



News of Polonia

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POLAM Celebrates its 40TH Anniversary



Karolina Ratajczak

Consul General Joanna Kozińska-Frybes presents the "Amicus Poloniae" award to POLAM's CEO, Christopher Hiller

POLAM Credit Union has turned forty. It was 1969, the Vietnam War was in full swing. President Nixon was in office and California was the epicenter of a social phenomenon known as the hippie movement. Poles were immigrating to Southern California in large numbers from Europe, Poland, and even South America. The 60's gave rise to numerous cultural, self-help and veterans organizations. The feeling of solidarity was at an all-time high in the Polish Community. It was in this setting that 10 forward-thinking individuals pulled together a small amount of money and signed their names to an application for a credit union charter. In Oct of 1969 a Charter was issued to the Polish American Congress Federal Credit Union, later shortened to simply POLAM Credit Union.

In the early years the credit union was operated entirely by volunteers but as the credit union grew a full-time staff was retained, the latest banking technologies were adopted and the range of services was expanded. Today POLAM is a full-service financial institution and a participant in the Financial Services network which gives members access to over 6000 locations nationwide. POLAM's debit and credit cards are part of a world-wide network with over 1 million locations. What distinguishes

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Kościuszko Foundation acquires National Polish Center... Opens Washington D.C. office at 2025 "O" Street

Polish-American community expands presence in our nation's capital

NEW YORK & WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Kościuszko Foundation President and Executive Director Alex Storożyński today announced that the foundation has acquired the National Polish Center (NPC) and has added Al Koproski and Julian Kulski to its board of trustees. Mr. Storożyński said, "This is an exciting alliance that expands the Polish community's presence in our nation's capital. We want all Polish-Americans to think of this as their headquarters in Washington, D.C. And we invite members of the U.S. Congress and all branches of government to visit our office on 2025 O Street in Washington D.C. to learn about Polish contributions to life, liberty and culture in America."

NPC Chair Patricia Koproski said, "For years, the National Polish Center and the Kościuszko Foundation have had the same goal, to promote Polish culture, science and scholarship in America. With the economies of today, this marriage makes perfect sense, and together, we become stronger and can do even more to educate future generations of Polish scholars and leaders."

The Kościuszko Foundation's Board of Trustees Chairman, Joseph E. Gore, Esq. said, "By joining forces with our organization, NPC members become part of a rich heritage that dates back to 1925. The Kościuszko Foundation has promoted Polish culture in America for 85 years, and given fellowships to numerous doctors, attorneys, artists, professors, and people such as the economist Leszek Balcerowicz whose 'shock therapy' policies helped turn Poland into the fastest growing economy in Europe."

New trustees added to the Kościuszko Foundation Board:

Al Koproski is a businessman, activist, philanthropist and real estate broker, who loves baseball and all things Polish. He has sent huge shipments of baseball equipment to Poland and is National Vice President of the Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation. Mr. Koproski, and his wife Patricia Koproski, devoted years of service to the NPC which was also known as The American Center of Polish Culture, Inc.

Dr. Julian Kulski, FAIA, is a renowned international architect, a war hero, a distinguished professor and author of award winning book and DVD; Legacy of the White Eagle, a story of teenagers fighting for Poland's freedom and independence.

Mr. Storożyński said, "The Kościuszko Foundation also is indebted to the international law firm White & Case LLP who did excellent work representing the Foundation in this transaction on a pro bono basis. The White & Case LLP team included Petr Polasek, Hansel T. Pham, Maury J. Mechanick and Marisa R. Bassett in Washington DC and Meredith J. Beuchaw in New York. White & Case LLP also has represented our interests in Warsaw, Poland."

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Uncovered documents reveal spy who fed information on Hitler's secrets

A *TIMESONLINE* website article by Ben McInyre reports, MI6 obtained vital secrets from a spy operating at the very heart of Hitler's high command during the most crucial years of the war, newly discovered intelligence documents have revealed.

