



Project Update

The Tribute to Liberty board has to date not received any official update regarding the final elements of the Memorial to Victims of Communism project.

In honour and memory of victims of Communism, this newsletter includes stories provided by project donors:

* In memory of Ernests Kārlis Bredovskis, born in 1906 in Liepāja District, Vainode Parish. Arrested in "Trīskapčos" in Demene Parish, Ilukste County, November 2, 1940. In Demene Parish he worked as a logger. Imprisoned in Daugavpils Prison. Transported to Russia. Detained at Krasnoyarsk Prison No.1. from November 2, 1940 to February 28, 1942, where he also died. Rehabilitated in accordance with the Republic of Latvia's Law "On Rehabilitation of Illegally Repressed Persons" on August 3, 1990.

* In memory of Leon Sava, who was badly beaten by the Romanian Communists in 1962, in order to force him to surrender his land.

* For my brother, Titi Sava, who fled Romania in 1986, swimming across the Danube, to seek freedom in the West.

* For the people in Communist countries, like Cuba, who are at this very moment in prison for their ideas and wishes for freedom.

* In memory of the millions murdered in the name of the evil that is Communism.



* For the millions of Ukrainians who died in the forced famine, the Holodomor, 1932-33.

* In memory of Oskars Ezerģails, who was deported to Siberia.

* May we never forget the evil inherent in Communism.

* Mass deportations of Latvians to the Gulag.

* In memory of my husband, Vlastimil, who spent over 11 years in a Communist concentration camp and was forced to work in uranium mines in Jachymov in Czechoslovakia. I hope that the memorial to victims of totalitarian Communism will also wake up all those people who still think that Communism is good.



* In memory of Elfrida Zebauers, nee Braze, and past and current victims of Communism. Elfrida Zebauers, 1900 - 1973. Dentist. Starved to death.

* Although many in my family both in Russia and in Ukraine suffered under Communism, I would like to dedicate this tribute to my grandfather, Rafael Voetsky. Rev. Rafael Voetsky was a Russian Orthodox military chaplain at the outbreak of the revolution. He was taken at gunpoint from his wife and five children never to be seen from again. My grandmother and her children had to flee her community of Nikolaevsk on the Amur to escape a similar fate.

* In memory of Palffy Fidel, a victim of totalitarian Communism.

* Dedicated to James Alan Duncan. "He is a free man."

* In memory of the many murdered victims of Communism.

* In memory of my father, who saved me from life under Communism and gave me a chance at freedom. He

taught me to think for myself, see the truth through expedient lies, and know it when people do evil.

* In memory of my father, Antons Nadolskis, who spent 10 years in the Gulag in Siberia for helping people escape from Latvia to Sweden during WWII. He and six other brave men organized small fishing boats to carry refugees and leave at night from the coast of Kurzeme, Latvia to go to Gotland in Sweden. On March 5, 1945, he put my mother, me and my younger brother on a boat and said he would come later, on "the last boat." Before he could do so, he was captured by the Communists and sent to Siberia. I never saw my father again.

* Dedicated to the PEOPLE OF CANADA who took us in, gave us a home and hope for a good life, and LIBERTY, at a time when our countries lay in ruins and our people were enslaved and ravaged by the demonic powers of Communism.

* In memory of those who never returned.

* My late grandmother arrived from the Soviet Union in the late 1920s, this after her peasant family was first transported around the U.S.S.R., including a stint in Siberia; she and her family were former peasants of German stock. Thus, they were undesirable elements, "enemies of the people," is how a devout Communist might have put it.

* In memory of my father, Mr. Vo Phu, who died in 1979 at Z.30C re-education camp in Ham Tan, Thuan Hai, Vietnam.

* Dedicated to our parents, Michael and Hana Mrozek, who left Czechoslovakia so that we might know freedom and have a better life.

* Dedicated to Latvian Freedom Fighters Gunars Astra (1931-1988) and Juris Ziemelis (1941-1988).

* In memory of those who sought freedom but never attained it.

