



# Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon, PHC Chairman and President

The Polish Heritage Center wishes all veterans a Happy Veteran's Day. We honor you for your service to our great country. In fact, the Polish Heritage Center honors veterans year-round with free admission to the Center. Thank you for all that you've done for America.

Knowing that history evolves, Bishop Yanta discussed with the PHC Board the need to update our exhibits as new facts come to light. The Board is currently considering changes to a few exhibits to reflect new information that has been provided by researchers and our visitors. We have been pleased to receive the assistance of the IPN, The Institute of National Remembrance, in our efforts.

The Polish Heritage Center was proud to participate in the first annual Oktoberfest at La Villita, highlighting the cultures and cuisines of Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic, among others. It was wonderful to spend a warm festive weekend in the heart of old San Antonio with PHC staff Alice Poore, Lauren Robinson, Mirna Estrella, and John and Christie Wojtaszek; Docents Linda Griffith and Becky Bexar; Board members Sam and Susie Kotara, Susan Moczygamba-McKinsey, Shelly Laskowski, Pat Hoffmann, Laura Dylla, and Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz; and volunteers Elaine Stephens, Rebekah Pawelek, Ariel Estrella, and Mykayla Janysek. Dr. Jim entertained the crowds with his Polish music, while Genny Kraus and son Matthew provided displays of Polish artifacts and information. A special thanks to Asia Gonczar from Apolonia Catering of Austin and Tim Bordovsky from Polloks in Falls City. Their traditional pierogis and wedding sausage were a big hit. Polish culture was well represented at the event.



# More from Oktoberfest 2024



## Calling All Docents!

By: Alice Poore, PHC Executive Director

The PHC is excited to announce our new Docent program, which began in September with a welcome breakfast at the Center. Traditionally, a docent will act as a guide, typically on a volunteer basis. We are blessed to say that our docents are so much more. They are knowledgeable about the Polish Heritage Center and are enthusiastic to participate in any activity we host. These docents will welcome our guests and help to ensure that their PHC experience leaves them with an appreciation of the history and our beautiful exhibits.

Our docents will assist with large groups of visitors and especially the many school tours that are being booked. They will serve refreshments and assist students with learning a traditional Polish craft. Along with these duties, our docents will assist guests with purchases in the gift shop. Becky Bexar and Linda Griffith, both from San Antonio, Shirley Palitza from Falls City, and Marsha Brockman, Joni Huwe, and Sandra Yanta from Karnes City are a wonderful group of ladies to start our docent program. If you are interested in joining the PHC Docents, please contact Alice Poore, at 830-310-8612. We promise a lot of fun!



Garrison Moczygamba and Erynn Hosek at their wedding rehearsal dinner



Kayla Kotara and Tanner Bostick at their couples' shower

# Honoring our Veterans

By: John Cebrowski, PHC Board Member and Vietnam veteran

The Polish Heritage Center's commitment to veterans began with visionary founder Bishop John W. Yanta and his passionate desire to memorialize those from the Heritage communities who served, beginning with the Civil War through the present day.

Veterans come from all parts of the country. They grow up in the humblest backgrounds or the most privileged, in rural areas, small towns and large communities. Many have graduated from high school, community colleges, or major universities. Others have minimal education.

Many factors drive "joining up", including the desire to learn a skill or trade, earn pay and benefits, experience travel, make straight a life path, follow in a family member's footsteps, or in the past, being drafted. But buried in that decision process, there has been and always will be a spark of patriotism, a desire to serve America.

Some veterans have ancestors who came to America centuries ago. Others are newer Americans whose parents or grandparents immigrated from places as far-reaching as Poland, Ireland, Germany, Mexico, Vietnam or Lebanon. Some come from families with long traditions of military service and are fourth or fifth-generation soldiers, Marines, sailors, or airmen. Others are the first of their families ever to wear the uniform.

The life-altering decision to join the military, and the experience that comes with it, are private. Many veterans carry their memories within their heads and hearts and are proud to share them with friends and family. Some choose not to because of the trauma they suffered or witnessed. However, there is one attribute that they all possess, and that is pride in having served. That pride and mutual respect for fellow veterans, regardless of branch of service, welds them together in a camaraderie that only they understand.

