



Kazimierz Pułaski

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1745 – 1779

National Hero in both the US and Poland.

Saved the life of George Washington.

Called "The Father of the American cavalry".

- Pulaski is one of only eight persons to be awarded honorary United States citizenship.
- Born and educated in Warsaw, he was one of the most effective military leaders of the Bar Confederation (1767-1772), which fought against Russian, Austrian, and Prussian domination of Poland.
- Benjamin Franklin wrote: "Count Pulaski of Poland, an officer famous throughout Europe for his bravery and conduct in defense of the liberties of his country ... may be highly useful to our service."
- On July 23, 1777, after arriving in Boston, Pulaski wrote to Washington, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."
- On Sept. 5, 1777, Washington appointed the 32-year-old Pulaski a Brigadier General of Cavalry in the Continental Army.



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- He demanded much of his men but also cared about them. He used his own finances to assure they had the finest equipment.
- On September 11, 1777, at the Battle of Brandywine, the Continental Army began to retreat. His charge averted a catastrophic defeat, saved George Washington's life, and brought him fame among Americans.
- Pulaski, was raised in the Polish culture of freedom. Like Kosciuszko freeing slaves in his will and like the Polish legions sent by Napoleon to Saint-Domingue who refused to suppress an uprising of enslaved Africans and instead joined them, Pułaski refused in June 1779 to take part in the Sullivan punitive expedition against the Iroquois. He warned that he would resign and return to Europe. Eventually, he was reassigned to the South.
- During the Siege of Savannah on October 9 1779, he commanded the combined French and American cavalry. While attempting to rally the fleeing French forces, he was mortally wounded by British grapeshot. He was comforted at his death by Merian Cooper's great-great-grandfather.
- Captain Merian Cooper wrote, "It grieves me every day that I am doing so little for the cause of Polish liberty, when Pulaski did so much for us." In 1920, he founded the Kosciuszko Air Squadron to fight the Soviet forces that attacked Poland.
- 21 pilots in the Kosciuszko Air Squadron had no Polish roots. However, they wanted to repay the debt of honor they believed America owed Poland due to the participation of Poles who fought for American independence.

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