



# UAV Tribune

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Dear Fellow Veterans,

As I write this column, it is mid-July and hot throughout the United States, so I hope that all of you are enjoying the summer. Meanwhile, the UAV National Executive Board is busy preparing for two meetings. The first will be in Glen Spey, New York, on July 30, 2011; the second will be held on September 29, 2011, at Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, our convention site. Our meetings are open to all UAV members.

UAV Posts 1 and 42 who will be hosting the 64th UAV Annual National Convention, which will be held from September 30 to October 2, 2011, at the Hampton Inn, 1500 Easton Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090. By this time you should have received the correspondence related to this event, and I hope to see maximum turnout. I ask that all Post commanders send a delegation to the convention, as these conventions are the only time that all UAV members have the opportunity to get together in one place at the same time. I also request that members support the 64th UAV National Convention Journal by placing an advertisement. I know that Posts 1 and 42 will do a great job, so please make plans to attend.

I had a great time visiting UAV Post 32 of Chicago during the Memorial Day weekend and am pleased to report that UAV Post 32 is thriving and doing well. Post Commander Peter Bencak was a marvelous host and I had a chance to meet and greet almost every member of the post. On Saturday, May 28, 2011, I proudly marched with Post 32 members in the Chicago Memorial Day Parade; the largest Memorial Day parade in the United States of America. The Army Reserve provided Humvees for post members and guests who could not march. It was a wonderful experience to receive the grateful applause of thousands along the parade route. By the way, if you ever visit Chicago, stop by the Ukrainian National Museum at 2249 West Superior Street; it is well worth the trip. UAV Post 32 has its own exhibit area honoring the military service of its members. There is also a military room full of artifacts, photos, and uniforms of Ukrainian soldiers who served in World Wars I and II. This is really an excellent museum.

Speaking of summer ceremonies, last year the UAV National Executive Board voted to make the military/police style short-sleeve shirt with gray trousers the official UAV summer uniform. The UAV shoulder sleeve insignia is on the left sleeve, 1/2" down from the seam; the U.S. Flag is on the right sleeve, 1/2" down from the seam with the flag facing forward. (The US Army has also adopted this shirt.) I ask that post commanders encourage all UAV members to buy a new shirt and to have members sew on the insignia on the appropriate sleeves as noted above. The NEB has not authorized any other insignia to be worn on the shirt. The Quartermaster will help posts obtain shirts if necessary. He also has the new UAV golf shirts and hats for sale.

During the summer months, the UAV is often asked to provide color guards for events in Ellenville and at the UNA's Ukrainian Heritage Center at Soyuzivka, in Kerhonkson, New York. I thank the volunteers who stepped up to the plate, drove long distances, and represented the UAV by presenting the U.S., Ukrainian, and UAV colors. I know that individual posts also provide color guards for patriotic events and thank them for representing the Ukrainian American Veterans.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the convention.

Honored to serve,

Leonid Kondratiuk  
*National Commander*



At the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Chicago, IL

# GOD BLESS AMERICA!



*Photo by Anna Krawczyk*

September 11, 2001

June 2001



September 11, 2011

# WE SHALL NEVER FORGET SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

# Thank you for your service

## Congratulations!



The Carderock Division of Naval Surface Warfare Center has a new Division Commander – Captain Heidemarie M. Stefanyshyn-Piper, USN.

On May 20, 2011 Captain Stefanyshyn-Piper assumed a new responsibility as the 35th division commander of the Corderock Division of Naval Surface Warfare Center, which was founded as the Experimental Model Basin in 1898.

Captain Stefanyshyn-Piper is the first woman to serve in this prestigious post.

Heidemarie M. Stefanyshyn-Piper was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is multilingual, fluent not only in English but also in Ukrainian and German, which she learned from her parents. She earned both a Bachelor of Science and a Master 's degree in Mechanical Engineering on a Naval ROTC Program scholarship at MIT. Commissioned an Ensign in June 1985 in the Engineering Duty Officer Community, she served at numerous ship repair facilities, including Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. She was a qualified Surface Warfare Officer, as well as diving and salvage officer, and worked in that capacity until being selected by NASA as an astronaut in 1996. Heidemarie is a veteran of two space flights and has logged 27 days and 15 hours in space. Heidemarie completed five space walks - 33 hours and 42 minutes of Extra-Vehicular Activity.

In August 2009 Captain Piper became the Chief Technology Officer at the Naval Sea Systems Command. She is a recipient of numerous awards and medals, not least of which are two NASA Flight medals and one NASA Exceptional Service Medal.



## Kudos – You Make Us Proud

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant Tanya Clark, on her reenlistment in the US Air Force! Tanya is Michigan UAV Post 101 member.

Staff Sergeant Tanya Clark with SGT Horgan

## Godspeed and Safe Return

Captain Chase Kochkodin, US Army, is currently serving in Afghanistan. He is shown driving the M-ATV across RC South through Kandahar City.

Both Chase and his father, SFC Mark Kochkodin, are members of UAV Post 1 of Greater Philadelphia, PA. Edward A. Zetick, PNC is Chases's uncle and UAV Post 1 Commander.



Captain Kochkodin

## Welcome Home

UAV member-at-large, Captain Roman Skaskiw, (USA Ret.), recently returned from Ukraine where he spent one year as a Fulbright scholar. (A story about Roman's adventures in Ukraine was featured in April 3, 2011 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly.)

Captain Skaskiw was an infantry officer with the 82nd Airborne Division. He served in Afghanistan in 2002, in Iraq (2003-2004) and was recalled from US Army inactive reserve in 2007 for a third combat tour, which lasted until October 2008.

Roman retired from the military and is now pursuing a writing career. His articles appear on [www.mises.org](http://www.mises.org)

At this time he is taking postgraduate courses with the help of the Post 9/11 GI Bill and is writing a book entitled "Liberty in Ukraine".

