**100-lecie Odzyskania Niepodleglości**

**INDEPENDENCE REGAINED!**

**The 11th November is a special date for Poles, and very much this year – Poles all over the world will be commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Poland regaining independence after 123 years of foreign rule.**

**The Polish state was wiped out of the map of Europe in 1795. The opportunities for regaining independence emerged only at the end of the World War I, when the three conquerors of Poland were defeated. But the independence was not only the result of external circumstances - a very decisive factor was the Polish independence movement both within the divided country and abroad. In particular, in the United States, the four million member Polish community, lead by Ignacy Paderewski and other activists, united behind the Polish cause to influence the stand of the American President and the American Congress. A “Kosciuszko Army” of Poles in America was created to be a part of General Haller’s Blue Army to fight for Poland; so not only political leverage and money but blood and lives were most generously offered.**

**Now, one hundred years later as Polonia with that kind of legacy we have the right and duty to celebrate! And we must!**

**Honoring the 100th Anniversary of Poland regaining Independence November 11, 1918 – November 11, 2018, the Polish American Congress of Northern California encourages and invites all of you, fellow Poles and friends of Poland, to join the various opportunities in our region to celebrate:**

**On Sunday, November 11:**

* **A grand prestigious gala celebration will take place in Sacramento hosted by the Polonian Cultural & Pastoral Center and Polish Scouts, at the 1601 South Ave, Sacramento, starting with a Special Anniversary Holy Mass at the Madonna of Czestochowa Chapel, 12:00 p.m. For details of the program please see a flyer below.**
* **A special Anniversary Holy Mass for Poland will be served at the Nativity of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church in San Francisco, 240 Fell Street, starting 10:30 a.m. It will be followed by the Commemorative and Artistic Program prepared by the Polish School children.**
* **A special Anniversary Holy Mass will be also served at the Chapel of Our Lady of Emigrants in Martinez, 909 Mellus Street, 10:30 a. m.**
* **A very special Paderewski Lunch will be hosted by the Polish Arts and Culture Foundation in the Diplomat Club of the Fairmont Hotel San Francisco 1pm – 5pm. For more information call 510-599-2244. Cocktail attire.**

**On Sunday November 18:**

* **The 100th Anniversary will be celebrated in the St. Brother Albert Polish Roman Catholic Pastoral Mission in San Jose, 10250 Clayton Rd. at 12:45 p.m. The Commemorative Program will be presented by the Polish Scouts.**

***And be sure – taking part in the observance of this unique jubilee we can ensure that***

***the legacies of those who came before us will survive for those who follow in our footsteps!***

***Please notice that all celebrations will be conducted in Polish.***