Football is undoubtedly their daily clock when the Championship starts.

Mothers/wives, though, only try to live through the drama weeks. Since their husbands organize evening gatherings in front of TV, they are unable to wind up at home. They dress nicely in the national colors and spend time with husbands' friends, preparing a new bowl of popcorn, putting beer bottles in the fridge and looking around the house so that it won't get blown up. When it comes to their sons, they also come with a first-aid kit for their sons' games. They cry when the team spirit is jeopardized by another loss, and they get excited when the team wins. The fate is sealed when they recognize and respect their sons' choice of becoming a football player. What a mistake!

A few weeks later, everyone is still talking how badly the team played in several games, how many goals it scored, and who should be removed from the team. No place for bravos, no place for nice words – only if the team wins. Life returns to balance. And only football players wonder why they have not been able to reach the top. □