Together with a talented friend, Roman builds websites for individuals and small businesses, please visit their website at: [www.icwebstuff.com](http://www.icwebstuff.com)



# News From The Headquarters

by Bernard W. Krawczuk, UAV National PR & Publications Officer

## July 30, 2011

The National Executive Board of the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., met face-to-face at the Kindrachuk residence in Glen Spey, New York. Summer uniforms were the order. After the business of the meeting was completed, all enjoyed a delicious dinner of barbequed spare ribs and more. We thank Jerry Kindrachuk for his hospitality.



photo by Bernard W. Krawczuk

from left: Mathew Koziak, NC Leonid Kondratiuk, Marian Bojsiuk, Nicholas Skirka, Stephen Kostecki, Anna Krawczuk and Jerry Kindrachuk.

The agenda included activity reports from all the UAV NEB Officers. Emphasis was on membership, summer uniforms, the UAV Registration Project, and the UAV National Monument.

The UAV NEB is represented by IPNC Anna Krawczuk at the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-1933, which is preparing for 80th Commemorations in 2012.

Special attention was given to the upcoming 64th UAV Annual National Convention hosted by UAV Post 1 of Greater Philadelphia, PA and UAV Post 42 of Lehigh Valley, PA. It will be held on September 30, October 1 and 2, 2011, at the Hampton Inn, 1500 Easton Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090. All meetings are to be held at the hotel, starting with the UAV NEB face-to-face meeting on Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. and followed by the convention the next two days.

A Saturday night banquet will be held at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, PA. The Convention Committee is co-chaired by Post Commanders Edward A. Zetick and Oleh Balaziuk. The UAV National Commander Leonid Kondratiuk will chair the convention.

## Other activities:

**March 19, 2011.** The UAV National Executive Board held a teleconference.

**May 1, 2011.** As in prior years, the UAV was well represented on St. Thomas Sunday ceremonies at St. Andrew Cemetery, South Bound Brook, New Jersey. The UAV Color Guard led the procession and after the services marched to the UPA Monument to honor Ukrainian freedom fighters. From there, they proceeded to the site of the future Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument that, once erected, will commemorate all Ukrainian American men and women who served honorably in the US Armed Forces.

**July 16, 2011.** The UAV Color Guard at the opening ceremonies of the fifth Ukrainian Cultural Festival at the UNA's Ukrainian Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, New York. This festival was very successful with more than 3,000 visitors in attendance.



photo by M. Orysia Jacus

From left: Steven Kostecki (UAV Post 31), Jurij Jacus (Post 30) and Oleh Balaziuk (Post 42).



photo at the UAV NM site  
From left: Anna Krawczuk, Viktor Litkewycz, Zen Halkowycz, Bohdan Zelechiwsky, Stan Jakubowycz; Oleh Balaziuk, Bernard Krawczuk, Jerry Kindrachuk, Michael Fedirko, Edward Zetick and Walter Bodnar.

# News From The Headquarters

by Bernard W. Krawczuk, UAV National PR & Publications Officer

## May 1, 2011 St. Thomas Sunday in South Bound Brook, New Jersey



At the UPA Monument

## June 8, 2011. Hartford, CT.

The following are the election results for the Connecticut State Department of the Ukrainian Americans Veterans held at the Ukrainian National Home, as reported by Paul P. Bzowyckyj, UAV CSD Adjutant:

**Ihor B. Rudko** – State Commander  
**Paul P. Bzowyckyj** – Adjutant  
**Gerald Nesteruk** – Chaplain  
**Roman Leskiw** – Public Relations

**Andrew Bamber** – Vice Commander  
**Walter Hornat** – Quartermaster  
**Michael Wowk** – Member-at-large  
**Michael Matiash** – Judge Advocate

### CONGRATULATIONS!

We thank the outgoing UAV CSD Commander, LTC Wiroslaw Snihurowych, (USA Ret) for an outstanding work on behalf of the UAV in the State of Connecticut and wish him well.

# News from the Headquarters

UAV Tribune Press Fund has been established to defray the cost of our newsletter. **Contributions will be appreciated.**

**Please send to:** UAV Press Fund  
 PO Box 3486  
 Bethlehem, PA 18017-0486  
 Attn: Jerry Kindrachuk, UAV NEB  
 Finance Officer

For more information contact Jerry at email:  
**jkindrachuk@gmail.com** or  
 Bernard W. Krawczuk, UAV N PR/Publications Officer at  
 email: **uav.tribune@verizon.net**

## From: UAV National Finance Officer:

Attention: UAV Post Commanders:  
 Annual Post dues deadline is: April 15th of each year.  
 Current UAV Post Roster is to be submitted with the payment.

## From: UAV National Scholarship Chair

Applications for UAV Scholarships are accepted  
 year round.  
 Deadline for submitting is August 31.  
 Contact Nickolas Skirka at: **nskirka@optonline.net**

## From the National Quartermaster

All old style UAV Blue/Black golf shirts are available for Post fundraisers for a donation to the UAV Quartermaster Fund.

