

# Tadeusz Kosciuszko: The Making of a Folk Hero



Kosciuszko wearing the Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati, awarded to him by George Washington.

A hero in two worlds, Tadeusz Kosciuszko spent his life fighting against empire and is today remembered in two nations for his efforts.

In Poland he is remembered for the uprising he led against Russia in 1794. While his uprising would fail, Kosciuszko's actions would turn him into a folk hero whose deeds and fight against foreign oppression would help keep the flame of Polish nationalism alive.

For most in the United States he is only remembered for West Point but, for Polish-Americans he serves as a critical bridge that allows the linking of Polish and American pride.

- 1746: Born
- 1776 – 1783: Fought for America in the Revolutionary War
- 1777: Composed the original *Polonez Kosciuskowski* (A dance and song)
- 1778 – 1780: Built the original fortifications at West Point
- 1792: Fought for Poland in the Polish-Russian War of 1792
- 1794: Led the Kosciuszko Uprising in Poland against Russia and Prussia
- 1817: Died



Statue of Kosciuszko located in Chicago, Illinois.