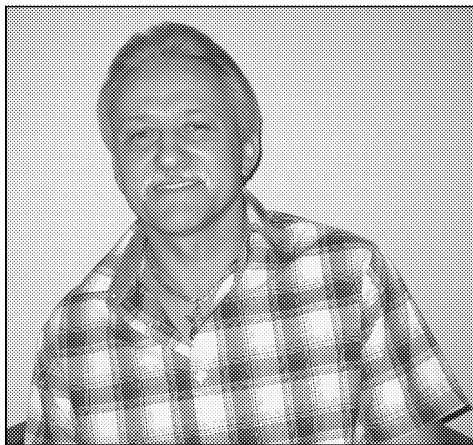


Polonia Award Recipient Stanisław Czarnota



Born in Poland on April 12 1957 in Krosno Odrzańskie, Poland. Son of Jan and Krystyna Czarnota, brother of Adam and sister Ewa. Married to Danuta Grochowska in 1978, and father of four children. Stanisław finished his elementary education in Jaworzno, Śląsk (Upper Silesia); graduated from the Mining Technical College, and in 1979 enrolled at The Academy of Mining and Metallurgical Studies - both in Jaworzno. Unfortunately, his studies were interrupted due to his involvement in the anti-communist political activities.

While working in the one of the largest Mines "Jaworzno", in 1980 Stanisław was the organizer of the NSZZ Solidarność (Independent Workers Union) and became the chairman of one of the Union's Commission. During the tumultuous years of the communist regime in Poland, Stanisław Czarnota was passionately involved in the opposition movement to the Polish government - then under the scrutiny of the communist Soviet Union. He held numerous positions in the Union and often represented Solidarity in different meetings and negotiations. Those activities indeed, were strikes against him, and communists had an eye on him for a long time. On December 13, 1981 on the first day of the Marshall Law in Poland, Stanisław was arrested, and consequently imprisoned in four different political prisons in Poland. After his release, Stanisław was still courageously involved in the opposition movement, but inevitably, soon after forced to emigrate from Poland. Known by his co-workers, superiors and friends as a great patriot and fighter for free Poland.

Stanisław Czarnota and his family immigrated to the USA in 1984, and after a short stay in Utah settled in California. A successful businessman, owner of the "White Eagle Construction", Stanisław continues to be involved in California's Polonia life and activities, religious, fraternal and social. Not only as a leader of organizations and groups but also as a supporter, both financial and physical. He is a member of the Pope John Paul II Polish Center in Yorba Linda, an organizer, leader and tireless worker at many events. He has been the Chairman of the "Dożynki Festival" (twice), "Polish Patriotic Commemorations", "Proud to be Polish Festival", "Solidarity Anniversaries", "Divine Mercy Celebration", Bible Study Leader, Center's Financial Council Member, Lector and Religious Studies Teacher (Confirmation Preparation).

Although living far from Poland, Stanisław's Polish spirit and love for his Country are very alive. His motto: "God, Honor and Country" makes him a great patriot, both in Poland and here in the USA.

He is in a close contact with his "Solidarity" friends, colleagues and political leaders, and he continues to support both patriotic and humanitarian causes in Poland, as well as in the USA. In the spirit of promoting knowledge about "Solidarity" among young people in Poland, Stanisław, two years ago organized in Poland a Contest at a High School in Jaworzno, and as a prize he sponsored the winner and his parents for vacations in the USA. Similarly, a few years earlier, he sponsored and financed a trip to Poland for three American Orange County High School students - winners of the National History Contest on the subject of "Poland's Fight for Freedom and the Warsaw Uprising 1944".

Stan Czarnota to page 15

Polonia Award Recipient - Posthumous Michael and Danuta Zawadzki (nee Sienkiewicz)

1915-1999

Michael was born in Sokolniki, south of Wrocław. He was the oldest of three brothers in a patriotic family. His grandfather fought in the 1863 Uprising against the Russian occupiers.

He graduated from the Szkoła Mazowiecka in Warsaw. He was a student at the Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego, 1933-38, and the Szkoła Nauk Politycznych, 1936-38. He received the degree of agronomy engineer. In 1938-39 he was in the Artillery Reserve Officer Cadet School in Włodzimierz Wołyński (now in Ukraine) and then in the Air Force Reserve OCS in Sadków (Radom). The Sadków school and airport were bombed by German planes on Sept. 1, 1939, a memory which remained vivid for the rest of his life.

