

HONORARY COMMITTEE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHAIR OF
POLISH STUDIES AT THE MILLER CENTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Chairman:

Lech Walesa, Former President of Poland

Co-Chairmen:

Hon. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Former National Security Advisor

Hon. Lawrence Eagleburger, Former United States Secretary of State

Hon. John Dingell, U.S. House of Representatives

Hon. Dr. Stanley Haidasz, Canadian Senator

His Excellency Jerzy Kozminski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States

James Michener, Historical Novelist, Author of "Poland"

Hon. Barbara Mikulski, United States Senator from Maryland

Jan Nowak-Jezioranski, Author of "Courier from Warsaw"

Kenneth W. Thompson, Director, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia

Lech Walesa, Former President of Poland:

We can work together only when we know each other. Lack of knowledge causes misunderstanding, prejudice and conflict. For this reason, I wholeheartedly support the initiative to establish a Chair of Polish Studies at the University of Virginia. The knowledge of customs, culture and the way of thinking of the Polish people is important in making investments in Poland (a market of 40 million people). The establishment of the Chair will be a great asset for American business.

From the time of Pulaski and Kosciuszko, the contributions of Polish ethnic groups have been a part of the American cultural heritage. I believe that the Chair will keep this heritage alive.



Zbigniew Brzezinski, Former National Security Advisor:

The initiative to establish a Polish Chair at the University of Virginia is both timely and important, especially in view of the growing connection between expanding Europe and the dynamically transforming Poland.



Lawrence Eagleburger, Former Secretary of State:

Greater knowledge of the nations emerging from the shadow of Soviet rule is imperative if the United States is to help those nations to become prosperous democracies. The establishment of a Polish Chair at the University of Virginia will be a major contribution to reaching this objective.



His Excellency Jerzy Kozminski, Polish Ambassador to the United States:

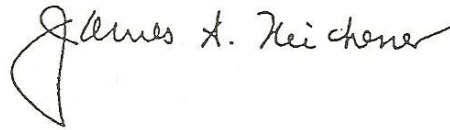
As American trade and investment increase in Poland, so will the need for knowledge about the Polish government, economy and business structures.

I heartily support the initiative to establish a Polish Studies Chair at the Miller Center of the University of Virginia. I am convinced that the Chair will contribute considerably in promoting the knowledge and awareness about contemporary Poland among American students.



James Michener, Author:

I have seen all corners of Poland, in all seasons. I am proud to be called a friend of that gallant nation, the heartland of Europe. With freedom and realignment, it becomes urgent for America to know more about Poland.



Barbara Mikulski, United States Senator from Maryland:

I applaud the creation of a Chair of Polish Studies at the University of Virginia. It will enable us to better understand the proud history, rich culture and dynamic future of Poland. This is the right time for a Chair in Polish Studies. Just a few years ago, Poland was among the first countries to tear down the Iron Curtain. Today, Poland has one of the fastest growing economies in Europe – and it is moving toward its rightful place as a member of NATO and the European community.

This is the right place for a Chair of Polish Studies. The great patriot Thaddeus Kosciuszko fought for American independence by the side of his friend Thomas Jefferson. He then returned to Poland to help establish the constitution of a free Poland. This partnership and mutual love of liberty will live on through a Chair of Polish Studies at Jefferson's University.



Jan Nowak-Jezioranski, Writer-Author "Courier from Warsaw":

The increased interest in the dynamic Polish economy requires an immediate increase in the availability of knowledge about Poland....The University of Virginia is one of the most forward looking institutions of learning.... The importance of educating prospective business people in the history, culture, government and economic conditions of Poland is of urgent necessity.... I am pleased to be a part of the effort to establish a Polish Studies Chair.



John Dingell, U.S. Congressman:

As individuals, a community, and a nation, Poland and Polish people have contributed much to the enrichment of industry, arts, religion and culture. There is much we can learn from the rich history of the Polish people, and much we can gain from a broader understanding and stronger ties with a nation that continues to play an important role in the growth of our nation and the world community.

It is important to bring attention to the positive impact Poland and its people have in the fields of business and academe. I am confident that the Miller Center's Polish Chair will help to meet this lofty goal. I am equally certain that the Chair will serve the noble cause of strengthening Poland's gallant struggle toward a democratic, free market state to which the United States has been inextricably linked.



Stanley Haidasz, Canadian Senator:

We in Canada have recently founded a Polish Studies Chair at the University of Toronto. Bringing this hemisphere to a fuller knowledge of the potential of Poland is a worthy cause.