Please Contact Quartermater Stephen Kostecki  
 to place your order:  
 email: **skostecki108@comcast.net**  
 call: 508-245-1890



UAV Coins Silver/Brass	5.00
UAV Crest for blazer	18.00
NEW! UAV Black B/B hat	15.00
NEW! UAV Blue Golf Shirt	35.00
UAV Lapel pin	4.00
US/UKIE Flag pin	2.00
UAV Summer shirt patch set (US flag & UAV Logo)	7.00
UAV Car decal	2.00
UAV tie	6.00
UAV Small emblem	3.00



Flag Pin



Tie/Jacket Pin

UAV Registration Project 1998-2003 7.00 (report in booklet form) S/H included

## Dates to Remember

### September 5, 2011

Labor Day Nationwide

### September 11, 2011

10th Anniversary of 9/11 Tragedy

### September 29, 2011

UAV NEB face-to-face meeting

### September 30, October 1-2, 2011

64th UAV Annual National Convention and the banquet

### November 11, 2011

Veterans Day observances nationwide

### November 24, 2011

Thanksgiving

### December 25, 2011

Christmas

### January 1, 2012

New Years Day

### January 7, 2012

Ukrainian Christmas



# UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC

PO BOX 3486  
Bethlehem, PA 18017-0486  
Brigadier General Leonid Kondratiuk  
National Commander



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NC L. Kondratiuk, J. Kindrachuk,  
A. Krawczuk, M. Bojsiuk and S. KostECKI.  
Not in photo: I. Hron, M. Demchuk, M  
Pryjma, E. Zetick I. Rudko



# UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC

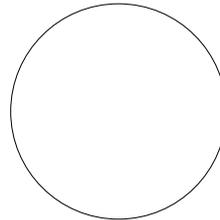
PO BOX 3486  
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Brigadier General Leonid Kondratiuk  
National Commander



## PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS HONOR ROLL

**Honorary Commander** Michael Darmopray — 1948, PA Post 1

Michael Hynda1 — 1948-1949	NJ Post 6
<b>Walter Shipka — 1949-1950</b>	NY Post 7
Walter T. Darmopray — 1950-1952	PA Post 1
Martin Horbiowski — 1952-1953	PA Post 4
Walter T. Darmopray — 1953-1954	PA Post 1
Alex Pronchick — 1954-1956	PA Post 1
Walter Bacad — 1956-1957	NY Post 7
<b>Emil Senkow — 1957-1959</b>	PA Post 4
George Wolynetz, Jr — 1959-1960	NY Post 7
Anthony Kutcher — 1960-1961	CT Post 14
Matthew J. Pope — 1961-1963	NY Post 7
Stephen Shegda — 1963-1965	PA Post 4
Walter Klawnsnick — 1965-1966	NY Post 7
<b>Eugene Sagasz — 1966-1968</b>	NJ Post 17
William M. Dubetz — 1968-1970	NY Post 7
Michael Wengryn — 1970-1972	NJ Post 17
William Harrison — 1972-1973	NY Post 19
<b>Emrick Prestash — 1973-1974</b>	CT Post 15
Vasyl Luchkiw — 1974-1976	NY Post 19
Harry Polche — 1976-1978	NY Post 7
Bohdan B. Bezkorowajny — 1978-1980	NY Post 7
Michael Chaika — 1980-1982	CT Post 15
<b>Edward A. Zetick — 1982-1984</b>	PA Post 4
<b>Joseph Brega — 1984-1986</b>	NY Post 19
<b>Atanas T. Kobryn — 1986-1988</b>	NY Post 7
<b>Jaroslav Fedoryczuk — 1988-1989</b>	PA Post 18
Dmytro Bykovetz, Jr. — 1989-1991	PA Post 4
<b>Roman Rakowsky — 1991-1993</b>	OH Post 24
Miroslaus Malaniak — 1993-1995	NY Post 23
Dmytro Bodnarczuk — 1995-1997	NY Post 19
<b>Steven Szewczuk — 1997-2000</b>	NY Post 27
<b>Mathew Koziak — 2000-2004</b>	NY Post 27
<b>Anna Krawczuk — 2004-2008</b>	NJ Post 30
<b>Leonid E. Kondratiuk — 2008 —</b>	MA Post 31



PNC Emil Senkow



PNC Walter Shipka



PNC Eugene Sagasz



PNC Emrick Prestash



PNC Joseph Brega



PNC Edward A. Zetick



PNC Atanas Kobryn



PNC Roman Rakowsky



PNC Jaroslav Fedoryczuk



PNC Steven Szewczuk



PNC Mathew Koziak



NC Leonid Kondratiuk



PNC Anna Krawczuk

## As We Remember and Honor



**His was the Greatest  
Generation  
Ours is a great loss.**  
*PFC Harold H. Bochonko  
1924 – 2011*

Like most of the World War II warriors, Harold Bochonko did not talk about his military experiences, not even to his immediate family. Per his UAV Registration Form we do know, however, that he served in the U. S. Army from March 1943 to January 1946, mostly in the European Theater. We also know that he was awarded the Purple Heart Medal and Combat Infantry Badge for his service and sacrifice.

The 63rd UAV National Convention at Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, New York, last year was the last convention that Harold attended. He opened up about his military service to LTC Orest M. Logusz, (USA Retired) and informed him that he served in the 35th “Santa Fe” Infantry Division but did not remember which infantry regiment. Harold recalled how he fought the Waffen-SS, to include elements from the premier Liebstandarte-SS Adolph Hitler Division. As he told Orest, his unit was committed to repulse the 7 August 1944 Nazi Mortain counterattack. Mortain was a town in northwestern France and the Germans counterattacked to halt the American Operation Cobra offensive and to reestablish their shattered front line. His unit was also involved in rescuing surrounded U. S. Army battalions from the 30th Infantry Division. It was at this time that Harold was struck by a bullet in his upper leg. Following a field hospital surgical operation, he was moved to a larger hospital in Normandy and from there to a military hospital near London, England. In September 1945 he arrived stateside, where he was cared for by the VA hospitals in New York City while recuperating mostly around former Camp Upton, N. Y. (Currently known as Brookhaven National Laboratory, in Yaphank, N. Y.).

After the war Harold became a very active Ukrainian American veteran in New York City and vicinity. He was involved in organizing and belonged to Pvt. Nicholas Mineu American Legion Post 1260, Ukrainian American Veterans Post 7, and Catholic War Veterans Post 1916 at Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Astoria, NY. He was also very active in the UAV and held many different positions on the

national level, which included serving as National Adjutant, Finance Officer, and Scholarship Officer. He was also UAV New York State Department Commander and was instrumental in founding UAV Post 27 in Brooklyn, New York. When the UAV Post 7 was deactivated, Harold transferred to UAV Post 27. He was an almost ever-present icon at the UAV National Conventions and will be missed tremendously.

