

Casimir Pulaski Day

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Casimir Pulaski Day



Observed by [Illinois, USA](#)

Type Illinois holiday

Date First Monday in March

2021 date March 1

2022 date March 7

2023 date March 6

2024 date March 4

Frequency annual

Related to [General Pulaski Memorial Day](#)

Casimir Pulaski Day is a local holiday officially observed in [Illinois](#), on the first Monday of March in memory of [Casimir Pulaski](#) (March 6, 1745^[1] – October 11, 1779), a [Revolutionary War](#) cavalry officer born in [Poland](#) as Kazimierz Pułaski. He is praised for his contributions to the [U.S. military](#) in the [American Revolution](#) and known as "the father of the American cavalry".

Description

Casimir Pulaski Day is celebrated mainly in areas that have large [Polish](#) populations, such as [Chicago](#), [Bloomington](#), and [Du Bois](#). The focus of official commemorations of Casimir Pulaski

Day in Chicago is at the [Polish Museum of America](#) where various city and state officials congregate to pay tribute to [Chicago's Polish Community](#).

The city of Chicago celebrated its first official Pulaski Day in 1986. On February 26, 1986, Mayor Harold Washington introduced a resolution to designate the first Monday in March General Casimir Pulaski Day, and the City Council approved.^[2] The Chicago Public Library closes in observance of Pulaski Day but Chicago Public Schools remain open. Pulaski Day stopped being a holiday for Chicago Public Schools in 2012 as a way to increase the number of days in the school year, although some Illinois schools still observe the holiday depending on snow days.^[3]

This is a separate holiday from the [federal observance, General Pulaski Memorial Day](#), which commemorates Pulaski's death from wounds suffered at the [Siege of Savannah](#) October 11, 1779.

Illinois enacted a law on September 13, 1977, to celebrate the birthday of Casimir Pulaski and held the first official Pulaski Day celebrations in 1978. The bill was introduced by State Senator [Norbert A. Kosinski](#), a Democrat from Chicago, and signed by [Thomas Hynes](#), President of the Senate, on June 26, 1977. [Cook County](#) government offices, the [Chicago Public Library](#), and statewide public and private schools are closed on this holiday.

Wisconsin public schools also observe Casimir Pulaski Day, although they do not close for it.^[4] Banks in Illinois may close for the holiday.^[1]

Section 118.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes provides that, "...when school is held or, if the day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, on a school day immediately preceding or following the respective day, the day shall be appropriately observed...." The use of "shall" denotes this as a mandatory requirement. Each public school in Wisconsin must observe Casimir Pulaski Day on March 4. How the day is observed — "appropriately" — allows for some discretion among the schools.^[5]

[Buffalo, New York](#) also acknowledges a "Pulaski Day," which is held in the middle of July, and is celebrated with an annual parade.^[6]

On November 6, 2009, President Barack Obama signed a joint resolution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives making Pulaski an [honorary American citizen](#), 230 years after his death.^[7] He is one of eight people to be granted honorary United States citizenship.

[Grand Rapids, Michigan](#) hosts a "[Pulaski Days](#)" celebration annually on the first full weekend of October in recognition of General Pulaski and the Polish culture in general.^[8]