October 10, 1998

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally today congratulate the Polish American Veterans;' (PAV) Club of Wilbraham, Massachusetts on its 50th anniversary. The PAV in Wilbraham has for half a century played a vital role in its community. In celebration of this noteworthy occasion, I take this opportunity to express my personal congratulations to each and every member of the Club, and to enter the complete history of the Polish American Veterans' Club of Wilbraham, Massachusetts into today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The History

The hostilities of World War II had come to a close and the veterans were returning to their homes where their families were anxiously waiting for them to come home. In the local Organizations and merchants also combined their efforts to extend their greetings through the Home Front Day. In most farms and homes who were being honored at these events formed a new segment in our community, "Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States." The loose social association amongst these men held in the months following their return coupled with their similarity of interests, ambitions and background inspired the idea for the formation of an organizational of local Veterans. Uniting any group into a functioning organization required the leadership of a person who is familiar with the aspirations and problems of the group, along with a deep interest in their progress. The Veterans of the Tri-Town area were fortunate in having a man who qualified in every respect as an organizer. His interest in the welfare of this body must have had a great influence on leading them into organization. The man, Father Cyril, was the curate of the Immaculate Conception Parish. His uniting efforts during these important organizational meetings resulted in the formation of a strong "Polish American Veterans Club.''

Father called the first meeting on February 23, 1947, where various types of Veteran's groups were discussed. A committee, headed by Edward Hulicki, was formed to do research into an organization that would function best in this area. The new club was to be founded by the Veterans of Polish extraction from the Indian Orchard, Ludlow and Wilbraham area to encourage social acquaintances among members for the advancement of social, educational and economic welfare of its members. With these ideals in mind, a committee was delegated the task of drawing By-Laws. Thus, the first meeting was well underway and the organization was in motion. During subsequent meetings officers were elected and committees for an efficiently functioning organization were appointed. The first few officers were: President, J.H. Kiebania; First Vice President, Al Smola; Second Vice President, Michel Kowalski; Clerk, Emil Wyski, Financial Secretary, John Kiebania; Treasurer, Edward Kowalski; Postmaster, John Wyski; and a Service Officer, Dr. Francis Baciczek, and Sergeant at Arms, Louis Grondalski.

The goal of the club was to be the "Polish American Veterans of Indian Orchard, Ludlow and Wilbraham." Founded on the principle of social unity and community service, the club prospered in the ensuing years. From its inception, a vigorous athletic program was sponsored, the most successful was the baseball team which drew an enthusiastic following. They identified the organization throughout the Western Massachusetts area when they captured the Knights of Columbus Tournament in 1949 and were runner-up for the Western Massachusetts Amateur Baseball Championship in 1950. The basketball team was also successful with the limelight coming in completing the season as Western Massachusetts Champions in 1952. The bowling team kept the members active in the winter months. In addition to the organized league activities an intramural basketball program was initiated with games or golf matches filled what spaces remained in the sports calendar. Trophies representing championships in every major sport are held by the club.

In 1949, the Club Members remodels the old dairy building on 4½ Avenue Street as their temporary home and for ten years it served as an informally for members. The good management of the small clubhouse plus the aid of the members had placed the organization in a financial position more stable. The program was possible. The purpose of this venture was to house all the club activities and to serve as a meeting place for the community.

A building committee was appointed and in January 1959 at a specially called meeting, the plans for the new building were accepted by a vote of the body. The dedication of the "Polish American Veterans Club" was held on January 30, 1960.

The membership broadened its scope in community affairs by funding interior decorations and supplies. The Auxiliary has been elected State Commanders of the Polish American Veterans Department of the Polish American Veterans Organization. Annually, the Members and the Auxiliary gather in their Parade Dress for a march to church to pray for the souls of the deceased Members and Comrades who perished in battle. The Gold Star Mothers were always revered at the ceremonies.

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Many of our Members serve or have served in elected Political Offices and other service positions. As trustees in Hospitals, Church Councils, Community Council, Senior Councils, elected Political Offices and other service areas. The Polish American Veterans have established outstanding leadership and are a guiding influence in our community.

CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUTTS COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN JACKSON, GEORGIA

HON. MAC COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Butts County Courthouse in Jackson, Georgia. The anniversary celebration is being held tomorrow, and I wish to submit the remarks I prepared for the occasion for the Congressional Record.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the citizens of Butts County for inviting me to be a part of the 100th anniversary celebration for our county courthouse. During the long and rich history of our county, this beautiful building has endured the test of time. It has long