



# UAV TRIBUNE

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Ihor B. Rudko UAV NC

Dear Fellow Ukrainian  
American Veterans,

The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918, the deadliest in history, infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide - about one-third of the planet's population - and killed an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims, including some 675,000 Americans. That was a tragic and terrifying period in our country. I don't mean to diminish the 2020 Pandemic, but I only want to point out that our country overcame that major virus and became stronger.

This has been a tough year for us all! When I think about us, I see a target group that we've been told is the most vulnerable. Yet I have heard of no Covid-19 cases in our ranks. Thank God for that.

We live in a time of miracles. We have modern hospitals, a medical field with more than 100 years of progress and now we have vaccines to fight Covid-19.

This year our ambitions have been sidelined as have our personal interactions. However, as with any past trials and tribulations our nation has demonstrated significant advancements on numerous fronts. One example relevant to us is the use of social media and virtual technologies. We have taken advantage of virtual technology at a Post, NEB, and even Convention level. This year's convention had a 67 member participation rate, I believe this to be the highest ever achieved. Our Facebook, as of today, has 1,096 followers. This rate has doubled every year for the last three years.

In 2020 some of my activities included:

- Planning for the Ukrainian Annual Veteran Forum in Kyiv
- Exploring the possibility of sending Christmas packages to U.S. Soldiers stationed in Yavoriv

- Planning for the Marine Corp. Marathon
- Succession Planning for retiring NEB officers
- Planning our Participation in Ukraine's 30<sup>th</sup> Independence Celebration in 2021
- Research into Ihor Sikorsky's Ukrainian Heritage
- Participation with the PTSD/TBI Project
- Participation with the Ukrainian Wounded Warriors Program
- Establishing a Kyiv Post
- Reestablishing Post 26 Washington D.C.

I like to look upon this year's 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention as a rebirth of our organization. In the last five years we have made great strides just to have our progress shut down by a plague; as it was for the entire country, but I believe in our strength and resolve. We will recover and surpass our original objectives. The future will prove to be bright and filled with promise. Let's all stay healthy and plan for our 74<sup>th</sup> National convention to be held in Quantico on October 21, 22 & 23.

As 2020 is slowly crawling towards its demise, I look forward to 2021 where we will pick up our lives and get back to living and communing as God has prescribed. May you and all of our family's be blessed with love and peace that is Christmas! And I pray that we will all experience a happy, healthy New Year!

God Bless all of you!  
God Bless America  
and Ukraine!

Ihor Rudko  
UAV National Commander







## MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW 2021 YEAR!



Dear Friends and Colleagues!

The Defense Attaché Office at the Embassy of Ukraine to the USA would like to extend our best wishes for the joyful season! We highly appreciate your support to Ukraine and the Armed Forces of Ukraine. We wish that your families stay safe and healthy. Hope in the New 2021 we together will overcome all challenges.

Kind regards,  
Borys Kremenetskyi  
Major General (UKR-Air Force)  
Defense Attache, Embassy of Ukraine to the USA



### Wounded Ukrainian American Warriors Update

Here are some photographs of Ukrainian soldiers receiving treatment on equipment paid for with funds received during our Wounded Warrior Rehab Fundraiser. More equipment is scheduled for delivery early in 2021 provided the Covid-19 pandemic is abated. Expect more information in our next issue. Photos provided by: Peter Bencak, Commander Post 32





# Ivan Bohdan: The First Ukrainian American Veteran?

Submitted by: Len Kondratiuk



During the 1980s and 1990s, Ukrainian American active duty, Guard and Reserve officers stationed in Washington, DC held an annual dinner at the Fort Myer Officer's Club near or on 22 January, the day Ukrainian independence was then celebrated. There were over two dozen of us. One year Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney was the speaker. Since the event was open to the Ukrainian American community, we had a large turnout.

As the historian for our group, I read a brief history of Ukrainian Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. That evening I mentioned that there was a Ukrainian settler in the Jamestown, Virginia colony. I got a big laugh since the civilians were skeptical but our cohort of Army, Navy and Air Force officers gave me a big hand of applause.

The Jamestown colony, the first permanent English settlement in America, was founded in 1607. The all-male colonists expected to find gold and other riches, instead they found sickness, hunger, misery and death. Capt. John Smith, an English mercenary, led the government of the colony from September 1608 to August 1609. Smith, a soldier of fortune was captured by the Turks while serving in the army of the prince of Wallachia.

Smith was a Tartar slave in what is now eastern Ukraine. He escaped and made his way through Ukraine and finally to freedom in what is now the Czech Republic. He wrote his memoirs years later where he described the kindness and hospitality of Ukrainians.

In October 1608, Smith sponsored eight Polish, German and Slovak craftsmen who arrived in Jamestown. Among them, as the story goes, was Ivan Bohdan from Kolomeya, Ukraine who it is believed knew how to make pitch. Pitch or tar was needed to seal wood ships. We do not know much about Ivan or if he really was in Jamestown as no records exist. If he was in Jamestown, he would have been required to serve in the militia company.

Every Jamestown colonist was required to serve and attend one or more days of training every week. Militiamen also stood sentry duty 24 hours a day. Musketeer Bohdan was armed with a sword and matchlock an early type of firearm. He may have worn a heavy leather vest called a jerkin designed as an arrow-proof vest. We do not know if he participated in the 1622 war with the Powhatan Indians. Despite any documents, Musketeer Ivan Bohdan may have been the first Ukrainian to serve in America. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.



Steve Kostecki texts Joe Nasevich for some technical help:

Steve: "Hello Joe, can you help me with some social media jargon?"

Joe: "Sure Steve, what do you need."

Steve texts Joe : What does IDK, LY, & TTYL mean?

Joe Texts Steve: "I Don't Know, Love You, & Talk To You Later."

Steve Texts back: "It's ok, don't worry about it, I'll ask Nick Skirka later, love you too."



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY:

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."