Harold was born on July 29, 1924, in Brooklyn, New York, to Ukrainian immigrants who came to the United States in 1909. He was raised in a Ukrainian spirit that he held dear to the end of his life. His mother died when he was eight years old.

Father Wolodymyr W. Paska married Harold Bochonko and Lily Baran on September 17, 1949. The Bochonko family was blessed by two daughters, Katherine (who passed away in 2002) and Paula. The family belonged to Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brooklyn, New York, and Harold served on different church committees for 35 years. When Ukraine became an independent state in 1991, he took part in many humanitarian efforts by being an active volunteer and contributor. As a member of Rotary International, he was president of Ukrainian Gift of Life, which provided surgery and care for hundreds of children born with heart defects. The surgeries were performed in Ukraine as well as in the United States. He took part in the UAV’s Adopt a Hospital Project, which shipped donated medical equipment and supplies by Deborah and other American hospitals to a pediatric hospital in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. He spent two summers in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, with Dr. Zelesinka’s eye team. Lily and Harold Bochonko also sponsored at least two orphans for many years through Orphan’s Aid Society (N.Y.).

Harold H. Bochonko passed on April 1, 2011, after a long battle with esophageal cancer and multiple myeloma.

Family is very grateful to Peter Polnyj, UAV Post 27 Commander, for driving Harold to his weekly chemotherapy treatments during the time of his long illness.

Memorial service (Panakhyda) for Harold was officiated by Rev. Father Ivan Tyhovych, fellow veteran and UAV Post 27 Chaplain. Pastor Tyhovych also celebrated the Requiem Mass at the Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brooklyn, N. Y., on April 8, 2011, followed by the internment at Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, Long Island, New York. UAV Post 27 Commander Peter Polnyj conducted responses for all services.

His wife Lily, daughter Paula, son-in-law Steve Lockfort, and two grandchildren, Jennifer and Christopher Lockfort, mourn Harold.

Memory Eternal!

## As We Remember and Honor



**His was the Greatest Generation  
Ours is a great loss.**

*S/Sgt Martin A. Solonyuka  
1924 – 2010*

It is with sadness that UAV Post 30, Freehold, N. J., bids a final farewell to long-time member, Martin A. Solonyuka. The last World War II veteran-member of our post, Martin left us a legacy of true American patriotism. But he also left memories of how proud he was of his Ukrainian heritage. One way he showed this pride was his eagerness to participate in the Veterans Oral History Project at Library of Congress. During the interview, he honored the United States of America as well as his Ukrainian roots. At the conclusion of this interview he said, “I don’t know why I am telling you all this—I never even told my mother.”



Photo taken in 1944

Martin enlisted as a volunteer in the US Army Air Corp on July 18, 1943, and served until October 15, 1945. He was trained in the basics at North Carolina; Denver, Colorado; and Las Vegas, Nevada. The next step was gunnery training at Rapid City, S.D., for overseas deployment. He was part of a crew sent to Headquarters Eight Air Force based in England.

As tail gunner on a B-17, Martin completed 35 missions (over Germany), many of which were accomplished in an airship he had named “Mary Ann” (after his niece). This in itself

was a great feat; most planes did not survive many missions. And Martin’s unit was not without narrow escapes, as they were being shot at most of the time. Once, over Merseberg, enemy fire knocked out the plane’s oxygen system and one engine; after an emergency landing the crew discovered that the plane had been hit 170 times. His unit also took part in the Battle of the Bulge and provided air support for General Patton’s drive on St. Vith in Belgium. For this, they received a special letter of commendation from General Patton himself. But with these successes came heavy personal loss as Martin witnessed some of his buddies perish in battle.



Photo taken in 1945

On September 23, 1944, Martin and other members of the 379th Bombardment Group (H) were awarded the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters by Army Air Forces, United States Army. U. S. Army Chief of Staff Brigadier General Bartlett Beaman signed the order.

Martin was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, on December 9, 1924 to Elia and Anna Solonyuka. Together with his brother Myron, they were raised to love and respect Ukrainian traditions and their Ukrainian Catholic church. He was a Bayonne High School alumnus; after returning from the war, he attended and graduated from Ryder College. For many years, he worked as a financial accountant for Faberge (Jersey City, N. J.). Retiring in 1989, he moved to Matawan, New Jersey, and joined UAV Post 30. Martin A Solonyuka passed on December 28, 2010, after a long illness.

He was buried next to his parents at Holy Cross Cemetery, in North Arlington, N. J. UAV Post 30 members paid tribute to S/Sgt Martin A Solonyuka with a special UAV ceremony and a final salute. We will miss Martin’s beautiful tenor voice, catching smile, and the kind word he had for everyone. Most of all we will remember him for his modesty, his dedication to the United States of America, and how proud he was to be a Ukrainian American veteran.

*Anna and Bernard Krawczuk*

## UAV Post 17 – Passaic, NJ

by James Fedorko, Post Commander

### Kristia Cavere Speaks at UAV Post 17 Memorial Service

Kristia Cavere, whose younger brother, Sergeant Jonathan “Jon” Cadavero, was killed in Baghdad, Iraq in 2007, spoke at the UAV Post 17 Memorial Service held on May 22, 2011. Their maternal grandparents are of Ukrainian descent, and Jon is an honorary member of Post 17.

At the luncheon following the UAV Memorial Service, Ms. Cavere gave an enlightening talk about American exceptionalism and our armed services humanitarianism. Her three key points were:



Sergeant Jon Cadavero



Kristia Cavere

- That our country is not only the freest and most democratic country, but one that offers more opportunities for advancement and more protection for the rights of its citizens than anywhere else on the globe.
- America’s influence on other nations has been to promote freedom and democracy, and our military has equally contributed to the most significant examples of humanitarianism in human history.
- America is exceptional because we have continually sought to perfect our role to bring out the best humanity has to offer, beginning with the idea that every individual is born with certain inalienable rights and they should be given the opportunity to be the best they can be in their own capacity.