The secret agent, code-named "Knopf", furnished the intelligence service with information on Hitler's plans in the Mediterranean and on the Eastern Front, the health of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel and even the location of the "Wolf's Lair" — the Führer's headquarters in Eastern Prussia.

Historians have tended to play down the wartime role of MI6 — in comparison with the crucial importance of the messages decoded at Bletchley Park — but the discovery of Agent Knopf by the Cambridge historian Paul Winter shows that Britain obtained accurate and highly valuable intelligence from a network of agents in the upper ranks of the Third Reich.

The documents, uncovered in the Churchill Archives in Cambridge and the National Archives, show that Knopf and his sub-agents alerted British Intelligence to German plans for an invasion of Malta in 1942, relayed Rommel's intentions in North Africa and revealed Hitler's fatal obsession with capturing Stalingrad on the Eastern Front.

The Führer was "determined to capture Stalingrad at all costs", Knopf reported. Hitler's disastrous assault on the Russian city, which led to the destruction of the German 6th Army, is seen as a turning point in the war.

Agent Knopf was initially recruited and run by Polish Intelligence. In 1940, the Polish Government in exile in London agreed to hand over all its intelligence material to the Secret Intelligence Service [SIS], better known as MI6, providing Britain with a steady stream of top-grade intelligence for the rest of the war. The archives of MI6 remain closed, and the real identity of Agent Knopf may never be known but the newly uncovered documents indicate that the star spy was a German with access to high-grade military information.

One British intelligence report noted: "The source, of whom the Poles think very highly, is not himself a Pole. He has not specified his informants, but states that they are highly placed and in touch with the German High Command."

Dr Winter said: "The discovery of Agent Knopf and his fellow spies, shows for the first time that Britain's SIS gained a unique entrée into German operational and strategic thinking during the most critical phases of the war. We may never know their true identities or respective fates, but their audacity and courage are beyond doubt."

The officer in charge of liaising between Polish and British Intelligence was Commander Wilfred "Biffy" Dunderdale, the former MI6 station chief in Paris. A friend of Ian Fleming, who was then working in naval intelligence, Biffy Dunderdale was one of the models for the character of James Bond.

Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko

By: *Michael Mietek Dutkowski*
Vice President - Polish Agenda
Polish American Congress of SoCal



The Metropolitan Archbishop of Warsaw, Kazimierz Nycz announced that Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko, God's Venerable Servant, will be beatified or declared as Blessed on June 6, 2010 during a celebration of Thanksgiving Day in Warsaw, Poland.

The Beatification ceremony will start at Piłsudski Square and will be officiated by Archbishop Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Beatifications and Canonizations.

Next, a procession will march with Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko's relics via the Royal Tract to the Church of Divine Providence in Wilanów.

Pope Benedict XVI signed on December 19, 2009 a decree about the martyrdom of Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko. Since then he can be called "Venerable God's Servant." The beatification process of martyr Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko lasted 12 years.

An estimated 1 million Poles participated in the Warsaw funeral of Fr. Popieluszko, the "Solidarity Chaplain" who was murdered in 1984 by communist Poland's Secret Police officers. Popieluszko's murderers were jailed but released later as part of an amnesty. Many of the facts regarding the murder remain unknown and are being investigated by the IPN (Institute of Nat'l Memory). □

Dunderdale and MI6 were plainly delighted with the stream of accurate intelligence arriving in Whitehall via the Polish Secret Service.

In an appraisal of the spy, written in April 1943 for Alan Brooke, the Chief of Imperial General Staff, it was noted that: "Knopf forecast very closely the general outline of the German summer campaign in Russia. Many of his reports were clear and factual and showed an accuracy of detail which precludes the possibility that he was indulging in intelligence guessing."

Knopf's reports were certainly read by Winston Churchill, and the intelligence he provided would have underpinned the Prime Minister's overall war strategy.

Knopf apparently sent his reports by wireless, since the report on his work by

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