— Douglas MacArthur





## Someone you should know...

Submitted by: Ihor Hron, Commander - Post 40

Photo Submitted by: Roman Synychak – Post 40



WWII was over and the Synychak family wished to emigrate to the United States. In 1946, early in their many month interval, they welcomed the birth of their son, Roman in Nesselwang, Germany. When Roman was 3 years old, he and his parents came to the United States in 1949 and, settled in Cleveland, Ohio. Thirteen years later they moved to Sunny Florida.

Roman Synychak attended high school and spent many after-school hours where he worked on the family's chicken farm. This was no small task because they raised 40,000 chickens, 60 head of cattle, and 100 hogs. Roman, doing his chores, often compared his efforts to the "Labors of Hercules". He did not know that this work was sculpting his personality and imbedding in him a resolute strength of character.

After high school he attended the University of South Florida and earned a BS Degree in Electrical Engineering (He continued to spend most weekends working on the family farm).



**Col. Roman Synychak**

November 1968 was pivotal for Roman when he enlisted in the United States Air Force and went to Officer Training School in Lackland Air Force base.

After technical training in AF communications, his first assignment was Wiesbaden, Germany, Lindsey Air Station, where he was a Team Engineer and then Team Chief. The job required traveling 80% of the time to mountain top locations from Diyarbakir, Turkey across the European continent, and the Mediterranean to Mormand Hill, Scotland. His critical assignment was to evaluate communications equipment.

His wife Anna and baby stayed in Wiesbaden, Germany. They took care of their home while he was traveling. In his spare time, Roman completed his MBA through night classes; starting in Germany and finishing in Biloxi, Mississippi.

A very important phase in Roman's career began with his two tours in the Pentagon (Air Staff and the Joint Staff) where he project managed the installation of special communications equipment for the National Military Command System and Executives in the Pentagon.

Colonel Roman Synychak was in the Air Force for 30 years. He had 4 Command assignments... and loved every minute. He epitomizes the saying: "Find a job that you love, and you will never work a day in your life". After retirement Roman found a job immediately out of the Air Force in the Telecommunications Industry. However, he quickly discovered that, to the Air Force, his skills were needed. In fact, he retired 3 times but was called back each time because he was essential to the mission.

Roman likens his retirement by paraphrasing the famous Al Pacino quote from the Godfather film series when he said "Just when I thought I was out...they pulled me back in."

Not one to rest on his laurels, Roman continued with his service to the community by joining the Ukrainian American Veterans. True to his nature, Roman worked so well with his fellow veterans, they elected from 2014-2016.

him Post 40 Vice Commander





# The U.S. Army Ukrainian Legion



Story submitted by: PNC Len Kondratiuk

When I was researching the history of Ukrainian Americans in the US Armed Forces, I determined that 30,000 to 40,000 Ukrainians served in World War I. Almost all were born in Ukraine and had immigrated to America as youths or as young men. Ukrainian was their first language and, in some cases, their only language. I also discovered that my father's distant relative immigrated to the U.S., settled in Peabody, Mass. and was drafted in late 1918.

While some Ukrainian Americans enlisted in the Regular Army and National Guard just after war was declared in April 1917, most were drafted. Draftee divisions were organized by state and in the case of New York by city. Ukrainians living in New York City were drafted into the 77<sup>th</sup> Division. Ukrainians, or as they were mostly called Ruthenians, living in Pennsylvania were drafted and assigned to the 79<sup>th</sup> Division. Many Ukrainians were classified as Russians.

Ukrainian Americans who stated that they were born in Russia or Russian Poland were allowed to enlist or were subject to the draft. Ukrainian Americans who stated they were born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the provinces of East Galicia, Bukovina and Zarkarpattia were classified as enemy aliens and were not allowed to enlist nor could they be drafted. There were a small number of Ukrainians who had enlisted early in 1917, former subjects of Emperor Franz Joseph, who were later discharged as enemy aliens. Some were sent to Texas to guard the border with Mexico.

When the U.S. entered World War I, the US Army consisted of 127,000 Regulars and about 170,000 National Guardsmen. By the fall of 1918, the US Army consisted of four million men and women. U.S. divisions poured into France in the summer and early fall of 1918 and stopped German offensive operations. However, during the summer of 1918 it was not yet assured that the Allies would prevail. Manpower was a serious issue.

The Military Intelligence Division, War Department, in Washington, DC came up with a plan to recruit Ukrainians, Serbs, Czechs and Slovaks, who were former subjects of Austro-Hungary, into the Slavic Legion. The Slavic Legion, as it was envisioned, would be a special unit in the US Army.

President Woodrow Wilson and Congress authorized the organization of the Slavic Legion in July 1918. The Military Intelligence Division estimated that 10,000 Czechs and Slovaks would enlist, 15,000 Serbs and 20,000 Ukrainians. Staff officers, however, exempted the enlistment of coal miners as a critical occupation.

According to *Americans All: Foreign Born Soldiers in World War I* by Nancy Ford, War Dept. General Order 90 authorized the activation of the Slavic Legion at Camp Wadsworth, near Spartanburg, South Carolina. The Legion was to organize into several infantry regiments, each composed of 3,500 men. Companies would be organized by nationality so that Ukrainians, for example, would serve together.

There were attempts to gather support in Ukrainian communities in Chicago and New York. Only a few Ukrainians came forward. Col. Conrad, a senior officer in the Military Intelligence Division, stated that there was little community support in Chicago. Ukrainian American Bolsheviks opposed the formation of the Slavic Legion because they thought it would be deployed to Russia to fight the Bolsheviks.

*The New York Times* published articles about the organization of the Slavic Legion on 22 September and 5 October 1918. Recruits were to be between the ages of 18 to 45 and not subject to the draft (because they were enemy aliens). There was some support for the Legion in the Ukrainian community with the thought that perhaps it could be sent to liberate Ukraine.

If World War I had lasted longer the Slavic Legion may have been fully organized, trained, equipped and ready for deployment. However, the armistice on 11 November 1918 stopped the organization of the Legion. The few soldiers at Camp Wadsworth were mustered out and the Slavic Legion was inactivated. The idea of Ukrainian units in the US Army ended as well.





