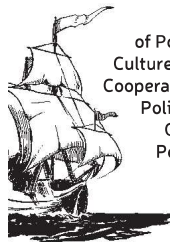


Polish American Heritage Month

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation with the Polish American Congress and Polonia across America



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

ESTABLISHED 1911

OCTOBER 2015 • VOL. 104, NO. 10 | \$2.00

www.polamjournal.com

A MODEL OF SUCCESS POLONIA CAN FOLLOW • WARSAW UPRISING REMEMBERED • POL-AM EDUCATORS HONORED
WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO? • "WALKING" ON A WASHINGTON STREET • POLISH OPERA COMES TO DETROIT
"CUT-A-LOUSE-KEY" OR ANGLO-MANGLING • ILLINOIS POLONIA LOSES AN ADVOCATE • KOSCIUSZKO GOES MISSING

Newsmark

BIEDRZYCKI NEW VFW COMMANDER. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) concluded its 116th National Convention by electing Pittsburgh-native John A. Biedrzycki, Jr. as its new national commander.



PHOTO: BOB-FALLETTE

Biedrzycki served in the U. S. Army from 1967-1970. He served in Korea with the 7th Infantry Division, and his decorations include the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Korean Defense Medal. He is a VFW Legacy Life Member and served in elected and appointed positions at the post, county, district and department (state) levels prior to his elections to national office. He has been a member of the VFW for 46 years, having first joined the VFW at Post 418 in McKees Rocks, Pa., in 1969.

In his acceptance speech, the VFW's new leader called on the organization's nearly 1.4 million members to recommit themselves in service to others, which was one of the primary reasons his organization's founders formed in 1899, and formerly merged here in Pittsburgh in 1914. He also urged everyone to consider how much poorer the country would have been had the VFW never existed.

A retired high school history teacher, Biedrzycki also stressed that "freedom isn't free" – something America tends to forget.

ROBOT HELPS YOUNG CP PATIENTS. Two young Polish scientists were honored for creating a robot, which aids in rehabilitating children afflicted with cerebral palsy.

Grzegorz Piątek and Bartłomiej Wielogórski, both graduates of Krakow's AGH University of Science and Technology, were awarded a cash prize of one-hundred thousand dollars in the competition launched just this year to recognize innovative business ideas and inventions.

The contest was part of the fifth Investment Forum in Tarnow, instituted within the framework of the ongoing Krynica Economic Forum.

The "automatic gait trainer," initially constructed by Grzegorz Piątek four years ago, is now in production, manufactured by Prorobot, and recently became available for purchase.

GOOD NEWS. Poland's unemployment rate is expected to fall to single digits this month, said Labor Minister Kosiński Kamysz, quoting Labor Ministry estimates. The rate fell to 10.0% in August at which time it was predicted that from September on the rate would continue to fall.

RADIO REPRISAL. Poland and the Netherlands are joining forces to counter so-called "Russian propaganda" with a new Russian-language "content factory," after U.S. Senator John McCain insisted that propaganda is key to "winning the Cold War" without a single shot.

The Dutch-Polish news agency will offer TV, radio, and online content in the Russian-language across in the countries of Russia and Eastern Europe. It is planned that the agency will start working next year, with the Netherlands and Poland hoping that other EU States will join them.

The project will "give the tools and the capacities for Russian language [media] and Russian social media to work on the basis of objective information ... with the exchange of different viewpoints," said Bert Koenders, the Dutch foreign minister. Koenders added that that there was a "broad support" for the endeavor from EU foreign ministers.

The new news agency will be "something which doesn't use the language of propaganda or aggression, but which has real, reliable information," said Polish Foreign Minister, Grzegorz Schetyna.

"One of the key elements of winning the Cold War without firing a shot ... is the propaganda – the message, the social networking," said McCain.

Hagel to Address Conference



CHUCK HAGEL, former U.S. Secretary of Defense, will deliver the keynote address at this year's conference hosted by the American Polish Advisory Council.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Polish Advisory Council (APAC), a Washington-based nonprofit, bi-partisan organization with a mission to politically engage Polish Americans, announced that former U.S. Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Chuck Hagel will be the keynote speaker at this year's Polish American Conference.

