



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Washington, D.C.

Consular Section

26-90-2013

Washington, September 23, 2013

**Mr. James L. Holt
President and CEO
Of Memphis in May
International Festival, Inc.**

Dear Mr. Holt,

Let me emphasize that we truly appreciate your involvement in the creation of the project "Memphis in May". Through such undertakings many ethnic communities in the U.S. have the opportunity to present the best achievements of their countries. They can introduce their culture, traditions and customs. We really do hope that the Polish community in Memphis also will have the opportunity to present our country. Also we would be really grateful if you could take into consideration selecting **Poland as a country of "Memphis in May 2015"**.

In these last few years, Poland's significance around the world is increasing, and the importance of the Polish diaspora is expected to grow, along with the quality of its representatives beyond Poland's borders. In order for this to happen, new and innovative ways of communication and initiatives are needed. Poland has changed – our country is viewed not as a security consumer but as a security provider. In the European Union, which is currently trying to overcome its biggest financial challenges, Poland is widely considered as an important part of the solution.

Nowadays, in the most recent Census, 9.8 million Americans, about 3% of the US population, admitted to having Polish roots, also the Polish generation living abroad represent a completely different generation of the Polish diaspora. It is a generation of well-educated people, who understand the conditions and situation of the country that they live in.

Embassy of the Republic of Poland
Washington, DC 20540

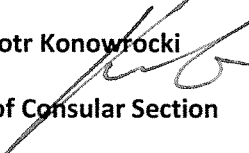
tel. +1 202 495 1586

fax +1 202 495 1132

www.washington.mil.pl

In Poland, authorities and organizations have also taken upon themselves to support initiatives for Poles living abroad. A good example of this is the Polish-American Society, launched by the Polish-American living in Tennessee. Let me highlight how much I appreciate their involvement and commitment in promoting Polish culture and history as well as teaching the community about Poland.

We kindly ask you to consider Poland as a theme country for the MIM 2015 and I fully hope that this event will provide an opportunity for all participants to exchange information, innovative ideas, knowledge and experience and you will be able to expand your network of contacts and friends.

Piotr Konowfocki

Head of Consular Section

.....