

## Regina Y. Kobzi †



**Regina Y. Kobzi**, born January 14, 1925 in New Kensington, PA, daughter of the late Anthony and Helen Yenkala, passed away peacefully in Yorba Linda, CA on February 25, 2008. Regina now rejoins Carl, her loving husband of 50 years, who passed away in July 3, 1996. She is survived by her loving family of three sons and their wives: Richard and Patty Kobzi of Orange, CA, Robert and Helen Kobzi of Chino Hills, CA and Regis and Lisa Kobzi of Scripps Ranch, CA, grandchildren, Matthew, Wesley, Andrew, Kelsey, Alexander, Jacob, Casey, Kelly, Jason, Katie and Ryan; great-grandchild, Adian. Regina is also survived by two sisters and one brother-in-law: Margaret Carnabuci of Odenton, MD, and Joan and Edward Walenta of Highland, MD, along with their children and grandchildren. She also has many relatives of the Sieracki, Maternick families.

Regina retired from the auto industry where she worked as an office manager at many dealerships throughout So. California.

She also recently retired from Disneyland as a cast member for over nine years. She was an active and founding member of the Pope John Paul II Polish Center in Yorba Linda and former national officer of the Polish National Alliance (PNA).

A viewing and rosary took place on Sunday March 2 at the Pope John Paul II Polish Center in Yorba Linda. The following day a Mass of Christian Burial was held at the John Paul II Polish Center followed by her interment at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Orange, CA.

She will be missed by her many friends. In lieu of flowers, the family would like to suggest a contribution in her name to the Vitas Hospice 877.800.2951 - [www.vitascharityfund.org](http://www.vitascharityfund.org) or the Alzheimer Chapter Headquarters of Orange County - 17771 Cowan, Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92614 Phone 949.955.9000.

Mom, we will miss you always but know you are in a better place!! †

## Pope John Paul II Polish Center

3999 Rose Drive,  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Mass Schedule:

**Saturday 4:00 PM ENG**

**Sunday 7:00 AM Tridentine**

**9:00 AM ENG 10:30 AM PL**

**Tuesday - Friday 8:30AM ENG.**

**First Friday of the month**

**8:30 AM Eng 7:30 PM. PL**

**First Saturday of month**

**8:30 a.m. ENG**

Director: Rev. George P. Blais  
Assisting: Rev. Henry Noga SVD

714-996-8161 office

714-996-8130 Fr. George P. Blais

[www.polishcenter.org](http://www.polishcenter.org)

[office@polishcenter.org](mailto:office@polishcenter.org)

## Does Pulaski's holiday get short shrift?

A February 28 article by Jim Jaworski in the Glenview-announcement.com website which is a member of the Chicago Sun Times News group states...

**Pulaski Day just isn't what it used to be.**

*Casimir Pulaski -- born Kazimierz Pulaski, March 4, 1747 -- was a decorated general in the Revolutionary War. He is noted as the Father of the American Cavalry and scored numerous victories against advancing British forces in the South. He was killed at the Siege of Savanna in 1779.*

In 1977, the Illinois General Assembly created Pulaski Day, the first Monday of March to correspond with his birth, as a state holiday. A federal holiday, Gen. Pulaski Memorial Day, on Oct. 11, commemorates the anniversary of his death.

Illinois school districts close March 4, unless they receive a waiver from the state. School districts have been doing that at an increasing rate, and this school year about 60 percent of Illinois districts will choose to hold classes on Pulaski Day.

### Why stay open?

School officials offer many reasons for holding school on Pulaski Day. Some superintendents said the holiday lines up with the beginning of Illinois Standards Achievement Test preparations, so it comes at a time when every day in class is important.

Others said the day off can be used at a better time. Some area school districts opt to take that extra day off on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, giving students and faculty an extra day if they need to travel.

In last decade, Glenview District 34, Northbrook-Glenview District 30 and West Northfield District 31 all have obtained waivers from the Illinois State Board of Education that allow their teachers to engage in professional development activities on the holiday, but students do not attend classes.

### Teaching Pulaski

Much like when a district holds classes on Veterans Day, the State Board of Education requires a school's curriculum to address Pulaski if students are in class on the holiday

"Just like on all the holidays we have waivers for, schools are asked to provide age-appropriate instruction related to the person or persons being honored that day," said Brett Clark, District 34's director of community relations and grants.

Not every district seeks the waiver. According to state records, 40 percent of districts will take the day off this school year.

### Polish history lacking?

Retired University of Illinois at Chicago professor John Kulczycki wasn't surprised to hear about the statistics. He taught Eastern European History for more than two decades, and says there is a general idea in education that Polish history is somehow less significant.

American history "is so naturally focused on countries like England and France ... countries that are perceived to be part of the West," he said. He called the lack of knowledge about Polish and other Eastern European countries "pretty terrible."

He did not necessarily disagree with the idea of students being in class on Pu<sup>3</sup>aski Day - so long as the children are properly educated about Pulaski and the effect of Polish immigrants in America. This history, he said, is often dismissed.

"If a school decided to hold class on Martin Luther King Day, it would automatically be branded as racist," he said.

*Pulaski Day to page 9*

## Wajda takes Katyn to Moscow

Katyn, a film about the Soviet massacre of over 20,000 Polish officers in 1940 by acclaimed Polish film director Andrzej Wajda, will be screened in Moscow next week.

