Dear Fellow Veterans,
As I write, the summer of 2014 is quickly coming to a close, and I hope that all of you had the opportunity to enjoy the warmth of the last few months, particularly those of you who had to endure the unusually harsh winter that came before them! As fall approaches, most veterans will again start thinking about snow shovels, snow blowers, leaf raking, etc. But we will also be thinking about the upcoming convention and reminiscing about noteworthy spring and summer events attended or read about in the UAV Tribune or other publications. As UAV Commander, I offer a brief recap of some of these highlights.

Since the February 2014 issue of the UAV Tribune was published, the UAV National Executive Board and the UAV National Monument Committee have been very active.

The UAV National Executive Board held two teleconferences in the first 6 months of 2014. All UAV National Board Officers presented their activity reports. Priority on the agenda was given to intensifying fundraising efforts for the UAV National Monument and to upgrading the UAV Website (www.uavets.org).

Co-chaired by Mathew Koziak, PNC, and Bishop Daniel Zelisky, UOC USA, former US Army Chaplain and UAV member-at-large, the UAV National Monument Committee held three very important meetings, which included telephone hookup for call conferencing for those who could not personally attend. During these discussions, a decision was made to award the contract for constructing the UAV National Monument to Wertheimer-Liberty Monuments of Northampton, Pennsylvania. A contract prepared by committee member and attorney Edward A. Zetick, PNC, was signed on May 9, 2014, and the first installment paid to the contractor.

I am pleased to report that work on the monument has begun and that the anticipated completion date for the erection of the monument is the end of 2014. Additional touches, which include a walkway, the flag pole, lighting, landscaping, etc., are to be completed by mid-2015, and the formal dedication is planned for the fall of 2015, coinciding with the 68th UAV National Convention. Updates on this will follow!

At this time I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church USA for his continuous support and guidance as well as for his service as Honorary Chair on the Committee since 2004.

On behalf of the Ukrainian American Veterans, I would also like to thank the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA for donating the prominently located plot of land at St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, on which the UAV National Monument will proudly stand.

Sincere appreciation is also extended to Honorary Chair Metropolitan Stefan of Ukrainian Catholic Church, USA, and Very Rev. Daniel Gurovich, for their service on the Monument Committee over the past ten years. A thankful nod must also be accorded to all those committee members who continue to carry out their duties in an exemplary manner: Mathew Koziak, PNC; Bishop Danel; Leonid Kondratiuk, IPNC; Edward A. Zetick, PNC; Anna Krawczuk, PNC; Walter Bodnar, Post 6; Jerry Kindrachuk, UAV Post 42; Bernard W. Krawczuk, UAV Post 30; Michael P. Wowk, UAV Post 15; and Oksana Koziak, UAV National Ladies Auxiliary President. Do keep up your professional and exemplary work.

The other matter that the UAV National Executive Board emphasized during the our meetings and conferences was the need to upgrade our Website (www.uavets.org) and to investigate and expand our use of other social media. UAV National Webmaster Joe Nasevich, a technology professional, has taken the lead in this endeavor.

Other News

As in prior years, UAV National Quartermaster Stephen A. Kostecki, PC Post 31, represented the UAV during the Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkskon, N.Y., by manning the UAV table and together with other UAV members: NVC William Szozda, PC Post 19; NYSC Peter Polnyj, PC Post 27; Michael Buzech, Post 27; Jurij Jacus, PPC Post 30; and Nickolas Jakowiw posting the Colors during the opening ceremony of these festivities.

We also recognize and thank Mr. Stefan Kaczaraj, President of the UNA, Inc., as well as his staff, for making time and space available to the UAV at this event. We note that Mr. Kaczaraj is a long-standing member-at-large of the UAV.

UAV Michigan Post 101: Matthew Wroblewski has been elected Post Commander. He succeeds LTC Oleh R. Cieply, USA (Ret), who held this post for nearly 20 years.
Congratulations Matt and my best wishes for good health to Oleh.

UAV Post 1, Philadelphia, Pa.: Special thanks to John R. Hill, Adjutant, for including me on his mailing list and thus apprising me of Post 1 activities. This gives me an opportunity to get a feel for what is being done at the Post level, and I encourage all other Posts to include me on their mailing lists.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to register for the UAV 67th National Convention. I look forward to seeing you in Cleveland, Ohio. For details, see page 6.

I leave you with this thought:
“If you like what is going on in the UAV, tell all your friends! If you think changes should be made, tell me!”

