

UAV TRIBUNE

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www.uavets.org



Dear Fellow Ukrainian American Veterans,

year comes conclusion I would like to wish all the blessings of Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ and a sincere wish for health, wealth, and happiness in the New Year!

Ihor B. Rudko UAV NC

The UAV has just successfully completed its 74th Convention held at Quantico Marine Corp base. Delegates voted on numerous resolutions, most important of which were changes designed to build membership. As productive as this year was, we are challenging all of you to an even busier year. The following reflects business placed before us:

Attendance at the Annual Ukrainian Veterans Forum, Ukrainian Ministry of Veterans Affairs has an open invitation to the UAV to attend this forum during each third week of August. We are to be provided topics for discussion and to solicit knowledgeable individuals to do the presentations.

Marine Corps Marathon - The Marathon is held annually during the third week of October. Post 26 Washington DC is now formally organized and I would like to task them to organize UAV involvement.

Convention Planning – The convention for 2022, our 75th, will be held in Philadelphia, PA. Further information to be provide as it becomes available.

Exploration of creating posts in Minneapolis, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Phoenix.

We are still currently working with the Ukrainian Ministries of Defense and Veterans Affairs in providing a list of needed equipment. We are also continuing our efforts in providing training to Ukrainian specialists in dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury and resolving Ukraine's issue with allowing severely

wounded Ukrainian soldiers to obtain medical treatment at U.S. Military medical facilities.

We are a Veteran Service Organization, and our efforts include maintaining our Ukrainian Heritage and strengthening the bond of our service by supporting our veterans and the men and woman currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and our ancestral Ukrainian Homeland.

Our current membership is around 500, of this number roughly 60 members take an active role and accomplish what you see before you. If we could get half of that number to take an active role our efforts would be tenfold greater. I encourage every one of you to take part, I need to hear from you. I need your No "After Action" suggestions, ideas, and criticism.

We have also not forgotten the needs of our aging veteran community, especially at this time of the year. Let's not forget their sacrifices and remember to show our gratitude before they become just a memory. God Bless our Heroes! You, all of those before us, and those that are currently serving are a reminder that freedom is not free, it comes at a high price.

Ihor Rudko **UAV** National Commander





З Різдвом Христовим! З Новим роком!



Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

700 North Cedar Road Jenkintown, PA 19046

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Ihor Rudko National Commander

Post Commanders 2021 - 2023

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NJ: Michael P. Hrycak - 908-531-8800 MichaelHrycak@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCING

Save-The-Date

The 75th Annual UAV Convention will be held in Philadelphia on October 13 - 15, 2022. More information will be printed in our June, 2022 Issue.

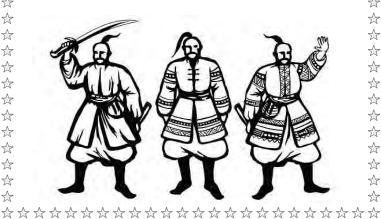
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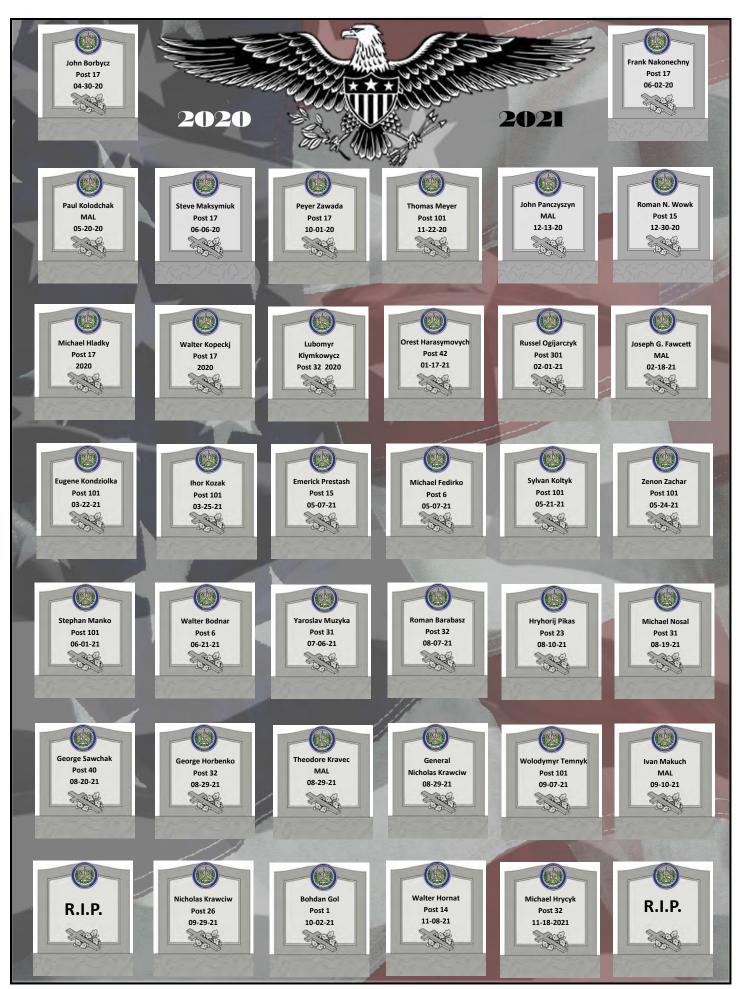
Post 32 Chicago is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year.

A gala evening of dinner and dancing will be held on May 7, 2022.

Please support our UAV booth during Festivals in \(\frac{1}{2} \) New York July 9, 2022 & Connecticut

Question: What is the most popular first name in our **Master UAV Membership list?**







74th Annual Convention National Executive Board Reports



Ihor Rudko – National Commander

Due to COVID -19 restrictions my activities were limited to internet and telephonic engagements. Most notable were as follows:

PTSD/TBI Project – Participated in numerous Zoom conversations regarding this Project. Participants were the UAV Project Team, VA participants, and the Ukrainian project team.