L/R: Bohdan Dudycz, Nick Skyba, Nick Sidelnik, Marko Magajne, Wasyl Mirutenko, Peter Bencak, George Horbenko, Walter Dudycz, Walter Kosogof, Jay Kowalski. (not pictured) Russ Ruffolo, Ted Gauza, Craig Moffat, Dan Waters and Bob Watral.



L/R: Walter Kosogof, Walter Dudycz & George Horbenko.



L/R: Walter Dudycz, Nick Sidelnik, Peter Bencak & George Horbenko.



Nobody shows up late for dinner!

### POST 32 MEMBERS AND GUESTS CELEBRATE THE 2ND ANNUAL GOLF OUTING AT GALENA, ILLINOIS

It was September 14-17 when 12 valiant golfers from Post 32 attacked the golf courses of Galena, Illinois. Each warrior planned to face a daily gauntlet of 18 battlefields where there were overgrown rough patches, water hazards and merciless sand bunkers.

Camaraderie and Good Fellowship were the best description for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Post 32 Golf Outing. We had a four day stay at a huge rustic lodge with 12 bedrooms and multiple bathrooms with 3 kitchens and enough room to accommodate up to 20 vacationers.

We began each day with a round of golf. The golf courses ranged from challenging to downright brutal, but all were enjoyable. The weather cooperated with temperatures in the mid 70's and puffy cotton clouds were dispersed throughout navy blue skies. Laughter and "Trash Talk" echoed over the links as everyone played and built up an appetite.

In the evening we feasted like medieval princes. Dinners were prepared by volunteer Chefs. On Monday, Chef Wasyl Mirutenko and his apprentice George Horbenko made fish tacos and pork tacos with all the fixin's. On Tuesday, Chefs Bohdan & Walter Dudycz grilled their famous "All American" rib dinner with corn, beans, baked potato, rolls & coleslaw. A special "Thank You" goes out to Assistant Russ Ruffolo. On Wednesday, Chef Skyba and his sous chefs Wally Kosogof & Nick Sidelnik served up potato pancakes, brats and Atomic salad.

Never having been to this lodge, we had no idea what to expect. However, on the final day of our stay, all unanimously agreed that their every expectation was exceeded. As we were packing to leave, it was heartening to hear everyone wanting to "RE-UP" for Golf Outing #3 in 2021.





# A Response to “Call to Action for Racial Justice”



Submitted by: Leo Iwaskiw

The following commentary was written by Dr. Ihor Mirchuk of Easton, PA. and was presented on the “Ukrainian Hour” Radio Program with his kind permission.

We are told that today’s historic moment of racial reckoning necessitates a collective Ukrainian response. Though no other American ethnic group has put itself out to similar self-castigation, a “Call to Action for Racial Justice” with sharp criticisms of the Ukrainian American community has been drawn up and published in Ukrainian American newspapers.

Alongside fleeting expressions of solidarity, this manifesto of sorts pushes a historical narrative about Ukrainians in North America that is not only largely not historic but does a great injustice to the memory of past generations.

Casting Ukrainian immigrants as covert beneficiaries and co-perpetuators of a “racist order” may fit the neo-Marxist ideological dichotomy of oppressive whites vs. oppressed racial minorities – with Ukrainians positioned alongside other so-called “white oppressors,” – but it distorts the reality of the Ukrainian immigrant experience. An abundance of accounts attest that this was an experience characterized by constant battles with extreme hardships, biased attitudes, and discrimination camouflaged under various guises, much of it stemming from malicious stereotyping of Ukrainians (many have wondered if there isn’t a glass ceiling for Ukrainian Americans when it comes to high-level government appointments).

For most Ukrainian immigrants who settled in Canada, life there began with placement on inferior virgin lands, and the unenviable, unaided task of bringing the prairie bush to cultivation on which their survival depended. In the U.S., immigrants had little choice but to labor cheaply in the debilitating and dangerous conditions of coal mines and sweatshops. Even many postwar Ukrainian intellectuals could find employment only in menial jobs. It’s quite a stretch to find in their story much advantage for being part of a “racial system that recognizes us as white people.”

There are no records of Ukrainian slaveowners in America or of Ukrainians living in the South during the Jim Crow era, to talk about Ukrainians playing a role in slavery or segregation, as this “Call to Action” declaration contends (aside from soldiers who fought on the Union side in the Civil War, such as abolitionist General Ivan Turchin). It would be interesting to learn of examples for the claim that some Ukrainian community buildings displaced minority dwellers in a “process of settler colonialism.” In most cities Ukrainians were among the last to join white flight. The application of Marxist analysis should not replace the need for disturbing claims to be substantiated.

Lastly, who are those Ukrainians that have been “dismissing others’ experiences of oppression?” Through the decades “Svoboda” carried many articles sympathetic to the plight and struggle of groups such as the Biafrans, Kurds, Bengalis, etc., with authors customarily noting Ukrainian analogies.

Few would deny that Ukrainians, like everyone, can learn to exercise greater racial sensitivity. But it’s sad that a declaration of solidarity with a group battered by a painful history has to be coupled with disparagement of another group, which itself has been traumatized by 400 years of dehumanizing oppression in the forms of serfdom and Crimean-Ottoman slavery, into which an estimated 2.5 million of its children were snatched. Lest we forget, the genocidal Holodomor also left a devastating legacy with wide-ranging, lasting effects.

*The author of this commentary, Dr. Ihor Mirchuk, taught a course entitled “Ethnicity, Race, and Culture in American History” at Manor College in Jenkintown, PA in the mid-1980s, one of the first colleges to offer such a course in the country. Manor College is sponsored and administered by the Ukrainian Catholic Order of Sisters of St. Basil the Great.*





# For Your Information



## Ukraine's President Zelensky's 2020 Veterans Day statement

"In partnership with our friends and allies the Ukrainian nation has won victories around the world. Today marks a day of tribute and respect to the warriors of our strategic partner and ally, the United States. Ukrainian Americans have served with honor and dignity in the ranks of the US Armed Forces. Great American heroes such as Sgt. Michael Strank, USMC whose squad erected the legendary flag on the black sands of Iwo Jima. No less significant are those Ukrainian Americans who have been awarded the US Armed Forces highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor. Those legendary Ukrainian American warriors: Nicholas Minue, John Dutko, and Nicholas Oresko, serve as living testament to American values. Another example of quiet, dedicated service is that of Roman Kupchynsky, a man who quietly made history. I would like to congratulate the American Veterans Service Organization, the **Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV)**. Today, Veterans Day in America, the Ukrainian American veterans reverently preserve Ukrainian culture and martial spirit of the Cossacks. Thank you for your continued support of Ukraine during these trying times. Glory to Ukraine! God bless America!