God Bless America! God Protect Ukraine!

Ihor W. Hron
Commander

A Word About Ukraine and an Appeal

Back in March 29, 2014, I sent a letter about the events occurring on Kyiv’s Maidan and in Crimea to all Ukrainian American Veterans. A copy of the original letter follows:

UA V Post 1, Philadelphia, Pa.: Special thanks to John R. Hill, Adjutant, for including me on his mailing list and thus apprising me of Post 1 activities. This gives me an opportunity to get a feel for what is being done at the Post level, and I encourage all other Posts to include me on their mailing lists.

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I leave you with this thought:
“If you like what is going on in the UAV, tell all your friends! If you think changes should be made, tell me!”

God Bless America! God Protect Ukraine!

Ihor W. Hron
Commander

As months pass and events unfold, we watch new crises emerge and evolve in Donetsk, Donbas, and Luhansk—Ukrainian regions threatened and manipulated by Russian paramilitary forces posing as “separatists.”

So as we reflect on the many blessings that we enjoy, bask in our successes and achievements, and look ahead to new projects and events, I ask all of you to pause and remember the suffering of Ukrainian people at this critical time. We should especially remember those who are serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, defending their homeland from a devious and dangerous foe. Their mission is extremely difficult, so let’s help them in any way we can.

Thank you.

Ihor W. Hron, UAV National Commander
There are numerous monuments on numerous cemeteries throughout the United States of America honoring and commemorating Ukrainian American veterans in the areas where they have lived. The UAV National Monument differs from these in one significant way: It is intended to commemorate in one location all American veterans of Ukrainian heritage who have ever served in any branch of the US Armed Forces. The inscription fully expresses this intent and will read:

DEDICATED TO ALL UKRAINIAN AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

The Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument will be a solemn tribute to every Ukrainian American serviceman and servicewoman who proudly served with honor and distinction and will especially honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields of the past three centuries. The UAV National Monument will stand as a symbol of our gratitude for their service and their sacrifice and our pride in sharing their heritage.

The Monument Project has been a long journey involving many dedicated and generous individuals. The UAV National Monument Committee was formed in October 2004 and is still hard at work. Since this endeavor began, we have bid a final farewell to Vasyl Luchkiw, PNC; Walter Demitro; and V. Rev. Frank Estocin, all of whom believed in the value of the UAV’s Monument Project and contributed much to its success. We thank Irene Estocin for her volunteer works the first six years. Since that time, we have also welcomed new participants in this endeavor: Committee co-chair Bishop Daniel, UOC of USA; IPNC Leonid Kondratlik; Jerry Kindrachuk; consultant Emil Skocypec and National Commander Ihor W. Hron.

The erection of the UAV National Monument at St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, has taken nearly a decade, but with the groundbreaking on May 13, 2013, and the selection of contractor behind us, our project is progressing steadily, and the completion of this important mission is at long last in sight. The contract with the contractor was signed on May 9, 2014, and the deposit was mailed soon after. Now we are truly on the threshold of meeting the goal that we have been working so long and hard to achieve.

Our greatest concern at this time is financial as we have only enough funds to cover the cost of the foundation and the monument itself. We still need your support to cover the expense of maintaining the UAV National Monument once it has been erected: landscaping, installation of a walkway, flag pole, lighting, insurance, and other incidentals as they may occur.

Thank you and God Bless you for your interest, your encouragement and your generosity.
On November 21, 2013, young Ukrainians, among them numerous students, gathered in peaceful demonstration on the Maidan in Kyiv, where they were later joined by Ukrainian patriots of all ages and from all regions of Ukraine. Many of these protesters were born in an independent Ukraine and had been exposed to Western ways and technology, which allowed them to see the world and history from a clear and unbiased perspective.

As the whole world watched via mass media, these protesters assembled to proclaim their desire for a better life in their own homeland. Together they challenged president Viktor Yanukovych and his puppet master, Vladimir Putin. Unable to silence their voices and break their determined stance against tyranny, Yanukovych escaped to Russia. A new president, Petro Poroshenko, was elected in May 2014.

All of this came at a price, with the old enemy very much involved in fomenting dissent in Ukraine and throwing support behind a “separatist” movement of its own creation.

The first to perish in this new struggle were the Nebesna Sotnia (the Heavenly Hundred) the 100 unarmed martyrs of the Maidan killed by non-Ukrainian snipers on February 20, 2014, while engaged in peaceful demonstration.