* Dedicated to Wilf Rudd of Oakville, Ontario, in recognition of eighty years actively fighting for freedom in Canada.

* In memory of Alberts & Lidija Hofmanis, good friends of my (Elga's) parents. They were deported from Latvia in 1941 and died in Siberia.

* In memory of the Rev. Wasyl Matwijejko, priest of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, perished in the Siberian Gulag c. 1942.

* In memory of my father, Janis Kalnins, and dedicated to those transported from Riga's railway yard to Siberia in June 1941. As a child, I grew up listening to many war stories and accounts of cruelty, degradation and injustice inflicted on innocent citizens of Latvia by the Soviet Union under Stalin's regime. There is, however, one incident told by my father, Janis Kalnins, that stands out in my mind. The incident happened in Riga's railway yard in June 1941, where at that time my father was working. On this particular hot summer day, long lines of transport wagons, filled to capacity with unfortunate, condemned women, children and old people, were standing next to a platform. Their final destination would be the various concentration camps in Siberia. The men, the heads of families, had by then been separated from their families, some shot. My father, hearing cries for help and seeing outstretched arms begging for water, filled a pail and was carrying it along the platform when a soldier saw him. The soldier, with his heavy army boots, kicked the pail to the ground. I can only imagine the despair and hopelessness in people's hearts, the cruelty of it all, as they watched the cool water run free along the platform.

* In memory of Antanas Smailys, a Lithuanian patriot, murdered and thrown into a river in Siberia, 1944.

* Dedicated to my parents, Jaroslav and Zdenka Tmej of Toronto. My parents fled their homeland of Czechoslovakia after World War II in the wake of the Communist takeover. While building a new life for themselves in Canada, they continued to support the fight against Communism in Czechoslovakia and other lands. They still work tirelessly to ensure the next generations understand the sacrifices they made, the hardships they endured, and the pain and suffering of those left behind. Canadians need reminding that freedom and democracy are not to be taken for granted.

* To Radu Chesaru, arrested by the Romanian Securitate in October 1989, participant in the Romanian Revolution in December 1989. He killed himself in 2002, after ten years of so-called democracy and freedom in Romania.

* To the victims of the Communist regime in Romania.

* To my father, Danila, who was persecuted by the Communists.

* To Aurel Cotnareanu, who died in a Communist prison c.1950.

* To the Romanians who were oppressed under the Communist regime, including numerous members of the Association Roumaine du Canada.

* To my grandfather, army officer George Petri, persecuted by the Communists.

* I wish to dedicate these thoughts to the memory of my cousin, Dr. Achile Sarry (1919-1994), a true patriot and intellectual of high moral integrity. During World War II, he endured terrible ordeals while being held captive for six years in several extermination camps in the Soviet Union. When Achile Sarry returned home to Romania, he was accused, by the ruling Communist regime, of fighting against "the brother from the east," and sentenced to twelve more years of confinement in some of the country's worst political prison camps, including the Danube-Black Sea Canal.

* For my grandfather, Gheorghe, from Albesti, Romania, whose belongings were confiscated by the Communists, along with his dignity and pride as one of the leaders of his village. One Easter day, he lost everything and lived with this grief for the remainder of his life.

* In memory of my family members persecuted by Communists in Romania, starting in the year 1947: My father Dumitru (1933-2010), who suffered the terror of Communism from an early age; he was beaten right in front of his mother, put out of school, and watched thereafter. And: My grandparents Avram (1896-1990) and Rada (1898-1992), who were deprived of liberty and property; they were beaten, imprisoned, robbed and terrorized. My family went through the Communist ordeal just because my grandfather had different political views (he was a member of the PNT party - Partidul National Taranesc - and a former mayor of his village in Romania), and had built his wealth through hard work and dedication. He spent several years in jail and forced labour camps. Their faith in God is what kept them going and is also their legacy.

* In memory of my cousin, Lembit Tampere, who was deported from Estonia and died in a Russian jail of hunger and disease. Lembit fought in the Finnish army against the Bolsheviks. He returned to Estonia in the summer of 1944 and was arrested in 1945, and passed away March 11, 1949 in Norilski prison camp, Soviet Union.

