“The one who does not respect or value his past is not worthy of the respect of the present or has the right to the future.”
Józef Piłsudski
Presentation Plan

• Creators of Polish Independence
• 1st World War and Opportunity for Independence
• The Birth of 2nd Commonwealth 1918-1921
• 2nd World War and Warsaw Uprising
• 2nd World War Family Stories
• Europe During the Cold War
• Karol Wojtyła and St. Pope John Paul II
• From Election of Polish Pope to 1st Free Elections
• Polish Emigration to Texas and Current Texan Polonia
Creators of Polish Independence

- Roman Dmowski: Leader of National Democracy movement, Minister
- Ignacy Paderewski: 1st Prime Minister, diplomat, pianist, composer
- Gabriel Narutowicz: 1st President, Minister, assassinated
- Wojciech Korfanty: Political and social activist, organizer of Silesian Uprisings
- Wincenty Witos: Leader of Polish People's Party, Prime Minister
- Józef Piłsudski: Chief of State, Leader of the 2nd Polish Republic
- Gen. Józef Haller: Commander of the 2nd Brigade, political and social activist
- Gen. E. Rydz-Śmigly: Commander-in-Chief, politician, painter, poet

Current Map of Poland with 1795-1918 Partitions
1st World War and the Opportunity for Independence

Military Operations of Polish Legions 1914 - 1916

- 3 brigades, ~6,000 soldiers each
- July 1917 – oath crisis
- 1917-1918 – Piłsudski imprisoned in Fortress Magdeburg (Germany)
The Birth of 2nd Commonwealth 1918-1921

- 11 Nov 1918 – end of WWI and Polish Independence
- 1918-1919 – Wielkopolisca (Greater Poland) Uprising
- 1919-1921 – Bolshevik War and “Miracle at Vistula”
- 1919 – Polish-Czechoslovak War (Seven-Day War)
- 1919-1921 – 3 Silesian Uprisings
2nd World War, September Campaign, 1939

Timeline:
- 1 Sept – German invasion, WWII begins
- 3 Sept – France and Great Britain declares war to Germany
- 9-16 Sept – battle of Bzura
- 17 Sept – Soviet invasion
- 28 Sept – Warsaw surrenders
- 2 Oct – Hel surrenders
- 5 Oct – Kock – the last battle
- Polish government escapes through Romania

Casualties:
- Poland: 200,000 (soldiers and civilians)
- Nazi Germany: 16,300
- Soviet Union: 10,000-20,000
Poles on the Fronts of the 2nd World War

As part of British Army:
- 1st Polish Corps - commander: Gen. Stanisław Maczek
- 2nd Polish Corps – commander: Gen. Władysław Anders

As part of USSR Army:
- 1st Polish Army – commander: Gen. Zygmunt Berling

Major battles:
- Warsaw Uprising 1944
- Battle of England
- Katyń massacre
- Germany attacks Soviet Union

Range of military operations:
- Poland
- Germany
- France
- Russia

Polish Military Operations During WWII
- Polish Airforce
- Polish Navy
- Major battles
- Warsaw Uprising 1944

Area of military operations:
- Poland
- Germany
- France
- Russia
Zawada Family Story (Maryann Ciaston)

Zawada Family in 1943

Gerard (Grandfather, age 44)
Zdzisław (Father, age 17)

Zawada Family currently

Ed (Brother)
Regina (Mother)
Zdzisław (Father)
Steve (Brother)

Monte Cassino

2nd Polish Corps

Tobruk

Cairo

Zdzisław Zawada
Zawada Family Story (Maryann Ciaston)

Gen. Władysław Sikorski
(Commander-in-Chief of Polish Army)
31.V.1943

Polish school and barracks,
Heliopolis, Egypt

Polish soldiers in front of the Cheops Pyramid
Warsaw Uprising 1 Aug – 3 Oct 1944

Polish Committee of National Liberation (PKWN), Sept 1944

Goal:
- Liberate Warsaw from Germans before Red Army

Casualties:
- 20,000 Polish soldiers
- 120,000-150,000 Polish civilians
- 10,000-17,000 German soldiers
Family Story (Piotr Przybylski)

Cpt. Piotr Przybylski with his wife Stanisława

Grave of Cpt. Piotr Przybylski
Balance of Power During the 2nd World War
Europe During the Cold War

Warsaw Pact

NATO
(North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
Europe During the Cold War

NATO vs Warsaw Pact

- Est. 1949
- Democracy
- Independent nations
- Capitalism
- Free market
- Free trade, stocks
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of gathering
- Unrestricted travel
- Pluralism
- Free elections

- Est. 1955
- Communism
- Soviet Union and its satellite countries
- Socialism
- Market controlled by government
- No free trade
- No stock exchange
- No private entity
- No freedoms
- Restricted travel
- One communistic party
- No free elections
Poetry and Drama

"I send you greetings in the name of beauty, which is the profile of God, the cause of Christ, and the cause of Poland."

1941

Wojtyła

Kotlarczyk
They have exhausted you . . .
But with all of this you have remained beautiful.
The most beautiful of the sons of men.
Such beauty was never repeated again.
Oh what a difficult beauty, how hard.
Such beauty is called mercy.