Since then, more than 2,600 Ukrainians (both military and civilians) have died protecting their country’s borders in protracted battle against the so-called “separatists.” Among those KIA was our own, Ukrainian American veteran (and West Point graduate) Markian Gregory Paslawsky, who was killed in action on August 19, 2014, while serving with the all-volunteer “Donbas” battalion.

This struggle in Eastern Ukraine continues. As a result, this year’s Independence Day commemoration had a different tone, a different focus from those of previous years. On August 24, 2014, Ukrainians in Ukraine and all over the world joined in prayer for peace and tranquility in our ancestral homeland. They solemnly paid tribute to a new generation of Ukrainian martyrs—those murdered on the Maidan and those killed in action in the eastern part of the country. They also bowed their heads in silent sorrow for civilians who had lost their lives, including the 298 men, women, and children of different nationalities who perished when their passenger airline, Malaysian Flight H17, was shot down by a Russian surface-to-air missile over Donetsk, Ukraine, on July 19, 2014.

Despite the ongoing horror, August 24 also saw a rebirth of patriotism in Ukraine, a visible sense of determination in people who want to be free in their own homeland and are backing this desire with courage and defiance. And it is their determination, courage, and defiance that keep hope alive for brighter future of their homeland - Ukraine.
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National Commander

National Executive Board 2012 – 2014

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Seated L/R - Jerry Kindrachuk, William Szozda, NC Ihor W. Hron, Roman Rondiak, Marian Bojsiuk and Anna Krawczuk

Standing L/R - Bernard W. Krawczuk, Nicholas Skirka, Stephen Kostecki, Edward Zetick, Mathew Koziai and Myroslaw Pryjma.

(not on photo: BrG Leonid Kondrahiuk, UAV IPNC and Joe Nasevich)
News from the UAV Headquarters

UAV 67TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION – October 2-5, 2014.

This year’s UAV National Convention will be hosted by the UAV Post 24, of Cleveland, Ohio. The Convention Committee is co-chaired by Roman Rakowsky, PNC and Post Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn. Details about the convention, including information about the agenda, accommodations, and other relevant matters was mailed to all UAV members in April.

The Convention site:
Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Rd, Independence, Ohio 44131
Telephone: 216-524-8050
Room reservation deadline: September 15, 2014.

Complimentary shuttle service will be provided from and to the airport.

October 2, 2014: UAV National Executive Board will meet at 7:00 pm. at the Ukrainian Museum and Archives 1202 Kenelworth Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113 Telephone: 216-781-4329 Transportation will be provided.

October 3-4, 2014: UAV 67th National Convention will convene at 9:00 am at the Holiday Inn.

October 4, 2014: The banquet to be held at 6:00 pm. at the Holiday Inn. For banquet reservations please call: Jerry Shutovich at 440-582-4405 by September 15, 2014.

UAV NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD TELECONFERENCES

Since the 66th UAV National Convention teleconferences were held on December 10, 2013, March 11, 2014, June 26, 2014, and July 29, 2014. UAV National Executive Board Officers presented their activity reports. The upcoming 67th UAV National Convention and UAV National Monument were major topics of discussion.

UAV National Monument news – The UAV National Monument Committee has selected a contractor and a contractual agreement was signed on May 9, 2014.

The work on the monument has begun, and we thank everyone who has responded to our appeal for funds. Your continuous financial support is crucial for completion of this project.

Please send your donations to:
UAV National Monument
PO Box 5058
Somerset, New Jersey 08873-5058

We offer special thanks and appreciation to Philadelphia-based Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union (USFCU) whose board of directors has generously approved a matching fund program (dollar for dollar of at least $50.00 up to the total of $2,500.00) for donations received between July 1, 2014, and September 30, 2014.

ST THOMAS SUNDAY AND UAV NATIONAL MEMORIAL

April 26-27, 2014. St. Andrew Church and Cemetery, South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

UAV contingency from Posts 1, 6, 17, 19, 30, 31, and 42 participated in the ceremonies on St. Thomas Sunday, April 27, 2014, that included Memorial service for the freedom fighters of Ukraine, especially the one hundred Maidan heroes “Nebesna Sotnia” who were killed by snipers in Kyiv, during the Maidan demonstrations. Honor was also given to all Ukrainian Americans who served in the US Armed Forces, many of whom died for the freedoms and democracy that we all enjoy. Special prayers were offered for those who are serving on active duty.