* In memory of the 2 million innocent Polish victims of Communism that were transported to Siberia in the early 1940s, on orders from the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin. Taken abruptly from their homes and travelling in cattle cars under horrendous conditions, they went to far off labour camps. Many of them have no graves to call their own, and it's our moral duty to honour them with a memorial in Ottawa. Communism is a cancerous, God-less system that has perfected the methods of extermination and suppression of whole nations, by massive hunger,

poverty and killing. Poland was one of those victims. Let's not allow history to repeat itself - for all that evil needs to survive and rise up again is to remain hidden and forgotten.

* In memory of my krustevs (godfather), Amandus Andersons, who was captured in Kurzeme in 1945 and last heard of from the KGB's foul and infamous prison, Lubjanka, in Moscow, and was never to be seen again.

* In memory of the grandparents and uncle I never met, as they were deported from Estonia to Siberia, and met their ends there. It was an undeserved fate, but unfortunately one that many Estonians and others shared.

* In memory of CAO DUC LAP and the other victims of Communist totalitarianism, and the refugees who lost their lives on the sea for freedom.

* To the memory of all the persons in Ukraine who suffered under Communism.

* Mykola Nikiforovich Pidlynsky was born on February 7, 1927 in the village of Petrivka, Horodnians'kyj District, Chernihiv Province, Ukraine. The Holodomor was a man made famine in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic between 1932 and 1933. As many as 8 million Ukrainian peasants died of starvation. Mykola was a young boy of 5 and 6 at the time but remembered being extremely hungry. In his memoirs Mykola wrote about his teen years: "The village had an incomplete middle school where I finished grade six. Towards the end of the 30's several of the teachers were arrested and later the pictures of several Ukrainian leaders were cut out of the textbooks as 'enemies of the people'. We were forced to parade with placards praising the Soviet leaders." On June 22, 1941 Germany invaded Ukraine. Mykola at the age of 14 was one of several million civilians from the "conquered" eastern territories that were sent to Germany to do forced labour, in the Ostarbeiter (Eastern Worker) Program. After the war, Mykola refused to return to Soviet Ukraine and the Communist regime that he endured in his childhood. He became a Displaced Person and eventually immigrated to Canada, where he spent much of his energy advocating against the Communist terror and the Russification of Ukraine.

* In memory of my brother, Victor Cernauteanu, who died in a sanatorium at the age of 18. He got sick after being chased in the winter cold by Soviet soldiers. At the time he died, he was finishing his studies to become a priest, like my father and my uncle.

* In memory of my father, Anton Cernauteanu, and my uncle, Vladimir Cernauteanu, both priests, arrested in

Bessarabia by Soviet soldiers in 1940. No one in my family ever heard from them and even at this time we do not know what happened to them: where they were detained, when and how they died, or if they were ever buried.

* For the loss of our birthplace, state and childhood.

* For the loss of our father, Antoni Stanczak.

* For our baby brother, Janek Stanczak, who died in the U.S.S.R. and is resting in the Siberian taiga of 44 Kvartal.

* For our brother, Karol Stanczak, who died in Iran and is resting in Teheran.

* In memory of those victims that cannot speak for themselves.

* In memory and honour of the innocent whose sacrifice paved the road to liberty.

* In memory of my grandmother, To Thi Lan.

* My family had terrible experiences with the Communist totalitarian regime and suffered personal losses from the practitioners and followers of Communism ideology. In younger days, I was there and went through these terrible and fearful time periods. My grandmother died due to the Communist forced collectivization and so-called reforms. My family lost everything and became refugees twice to avoid prosecution by the Communist regime. We finally arrived in North America to establish and celebrate our new life in Canada and the U.S. We are delighted to witness the disintegration of the Communist block, and the demise of Communist ideology. I support the establishment and construction of the Canadian Memorial to Victims of Communism. Not only does this memorial commemorate the millions and millions of victims of Communism, it also reminds people at the present time about the terrible harms to humanity and society done by fanatical social re-engineering ideology and politics. We all need to learn from the past to make a better present and to project and even better future.

