

# *American Council for Polish Culture*

## For Immediate Release

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## **Polish-American group sponsors new \$5,000 journalism scholarship**

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) has created a new journalism scholarship program to honor a longtime Polish community leader whose civic work helped thousands of Central European immigrants following World War II.

**The Eye of the Eagle Władysław Zachariasiewicz Memorial Journalism Scholarship** aims to award \$5,000 annually toward college or graduate school tuition and school-related expenses other than room and board for students with a clearly demonstrated, defined interest in a career in enterprise journalism in the public interest.

Born in Krakow, Poland, Zachariasiewicz served as a lieutenant in the Polish Army at the time of the German and Russian invasions in September 1939. He survived imprisonment by the Soviets and immigrated to the U.S. in 1948 to use the skills he learned in law school at Krakow's Jagiellonian University to assist the Polish American community in multiple ways for more than half a century.

"We are very honored to create this opportunity as Poland's marks 100 years of renewed independence. This program is made possible with a generous donation from the Zachariasiewicz family," said Thomas Payne, ACPC's president.

Zachariasiewicz resided in Chevy Chase, MD at the time of his death died at age 104 in 2016. He authored *The Independence Ethos of American Polonia*, a detailed history of how Polish Americans both helped Poland achieve independence in November 1918, and supported Central Europe's struggle against Nazi fascism and communism until freedom was again achieved in 1989.

Zachariasiewicz was actively involved in the leadership of the American Council for Polish Culture, the Polish American Congress and the Pulaski Parade Committee. He served on the Board of Directors of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty and the John Paul II Foundation.

Born in 1911, in his 20s he was Director of the Youth Division of the World League of Poles Abroad, Warsaw (1936-39). After arriving in the U.S., he became executive director, Polish -

American Immigration & Relief Committee in New York City, 1949-62; and special assistant to US Postmaster General on international matters from 1964-78.

Scholarship program rules call for applicants to be a U.S. citizen, or currently applying for U.S. citizenship, admitted for at a fully accredited university in the United States or Poland. Special consideration will be given to students of Polish-American heritage and those of non-Polish heritage who have a clear and thorough understanding of Polish culture and values.

Awards will be based solely on professional and academic merit with an appreciation for issues that affect Polish-Americans, ACPC said.

The Władysław Zachariasiewicz Memorial Journalism scholarship committee is composed of three Polish-Americans:

- Mark G. Dillon, Committee Chair; Minnesota bureau chief and columnist for the *Polish American Journal* newspaper and a 1986 graduate of Northwestern University's Medill Graduate School of Journalism
- Robert Synakowski ACPC First Vice President, President of Syracuse Polish Community, Inc. and a teacher of English as a second language in the Syracuse City School District
- Mary Ellen Tyszka Past President of both ACPC and the Friends of Polish Art and former Executive Vice President of the Polish American Congress, Michigan Division

ACPC hopes applicants will be inspired to follow in the footsteps of famous journalists who maintained a strong ethical commitment, sense of objectivity and fairness amid financial, political, social and industry peer pressures. To that end, applicants are being asked to provide analytical responses to one of three hypothetical scenarios that might be faced in the process of gathering and evaluating news.

"There is a clear need in America's leading media outlets for new and objective voices that have a clear, accurate and thoughtful understanding of Polish history," said Dillon. "The best enterprise reporting holds those who wield public or private power accountable without partisan overlays or agendas. It informs and enlightens without fear or favor."

To download an application form and informational flyer, go to the scholarships section at ACPC's website: <http://www.polishcultureacpc.org>

The American Council for Polish Culture, Inc. is a national non-profit, charitable, cultural and educational organization that promotes Polish culture, heritage and history, and intercultural understanding. It serves as a network and body of national leadership among affiliated Polish-American organizations throughout the United States.

Founded in 1948, the Council currently represents the interests of some 21 organizations in 15 states and the District of Columbia. Incorporated in Illinois, the Council holds tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational entity.