

2017-J5780

Senate Resolution No. 5780

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMENDING the Polish American Congress, Central Division of New York State, upon the occasion of celebrating 100 years of Poland's Independence on September 22, 2018

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups which comprise and contribute to the richness and diversity of the communities of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Polish American Congress, Central Division of New York State, upon the occasion of celebrating 100 years of Poland's Independence (1918-2018) on Saturday, September 22, 2018, at the Polish Community Center in Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Poland's Independence Day, which celebrates the country's regained independence on November 11, 1918, after 123 years of partitions and rule by Russia, Prussia and Austria, is one of the most important national holidays in Poland; and

WHEREAS, Poland has been celebrating Independence Day since 1920; during and after World War II, this was done clandestinely; and

WHEREAS, Independence Day was restored as a national holiday late in 1989 after Poland's political transformation; and

WHEREAS, While November 11th received the status of a state holiday as late as in 1937, it was celebrated with exceptional pomp during the Second Polish Republic; military parades filed through the streets of Polish cities and were received by Marshal Jozef Pilsudski, who is acknowledged as the father of independent Poland; and

WHEREAS, Today, Poland's Independence Day has become a day of festive celebrations with its main ceremony taking place in the Pilsudski Square and is attended by the highest state officials; and

WHEREAS, For many Poles, Poland's Independence Day is a day to spend in the company of friends and family, enjoying their day off as well as reflect on their country's history and an opportunity to express their patriotic sentiment; and

WHEREAS, Many Poles also spend time participating in activities such as commemoration runs which attract several thousand runners, Nordic walkers, wheelchair athletes and rollerblade enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS, After decades of fighting for independence, for their native language and for their own identity, Poles can finally enjoy their freedom and be proud of their homeland; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Polish American Congress, Central Division of New York

State, upon the occasion of celebrating 100 years of Poland's Independence on September 22, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Polish American Congress, Central Division of New York State.