## NATO recognizes Ukraine as Enhanced Opportunities Partner

On Friday (12 June 2020), the North Atlantic Council recognized Ukraine as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner. This status is part of NATO's Partnership Interoperability Initiative, which aims to maintain and deepen cooperation between Allies and partners that have made significant contributions to NATO-led operations and missions.

As a NATO partner, Ukraine has provided troops to Allied operations, including in Afghanistan and Kosovo, as well as to the NATO Response Force and NATO exercises. Allies highly value these significant contributions, which demonstrate Ukraine's commitment to Euro-Atlantic security.



As an Enhanced Opportunities Partner, Ukraine will benefit from tailor-made opportunities to help sustain such contributions. This includes enhanced access to interoperability programs and exercises, and more sharing of information, including lessons learned.

*"This decision recognizes Ukraine's strong contributions to NATO missions, and demonstrates the Alliance's continued commitment to its partnerships despite the COVID-19 pandemic,"* said NATO Spokesperson Oana Lungescu.

Ukraine is now one of six Enhanced Opportunities Partners, alongside Australia, Finland, Georgia, Jordan and Sweden. Each of the partners has a tailor-made relationship with NATO, based on areas of mutual interest.

Ukraine's status as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner does not prejudice any decisions on NATO membership. NATO Allies continue to encourage and support Ukraine in its reform efforts, including in the security and defense sector, with regard to civilian control and democratic oversight, and in the fight against corruption.

## IR-2020-264, November 25, 2020—SPECIAL TAX DEDUCTION

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today reminded taxpayers of a special new provision that will allow more people to easily deduct up to \$300 in donations to qualifying charities this year.

Following special tax law changes made earlier this year, cash donations of up to \$300 made before December 31, 2020, are now deductible when people file their taxes in 2021.

It's pretty much exactly what it sounds like. You can deduct up to \$300 in "cash" donations without itemizing. In other words, you can deduct \$300 for charitable donations while using the standard deduction.



**Just Google "Special \$300 tax deduction" if you need a more detailed explanation.**





# CHRIS-MYTHS - FACTS

"Believe it, or not"



1. "Wassail" comes from the Old Norse "ves heill" - to be of good health. This evolved into the tradition of visiting neighbors on Christmas Eve and drinking to their health. After enough "Wassails" one often hears "Jeg skal banke deg" (google it).
2. A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.
3. After "A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens wrote several other Christmas stories, but none was as successful as the original. Some favorites were: "The Chimes: A Goblin Story", "Oliver Twist becomes more twisted" and "The haunted man and the ghost's bargain".
4. Charles Dickens' initial choice for Scrooge's statement "Bah Humbug" was "Bah Codswallop".
5. As early as 1822, the postmaster in Washington, D.C. was worried by the amount of extra mail at Christmas time. His preferred solution to the problem was to limit, by law, the number of cards a person could send because sixteen extra postmen had to be hired for the season.
6. Santa Claus has different names around the world - Kriss Kringle in Germany, Le Befana in Italy, Pere Noel in France, Božiček in Slovenian, YO, Santa, in Brooklyn and Deushka Moroz in Russia.
7. There is a village in Peru where people settle the previous year's grudges by fist fighting. They then start the new year off on a clean slate. Today, this popular custom is followed by many families in New Jersey.
8. Nine days before Christmas in 1965, two astronauts aboard Gemini 6 sent an odd report to Mission Control that they saw an "unidentified flying object" about to enter Earth's atmosphere, traveling in the polar orbit from north to south. They interrupted the tense report with the sound of "Jingle Bells," as Wally Schirra played a small harmonica accompanied by Tom Stafford on a handful of small sleigh bells they had smuggled aboard.
9. People in Alabama believe in Christmas. American elves meet up at the annual Elfapalooza event, which includes karaoke, best elf contests, and an elf march!
10. During World War II, the Bicycle playing card company made decks of cards and gave them to prisoners of war in Germany as Christmas presents. There were hidden escape routes revealed when the cards were soaked in water.
11. The song "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" originally was sung by servants to demand alcoholic drinks from their masters. Some lyrics: "We won't go until we've got some, so bring some out here."
12. Christmas is not a Biblical holy day as it is not mentioned in the Bible.
13. 4 popular cult holiday songs: "Chipmunks Roasting on an Open Fire," "Fido left you a present under the tree", "Santa went Commando in December" and "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer."





# MEET YOUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018-2021



1. Commander
2. Vice-Commander
3. Adjutant
4. Finance Officer
5. Judge Advocate
6. Quartermaster
7. Service Officer/Chaplain
8. Welfare Officer
9. Scholarship Officer
10. Historian
11. PR/Publications Officer
12. Monument Officer
13. Immediate Past Nat'l Commander
14. UAV Nat'l Registry Officer
15. Webmaster
16. President, Ladies Auxiliary
17. CT State Commander
18. NJ State Commander
19. NY State Commander
33. New Haven, CT - Delegate

**IHOR RUDKO**  
**MATTHEW WROBLEWSKI**  
**GEORGE HORBENKO**  
**IHOR HRON**  
**MICHAEL HRYCAK**  
**STEPHEN KOSTECKI (NOT VISABLE)**  
**MARIAN BOJSIUK**  
**ROMAN STEFANIUK**  
**NICHOLAS SKIRKA**  
**ED A. ZETICK PNC**  
**BOHDAN DUDYCZ**  
**MATHEW KOZIAK**  
**PETER BENCAK**  
**ANNA KRAWCZUK (NOT PRESENT)**  
**JOE NASEVICH**  
**OKSANA KOZIAK (NOT PRESENT)**  
**IHOR RUDKO**  
**MICHAEL P. HRYCAK**  
**PETER POLNYJ (NOT PRESENT)**  
**CARL HARVEY**

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**peterpolny@aol.com**

Prior to the 73rd Annual National Convention, the National Executive Board met for their fourth quarter meeting. At this gathering, members discussed policy matters, the status of permanent funds, proposed changes to our bylaws and other topics pertinent to the wellbeing of our organization. The Covid-19 Pandemic prohibited our in-person conference so we adapted to conditions and met virtually. Of course the convention was also virtual.