The 2015 conference will take place on October 10, 2015 at the Atlantic Council Headquarters located at 1030 15th Street Northwest, in Washington, D.C.

APAC's Conference is held in a different city each year and focuses on some of the most pressing issues concerning Polish Americans, as well as those shaping the U.S.-Poland strategic partnership. This year's program, in addition to remarks by Secretary Hagel and Ted Kontek from the State Department, will include a panel discussion on the importance of the ethnic vote in the U.S. presidential elections and on the potential implications of the

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership on trade, jobs and energy independence. The conference will be opened by the Honorable Ryszard Schnepf, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States.

This year's panelists include: Dr. James Zogby, president of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Council; Mike Wild, Deputy Director on Redistricting for the Republican National Committee; Adam Wilczewski, political strategist and consultant; Katarzyna Klimasinska, energy expert at Bloomberg TV; Ted Bormund, Ph.D., from the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom at the Heritage Foundation; Dr. Jeffrey Mankoff, Deputy Director of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; and Eric Stewart, President of the U.S.-Poland Business Council.

Participants will also be updated on efforts to secure Poland's membership in the U.S. *see "Hagel ...," page 4*

Poland Still Bypassed by Refugee Mainstream

"Promised land" Germany is the Main Destination

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—For months, the refugee crisis has been a constant theme of Poland's TV news programs. There have been harrowing images of drowning children, refugees crossing the Mediterranean aboard rubber rafts, being herded on and off trains and beaten by police. An endless stream of weary, bedraggled refugees with children in tow is regularly shown trudging on foot to "freedom and prosperity." Syrians fleeing their war-torn country usually travel through Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary,

the border of the European Union. There they have easily penetrated a razor-wire barrier border and clashed with Hungarian police.

The refugee traffic skyrocketed overnight after German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany would welcome 800,000 refugees by the end of the year. The German government even released a video in Arabic and other languages showing a refugee being welcomed by German border officials giving him money, a place to stay and asking: "What else can we do for you?" The response was overwhelming. Thousands of refugees were soon pounding on Germany's *See "Refugee ...," page 5*

Holocaust Survivor Repays Ultimate Debt

Helps Resettle Christians in Warsaw

LONDON — A Jewish Barron in Britain, who was rescued by Christians from his homeland of Austria during the Holocaust in 1938, has established an effort to rescue over 2,000 Christians at risk of being killed by the Islamic State terrorist organization in Iraq and Syria.

Ninety-five-year-old Lord George Weidenfeld, who once faced very similar circumstances — the possibility of being martyred simply for one's faith — said he had a debt to repay.

He established the Weidenfeld Safé Havens Fund,



Lord George Weidenfeld

which is an initiative designed to help at least 2,000 at-risk Christians flee to safety in Poland. *See "Warsaw ...," page 4*

Wisła Gives Up Her Secrets

WARSAW— A World War II Russian fighter plane, pieces of Jewish tombstones, bridges, boats, and ceramic objects dating as far back as 700 BC have been uncovered as Poland's rivers dropped to record lows this summer. The Wisła (Vistula) is among Poland's rivers at their lowest levels since measurements began in the late 18th century.

Firefighters worked to retrieve the remains of a Soviet fighter plane, its pilots, and Jewish tombstones from the Vistula and its tributaries.

"The Vistula river is hiding no end of secrets. They are everywhere," said Jonny Daniels, head of the Jewish foundation "From the Depths," who waded into a shallow area of the Vistula, picking up fragments of stones bearing Hebrew script.

The remains of the Soviet fighter plane were discovered in the Bzura river, a tributary of the Vistula near the village of Kamion in central Poland. The pieces have been placed in a museum in nearby Wyszogród. Additional recovery work is planned. Director of the Vistula Museum, Zdzisław Leszczyński, said parts of Soviet uniforms, a parachute, a sheepskin coat collar, parts of boots, a pilot's TT pistol and radio equipment and a lot of heavy ammunition were found. The inscriptions on the control panel and on the radio equip-

See "Wisła ...," page 4