

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Peter Milczyn

Seconded by: Mayor Rob Ford

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Tadeusz Sawicz on October 19th, 2011.

Today we recognize the last surviving Polish pilot from the Battle of Britain. Tadeusz Sawicz, a proud resident of Toronto, was born on February 13, 1914 in Warsaw, Poland. At the early age of 20, Tadeusz joined the Polish Army and became the Deputy Commander of the 114th Escadrille for the Polish September Campaign against the German Army. After the invasion of the Soviet Union and during the evacuation of Poland, which included the air force, Tadeusz was assigned to the French Air Force in Lyon. It was not until the fall of France that Tadeusz joined Britain's military and helped establish the Polish Air Force within the British Royal Air Force.

In 1941, Tadeusz was appointed to the Polish Fighter Squadron where he was promoted to commander. Only two years later, he became the Deputy Commander of the 1st Polish Fighter Wing, and was awarded the *Virtuti Militari*, Poland's highest military decoration.

Tadeusz, a member of the 145 Polish Pilots who fought for the Battle of Britain, a distinguished fighter pilot, recipient of many honorary medals from Poland, France and Holland, remains to be one of Poland's most-decorated veterans.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to his wife Jadwiga and to the Sawicz family.

November 29, 2011