

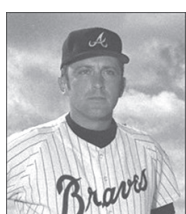
Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Philadelphia, PA

Museum's Historic Reflections Project April / May

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Historic Philadelphia presents Historic Reflections from Polish and Polish American history on the Polish American Radio Program. The reflections are organized in a daily format. Some of the dates may be the birthday or death date of a prominent person. Other dates may celebrate a milestone in a prominent person's life such as a career promotion, invention date, or some accomplishment that contributed to science, medicine, sports, or entertainment history. Other dates may be an anniversary of a historical event in Polonia or Poland's history.

You can hear weekly historic reflections on the Saturday edition of the Polish American Radio Program at 11 A.M. on 1540 AM Radio from Philadelphia. Listen to rebroadcasts 24 hours a day at PolishAmericanRadioProgram.com.

For your information, we have listed a brief outline of historic reflections for the months of April and May.



April 1, 1939 - Phil Niekro (Born)

Phil Niekro was a proud Polish American and well-known pitcher in Major League Baseball. He was one of the most successful knuckleball pitchers of all time, with 318 career victories. Niekro was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997.

April 2, 2005 - Pope John Paul II (Died)

Pope John Paul II, the beloved Cardinal of Krakow, Poland, was elected to be the shepherd of the Universal Catholic Church in October, 1978, and served as Pontiff until his death on April 2, 2005. During his 27 years as Holy Father, he was recognized as a true son of Poland and an international leader of faith and justice. He is known as Pope John Paul The Great.



April 3, 1849 - Juliusz Slowacki (Died)

Juliusz Slowacki was a poet and playwright who wrote "The Trilogy of Polish History". Pope John Paul II quoted Juliusz Slowacki's works on more than one occasion. Slowacki had an influence over other great Polish poets such as Krasinski, Norwid, and Ujejski. His ashes were laid to rest in the Royal Crypt in Wawel Castle.

April 4, 1989 - Round Table Talks Ended

The Round Table Talks took place in Warsaw, Poland, between February 6th and April 4th in 1989. As a result of the Round Table Agreement, Solidarnosc became a legal political party, free elections would be scheduled and massive changes for the better began to take place in Poland. It was the beginning of the fall of Communism in central Europe.



Pulaski, Wisconsin



April 5, 1804 - Vincent Dziewanowski (Born)

Vincent Dziewanowski was an American pioneer who established the city of Pulaski, Wisconsin. This was the beginning of many schools, bridges, roads and towns named after General Casimir Pulaski.

April 6, 1953 - Janet Nowicki (Born)

Janet Nowicki is well known by her stage name, Janet Lynn, a champion figure skater who won five consecutive United States Women's National Skating Championships.



April 7, 1890 - Adam Styka (Born)

Adam Styka was a world renowned painter, born in Poland in 1890. Styka's paintings of the Wild West are regarded by some critics as the best Western paintings ever painted by an artist. His religious paintings are located in churches in Europe and the United States. He is buried in the Alley of Merit at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

April 8, 1909 - Helena Modjeska (Died)

Helena Modjeska was a Polish actress of international fame who immigrated to the United States in 1876. She became a star of American stages for many years with her portrayals of Shakespearean characters. Modjeska was the mother of Ralph Modjeski, the builder of the Benjamin Franklin and Tacony Palmyra Bridges in Philadelphia and several others across America.



April 9, 1241 - Henry II the Pious (Died)

Henry II the Pious (Polish: Henryk II Pobożny), was a Piast Duke of Silesia (Wroclaw), Krakow and Southern Greater Poland from 1238 until his death. During 1238 - 1239 he served as a regent of two Piast Duchies: Sandomierz and Opole-Raciborz.



April 10, 1943 - Andrzej Badenski (Born)

Andrzej Badenski won a bronze medal in the 400 meter race in the Tokyo Olympics.

April 11, 1877 - Tomasz Arciszewski (Born)

In 1944, Tomasz Arciszewski became the Prime Minister of the Polish Government-in-Exile in London, England. In this position he was adamantly opposed to having new boundaries and a new communist government imposed on Poland.

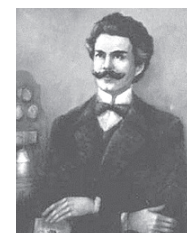


April 12, 1973 - Krzysztof Oliwa (Born)

Krzysztof Oliwa, born in Tychy, Poland, was an NHL hockey player for the NJ Devils, Pittsburgh Penguins, NY Rangers, Boston Bruins and Calgary Flames. Krzysztof Oliwa, known as the "Polish Hammer", always played a very physical game of hockey. He is currently involved with the Polish National Hockey Program.

April 13, 1872 - Jan Szczepanik (Born)

Jan Szczepanik was a Polish inventor who held several hundred patents and made over 50 discoveries, many of which are still used today in the motion picture industry, photography and television. Jan Szczepanik also worked on airplanes, helicopters and submarines.



April 14, 1895 - Wiktor Labunski (Born)

Wiktor Labunski, a Polish pianist and composer, was the director of the Kansas City Conservatory in Missouri from 1941 to 1958. Among his many musical accomplishments, Wiktor Labunski received an honorary Doctorate Degree from the Curtis Music Institute

of Philadelphia and was also a guest conductor of the Warsaw Philharmonic.

April 15, 1865 - Olga Boznanska (Born)

Olga Boznanska was a prominent Polish painter who was awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta in 1938. She is known for her famous portrait called Girl with Chrysanthemums.



April 16, 1935 - Bobby Vinton (Born)

Bobby Vinton is the popular singer and entertainer, who proudly celebrates his Polish American heritage. My Melody of Love is one of the many recordings associated with Bobby Vinton.



April 17, 1025 - Boleslaw Chrobry (Crowned)

Boleslaw Chrobry was King of Poland in 1025. He is known as Boleslaw the Brave for uniting and protecting the territories of Poland. He was a member of the Piast dynasty.



April 18, 1988 - Mary Angela Truszkowska (Beatified)

Mary Angela Truszkowska founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice, the Felicians. Today the Sisters are engaged in education, health care, social service and pastoral services. Blessed Mary Angela was beatified April 18, 1988 by Pope John Paul II.



April 19, 1943 - Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was another major resistance against the Nazi troops who brutally occupied Poland during World War II.



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