



UAV TRIBUNE

8433 N. Clifton Ave.
Niles, IL 60714



uav_tribune@att.net

www.uavets.org



Ihor B. Rudko UAV NC

on the UAV Website's Annual Convention page.

We have secured a block of forty rooms which you will be able to start reserving effective 16 June 2021. Management at Quantico has provided the following information regarding base access and you will be asked to observe the protocols established by Quantico management:

Special Base Access

All personnel requesting access to MCINCR-MCB Quantico MUST have an approved ID and be registered into the Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS), prior to being allowed access to the base. DoD issued ID cards (CAC - common access card & TESLIN - retiree, dependent, reserve, individual ready reserve) DO NOT require any action and will be automatically enrolled into DBIDS. All other approved ID's require registering that ID credential into DBIDS at the Visitor Control Center, or other approved site aboard the installation. There is no cost to the individual or company to register or obtain a base access credential. REFER TO: <https://www.quantico.marines.mil/Base-Access/>

Reminder:

The names of all delegates and alternates shall be filed with the National Executive Board at least thirty days prior to the National Convention. And a Post or State Department must submit their proposed amendments to the National Judge Advocate at least sixty days prior to the National Convention. I would also like to provide an update to some of our ambitious plans:

a. During a recent teleconference with Lilia Laputina, Minister of Ukrainian Veterans Affairs, the scheduled Veterans Forum in August has not been solidified. As

of this writing, Minister Laputina has not received the agenda from President Zelensky and I am not sure that we will have adequate time to organize our attendance.

b. The Marine Corps Marathon Organization (MCMO) has announced that the 2021 Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) Weekend will be held live and in-person this October 29 - 31 in Arlington, Virginia! The UAV stands ready to support our Ukrainian Wounded Warriors and are waiting for conformation of Ukraine's participation.

c. The PTSD/TBI efforts are ongoing with our goal to establish a Center of Excellence in Kyiv making slow progress.

d. The UWWP is an ongoing effort and we are planning to kick off, with your approval, the commencement of a second phase as a national UAV effort at the convention with a goal of continuing to support the Ukrainian Wounded Warriors with needed medical equipment.

e. The Chaplaincy Project is making slow progress, but has an increasing probability of coming to fruition. You will be briefed on this effort at the convention.

As previously noted, I remind you that the UAV National Welfare Fund is available if you need financial assistance. If you or your post members need financial assistance during the crisis, please remember that the UAV Welfare Fund is available to help members and their families. We know Ukrainians are proud and don't like to ask for help, but these are truly extraordinary times.

Please share all this important news with your post members.

God Bless and be safe,
and I hope to see you at our convention

Ihor Rudko
UAV National Commander





Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

44 Jurach Road
Colchester, CT 06415-2106

Ihor Rudko
National Commander



Post Commanders 2018 - 2020

Post 1 Philadelphia, PA - Edward A. Zetick, PNC
215-885-2826 - ezetick@gmail.com

Post 6 Newark, NJ - Michael Fedirko, PC
908-486-5543 - amfed1@aol.com

Post 14 Hartford, CT - Ihor B. Rudko, CTSC PC
860-705-1849 - irudko@rudko.com

Post 15 New Britain, CT - Emrick Prestash, PNC PC
860-677-9496 - No email: Send hard copy only

Post 17 Passaic, NJ - Nestor Nynka
973-933-4555 - nynkan@optonline.net

Post 19 Spring Valley, NY - William Szozda, NVC PC
845-920-8325 - wandjsz0@optimum.net

Post 23 Buffalo, NY - Markian Slabyk, PC
716-822-3643 - mslabyk@verizon.net

Post 24 Cleveland, OH - Roman Rakowsky, PNC, PC
440-476-1188 - roman.rakowsky1943@gmail.com

Post 25 Trenton, NJ - Gregory Posewa, PC
609-259-2763 - g.po@aol.com

Post 27 Brooklyn, NY - Peter Polnyj, NYSC PC
718-869-3634 - peterpolny@aol.com

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330-896-4166 - romankostiuk@yahoo.com

