



Austin Polish Society

**Celebrating Polish heritage,
culture, language and arts**

www.AustinPolishSociety.org

PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact: Beata Zadrozna
(512) 554-6712
Austin Polish Society
www.austinpolishsociety.org**

Austin and Central Texas Honor Polish Leaders

Recent news from Poland has shaken the world. On Saturday, April 10th 2010, the President of Poland, Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria and 94 others, among them many of the country's top leaders within the government, parliament, armed forces, clergy and community organizations, perished in an airplane crash near Smolensk, Russia. The high-level delegation was on its way to ceremonies commemorating the 70th anniversary of the massacre of thousands of Polish officers at Katyn. Many family members of the Katyn victims were also on board of the president's plane.

Texas Representative Eddie Rodriguez and Matt Curtis, Communications Director from the Office of Mayor Lee Leffingwell, made arrangements for a book of condolence to be open at the Texas State Capitol building in Austin for all who wish to convey messages of sympathy to the people of Poland. Representative Rodriguez is hosting the Public Condolence Book at the Capitol available for contribution Monday and Tuesday, April 19 and 20, 2010, from 9:30 am – 5 pm both days, in the E2 hallway on the 2nd floor of the Capitol Extension.

“The purpose of this condolence book is to give the public a means to convey our deepest sympathies to the people of Poland,” said Texas State Representative, Eddie Rodriguez, serving House District 51, which includes portions of East Austin and all of Southeast Travis County. “The shocking loss of lives, including that of President Lech Kaczynski and 95 others, has touched our hearts here in Texas. We lift the Polish people up in our prayers and we want to let them know we are grieving with them.”

President of the Austin Polish Society, Beata Zadrozna said “the recent airplane crash is one of Poland's greatest national traumas and APS members are deeply saddened by this loss. We are inviting the public to sign the book of condolence at the Texas Capitol. Austin Polish Society will forward the book to the Embassy of Poland in Washington, DC. ”

A memorial Mass will be held on Tuesday, April 20th at 7pm at St. Mary's Cathedral in Austin, Texas. Many Polish Clergy, including Bishop John Walter Yanta, are expected to attend. The Mass will be open to the public. St. Mary's Cathedral is located at 906 San Jacinto Blvd. The website is www.smcaustin.org.