Ms. Cavere holds a Masters in Science degree in “Defense and Strategic Studies” from Missouri State University. She is currently a mathematics teacher. Kristia is a true American patriot and is committed to serving and protecting her country in every way she can. She is a columnist for [www.RenewAmerica.com](http://www.RenewAmerica.com) and her website is [www.GoldStarSister.com](http://www.GoldStarSister.com).

## Wolodymyr Holynskyj UAV Post 23 – Buffalo, NY

by Bohdan Bejger, Post Adjutant

The members of UAV Post 23 want to share with the members of the UAV a very gratifying activity that began in the fall of 2003.

Being members of the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., organization, they desired to sponsor a Ukrainian student from a military background. We corresponded with a non-profit Ukrainian Orphans Aid Society, and received their recommendation of students. Our members chose to sponsor the son of a police Colonel killed in the line of duty on order of so called criminal elements.

We followed this young man’s progress from 2004 until his graduation from the University in 2007. During this interval we learned about him as a person, a student and a young Ukrainian patriot. Everyone looked forward to receiving his bi-annual letters of progress in his life and his studies. We were pleased to learn that upon graduation he became a Lieutenant assigned to active duty in the Militia of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

In 2008 our Post chose to sponsor another student in Ukraine. Our choice was a young girl in first grade. Their mother and grandmother cared for her and her two brothers. Her grandparents (Baba and Dido), both had been members of UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army during World War II era) and served time as political prisoners. We are again looking forward to the bi-annual letters from this girl, about her family life, activities and about her progress in school. She is entering fourth grade this year and writes to us in cursive Ukrainian with beautiful penmanship.

Our members feel a deep sense of satisfaction in helping this young girl as well as others in Ukraine.

We hope that our gratifying experience may inspire others to emulate our effort.

# John Terrebetzky UAV Post 27 – Brooklyn, NY

by Peter Terrebetzky, Post Finance Officer

## May 30, 2011 – Memorial Day.

A Mass was served for deceased American and Ukrainian veterans at Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brooklyn, NY.

In attendance were the parishioners as well as members of the UAV Post 27, who came together to remember and commemorate their comrades.

**June 8, 2011 – Hamptonburgh, New York.** Members of UAV Posts 19, 27, 42 and 301 participated in Memorial services at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery. American flags were placed at the gravesites of over 40 Ukrainian Americans who were veterans of the U.S Armed Forces.

UAV members stood, with American, Ukrainian and Post flags, alongside UPA veterans at the memorial services – panakhydas. First at the main Cross for the Priests and Bishops, then at the UAV monument for Ukrainian American veterans and ending at the UPA monument for Ukrainian insurgent freedom fighters.

All who served in the American and Ukrainian forces were thus remembered.



# Ukrainian Vietnam Veterans UAV Post 24 – Cleveland, OH



< PNC R. Rakowsky, N. Bartkiw, & T. Stolar at St. Andrew's Cemetery placing flags on our veterans graves on May 20, 2011 in Parma, Ohio

PC. B. Samokyszyn, PNC R. Rakowsky, J. Shutovich, & P. Zeleniuch visit their Post monument on it's 5th anniversary on Oct 5,2010 at Rittman National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio. The walk of remembrance path has over 100 military monuments at this cemetery >



Judge Christopher A. Boyko with Post 24 CMDR. B.Samokyszyn after the new citizens were sworn in. CMDR. Samokyszyn was passing out American flags to the public on Flag Day & U.S Army 236th Birthday



Post 24 members PNC R. Rakowsky, B Bycko & N. Bartkiw enjoying themselves at the annual Post Christmas party on Dec. 12, 2010 at Shynok Party Center in Parma, Ohio.

# Major Myron Diduryk UAV Post 30 – Freehold, NJ

by Anna Krawczuk, IPNC, UAV Post 30 Adjutant

## May 1, 2011.

St. Thomas Sunday Commemorations at St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

UAV Post 30 members participated in the procession and ceremonial services. Stan Jakubowycz, Post PR Officer, was part of the UAV Color Guard carrying the American flag. The UAV contingency included Bernard Krawczuk and Anna Krawczuk of the Post.

## May 7, 2011.

In 1991 the New Jersey legislature designated May 7th as Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day to honor the men and women who served from 1959 to 1975. According to this year's keynote speaker, US Representative Rush Holt (D NJ 12th District), more than 200,000 New Jersey residents served in the US armed forces during that time. More than 1500 New Jerseyans made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefields in Vietnam. Their names are inscribed on the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, New Jersey, as well as on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

Among the names listed on the New Jersey Memorial are eight Ukrainian Americans (that we know of) including our Patron, Major Myron Diduryk, US Army, KIA on April 24, 1970.

Post Commander Gerald P Tchir and Walter Czepizak participated in the Presentation of Wreath ceremony and a photograph of the event appeared in the May 12, 2011 issue of the local newspaper, Independent.

Congressman Rush Holt took part in awarding New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs State Medals including NJ Distinguished Service Medals, NJ Meritorious Services Medals, and NJ Vietnam Service Medals to qualified veterans. It should be noted that Mr. Holt has represented Central New Jersey in Congress since 1999 and has been a great advocate for the veterans.