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610-972-3712 - uavpost42@gmail.com

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607-792-0334 - dobranskymichaelj@gmail.com

Post 101 Warren, MI - Matthew Wroblewski, PC
586-755-9575 - mwroblewski1@comcast.net

Post 301 Yonkers, NY - Nicholas Skirka, NSchol PC
914-965-3707 - nskirka@optonline.net

Member-At-Large - Matthew Wroblewski, UAV VC
586-755-9575 - uavvicecommander@gmail.com

State Commanders:

NY: Peter Polnyj - 718-869-3634
peterpolny@aol.com

CT: Ihor B. Rudko - 860-705-1849
irudko@rudko.com

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

ANNOUNCING

NEW PERMANENT ADDRESS

The National Executive Board would like to advise everyone that we have arranged to have our permanent mailing address changed to "The Ukrainian Educational & Cultural Center", Jenkintown PA. Our official address is as follows:

Ukrainian American Veterans
700 North Cedar Road
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Please make changes to your address books
and electronic media.



Always remember!

*"You are not fully dressed until you
put on a smile."*

Anonymous Dentist





Ukrainian American Veterans

74th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 21, 22, 23, 2021

Hosted by

UAV Executive Board

Ihor Rudko, National Commander



June, 2021

Commander Ihor Rudko
Convention Chairman
44 Jurach Rd.
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George Horbenko
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847-639-8425
horbenko@comcast.net

Dear Fellow UAV Member,

The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. (UAV) is a patriotic Veterans Service organization composed of Active Duty and Honorably Discharged Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, who are of Ukrainian heritage or descent. Our mission is to unite these American Veterans and we pledge to sustain the U.S. Constitution, government and laws of the United States. Given our background, the UAV serves a dual function in the public community: It is both an American Veterans Service organization and an ethnic Ukrainian organization.

The UAV National Executive Board is honored to host our 74th National Ukrainian American Veteran's Convention. Arrangements have been made for our convention to be held at the **Inns of the Corps Quantico – 3018 Russell Rd., Quantico, VA 22134**. The US Marine Corps has generously opened their camp for us to celebrate our association in the convention seminars and banquet.

In preparation for this event, we need to have a proper count of delegates and other attendees, so we are including forms for the convention in our Tribune and they are:

1. The Hotel Reservation instructions. (**PAGE 5**)
2. The Banquet Seating Reservation Form. (**PAGE 4**)
3. The Convention Journal Advertising application & Booster page. (**PAGES 6 & 7**)

The names of all delegates and alternates shall be filed with George Horbenko, National Adjutant at least thirty (30) days prior to the National Convention.

If you plan to attend, please complete the proper forms and return them to us as soon as you can. These forms are self-evident but please call or email me, Commander Ihor Rudko or Publications Officer Bohdan Dudycz if you need further assistance.

The expenses for this event are paid by benefactors with direct contributions or advertising in our Official Convention Journal. The Journal is a compilation of advertising submitted by our patrons. It will be available at our Convention and Banquet. All Delegates and Full page advertisers attending our banquet will receive a copy of the commemorative journal. Full page advertisers who do not attend the convention will have the journal mailed to them upon request.

We are asking for your support of the Ukrainian American Veterans by obtaining advertising for our Journal. The pricing is reasonable, and advertisements will be seen by hundreds of UAV members across our country. Please refer to the attached advertising agreement for specific rates and mailing instructions.

Finally, any UAV member who needs uniform items, please contact Steve Kostecki, our Quartermaster (page 22 in this issue of the Tribune) by **September 1, 2021**

We hope to see you at our Convention in October 21-22-23, 2021.

