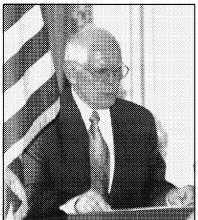
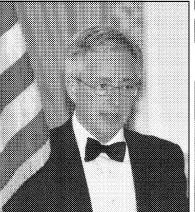
Constitution Ball from 1











Bishop Goślicki

King Poniatowski

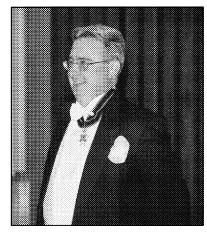
General Kościuszko

President Jefferson

President Reagan



Michael Dutkowski Reader of the Preamble



Kasztelan Charles Coulombe



Leaders of the sing-along Ed Sentowski, Irene Ujda, Teresa Turek, Chris Kolski



Renata Perzyna and Elizabeth Kozłowski sang a song dedicated to those who were in Siberia. Renata's Father's family and Elizabeths's Mother's family



Richard and Lady Karen Wideryński

and performed a thrilling solo Mazur to appreciative applause. The dancers were dressed in an array of elegant costumes: among them Cynthia Harper in an American Colonial gown of brilliant cherry and golden amber color; Archie and Carolyn Clark in 18th Century formal black velvet and white satin; Henrietta Bemis was gorgeous in her snow white-wig and vivid green French gown with panniers; David Weidner was stunningly handsome in his French Napoleonic Marshall Ney uniform; Lavendar McGrath was dazzling in her red and white Empire era gown; Marq Filcich was energetically kicking up his heels in a white wig and Colonial frock coat. Guests from other dance groups included Richard Duroe and Ruth Levin in matching red and gold Central European court costumes.

The high point of the evening came when Master of Ceremonies (Kasztelan), the distinguished Charles A. Coulombe, in a deep and resonant voice, boomed out a royal

invitation for all to follow him into the Fireside Room for The Constitution Celebration. Andrew Ettinger was introduced as the Moderator and Announcer, followed by five surprise guest speakers.

Mr. Ettinger opened by explaining that this would not be a re-enactment as was announced... but, rather, a never-before-attempted virtual reality presentation, a time-travel event that would serve to dramatize the history and relevance of the great Polish Constitution in a new and personal way, through the characterizations of five major historical figures. One could sense the quizzical response in the audience...

The first speaker was Wawrzyniec Goślicki, convincingly role-played by Zbysław "Bish" Petryka. Dr. Goślicki was the nearly-forgotten Polish clergyman and scholar who wrote the history-making book; The Perfect Senator, in 1568. He told how the book was reviled, censored and actually burned when published. But it was not to be suppressed... even by the Queen of England's furious orders that every copy be destroyed. He spoke of his ideas about democracy and freedom, and the need for us to realize that law must be above the rule of kings. He noted that his learning emanated from the sages of the ages, from the Persians, the Greeks, and others... and that mankind must always fight tyranny and seek to improve the human rights of all citizens.

Mr. Ettinger next introduced Thomas Jefferson, a magnificently and authentically-uniformed Richard Wideryński, who played the role with aplomb. Richard is President of the PAC and a history buff. It was pointed out that many of Dr. Goślicki's ideas were adopted and refined by America's Founding Fathers. Jefferson himself used the very words of Goślicki in his famous lines... "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal." Jefferson went on to tell of his work on the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. He got a laugh when he mentioned how much he would have liked a computer back in 1776! Mr. Jefferson emphasized the need for learning from history, and not repeating the tragic errors of the past... also the importance of our great Judeo-Christian teachings and traditions. He made a plea that the 10 Commandments be in every school, library and court in the nation.

The next speaker was King Stanislaus August Poniatowski, brilliantly role-played by Rik (Sulima-Suligowski) Fox, Polonia's own knight-errant of distinction. The King stated that he was proud to have been Poland's last king, for he felt that it was time for the world to change its system of governance, and that democracy was the way of the future. He gave an overview of Poland's past and his vision for the future. He saw a need to emphasize cultural progress by renewing interest in the arts... that it was in the blood of Poles, He also told of his ill-fated attempts at change in Poland's ruling class, and how he was betrayed from within, and with conspiracy with the jealous neighbors of Russia, Prussia and Austria... who had no wish to accept Poland as a free and independent nation, with liberty for all, He provided a fascinating insight into Poland's last king, a much misunderstood man over the ages.

Mr. Ettinger and King Poniatowski then introduced the famous military hero of both Poland and America, <u>Thaddeus Kościuszko</u>, who was played admirably by Marek Prochowski.