## July 7, 2011.

Past Post Commander Jurij Jacus participated in the opening ceremonies of the Fifth Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, New York.



photo by Halyna Jakubowycz

UAV Color Guard: Stan Jakubowycz (Post 30), Oleh Balaziuk (Post 42) and Jerry Kindrachuk (Post 42)



photo by Maria Polanskyj

IPNC Anna Krawczuk, Zander Polanskyj, PPC Bernard Krawczuk, M. Orysia Jacus, Walter Czepizak, PC Gerald P Tchir and PPC Jurij Jacus.



photo by M. Orysia Jacus

B Krawczuk, W. Czepizak, G P Tchir, J Jacus & A Krawczuk



from May 12, 2011 issue of Independent. photos by Eric Suca staff

# SP4 Nikolaus Zozula UAV Post 31 – Boston, MA

## Post 31 Decorates Zozula Square

by Leonid Kondratiuk, UAV National Commander

In Massachusetts we have a civic tradition of naming squares after fallen servicemen and/or servicewomen. The square is near the home of the serviceperson. The Veterans Department of City of Boston granted UAV Post 31's request to name the intersection of Kittredge and Hemman Streets, in the Roslindale section, as Nikolaus Zozula Square.

SP4 Nikolaus Zozula was killed in action in Vietnam on November 2, 1969 while defending his fire base.

On this year's Memorial Day, Post Commander Stephen Kostecki (who also serves as UAV National Quartermaster) and Past National Vice Commander Walter Michajliw decorated Nikolaus Zozula square sign. Keeping to the true meaning of Memorial Day, UAV Post 31 thus honored the service and sacrifice of their Patron SP4 Nikolaus Zozula.



Nikolaus Zozula Square

## Other Post Activities

by Stephen Kostecki, Post Commander

### April 18, 2011 – Patriots Day – a unique Massachusetts State holiday

Commemorations of the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the first battles of the American Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775, are held annually at Lexington, Concord and Minute Man National Historical Park.

It is celebrated with dramatic battle re-enactments, parades and ceremonies.

UAV National Commander, Leonid Kondratiuk, participated again in this event.

### June 5, 2011.

UAV Post 31 provided the Color Guard at the UYA Heroes' Day Memorial Service ("panakhyda") at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Boston, MA.

The following post members were present: Stephen Kostecki, Walter Michajliw, Ihor Kiziuk, Lubomyr Szczudluk, Yaroslav Muzyka and Myron Boluch.

### July 3, 2011.

Post Commander was part of the Color Guard at the UYA ("SUM") location in Ellenville, New York.

### July 16, 2011.

Together with Jurij Jacus and Oleh Balaziuk, PC Kostecki participated in the Color Guard presentation at the opening ceremonies of the Fifth Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, New York.

Photos by Sandra Kondratiuk



NC as Paul Revere



with William Dawes and their escorts



Paul Revere rides again! Our National Commander "rode again" with members of the National Lancers, interacted with the crowd and even said hello to Mrs. Revere.

# John B Turchin UAV Post 32 — Chicago, IL

## Memorial Day Weekend Activities

by Peter Bencak, Post Commander

On Friday May 27, 2011, Memorial Day activities began at St. Nicholas Cemetery with several members of the Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32 Chicago, gathering at the cemetery. Under the direction of cemetery caretaker and UAV member Adam Bihun and Adam Yurkiw, who indentified and catalogued veterans' grave markers for easy reference, the members helped clean up the graves and replace American flags at each gravesite. Afterwards, the UAV members who are also members of the American Legion, Iwaszuk-Cetwinski Post 943, hit the streets with Poppies for donations.

On Friday evening, Post Commander Peter Bencak met UAV National Commander Leonid Kondratiuk at the airport and took him to the hotel where they had dinner along with American Legion Post 943 Commander John Steciw and UAV Post 32 Finance Officer Col. Michael Chyterbok, USAR.

On Saturday May 28, 2011, UAV Post 32 participated in the Chicago Memorial Day Parade, which is the largest such event in the country. This is the eighth year in a row that the Ukrainian American Veterans have marched in this parade. The day began early, with the veterans meeting at the Ukrainian American Club, where refreshments were provided by the Post Commander. Once all members were present, they boarded a bus (provided by the Ukrainian Club) that took them to downtown Chicago. At the staging site of Wacker Drive and State Street, the military vehicles were decorated with various flags representing the four branches of service: US Army, Air Force, Navy,

and Marines. A few additional flags were provided by Adam Bihun, and it would have been difficult to miss this colorful display. While waiting for the parade to start, our members spent time socializing with each other as well as with members of other marching units. Several UAV members who had served in the Vietnam War, went down to the Vietnam Memorial and took pictures with National Commander Brigadier General Leonid Kondratiuk, and Post Commander Major Peter Bencak.

The parade started at noon, with marchers proceeding down State Street and heading south to Van Buren Street, approximately one mile, where it ended. UAV National Ladies Auxiliary members Ruta Jaworsky and Regina Bencak carried the UAV Post 32 banner alongside with Stephanie Kolodziej and Myra Nalywajko who carried the American Legion Post 943 banner. They were followed by a color guard consisting of eight UAV members representing various branches of the military service, all marching in step to the cadence call by John Steciw. The marching members of the UAV Post 32 followed in formation, led by Post Commander Peter Bencak, along with UAV National Commander Leonid Kondratiuk. Behind the marching members were five military vehicles adorned with flags, carrying non-marching members. The United States Army Reserve group provided the vehicles and drivers.

Although the weather for this year's parade was overcast, it did not dampen the spirit of parade participants or onlookers, who applauded and cheered along the parade route. As the



UAV Contingency at Chicago Memorial Day Parade

Below:  
PC P. Bencak,  
NC L Kondratiuk &  
PC American Legion J.Steciw



Ukrainian American Veterans were announced, a salute was presented to the various dignitaries, including Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

After the parade ended, all members boarded the bus and headed back to the Ukrainian Village, where the commander's family, Kristina and Alexander Bencak and Ana Luczynski, served lunch at St. Nicholas School cafeteria. After lunch, most of the members went to the Ukrainian National Museum, to visit the military exhibit dedicated to Ukrainian men and women from Chicago who have served or are still serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. The enthusiasm of everyone was tremendous. We are grateful to all the veterans and their families who participated in the event and helped make it a great success.

