

Eddie Lubański from 4

through and through, you know. My boys are Spartans." We were stunned. How would Eddie Lubański know that? "Mark, you caught Doug Konieczny. He is the only baseball player from Wayne State to make the Major Leagues," Lubański added. Danielewicz and I looked at each other in amazement.

During our dinner at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan, Lubański reminisced, "My father took me to the old Chene-Trombly Recreation Lanes on the East side of Detroit. Joe and John Paulus were the owners and they were instrumental in getting me started as a pin setter. I started making money in bowling at 16. My real pro break was with the Stroh (beer) Team and Fred Wolf really helped me." Wolf had a televised Bowling show, "Championship Bowling" that ran from 1954-1965. It was carried in more than 200 cities. "Wolf got me into the big time of bowling," he added.

Lubański's two-finger, five-step delivery began to show great results along his bowling tournament travels. He won the World's Invitational Championship in Chicago in 1958, and then followed that with an amazing four titles in the 1959 at the American Bowling Congress tournament in St. Louis. He was voted Bowler of the Year in 1959 and named to the All-American Bowling Teams in 1958 and 1959. He won numerous BPAA titles.

He is noted in the Guinness Book of Records for carrying a 204 average for 25 years. "The fifties and sixties were so alive and exciting in Detroit," he added.

Became an International Star, Remembered his Roots

Also, in 1959, Lubański got to icon status when he bowled a 300 game on television. He had the "Great Double 300" in Florida at Miami's Bowling Palace. "I was in a zone that you only find a few times in a career," he told me about that night in 1959. "It was easily my proudest moment as an athlete. Don't think bowlers aren't athletes. Most times we would bowl six games and that took a toll. I advocated bowling to become a varsity sport in the NCAA."

Lubański has been inducted to five separate Halls of Fame. He was very proud to advance Polonia. "Everything I earned was related to my Polish-American upbringing, he said. With a smile and a twinkle he added, "And my wife's faith in God and family." Betty overheard, she smiled even longer.

Bob Strampe remembered how after the National Bowling League failed, they put together a squad from Detroit and won the Bowling Proprietors Association of America five-man Team Title in Birmingham, Alabama. "We had Eddie, Billy Golembieski, Bob Kwolek, Pat Stone and Bob Ulrich. Lake Pointe Chrysler sponsored us," said Strampe.

"Eddie was a fine gentleman and a great family man. He was a tough competitor and an even better teammate," he added. "This was before the Professional Bowlers Association tour was in existence." Strampe had bowled for the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Twin City Skippers. "We were disillusioned after the pro league failed. Eddie really picked us up at the five-man BPAA tournament."

Son Paul said, "My father was a hero, a true hero and he inspired. He defeated his alcoholism and he anonymously helped save the lives of others. When we were young, dad travelled a lot. That's when *dzia-dzia* took over, he helped mom."

Lubański is survived by his wife Betty. They were married for 62 years and travelled the world together because of bowling. Children, Janis, Edward, Paul and Robert survive their father. A daughter, Denise, predeceased him and he will be cremated and interred with her.

(Editor Note: Raymond Rolak is a sports broadcaster and was fortunate to host a show with Edward Lubański) □

Danuta Zawadzka from 14

They were married in 1946 and a son was born in 1947. He was named Roman, after her murdered brother.

In 1951, the family moved to America. The next year, Danuta started working in college libraries at the University of Illinois, then the University of Chicago, and Brown University. In 1959, she received a BA degree in French from the University of Rhode Island. That same year the family moved to Los Angeles. Danuta worked in the libraries of several aerospace companies and took classes after hours. In 1964 she earned a Master of Arts in Library Science from Immaculate Heart College, and started working as a librarian for Hughes Aircraft Co. where she stayed until she retired as a senior librarian in 1981.

Danuta was active in many Polish organizations including the Polish Fraternal Association of California (Samopomoc), Polish University Club, Polish National Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union, and the Polish Air Force Veterans Association.