UWW Project – numerous telephonic engagements with Col. Humeniuk resulting in his distribution of a revised list of wounded soldiers. Nothing has changed in Ukraine's position regarding the funding of the per diem as required by the Secretariat Designee Program. Col. Humeniuk informed me of the appointment of the new Minister of Ukrainian Veterans Affairs, Yulia Laputina. The Verkhovna Rada confirmed her appointment on 12-18-20. The Colonel Also informed me of his pending rotation this coming June.

Zoom conference call with the Ukrainian Ministry of Veterans Affairs (UMoVA), initially with Oleksiy Illiashenko, Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine on European Integration.

An initial call established a scheduled call with the Minister of UMoVA, Lilia Laputina and Oleksiy Illiashenko. The topics for discussion follow:

Status of UMoVA's request to US VA for PTSD assistance

State Department Task Order

Kyiv Veterans Forum

Marine Corps Marathon

PTSD/TBI

The UWWP

Chaplaincy Project

Follow up call with Ihor Bezkaravainyi (Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs - Medical Welfare Issues. This subject call resulted in my receipt of a draft letter on 4/20/21 from UMoVA in which they make no mention of PTSD or TBI. I requested their explanation for their omission and am still waiting for a response.

Consulted with Oksana Kolyada (past UMinVetA) on various Ukrainian Veterans issues, notably PTSD/TBI, also consulted on our 75th Anniversary coin project.

Participated with the MAL Zoom meeting.

Attended meeting at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington DC. Attendees at the meeting were:

Ihor Rudko - UAV National Commander
Michael Hrycak - UAV Judge Advocate
Carl Harvey - Post 33 Commander
Myron Melnyk - Ukrainian Wounded Warrior Project Chair
Major General Borys Kremenetskyi - Defense Attaché
Colonel Volodymyr Humeniuk - Air Attaché
Lt Colonel Oleksandr Rozhkov - Senior Assistant Defense Attaché
Ambassador Oksana Markarova

(reports continued)

George Horbenko - Adjutant (deceased)

Matthew Wroblewski - Vice Commander

We currently have a roster of 43 MAL's. Seven are new and one returnee. We also held 4 Zoom meetings.

Ihor Hron, PNC - Interim Finance Officer

I assumed the role of interim National Finance Officer late September 2020. Our accounts are in good order. I expect to see a permanent Finance Officer to be elected during this upcoming convention. There are no outstanding bills as of October 18,2021.

Please excuse my absence from our Annual Convention. Health issues preclude my attendance. Wishing you a successful and productive Convention.

Michael Hrycak - Judge Advocate

I participated in several Wounded Ukrainian Soldier Project teleconferences with Cdr. Ihor Rudko, Co-chairs Myron Melnyk and Carl Harvey, and COL Volodymyr Humeniuk, Air Attache, Ukrainian Embassy. I also attended telephone conversations regarding the new Ukrainian Veterans PTSD Treatment Project, chaired by PNC Matt Koziak and UAV Auxiliary Commander Oksana Koziak, as well as Cdr. Ihor Rudko and Post 33 Commander Carl Harvey. Participated in several discussions, including zoom call with Minister of Veteran Affairs of Ukraine, Laputyna, on March 18, 2021. I also worked with UAV Monument Chairman Matt Koziak, who has retained a contractor to finish the Monument Plaza. I drafted and had the contractor and PNC Matt Koziak execute contract on March 23, 2021, and March 30, 2021, with PNC Anna Krawczuk and PNC Matt Koziak who confirmed the work at the National Monument, in person. I also traveled to Washington, DC, to attend a meeting with Ambassador Markarova, with Commander Ihor Rudko, and Post 33 Commander Carl Harvey, and VSO Myron Melnyk, on 28 July 2021. I was involved in several meetings with Colonel Humeniuk, Air Attache, Ukrainian Embassy, regarding Ukrainian Veterans and Defense Ministry matters. I attended the Quarterly National Executive Board Zoom meeting on 5 August 2021.

On 10 August 2021, Commander Ihor Rudko and I attended a meeting with Minister Yulia Laputina, Minister of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine, with 2LT Brandon Hrycak, at the Ukrainian Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, DC, where we were personally invited to attend the Veterans Forum in Kyiv. Commander Ihor Rudko and I traveled to Kyiv, Ukraine from 21 to 26 August 2021, to attend the 22 August 2021 Veterans Forum, Flag Day on 23 August 2021, 30th Independence Day parade on 24 August 2021, visited Askold's Grave to render honors to Markian Paslawsky, Post 17 patron, on 25 August 2021, as well as the Military Hospital in Kyiv. I attended the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America program Ukraine at 30 at the Ukrainian Institute, 2 E. 79th St., NY, NY, on 18 September 2021. I attended a book presentation of War Rules at the invitation of MG (Ret.) Volodymyr Havrylov, at the Ukrainian Education and Cultural Center, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania on 28 September 2021. Ihor Rudko and I attended the 30th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence at the invitation of Ambassador Markarova at the Ukraine House, Washington, DC, on 30 September 2021.

Stephen Kostecki - Quartermaster

There were 4 online orders taken this quarter and we hope this will increase. We will have a presence at the NY and CT major festivals. Our inventory will be increased in anticipation of greater activity due to our milestone 75th anniversary in 2022.

Marian Bojsiuk - Service Officer/Chaplain

During the convention, I will discuss some changes that the VA has coming. Some good, some bad.

Roman Stefaniuk - Welfare Officer

We were able to help many UAV members this year. Our Welfare Fund exists to assist any of our members who find themselves in dire circumstances where a grant of \$1,200 could be a lifeline. We awarded 16 grants and one loan to active UAV members, their widows or other relatives.