On Monday, May 30, 2011, UAV Post 32 continued its observance of Memorial Day by participating in services at St. Nicholas Cemetery. This is a Memorial Day tradition jointly coordinated with VFW and American Legion posts. After the prayer service by the clergy, the veterans gathered in formation at the front of the Veterans Memorial Walkway where a special service was held. VFW member John Keller placed a Poppy;

American Legion and UAV member, Commandant Christine Gasinski, USNR, placed a wreath; and UAV Post 32 Commander, Peter Bencak, placed a folded American flag at the monument. UAV Post 32 and American Legion Post 943 members provided a 21-gun salute under the direction of American Legion Post 943 Commander John Steciw. Lunch and refreshments at the cemetery maintenance building followed. It was a good time to meet with old friends and share old memories.



Color Guard at St. Nicholas Cemetery

## St. Nicholas School Essay Contest and Museum Visit Sponsored by UAV Post 32

by Peter Bencak, Post Commander



Bishop Richard, Fr. Bohdan Nalysnyk with winners and veterans

This year marked the ninth year that UAV Post 32 in Chicago has sponsored an essay contest at St. Nicholas School. Some of the 8th grade students, who sat in the auditorium when they were in pre-K nine years ago, now had their opportunity to participate in this year's event. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation and support by the principal of St. Nicholas School, Mrs. Maria Finiak, UAV Post 32 efforts were again successful.

The contest is open to all 7th and 8th grade students attending St. Nicholas School. Two weeks prior to the contest, the 8th grade students visited the Ukrainian American Veterans exhibit at the Ukrainian National Museum. John Steciw, Adam Bihun, Steve Macko, and Adam Yurkiw, gave them a guided tour, pointing out and explaining many interesting facts about our veterans, their service and sacrifices. Students were permitted to handle some military gear, which was a real treat for

them. This gave them a more personal experience and a better appreciation for the subject they were going to write about.

Contest participants were given specific writing assignments. The 7th graders wrote an essay titled "What Memorial Day Means to Me," and the 8th graders' theme was "Patriotism." As always, the quality of the essays was very good, and the students made personal connections to the topics. UAV Post 32 Committee members read and evaluated these essays, finding it a difficult task to pick the winners.

This year's winners were announced at the School Award Ceremony held on June 9, 2011. As the entire student body entered the school auditorium, they were greeted by members of Post 32 and handed 3 x 5 inch American flags, 12" rulers with the pictures of all the American Presidents on one side and the Pledge of Allegiance on the other side, and chocolate bars. The flags and rulers were provided by John Steciw, American Legion Post 943 Commander, who is also UAV Post 32 member. Mrs. Regina Bencak and the St. Nicholas BINGO group donated the chocolates.

The 7th grade winners were announced first. Nicholas Saber took first place and received a \$75 award; second place winner Danylo Shnyak received \$50; and third place winner Emily Mayfield received a \$25 award. The 8th grade winners for the "Patriotism" essay were Christina Bagan (first place), who was awarded \$100; second place winner Nastia Lototska received \$75; and third place went to Marianna Bojkewycz who received \$50.

**Congratulations to all of this year's winners  
for a job well done!**

# CPL Roman G. Lazor UAV Post 40 – North Port, Florida

by Jerry Zynych, PPC – Post Public Relations Officer

## IN MEMORIAM

ZENON J. STROMECKYJ  
1932–2011

Sergeant Zenon J. Stromeckyj, USMC, passed into eternity on April 13, 2011, in Florida.

During the 40th day memorial services conducted by Rev. John Fatenko at St. Andrew's Chapel in North Port, Florida, members of UAV Post 40 joined with Marine Corps Detachment #948 to pay special tribute to Zenon with full military color guards. After the liturgy, everyone exited the church and witnessed the rifle volley salute by Marine Corps Detachment #948, TAPS, and the presentation of the American Flag to Zenon's widow, Julia.

Zenon was born on April 13, 1932, in Kolomyia, Ukraine. After the turmoil of World War II, the Stromeckyj family immigrated to the United States of America in 1950 and settled in Illinois. Soon after, Zenon enlisted in the US Marine Corps, serving from May 8, 1952, until May 7, 1955. He was a highly decorated Korean War warrior, receiving not only the Korean Service Medal with Two Battle Stars but also a UN Service Medal, a National Defense Medal, a Good Conduct Medal, a Navy Occupation Service Medal, and the Korean President Unit Citation.

Returning to civilian life, Zenon became a professional civil engineer and worked on highway and bridge constructions in Illinois. Upon retirement, he and his wife moved to Punta Gorda, Florida.

Zenon J. Stromeckyj is survived by his wife of 54 years, Julia; daughter Alexandria, son George, and grandchildren Kristi and Peter of Illinois; and brother Ostap Stromecky of Alabama, a UAV member-at-large, and a USMC Korean War era veteran.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE!**

## August 24, 2011!



Celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day in North Port, Florida

## Commemorations

### Tribute to the Veterans

On May 27, 2011, members of UAV Post 40, local Marines, and VFW units took part in a Tribute to the Veterans event at the Venice Memorial Gardens, in Venice, Florida. The Gardens are final resting place of six UAV members and the site of the future UAV Post 40 Monument (currently under construction).

### Memorial Day Services

Each year all military and veterans' groups of North Port, the North Port Fire and Police departments, and city officials and dignitaries pay tribute to the veterans on Memorial Day. This year's participants included UAV Post 40, the VFW, AMVETS, the American Legion, the Coast Guard Flotilla, the Vietnam Brotherhood, and the Marines. Each unit laid a wreath at the veterans' monument; the wreath-laying ceremony was followed by an invocation by an American Legion chaplain, the raising and lowering of the colors, salutes, and the National Anthem. This year's commemoration, held on May 30, was especially meaningful to members of UAV Post 40, because of the recent passing of post member Sergeant Zenon J. Stromeckyj, USMC, just a month earlier.

