

Greetings - as the youngest granddaughter of Joe Bekarciak, the founder of the Valley View, it gives me great pride that the Valley View is receiving this recognition. It is unfortunate that I could not be here in person with all of you today, but am thankful to the team for the offer to share my remarks. I connected with Issac a little over a week ago, after the facebook post featured Valley View on the poster. Then I further connected with Marissa - so thank you both and your team once again.

For my grandfather and then my own parents, Valley View wasn't just a hotel. It was a way of life; one of which I was born into. It was hard work, determination and a belief in hospitality and community. Over the years, Valley View was a place where families gathered, vacationed, made memories and shared in tradition. Being the largest Polish-American Resort in the east, our Polish heritage was very much a part of life at Valley View; from Polka Bands entertaining our guests nightly, to Polish Folk Dance Groups performing, the Fall Festival of Dzyinki to the Spring Dyngus Day, and who can forget the Saturday Polish Night extravaganza, many shared traditions that were loved by all.

My late parents, Frank and Kazia Winski ultimately took over the hotel operations for my grandfather and it was them who continued his vision until their retirement in 1989. While reflecting on today's event and preparing my thoughts, I came across two pivotal documents - a speech I wrote in 1989 at the close of the Valley View's last ceremony and my mother's eulogy. During the closing ceremony, I shared a little history of Valley View.

In 1944 the property was purchased by Joseph and Wilhelmina Bekarciak and opened for business in 1945. With the help of their daughters Valley View grew from a boarding house to a Polish Oasis. As noted in my Mother's eulogy, Valley View was the 3rd business she and her beloved husband Frank owned and operated. They raised 5 children while attempting to balance the needs of the hotel and their growing family. They and the hotel became a central business in Western Sullivan County, where many school students experienced their first jobs, local children learned how to swim, students were honored and celebrated for academic achievement, and many couples from the area had their wedding receptions at Valley View.

To this day, if I share an old photo of the hotel on my social media feed, I always get so many incredible comments from folks who have been there and them sharing their memories and that is a community I will forever treasure.

It brings great joy in knowing that Valley View will be long remembered and its rich family history shared through this incredible project. Once again, thank you all who helped to make this happen.

Pam Winski Borek, granddaughter of Joe Bekarciak, Founder of the Valley View Valley View House