Nicholas Skirka - Scholarship Officer

The fundraising letter of 2021 Scholarship awards was mailed in November 2021. We submitted this article, with photos, for publication to the Ukrainian Weekly and our UAV web site. A total of 12 students applied for the UAV scholarships this year, including two graduate students. We received enough donations to allow us to give various grants to all these applicants.

Undergraduates interested in applying for a Scholarship Award should be full time, fill out an application, write an essay covering one of five topics, include college schedule/transcript and email a digital head photo. Students can apply when graduating in their senior year from high school. College attendance will be verified before the awards are given in the fall semester.

Graduate students who apply need to send a graduate college schedule/transcript for attendance verification, write an essay on one of five topics and email a digital head photo. Undergraduates can apply four times and part/full time graduate students can apply two times. Applications are available on the UAV website: www.uavets.org.

To be eligible for a UAV scholarship, applicants must be descendants or relatives of Ukrainian American Veterans and show they were a UAV member. Matriculated undergraduate and graduate students must be registered in a degree program. Moreover, students from accredited trade schools or institutions that are registered in a degree program are eligible. Applications are accepted all year around but end on August 31st of each year.

Edward A. Zetick, PNC - Historian

There is no significant activity to report as Historian during the 4th quarter. No new materials were received. I continue to inventory and classify archival materials but mostly, I serve as custodian of our records. During the past more than 18 months, I have from time to time been working from home when possible. My home office serves as the storage site of our many bankers boxes full of UAV materials, which include photographs, NEB meeting minutes, Tribunes, convention journals, and other papers, certificates, and materials from posts which ceased to operate or became dormant. Since I have been spending time near the UAV historical materials, I can report that we have much to preserve for the future.

After informal discussions with veterans and others, I proposed the following for consideration:

- 1. Plastic storage containers replace all paper/cardboard boxes containing source documents.
- 2. The most critical documents must be digitized, preferably by a commercial company, or by someone with access to good, high speed, equipment.
- 3. A local committee needs to be organized to assist with the classification and inventory work.
- 4. A budget for the project needs to be established with a line for draws as necessary from the National UAV treasury or a grant of seed money.
- 5. After the scope of work required and determination of monetary needs, perhaps a fundraising campaign would be established.

Bohdan Dudycz - PR/Publications Officer

The 2021 Convention Journal has been printed and made available at our banquet. It featured 44 total pages which was about 4-8 pages below average. The cost of mailing the Tribunes to our members will increase due to a rise in postal rates. Next year our organization will celebrate its 75th anniversary. The convention will be held in Philadelphia on October 13 - 15, 2022.

More information will be printed in our June 2022 Issue. Due to the attrition of our membership this year, several of our posts are undergoing a reorganization and initiating strong recruitment measures. We will report further information in our June issue of the Tribune.

<u>Mathew Koziak</u> – Monument Officer

The UAV Monument Plaza is progressing slowly due to the current backlog on granite delivery. Our focus has been on designing and placement of benches on the plaza which will be paid for by donors who will have their names displayed on a sponsored bench.

(Reports continued)

Peter Bencak – Wounded Ukrainian Warriors – Rehab Fund

On August 20, 2021, John Steciw and Peter Bencak traveled to Lviv, Ukraine to visit the Lviv Military Hospital, to see the equipment that was purchased through our fundraising efforts. The visit was delayed by a year due to the Covid Pandemic. We met with the hospital director and the two doctors overseeing the rehabilitation and interviewed them. We are in the process of putting together a story of our efforts. Once finalized, it will be published in the UAV Tribune and Ukrainian Weekly and other magazines.

It should be noted that the money for the trip was paid for by Post 32 and did not come out of the Humanitarian Rehab Fund.

This is an update on the UAV Humanitarian – Rehab project that was started under my command as National Commander in 2018. I am pleased that we have been able to provide the Lviv Military Hospital with some of the equipment they had requested. Here is the breakdown of the money raised and what has been purchased and paid for so far.

One (1) Rehabilitation Unit MOTOmed viva2 for Legs and Arms.	Cost \$ 8,780.00
One (1) Ceiling Hoist GH1 175kg	Cost \$ 5,940.00
Ten (10) Medical Electric Bed Sets	Cost \$11,490.00
Ten (10) Cabinets for bed sets	Cost \$ 2,990.00
One (1) Standing Frame Easy Stand Evolv Large	Cost \$ 8,720.00

Money Raised	\$53	,113.89
Equipment Purchased		
Bank Transfer Fees		
Balance	\$15	,058.00

The Lviv doctors are requesting additional equipment and once I receive the official request, the committee will meet and review the cost associated. The National Executive Committee, under the direction of current National Commander Ihor Rudko, has approved the establishment of a National Humanitarian Fund to address future fundraising Humanitarian efforts.

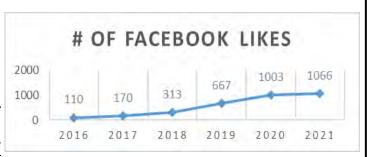
Joe Nasevich - UAV National Webmaster

UAV website is essentially in maintenance mode; there have

been no major updates this year.

Analytics (1 November 2020 through 21 Oct 2021). Visits: 412 Nov; 560 Dec; 270 Jan 2021; 291 Feb; 356 Mar; 362 Apr; 370 May; 303 Jun; 380 Jul; 369 Aug; 275 Sep; 251 Oct

Facebook—Roman Makuch, Vice Commander for NY, has been maintaining the UAV Facebook page since August 2017. https://www.facebook.com/



UkrainianAmericanVeterans/

The UAV Facebook page has 1066 page "likes" and 1163 "followers" as of 21 Octobert 2021, both of which are nominally higher than last quarter. If you have something that you would like posted on the UAV Facebook page please send it to Roman Makuch at <u>n2uck@yahoo.com</u>.