Andrzej Wajda has said that Katyn is not directed against the Russian people but against a criminal system, whose victims included not only Poles but also the citizens of the former Soviet Union.

Speaking at a meeting with students in Krakow, he stressed: "It was my intention to show the Bolshevik, communist, Stalinist system. I'm now taking the film to our friends. How our enemies are going to treat us, I'll tell you when I return."

Wajda was referring to next week's screenings of Katyn in Moscow (17,18, 19 March) for VIPs, artists and members of the opposition, sympathizers of the Memorial non-governmental organization. <http://www.polskieradio.pl/the/news/culture/?id=78018>

Katyn takes its title from the forest in Russia, the scene of the mass killing by the Soviet NKVD police of over 20 thousand Polish officers in 1940. It was nominated for an Oscar in the Best Foreign Film category. The film has been an unprecedented success in Poland, attracting about three million people since its premiere in September 2007. (mk) □

## Wajda's Katyn bypassed

By: **Rob Strybel**

You probably all know by now that Andrzej Wajda's film Katyn did not receive an Oscar for the best foreign-language film. For your consideration I pass along a prophetic commentary I found at the Beatroot blogsite written before the Oscar-night announcement was made.

This film will never receive an Oscar, for if it did it would highlight Poland's victimization and the existence of the genocide perpetrated against Poland by its neighbours. The western media does not have room for more than one genocide and Poland has few friends in Hollywood therefore I suggest we don't get our hopes up for an Oscar. Also any bit of influence the Russians can exercise will be used to make sure this doesn't get the recognition it deserves.

You need only to visit a library in the west to see the active erasure of Polish history to the point that the non-Pole would be excused in believing that there were no Christian Poles involved with Polish history during the 1939-1945 period or for that matter ever. The typical Polish section contains a dozen books, count on 8 of 12 being about the holocaust and the Jewish experience in Poland.

Currently the western media has been re-writing history with such terms as 'Polish Concentration Camps' and replacing all mention of Polish struggle against the Nazis with 'Polish acts of anti-Semitism' in order to vilify and dis-credit the notion that Poles were victims of a Genocide.

Millions of Poles died at the hands of the Soviets and their helpers. □

## Joseph L. Drociak, Attorney

**Over 44 years experience**

*Personal Injury, Wrongful Death,  
Workers Compensation, Medical  
Malpractice, Wrongful Termination,  
Sexual Harassment, Nursing Home abuse*  
7627 S. Western Ave. (323) 971-3981  
12400 Wilshire Blvd. (213) 384-7900

**Los Angeles**

## Wajda's Film: Katyn

*A Polish-American Perspective*

By: **Joanne Winnetzki**

"A review is not a predictor of what you will think. But it should show you how to like something. It should give you a way into it, (film or book) a door you might have otherwise overlooked," says San Francisco Chronicle film reviewer, Mick La Salle. This is the intent and purpose of my review of Andrzej Wajda's oscar-nominated film Katyn.

My first encounter with Wajda's work was watching Ashes and Diamonds one Friday evening as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. I wanted to rush into the student union, beg everyone to drop what they were doing, and whisk the whole crowd into the tiny theatre to see his film. Forty years later I have the same urge to bring the world community together to observe Wajda's latest achievement.

Poles have a well-deserved reputation for being outrageously independent in their thinking. That is why I never ask for clarification of some point of Polish grammar when more than a single Pole is within hearing distance. Prior to implementing that rule of thumb, I would quietly step aside and witness a tumultuous exchange of opinion regarding the correct usage of some minor grammatical form. So it comes as no surprise that commentary about Wajda's film has been prodigious.

Polish Americans of my generation had an advantage when it came to understanding creative works such as Katyn. We referred to them as "art films" because of their serious and often controversial content. Only small movie houses owned by avant-garde theatre managers risked featuring them. This heightened and broadened our expectations. The experience was similar to going to an art gallery, concert or discourse by a knowledgeable individual. Our anticipation went beyond simplistic stories, platitudes, or the mindless escape entertainment typical of mainstream movie houses. We wanted to experience something that would lead us toward a better understanding of ourselves and of the world. At times a phrase of dialog would jolt us like an electric shock. Katyn had barely begun when my companion and I felt a similar reaction. We shivered convulsively when one of the officers remarked, "Moscow didn't sign the Geneva Convention..." We cringed, ashamed of our government's disregard of these basic humanitarian principles today in the 21st century.

A key to both understanding and appreciating Wajda's portrayal of the Katyn story appears in the opening credits. The film is based on a novel entitled Post Mortem. It is NOT a documentary, not a newspaper account of the atrocity, and certainly not a quick sound bite by some television "talking heads" anxious to move away from an uncomfortable topic. Like Penderecki's sound track, this is a work of art. Another comparison can be made with Pablo Picasso's painting, Guernica, depicting the nazi German bombing of a Spanish town during the Spanish Civil War in 1937. Yet another example is Goya's series of 82 plates entitled The Disasters of War. My friend Ewa and I attended an exhibition of them in Warsaw during the Soviet occupation. Two women, one could say "Poles apart," drawn together by art. Perhaps Wajda's art will do the same for viewers today.

As the Katyn tragedy unfolds, powerful symbolism hits us between the eyes in some scenes or quietly emerges from the shadows in others. The following are two eloquent examples. A Red Army soldier strides up to a building and tears down the Polish flag hanging next to the entrance. He rips it into two pieces and hands the

*Winnetzki - Katyn film to page 11*