



American Association of the Friends of Kościuszko at West Point, Inc.

**45 Reflection Drive, Hudson, NH 03051 USA
(603) 718-1351 / www.kosciuszkoatwestpoint.org**

January 6, 2017

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Anthony J. Bajdek, NH

Dear Fellow Members and Other Friends of Kościuszko,

It isn't every day that one has the opportunity to celebrate a bicentennial, be it a day, week, month or year of an historical event, or as the case at hand may be, of a person whose life had been dedicated to selfless, altruistic leadership on behalf of freedom, independence, democracy and equality both in the United States and in Europe, specifically in the latter instance during the final stages of the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania after which the Commonwealth ceased to exist from 1795 until 1918 when both Poland and Lithuania finally were restored as separate independent nations.

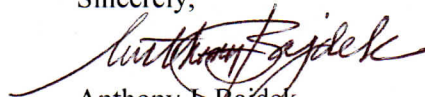
Largely the result of the initiative of Professor of History Mieczysław Rokosz, Ph.D., of Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland who also serves as the 11th Lifetime Chair of the Kościuszko Mound Committee (Komitet Kopca Kościuszki) that in 1820 was established in Kraków, UNESCO has declared the year 2017 to be the "Year of Kościuszko" worldwide. Indeed, in April 2016 Professor Rokosz participated in our Association's 13th Annual Tadeusz Kościuszko Conference.

Whereas our Association's mission will always remain designed to illuminate the life and times of Kościuszko annually, it also does so as to contemporary East Central Europe whose proximity to the Russian Federation places the modern Republic of Poland and the modern Republic of Lithuania virtually on history's same political-military tectonic divide separating the free world of the European Union from the much less-than-free world of Russia and Eastern Eurasia generally.

Plan to join us, therefore, on April 28-29 for yet another memorable Conference (see enclosure) that honors the memory of Kościuszko -- hero and iconic role model for the ages -- in this special year worldwide. Although his next tercentenary will not occur until 2117, our Association will continue to engage in making every year the year of Kościuszko in the United States at least by way of its annual programs.

Hoping that your calendar can accommodate your participation in the Association's program this year, I thank you for your continued interest and support.

Sincerely,


Anthony J. Bajdek
President / Founder

* In Memoriam