While escaping towards Rumania, he was captured by Ukrainian peasants who turned him over to the NKWD. Taken to Russia, he was sentenced to 5 years in a labor camp in Siberia, near the Arctic Circle. Within a few weeks, he was near death from dysentery, but a Ukrainian nurse saved him with a dose of scarce medicine.

After Hitler turned on Stalin, some of the Poles in Siberia were freed to help fight the Germans. Upon his release, Michael weighed less than 100 pounds, although he was 6'-2" tall. He was accepted into the Polish army being formed under General Anders and transported to Persia, Iraq, and Palestine while regaining his health. In Britain, he joined the Polish Air Force, which was under British command until April 1944.

He trained for nighttime bombing but did not fly any missions. His training was interrupted by illness. Then, he failed to pass a review because he was overwrought with news that he had received the night before. His parents, who had been visiting Warsaw when the 1944 Uprising started, were among the hundreds of thousands of civilians rounded up by the Germans. His father was sent to Buchenwald, his mother to Ravensbruck. Neither survived.

He was active in the Association of Polish Engineers in Great Britain which, in cooperation with the Polish government-in-exile, was developing plans for rebuilding Poland after the war. He was given a leave of absence from the Air Force to work on the plans, but the project was terminated after the Yalta Conference at which Roosevelt and Churchill, in effect, gave Poland to Stalin. It was evident that Poles would not be deciding the future of their country. After the war, he was demobilized with the rank of Flight Lieutenant (equivalent to captain).

He married Danuta Sienkiewicz, a Section Officer in the Polish Air Force, who had also been in Siberia. In 1947, they had a son, Roman. Michael received a fellowship to study at Oxford and received a B.Litt. degree (equivalent to a master's). In 1951, the family moved to the U.S. His first jobs involved loading sacks of potatoes, and carrying bundles of roof shingles.

On fellowship at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, he researched egg and poultry marketing, and received his Ph.D. in 1955. In 1955-59, he was an assistant professor of agricultural economics at the Univ. of Rhode Island. In 1959, the family moved to Los Angeles where he was a professor of economics at Loyola University until 1961. He worked for the California Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board for four years, and then for the California Department of Water Resources until retirement in 1981. He also taught evening courses at California State University Los Angeles, and CSU Long Beach.

Michael Zawadzki to page 15



1918 - 2010

Danuta's family lived near Pińsk, in Polesie, the land of lakes, wetlands, and forests in eastern Poland, which was taken by Russia. Hers was one of the leading families in the area. Her father had held important positions in local government. Two uncles were career military officers. Her great-grandfather took part in the 1863 Uprising against the Russians. As punishment, he was sent to Siberia.

Danuta attended the school of the Sisters of Nazareth (Nazaretanki) in Warsaw. After graduating, she started studies at the Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego in Warsaw.

She was spending the summer at home when the Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Hitler and Stalin had a secret agreement to divide Poland again. On September 17, 1939, the Russians invaded Poland. With the help of local communist sympathizers, they viciously killed members of the leading Polish families. Some of Danuta's relatives were thrown into a well to drown. Others were beheaded, or burned alive in their home. Her father and her teenage brother, Roman, tried to escape to Romania on horseback. They were never seen again, apparently shot in the forest by Byelorussian peasants incited by the Soviets.

She and her mother, Stefania, fled to the town of Pińsk. There they changed their residence frequently to avoid discovery. Eventually, they decided to go to Warsaw where relatives lived. Life under the Germans would be safer than under the Russians. One night, they tried to cross into the German zone wearing white sheets to blend in with the snow. However, a Russian patrol caught them. They were accused of being spies.

After about a year in Russian prisons, Danuta and her mother were sentenced to 5 years of forced labor. They were split up and put in cattle cars for the 4-week trip to the east during the Russian winter. It is estimated that 1.5 million Polish men, women, and children were shipped in cattle cars to the east, to Siberia and Kazakhstan.

When Hitler invaded Russia, Stalin declared an amnesty for some of those Poles so they would help fight the Germans. Danuta and her mother joined the Polish forces being formed under General Anders. But neither had any idea where the other was. One day, while still in Russian territory, Danuta was walking along a road. A woman was walking in the opposite direction. The woman was so thin that it was only when she passed that Danuta recognized her profile. It was her mother.

