

2022 POLISH ARTS CLUB HONOREE

Deborah M. Majka



Deborah M. Majka, served six terms as President of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) and is a native Philadelphian. In April 2011 she was inaugurated as Honorary Consul of The Republic of Poland for Southeastern Pennsylvania by Ambassador Robert Kupiecki.

She earned an M.S. in Counseling and Human Relations from Villanova University, and worked for Rohm and Haas Company, an international chemical manufacturing company headquartered in Philadelphia.

She serves in the Polish American Congress as Vice-President for Cultural Activities where she successfully organized and chaired the national commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Polish craftsmen in Jamestown, VA in 1608.

On the local level, Debbie has completed five terms as President of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, an affiliate of ACPC. For many years she was an active volunteer at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, in Doylestown, PA, and during celebration of its 50th Anniversary was honored by the Shrine for all her loyal work.

She is a charter member and President of the Marcella Kočańska-Sembrich Female Chorus, No. 321, Polish Singers Alliance of America. Her Saturday mornings are devoted to teaching Polish language to both children and adults at the Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Associated Polish Home. As producer and host of a half-hour radio program in English on Polish topics, entitled "*Polonia Today*," she may be heard on WWDB 860 AM (streaming and archived at: www.wwdbam.com).

Her numerous awards and medals include: Medal Zasługi (Polish Army Veterans); Polish American World Newspaper Citizen of the Year, the ACPC Founders Award, Poland's Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit, the Joseph Jachimczyk Polonia Award from the National Medical and Dental Assn and the National Advocates Society, Citizen of the Year by the *Am-Pol Eagle* (a Buffalo, NY weekly newspaper); the Polish American Engineers in the U.S. 70th Anniversary *Polonia Technica* Medal. In 2012, she was named Grand Marshal of Philadelphia's Pulaski Day Parade, sponsored by the Polish American Congress Eastern Pennsylvania District. In 2013, Debbie received the American Institute of Polish Culture, Pinellas County, (an ACPC affiliate) Distinguished Service Award.

Since taking on the assignment as Honorary Consul, Debbie joined the Philadelphia Consular Corps, an association of diplomats working in Philadelphia, and Citizen Diplomacy International, an NGO that handles

the relationships that Philadelphia has with its Sister Cities abroad (Toruń is the Sister City in Poland).

In addition to an active part in the local Polish-American community, Debbie has taken a leading role in several events that focused on Poland's role in shaping its partnership with the United States and in world history. Among the more important ones were:

1. Speech at the US Military Academy in West Point during the Thaddeus Kosciuszko commemoration (April 30, 2016)
2. Polish Independence Day ceremony at the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg, PA (November 14, 2018)
3. Proclamation of the 100th Anniversary of US-Poland Diplomatic Relations during a session of the PA House of Representatives in Harrisburg, PA (June 17, 2019)
4. Flag raising near City Hall in Philadelphia on the 38th Anniversary of Solidarity (Aug. 31, 2018) and for Polish Independence Day (Nov. 12, 2021)
5. Polish Independence Day Ceremonies, 100th Anniversary, at the Associated Polish Home in Philadelphia (Nov. 11, 2018)
6. Escorting Ambassador Piotr Wilczek in Savannah, GA during the Polish Tablet dedication on Oct. 9, 2017 and also at the Philadelphia Free Library Book Dedication on March 7, 2019
7. Representing Poland at the annual booth that the American Council for Polish Culture hosts at the National Conference for the Social Studies (a national teacher's convention)

In addition, in her function as Honorary Consul Debbie has represented Poland in various other functions that

needed a local Polish representative in Philadelphia, this included:

1. Receiving Culture Minister Piotr Glinski at the Kosciuszko Memorial (Sept. 25, 2016)
2. Meeting with Maciej Świrski of the Polish National Foundation (July 18, 2019)
3. Meeting with John Coney of Paramount Enterprises International (a major importer of Polish products) June 5, 2019
4. Hosting Consul General Maciej Golubiewski (Dec. 3-4, 2017)
5. Arranging for space for Consular Visits and for Polish Elections in the USA

The above are but a few instances of the many times that Debbie has held high the Polish flag and represented the Polish people in the United States. She has appeared at many meetings, celebrations and events, fulfilling honorably her mission as the Honorary Consul and official representative of Poland.

Photographs from her activities may be found on the internet: <http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/Consul>

