



The 20th
International
Polonaise Ball

celebrates

VIRTUTI MILITARI
POLISH
MILITARY ORDER

THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1792 - 1992

*A Night to
Remember*



The International Polonaise Ball was announced for 7:30 but already much earlier the cocktail lounge started to fill with beautiful ladies in flowing gowns and gentlemen attired in black and white tie or uniforms with all their military decorations.

The double line of cadets of the U.S. Air Force, ROTC, Det. 155 of University of Miami, in full regalia and with American and Polish flags, greeted all the guests at the entrance.

The receiving line led by **Lady Blanka Rosenstiel** included many of the ladies of the committee — there was a feeling of great anticipation in the air....

The cocktail party, courtesy of **Mrs. Pauline Kostuik**, **Mr. Waldemar Dowiak** and **Mr. P. Bordeaux** of the Sazerac Co. of New Orleans, was mostly spent on a joyous reunion of the many who came from near and from far to be at this very special occasion.

The state was set for two important celebrations: the 20th anniversary of the American Institute of Polish Culture, but mostly and especially, for the Bicentennial Celebration of the most prestigious of Polish Orders, the *Virtuti Militari Cross*. The Order was established by **King August Poniatowski** in 1792 and was given, for bravery on the battlefield, to more than 20,000 persons of various nationalities worldwide.

The ballroom decor, partially underwritten by **Sir Edward** and **Lady Anna Lee Porter**, looked elegant and airy; the Polish white eagle with a golden crown,

sported for the occasion a large *Virtuti Militari Cross* (perfect replica made by **Mrs. Domanska** of Key Biscayne); the table arrangements, donated by **Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper** of Chicago included high candelabras and hundreds of pink roses cascading from tall mirrored vases forming an umbrella over seated guests.

The ceiling, decorated with hundreds of small lightstrings in long chiffon garlands with pink balls of ostrich feathers, seemed to pull the large ballroom together making it cozy and friendly.

After the brief ceremony of presentation of colors by the cadets and the singing of the national anthems, the message from **President George Bush** was read. **Prof. Zdzislaw Wesolowski** was in charge of this brief presentation program. He introduced the Vice Minister of National Defense **Mr. Janusz Onyszkiewicz** who together with his beautiful wife **Joanna**, came from Poland for this occasion. **Mr. Onyszkiewicz** read a special message from the president of Poland, **Lech Walesa**. All recipients of the *Virtuti Militari Cross* were introduced afterwards together with some members of their families. **Lady Blanka** presented roses to all.

The traditional Polonaise Dance then followed. Master of Ceremonies, **Mr. Zygmunt Czarnecki**, called all the participants one by one and the Dance started. **Lady Blanka** with **Baron Vladimir Reisky** led the stately Polonaise, followed by **Loretta Swit** with **Benedict Markowski**, **Princess Lada**



*Mr. Waldemar Dowiak, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Mr. Tadeusz Slesicki.*

Shuiski with **Count Vladimir Grocholski**, **Mrs. Wanda Tomczykowska** with **Wieslaw Kuniczak**, **Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Berkman**, **Gina Janiga** with **Waldemar Dowiak** and other distinguished couples.

A delicious dinner was served, salmon in dill sauce, filet mignon and a dessert consisting of a chocolate basket filled with berries in sabayone cream. Polish vodka "Luksusowa", donated by Adamba Imports Corp. of New York, flowed freely as did the champagne donated by **Mrs. Harriet Irsay** and **Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Musial**. Special gourmandise was passed in bonbonieres with the finest of Wawel chocolates from Poland generously offered also by Adamba Imports Corp.

Following dessert, distinguished guests were introduced: **Mr. Nicholas Koni**, a renowned sculptor of Palm Beach, who donated a monumental sculpture of **Marshal Jozef Pilsudski** to the new democratic Poland, was applauded loudly for his magnanimous gesture (the sculpture already in Poland will be officially unveiled this year, in May); the beautiful actress of the "M.A.S.H." fame, **Ms. Loretta Swit**, who came especially to our ball from London and **Mr. Wieslaw Kuniczak**, the prominent Polish writer, who received the Institute's 1992 AIPC Gold Medal Award for his outstanding accomplishment in the field of literature.

When Lady Blanka invited all the Board Members to thank them sincerely for their full cooperation, assistance

and day to day work at the Institute and to the cutting of the 20th Anniversary cake, all present stood up and sang "Sto lat, sto lat" (Polish birthday song).

The door prizes chaired by **Pauline Kostuik** included many valuable items, amongst these, a beautiful painting by **Gilbert Kieffer**, a French painter, married to the very charming **Anetka Wochajewska-Kieffer** of Poland — they both came from the Isle de la Reunion for his paintings exhibition at the Lumberras Fine Art Gallery in Miami.

It was a night to remember. The ball ended very late ... with a Grand Polonaise danced by all to the accompaniment of the Michael Longo orchestra, courtesy of **Mrs. Harriet Irsay**.