YouTube—UAV YouTube video channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNFzQ91hJk1eq-G9NInA7Cw

All UAV-related email and requests to update the UAV website should be sent to the UAV Webmaster at uavwebmaster@gmail.com

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS HOLD 74TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publications Officer

Photo submitted by: Olena Halkowycz

The Ukrainian American Veterans met at Quantico Marine base, Quantico Virginia for its annual convention on October 21-23, 2021. Better known as the "UAV", delegates representing 20 posts, currently from New York to Illinois, gathered at Quantico to discuss important policies, accomplishments, goals, and the election of new UAV national Board members.

The Covid19 virus has been a scourge to every organization since 2020, including the UAV. National Commander Ihor Rudko said "This virus has put a pall over our country and forced our citizens into isolation and quarantine. We shelved many of our programs but continued our community service by communicating through social media. In fact, last year's convention was virtual and modest when compared to previous gatherings.

During the past year our organization lost nearly 40 members due to various ailments that were not connected to the Covid Virus. Even while under this duress, the UAV continued aiding veterans through our critical programs.

Many young people received scholarships and members who found themselves in dire straits received monetary assistance. Veterans helped in presenting colors at public events and honoring veterans at their funerals. UAV commitments to Ukrainian soldiers who needed rehabilitation through loss of limbs have been met and more help is on its way.

Discussions on our Humanitarian efforts, welfare grants and the updating of By-Laws resulted in anticipated positive changes. Future goals and policies that will be part of UAV's 2022-2023 continuing agenda will be published when appropriate. The final convention agenda item was the formal election of a new UAV Executive board.

Informational presentations were made by

Ms. Yulia Laputina, Minister of Ukrainian Veterans Affairs

Ms. Oksana Kolyada, Past Minister of Ukrainian Veterans Affairs

Mr. James Sanders, National Cemetery Administration

Mr. Keith Hancock, Veterans Benefits

The convention concluded with a modest banquet where the new Executive Board was sworn in for the 2022-2023 term.

The new UAV Executive Board members are proud to serve in their respective offices. Collectively they invite all American Veterans of Ukrainian ancestry to join them. The UAV has 20 Posts and many Members-at-Large. For more membership information contact:

Vice Commander Matt Wroblewski 586-755-9575, mwroblewski@comcast.net or Publications Officer Bohdan Dudycz 224-456-8944, uavpublicity@gmail.com.

The new 2022-2023 Ukrainian American Veterans National Executive Board

Pictured on page 9, 3rd row center group photo. From left (First row): Welfare Officer Roman Stefaniuk, Chaplain Marian Bojciuk, National Commander Ihor Rudko, Adjutant John Steciw, Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki. From Left (second row) Publications/PR Officer Bohdan Dudycz, Vice Commander Matt Wroblewski, Finance Officer Peter Bencak, Mathew Koziak, Roman Makuch, Monument Officer LTG Leonid Kondratiuk, Judge Advocate Michael Hrycak, Historian Edward Zetick. Not pictured are Scholarship Officer Nicholas Skirka, Webmaster Joe Nasevich and President of the Ladies Auxiliary Oksana Koziak.



MAJOR GENERAL NICHOLAS KRAWCIW, U.S. ARMY, RET.

It is with great sadness Ukrainian American Veterans Post 26 mourns the passing on 29 September 2021 of brother-in-arms Major General (MG) Nicholas S. H. Krawciw, born in Lviv 28 November 1935. He was born to Bohdan and Neonila Krawciw, in Lviv, Galicia, Poland (present-day Ukraine). His family moved to Germany during World War II and to the United States in 1949. As a youth, Krawciw grew up in a Ukrainian-American community in Philadelphia and spoke the Ukrainian language. He was a member of Plast, a Ukrainian scouting organization, and attended the Bordentown Military Institute. He entered the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1955, where he played varsity soccer, became a cadet regimental commander, and was in the graduating class of 1959. Krawciw earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy and later received a Master of Science degree in international relations from George Washington University.

Military career

Krawciw was one of the first members of his class to go to Vietnam and was severely wounded in an ambush. After recuperating, Captain Krawciw commanded a cavalry troop at



Fort Hood where he co-invented an advanced armor system for ground vehicles, a composite system similar to that later incorporated into tank design.

Following a tour in the Tactical Department at West Point, Major Krawciw returned to Vietnam as S-3 of the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry. During a year of intense fighting along the DMZ, Nick was awarded three Silver Stars and was instrumental in devising new tactics and counter measures that frustrated a tenacious enemy.

Major Krawciw was sent to Israel in 1972 as the Chief Operations Officer for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. As a new lieutenant colonel, he produced intelligence reports before the Yom Kippur War that led to a personal commendation from the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Abrams.

Krawciw commanded the 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in 1974, and later served at Headquarters, United States Army, Europe. Following a year as a Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford, Colonel Krawciw was assigned to the Training and Doctrine Command as Director of Concepts and Doctrine in combat development. Here, his work on maneuver doctrine revolutionized the way the army fought, was organized, and was trained. Krawciw's ideas influenced victories in Operation Just Cause, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and many important but smaller contingencies.

In 1979, Colonel Krawciw returned to Germany to command the 1st Brigade of the 3rd Armored Division. Back home after two years in command, Krawciw was nominated by the Army Chief of Staff to attend the Senior Seminar of the Department of State. In 1982, he was assigned to the army staff and then as Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Promoted to Brigadier General, Krawciw returned to Germany in 1984 as Assistant Division Commander of the 3rd Infantry Division and then Executive Officer to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. In 1987, Major General Krawciw assumed command of the 3rd Infantry Division. His final active-duty assignment was Director of NATO Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 1989 to 1990. Krawciw retired from the army on July 1, 1990.

