

CONGRATULATIONS TO POLISH  
AMERICAN VETERANS' CLUB OF  
WILBRAHAM, MA ON ITS 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to congratulate the Polish American Veterans' (PAV) Club of Wilbraham, Massachusetts on its 50th anniversary.

The PAV in Wilbraham has for half a century played a vital role in its community. In celebration of this noteworthy occasion, I take this opportunity to express my personal congratulations to each and every member of the Club, and to enter the complete history of the Polish American Veterans' Club of Wilbraham, Massachusetts into today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE HISTORY

The hostilities of World War II had come to a close and the veterans were returning to their homes where their families were anxiously preparing a warm welcome. The local Organizations and merchants also combined their efforts to extend their greetings through a "Welcome Home Day." The men and women who were being honored at these events formed a new segment in our community, "Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States." The loose social association these men held in the months following their return coupled with their similarity of interests, ambitions and background inspired the idea for the formation of an organizational of local Veterans.

Uniting any group into a functioning organization required the leadership of a person who is familiar with the aspirations and problems of the group, along with a deep interest in their progress. The Veterans of the Tri-Town area were fortunate in having a man who qualified in every respect as an organizer. His interest in the welfare of this body must have had a great influence on leading them into organization. The man, Father A. Rys, then curate of the Immaculate Conception Parish. His uniting efforts during these important organizational meetings resulted in the formation of a strong "Polish American Veterans Club."

Father called the first meeting on February 23, 1947, where various types of Veterans groups were discussed. A committee, headed by Edward Haluch, was formed to do research into an organization that would function best in this area. The new club was to be founded by the Veterans of Polish extraction from the Indian Orchard, Ludlow and Wilbraham area to encourage social acquaintances among members for the advancement of social, educational and economic welfare of its members. With these ideals in mind, a committee was delegated the task of drawing By-Laws. Thus, the first meeting had set the organizational wheels in motion. During subsequent meetings officers were elected and committees for an efficiently functioning organization were appointed. The first few officers were: President, John Kiebania; First Vice President, Al Sambor; Second Vice President, Mitchell Kowalski; Clerk, Emil Wysik, Financial Secretary, Joseph Popeo; Treasurer, Bernie Smola; Service Officer, Dr. Francis Bacewicz; and Sergeant at Arms, Louis Grondalski.

The name of the club was to be "The Polish American Veterans of Indian Orchard, Ludlow and Wilbraham."

Founded on the principle of social unity and community service, the club prospered in the ensuing years. From its inception, a vigorous athletic program was sponsored, the most successful of all being the baseball team which drew an enthusiastic following. They identified the organization throughout the Western Massachusetts area when they captured the Knights of Columbus Tournament in 1949 and were runner-up for the Western Massachusetts Amateur Baseball Championship in 1950. The basketball team was no less successful, in that they shared the limelight in completing the season as Western Massachusetts Champions in 1952. The bowling league and hockey team kept the members active in the winter months. In addition to the organized league activities an intramural basketball program was initiated and impromptu volleyball games or golf matches filled what spaces remained in the sports calendar. Trophies representing championships in every major sport are held by the club.

In 1949, the Club Members remodels the old dairy building on 4½ Action Street as their temporary home and for ten years it served as an informal meeting place for members. The good management of the small clubhouse plus the aid of the members had placed the organization in a financial position which made the erection of new quarters possible. The purpose of this venture was to house all the club activities and to serve as a meeting place for the entire community.

A building committee was appointed and in January 1959 at a specially called meeting, the plans for the new building were accepted by a vote of the body. The dedication of the "Polish American Veterans Club" was held on January 30, 1960.

The membership broadened its scope in community service. We expanded our sports program to include the youth in the area by sponsoring baseball, girls' softball, hockey, soccer and basketball. We also sponsored a visit of the West Point Glee Club for a performance at the Springfield Auditorium. Many Club Members and their families had the pleasure of meeting the cadets personally by sharing their homes for an evening stay.

The Polish American Veterans were instrumental in the renovation of the Kosciuszko Garden at West Point Military Academy. The Sunshine Village and many charitable organizations receive annual donations. The Ludlow Hospital was given a sizable donation for their fund drive. The cost of a classroom was given to Christ the King Social Center. A new Church Altar was presented to the Immaculate Conception Church. The Fire and Police Departments in the Tri-Town area received life-saving and communication equipment. The area Libraries are given hard cover books periodically. The annual United Polish Clubs Scholarship Dinner-Dance is held in the Veterans Ballroom. Biannual bus trips to the Holyoke Soldiers Home fill buses with Members, the Auxiliary, Polish pierogies, rye bread, horseradish, kielbasa and home baked pastries plus prize winning money for Bingo Games which is shared with the resident patient veterans. The Post also adopted a wing at the Holyoke Soldiers Home for which we funded interior decorations and supplies.