The meeting went better than expected and the convention did as well. The photos above are a screen capture of our get-together and you can see the biggest benefit was that we could meet while still enjoying the comforts of our homes. Secondly, you can now see what your NEB members look like when they are relaxed and comfortable.



In the following pages you can read a synopsis of the individual annual reports submitted to our Adjutant. These become a permanent record of our UAV.





# NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

ANNUAL REPORTS - FOURTH QUARTER - A Synopsys

November 5, 2020



Submitted by: NEB Members

## **Ihor Rudko, Commander**

Please refer to page one of this Tribune for a detailed Synopsys of my report.

## **Matthew Wroblewski, Vice-Commander**

There are 45 M.A.L.'s on the roster. The number is lower than last year because members moved to the new Washington D.C. Post 26. This year the MAL's have the option of paying their dues online on PayPal or sending in a check as usual. MAL Member and NEB Web Master, Joe Nasevich set up an MAL Introduction to Zoom meeting on October 1. Six Members joined in and it was nice to put names to the faces. I believe this will be a good way to stay informed with other MAL members. The next MAL Zoom meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm. with the National Convention on the agenda.

## **George Horbenko, Adjutant**

As National Adjutant, I have maintained the records of the Quarterly National Executive Board Meetings. Agendas and Minutes of all meetings were composed and distributed for board approval. As the Treasurer of Post 32 Chicago, I maintained financial records and presented monthly reports at Post meeting for approval. I was a committee member of the Wounded Warrior Humanitarian Project. The project fundraising was a success. Over \$52,000 was raised for rehab equipment.

## **Ihor Hron, Finance Officer**

After the retirement of the incumbent National Finance Officer, Jerry Kindrachuk, the Ukrainian American Veterans National Executive Board requested an audit to insure an orderly transition to a new Finance Officer. An audit is a standard and prudent business practice. It gives the Audit Committee an opportunity to review, examine and validate financial activity of the organization; it also gives the Audit Committee the opportunity to examine and review existing policies and procedures and to update them (if necessary). Ihor Hron presented a verbal financial report. Savings, checking and expenses through November 4, 2020 were detailed. Income included Annual Dues received from Posts. The Audit Committee recommends that Mr. Jerry Kindrachuk be recognized and commended for his 12 years of loyal, dedicated and professional service to the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

## **Michael Hrycak, Judge Advocate**

I was involved in continuing the Wounded Ukrainian Soldier Project, along with National Commander Ihor Rudko, Carl Harvey and Myron Melnyk. Attended Ukrainian Armed Forces Day at the Ukrainian Embassy on 17 December 2019, in Washington, DC, with Cdr. Ihor Rudko, Taras Rudko, Roman Fontana, Roman Mashovetz. I attended JT Blatty Exhibition Frontline Peace Life: Ukraine's Revolution of The Forgotten War at the Ukrainian Institute, 3 E 79th St., New York, New York, with Roman Fontana 16 January 2020. On 22 January, I attended, with Marta Biskup, the swearing in of the Honorary Consul, Iryna Mazur, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. UAV Kyiv Post Working Group- New York City Roman Fontana, Roman Mashovets, Soso (Hon.) 25 February 2020- prepared founding documents for Kyiv Post. US-Ukraine Security Dialogue-National Press Club, Washington, DC 5 March 2020 Washington, DC, on 12 March 2020 Capitol Visitors Center 1100-1300 briefing, Roman Fontana and Dr. Darren Holowka briefed, also Ihor Rudko and Roman Mashovets attended. and a Ukrainian Embassy presentation. I have also participated in a new PTSD/TBI Project, which PNC Matt Koziak, and his wife, Oksana, together with Carl Harvey, Ihor Rudko, and Roman Fontana, and Myron Melnyk, which will initiate treatment for Veterans in Ukraine.



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### **Stephen Kostecki, Quartermaster**

Our beginning balance was \$2,055.30. Our expenses were \$326.92 which included Mail cost, payment to vendors and applicable refunds. Income was realized from two sources: \$326.50 from the 72<sup>nd</sup> Convention and \$158.00 from Post purchases. Total receivables are \$1,995.00 and the value of inventory on hand is \$2,250.00.

### **Marian Bojsiuk, Service Officer/Chaplain**

Chaplain Marian Bojsiuk reported 18 member deaths. Report is on file. NEB officers informed the board of several additional member deaths.

### **Roman Stefaniuk, Welfare Officer**

As our veterans age, there is a growing need to help those who require financial assistance when some misfortune occurs. This is the role of the UAV National Welfare Fund.

Over the last year we received, and approved, eleven (11) grant requests and one (1) loan request, totaling \$12,000 dollars. And during our annual Welfare Fund Drive we had 110 members and organizations donating nearly \$10,000 dollars to the drive. We are now in a good position to continue helping our members and their families that are in need of financial help.

I strongly encourage all Post Commanders to review their membership to see if anyone needs financial assistance during this COVID-19 pandemic. The Post Commanders should encourage their members in need to fill out a Grant Application, or even fill it out for them, and submit it to the Welfare Committee.

### **Nicholas Skirka, Scholarship Officer**

Each year the Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) Scholarship fund awards academic scholarships to undergraduate college students of Ukrainian descent. **This year the UAV awarded \$3,600 to 12 students**, with awards ranging from \$500 to \$200. Visit our National web site for more information on this year's scholarship recipients.

