CASIMIR PULASKI MEMORIAL DAY

HON. JAMES J. FLORIO
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 30, 1975

Mr. FLORIO. Mr. Speaker, 196 years ago on October 11, 1779, Gen. Casimir Pulaski died of mortal wounds which he received while heroically leading a cavalry charge during the Battle of Savannah 2 days earlier. Thus culminated the brief though remarkable life of one of the most distinguished American patriots. Few men in history have devoted themselves so selflessly and diligently to the cause of freedom than General Pulaski. He and his family fought for this goal in Poland where he lost both family and fortune. Undaunted, he turned his attention to the noble struggle which General Washington was commandeering, the American Revolution.

Casimir Pulaski merited the immediate respect of General Washington and shortly was commissioned as a brigadier general. His exploits in the American cause took him throughout the colonies from Brandywine to Savannah. General Pulaski was not content with rank and status alone, but ardently desired to make a full and lasting contribution to the Revolutionary War. Never having his zeal for freedom diminished, he persisted before Washington and the Continental Congress for a more active, substantive role in the fight for independence. He achieved his desire, ultimately giving of his young life.

It is with great respect and pride that I ask to join our Polish-American friends in the memory of Casimir Pulaski and to celebrate Pulaski Day. We can never repay the debt owed to General Pulaski for his donation to democracy. By this small measure of recognition we are justly memorializing his life. But perhaps more importantly, Pulaski Day is not merely recognition of a great patriot, but a great people; the Polish Americans. Our Nation and the world is enriched because of our Polish-American citizenry and I would like to offer a personal salute to them and to their admirable fellow countryman, Gen. Casimir Pulaski.

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