

My name is Peter Danielczuk and I am from the city of Ansonia. I was President of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen for 12 years and in elected office for 38 years. I have been a radio announcer in CT for over 42 years working on stations WWCO, WADS, WNTY, WDJZ, WICC and currently on WNHU FM from the University of New Haven where I do my show "Pollka Celebration" every Saturday morning. I was inducted into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame located in Ohio in 2007. I have also been very active in the Polish community as well as for the past ten years an officer of the International Polka Association located in Chicago.

Connecticut has a long tradition and history of Polka music. When the immigrants from Poland came to this country, they developed a music in which they could dance and party with each other. Connecticut is known for what is called the Eastern Style of Polka music and has had many famous Polka bands. Through the years, Connecticut has had many of its residents inducted into the Polka Music Hall of Fame. They include Ray Henry, Frank Wojnarowski, Gene Wisniewski, Walt Solek, Al Soyka, Rich Bobinski, Dennis Polisky, Wally Dombroski and ten others.

WICC radio in Bridgeport had the first broadcast of a live Polka band on the entire east coast in 1927. There are still many radio stations in the state that have Polka shows. From the 1940's through the 60's many people met at Polka dances and became married couples, in fact my parents met at Warsaw Park in Ansonia at one of these dances. There were many clubs and dance halls that had sold out crowds at their dances. Polka dances are still held today in many Connecticut Cities and Towns, including Bristol, Windsor Lock, Hartford, Colchester, Ansonia and many more.

I am in support of naming the "Ballroom Polka" by Windsor native the late Ray Henry as the official state Polka. Ray Henry is considered one of the all time greats in Polka music having written well over a thousand songs and was nicknamed "The Polka Maestro". The Ballroom Polka is his most famous one and is one that every Polka band has played.

I believe that it is appropriate like the state of Massachusetts and Wisconsin that Connecticut has an official state Polka. I ask you to please give it your support to