After the services, the UAV Color Guard paid special homage at the UPA Memorial, ending their march at the future UAV National Monument site.

NEW UAV FACEBOOK PAGE

The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. have a new Facebook page. The web address is www.facebook.com/UkrainianAmericanVeterans

If you are on Facebook, please “like” this page or visit the UAV website at: http://www.uavets.org

UAV Color Guard leads the procession.
Continued from page 6

UAV members: Stan Jakubowycz, Michael Fedirko, Jurij Jacus and Mathew Koziak.

At the UAV National Monument site:

L/R: Bernard Krawczuk, Anna Krawczuk, Metropolitan Antony, UOC USA and Jurij Jacus.

L/R: Jurij Jacus, PPC Post 30, Mathew Koziak, PNC (Post 42), Bernard Krawczuk, PPC Post 30, Anna Krawczuk, PNC (Post 30)

St Thomas Sunday - Manning the UAV Table: Bernard Krawczuk greets a veteran from Utica, NY
FROM MARION BOJSIUK, UAV NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER/CHAPLAIN

New ID cards for veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare

Department of Veterans Affairs has issued new secure VHICs – Veterans Health Identification Cards - to veterans and family members that are enrolled in the VA’s health care system. The new cards display an Electronic Data Interchange Personal Identifier number as the “member ID” that will also be embedded in the magnetic strip. New VHIC’s will be automatically mailed to veterans holding the old Veterans Identification Card – VIC.

VHICs are to be used for identification and check-in at VA Health facilities appointments. Do not use them for credit card or insurance card at non-VA facilities.

If you have not received your new card, do contact your local VA medical facility.

If you are not enrolled with the VA and want to receive a VHIC card you will need to apply for enrollment. You can do it on line at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll or call 1-877-222-8387 or visit your local VA medical facility Enrollment Coordinator.

July 11-13, 2014. UKRAINIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

As in prior years Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, New York, was the site of the eight annual Festival. UAV Color Guard headed by Stephen Kostecki, UAV National Quartermaster, participated in the opening ceremonies. He also manned the UAV table for the duration of the festival.

This year’s theme “Spirit of the Maidan” brought over five thousand guests to listen to top performers on July 12, 2014, concert that featured top starts such as Ruslana, Vasyl Popadiuk and Oleh Skrypka among others. The weather participated in making this event a success.
FROM BERNARD W. KRAWCZUK, UAV NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER & UAV TRIBUNE COEDITOR

Your cooperation in submitting articles in a timely fashion is appreciated. Keep it up!

To all our readers: Notification of change of address is very important. Don’t miss the next issue of our newsletter.

Please indicate your name and new address and send to:

UAV Tribune
PO Box 172
Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172
or email to: uav.tribune@verizon.net

FROM ANNA OSINSKA KRAWCZUK, PNC UAV REGISTRATION PROJECT COORDINATOR

Attention UAV Post Commanders: As stipulated in the UAV Constitution and Bylaws, all UAV members are required to register.

FROM THE NATIONAL QUARtermASTER

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

UA V Coins Silver/Brass 5.00
UA V Crest for blazer 18.00
UA V Black B/B hat 15.00
UA V Blue Golf Shirt 35.00
UA V Post Hat* 40.00
UA V Lapel pin 4.00
UA V Summer shirt patch set 13.00
(U.S. flag & UAV Logo)
UA V Car decal 2.00
UA V Tie pin 6.00
UA V Small emblem 3.00
UA V Registration Project 7.00
1998-2003 (report in booklet form)
S/H will be added to the price
* S/H included

UA V Registration Project is going strong and is ongoing. We are in constant search for American veterans of Ukrainian heritage who have honorably served or are serving in the US Armed Forces and for archival material as well. We need your help!

An appeal: If you have family members and/or friends who have served in the US Armed Forces and are no longer with us, please have them registered. Don’t let them be forgotten.

For more information please write to:

UA V Registration Project
PO Box 172
Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172
or send an email to: uav.registration@verizon.net

For more details, please visit www.uavets.org and link to Registration Project

TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

October 2-5, 2014  67th UAV Annual National Convention
November 11, 2014  Veterans Day observance nationwide
November 27, 2014  Thanksgiving observance nationwide
December 25, 2014  Christmas
January 1, 2015  New Year’s Day
January 7, 2015  Christmas in Ukraine
It is with sincere regrets that we inform the members of the Ukrainian American Veterans of the passing of our oldest member, 100-year-old Col. Roman I. Ulans, USA (Ret). A long-time member of Post 1, Roman was an active contributor to the activities of the post and attended as many meetings as he could.