The greatest highlight in the Club history was the founding of the "Polish American Auxiliary." The women organized in 1952 under the same policy and the same aims as the Veterans Club. The "Auxiliary" has been indispensable in providing assistance to the Club. They have been a mainspring in devising fund raising methods. Our major fund raisers are joint ventures of the Veterans and the Auxiliary. The Labor Day Weekend Picnic and the Annual Breakfast-Brunch.

In June 1962, the Wilbraham Post became affiliated with the Polish American Veterans of Massachusetts. Our Post hosted State Conventions in 1964, 1970, 1976 and 1984. The most outstanding was the 1976 Convention and Parade complete with 15 State Posts and their Marching Bands. The march was led by our own "Minute Men" dressed in Revolutionary War Uniforms. This Parade was one of our contributions to the year-long celebrations of the United States 200th Birthday Party. Many of our Club Veterans and Auxiliary Members served as officers in the State Department of the Polish American Veterans of Massachusetts. To this date, 6 Club Veterans have been elected State Commanders and 2 Auxiliary Members were elected State Presidents.

The Town of Wilbraham generously deeded to the Polish American Veterans surplus Pine School land along with a parcel which was taken from the Polish American Veterans by eminent domain for School purposes. This enabled the Club to construct additional paved off-aces parking, an outdoor pavilion and open land for recreational activity.

Socially we continue to celebrate the annual Dinner-Dance; the Joint Installation of Officers; a Spring-Fling; a Steak Barbecue; a Hawaiian Night; the Membership Jamboree and the Children's Party. There are also Bowling and Golf Tournament Banquets. This gives all our members and their friends additional opportunity for continued fellowship in a most friendly atmosphere.

There is a more serious side to this organization. Annually, the Members and the Auxiliary gather in their Parade Dress for a march to church to pray for the souls of the deceased Members and Comrades who perished in battle. The Gold Star Mothers were always revered at the ceremonies.

Services and wreath placing are also conducted at "Our Lady of Peace" monument adjacent to the Immaculate church, at the 1987 dedicated "Polish American Veterans Triangle" and concluding at our quarters "Memorial Monument Green." The Full Military Honors given the deceased are witnessed by the many who gather to join in prayer for their souls.

Many of our Members serve or have served the Community and State in various capacities. As trustees in Hospitals, Church Councils, Community Council, Senior Councils, in elected Political Offices and other service areas. The Polish American Veterans have established outstanding records and are a guiding influence in our community.

CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE BUTTS COUN-  
TY COURTHOUSE IN JACKSON,  
GEORGIA

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Butts County Courthouse in Jackson, Georgia. The anniversary celebration is being held tomorrow, and I wish to submit the remarks I prepared for the occasion for the Congressional Record.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the citizens of Butts County for inviting me to be a part of the 100th anniversary celebration for our county courthouse. During the long and rich history of our county, this beautiful building has endured the test of time. It has long

out-lived its predecessors which were all destroyed by fire.

And over the past century, it has seen many fine men and women elected by their fellow citizens to honorably serve Butts County. It is good to see so many of those who have served here today for this celebration. I myself had the honor and privilege to have served as Chairman of the County Commission.

It was 22 years ago Julie, my family and I began our public service. But I had public service running through my veins long before I ran for office. As most of you know, I was born here in Jackson at the O.B. Howell Clinic. In fact, I was spanked to life by three-term Commission Chairman O.B. Howell himself. I was raised by a mother who was a Flovilla City Councilwoman and a father who always said he wanted to serve on the County Commission. I was destined to be in politics.

But my career in public service would never have occurred without the support, hard work and endurance of my wife, Julie, and my children. I began that career right here at home as Chairman of the Butts County Commission. I then moved to the Georgia State Senate where I served two terms.

Today, I have the honor of serving as a United States Representative in the peoples' house in our nation's capitol. I would not have been able to persevere unless my family had been at my side through all of those years and all those campaigns. I also owe the people of Butts County a debt of gratitude for the support you have given me. I regret that state politics prevented me from representing you in the United States Congress.

I have been asked, "was it worth the time, the effort and the money?" My answer is always, "Yes."

I have always had a strong desire to give something back to the community, the state and the country that have been so good to me. And, at each step of the way, I have grown a little more.

In many respects, the most challenging and rewarding office I have held is County Commissioner. I was young, energetic and a know-it-all. Serving as a Commissioner taught me the rigors of public service, and it taught me humility. During my first month in office, January of 1977, a winter storm with freezing rain brought the rural roads of our county to a standstill. Many fine citizens volunteered to help the county meet the challenge of getting our roads open and people moving again.