* In memory of the Victims of the Katyn Massacre, the mass execution of Polish military officers by the Soviet Union during World War II. The discovery of the massacre precipitated the severance of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the Polish government-in-exile in London. After Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union concluded their Nonaggression Pact of 1939 and Germany invaded Poland from the west, Soviet forces occupied the eastern half of Poland. As a consequence of this occupation, tens of thousands of Polish military

personnel fell into Soviet hands and were interned in prison camps inside the Soviet Union. But after the Germans invaded the Soviet Union (June 1941), the Polish government-in-exile (located in London) and the Soviet government agreed to cooperate against Germany, and a Polish army on Soviet territory was to be formed. The



Polish general Władysław Anders began organizing this army, but when he requested that 15,000 Polish prisoners of war whom the Soviets had once held at camps near Smolensk be transferred to his command, the Soviet government informed him in December 1941 that most of those prisoners had escaped to Manchuria and could not be located. The fate of the missing prisoners remained a mystery. Then on April 13, 1943, the Germans announced that they had discovered mass graves of Polish officers in the Katyn forest near Smolensk, in western Russian S.F.S.R. A total of 4,443 corpses were recovered that had apparently been shot from behind and then piled in stacks and buried. Investigators identified the corpses as the Polish officers who had been interned at a Soviet prison camp near Smolensk and accused the Soviet authorities of having executed the prisoners in May 1940. In response to these charges, the Soviet government claimed that the Poles had been engaged in construction work west of Smolensk in 1941 and the invading German army had killed them after overrunning that area in August 1941. But both German and Red Cross investigations of the Katyn corpses then produced firm physical evidence that the massacre took place in early 1940, at a time when the area was still under Soviet control. The Polish government-in-exile in London requested that the International Committee of the Red Cross examine the graves and asked the Soviet government to provide official reports on the fates of the remaining missing prisoners. The Soviet government refused these demands, and on April 25, 1943, the Soviets broke diplomatic relations with the Polish government in London. The Soviets then set about establishing a Polish government-in-exile composed of Polish Communists. The Katyn Massacre left a deep scar in Polish-Soviet

relations during the remainder of the war and afterward. For Poles, Katyn became a symbol of the many victims of Stalinism. Although a 1952 U.S. congressional inquiry concluded that the Soviet Union had been responsible for the massacre, Soviet leaders insisted for decades that the Polish officers found at Katyn had been killed by the invading Germans in 1941. This explanation was accepted without protest by successive Polish Communist governments until the late 1980s, when the Soviet Union allowed a non-Communist coalition government to come to power in Poland. In March 1989 this government officially shifted the blame for the Katyn Massacre from the Germans to the Soviet secret police, the NKVD. In 1992 the Russian government released documents proving that the Soviet Politburo and the NKVD had been responsible for the massacre and cover-up and revealing that there may have been more than 20,000 victims. In 2000 a memorial was opened at the site of the killings in Katyn. On April 7, 2010, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin joined Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk at a ceremony commemorating the massacre, marking the first time that a Russian leader had taken part in such a commemoration. Three days later, on April 10, a plane carrying Polish Pres. Lech Kaczynski to another commemoration ceremony crashed near Smolensk and the Katyn site, killing Kaczynski, his wife, the head of the national security bureau, the president of the national bank, the army chief of staff, and a number of Polish government officials. In November 2010 the State Duma (the lower house of the Russian Federal Assembly) officially declared that Joseph Stalin and other Soviet leaders were responsible for ordering the execution of the Polish officers at Katyn. *Source: Encyclopedia Britannica.*

* In memory of refugees from Communism Janis Raimonds Lukins (1931-2007), who contributed to the life of Australia and Canada and helped in the rebirth of Latvia through CESO as a volunteer auditor and teacher.

* For the victims of Communism - a system of lies, deceit and death.

