



## Welcome

Dear Friends,

It is my great privilege to be the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC. I was pleased to have had the opportunity to personally meet with many members of Polonia and friends of Poland during our Independence Day celebration. I am convinced that the coming months will present opportunities to further acquaint myself with many of you and engage in fruitful collaboration with the Polish-American community on joint initiatives.

I am assuming my Ambassadorship during a very important transition in US politics. Yet I am confident that the US-Poland partnership will remain as strong as ever. These coming months will be very productive for me and my team as we focus on pressing issues such as defense cooperation, energy security and the outstanding Visa Waiver Program question in addition to many other bilateral issues. Through hard work and determination I am convinced that we will be able to accomplish much together.

Allow me to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones the very best this Holiday Season. May the New Year bring peace, prosperity and success in both your professional and private lives.

Wesołych Świąt!

Piotr Wilczek

Ambassador

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### **Piotr Wilczek appointed Ambassador to Washington, DC**

On November 9, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States of America, Piotr

Wilczek, presented copies of Letters of Credence at the State Department.

Ambassador Piotr Wilczek is a prolific literary scholar, intellectual historian, writer, and translator. He graduated from the University of Silesia in Katowice, where he also received his Ph.D. and *Habilitation*. Recruited by his *Alma Mater*, he remained there until 2008 as a professor and Faculty Dean. His interests include comparative literature, philology, and intellectual history that form the culture and geography of knowledge across time. In 2006, he received the title of Professor of the Humanities from the President of the Republic of Poland.

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## Independence Day Celebration

On November 16, a celebration was held to mark Poland's Independence Day at the Residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC. Welcoming guests to his residence, Ambassador Piotr Wilczek emphasized his readiness to work on Poland's behalf as the new Polish Ambassador to the US. The Ambassador also expressed hope for fruitful cooperation and support of the many representatives of Polish-American organizations present at the celebration.

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## Jan Karski and Ryszard Kukliński posthumously promoted

By the decision of President Andrzej Duda, Lieutenant Jan Karski and Colonel Ryszard Kukliński were posthumously promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

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## Memorial wreaths placed at Polish graves on the eve of All Saints Day

True to the Polish tradition of visiting graves on All Saints Day, representatives of the Polish Embassy paid their respects to distinguished Poles who are buried in Washington, D.C.

Chargé d'affaires a.i. Maciej Pisarski laid white and red flowers by the grave of Jan Karski at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Chargé Pisarski was accompanied by Ms. Kaja Mirecka-Ploss, a close friend of Jan Karski, as well as head of the Consular Section Zygmunt Matynia and Major Bartosz Gruszka from the Polish Defence Attaché.



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## Ambassadors write to Congress regarding energy cooperation

In a letter to Congressional leaders, the Ambassadors of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia urge legislative action to expedite LNG exports to America's European allies.



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## "Smolensk" Screening

"Smolensk" directed by Antoni Krauze was screened in Landmark Theatres Bethesda Row Cinema on December 1, 2016. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with the participation of Professor Dariusz Kosiński, Professor Krzysztof Koehler, and moderated by Jakub Moroz.

"Smoleńsk' is an artist's attempt to find the truth, to answer at least some of the most nagging and stubborn questions about what happened on April 10, 2010" stated Ambassador Piotr Wilczek in his opening remarks prior to the screening.



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## Deputy Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki visit to Washington, DC

Deputy Prime Minister Morawiecki visited Washington, DC on October 7-8 and represented Poland at the annual IMF – World Bank Fall Conference.

During the course of the discussion entitled “Development lessons for Poland and policy insights to address emerging challenges” organized by the World Bank, Deputy Prime Minister Morawiecki presented the government’s Plan for Responsible Development which is meant to address current challenges facing Poland’s society, economy and environment.



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## Foreign minister presses case for Poland's UN Security Council bid

Poland’s bid to become a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in 2018-2019 is the key focus of Polish officials attending the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski has told reporters.



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## Poland's Security Priorities

Paweł Soloch, head of Poland's National Security Bureau, outlines Poland's Security Priorities for *DefenseNews*.