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(Continued from page 10)

Post military

Since he spoke Ukrainian fluently, Krawciw was urged by the United States Department of Defense to become involved in assisting the newly independent Ukraine to establish political freedom and a marketplace economy. With the approval of the U.S. government, Krawciw met with Ukrainian officials and agreed to help them set up a not-for-profit, non-governmental political science institute.

At the behest of the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army and the Undersecretary of Defense, Krawciw and his wife Christina moved to Ukraine in 1992 where, for a year, he worked to reorganize, educate, and restructure the Ukrainian military on Western lines. Beginning in 1993, as a consultant to the Secretary of Defense on Ukrainian matters, and later as Secretary of Defense Senior Military Representative to Ukraine, Krawciw was largely responsible for converting the Ukrainian Armed Forces from a communist army that was feared throughout Europe to one that now has democratic standards.

The country had not governed itself in 300 years, so there was no body of law, no democratic tradition, and a military organized on the totalitarian model with corresponding values. Krawciw assisted in professional development, including ethics, guided reduction of forces to appropriate levels, and identified sound leaders. Progress was slow and difficult, but ultimately effective.

The culmination of his efforts was the refusal of the Ukrainian Army to disperse the Orange Revolution demonstration that ultimately overturned the fraudulent election of 2004, thus justifying the years of dedicated effort Krawciw and other American officers had spent to achieve a democratic Army in Ukraine. Some of the programs Krawciw organized or participated in were Operation Peace Shield and Operation Sea Breeze.

Krawciw was instrumental in establishing educational exchange programs with the Ukrainian military, devoting many hours to sponsoring and escorting both military and civilian groups from Ukraine around the United States.

In 1995, in addition to his work with Ukraine, Krawciw began 10 years service as President of The Dupuy Institute; and became Chairman of the Board. Under Nick's leadership, the institute, dedicated to scholarly analysis of military historical trends, expanded its activity.

His first oath, was to God and Ukraine. Joining Plast, a Ukrainian Scouting Organization, resulted in lifelong service, he belonged to the Fraternity "Lisovi Chorty".

MG Krawciw's funeral was held on 18 November 2021 at 1330 at USMA, West Point, New York.

FAREWELL TO A DEAR FRIEND AND PATRIOT

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of George Horbenko, age 71 (Chicago, Illinois), who passed away on August 29, 2021. He was loved and cherished by many people. A devoted husband to his wife Helen and loving father to his children, grandchildren, siblings and extended family. George was a US Army Veteran and a community asset. He was a member of the American Legion and the Ukrainian American Veterans where he rose to the responsible position of National Adjutant. Locally he was a member of the Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32 Chicago. George also held the office of Secretary on the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian National Museum. George will be remembered as a gentle soul who loved comradery and socializing with people from the old neighborhood. His favorite activity was the game of golf. The rest of his foursome will miss his laughter and the way he kept score. Interment with Military Honors were held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL



(L to R) Michael J. Dobransky, AAA Outfitters guides, Brent Jones and Roger Morris.

In the picture, please note the green grass in the mouth of the bear. The placement of a bough branch or grass into the mouth of a downed trophy big game animal is a centuries old tradition throughout Europe. This is meant to respect and symbolize the animal's last meal. Also note the green grass in the right side of my Alpine Austrian hat. This signifies I had been successful in downing a big game animal and thusly, able to receive congratulations from other hunters. This is done with a hearty, "Waidmanns Heil!!" which means, Hail to the hunter in German to which I would proudly reply, "Waidmanns Dank."

MY DREAM HUNT!!!!

Submitted by: Commander Michael J. Dobransky, Post 43

Many years ago, I was drawn to the sport of wild game hunting. When I was 12-14 years old while "plinking off" squirrels and cotton-tail rabbits with my .22, I imagined being able to hunt for the Alaskan Brown Bear, the most vicious and dangerous big game animal in North America. This dream persisted throughout my life as I grew older, especially while reading the many bear hunting stories in hunting magazines. During my middle years, I relocated and spent many years in Europe on East European assignments for Kraft Foods based in Belgium, Yugoslavia, and Austria, and still my Brown Bear dream persisted. I hunted very often while living/working in Europe for the Roe Deer, Chamois, Mountain Red Stag (Hirsch) and most often of all, the European wild boar.

Inasmuch as I had lived and hunted in much of Europe for over 30 years, as an homage to great European huntsmen, I wear the traditional typical hunting attire of practically all Austrian and Hungarian hunters. This unique style and special hunting attire were made popular in the late 1800's and early 1900's throughout the European aristocracy by Kaiser Franz Josef of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. Today, this special style attire is traditionally worn by big game hunters in most countries of Central Europe.

In 1984, I was asked to manage and lead our Alaska business as General Manager and I agreed. Kraft Foods then packed and shipped me with my household goods from Novi Sad, (Vojvodina/Serbia) Yugoslavia to Anchorage, Alaska.

Work related issues plus special projects took preference and it was over 2 years before I could free up some time and book a 10-day Alaskan Brown Bear hunt. This was in May 1986 in Cold Bay, the very tip of the Alaskan peninsula jutting out westward into the Pacific and Bering Sea. I booked with Brent Jones and Roger Morris of AAA Outfitters, and I was accompanied by another hunter, Karl Kliem from Frankfurt, Germany.

After a 90-minute flight from Anchorage to Cold Bay, Karl and I were met upon arrival by the outfitter and had to hurry getting our gear into the inflatable pontoon boat to cross the Bay as a storm was forecast. We made it across the Bay (45 min.) through some "white caps" going over us at the end soaking us to the skin. Quickly, we brought our gear inland 150 meters to the camp and tent which were on top of a small knoll. After we changed into dry clothes, I grabbed my special bottle of "Oetscherguisst" (wild berry Austrian schnapps) and walked down to the small creek to chill the schnapps in the snow cold water. You guessed it!! I stumbled and fell on the side of the creek and the broken bottle of schnapps I brought halfway across the world, disappeared with the flowing water. What a ridiculous incident to start my dream hunt and hoped it was not a bad omen.

