



RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01

VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF POLISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Polish-American Heritage Month was first celebrated in August 1981 and first celebrated nationally when President Ronald Reagan proclaimed August 1984 as Polish-American Heritage Month; and,

WHEREAS, Polish-American Heritage Month was moved to October in 1986 to aid participating schools in celebrating it during the school year; and,

WHEREAS, October holds significance as the month in 1607 when the first Polish settlers came to Jamestown, Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, there are over ten million Americans of Polish descent residing in the United States, making Polish-Americans one of the largest ethnic groups in America; and,

WHEREAS, Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski crossed the ocean to help the American colonies win their independence; and,

WHEREAS, Pulaski was the Father of the American Cavalry; and,

WHEREAS, Kosciuszko was an engineer whose innovations led the American army to victory in the Battle of Saratoga, helped fortify West Point, and helped defeat the British army in the South; and,

WHEREAS, Kosciuszko's American will left his American estate to be sold to buy the freedom of black slaves, including Jefferson's own, and to educate them for independent life and work; and,

WHEREAS, throughout the last 250 years, thousands of Polish-Americans have fought bravely to help preserve that independence through military service; and,

WHEREAS, Polish-Americans have also made outstanding contributions in business, the arts, the sciences, entertainment, education and government, and through these efforts they have helped in innumerable ways to establish a strong and free United States; and,

WHEREAS, some of these individuals include United States Senators Dianne Feinstein, Barry Goldwater, Lisa Murkowski and Chris Murphy; mathematician, nuclear physicist and computer scientist Stanislaw Ulam, who contributed to the Manhattan Project and who taught at such distinguished universities as the University of Wisconsin, Madison; the University of Southern California; the University of California, Davis; Harvard University, the University of Colorado School of Medicine; and the University of Florida; Frank Gehry, the celebrated architect; baseball hero Stan Musial; and entertainers Larry David, Pat Sajak, Natalie Portman and Pat Benetar; and,

WHEREAS, the list of other notable Polish-Americans throughout the United States, who have made extraordinary contributions to our life as a nation is a very long one; and,

WHEREAS, the hard work, dedication to community, and leadership of Polish-Americans in every industry make our country stronger, more prosperous, and more vibrant; and,

WHEREAS, the celebration of all backgrounds and national origins is important to the promotion of diversity and inclusion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees celebrates October as Polish-American Heritage Month to honor the contributions of Polish-Americans, both in our community and nationwide; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ventura County Community College District shall recognize this occasion on the social media accounts belonging to the District and the District's colleges.