Many members of Post 40 attended in the Memorial Day Services in their summer uniforms, drawing the attention of the press and TV reporters. They were featured on the ABC evening news.



Row #1: Dr. Walter Motyka, 1st Div UNA, ColSerhiy Shevtsiv, UA, Col Ivan Kovalenko, UA, LTC Vasyl Dorokhow, UA, and Atanas Kobryn, UAV PNC Row #2: John Homick, Orestes Lazor, Cliff Heiser, Ihor Hron, Roman Rondiak, Marian Bojsiuk, Dr. Wolodymyr Korol 1st Div UNA, Gene Tomashowky, Dr George Baranowskyj and Jerry Zynycz

# Michigan UAV Post 101 — Warren, MI

by Oleh R. Cieply, Post Commander

**WE WELCOME TWO NEW MEMBERS:** Mathew Wroblewski and Staff Sergeant Tanya Clark, US Air Force, who recently reenlisted. The swearing in ceremony took place in front of the Ukrainian American Veterans Monument in Warren, Michigan. Sergeant Horgan who came from Wright Patterson Air Force Base arranged administrative details. I was honored to read the oath of office to Staff Sergeant Clark.



S/SGT T. Clark, SGT. Horgan & PC Cieply

**April 14, 2011.** Warren, Michigan. Congratulations to Post 101 members Leo Cionka and Eugen Kondziolka, both recipients of Warren's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award. The presentation was made by the Warren's Mayor James Fouts during the Second Annual Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Ceremony in Warren's city hall. The UAV Post 101 Executive Board nominated both veterans for this honor, and we are very happy to see them recognized for their outstanding work.



L. Cionka, PC Cieply, Mayor Fouts & E. Kondziolka

**May 30, 2011** Memorial Day Observance. Memorial Day observances were held at the Ukrainian American Veterans Monument and on the grounds of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warren. During the program at the Ukrainian American Veterans Monument, a wreath honoring those who had served was jointly placed before the monument by commanders of three veterans' organizations: UAV Post 101, UNA Brotherhood of the Veterans of the First Division, and (American) Catholic War Veterans. The Reverend Fathers then offered a special prayer

The observance at St. Josaphat Church consisted of a memorial service (panakhyda) celebrated by our Reverend Fathers with the St. Josaphat Church Choir singing the responses.

After the TAPS were sounded and the respective Commanders of the three veterans' organizations placed wreaths, Post Commander Oleh R. Cieply gave a brief address. He thanked the priests, Comrades of the Brotherhood of the Veterans of the First Division (UNA), the American Catholic War Veterans, and all of our relatives and friends who had attended the Memorial Day commemorations. The observance concluded with veterans and guests singing "God Bless America."



The picnic that followed was a success, thanks to efforts of picnic committee chairman Leo Cionka and veteran members Christian Shalay, Michael Shumylo, and Mathew Wroblewski who assisted him. My heartfelt thank you to the ladies of the UAV Auxiliary who served the food: Jeanete Cionka, Sonya Kushnir, Vicki Maksimowich, and Stefa Prysiazniuk.

## UAV Registration Project.

A very important aspect of UAV Michigan Post 101 activity is registration of its members. The UAV Registration Project and UAV Registration Form were initiated at the national level in 1998. Providing related data became a requirement for all UAV members.

It was conceived with the idea that the military service histories of Ukrainian American men and women who had honorably served in the US Armed Forces should not only be recorded but also never forgotten. The contribution of American veterans of Ukrainian heritage to the US military history needs to be told! UAV Michigan Post 101 Membership Officer, Christian Shalay is doing a great job in registering members (and nonmember Ukrainian American veterans). A copy of DD214 (Discharge paper) or equivalent must be submitted (as proof of service) to complete your registration. Photograph in uniform is optional. I encourage all UAV members not only to register themselves

but also to register their loved ones who also served and/or are serving in the US armed forces.

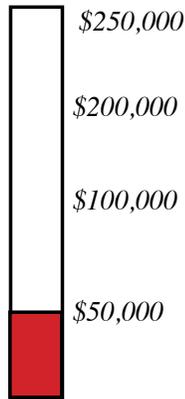
*They served,  
they sacrificed.  
It falls to us to honor  
and remember.*

Today, the vision of the UAV National Monument lies before us. But before the monument is erected and dedicated, much work remains to be done. And much of that work depends on raising the necessary funds to see the project completed.

We are very grateful to those who have already contributed and humbly thank contributors for honoring the memory of their loved ones. We also thank UAV members for honoring their comrades by making donations in lieu of flowers in their memory, especially those UAV Posts whose fundraisers were designated for support for the UAV National Monument. Each contribution brings us closer to reaching our goal.

The design and building costs are projected at \$250,000. To date, the donations that we have received meet almost 20 percent of these estimated costs. And so, we appeal to you again to help us honor those who deserve to be honored, deserve to be recognized, but most of all deserve to be remembered.

It is on their behalf we ask that you take a moment to complete the form below and make a generous donation to the UAV National Monument project, for it is a most important undertaking for the Ukrainian American community. It will serve as a proud iconic beacon, drawing visitors from across the country and reminding all who come of those who lived and died for love of country and the freedoms we all enjoy.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UAV Post \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. is a 501 (c) 19 tax exempt entity **FIN:23-223872**.  
Your charitable contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.

UAV National Monument Committee PO BOX 5058 Somerset, NJ 08875-5058

*I am making a pledge of:*

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*to support this project*

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ amount of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

PLEASE MAKE YOUR  
CHECK PAYABLE TO: UAV

***GOD BLESS AMERICA***

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