

Institute of National Remembrance

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Children's Day in the lower house of the Polish Parliament

















On the International Children's Day, the Children and Youth Sejm

gathered in Warsaw. The topic of this year's session was: "What ideals of the soldiers of the Polish Home Army and the National Armed Forces have survived and were victorious? Which of these values are important to you?".

The young MPs were greeted by the Speaker of the Sejm, Elżbieta Witek by following words: "You have chosen brave men of the Polish Underground State. It proves not only your knowledge, but above all your sensitivity, commitment, and understanding that the memory of the soldiers will not perish in your generation".

The President of the Institute of National Remembrance Karol Nawrocki, Ph.D., addressed a speech to the participants.

You all managed to build a bridge between the values cherished by the Polish Secret State soldiers, and present times. This is a difficult task even for professional historians.

We can learn from Polish soldiers who loved Poland that the love is patient. For six years of World War II they fought in horrible conditions for a free and independent Poland and many of them kept fighting after 1945 as well. The love for Poland is kind — quite similar to the love of children for their parents and parents for their children. This love is forgiving and unconditional. We

Poles are not envious of the great potential and prosperity of other nations. We want to build the prosperity of a free, independent and democratic Poland. Our love for Poland eventually builds in us a full sense of readiness to fight for the values that guided the soldiers of the communist pro-independent underground after 1945, the soldiers of the Home Army and the soldiers of the National Armed Forces. (...)

We all still have a lot to do for Poland. Today, the difference between you and the heroes such as Danuta Siedzikówna "Inka" or Zdzisław Badocha "Żelazny" is that if you love Poland and want to serve your country, you do not have to sacrifice your life.

Karol Nawrocki, Ph.D.

Children and Youth Sejm passed a resolution on popularizing the values and heritage of Home Army and National Armed Forces soldiers.

The session of the Sejm was attended, among others, by Deputy Speakers of the Polish Sejm, Children's Ombudsman Mikołaj Pawlak, Deputy Minister of Education and Science Włodzimierz Bernacki, Head of the Sejm Chancellery Agnieszka Kaczmarska, and Deputy Directors of the Sejm Chancellery Christian Młynarek and Dariusz Salamończyk.

The 28th session of the Children and Youth Sejm is organized by the Chancellery of the Sejm, and its co-organizers include the Institute of National Remembrance, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Center for Education Development.

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The Children and Youth Sejm is an educational project carried out by the Chancellery of the Sejm since 1994 in cooperation with other institutions. The aim of the project is to shape civic attitudes among young people, to disseminate knowledge about the functioning of the Polish lower house of the Parliament, the principles of the legislative process, and to activate young people for the benefit of their local communities.

The competition is intended for students between 13 and 18 years of age who will undertake the task in teams of two. Each subsequent edition of the Children and Youth Sejm enjoys extraordinary popularity among young people. The Youth and Children Sejm is an annual event with a separate theme dedicated to a given year.

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