Students interested in applying for the UAV Scholarship Award should fill out an application, send their college transcript, write an essay on this year's military topic, and email a high-quality digital picture. To be eligible for a UAV scholarship, applicants must be descendants of or related to a Ukrainian American Veteran. Students should be full-time undergraduate college students enrolled in a degree program or attending an accredited trade school or institution that has a degree program. Students may apply during their senior year in high school; college attendance will be verified before awards are given in the fall. Applications are accepted all year round, but the deadline is August 31 of each year. Additionally, undergraduate students may re-apply for a scholarship award each year (up to 4 years).

### **Ed A. Zetick PNC, Historian**

Ed Zetick reported to have found 1970's archives. Post 1 have not held meetings. Commander letters have been distributed to members to keep membership informed.

### **Bohdan Dudycz, PR/Publications officer**

We have been on schedule for our Tribune issues for this year and the next edition will be mailed to our members in December 2020. It was decided by our Commander and me that our 73<sup>rd</sup> Convention Journal should be printed and distributed in the latter half of November. Since we will not have a Convention Banquet, we have a later deadline. The distribution of the Journal is on schedule. The final day to submit articles and photos for the next Tribune is December 1<sup>st</sup>.



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### **Mathew Koziak, Monument Officer**

During this year, my main focus has been the construction of a plaza around the UAV National Monument. After a final design was selected by the committee, a redesign was necessary in order to lower construction costs. Once completed, I priced out several different paving products and requested bids for the construction work. Two proposals have been submitted and I am awaiting a third. Although a target date for completion has been set for the end of this year, the pandemic has posed some delays which may influence the timeline for completion of the project. My other activities have included working on the PTSD proposal and representation of the UAV at several community events.

### **Peter Bencak, Immediate Past National Commander**

The Lviv Military Hospital was most impressive and was selected as the hospital we would like to assist in the future. Peter Bencak, UAV Past National Commander communicated with Dr. Roman Skoropad, Neurologist at the Lviv Military Hospital. Both Peter and Dr. Roman have exchanged emails and phone calls since the beginning of the year to narrow down the type of equipment they needed in the rehabilitation efforts.

Ultimately Dr. Skoropad and his medical colleagues selected;

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | One (1) Rehabilitation unit MOTomed viva2 for legs and arms. | Cost \$8,780.00                        |
| 2. | One (1) Ceiling hoist GH1 175kg.                             | Cost \$5,940.00                        |
| 3. | Ten (10) Medicak bed sets w/Cabinet.                         | Cost \$1,448.00 each, Cost \$14,480.00 |

On Memorial Day, the UAV Humanitarian Rehab Committee approved the request and Dr. Skoropad was told to proceed and order the equipment. Upon receipt of the legal contract from both contractors, Peter Bencak did a wire transfer of fifty (50) percent as deposit. Dr. Skoropad informed Peter on June 22nd that all equipment was delivered and set up and gave the approval to pay the balance. The total cost for these items listed was \$29,200. Peter proceeded to Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, Chicago and sent the balance for these items.

This completed phase 1 of the Rehab purchase and now Peter is working with Dr. Skoropad on phase 2, to identify what additional Rehab equipment the Lviv Military Hospital needs. We still have a balance of \$23,000 in the Humanitarian Rehab account. We will keep you posted.

The goal is to have all this in place and both Peter Bencak, IPNC, and Ihor Rudko, National Commander to fly to Lviv and visit with Dr. Skoropad and their staff and have the equipment blessed, hopefully by Bishop Sus. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Pandemic has delayed our visit for now. We hope to make that visit and have a final presentation at the 2021 Convention.

### **Anna Krawczuk, UAV National Registry Officer**

Our National Registry financial picture is good. I have submitted the financials to the Adjutant and the Finance Officer. I feel we should continue to be more vigilant on recording the names of our Ukrainian American Veterans diligently.

### **Oksana Koziak, President, Ladies Auxiliary**

This has been an extraordinary and difficult year which has brought many changes to our lives. Among these is the inability to personally get together and experience the fellowship we enjoy at our conventions. We have all made adjustments, including the UAV, which has prepared a virtual convention. On behalf of the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary I offer congratulations on all the fine work the organization has done during this year and extend best wishes for a successful convention. To the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who continue, with additional challenges posed by the pandemic, to protect our country and the freedoms we enjoy, we express our sincere gratitude. To the men and women who are battling Russian aggression in Ukraine, we send our prayers for a timely and positive resolution to their struggle. To the men and women of the UAV, we send a heartfelt thank you for your service. To everyone we send wishes for good health.



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## **Joe Nasevich, Webmaster**

### Website:

Improved UAV website's load time from 7.4 to 1.9 seconds

Wrote 11 news blog posts (<https://www.uavets.org/news/>)

Added online dues payment for MALs (<https://www.uavets.org/product/uav-dues/>)

Added online payment for the UAV convention registration  
<https://www.uavets.org/product/2020-uav-convention-registration/>

Configured a new PayPal account for the Quartermaster

### Email

Created Gmail accounts for UAV national officers so they don't have to use their own personal email accounts for UAV business

### Email Newsletter

Sent 12 Mailchimp mailing campaigns in 2020; we have 395 subscribers as of 11/2/2020

### Master Membership List

Set up a new Master Membership List (585 members as of 11/2/2020)

### SmartVault

Set up a SmartVault account for secure document storage and sharing

Used SmartVault for 2020 Finance Officer audit

### Social Media

Set up a new UAV YouTube video channel and uploaded videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNFzQ91hJk1eq-G9NlnA7Cw>

