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NCUA Media Advisory

Fryzel Extends Condolences on Polish Tragedy

Credit Union Pioneer Kaczynski Remembered as Leader, Visionary

April 11, 2010, Alexandria Va. – National Credit Union Administration Board Member Michael E. Fryzel, the first Polish American appointed to NCUA board and to serve as its Chairman, extended his condolences to the people of Poland and the millions of Polish Americans across the United States on the tragic death of Poland’s President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and 95 other high ranking Polish officials, in a plane crash Saturday in Russia.

“It is a tragic irony that these prominent people died on their way to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the killing of thousands of Polish officers during World War II in Russia.” Fryzel stated, “A tragedy such as this will mark Poland’s future for years to come.”

President Kaczynski was one of the founders of the credit union movement in Poland in the early 1990's. In September of last year, he and his wife visited the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union in New York, NY.

“The Polish people are strong and as they have in the past, they will once again overcome the sorrow and despair that comes with such a terrible event as this. I extend my deepest sympathy and prayers to the families of these courageous and brave people,” Fryzel said.

The National Credit Union Administration is the independent federal agency that regulates charters and supervises federal credit unions. NCUA, with the backing of the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, also operates and manages the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, insuring the deposits of nearly 90 million account holders in all federal credit unions and the majority of state-chartered credit unions.

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