In the early 1980s, Solidarity and the Polish Pope inspired the Poles to seek more freedom. The communists imposed martial law in Poland. Poles who were in the U.S. could not go back to Poland and many Poles from Poland sought a better life in the U.S. Danuta served as the Chairwoman of the European Affairs Committee of the Immigration and Citizenship Division of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. She helped many Polish refugees and asylum seekers, including the Polish crew which jumped ship in Los Angeles harbor. In 1984, one of her projects was a 27-page booklet, "Pierwsze Kroki w Ameryce," a guide for newly arrived Poles. In 1986, she served as chairwoman of a "Welcome to America Dinner" which was attended by then-Archbishop Roger Mahony.

There has been a Polish library in Los Angeles for over 100 years. The "Towarzystwo Tadeusza Kościuszki" (no longer in existence) was apparently one of the first organizations sponsoring a library. Then, sometime before 1911, Lodge 700, "Towarzystwo Czytelnia Polska," of the Polish National Alliance, became the main sponsor and adopted formal lending rules.

In the year 1966, Poland celebrated 1,000 years of its history. The library, then housed in the "Dom Polski" on Third St., was renamed, "Poland's Millennium Library." Danuta was on the first board of directors. The library adopted by-laws based on the American Library Association Rules and it was registered with the Special Libraries Association. As a professional librarian, Danuta helped write the library's constitution and bylaws, as well as detailed procedures for accepting, cataloging, and disposition of books.

In 1976, the library moved to the Polish Parish on Adams Blvd. From 1977 to 1993, the library organized about 43 lectures. The speakers were authors, poets, and political leaders, including Czesław Miłosz, Jan Karski, and Jan Nowak Jeziorański. The library steadily increased its collection, to about 17,000 volumes.

Danuta served on the board for 40 years, usually as the Librarian or the President. In 2006, her strength gave out and she had to resign. At the next annual meeting, she was made Honorary President. Danuta died at home in 2010 after a long struggle with several maladies.

By RJZ

Stan Czarnota from 14

For the promoting of the Polish culture & traditions Stanisław was awarded in 2009 "The Certificate of Appreciation" by the Consulate General of Poland in Los Angeles. However, the great event in Stanisław Czarnota's life happened in 2009 when in Poland the late Lech Kaczyński, President of the Republic of Poland, decorated him with the "Krzyż Kawalerski Orderu Odrodzenia Polski" – "Polonia Restituta". This high honor was awarded Stanisław for his outstanding service to Poland in 1979 – 1981 as a first Chairman of the "Jaworzno Mine Solidarity", as well as for his patriotism and love of Poland. Polonia of Southern California is proud of Stanisław Czarnota, and sincerely congratulates him receiving the "Polonia Award". □

Michael Zawadzki from 14

He was active in many organizations. He was the editor of the bulletin of the Polish Air Force Assoc. in Great Britain, 1945-46, and a member of the PAFA Council, 1949-51. Later, he was a member of the Polish Air Force Veterans Assoc. wing in Los Angeles. For his service, the Polish government in London gave him a Gold Cross of Merit in 1971.

In 1962-63, he was president of the Polish Fraternal Association of California (ASamopomoc@) and initiated the creation of a scholarship fund. He organized and led the Polish Book Club for youth who had finished the Polish Saturday school. The club met every two weeks and then every month for two years.

In 1965-67, he was on the Poland's Millennium Committee in Los Angeles. He was the first president of Poland's Millennium Library.

He was twice elected a vice-president of the local division of the Polish American Congress, and remained active until the 90's. When he considered running for president of the division, a very time-consuming position, his wife threatened to divorce him. From 1968 to the late 90's he was a member of the Polish Affairs Committee of the PAC's Council of National Directors.

From 1969 to 1982, he was the chairman of the AGdansk@ chapter of the Polish Western Association. This was an organization created within the Polish American Congress in 1955 to lobby for U.S. recognition of the Oder-Neisse Line as the border between Poland and Germany.

He was on the first board directors of the Polish Radio Hour and the first board of the Committee for Aid to Poles in the Former USSR. He was on the boards of the Polish University Club and of the local lodge of the Polish National Alliance.

He was one of the founders of the PAC Anti-Defamation Committee of California and worked for the inclusion of the WWII genocide of the Poles into the California Model Curriculum on Human Rights and Genocide. He wrote a summary which, against strong opposition, was adopted by the Board of Education in 1987.

