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IPN presents annual Semper Fidelis Awards

On 19 November 2026, a gala ceremony to present the IPN Semper Fidelis Awards took place at the Palace of the Commonwealth in Warsaw. The event was held under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Karol Nawrocki, and was attended by the Deputy Presidents of the IPN, Dr Karol Polejowski and Dr Krzysztof Szwagrzyk.





Borders have changed, cities have been lost, but the memory of the

people, places and traditions that shaped Poland’s history has endured. The Semper Fidelis Award honours those who preserve the Polish historical and cultural heritage of the former Eastern Borderlands.

During the ceremony marking the eighth edition of the award, IPN Deputy President Karol Polejowski reflected on the importance of historical memory:

> *Memory is paramount. It defines us. It makes us who we are. And who do we want to be? We want to be like our ancestors. We want to be those who will one day deserve to be called Semper Fidelis. Always faithful to Poland and Polish identity, to Polish tradition. That is what we want to be for future generations.*

The 2026 Semper Fidelis Award recipients are:

Father Józef Aszkiełowicz

Krzysztof Kołtun

Andrzej Poczobut

Włodzimierz Sławosz Dębski “Jarema”

The Odra-Niemen Association (Stowarzyszenie Odra-Niemen)

A special distinction from the President of the IPN was also awarded to Mariusz Jerzy Olbromski for his outstanding commitment to preserving the heritage of Poland’s former Eastern Borderlands.

Established by the IPN in 2019, the Semper Fidelis Award recognises individuals and organisations dedicated to safeguarding the Polish heritage of the former Eastern Borderlands, both in Poland and abroad.

Its recipients include those who protect historic sites and cemeteries, document forgotten histories, preserve Polish cultural traditions and ensure that the experiences of past generations are passed on to future ones.

The award is also a reminder that the history of Poland extends beyond its present-day borders, encompassing communities whose cultural and historical legacy remains an integral part of the nation’s identity.



IPN presents annual Semper Fidelis Awards. Photo: Sławek Kasper (IPN)



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