* Dedicated to the Latvian military officers in Litene, Latvia, a summer military camp. 200 of these officers were executed in 1941 during the first Soviet occupation, and another 540 Latvian military officers were deported to the Gulag.

* We would like to express our gratitude to the government and the people of Canada for accepting the Vietnamese boat people refugees into the country. Sincere thanks to Canada, a land of hope that has granted us freedom and the chance to a new life filled with opportunity. May this memorial remind us and future genera-

tions of the hardships of the past, the trials of those who fled over oceans to escape Communism, and of the promise of Canada, the land of refugees.

* In memory of the Romanian politician Ion Diaconescu, who died on October 11, 2011 at the age of 94, after a life in the service of liberty and democracy. Born on August 25, 1917, Ion spent 17 years of his life (1947-1964) in Romanian Communist prisons, as one of the leaders of the National Peasant Party (NPP). After the fall of the Communist regime in 1989, Ion was involved in the reconstruction of his political party and in the democratization process of Romania. In 1995, Ion became president of the NPP and one year later was elected president of the Romanian parliament (1996-2000). He died in Bucharest after suffering a heart attack.

* In memory of Horst Voit. Horst Voit, a young boy, snatched his uncle's jack knife from the kitchen table as he and his mother walked out the door of their home. They trudged through snow and freezing weather toward the Baltic harbor where they boarded a ship named the Wilhelm Gustloff to flee from Nazi Germany while Stalin's soldiers advanced on the Eastern Front in January 1945. When Alexander Marinesko, commander of a Soviet submarine, torpedoed the Wilhelm Gustloff shortly after they set off to sea, he sent Horst, his mother, and nearly 10,000 passengers into the black waters of the Baltic. As the safety boat ropes tangled along the ship's hull, young Horst pulled his uncle's jack knife out of his pocket and cut the cord. *Source:* <https://www.britannica.com/video/sinking-Soviet-one-disasters-MV-Wilhelm-Gustloff-January-1945/-194056>

* My family was ethnically cleansed by the Communist regime in post-war Poland from southeastern Poland and forcefully sent to northeastern Poland (previously East Prussia).

* Humans seem to be the only mammals that regularly and indiscriminately torture and kill their own species, often for no better reason than that the "others" do not fit into a perceived correct mindset. So it was in the former Soviet Union after the revolution. The target of the killing was the leadership and educational individuals, but to get these there was indiscriminate destruction and many others died as well. My father's family was not in the group that was being targeted, being farmers and not owning their own land. The revolution itself already took a large toll as the two sides went back and forth through the village, always accusing the residents of favouring the other side, and "punishing" the perceived offenders – that was normally a death punishment. However, after the revolution was over and Stalin came into power, there was a deliberate practice of demanding all the

produce of the farm(s) and that included especially the horses. Stalin knew that if he asked for all the grain, farmers might keep some to plant the next year, but if he took away all the horses, it would be very hard to sow crops. He wanted to starve the population – and did it very effectively. After a while there were so many deaths that regular tours of the community had to be made to collect the dead and count how many had died. This had to be done by those who were still alive – my uncle was one of those assigned to that duty. Not doing it meant a more merciful instant death. In addition to the starvation, diseases set in, thus increasing the death rate significantly. Many of my ancestral relatives were among those who did not survive, including aunts, uncles and my grandfather. The details of the stories are often gruesome and do not need to be retold. What is needed is to find a way to ENSURE that these atrocities are known by future generations. Hopefully it will make it possible to convince future generations, far removed from the violence of Communism, that all philosophies which demand the literal "killing off" of any segments of the population should never be allowed to gain momentum. The Tribute to Liberty monument can be a big part of ensuring this message is clearly taken into the future and never forgotten. It is for this reason that I support this most important project and hope that many others will as well.

* In memory of my dear late father Vilnis, who once was interrogated by the KGB in their offices, for having a forbidden book. They made him choose between saving his family from repression or hand them the book. I am certain he never told me all he had gone through. His name pulls many people's heart strings... I am proud to be his daughter and to feel this connection is important to me.