Best Regards,

Ihor Rudko

National Commander
Convention Chairman



Ukrainian American Veterans

74th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 21, 22, 23, 2021

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UAV Executive Board

Ihor Rudko, National Commander



UAV BANQUET RESERVATION

Due by September 30, 2021

Please reserve _____ tickets, at **\$75.00** per person, for the **UAV 74th Convention Banquet**

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2021

TIME: COCKTAIL HOUR AT 6:00 PM - DINNER AT 7:00 PM

PLACE: Quantico Officers Club - 3017 Russell Rd, Quantico, VA 22134

*Enclosed is my check, made payable to: **UAV 74th CONVENTION BANQUET** in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ tickets.*

Dinner will be set in a separate buffet area. Diners will serve themselves, selecting the salad ingredients, a choice of varied sides and vegetables and an array of succulent meats. A very popular form of service, à la Française, buffets are often the meal of choice in various places including hotels, restaurants, and many social events.

Name: _____ UAV Post _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ email: _____

If your group or Post wishes to reserve its own table, or sit with another group or Post, please indicate:

Please send your check together with this form to: UAV 74th CONVENTION BANQUET

Commander Ihor Rudko at 44 Jurach Road Colchester, CT 06415-2106

**QUESTIONS: PLEASE CALL: Ihor Rudko at 860-705-1849 or
Email: irudko@rudko.com**

Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records.

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Ukrainian American Veterans

74th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

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HOTEL RESERVATION

INNS OF THE CORPS QUANTICO

3018 Russell Rd.

Quantico, VA 22134

RESERVATION PHONE: 1-703-630-4444

Reserve room by telephone only and use group code "Ukrainian American Veterans" in order to receive the group rate.

COST: \$95 per night. Breakfast is included
(Price is subject to change)

RESERVATION DEADLINE

RESERVE ROOMS BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

*** (Reservations can only be made directly with the Inn by telephone.)**

LOCATION FROM AIRPORT

37 miles - Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport

49 miles - Washington Dulles International Airport

74 miles - Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport

87 miles - Richmond International Airport

93 miles - Charlottesville Albemarle Airport

QUESTIONS CALL:

HOTEL RESERVATION PHONE: 1-703-630-4444

Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records.



Ukrainian American Veterans

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UAV 74th NATIONAL CONVENTION JOURNAL

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to: UAV 74th CONVENTION JOURNAL for the attached advertisement. All pages will be printed in black & white. Covers and center pages will be color.

\$500 _____	Front Inside Cover (color)	\$75.00 _____	Half Page
\$500 _____	Back Inside Cover (color)	\$40.00 _____	Quarter Page
\$500 _____	Back Page Cover (color)	\$25.00 _____	1/8 Page or Business Card
\$300 _____	Center Gold Page (color)	\$10.00 _____	One Line Booster
	\$150 _____		Full Page.

All advertising orders must be received **no later than September 30, 2021**. All delegates and Convention attendees will receive a copy of the commemorative journal. Advertisers who have paid for a full page or greater and do not attend the convention will have the journal mailed to them upon request.

Please make checks payable to:

74th UAV CONVENTION JOURNAL

MAIL YOUR PAYMENT
AND AD COPY TO:

**Bohdan Dudycz
UAV Publication Officer/Journal
8433 N. Clifton Ave.
Niles, IL 60714-1803**

If you mail your text, please write the exact text of your advertisement on an attached a sheet of paper that is camera ready and mail with your check. If you include photos make sure they are high quality.

If you Email your ad electronically, your ad must be separate from your email message. The ad can be sent in one of the following formats: jpg, bmp, png, tif or pdf. If you include photos make sure they are high quality. Mail your check then send your electronic advertisement to: **uavpublicity@gmail.com**

QUESTIONS: BOHDAN DUDYCZ - 224-456-8944

Name of advertiser: _____ Phone: _____

Signature of authorized advertiser: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ email: _____

UAV Post _____, UAV Member or organization soliciting ad _____

Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records.