Roman Irodian Ulans was born on April 21, 1914, in Ramey, Pennsylvania, and was the son of Rev. Vladimir J. and Mrs. Vladimira (Jaciev) Ulanytzky, of Northampton, Pennsylvania, where he was raised. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from MIT and an MBA from Harvard University. Interrupting his engineering career at the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, he joined the US Army on June 9, 1936, retiring after 30 years of service on August 31, 1966, with the rank of Colonel. Returning to civilian life, he accepted a position with the Communications Satellite Corporation in Washington, D.C., retiring in 1978.

Roman was awarded numerous medals and awards for his distinguished and dedicated service in the military. Among these were the Legion of Merit, WWII Victory, American Campaign, Korean Service, UN Service, American Defense Service, Distinguished Military Service, National Defense Service, Bronze Star, and Army Commendation Medal (with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster); he was also awarded the Republic of Korea’s Presidential Unit Citation.

A 57-year resident of Pipersville, Pennsylvania, Roman spent his later years at the Pine Run Community. He passed from this life at Doylestown Hospital on July 6, 2014. Funeral services were held on July 12, 2014, at St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warrington, Pa.; internment was at St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Ottsville, Pa.

Roman was married to the late Norwenna Christian Tellier Ulans for 60 years. He is survived by five of their six children: Barbara Johnson, Martha Knieriem, Alexandra Kobezak, Julia Lim, and Josepha Ulans; son Gregory Ulans predeceased him. Among those mourning the loss of Roman Irodian Ulans are eleven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

His many friends and fellow veterans will also sorely miss him.

Memory Eternal! Вічна пам'ять!

UAV Post 6 - Newark, New Jersey

Memorial Day 2014 - Remembering, Commemorating and Honoring UAV Post 6 members at the UAV Post 6 Monument, Hollywood Cemetery in Union, New Jersey

L/R: Bozhena Olshaniwsky, Robert P. Dolan, PC Michael Fedirko and Walter Bodnar.
According to Robert Putnam’s well researched book, we are not alone. All social organizations in the United States have been in decline from their peak in the 1960’s: The Knights of Columbus, the Rotary Club, and yes, bowling leagues. While the number of bowlers is increasing; the number of bowling leagues are decreasing, and virtually no corner of American society has been immune to this anti-civic contagion.

Robert Putnam argues that we are a nation that has become increasingly disconnected from family, friends, neighbors, and social structures. The result is a decrease in “social capital” which has negative effects on our health, wealth, life satisfaction, and rudimentary actions like everyday honesty.

Decreasing social capital correlates with higher crime rates, lower educational performance, poorer well being for children, and a host of other unwanted social problems.

The reason for civic disengagement is boiled down to the following: 10% work, 10% urban sprawl, 25% TV, 40% generational changes in values, and 15% other reasons/unknown. (Further explanation, you’ve got to pick up the book at your local library.)

So, how does the UAV increase membership with all these headwinds? Robert Putnam states that war, economic depression, or natural disaster would recreate social capital, but I’d rather find a more palatable way to increase our ranks. Unfortunately, there is no panacea offered, and the only useful information I can glean from the final chapters of Bowling Alone is that we UAV members must remain active in our organization, active in the Ukrainian community, and active in other non-Ukrainian social organizations. Do it not just for the UAV but mainly for the social capital you will be creating for yourself.
UAV Post 24 – Cleveland, Ohio

by Bohdan Samokyszyn, Post Commander

October 3-5, 2014. UAV Post 24 will be hosting the UAV’s 67th Annual National Convention, which is to be held in Cleveland, Ohio. The Convention Committee, co-chaired by Roman Rakowsky, PNC, and Post Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn includes Nick Bartkiw, Eugene Galandiuk, Wasyl Liscynesky, Nestor Kostryk, and Jerry Shutovich. Committee members have been hard at work with meetings, mailings, and other essentials in preparation for this important event.

Other Post Activities

August 24, 2013. Post 24 members participated in the 4th Annual Ukrainian Independence Day parade, which was organized by the Ukrainian Village Committee and was held at the Ukrainian Village in Parma, Ohio. Over sixty organizations, including three bands and various veteran groups, also participated in this event. UAV Post 24 veterans were honored as the parade’s first Grand Marshalls. Plans are in the making for the 5th Annual Ukrainian Independence Day parade to be held this year.