In the morning, we all started glassing from the camp knoll with binoculars and spotting scopes the sides of a huge bowl in the mountains all day, day after day searching for bears coming out of hibernation. When a good bear was sighted, we went out to stalk the bear, crawling through thick willow bushes and tall dead grass. Even though it was early May, snow was still around on much of the slopes, hills and mountains.

Karl and I took turns stalking the bears with our guides as they were sighted, which were 1-2 bears a day. Some were small and too young, and some were old enough, but had already rubbed off portions of their fur pelt and not good trophies, thus were turned down.

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This continued for 5 days as we really lucked out with clear weather. Then on the 6th day, one of the guides Roger Morris, got up from his glassing position and went to the rear of the camp to relieve himself. He rushed back to tell us there was a good-sized bear feeding on fresh green grass about 300 meters up the rear slope. It was now my turn for the stalk!!!

My guide Brent and I walked off through the lower willows and up the slope to get a closer look plus a clear shot away from the willows. We closed the distance rapidly and got within 100 meters of the bear and both glassed for another 5 minutes to ensure there were not any rubbed out sections on his pelt. Brent said get into position and take him!!! I quickly placed the bear in my sight, settled the cross hairs of the scope on his front shoulder and slowly squeezed the hair trigger of my Sauer .300 Winchester Magnum. The bear reacted immediately after being hit and kept trying to bite his shoulder and in the process, circled around 2-3 times. He then started running downhill directly towards us and Brent yelled for me to shoot again. By this time, the bear was around 50 meters away and still running, turned slightly to the right, thus providing me with a good broadside target. I quickly shot again and heard the "whomp" impact of the bullet, but he continued to run into a small gully and could not be seen. Brent again yelled to get ready to shoot again when he comes out of the gully and to keep shooting until he drops!!! At this time my heart was really pounding, but I clearly remembered I did not have "the shakes." Nevertheless, I kept the rifle to my shoulder aiming towards the gully prepared to shoot again, when we heard a loud roar from the bear and I thought holy hell, here he comes!!! Brent said that sounded like a "death roar" but to hold my rifle up and keep shooting fast until he drops. There was an uneasy silence for about 10 minutes before Brent said he would go down the hill and walk up the gully with his rifle. He again instructed me to keep that rifle ready to shoot immediately. I nervously waited alone to shoot again for well over 30 minutes before I heard Brent yell out, "Michael, you got him and he's dead." I slowly made my way down into the gully and there he was, my Alaskan Brown Bear dream trophy, lying stretched out on his belly in the light brown grass.

He was not the typical all dark brown bear, but instead had a unique blond colored fur pelt with white "snowball ears" occasionally seen on the inland, but smaller silver tipped grizzly bears. We took several trophy pictures and then began the arduous task of skinning the bear. After it was skinned and the pelt removed, we examined the bullet entries, where it was shown that my first bullet had splintered by hitting a small sapling branch before hitting the top of his shoulder with a non-lethal hit. The second shot, while running downhill, hit the bear in the vital mid lung section and was lethal. I was thankful for my many years of wild boar hunting in Europe which made me quite proficient in successfully downing fast moving wild boars. The bear's fur pelt final measurement squared 8 feet 4 inches. He was judged to be 7-8 years old and estimated live weight was around 700 pounds. Finally, since this had been my dream for so many years, I decided to have a full standing live mount made of my trophy Alaskan Brown Bear which currently stands in the far corner of the TV room of my home in Johnson City, NY.

FROM OUR QUARTERMASTER'S EMPORIUM

Please note that shipping rates have increased, and delivery times are longer.

A Veteran can order through the Web site Quartermaster store with a credit card. We are also using PayPal.

Spring and Sumer is approaching, and everyone should check their Summer uniform. If you need to update or replace Summer uniform items, US Flag pins or patches or a UAV large patch, place your order early. Any questions please contact Quartermaster Kostecki (see page 19, this issue).



There are still UAV challenge coins and presentation boxes available. This year we hope to have festivals in New York and Connecticut and if you plan to attend, visit our booth. Please, always support the Ukrainian American Veterans.

Saga of the Polar Bear Regiment: Ukrainian Americans Fight the Bolsheviks

Submitted by: PNC Len Kondratiuk



339th Infantry Regiment (United States)
American Expeditionary Force, North
Russia. Freely translated it may be
rendered "The Bayonet Decides".

Those of us who served in the Cold War Army remember the expression "When the Balloon Goes Up" meaning when the Soviet Army was to invade West Germany. In the back of our minds we expected to fight Russians and Ukrainians serving in the Soviet Army. From September 1918 to May 1919, Ukrainian American soldiers actually fought the Red Army in North Russia. The story of the 339th Infantry Regiment and the American Expeditionary Force, North Russia is not well known. It was the first time in U.S. military history that the US Army engaged the Red Army in combat.

During World War I, draftee divisions were activated on a regional basis with draftees coming from one or more states. The 85th Division was composed of draftees from Michigan and Wisconsin. The 85th consisted of three field artillery regiments and four infantry regiments. The 339th Infantry Regiment was composed of men from Detroit and surrounding towns.

The 339th Infantry Regiment, with a strength of 3,500 men, was activated 31 August 1917 at Camp Custer, near Battle Creek, Michigan. There were several hundred Ukrainian Americans assigned to the 339th. Most were born in Ukraine, immigrated to the U.S. and settled in Detroit. During the fall and winter of 1917-1918, the 339th was in training preparing to deploy to France. However, many 339th soldiers were transferred as fillers for divisions deploying in the early summer of 1918. Finally, the 339th received orders to deploy and arrived in England in early August.