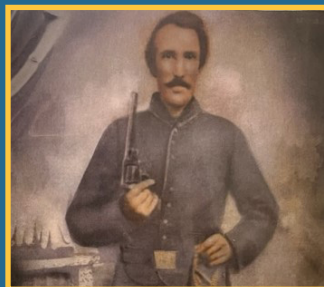
What does it mean to be a Veteran? It means sacrifice. It means you've put your life at risk. It means you still get goosebumps when you see a military fly-by or hear the national anthem. It means believing in what America stands for. It means you take it seriously when you fly your American flag on the 4th of July, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day. It means that even though your body may be riddled with problems or pains, you would do it all over again.

Remember President Abraham Lincoln's admonition: "Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere who bravely bears his country's cause; any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure."

Thank you for supporting all of our veterans and for supporting the Polish Heritage Center, which is committed to honoring them.



Moczygemba Photo - Donated by Robert 'Bobby' Moczygemba



PVT Simon Lipok - Donated by The Family of Simon Lipok



Sgt. Thomas Kyrish - Donated by James Kyrish



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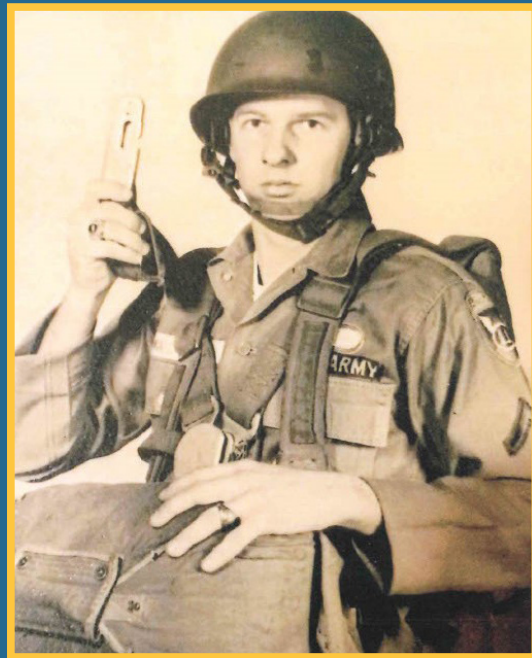
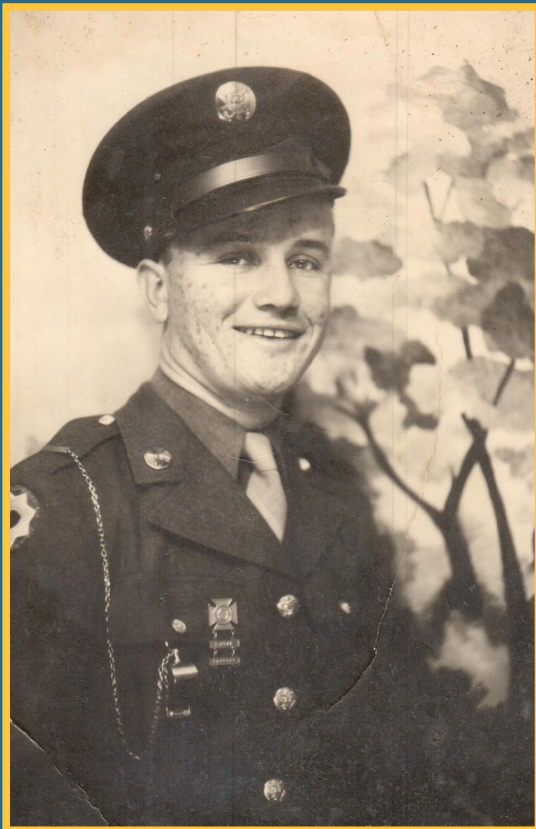


PHC Hours: Wed. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
[www.polishheritagecentertx.org](http://www.polishheritagecentertx.org)  
(830) 310-8612

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TAX ID: #46-0561240

**News from the Heritage Communities**



Left: William Henry Sowa - Donated by Janet Dawson Ebrom

Right: SSGT. Gerard Kasprzyk - Donated by Pat Hoffmann