April 22-24, 2014, some of our members visited the Dayton Air Force Museum. In Dayton, Ohio, where airplanes from different eras were on display.

As in previous years, May was the busiest month for Post 24 members. Each year, we place flags on our veterans’ gravesites and sell poppies at St. Josaphat, St. Andrew, and St. Vladimir churches. Proceeds are allocated to the needy veterans in hospitals. All of our members attend Memorial Day services at St. Vladimir’s Church and attend the “Panakhyda” (memorial service) at St. Andrew Cemetery in Parma, Ohio.

The UAV Post 24 exhibit was featured at the Ukrainian Museum and Archives center in Cleveland, Ohio, which was held from November 8, 2013, to February 15, 2014. This successful display included veterans’ photographs from WWII, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The exhibit included military medals, uniforms, flags, paintings, and weapons, and we were honored to share military artifacts, including PNC Roman Rakowsky’s combat artwork from Vietnam, with visitors and members of the museum, which is located at 1202 Kenilworth Avenue in Cleveland.
On March 2, 2014, members of UAV Post 30 and guests met at Toms River, New Jersey, for a special event commemorating Post’s patron, Myron Diduryk. Our special guest was Ukrainian American GWOT veteran LTC Michael Hrycak, USA (Ret), who gave an inspiring and memorable presentation on the background and heroism of Major Myron Diduryk, KIA in Vietnam.

Myron Diduryk was born in Muzhyliv, Western Ukraine, in 1938 and immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1950. Young Myron was a member of Plast in Jersey City, New Jersey, and later joined “Siromantsi,” a Plast fraternity. A beloved leader in Plast circles, Myron helped organize Plast branches throughout northern New Jersey; he also worked part-time at Svoboda and at the Ukrainian National Association’s resort, Soyuzivka.

Myron graduated from St. Peter’s College in Jersey City in 1960 with a degree in physics. While at St. Peter’s, he joined the ROTC, rose to the rank of brigade commander, and was one of the few ROTC cadets in his class to be commissioned as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After serving in Europe, he was deployed to Vietnam. Following the Battle of la Drang, Myron was promoted to major. Completing his first tour of duty with honor and distinction, he served a second tour of duty in Vietnam, this time as operations officer of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry. Diduryk was killed by a sniper on April 24, 1970.

To learn more about these events and about Myron Diduryk, we recommend a book entitled We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young, which was co-authored by Lt. General Harold G. Moore, USA (Ret), and Joseph L. Galloway and which mentions Myron Diduryk seventeen times. A riveting account of what it was like to serve in Vietnam during the 1960s and 1970s, the book was the basis for the 1992 movie “We Were Soldiers”, starring Mel Gibson. In 2008 Moore and Galloway also co-authored We Are Soldiers Still: A Journey Back to the Battlefields of Vietnam.

It should be noted that Past Post Commander Jurij Jacus knew Myron Diduryk as a young man and fellow “plastun” (Ukrainian boy scout), and it was at Jurij’s recommendation that members of the Post elected Major Myron Diduryk as their Post patron.

On April 26-27, 2014, as in prior years, UAV Post 30 members participated in St. Thomas Sunday procession and ceremonies at St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. Stan Jakubowycz was part of the UAV Color Guard. Jurij Jacus, M. Orysia Jacus, Anna Krawczuk, and Bernard Krawczuk manned the UAV Table at the Cultural Center for the two days. Oksana Koziak and PNC Mathew Koziak assisted as well.

On May 10, 2014, UAV Post 30 member Michael Walter Krawczuk, beloved brother of Bernard and brother-in-law of Anna Krawczuk, passed away. Members of UAV Post 30 expressed their sympathy by participating in the Final Salute Ceremony for their comrade and fellow veteran. We offer our condolences to the entire family. May Almighty God Bless his eternal soul. Vichnaia Pamiat!

On May 26, 2014, members of UAV Post 30 attended the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Day Ceremony in Holmdel, New Jersey. This year’s celebration of the annual event featured the restoration of a Huey Helicopter, which now resides at the Holmdel Vietnam Memorial site. During the Wreath-Presentation Ceremony, Commander Gerry Tchir and Vice Commander John Dzera presented the UAV Post 30 wreath. Past Post Commanders Jurij Jacus and Bernard Krawczuk also attended this event.
Continued from page 13

Michael W. Krawczuk was born on November 8, 1931, in Banovce, Slovakia (then part of Czechoslovakia), to parents Anna (Ahneta) Popovych and Wolodymyr Krawczuk. During the turmoil of World War II the Krawczuk family escaped to Austria. After the war, they immigrated to the United States of America, arriving in New York on April 17, 1948, and later settling in New Jersey.