4 (2021)



Ukrainian American Veterans

74th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 21, 22, 23, 2021

Hosted by

UAV Executive Board



BOOSTERS PAGE

**\$10.00 PER BOOSTER NAME FOR NON-ADVERTISEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS.
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE EACH NAME**

1. _____	11. _____
2. _____	12. _____
3. _____	13. _____
4. _____	14. _____
5. _____	10. _____
6. _____	12. _____
7. _____	17. _____
8. _____	18. _____
9. _____	19. _____
10. _____	20. _____

ALL JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ CHECK NO. _____

SIGNATURE _____

SUBMITTED BY: UAV POST _____ UAV MEMBER _____

**RETURN CHECK WITH THIS FORM AND PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
74TH UAV CONVENTION JOURNAL.**

MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECKS TO: Bohdan Dudycz
UAV Publication Officer/Journal
8433 N. Clifton Ave.
Niles, IL 60714-1803

Or visit our website: <http://www.uavets.org> to donate online.

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: Bohdan Dudycz at: 224-456-8944, email: dahonorable@att.net

Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records.

UAV National Welfare Fund

Submitted by: Roman Stefaniuk, UAV Welfare Fund Committee Chair

In these turbulent times where we look forward to normalcy in our lives and a boost to our physical and spiritual well-being, I bring you an often-overlooked salve for your troubles. Our organization has a welfare fund that was established for UAV members who find themselves in dire straits.

I am sure most of us know about this fund for those who are sick, but many do not know that this fund is available to **UAV families who have lost a loved one.** I submit to you a direct copy of articles from our By-Laws that state:

Article I – “PURPOSE”

The purpose of the National Welfare Fund is to provide assistance in the form of grants to veteran members, their families, or a Ukrainian American Veteran Post as aid in times of distress; also, to provide gifts or grants to Ukrainian men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Article II – “MEMBERSHIP”

Section 1: *All members of the of the Ukrainian American Veterans deemed in good standing by their Post shall be eligible to receive assistance for themselves and their families, in accordance with these Articles and Regulations as shall from time to time be adopted.*

Section 2: *The families (which are in need) of all deceased members of Ukrainian American Veterans, in good standing at the time of such decease, shall be similarly eligible for assistance as aforesaid. “Family” is interpreted to mean wife, husband, parents and children of said veteran, which can be verified by the Post.*

The Grant Application forms are available with all Post Commanders, on the UAV website or the Welfare Fund Committee at pomko@wowway.com. All forms are to be signed by the Applicant **and** Post Commander. In the event that the Applicant is reluctant in requesting a Grant, especially during this time of the coronavirus, the Post Commander may initiate the request, on the Applicant’s behalf, over his signature.

National Welfare Fund Committee
Roman Stefaniuk

The Welfare Fund Committee receives only a few grant requests each year, and since many members do not take the time to read the By-Laws of the Fund, we ask that you review the **“Purpose”** and **“Membership”** requirements written in this article.

For those who have lost a loved one, our prayers are with you but don’t forget that in your period of grief you have many UAV members who are a part of your family. We hope you will make the lives of your parents, spouse or children a little easier by applying for this grant.

It could help to defray funeral expenses, pay an unexpected bill, buy books for the children, groceries for the house or any other payment that would ease your current burdens.

