



City of Pittsburgh

510 City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Text File

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Committee: City Council

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WHEREAS, Dr. Oscar E. Swan is a much accomplished and respected professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh, and is also the author of over fifteen books and Polish language textbooks and bicycle guides and is the recipient of many honors and awards, and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Swan began studying Polish while attending graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley, which was one of the leading Polish academic centers in the United States, under scholars such as Francis J. Whitfield, author of the Kościuszk Foundation Polish-English dictionary, and renowned Mickiewicz scholar and former Jagiellonian University professor Wacław Lednicki, one of the founders of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, and;

WHEREAS, 2014 marked Dr. Swan's 40th year keeping alive the academic spark of the Polish language, literature, culture, and cinema among university students in Western Pennsylvania, through courses in Polish and Russian linguistics, Old Church Slavic, and Polish literature and culture among others and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Swan has created a beacon of light for the study of Polish language and culture internationally with his website The Polish Language Website, which is open to and visited by Polish language learners from around the world without any cost, "pop-ups", or advertisements and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Swan was the first American selected for the Thesaurus Poloniae Award from the Center of International Culture in Kraków, and the Polonicum Award from the University of Warsaw for the outstanding promulgation of Polish language, literature, and culture outside of Poland, and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Swan's newest book, titled Kaleidoscope of Poland: A Cultural Encyclopedia, contains approximately 900 compact text entries and 600 illustrations on major personalities, places, events, and accomplishments from the thousand-year record of Polish history and culture, and;

WHEREAS, Kaleidoscope of Poland: A Cultural Encyclopedia was launched on November 22nd and featured on KDKA's "Pittsburgh Today Live" on November 19th, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does congratulate and honor Dr. Oscar E. Swan for his publication of Kaleidoscope of Poland: A Cultural Encyclopedia, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare December 1st 2015 to be "Kaleidoscope of Poland: A Cultural Encyclopedia Day" in the City of Pittsburgh.