



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

House of Representatives

Dennis J. Kucinich

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF WISLAWA SZYMBORSKA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Ms. Wislawa Szymborska, a Nobel Prize winning Polish poet.

Ms. Szymborska was born on July 2, 1923 in Brin, Poland. At the age of eight, in 1931, her family moved to Krakow, where she spent the rest of her life. During World War II, in order to avoid deportation to Germany, Ms. Szymborska worked as a railway clerk. Following the War, she attended Jagellonian University where she studied Polish literature and sociology. She began working for the literary magazine, "Zycie Literackie" in 1953. She served as a columnist and poetry editor until 1981.

In 1945, Ms. Szymborska published her first poem, "Szukam slowa" (I am Looking for a Word) in the Dziennik Polski newspaper. She published her first book of poetry, "Dlatego zyjemy" in 1952 and her last will be published posthumously. Ultimately, Ms. Szymborska will be credited with more than 21 volumes of poetry published, many in several languages.

Ms. Szymborska was recognized and honored numerous times throughout her illustrious career. She has been coined the "Mozart of Poetry" and the "Greta Garbo of World Poetry." Ms. Szymborska has been awarded the Goethe Prize, Herder Prize, Polish PEN Club prize and in 1996, and she was the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature. She also received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Poznan University. In 2011 she was honored by Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski with The Order of the White Eagle for her cultural contribution to Poland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Ms. Wislawa Szymborska. Her work and her memory will live on with all who were blessed by knowing of her.

(Appearing in the Congressional Record on February 2, 2012)