Some of the local donors known as "Angels" included: **Mrs. Harriet Irsay**, **Mrs. Grace Clayton**, **Mrs. Audrey Love**, **Mr. Waldemar Dowiak**, **Mrs. Rubi Baccardi**, **Mr. and Mrs. James Cromarty**, **Mrs. Mary Mapp**, **Mrs. Pauline Kostuik** with a table of 34, **Mrs. Ande Lippin** with a table of 24, **Countess Astrid de Grabowski**, **Mr. and Mrs. Jacek Schindler**.

Other out-of-town guests were: **Captain and Mrs. T. Kutek** of London, **Gen. Brig. O.L. Peacock** from Winter Park, **Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kupiszewski** from Tallahassee, **Dr. Stanislaw and Dr. Barbara Burzynski** from Houston, **Major Peter Inglot** of Chicago, **Mr. Michael Pawlowski** of Washington D.C., just to mention a few.





Mrs. Christine Arnal



Lady Blanka with Board of Directors members before cutting the birthday cake.



(L-R): Loretta Swit with Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Berkman.



Cadets of the U.S. Air Force, ROTC, Det. 155 of UM



Lady Pauline Kostuik with Brig. Gen. Jan Libront.



Dr. and Mrs. Behram Kursunoglu.



(L-R): Manfred Mathaei, Baroness Hilikka Kimmunen de Rosiers, Mr. Nicolaus Koni and Baron Seppy Dobronyi.



Mr. and Mrs. Marian Nejman.



Mr. and Mrs. James Cromarty.



(L-R): Mr. Nicolaus Koni, Baroness Hilikka Kimmunen de Rosiers, Mrs. Irena Petri, Mr. Stanislaw Kedza, Lady Blanka and Mr. Roman Cooper.



Mr. Tadeusz Slesicki, Lady Blanka and Mrs. Anetka Kieffer-Wochajewska.



Mary Mapp



Ms. Gina Janiga with Mrs. Barbara Cooper.



Mrs. Peggy Rose and Mr. John Sullivan.



Lady Blanka, Mr. Jay Van Hall, Princess Lada Shuiski, Mr. Michel Pavolowski.



Mrs. Robert Martwick, Ms. Loretta Swit, Mr. Robert Martwick, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kupiszewski and Dr. and Mrs. Michael Bonczak.



Mr. and Mrs. Tadeusz Kutek.



Mr. and Mrs. Jacek Schindler with Baroness Stephanie van Koris zu Guten (R).



Lady Blanka with Baron Vladimir Reisky de Dubnic



Vice Minister and Mrs. Janusz Onyszkiewicz.



Lady Blanka and Loretta Swit.



Lady Pauline Kostuik and Mr. Wieslaw Kuniczak.



Recipients of the Virtuti Militari Order and members of their families.



Lady Blanka and Mr. Wieslaw Kuniczak



Lady Blanka, Baroness Hilikka Kimmunen de Rosiers and Mr. Nicolaus Koni.



(L-R): Mr. George Stein, Mrs. Ande Lippen, Mr. John Schmidt and Mrs. Reva Dauer.



Mrs. Ruxton Love and Mr. Robert Shafer.



(L-R): Mr. Waldemar Dowiak, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Domerque, Ms. Sandra Sevre and Brig. Gen. O.L. Peacock.



Grace Clayton and Constantin Pardos.



Mrs. Reva Dauer and Mr. George Stein.



Lady Blanka with recipients of the Virtuti Militari Order.



Prof. Dr. and Mrs. Zdzislaw Wesolowski.



Dr. M.A. and Mrs. Edna Gene Schofman.



(L-R): Mrs. Betty Campbell and Mr. Ken Gordon, Mrs. Harriet Irsay and Mr. Albert Van De Male.



Mayor and Mrs. Paul Vogel.



Lady Blanka with Mr. and Mrs. Chester Partyka.

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(L-R): Dr. Wojciech Rostafinski, Ms. Maria Kruszevska and Mr. Wieslaw Kuniczak.



Loretta Swit and Mr. Benedict Markowski.



(L-R): Princess Lada Shuiski, Mr. Michel Pawlowski, Lady Blanka and Baron Vladimir Reisky de Dubnic.



Mr. Janusz Burzynski and Ms. Judy Saletko.



(L-R): Mr. Ziggy Czarncki, Loretta Swit, Lady Blanka.



Dr. and Mrs. Peter Nowosielski.



(L-R): Mr. Roman Cooper, Lady Blanka, and Mr. and Mrs. Wlodzimierz Grocholski.



(L-R): Brig. Gen. O.L. Peacock, Ms. Sandra Sevre, Mr. Tadeusz Slesicki and Lady Blanka Rosenstiel.



Mr. Tadeusz Slesicki and Lady Blanka.



(L-R): Dr. Stanislaw and Dr. Barbara Burzynski, Mr. Tadeusz Slesicki and Mr. Janusz Burzynski.



(L-R): Mrs. Wanda Tomczykowska, Baron Vladimir Reisky de Dubnic and Miss Remy Solange Szykier.



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Thompson.



(L-R): Mr. Witold Kaczanowski, Countess Astrid de Grabowski and Mr. Roman Cooper.