

Senate Resolution No. 1892

**BY:** Senator FAHY

**RECOGNIZING** 250 years of Polish-American friendship in conjunction with the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of the Legislative Body to recognize and pay just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups that comprise and contribute to the richness and diversity of the communities of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** In keeping with its time-honored traditions, this Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge and celebrate the enduring contributions of Polish Americans, the rich heritage that illuminates Poland's history and traditions, as well as the spirit of an indomitable people; and to commend the Polish American Congress for its continued efforts to preserve Polish culture, heritage, and identity while promoting civic engagement and pride; and

**WHEREAS,** Relations between the Polish and American people have been central to the national histories of both nations since the first Polish settlers arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1608, beginning centuries of cooperation between what would become the United States of America and the Republic of Poland; and

**WHEREAS,** Numerous Polish patriots fought in the American Revolution, including General Tadeusz Kosciuszko, who arrived in the American colonies in June, 1776 to support American revolutionaries in their fight for liberty and oversaw the construction of fortifications in places such as West Point and Bemis Heights (Battle of Saratoga); and General Casimir Pulaski who is known as the "Father of the American Cavalry" and is credited with having saved George Washington's life at the Battle of Brandywine; and

**WHEREAS,** The bond between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland has continued to strengthen through the centuries, reflected in milestones such as the designation of October as Polish American Heritage Month in 1986; Poland's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1999, strengthening transatlantic security and successfully fulfilling Poland's ambitious efforts to transform its political system, economy, and military, and becoming one of the United States' strongest allies in Europe; and

**WHEREAS,** Poland has demonstrated exceptional leadership on the global stage in promoting global security and democratic values, including its contributions to international security efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, its strong support for Ukraine in response to Russia's 2022 invasion, and its role as a key NATO ally investing significantly in defense and hosting United States military personnel to strengthen regional stability; and

**WHEREAS,** Polish Americans have made lasting contributions to the

State of New York, enriching its communities through traditions in language, cuisine, music, and the arts, while also playing vital roles in commerce, labor, education, science, medicine, politics, and public service; Polish American institutions, faith communities, and cultural organizations have helped preserve a vibrant heritage that continues to shape the identity of the State; and

**WHEREAS,** The people of this great State and Nation, and the people of Poland enjoy a deep and abiding relationship rooted in kinship and culture, with more than 750,000 New Yorkers proudly tracing their own roots to Poland; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize the significance of events which foster ethnic pride and exemplify the cultural diversity that represents and strengthens the fabric of the people and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize the contributions of Poles and Polish Americans and their role in the establishment of democracy in the United States of America; affirm more than 250 years of support and friendship between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland; and express its appreciation to the Polish American Congress, the primary Polish American organization in the United States, for its efforts to promote Polish heritage and represent over 10 million Americans of Polish descent; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Polish American Congress Central New York; the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York; and the Polish American community of the State of New York.