In his humble manner General Kościuszko praised the heroism of King Poniatowski and spoke of the continuing need for brave and courageous men and how he evaluated them during his years as a leader. Heroes were men of principle, who had very visible virtues and values in all that they did. They had character and purpose. Noble instincts. An in-born code of chivalry. Whereas those who had a capacity for villainy and cowardice--which often worked together--had no redeeming qualities, and evidenced an emptiness of soul, an absence

General Kościuszko also stated the need, at all times, for young men to be trained in the military and well-educated... instilled with learning as well as patriotism. "Our leaders must be men of honor, intelligence, and action. He concluded his talk with praise for the example set by America's forefathers, and his admiration for the nation they gave birth to... "I love America, I think I'll stay awhile...'

The last speaker was Ronald Reagan, ably played by Chris Ciesiołkiewicz. Mr. Ettinger introduced him by quoting his famous speech of June 1987, when he said, "Tear down this wall, Mr. Gorbachev!" And the Berlin wall did come down, signaling the beginning of the end of Communism in Europe.

Mr. Reagan quipped that Mr. Gorbachev "must have appreciated my message, for he now lives in California. Must be the weather, eh?" He also said he thought he might be able to find General Kościuszko a spare room at the White House...,

President Reagan spoke of his sincere affection for the Polish people... and the love and respect he had for Pope John Paul II. "I kinda hoped my friend John Paul would be here today, maybe next time." He then told of the top-secret work he and the Pope conducted together in the 1980s, aiding the Polish Solidarity movement, and how they cooperated in providing materials and money to the Polish patriots fighting against General Jaruzelski's brutal regime.

He reminded all of what he had labeled as "The Evil Empire," and how the forces of Right versus Evil finally pushed the Communist armies out of East Europe... "and we did it without dropping bombs, or firing a single bullet. That is the power of Freedom and Democracy, my citizens.'

Mr. Reagan also reminded us of the horrors of Warsaw in the last days of WW II... "when certain leaders might have acted with moral courage to prevent one of civilization's worst tragedies. We must never forget the heroes of that great city."

"I hope we learn from the bitter lessons of history. We must work to celebrate the more magnificent pages of history, the moral greatness of mankind, and strive to add new pages and chapters of peace and glory to the history we are creating today."

Mr. Ettinger closed the speakers' meeting by saying that "you have just heard, firsthand, the words and ideas that have shaped our world for the better ... and point the way into the future."

Mieczysław (Mike) Dutkowski in colorful Polish costume, then came forward to give a stirring reading of The Preamble to The Polish Constitution... and then led the audience in singing the national anthems of Poland and America.

The speakers were warmly and appreciatively applauded and all agreed that they gained new insights into the course of freedom in both Poland and America... and realized the relevance of Poland's Constitution with new understanding.

Kasztelan Coulombe then invited the guests to return to the ballroom, greeted by the stirring strains of the Polonaise, many joining in with the performers in Poland's stately national dance as it wound around the dance floor, ending in a grand chain.

Next, the Kasztelan announced that dinner was to be served, authentic Polish food prepared by one of Polonia's favorite chefs from Turek's Catering. The dinner was blessed in prayer by Father Bogdan Molenda of the Our Lady of the Bright Mount Church.

Andrew Ettinger, a former journalist and book publishing executive, and one of PAC's newest members, researched and wrote the script for the historic panel of speakers, and moderated the event. He said that he got the idea for the virtual reality format when he asked himself one of his favorite questions: "What if?" Indeed, what if the likes of Goślicki, Poniatowski, Kościuszko, Jefferson and Reagan were to meet? Now we know...

According to Ettinger, who role played as Andrzej Poznański (his ancestral family name) in moderating the panel of speakers, "I wanted to present the importance of May 3, 1791 in a new way; to be factual but also interesting, enlightening and entertaining. I didn't want a longwinded speech or recitation from a textbook. I felt that if we could suspend reality for a while, and listen to lively, spirited conversation, we might better understand the dreams and aspirationsand experiences--of mere men who dared to rise to greatness. It seemed like a very creative, Polish-American, way to do it..."

During dinner there was talk about the speakers and our Polish-American heritage, while the Yesteryears dancers once again took to the floor performing a quaint 1770s dance La Strasbourgeoise from the Archives of The Jagiellonian Library in Krakow, in honor of the exiled King of Poland, Stansisław I. Leszczyński, That was followed by a genteel mazurka Waltz Quadrille from the American Civil War era. Many diners were soon joining in the joyful dancing, some being gently tutored in the more exotic steps and styles of the past.

There were several sing-along songs and members of the audience participated. The audience was also treated to a duet regarding the plight of the Sybiraki (Poles sent to Siberia during WWII) by Mrs. Elizabeth Kozłowski and Mrs. Renia Perzyna.