



The General Casimir Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee

New York, NY

History

The Pulaski Parade Committee sponsors the greatest manifestation of Polish Pride in the United States by hosting the largest gathering of Polonia, who march proudly up the Queen of Avenues, 5th Avenue in New York City. For 72 years, the Committee has organized various contingents from around the tri-state region of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut into a cohesive force, proclaiming their pride in their Polish heritage. Since 1937, the Pulaski Parade is the second oldest ethnic parade in New York City.

The Pulaski Parade honors the memory of two Polish-American patriot generals, Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who fought for American freedom during the War for Independence.

The Pulaski Parade Committee evolved from another group, the General Krzyzanowski Committee. That committee was formed to have General Krzyzanowski, a Civil War hero and his wife re-interred from New York to Arlington National Cemetery. John Pateracki and Francis Wazeter and others quickly organized the Parade for that year. Immediately after the Parade, the remains of General Krzyzanowski and his wife were taken by train to Washington, DC, for re-interment in Arlington National Cemetery.

Since 1937, the route of the Parade has been changed to 5th Avenue from 26th to 52nd Streets. The official

reviewing stand is now in front of the New York Public Library at 41st Street while the Cardinal Archbishop of New York, accompanied by local and Polish clergy, takes in the festive march from the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The Parade Today

Every year, the Pulaski Parade Committee selects an annual theme. Whether it be the 400th anniversary of Poles in Jamestown, Virginia or the accomplishments of Polish-Americans in all fields of human endeavor, the Parade Committee strives to show the world the contributions that we as people have made in all aspects of life. For that one special day, the first Sunday in October, regardless of the weather conditions, we present to the world our successes. Prior to the Parade, we celebrate our heritage with a special Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral demonstrating our devotion to God and our loyalty to both the United States and Poland.

One of our most cherished traditions is having a Miss Polonia from each contingent who represents, along with the contingent Marshal, all that is noble about the communities they represent. Each contingent is unique in how they choose to present their pride in their culture. The Parade Committee encourages the contingents to demonstrate every aspect of our culture and history in ways that uniquely showcase our diverse and talented members.

Tens of thousands of people of all ages, both genders and virtually every station in life participate in the Parade, attired in colorful folk costumes of their native regions of Poland or just dressed in their "Sunday best", but all united in the same purpose to honor the memory of the Polish-American hero, General Casimir Pulaski. Tens of thousands more gather along the Parade route as spectators to gaze at the decorated floats, to hear the lively music, to revel at the festive dancing by youth and professional groups, to admire the beauty of each contingents' Miss Polonia and to see friends, relatives and neighbors march by.

The Pulaski Parade may be a one day event, but the planning is year round. As part of our planning, the Committee holds its meetings in as many locations as possible, this in an effort to mobilize the membership and

make all contingents inclusive, whether they be located in upstate New York, out on Long Island or throughout New Jersey.

The Committee strives to bind all Polonia under one banner, united in our pride in our heritage. In this way and with the sponsorship of our greatest financial institution, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, the Committee is able to showcase for all to witness "the Greatest Manifestation of Polish Pride in the World".

TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN POLAND



General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, Inc.

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General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, Inc.
is a sponsor organization for the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union

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The information above was prepared
by General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, Inc.