

Institute of National Remembrance

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The third National Summit of Poles Who Saved Jews during the Second World War – Rzeszów, 17-19 October 2018





POMOC INDYWIDUALNA INDIVIDUAL AID

Alfreda Eustachja Szustakowa (1884-1944) - Polish woman who helped Jews in the Łódź Ghetto. She was a member of the Żegota Council and provided financial support to many Jews. She was also a member of the Polish Underground State.

Working photo of Szustakowa and her husband, Stanisław Szustak. They were a family of Polish Catholics who helped Jews in the Łódź Ghetto. The photo was taken in the Łódź Ghetto in 1942.



Włodzisław Fajga (1901 - 1980) - Polish man who helped Jews in the Łódź Ghetto. He was a member of the Żegota Council and provided financial support to many Jews. He was also a member of the Polish Underground State.

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POLACY RATUJĄCY ŻYDÓW POZA GRANICAMI OKUPOWANEGO KRAJU POLES RESCUING JEWS OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF OCCUPIED POLAND























On 17-19 October 2018, the Righteous Among the Nations and representatives of families who participated in saving the Jewish population during the Second World War, met in Rzeszów and Markowa.

The National Summit of Poles Who Saved Jews was held under the National Patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland. It took place for the third time, and for the first time in Podkarpacie. The previous two conventions were held in Warsaw at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. This year, over a hundred people attended the event, the majority of the participants being the relatives of the Righteous.

The concept of the "Righteous" summit is to restore the memory of Poles who risked their own lives to save Jews, especially those who, in

retaliation for help, died at the hands of the German occupant. The meetings were initiated in 2016 by the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression. This year, it is co-organized by the Podkarpackie Voivode, the Marshal of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship and the Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews in World War II in Markowa.

On 17 October a mass for Poles saving Jews was held in the Rzeszów parish church. On Thursday (18 October), during the summit, the ceremony of awarding the Righteous with state decorations took place.

Deputy President of the IPN Dr Mateusz Szpytma, co-founder and first head of the Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews in World War II, for years strongly associated with Podkarpacie, and Dr hab. Elżbieta Rączy from the IPN Branch Office in Rzeszów were honored with distinctions of merit for the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, awarded by the Regional Council of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. The third distinction was posthumously given to Fr. Stanisław Leja, parish priest of Markowa in 1993-2008, a strong advocate of the canonization of the heroic Ulma family to the altars. The awarding ceremony took place in the assembly hall of the Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship.

The participants also watched the performance of the Wanda Siemaszkowa Theater from Rzeszów, entitled "The Righteous. The story of the Ulma family."



A distinction of
merit for the
Podkarpackie
Voivodeship
awarded to
Deputy President
of the IPN Dr
Mateusz Szpytma
during the third
National Summit
of Poles Who
Saved Jews during
the Second World
War – 18 October
2018, Rzeszów.
Photos: Sławek
Kasper (IPN)



A distinction of
merit for the

Podkarpackie
Voivodeship
awarded to Dr
hab.Elżbieta
Rączy (IPN
Rzeszów) during
the third National
Summit of Poles
Who Saved Jews
during the Second
World War – 18
October 2018,
Rzeszów. Photos:
Sławek Kasper
(IPN)



A distinction of
merit for the
Podkarpackie
Voivodeship
awarded to the
late Fr.Stanisław
Leja, parish priest

of Markowa in
1993-2008,
presented to
Tadeusz Leja- a
family member .
Photos: Sławek
Kasper (IPN)

On Friday, 19 October, the participants of the summit arrived in Markowa, the location of the Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews in Second World War. At the local cemetery, they prayed and laid flowers at the grave of the family murdered for helping Jews. Then, in the museum, the delegation laid flowers at the commemorative plaque.

The opening and blessing of the Orchard of Remembrance was the highlight of the ceremony. The Orchard was created in 2016 at the same time the museum was opened. Its first tree was planted by President Andrzej Duda. "Can you imagine a better moment to open this commemorative place than the Summit of Poles Who Saved Jews: opening an orchard in the presence of those to whom this orchard is dedicated?" said the museum Director Anna Stróż-Pawłowska during the Friday ceremony.

The Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance and

the first Director of the Ulma Museum Dr Mateusz Szpytma, reminded the audience that the heroic deeds of the Righteous during the Second World War helped several thousand Jews to survive. "That was the first fruit. But just as these trees bear fruit, your commitment and attitude will bear fruit every year, because every year the descendants of those saved are born," said Mateusz Szpytma to the gathered. He stressed that many descendants of the rescued come to Markowa. They are among numerous groups of young people visiting the museum. The Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance extended greetings from one of the survivors, Abraham Isaac Segal, to the participants. Now Mr Segal lives in Israel and with his large family preserves the memory of the Righteous.



At the grave of
the Ulma Family in
Markowa - 19
October 2019.
Photos: Sławek
Kasper (IPN)



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Opening and
blessing of the
Orchard of

Remembrance at
the Markowa
Ulma-Family
Museum- 19
October 2019.
Photos: Sławek
Kasper (IPN)



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