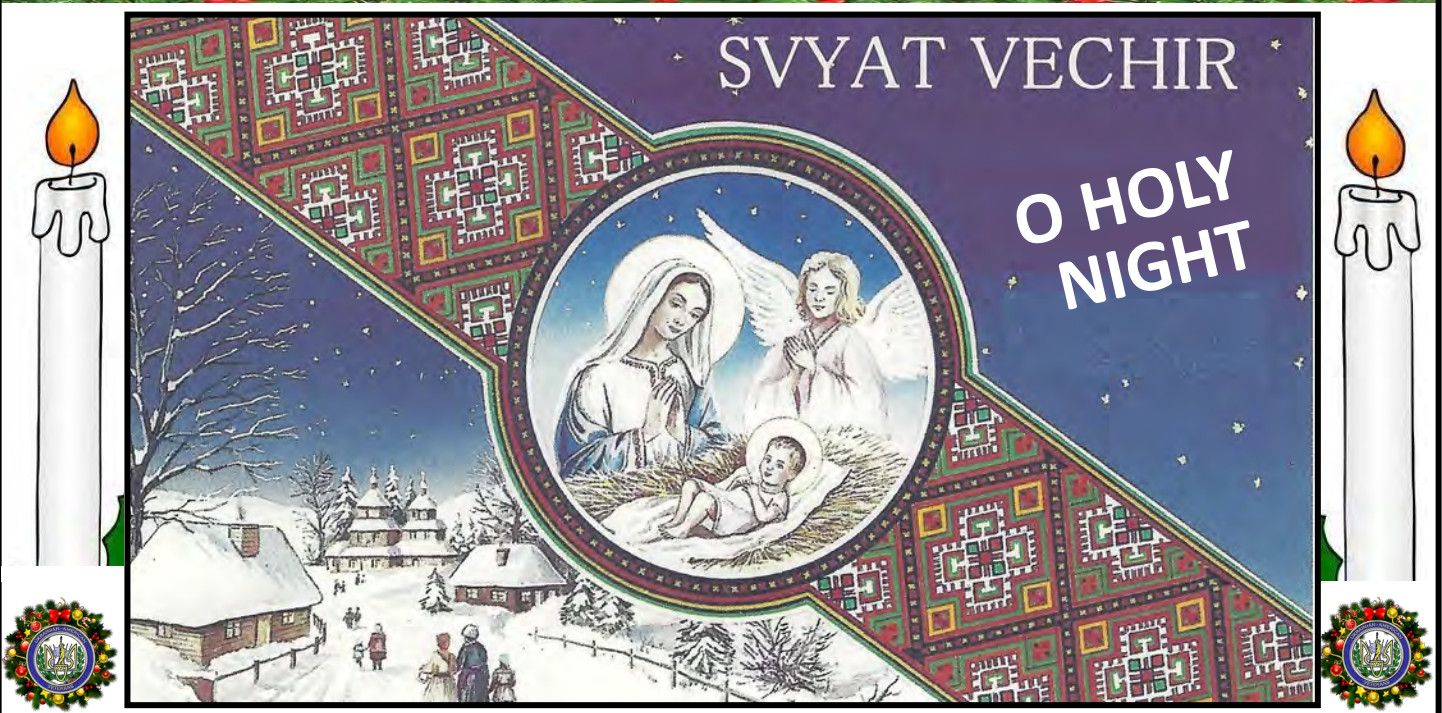
Facebook has 1,087 "followers" and 1,013 "likes" as of 11/2/2020.

<https://www.facebook.com/UkrainianAmericanVeterans/>

### Zoom

Set up a UAV Zoom account in July 2020 for virtual meeting by the NEB and UAV posts  
Webmaster and Judge Advocate both have accounts, so we have alternate hosts

Hosted 10 UAV Zoom calls so far this year We will host a Zoom webinar for the Annual Convention in November 2020



# THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



I am a fellow veteran interested in becoming a member of the UAV.

☐

I was honorably discharged.

☐

I am still serving honorably.



PLEASE PRINT

NAME

ADDRESS



CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE

CELL

EMAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

I affirm that I have served honorably and have a DD214 showing an Honorable Discharge

☐

My check for \$25.00 is enclosed (waived for 1st year)

Please return this application and payment to the selected Post Commander

BRANCH OF SERVICE

☐

U.S. Army

☐

U.S. Marines

☐

U.S. Navy

☐

U.S. Air Force

☐

U.S. Coast Guard

☐

U.S. Merch. Marines

☐

U.S. National Guard

☐

U.S. Reserves

DATES OF SERVICE

Select Post

Commander

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Edward A. Zetick	740 Dale Rd.	Huntingdon Valley	PA	19006-8319	215-885-2826
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Michael Fedirko	207 Raritan Road	Linden	NJ	07036-4813	908-486-5543
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Ihor B. Rudko	44 Jurach Road	Colchester	CT	06415-2106	860-705-1849
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Emrick Prestash	32 Logan Street	New Britain	CT	06051-3434	860-677-9496
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Nestor Nynka	33 Ridgewood Dr	Randolph	NJ	07869-3751	973-933-4555
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	William Szozda	66 North William Street	Pearl River	NY	10965-1820	845-920-8325
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Markian Slabyk	25 Stearns St	Lackawanna	NY	14218-2703	716-822-3643
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Roman Rakowsky	1881 Jacqueline Dr.	Parma	OH	44134-6849	440-884-1673
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	Gregory Posewa	5 Aqua Terrace	Trenton	NJ	08620-9738	609-259-2763
<input type="checkbox"/>	27	Peter Polnyj	5855 Amboy Road	Staten Island	NY	10309-3110	718-388-2859
<input type="checkbox"/>	28	Roman Kostyuk	3966 April Drive	Uniontown	OH	44685-9358	330-896-4166
<input type="checkbox"/>	30	Anna Krawczuk	18 Telegraph Hill Road	Holmdel	NJ	07733-1431	732-888-0494
<input type="checkbox"/>	31	Stephen J. Kostecki	34 West Britannia St. #2	Taunton	MA	02780-1853	508-245-1890
<input type="checkbox"/>	32	Peter Bencak	2135 W. Potomac Ave.	Chicago	IL	60622-8270	773-489-2757
<input type="checkbox"/>	33	Carl Harvey	841 Alling Road	Orange	CT	06477-1352	203-389-6076
<input type="checkbox"/>	40	Ihor Hron	201 Osprey Point Drive	Osprey	FL	34229-9234	941-966-2845
<input type="checkbox"/>	42	Bohdan Zelechiwsky	403 4th Street	West Easton	PA	18042	610-258-9476
<input type="checkbox"/>	43	Michael J. Dobransky	17 Miriam Street	Johnson City	NY	13790-6658	607-729-0334
<input type="checkbox"/>	101	Matthew Wroblewski	25195 Pineview	Warren	MI	48091-1564	586-755-9575
<input type="checkbox"/>	301	Nicholas Skirka	109 Windsor Terrace	Yonkers	NY	10701-1512	914-965-3707

Any person of Ukrainian descent shall be eligible for membership in the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. if such person has served in the Armed Forces of the United States and has been honorably discharged.

