

**Inauguration of Polish Consulate
Polish Cultural Center
1714 18th Ave. Seattle
September 4, 2014**

Thank you for the introduction, Consul General (Mariusz) Brymora (BRE-MORA). We appreciate that you made the trip up from Los Angeles to join us in the inauguration of the Polish Consulate here in Seattle at the Polish Cultural Center. Welcome to the state of Washington. We are very honored to have you.

On behalf of the state, it is my pleasure to be here tonight to help mark this historic beginning of the Polish Consulate, and to welcome the service of Teresa Davis as the first honorary consul for Poland for Washington state.

Honorary Consul Davis, an emigrant from Poland and a longtime resident of Seattle, is a perfect fit for this post. She has been an active member of the Polish-American community, serving as a President of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce Pacific Northwest, as a board member of Polish Home Foundation and a Managing Director of Polish Festival Seattle. Her career in corporate communications for Microsoft has included management of Microsoft Central and Eastern European communication strategy and implementation of community investment programs, including a subsidiary in Poland. Consul Davis holds a master's of public administration from the University of Washington Evans School of Public Affairs and a bachelor's in Communications from the UW. With this distinguished background, I am sure she will serve as an outstanding member of Washington's consular corp.

Poland and the state of Washington are connected in many ways, and the opening of a consulate here and the appointment of Consul Davis marks the latest in a series of events that bring the state of Washington and Poland even closer together.

Poland has been one of the most stable of all of the European allies with the United States over the past 25 years. Likewise, we in Washington also have enjoyed a wonderful, steady relationship with Poland in many areas.

Two years ago we were pleased to welcome a large delegation from Poland, including Mieczyslaw (Mie-ti-slav) Struk (Strook), governor of Pomerania Province and Pawel (Pavo) Adamowicz, (Ahdamoveech), the mayor of Gdansk. The delegation was looking for ways to further expand commerce to this area, which we always welcome.

The state of Washington is already a strategic, global business partner. Washington is the closest port of call to Asian markets and serves markets in Europe as well. We have a very active Polish American Chamber of Commerce to promote Polish American industry and innovation.

Of course LOT Polish Airlines in Warsaw was the first to introduce Boeing's 787 Dreamliner to European markets and took delivery of its sixth Dreamliner earlier this year, all assembled at Boeing in Everett. Many other Washington-based companies also have a strong presence in Poland. Microsoft, Weyerhaeuser and Amazon all have operations there, and Starbucks has several stores in Poland.

We are very pleased to have a strong Polish cultural presence in our state, one that serves the more than 100,000 people of Polish descent who live in our state. Polish arts are alive and well in this region.

Early next month the nine-day, 22nd annual Polish Film Festival will be presented in Seattle, which will again mark the premiere of many Polish films. The festival is produced by the very active Seattle-Gdynia (Gi-di-nia) Sister City Association.

I should note that two other Washington cities have Sister City relationships with Poland. The city of Lacey, a little to our south, has a sister city relationship with Minsk Mazowiecki. (Meensk Mazo-vie-ski). And one small city, Camas, which is located near our state's southern border in Clark County, actually has three sister-city relationships with Poland: Krapkowice (Krap-ko-vi-tsa), Morawice (Mo-ra-vEE-tsa) and Zabierzow (Za-beya-zoof).

Tonight we celebrate our strong friendship and ties with Poland. Consul General Brymora and Honorary Consul Davis, we thank you for all that you are doing to promote goodwill, trade and cultural relations between Washington and Poland and for being a resource for Washington residents who have come from Poland as well as to those traveling between there and here.

We have every reason to believe that with the establishment of the Polish Consulate and the appointment of an honorary consul, we will have an exciting and growing future together. Thank you.