Poland’s geopolitical location is responsible for the fact that our country has always treated all questions related to security as of crucial importance. However, the events that took place in the past several years have further emphasized this priority.



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## Władysław Zachariasiewicz (1911-2016)

Władysław Zachariasiewicz, a veteran of World War II, GULAG survivor, longtime community activist, renowned member of Polonia and devoted patriot passed away on September 22 at the age of 104.

Władysław was a very good friend of our Embassy, and his life personified what love and dedication to one's homeland should be. We mourn the passing of a great man, who leaves behind an incredible legacy.

Our sincerest condolences to his wife Sandra and entire family. Farewell Władysław, goodbye to a true hero and true friend.

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## Marcin Gortat Basketball Camp in Washington, DC

On November 6, over 50 children from the Washington, DC area had the unique opportunity to “polish” their basketball skills under the watchful eye of Washington Wizards’ Starting Center Marcin Gortat. Our Embassy was proud to co-organize this event as part of the 2016 Euro Kids Festival.

Marcin Gortat together with his teammates from the Washington Wizards, Otto Porter and Tomáš Satoranský, and professional coaches from the Washington Wizards and from Poland led a basketball training camp for children from the Washington, DC metro area.

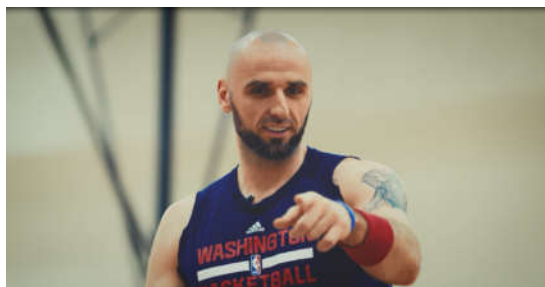
Participating children, in addition to meeting Poland’s NBA star, sharpened their basketball skills while also learning about the importance of living a healthy, active lifestyle and how to work towards attaining their goals in life. The training concluded with a scrimmage between the best participants of the camp and a team of Polish children which were selected during this year’s editions of Marcin Gortat Camp in Poland. All participants received special prizes.

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[Click here for more Gortat Camp Photos](#)

Watch our Marcin Gortat Camp Video below



## Visegrad Run in Washington, D.C.

On a sun-filled Saturday morning, October 15, in scenic Great Falls, Maryland, the Visegrad Four 5K Run – Walk and Kids Run was held to celebrate the Polish presidency of the Visegrad Group. This was the first such sporting event promoting Poland held in Washington, D.C.

The signal to start the race was given by Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Republic of Poland Maciej Pisarski, who then joined the runners in completing the race. Also running in the 5K were Petr Gandalovic, Ambassador of the Czech Republic and Peter Kmec, Ambassador of Slovakia as well as Hoyt Brian Yee, Assistant Deputy Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia.



[See more photos from our V4 Run here](#)

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## In case you missed it



Stanislawa Sandecka-Nowicka, born in Pułtusk, Poland in 1912, is a renowned architect and graphic artist. After emigrating to the United States, she became the first female professor of architecture at a US university.

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the arts, the Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage has awarded Ms. Nowicka the Gloria Artis Gold Medal for Merit to Culture. Congratulations! Pictured is Ms. Sandecka-Nowicka with her son, Peter Nowicki.



On December 7, in the US Senate, Senator Barbara Mikulski gave her farewell address. A proud Polish-American, Senator Mikulski served as founding co-chair of the Senate Poland Caucus and has worked tirelessly to strengthen US-Poland relations, including being a very strong supporter of Poland's admission into NATO.

Senator Mikulski was awarded the Commander's Cross with the Star of Polonia Restituta. Thank you Senator for helping forge ever stronger Polish-American relations. Dziękujemy!



"Portrait of a Lady" by Melchior Geldorp was stolen by Germans from the National Museum in Warsaw during World War II. The looted art was discovered in a Los Angeles home, and is now being returned to Poland. [Read more](#)



*Vanity Fair* writes about five female spies who deserve their own World War II movie, including Polish agent Krystyna Skarbek. [Read here](#)

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