Any person who is not of Ukrainian descent, but who meets other requirements of Section 1 and is married to a person of Ukrainian descent will be eligible for full membership in the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

Any person who meets the eligibility for membership in the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. but who resides in a locality where there is no established Post may apply as a Member-at-Large. An application will be submitted to the National Executive Board for final approval. A Member-at-Large shall be entitled to all rights and privileges. Members-at-Large should join a member Post in their location. Individuals who want to join a local post should contact that post directly.



Individuals wishing to become Members at Large should contact  
Matthew Wroblewski, National Vice Commander,

For more information please visit our web site at: <http://www.uavets.org>



Effective 10/1/2020



# WHO ARE VETERANS

Submitted by: Don Meseth - American Legion Post 36 Des Plaines, IL



For all my non-military friends out there, this may, or may not help you understand those of us that served in the military.

We are Veterans! We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure. We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our lives. We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew. We learned the basics, and then we were scattered in the wind to the farthest corners of the earth.

We found new friends and new family. We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race, or creed. We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times. We didn't get enough sleep. We smoked and drank too much. We picked up both good and bad habits. We worked hard and played harder. We didn't earn a great wage. We experienced the happiness of mail call, and the sadness of missing important events. We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all. We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others. Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't. Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't. Some of us dealt with physical warfare while most of us dealt with psychological warfare. We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time-honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie. We counted on each other to get our job done, and sometimes to survive it at all. We have dealt with victory and tragedy. We have celebrated and mourned. We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new, and some of us never came home at all. We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures. We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand. We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches. We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters, and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

**Being a Veteran is something that has to be earned, and it can never be taken away.**

It has no monetary value, but at the same time, it is a priceless gift. People see Veterans and thank them for their service. When we see each other, we give that little upward head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not. So, from myself, to the rest of the Veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all you have done and sacrificed for your country. Try to remember the good times and forget the bad times. Share your stories. But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be call a VETERAN.



**My best wishes to all for a better and healthier 2021.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**





# UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC.

## UAV NATIONAL REGISTRY

PO Box 172

Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172

[uav.registration@verizon.net](mailto:uav.registration@verizon.net)

[www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org) Official



### **OFFICIAL UAV NATIONAL REGISTRY FORM**

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

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION.**

LName: \_\_\_\_\_ FName: \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
put maiden name if applicable

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

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

Daytime phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ evening: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: / / / / Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ If Deceased / / / /  
month day year month day year

When did you and/or your ancestors arrive to the USA? \_\_\_\_\_

From which country? \_\_\_\_\_

When did you and/or your ancestors become USA citizens? [ ] [ ] \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate year)  
myself ancestor

Your Ukrainian ancestry is on your [ ] mother's side [ ] father's side [ ] both [ ] spouse

Your mother's maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you UAV member ? \_\_\_\_\_ if yes, UAV Post # \_\_\_\_\_ Other US Veteran's Organization \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch: (circle) USA USN USMC USAF USCG WWII-USMM WWII-AAF**

### **SERVICE DATES - including active duty, Reserve, and National Guard (copy DD Form 214 or equivalent)**

From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Reserve

Military Decorations: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Rank or Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ If deceased, place of burial \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Retired from military service

[ ] Photo taken in uniform enclosed, if available - no photocopier prints, please.

If registered by other than above, please indicate relationship to the veteran being registered: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have memorable military experiences, please write on the back of this page. Your short autobiography will be appreciated.

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

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

***You do not have to be a member of the Ukrainian American Veterans to register (revised 2019)***

## QUARTERMASTER STORE



National Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki

All UAV memorabilia is available through our National Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki. To get a shipping quote or to order an item please contact:

**Stephen Kostecki at 508-245-1890**  
**Or email: [skostecki108@comcast.net](mailto:skostecki108@comcast.net)**

The Cover and flag patch are uniform requirements and the remaining items are great as gifts for friends or family. Please add Shipping and Handling to each order unless specified.



**UAV Post Cover—\$48.00**  
 Include size when ordering



**Solid Blue  
 UAV Necktie**  
 \$7.00 each



**UAV Car Decal \$10.00**



**American flag and UAV arm Patch for  
 Summer wear. Sold as a set - \$14.00**



**UAV Monument Coin \$10.00**



**US Veteran Pin \$3.00**



**UAV Monument Coin in case - \$30.00**



**UAV Baseball Cap  
 with the UAV emblem**  
 \$16.00 (One size fits all)



**UAV Pocket Notebook  
 With the UAV emblem**  
 \$3.00 each

**Desktop replica of our Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument**



**Navy blue UAV Golf  
 Shirt with the UAV  
 emblem - \$35.00**  
 Include size when ordering



**Jacket Emblem to be worn  
 on the breast pocket -**  
 \$22.00



**Tie or Jacket Pin**  
 \$5.00

**LARGE: 11 1/4" x 7 1/4" for \$45.00**  
**SMALL: 7 1/2" x 5 1/2" for \$35.00**



# UAV Tribune



**Bohdan Dudycz, Publication Officer**

8433 N. Clifton Ave.

Niles, IL 60714-1803



**I WANT YOU  
FOR THE UAV  
Bring a Friend**

---

**74th Annual UAV Convention - Quantico, Virginia**

**October 21, 22 and 23**

**The National Museum of the Marine Corps**



**Support our Brothers and Sisters who defend Ukraine!**

**СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!**

**ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!**