When the 85th Division arrived in France it was broken up and its soldiers sent to other divisions as replacements. The 339th Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 310th Engineers were selected for a special mission. Both units were assigned to deploy to Arkhangelsk, Russia. The British had convince President Woodrow Wilson to send the 339th to Russia, along with British, Canadian and French troops, to hold the port for the arrival of the Czech Legion. The Allies were to serve as occupation troops. The real reason was to seize North Russia as a new front to reorganize White Russian units for the war against Germany.

The 339th Infantry and supporting units arrived in Arkhangelsk on 4 September 1918. The 339th was dispersed by battalion supporting other Allied units along a 450 mile front. Some positions were over 200 miles from the Allied headquarters and supply point in Arkhangelsk. It turned out to be too large an area for the Allies to hold from the advancing Sixth and Seventh Red Armies.

Serving alongside the Americans and British were unreliable White Russian Army units. Ukrainian Americans were the only Americans able to speak to their White Russian counterparts as well as to Bolshevik prisoners. PVT Frank Stepnavski was one of the Ukrainian Americans assigned as an interpreter at regimental headquarters. Other Ukrainian Americans served as interpreters on the frontline.

American soldiers had to fight not only the Bolsheviks but disease as well. The Spanish flu affected nearly all and dysentery was prevalent. PVT Andrei Keicz of Detroit was the first Ukrainian American to die of disease on 13 September. PVT Peter Kudzka, assigned to Company B and a Chicago resident, was one of the first KIA when his unit engaged the Bolsheviks on 20 September. Other Ukrainian Americans died of disease and were KIA during the fall of 1918 into the winter of 1919.

The Red Army was always on the attack against the badly outnumbered Allied forces. The 339th Infantry occupied blockhouses and defensive fighting positions. The Bolsheviks, called Bolos by the American doughboys, were generally well-equipped, some units were better-trained then others. They wore white coveralls to blend in with the snow. Red artillery provided good support. American olive drab uniforms stood out in the snow.

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Both the Allies and Reds had to deal with deep snow and extreme cold weather. The temperature was always below zero with temperatures as low as 45 below zero. Keeping water-cooled machine guns firing in the cold was a serious issue. A narrow gage railroad was operated by the US Army Transportation Corps. SGT Nicholas Ozarchuk of Hamtramck and PVT Andriy Woytuk kept the trains running that brought the 339th ammo and supplies to the front.

Companies A, C and D, 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry fought the largest and fiercely contested action of the campaign at Shenkursk. Leaning forward in their fighting positions were Privates Frank Holub of The 339th infantry returned to Camp Custer in mid-July and were discharged on Menominee, Michigan, George Keschick and his



22 July 1919. The 339th veterans were welcomed back by Detroit.

brother Peter who was later killed, Peter Kurylo, Alex Kyko and Walter Szymczak. From 18 January to 24 January 1919, the Americans, supported by Canadian artillery, initially held but were forced to slowly give ground as they fought thousands of Bolsheviks. The Reds incurred heavy casualties from American small arms and machine gun fire as well as Canadian artillery fire. The 339th was forced to fall back 20 miles to new defensive positions.

Along the Allied front were companies of the 2d and 3d Battalions, 339th Infantry who also engaged the Bolsheviks. Manning the frontline positions were Privates George Chopchuk, Vincenty Grezelak, Paul Jurczyk, George Kanuuk, Frank Kaszuba, Paul Kondracyk (Kondratiuk), John Kostuk, George Kowalcyk, John Korchnak, George Krawchuk, George Kyak, Leo Sajnaj, C. Stemczyk, Mike Zlotcha and CPL Stephen Stempczynsk who was awarded the Silver Star. All were from Detroit.

President Wilson informed GEN John J. Pershing in March 1919 to begin withdrawing the 339th Infantry. However, it was not until June when the 339th was relieved by British units. The Polar Bear Regiment was glad to leave Russia. They had been drafted to fight Germans not Russians. The 339th Infantry incurred 553 casualties including 225 who died either in combat or from disease including several of the 50 to 100 Ukrainian Americans assigned to the 339th.

The 339th infantry finally returned to Camp Custer in mid-July and were discharged on 22 July 1919. The 339th veterans were recognized and welcomed back by Detroit. The regiment had adopted a polar bear as its logo. The 339th Infantry memorial is called the Polar Bear Memorial, at the White Chapel Cemetery in Troy, Michigan.



The 339th Infantry was reorganized in Detroit in 1921 in the Army Reserve. The 339th serves today as a training regiment. In 1924 it was issued its regimental distinctive insignia which consists of a polar bear with the motto in Russian "stuk ryshayet" literally translated as "the bayonet decides." The 339th is the only unit in the US Army with a Russian motto. Not known was the gallant service of Detroit Ukrainian Americans.

US NAVAL TRAINING SEMINAR ABOUT UKRAINE

The UAV Post 32 Chicago once again participated in a one day seminar designed to provide some exposure, to US naval reservists, about Ukraine. The US Navy Reserve detachment of Commander, Naval Forces Europe / United States Sixth Fleet is based in Chicago. They support Sixth Fleet exercises including Sea Breeze, held annually in Odessa, Ukraine, with the next planned deployment for July 2022.

Many of their reserve unit sailors and officers have supported previous versions of Sea Breeze, and some will be new to the exercise and visiting Ukraine for the first time in 2022. Their monthly unit training activities in Chicago typically involve preparation for upcoming travel to Ukraine and specifically training for our support roles to carry out Sea Breeze with Ukrainian partners and other participating nations.