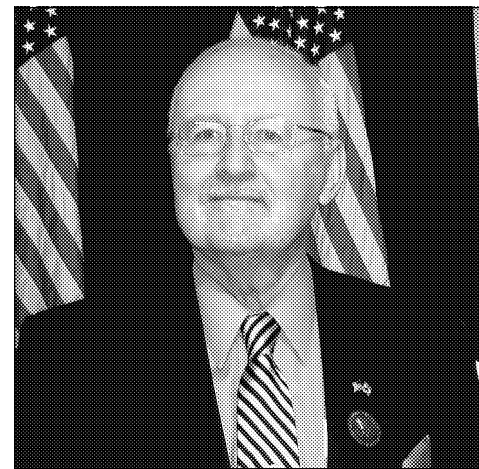
Her mother, Stefania Sienkiewicz, not only suffered Siberia and the loss of her husband and son, but also lost two brothers in Katyn. She remained Danuta's quiet but strong supporter until she died in Los Angeles in 1990.

She and her mother were able to reach the Polish refugee camps in Iran, via Iraq and Palestine. They were forever grateful to the Persians for how well they treated the Poles. After recovering their strength, they were transported to England and served in the Polish Women's Auxiliary Air Force which was initially under British command. Danuta graduated from the strict British Women's Air Force officer's school at Windermere, and was assigned as a personal assistant to General Stanisław Karpiński of the Polish Air Force.

She met Michael (Michał) Zawadzki, a pilot in the Polish Air Force, who had also been sentenced to Siberia, was released, joined the army of General Anders and came to England via Persia.

Danuta Zawadzka to page 15

Polonia Award Recipient Frank de Balogh



Mr. Frank de Balogh was born in Budapest, Hungary on October 9, 1941 to Dr. Lovasi Balogh Ferenc and Bano Eleanor. He is the eldest of three children. The Balogh family originally came from the town of Lovas in the Lake Balaton region of Western Hungary. The family was first noted in historical records in 1677. A famous descendant of the Balogh family was the Hungarian military leader, Balogh Adam, who fought the Imperial Hapsburg's in the seventeenth century "Kuruc" wars.

In April 1945 the Balogh family fled Hungary from the advancing Red Army. The family first settled in a Displaced Persons (DP) camp near the city of Cham, Bavaria, in the American Zone of occupied Germany. Soon after, his father was employed by the U.S. Army as a translator and then as a civil affairs coordinator for the U.S. Military Government. In October 1951, the Balogh family immigrated to the United States, to, Hollywood, California. They became U.S. citizens in 1957.

He is married to Judith Ann de Balogh (nee Rappe) of Peoria, Illinois. They have one son, Frank de Balogh III. They reside in South Pasadena, California.

Dr. de Balogh earned his PhD in Public Administration, University of Southern California, 1976.

School of Public Administration (now named, School of Policy, Planning and Development) Emphasis in management, organizational analysis and public finance.

He received his commission as a second lieutenant from the UCLA Army ROTC program upon receiving his BA degree in 1963. He left the Army in 1968 due to a medical disability with the rank of Captain.

Mr. de Balogh's professional work history covers the diverse fields of university teaching, management consulting, and local and Federal government.

He became active in local, state and national ethnic Republican Party politics beginning in the 1970's. He participated in a political campaign leadership role (e.g., Ethnic Voters Division) among ethnic communities in the presidential campaigns of Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush as well as the California gubernatorial campaigns of George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson.

During the 1990's, Mr. de Balogh was actively engaged in lobbying for the expansion of NATO through the California Ethnic Leadership Council (CELC), a non-partisan political organization, which he founded. CELC was composed of California ethnic community leaders representing 9 different countries, mostly from Eastern Europe. He provided leadership in California as part of a 5 year national ethnic lobbying effort, led by the Polish American and Hungarian American communities, which made NATO expansion a reality. He arranged for CELC leaders to meet with prominent U.S. governmental leaders such as General John Shalikashvili, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Ambassador to NATO Robert Andersen, and foreign dignitaries such as Javier Solana, NATO Secretary, Lech Walesa, President of Poland, the British Foreign Secretary Lord Robertson, and others. This successful lobbying effort was conducted in close coordination with the Hungarian Consulate General in Los Angeles led by Dr. Marta Feksz Horvath.

In 1999, Frank de Balogh organized and co-chaired a CELC delegation of 20

Frank de Balogh to page 15