He was president of the Polish American Democratic Club of Southern California, 1968-90. He actively supported Senator Edmund Muskie's campaign for president and was elected as a delegate for Governor Jimmy Carter to the Democratic convention. Muskie's parents were Polish and Carter's close advisor was Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski.

He wrote articles published in professional journals and in Polish publications. He was the political editor of APanorama,@ the only Polish-American illustrated monthly on the West Coast. He made speeches at events commemorating important dates in Polish history, and gave talks about conditions in Poland.

A devout Catholic, he became active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and in the 90's organized a bible study group at the Polish Parish on Adams Blvd.

After several years of weak health because of a leukemia-like condition, he died at home in 1999, never having fulfilled his dream of moving back to Poland.
By RJZ

Frank de Balogh from 14

California ethnic leaders (half Polish and half Hungarian) to attend the NATO summit held in Washington DC. The delegation was a Non-Government Organization (NGO) representing the State of California and it delivered letters of welcome from California Governor Gray Davis to the Prime Ministers of the three new NATO members admitted in 1999, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

At the present time Mr. de Balogh is Chairman, Commission for Public Social Services County of Los Angeles. Its function is to advise the Board on the operation of programs and offices of the County's welfare system, which is administered by the Department of Public Social Services. This Department provides services for over 2.1 million County residents, has a budget of over \$3 billion

Taxes - Roth IRA from 3**Roth IRA**

In contrast, contributions to a Roth IRA are never tax-deductible, but qualified distributions are exempt from federal income tax. Generally, a qualified distribution is one taken after you've reached age 59½ from a Roth IRA that has been in existence at least five years. Another important difference in a Roth IRA is that no distributions are required beginning at age 70½.

Qualifying for a Roth

The problem with Roth IRAs is that you cannot establish one if your income exceeds certain thresholds that are adjusted each year for inflation. Nor, up until now, could you convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA if your adjusted gross income was over \$100,000. This double elimination kept many taxpayers from being able to choose a Roth for their retirement savings.

Converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA is considered a taxable event.

The rule change

Tax legislation passed in 2006 changed the rule on Roth conversions and ended the \$100,000 income limitation, effective January 1, 2010. The rule change also eliminates the prohibition against converting to a Roth for married taxpayers who file separately; they will now qualify to do a Roth conversion. In effect, any taxpayer at any income level and with any filing status is able to convert all or part of a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. Note that the income limits for making regular contributions to a Roth IRA have not been eliminated. If your income exceeds these limits, you cannot contribute to a Roth. Your only way to participate is through converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA.

Paying tax under the rule change

If you want to convert a traditional IRA to a Roth, there's a price to pay. Converted amounts attributable to tax-deductible contributions, plus all of the earnings, are subject to income tax at ordinary income rates. For conversions done in 2010, you may elect to report half of the income on your 2011 tax return and the remaining half on your 2012 return. You may instead elect to pay all the tax due on the conversion on your 2010 return. While prepaying seems contrary to the standard tax advice that deferral is usually the best choice, future tax rates may be higher and postponing income into future years could mean a higher tax bill.

If you have additional questions about the ideas mentioned here and/or the many other strategies available to you, they may be directed to me at 800-CPA-KROL (272-5765), or you may write to:

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dollars, and has a staff of 14000 employees.

Mr. de Balogh and his family have been actively involved in ethnic community affairs, primarily, the Hungarian Community of Southern California, for over 40 years. He has supported a number of community organizations and churches. As a County Commissioner, he has been instrumental in providing awards and recognition to outstanding Hungarian community leaders for their many contributions to Hungarian culture and community service.

During his four decades of public service, Mr. de Balogh has received recognition from many governmental, political and community organizations. These include the U.S. Army, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, California State Assembly (E. Konnyu, Assemblyman), County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, Reagan for President '84, National Republican Heritage Groups Council, California Ethnic Leadership Council, Polish American Congress of Southern California, Baltic American Freedom League, Arpad Academy (Gold Medal), President, Republic of Hungary (Knight's Cross), Ministry of Defense, Republic of Hungary, Consulate General of Hungary and others. □

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