On March 26, 1951, Michael joined the New Jersey National Guard, where he served with the 550th Armored Division. Two years of active duty followed, and Michael was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal before returning to New Jersey. On July 11, 1959, having fulfilled his military obligation to his new homeland, Sergeant Michael Walter Krawczuk was honorably discharged from the New Jersey National Guard.

Soon after, Michael married Helen Pizzarelli. In time, the couple and their daughter Ann Marie moved to Union, New Jersey, where Michael became a very successful salesman and businessman. He pursued this line of work until his retirement. Michael joined UAV Post 30 in 1991 and was an active member until illness prevented participation in Post activities.

Michael W. Krawczuk passed away on May 10, 2014, after a long illness. Funeral services were held at the Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillside, N. J. and internment with full military honors at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in E. Hanover, New Jersey. He was laid to rest beside his wife who had predeceased him and his parents. Michael is survived by daughter Ann Marie, his sisters Sonja Berardi and Irene, and his brothers: UAV Post 30 member Bernard, Stanley, Raymond, and Nicholas with their families. In lieu of flowers family requested donations for the UAV National Monument.

He will be greatly missed by his family and his friends and by fellow veterans.

Sp4 Nikolaus Zozula UAV Post 31 – Boston, MA

By Stephen A. Kostecki, Post Commander

2014 Memorial Day Weekend in Boston, MA.

UAV Post 31 member Walter Michajliw, Past National Vice Commander, and his wife Romanna placed a wreath on Sp4 Nikolaus Zozula Square thus remembering and honoring our Patron.

They also decorated the final resting place of UAV Post 31 former member, John Baryski, Jr. at St. Joseph’s Cemetery in W. Roxbury, MA.
Busy Memorial Day Weekend for UAV Post 32

This year’s Memorial Day Weekend started on Friday (May 23), with members of UAV Post 32 and our American Legion sister Post Iwaszk-Cetwinski 943 jointly decorating veterans’ graves with American flags at St. Nicholas and St. Andrew cemeteries.

On Saturday, UAV Post 32 participated in the Chicago Memorial Day Parade, the largest commemorative parade in the country. This was the 11th consecutive year that Post 32 participated by marching in the parade. This year, there were almost 50 people in the UAV contingent. The Army National Guard, which provided four military vehicles for the parade and was commanded by Peter Bencak, joined our unit. UAV contingency consisted of about fifty people.

On Monday, religious and military ceremonies were held at St. Nicholas Cemetery. Our Post 32 members look forward to this weekend every year.

UAV Post 32 Color Guard at St. Nicholas Cemetery

For several years Post 32 has posted colors and conducted a wreath-laying ceremony at St. Nicholas Cemetery. On the Friday before “Zeleny Sviata,” several of our members volunteered to place Ukrainian flags at the gravesites of World War II Ukrainian veterans. At one time, there were more than 150 of these Ukrainian veterans of WWII; their number has now dwindled to 2 or 3, and they are unable to continue this noble practice. These veterans noticed all the work members of Post 32 do as we prepare to decorate gravesites on Memorial Day; impressed, they asked if we would do the same for their members. We were glad to accommodate.

Special Museum Exhibit: “Conflict Zones: 3 Generations”

A special multimedia exhibit was held at the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago. A joint endeavor of The Independence Fund, American Legion Post 943, and Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32, this compelling exhibit focused on three conflicts: Korea, Vietnam, and the Global War on Terror, and featured photographs by combat photojournalists, paintings by combat veterans, and a digital presentation by the UAV, which highlighted the contributions of Ukrainian Americans.
who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during these conflicts. Over 100 people attended the exhibit opening. The exhibit lasted almost two months and received excellent reviews in local newspapers and on local television stations.

Post Commander Peter Bencak opening the “Conflict Zone - Three Generations” exhibit at the Ukrainian National Museum.

Field Trips and Outings

Each year, UAV Post 32 sponsors a field trip for 7th and 8th graders of St. Nicholas School. This year the pupils visited the Ukrainian American Veterans Exhibit at the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago. Exhibit curator John Steciw assisted by Adam Bihun, Adam Yurkiw, and Steve Macko conducted a guided tour, sharing many interesting facts about the service and sacrifices of Ukrainian Americans who served in the U.S. military.

