

POLISH FEST '90
Friday, June 15

THANK YOU, DICK (Gralinski),

ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN I LIKE TO GIVE YOU
ALL A BIG WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S POLISHFEST.

REPRESENTATIVE KLEZCA, MAYOR NORQUIST, COUNTY
EXECUTIVE SCHULTZ, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... IT'S GREAT
TO BE HERE TONIGHT IN THE GREAT CITY OF MILWAUKEE.

THIS IS INDEED A TREMENDOUS EVENT.

NOT ONLY DO WE GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE PROUD
POLISH HERITAGE, BUT WE ALSO KICK OFF MILWAUKEE'S
OUTSTANDING SUMMER FESTIVAL SEASON.

THE MILWAUKEE LAKEFRONT IS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO BE
IN WISCONSIN DURING THE SUMMER. THE ETHNIC CULTURE,
HISTORY, FOOD AND FUN THAT IS PACKED INTO A SUMMER CANNOT
BE MATCHED.

AND WHAT A GREAT WAY TO BEGIN... WITH PLENTY OF KIELBASA,
AND POLKAS FOR EVERYONE.

(slight pause)

FOR NINE YEARS, THE POLISH COMMUNITY IN MILWAUKEE AND
THROUGHOUT WISCONSIN, HAVE COME TOGETHER TO COMMEMORATE
AND SHARE WITH OTHERS YOUR PROUD ANCESTRY.

BUT, AT THIS YEAR'S POLISHFEST YOU HAVE GREATER REASON
TO CELEBRATE.

THIS YEAR, THE GREAT COUNTRY OF POLAND IS FREE.

THE POLISH PEOPLE HAVE ELECTED THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT AND
ARE NOW FREELY EXPRESSING THEIR IDEAS AND BELIEFS.

THIS COUNTRY HAS BECOME A INSPIRATION AND A MODEL OF THE
NEWFOUND DEMOCRACY THAT IS SWEEPING ACROSS EASTERN
EUROPE, THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA.

AT THE SHIPYARDS OF GDANSK, YOUR MOTHERLAND BEGAN A

MOVEMENT CALLED "SOLIDARITY"... A MOVEMENT THAT HAS
RAPIDLY SWEPT ACROSS THE LAND.

TODAY, POLAND IS FACED WITH MANY DIFFICULT DECISIONS AND
CHALLENGES... BUT, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE POLISH PEOPLE
HAVE THE DETERMINATION AND PERSERVERANCE TO ALLOW
DEMOCRACY TO PREVAIL.

I BELIEVE THAT THE CITIZENS WHO BREATHED LIFE INTO AN
IDEA OF FREEDOM, OF DEMOCRACY AND OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR
THIER COUNTRY AND FOR SO MANY OTHERS ... UNDERSTAND THAT
CHANGE HAS NEVER COME EASY.

THE BIRTH OF FREEDOM FOR A NATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A
LABORIOUS, PAINFUL EVENT.

BUT WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT, IS THE VERY FACT THAT THE
POLISH PEOPLE HAD THE STRENGTH AND THE COURAGE TO GIVE
THE IDEA OF DEMOCRACY A FIGHTING CHANCE.

AND FOR THAT, WE SHOULD CELEBRATE.

(slight pause)

I URGE YOU TO CELEBRATE THIS WEEKEND FOR ANY FRIENDS OR
FAMILY YOU MAY HAVE IN POLAND.

AND, I URGE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE WONDERFUL POLISH
CULTURE AND PRIDE.

WISCONSIN IS TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE AMONG ITS CITIZENRY
SO MANY POLISH DESCENDENTS.

I DEEPLY ADMIRE YOUR ABILITY TO KEEP YOUR HERITAGE
ALIVE... AND THANK YOU FOR SHARING IT WITH THE STATE
OF THE WISCONSIN.

(slight pause)

Source: Marquette University Libraries; Tommy G. Thompson Collection; Series 2:
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WITHOUT FURTHER ADIEU, LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!

(participate in ribbon cutting ceremony)