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IOWA'S STEVE KING OPPOSES PULASKI U.S. CITIZENSHIP

Chicago (PMN)—Earlier this year the U.S. Senate passed S.J. Res. 5, proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary U.S. citizen posthumously. This legislation now only awaits the anticipated approval by the House of Representatives on the similar H.J. Res. 39 for it to be official. However, one obstacle stands in the way: Representative Steve King (R-Iowa). Congressman King is the ranking Republican and an influential figure on the House Judiciary Committee.

Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) National Executive Director Ben Filipczyk has issued an appeal to Iowans, especially the Polish American and Lithuanian American voters in Iowa's 5th District, to express your disappointment to Congressman King. "This special legislation is harmlessly nonpartisan and to oppose it makes no sense," Filipczyk stated.

King's office claims the congressman is not preventing the Pulaski naming resolution from moving forward. He is allegedly waiting for more information and has not made a decision on how he would vote for the resolution. Filipczyk, though, questions the validity of the claim by King's office. He says that he submitted the requested information to the Congressman via his legislative counsel, Luke Holst, King's request less than 24 hours after meeting with King and has not received a reply.

At King's request, Filipczyk had delivered the names of persons previously granted posthumous citizens, together with explanations. They are Lafayette, Winston Churchill, William Penn, Mother Teresa, Raoul Wallenberg and Hannah Callowhill, who was the wife of William Penn, but not known for any extraordinary feat.

Although King has little interest in the issue, Carol Love, Director of North Carolinians for National Parks, saw an article about the legislation in a Sioux City, Iowa, newspaper and quickly expressed her support. She immediately wrote to the Judiciary Committee members and to the e-mail list of her organization. Filipczyk suggests that all Polish Americans could also contact their representatives in Congress.

<http://www.poloniatoday.com/pulaski1107.htm>