



**POLISH HERITAGE
IN THE
WASHINGTON, DC AREA**



*Sites in the national capital area
of special interest to
persons of Polish Heritage*

*American Council
for Polish Culture*



www.polishcultureacpc.org (703) 790-1984

The **Embassy of the Republic of Poland**, located at **2640 16th Street NW** Washington, DC was established in 1919 as one of Poland's first foreign missions after the country regained independence in 1918. The Embassy houses unique Polish cultural treasures including a piano used by Ignacy Paderewski.



The bronze equestrian statue of **Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski** portrays the Revolutionary War hero in the uniform of a Polish cavalry commander. The statue is located on **Freedom Plaza**, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.



Standing portrait of **Brigadier General Thaddeus Kosciuszko** holding a map of the fortifications of Saratoga. His dress is that of the U. S. Continental Army military uniform. Located in **Lafayette Park**, Pennsylvania Avenue, in front of the White House.



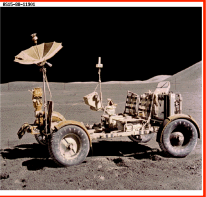
"**The Greatest Soldier in American History.**" is how President Jimmy Carter, described **Lt. Col. Matt Urban** on July 19, 1980 when he presented Urban, the Medal of Honor. America's most decorated soldier is buried in **Arlington National Cemetery**, Section 7A, Grave 40.



Brigadier General Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski recruited a company of Polish immigrants, which were listed in the official Army Register as the "Polish Legion". He is buried in **Arlington National Cemetery**, Section 1, Site 832.



Mieczysław Bekker was a Polish engineer, scientist and was a leading specialist in theory and design of military and off-the-road locomotion vehicles. He co-authored the idea and contributed significantly to the design and construction of the Lunar Roving Vehicle displayed at the **Air and Space Museum**.





The Chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa is in the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** located at **400 Michigan Ave NE**. Against a mosaic in patterns of gold, copper, and silver is set the painting of **Our Lady of Czestochowa**, supported by two angels.



Polish painter **Jan Henryk de Rosen's** mural **Christ in Majesty** is one of the largest mosaic images of Jesus Christ in the world and is located in the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**.



The Saint John Paul II National Shrine is a place of pilgrimage housing **first-class relics of Saint John Paul II**. It is located on **Harewood Road** near the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



This chapel in the **Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle** features a sculpture of **Mary** and the cathedral includes a bust of **Saint John Paul II** both crafted by Polish sculptor **Gordon Kray**.



Our Lady, Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe church displays first-class relics of **Saint John Paul II, Saint Maximilian Kolbe and Saint Maria Faustyna Kowalska**, the church is **Silver Spring, MD**.



Saint John Paul II visited many sites in the nation's capital including:
The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Our Lady, Queen of Poland and Saint Maximilian Kolbe Church
The Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle



Jan Karski, a Polish World War II resistance movement fighter and later professor at Georgetown University is remembered by a memorial on **Georgetown University** campus. The memorial, a life-size sculpture of Karski sitting on a bench playing chess, his favorite game, is located on **Copley Lawn** beside White Gravenor Hall.



Karski is also honored at the **Jan Karski Room at the National Polish Center**, which retains memorabilia related to his life and his struggle against the Holocaust. The Center is located on **"O" Street** in the **Dupont Circle** neighborhood of Washington.



Polish Library In Washington (PLIW) is located at 1503 21st Street, N.W. just west of **Dupont Circle**, The Library, is located on the lower level of the same building that houses the Embassy of Poland Economic and Commercial Section.



National Katyn Memorial recalls a forest named **Katyń**, not far from Smolensk, Russia. There, in the spring of 1940, some 5,000 **Polish POW officers** who had been captured during the 1939 Russian assault were systematically murdered. The memorial is in the **city of Baltimore's Inner Harbor** at President and Aliceanna Streets.



A bust of **Saint John Paul II** is located in **The Catholic University of America Law Library** crafted by Polish sculptor **Gordon Kray**.