

Am-Pol Eagle

Vol. 49 No. 02

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Wujcikowski is recipient of Cavalier's Cross

Glenn Gramigna

When Adeline Wujcikowski received the Cavalier's Cross of the Republic

of Poland just before the Putaski Parade recently, the event capped a lifetime of dedicated service to the WNY Polish community that began in 1939. A lover of Polish music, Adeline had been a member of the choir at St. Adalbert's Church of which she has been a parishioner her entire life.

"I joined the Paderewski Singing Society back then and eventually became the secretary of the organization," she recalled. "My love of Polish music has remained the most important thing to me."

The result has been a lifetime spent in service to Polish organizations.

"I would describe Adeline as the guardian angel of WNY Polonia," said Dick Solecki, current president of the Polish American Congress, WNY Division.

"She is always there for Polish organizations and always willing to help. Think of it this way: Adeline has never driven a car and she is the secretary of all these organizations, which means she has to be there at meetings to take the minutes. Yet, she has almost never missed a meeting of any of them.... She can always find someone to give her a ride to every meeting because we all know how important she is to every one of these organizations."

Former PAC President Joe Macielag added, "I've known her for so long, mainly through the Polish-American Congress, but she has served so many organizations. Adeline is small in stature but

she has a very big spirit and heart. We all depend so much on her."

After Adeline joined the Polish Singers

Alliance, she became the secretary of PSAA District 9 several decades ago and its national secretary in 2001. It was the PSAA that sent a letter to the Polish government informing it of Wujcikowski's many contributions to Polonia.

"As the secretary of these organizations, I keep the minutes of the meetings, handle correspondence, and collect material that is sent for the newsletter of the national organization," she said. "I really enjoy my work and intend to do it as long as my health permits."

Adeline was informed several months ago that she'd be getting the Cavalier's Cross from a representative of the Polish government. The only question was: Where would she formally accept the honor?

"Finally, Brian Rusk, the president of the Putaski Assn. called me before the Putaski Parade and told me I'd be getting it just before the parade," she recalled. "It was wonderful."

In a quiet ceremony she was presented the cross by Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk, consul general of the Republic of Poland.

Adeline attributes her lifelong devotion to Polish music and culture to her early training at St. Adalbert's.

"I was taught a great deal about Polish history and religion at St. Adalbert's Elementary School, which I attended," she said. "That love meant a great deal to me and I have cherished it all my life."