***You have not lived until you have done a kindness for
someone who can never repay you.***

Anonymous

GENERAL UKRAINIAN AMERICAN REALITY

- ◇ You have a nickname because your regular name is the same as 40 other people in your immediate community.
- ◇ You're relieved that Sluzhba Bozha on Sunday was only an hour and a half.
- ◇ Your history teacher cowers at your knowledge of Eastern European history.
- ◇ For exercise, you know aerobics has nothing on a good Hopak.
- ◇ You make a fashion statement by wearing your "Sharavary" to school one day.
- ◇ You're proud to inform others that Jack Palance and Natalie Wood were Ukrainian.
- ◇ You hang your head in shame after finding out that Michael Bolton is half Ukrainian.
- ◇ You swear using words that translate to different diseases. (Holyera, Zaraza, etc)
- ◇ You think the power of the Internet is nothing compared to the power of the BBC (Baba Babi Skazala).
- ◇ You've seen the blank expression on an American's face after you've spent over an hour trying to explain what a Zabava is.
- ◇ You have the urge to eat garlic sausage at 3 AM after a night of partying.
- ◇ You remember the first time you've ever been served a shot of vodka for breakfast.
- ◇ Before you start dating someone you double check with your Baba to make sure you're not related.
- ◇ Your Baba meets your friend and asks you "Vinh Nash?".
- ◇ On the first day of English class your teacher pauses before trying to pronounce your name and you immediately say, "That's me!"
- ◇ You start fights when you hear the following: "So...you are Russian, right?!"
- ◇ "Chut'-Chut'" and "Na Smak" are acceptable standards of measurement.
- ◇ If you think that Halloween is bad, try getting someone to answer the door during Kolyada season.
- ◇ No matter what type of job you landed, your parents were glad that you have insurance.
- ◇ As a child, your birthday cakes were walnut with alcohol with an instant coffee flavored frosting.
- ◇ Even though you speak English 99% of the time, some words just make better sense in Ukrainian.
- ◇ You celebrate Christmas 2 weeks after everyone else; Trees are free and gifts are 50% off
- ◇ Your Dido can fix anything with a piece of lumber, a saw and a screwdriver.
- ◇ You can incorporate fried onions into every meal.
- ◇ You scoff at an American mere 5 course Christmas dinner.
- ◇ You claim "Samohonka" is not just for breakfast anymore.
- ◇ Sour cream is one of your basic food groups.
- ◇ You must explain "Figom Zmakom" to non-Ukrainians.
- ◇ Your Baba makes the best Borscht, Babka, Varenyky and Holobtchi.
- ◇ You are related to, or friends with just about everyone in the Ukrainian community



DON'T LET AUTISM HOLD YOU BACK

Article and photos Submitted by: Matthew Wroblewski, Commander Michigan Post 101



Garrett Michael Baur

Being Grandparents (Grammie & Djadje) to an autistic grandchild is incredibly challenging. One quickly learns that the magic word to working with an autistic child is "patience".

You must keep reminding yourself that your grandchild is autistic and you, as an adult, must be very tolerant when communicating.

My wonderful wife, Roberta has the patience of a saint when teaching our Grandson Garrett his basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills. Garrett's disability on the autism spectrum is his inability to process words. A lot of repetition is needed. Words and expressions that we learn naturally and without effort, was something Garrett struggled with. He had a hard time understanding what you were trying to tell him, and if you were talking fast, he would not be able to comprehend anything you were saying. Repetition was the answer and today, Garrett is an excellent speller, and does math very well. He has a terrific imagination and loves to make up story scenarios. But he has a very hard time transferring his thoughts to paper.

He has a fantastic memory. Shortly after he began his formal schooling, he knew all the teachers and other students ages, birthdays, addresses and phone numbers. His teachers were amazed.

I have played and coached tennis for over fifty years so my contribution in working with Garrett was with sports and particularly tennis.

When Garrett saw me play with Senior Citizens when he was five years old, he said he wanted to play also. I started teaching him tennis by playing ping pong in our basement. We honed in on this game to focus on his hand, eye, and paddle coordination.

Through the years, he played tennis with Senior Citizens, practiced with me and other kids at our Ukrainian Cultural Center Gym, and took private lessons at our local tennis club to learn to be with kids his own caliber.

When he started high school, he joined the tennis team. I also coached the boys. In his ninth-grade year, Garrett started at number 4 singles on the varsity tennis team, beating out 12 other players. This was a record never accomplished by a ninth grader.

In 10th Grade, he moved up to number 2 singles. For his Junior and Senior years, he was the number 1 singles tennis player for his high school varsity team. He won many matches against the county's other number 1 singles players. He also kept a 3.8 grade average all four years. At the end of the season in his senior year, out of 32 high schools in Macomb County, Garrett was voted one of six best number 1 singles players. A singular achievement.