To begin the 2022 training cycle, they visited the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago and attended accompanying educational discussions on the afternoon of December 11, 2021. Specifically, their expectations were to enhance the cultural, historical, and political-military awareness of Ukraine among their unit members through this engagement. Topics of discussion included:

- 1. Historical overview with focus on 1991-2014
- 2. Political-military situation post 2014
- 3. Road map to NATO membership
- 4. Latest Ukraine Defense Strategy
- 5. Current status of the Armed Forces of Ukraine
- 6. Life and history of Ukrainian diaspora in the USA

The day began with a tour of the Ukrainian National Museum to showcase exhibits and artifacts dating to the late 17th century. The reservists were treated to a personalized tour lead by two singular docents, museum President Lydia Tkaczuk and museum Curator Maria Klimchak.

Following the tour a 3 hour session commenced where several individuals presented information about Ukraine pre and post 1992 where topics of interest were discussed and the day concluded with a Q & A session. Presenters for this session were:

The Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago Oleksandr Svystun The Ukrainian national Museum Curator Maria Klimchak UAV Publications/PR Officer Bohdan Dudycz UAV Adjutant John Steciw

The visiting US Naval Executive Officer Commander David Shaucis and the Exercise Executive Officer Andrew Kotila expressed a heartfelt thank you for our collective Ukrainian attention to their requests. We expect to see more of these educational seminars in the future.



US Naval Reserve unit sailors and officers



1/r: John Steciw, Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Post 32 Chicago

Україна

Seated front I/r: Voodymyr Stepaniak, Ihor Kotlarchuk. Back row I/r: Yaromyr Oryshkevych, Darian Diachok, Yuri Deychakiwsky and Bohdan Hetmansky

THE UAV WELCOMES A REVITALIZED POST 26 WASHINGTON D.C.

Submitted by: Yaromyr Oryshkevych

On Saturday, 20 November 2021, a dedicated Group of Ukrainian-American veterans Yuri Deychak, Volodymyr Stepaniak, Yaromyr Oryshkevych, met at Arlington National Cemetery. Their purpose was to lead D.C. area plastuny around ANC to honor Ukrainian-Americans buried there. The group stopped by, and honored, Orest Kaczmarskyj, Adam Moraczewski, Wasyl Rudyk, Michael Strank, Roman Pylypec, Stephan Domashewsky, Samuel Jaskilka, Roman Kupchinsky and Yuri Stepaniak.

After the Plast event, the three sojourners adjourned to "Ragtime", a local watering hole in Arlington, to await the arrival of other veterans. Even though several vets were unable to attend, Darian Diachok, Bohdan Hetmansky & Ihor Kotlarchuk joined the first three, gave the group a quorum, and the formal proceedings began. Since there were no officers (because no organization existed), the formal proceedings began with oath of loyalty, read by organization-designee Yaromyr Oryshkevych; as the phrase "willing to take the oath of obligation" was read, each vet responded individually "I am", including the reader. Everyone placed their right hand over their heart and repeated the oath. Once the oath was completed, each individual repeated "so help me God". This completed the induction, and all new members shook hands.

A proposition to at least nominate a post commander met with unanimity, and Yaromyr Oryshkevych was selected as interim Post Commander. He promised to keep everyone (members & every vet on the distribution) informed and hopes to have UAV post 26 participate in civic and embassy events, and invite other vets to join. A central location for meeting (since we are scattered in Virginia, Calvert county, Potomac, and Howard county) is the Dubliner, right next to our Holodomor memorial. Several members also suggested having meetings at homes. Previously, Orest Jowyk jokingly suggested a meeting at his farm, complete with your own ammunition and launchers. So now our goal is to encourage enough local UA vets to join UAV, and send our applications to HQ, and a check for \$70 to the quartermaster for a hat and pocket badge. More information about Post 26, including photographs will be forthcoming. (Editors note: Welcome to the UAV. Words cannot express our excitement at your being newly sworn-in brothers and sisters. We look forward to future press releases.)

POST 40 OF NORTH PORT FLORIDA CELEBRATE THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE - AUGUST 2021



l/r: Dr. Yurko Baranowskyj, Col. Roman Rondiak (US Army, Retired), Gene Tomashosky, Ihor W.Hron, Bohdan Hirniak, Stefan Dacio.

WORDS OF ADVICE MY DIDO GAVE ME

Lord, please give me patience, because if you give me strength, I'll need bail money too.

When it's time to fight, fight like you're the third monkey on the ramp to Noah's ark... and brother, it's starting to rain.

Don't blame a clown for being a clown. Just ask yourself why you keep going to the circus.

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.

Live, love, laugh. If that doesn't work then aim, load and fire.

Strong minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, weak minds discuss people.

Don't raise your voice. Improve your argument.

Don't care what anyone thinks of you. Except dogs, you always want dogs to like you.

Watch out for people who are always bragging about who they are. A lion will never have to tell you it's a lion.

You know you are Ukrainian when you eat bread with EVERYTHING.

You know you are Ukrainian when you say, "lets meet at 9" and you actually mean "I'll wake up at 9, take a shower, eat, watch tv and meet you at Noon".

You know you are Ukrainian if you stand around in circles of friends for an hour deciding what to do.

You know you're Ukrainian when at least 5 of your relatives are named Volodia, Yura, Olya, Oksana, Nataliya or Tanya

You know are Ukrainain if your grandma's gossip is faster than your cable internet connection.

You know you are Ukrainian when after leaving a restaurant, it actually means you're going outside to the parking lot to talk for another hour

Question: Are you a cat person or a dog person?





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

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









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



Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

8433 N. Clifton Ave. Niles, IL 60714-1803



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FOR THE UAV
Bring a Friend

Chef extraordinaire Adam Yurkiw Specialty—Varenyky

75th Annual UAV Convention—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania October 13, 14 and 15, 2022



Support our Brothers and Sisters who defend Ukraine! СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ! ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!