

We, the mayors and councillors of many Polish and European cities, pay homage to you. Homage to all that you have done, not only for your beloved Gdańsk, but also for our cities by sharing your enormous knowledge and experience of local government.

We could always count on you. Today, we bow before your life's work, your struggle for a democratic Poland in the 1980s and creating a beautiful, modern, magnificent Gdańsk, a European Gdańsk. But today, over these incredibly difficult days, we see that the most important thing you've done for us is to create a wonderful community of Gdańskers, Poles and Europeans, hundreds, perhaps even millions of whom now bid you goodbye.

You turned us into a family where there is room for everyone. From your family home, from the history of Gdańsk, from your deep Christian faith you took an unconditional need to love and respect others, regardless of their opinions, skin colour, faith or orientation. You made Gdańsk famous in Europe and throughout the world again as a city of freedom and solidarity, that welcomes everyone and is always ready to help those who are weak and in need, be it Poles in the East, people from cities that had survived cataclysms, and especially immigrants and refugees from war-torn Syria.

Paweł, a city so open to the needs of others, devoid of prejudice and hate, such a truly democratic and European Poland as your Gdańsk, without dividing Poles into better and worse, we the mayors of the cities of Poland want to build. This we promise you, our friend. Your Poland. Paweł, may your spirit of love, freedom and solidarity, the spirit of magnificent Gdańsk always be with us.