I have laughed and joked that we broke up DUIs in Butts County by bargaining with Probate Judge Gene Blue to sentence all of those convicted of DUI to 30 days on the County Commission. DUI arrests declined dramatically.

The accomplishment for which I am most proud was negotiating the contract to install water lines connecting Jackson with Flovilla and Jenkinsburg.

The saddest experience I had as Commissioner was my defeat for reelection in 1980. I had many goals I still wanted to accomplish for the people of Butts County. My good friend and fellow Commissioner, Mr. Everett Brisco, and I knew we would be defeated. I told him during one of our many rides around the County that "a loss in this election may lead to a major victory in the future."

Time and the people of Butts County were good to me. You elected me to represent you in the Georgia State Senate.

During my four years there, I had the opportunity to participate in shaping the laws on issues of great importance to us all—education, taxes, crime, the economy and many others.

In 1993, I took on a new challenge—United States Representative for Third Congressional District of Georgia. I have found that many of the issues and concerns in which I was involved as a Butts County Commissioner and as a Georgia State Senator are also issues that concern the Congress—only on a national scale. But while we in Congress engage in great debates over our national defense, the direction of our government, the fate of the President and the future of our children, I am always reminded from where I come.

Shortly after my election to Congress in 1992, I received a letter from my childhood friend, Frank Duke. In that letter Frank wrote, "It is a long way from Flovilla, Georgia to Washington, D.C." He also enclosed a photograph of the town of Flovilla. We are now grown and gone our separate ways. But Frank's letter and photograph remind me of the hopes and ambitions we had.

And it reminds me of the values and principles we were taught by our parents, our teachers, and the wonderful people of a small town. I have kept that letter and photograph to remind me of my home and the lessons I learned with Frank and the others so many years ago.

As I conclude, I would like to read to you the quote by the great poet Longfellow which is printed in the dedication of the History of Butts County Georgia. It is worthy of reflection by all those who are elected to serve. It reads: Each one performs his work and then leaves it

Those that come after him estimate  
His influence on the age in which he lives.

Thank you and God Bless You.

#### AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives will today make one of the most solemn decisions it can make next to a declaration of war—whether to proceed with a full congressional inquiry into allegations that the President's actions warrant his removal from office. A bipartisan majority of the House, including members of the President's own political party, will support the resolution to hold hearings and further investigate the President's conduct.

The historical significance of today's action does not escape me. This is only the third time in our nation's history that Congress has voted to proceed with an impeachment inquiry. Today, particularly, I feel a burden of responsibility as never before during my years of public service.

Like most Americans, I have weighed very carefully the evidence presented thus far by

the Independent Counsel. From the very beginning, I have wanted to give the President every benefit of the doubt. I have wanted to believe that he was telling the truth. But it is now clear that he has not been truthful with the American people, with the Congress, with his staff, and with his own wife and family.

No man, not even the President, is above the truth or above the law. Each man and woman must be held accountable to the duly established laws of the United States. In this matter before us, it is very important that the legal process, as outlined in our U.S. Constitution, continue to its conclusion. That means that the Congress, and more specifically, the House Judiciary Committee, will now hold hearings to determine if the President's actions warrant his impeachment.

The time this investigation has taken, and the toll it has taken on our country, is a direct result of the President's efforts to deny the truth and delay the process. He could have—and should have—told the truth from the very beginning but instead he chose repeatedly to lie. Anyone who has served in a court proceeding knows the significance of taking an oath to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. A violation of that oath is perjury. It is now evident that the President has lied under oath. To maintain the fundamental integrity of our system of government, he must be held accountable for his actions.

These actions have not taken place in a vacuum. From the Oval Office to the President's Cabinet, the President has had a dramatic effect upon our responsibilities at home and abroad. While it is still too early to predict the outcome of this crisis, one thing has become increasingly clear: by his own evasion of the truth, the President's effectiveness and the standing of the United States throughout the world has been severely diminished.

Meanwhile, the work of this Congress is continuing. While the media is focused primarily on the Judiciary Committee's work, Congress continues to address the enormous challenges facing our country and the world. The United States now faces enormous tests on both the domestic and world stage—terrorist bombings, of our embassies, Saddam Hussein thumbing his nose at UN inspections, North Korea's development of nuclear weapons, and an increasingly fragile peace in Northern Ireland. Closer to home, we are addressing real challenges before us—the future of Social Security, improving education, reducing taxes on American families, and averting a government shutdown.

In closing, President Clinton's careful and calculated legal response has not served him or our country well. This is a sad day in our nation's history. The President and the President alone bear full responsibility for the action Congress is taking today. We must move forward with this process. I encourage our Members to support the Committee's resolution.

#### TRIBUTE TO HENRY A. SCHMITT

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry A. Schmitt, a widely-known and