Remarks by Ambassador Lee Feinstein at the Aviation Museum in Krakow on July 5, 2012

Szanowny Panie Dyrektorze,
[*Dear Director*]

Dostojni Goście, Przyjaciele Ameryki,
[*Dear Esteemed Guests and Friends of America*]

Thank you, Allen for the introduction.

Bardzo dziękuję Państwu za przybycie na nasze Święto Niepodległości. Cieszę się, że możemy wspólnie świętować w tak niesamowitym miejscu, w otoczeniu tak inspirującej wystawy.

Wczoraj świętowaliśmy w mojej rezydencji w Warszawie, ale nie mieliśmy dekoracji w postaci samolotów. To naprawdę wyjątkowa oprawa. Widać, że Kraków umie się dobrze bawić.

[*Thank you all for being here in this incredible facility in the midst of this inspiring exhibit to help us celebrate our Independence Day. I am happy that I am able to be here with you this year. Last night, I hosted at my home an event, and I must admit, we did not have airplanes at our event. This is really, really special. You really do know how to have a good time in Krakow.]*

Tonight is a celebration and so I won't talk too long, but I wanted to again thank Director Radwan and his wonderful team for working with the Consulate on the American Year at the Aviation Museum. The director and Kasia *(the exhibit curator, who will speak just before you)* did a great job explaining what we've done so far and this beautiful exhibit speaks for itself.

Deciding to partner with the Aviation Museum on an American Year, did not happen by accident. Rather it is a real reflection of something that brings our countries closer together. Tomorrow I will be in Łódź also to celebrate our Independence Day and our continued and growing security cooperation. As you may know, this fall our two countries will herald a milestone in our military relationship with the first continuous presence of U.S. military in Poland. A U.S. Air Force aviation detachment based out of Łask Air Base near Łódź will support quarterly U.S. aircraft training rotations beginning in 2013. I think it is perfectly appropriate that this first permanent U.S. military presence is from the Air Force and will build on the history and traditions of the famed Kosciuszko Squadron.

I promised to keep it short but it's not just military cooperation in aviation. LOT Airlines will be the first European airline to receive the Boeing Dreamliner and will use it to connect our citizens on the Warsaw-Chicago route. Our rich shared aviation past, has a rich future as well. And it's only one aspect of U.S.-Polish cooperation that continues to advance. But that's for another speech, tonight we are here to celebrate.

Na koniec chciałbym podziękować Allenowi, jego żonie Haruko i całemu zespołowi z Konsulatu, bo wszyscy bardzo się przysłużyli Stanom Zjednoczonym. Chciałbym im pogratulować dobrze wykonanego zadania. Dzięki ich wysiłkom Ameryka i Polska zbliżyły się do siebie jeszcze bardziej.

[*In closing, I'd like to thank Allen and his wife Haruko, and the whole Consulate team, who have served the United States so well in Krakow these last three years, and congratulate them for a job well done. I think you'll all agree that thanks to their efforts America and Poland have really been brought closer together*.]

Proszę o brawa dla Allena i jego współpracowników, dla dyrektora Radwana, pani Kurator i pracowników muzeum za przygotowanie i zorganizowanie dzisiejszej uroczystości. Szczęśliwego Dnia Niepodległości! Happy Independence Day!

[*Please join me in a round of applause and a toast to Allen and his team, Director Radwan, Curator Kasia, and the museum staff for preparing and organizing this event. Happy Independence Day*]