Karol Wojtyla
*Our God’s Brother*

ECCE HOMO by Saint Brother Albert
(Adam Chmielowski)
“Art remains a kind of Bridge to religious experience. Insofar as it seeks the beautiful, fruit of an imagination that rises above the everyday, art is by its nature a kind of appeal to mystery.”
Poland The Pope from a Distant Country

• Millennial celebration 1966 – reception of faith from Saints Cyril and Methodius in 966

• Catholic Culture
  - Jasna Gora and Our Lady of Czestochowa
From Election of Polish Pope to 1st Free Elections

• Card. Wojtyła Elected for Pope – 16 Oct 1978

• “Solidarity” Labor Union Movement – Aug 1980

Card. Stefan Wyszyński
Primate of the Millennium

Habemus Papam!!!

1st Pilgrimage
to Poland 2-
10 June 1979

“Let Your Spirit descend and renew the face of the Earth, this Earth!”

Lech Wałęsa
“Solidarity” Leader

Gdańsk Shipyard, strike of workers against communist government

Agreement between “Solidarity” Labor Union and Polish government
From Election of Polish Pope to 1st Free Elections

- Round Table Agreement - 6 Feb – 5 Apr 1989
- 1st Free Elections – 4 June 1989
  - Defeat of PZPR – communistic party
  - We won Democracy!!!

Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski
Chairman of the State Council

Tanks and militia on the streets

Riots against government

Agreement between government and opposition represented by “Solidarity”
Bl. Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko – Chaplain of “Solidarity”

“OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD”

Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko
14 Sep 1947 – 19 Oct 1984
Beatified: 6 June 2010

Museum of Fr. Popiełuszko

Capture location of Fr. Popiełuszko by government agents

Transparents carried by demonstrators after his death

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

Transparents carried by demonstrators after his death
Bl. Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko – Chaplain of “Solidarity”

Grave of Bl. Fr. Popiełuszko in Warsaw, 1986

Exposition in the Old Parish Hall
Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Houston
4 Waves of Polish Immigration to Texas:

- **I and II waves** “za chlebem” (“for bread”)
- **III wave** “Solidarnościowa” (“Solidarity”)
- **IV wave** “dla gospodarki” (“for the economy”)

I Silesia region (Prussian partition) since 1854
II Wielkopolska / Kujawa (Prussian partition) and Małopolska / Galicia (Austrian partition) since 1866
III 1980-1984, Martial Law, from all over Poland – Texas, California, the US Mid-West & East Coast
IV 1980s-present, from all over Poland – Texas, California, the US Mid-West & East Coast
“If Polonia in Texas is to survive, we must work together as one Polonia including old and new Polonia in all activities, events and projects.

There is no future Polonia without the new immigrants. The influx of new Polish immigrants helps us keep our culture and heritage alive and strong.

In addition, there is no future in Polonia without recognizing all of Texas Polonia including original rural Polish communities…”

Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz
President, PACT
PACT Objective and Purpose

1. To further knowledge of Polish culture, traditions, history, language, arts, current affairs, and statewide events in Texas.

2. To facilitate networking among Polish interest groups in Texas.

www.PolishAmericanCouncilofTexas.org
Polish Organizations and Polonia Groups in Texas (as of May 2020)

1) Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, Houston
2) Polish American Council of Texas (PACT), La Vernia
3) Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Houston
4) Wawel Dance Group, Houston
5) Nicolaus Copernicus Polish School, Houston
6) St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, Dallas
7) Jagoda Dance Group, Dallas
8) Jan Karski Polish School, Dallas
9) Polish Association in Texas, Dallas
10) Texas A&M Polish Association, College Station
11) Austin Polish Society, Austin
12) Polish Heritage Center, Panna Maria
13) Father Leopold Moczygemba Foundation, San Antonio
14) Polish American Chamber of Commerce in Texas, Houston
15) Casimir Pulaski Polish American Society of El Paso
16) Polish National Alliance, Texas Chapter
17) Polish American Priests Association in Texas
18) Polish Genealogical Society of Texas, Houston
19) Kosciuszko Foundation, Texas Chapter
20) Polish Home, Houston
21) Polish Film Festival, Houston
22) St. John Paul II Institute, University of St. Thomas, Houston
23) Polish Academy in Houston
24) “Polski Dzień”, Bremond
25) Polish Bridge Club, Houston
26) Polish Volleyball Team “The White Eagles”, Houston

Polonia Programs:
- Schools
- Dance groups
- Heritage centers
- Databases
- Festivals
- Film
- Insurance
- Sport

Connection and collaboration with Polish government, academia and business.
Historia Rodzinna – Maryann Ciaston
1) Further develop Polish culture, traditions, history, language and arts
   • Provide support to Polish communities to fulfill their cultural needs (e.g. help establishing new Polish schools, cultural events, museums, theaters)
   • Support students interested in Polish culture (e.g. scholarships, study abroad in Poland, internships, Polish language courses in Poland)
   • Advertise Polish cultural organizations and businesses (e.g. PACT website, handbook)
   • Help supporting Polish communities by advertising their cultural needs to Polish institutions (e.g. Embassy, Consulate, foundations)

2) Maintain networking of Polish interest groups in Texas
   • Rural settlements divided by regions and assigned to each PACT director
   • PACT director coordinates Polonia social and cultural events with regional Polish/Polonia organization or elected local delegate
   • Inform Texas Polonia about Polish events in collaboration with Polish organizations through Texas media (e.g. TV stations, newspapers, websites)
   • Coordinate transport of local Polonia to Polish events