

The guardian of the memory of the Radom June was honored

Radosław Mizera | 20 September 2026 | GOSC.PL

Bronisław Kawęcki, the leader of the construction of a monument dedicated to the events of 50 years ago, was posthumously awarded the 50th Anniversary Medal of the Radom June '76 Association. The ceremony took place on the evening of September 19th at St. Catherine's Church in Radom.



B. Kawęcki's daughters: Oktawia Kawęcka-Sellers and Patrycja Kawęcka-Czerska. Radosław Mizera / Foto Gość

The Mass was celebrated by the guardian of the Bernardine monastery in Radom, Father Juniper Ostrowski, OFM. During the liturgy, prayers were said for the deceased Zdzisław Maszkiewicz, former chairman of the Radom Solidarity movement, and B. Kawęcki. “On the 19th of each month we gather in this church to invoke the intercession of Blessed Father Jerzy Popiełuszko and pray for our homeland, so that the seed sown by our ancestors, the seed of love for God, neighbor, and homeland, the seed sown by the heroes of the Radom June, may bear fruit, so that we may never pit one against the other,” said Father Ostrowski.

He also recalled that Saint John Paul II, at the airport in Radom, called for mutual love, respect, and solidarity. “He encouraged all of this to become part of society, for these words to reach every human heart. I speak of this today because it is difficult to find this solidarity among those in power,” the friar emphasized.

He also referred to the 50th anniversary of the Radom workers' uprising, saying that working people stood up for the dignity of the working man. "How much of that time remains in our hearts today? Despite various persecutions, despite the gauntlet of beatings ("paths of health"), people were willing to face the consequences to demonstrate their patriotism, their determination to defend their homeland. Back then, solidarity was deeply etched in their hearts and in their deeds," Father Ostrowski noted.

After the liturgy, the medal was presented by Dariusz Sobczak, secretary of the Radom June 76 Association. "We will strive to have this monument erected in our city. Today we honor a man who was not afraid to set the record of history straight. He always said that the Radom protests were not hooligan antics, as the communist narrative emphasized, but a genuine workers' protest," he said.

The award was received by B. Kawęcki's daughters, Oktawia Kawęcka-Sellers and Patrycja Kawęcka-Czerska. "Today's event, so beautiful, special and unique, is proof that there are people who remember the legacy of the Radom June. We would also like to recall that in one of his last interviews our father said that the cornerstone standing at the corner of 25 Czerwca and Żeromskiego streets is already a monument. He also regretted that another monument design, which won the competition, has still not been realized," they said.

Bronisław Kawęcki was an anti-communist opposition activist, a longtime community organizer and a tireless defender of the memory of the June 1976 workers' protest. He died on 29 August 2026 at the age of 72, leaving behind a legacy that will last far longer than he did. You can learn more about him at: <https://www.bkaweckki.com>. The medal was also awarded to Karol Sońta.

Medals awarded for the 50th anniversary of the Radom June 76 Association



Bronisław Kawęcki was honored posthumously. The award was received personally by Karol Sońta. Foto Gość

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