Post 32 planned a similar outing for the “Spirit of St. Joseph” seniors club. Some of the seniors had relatives who had served in the U.S. Armed Forces and whose photographs or artifacts were featured as part of the exhibit. Seeing these reminders of their loved ones meant a lot to them. After viewing the UAV exhibit, the group was treated to a luncheon at the Ukrainian Cultural Center.

L/R: Peter Bencak, Exhibit curator Jerry Kykish and 9th District American Legion Commander John Steciw.

St Nicholas Essay Contest Winners:

L/R: Roman Oharenko, Alex Tymouch, Stefania Dembereckyj and Dayani Giles.
The traditional Memorial Day Panakhyda sponsored by our Post was celebrated Sunday, May 25, at Presentation of the Most Holy Mother Ukrainian Catholic Church. The Post Color Guard and other members attended in uniform, saluting during the singing of “Khrystos Voskres.” We also attended the Memorial Day community observance at North Port’s Veterans Park on Monday, May 26. As in previous years, our Post was the largest veterans contingent present.

Post 40’s monthly membership meetings are informative and productive, enhanced by the interesting presentations by NC Hron, who relays to members and guests information about the activities and initiatives of the UAV National Executive Board. Post members also hold friendly social get-togethers with sandwiches and refreshments after the meetings.

In March, our monthly membership meeting was held at the Military Heritage Museum at Fishermen’s Village in Punta Gorda, Florida. Post member Cliff Heiser serves as a museum volunteer and made all the arrangements for us to hold our meeting there. Following the meeting, members had the opportunity to view the museum’s exhibits and get acquainted with many of the staff and volunteers who work there.

Post 40 officers and members continue to be active in the community, and participate in many endeavors of the local Ukrainian American community and the community at large. Members are active in various fraternal, service, and veteran organizations as well as in religious congregations, with some serving on various church committees. Post Past Commander and UAV National Service Officer/Chaplain Marian Bojsiuk is an active member of the local Marine Corps League #948, the Sarasota Sahib Shrine Temple, and Shriners’ Children Hospital in Tampa, Florida. This author, in addition to writing a weekly column “Our Neighbors – The Ukrainians” for The North Port Sun since 1996, is a member (and former chair) of the City of North Port Citizens’ Sales Tax Oversight Committee.

Although there are no membership meetings during July and August, Post 40 officers and members remain actively engaged in a variety of community activities. Currently, we are preparing to participate in the observances of the 23rd anniversary of restoration of Ukraine’s independence. Our participation will include raising the American and Ukrainian national colors in front of the North Port City Hall in conjunction with the reading of an official proclamation honoring Ukrainian Independence Day. The ceremony, traditionally performed by members of our Post (often with the assistance of other veterans organizations), is always attended by members of the North Port City Commission and the City of North Port officials.

The traditional and very popular Post 40 Veterans Day luncheon, which includes the installation of new officers and presentation of awards, will be held Thursday, November 13, 2014, at the Heron Creek Golf and Country Club in North Port.
**UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC**
UAV Registration Project email: uav.registration@verizon.net
PO BOX 172
Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172

**UAV REGISTRATION or APPLICATION FORM**

For Ukrainian American veterans of active duty, Reserve, National Guard, living or deceased.

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION.**

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**Please return entire form with a copy of DD Form 214 (or equivalent) and photo to the above address.**

**Thank you.**

*You do not have to be a member of the Ukrainian American Veterans to register*
AS WE HONOR AND REMEMBER

Freedom Isn’t Free
by Kelly Strong

I watched the flag pass by one day
It fluttered in the breeze
A young Marine saluted it, and then
And then he stood at ease

I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He’d stand out in any crowd

I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers’ tears?

How many Pilots’ planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers’ graves?
No, Freedom isn’t free

I heard the sound of taps one night,
When everything was still
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill

I wondered just how many times
That taps had meant “Amen”
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a brother or a friend

I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives

I thought about a graveyard
at the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, Freedom isn’t free!

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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 EIN:23-2238720.
Your charitable contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.
UAV National Monument Committee PO BOX 5058 Somerset, NJ 08873-5058
August 24, 2014 - Ukrainian Independence Day - both flags fly high at the Daley Center with the Picasso in the front.