Garrett started his first job working at our Ukrainian Cultural Center's kitchen. His high school never had a special ed student get a job on their own. Another remarkable feat.

He also passed his Driver's Ed course, has his driver's license and he took an exploratory flying lesson with his mother's boyfriend Rob, a flight instructor. Garrett is now looking forward to getting his pilot's license.

We are so very proud of all his accomplishments. This fall he will be attending a "college" for Special Needs Students.

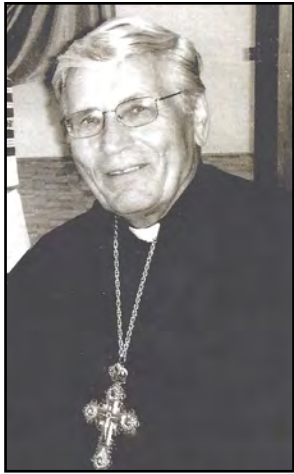


Garrett receiving the Macomb County #1 Singles Award from Coach Craig Cutshaw.

POST 32 - CHICAGO WELCOMES NEW CHAPLAIN

Article submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publicity Officer

Photos submitted by: Nicholas Skyba, Post 32 - Chicago



Protopriest Victor Poliarny

On October 31, 1935 in the City of Zolochiv, Khrakiv oblast, in the family of Wasyl and Liliana Poliarny, Victor was born. In post-World War II the Poliarny family had to go West to escape Communist Oppression.

The Poliarny family resettled in the Lysenko DP Camp in Hanover, Germany then in 1948 they emigrated to Brazil. In 1949, Victor was accepted to the Sao Jose Seminary in Prudentopolis, Parana, Brazil. In 1956 the Poliarny family resettled in Sao Paulo, Brazil and two years later they finally settled in the United States of America.

On July 12, 1959, Valentina Dmytrenko and Victor Poliarny were married in St. Volodymyr Cathedral by Father Fedir Bilecky. Four months later Victor was drafted into the US Army. He went through Basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Illinois and communication schooling at Fort Gordon, Georgia.



Private Victor Poliarny

After Signal Corps graduation private Poliarny was assigned to the Second Tank Division at Fort Hood, Texas then transferred to the 304 Signal Battalion Eight US Army in Korea. With a promotion to Sergeant E-5 Victor was responsible for communication between Eight US Army and Second Korea Army stationed in Camp Long in the village of Wonju near the 38th parallel.

On December 1961 sergeant Victor was Honorably Discharged and joined his family in Chicago. Soon thereafter he was accepted into the Chicago College of Engineering, graduated with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering and was hired by the Motorola corporation.

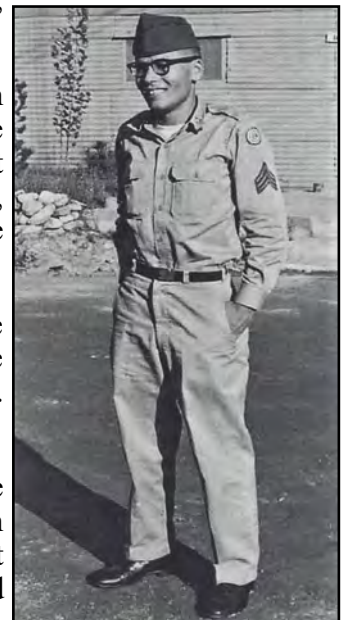
Victor was transferred to Plantation, Florida and by 1981 Victor was promoted to Engineering Development Manager and made in charge of the department of Development Engineering. He was charged with traveling to many countries to resolve technical issues with Motorola products. In a major change in careers and on the advice of Father Mychaylo Mychayliuk, Victor enrolled in Divinity Correspondence Courses.

After the downfall of the Soviet Union, Victor was promoted to Business Development Manager and relocated to Moscow. In 1995 Victor returned to the United States and was assigned to Business Development for South America. In 1998 after more than 30 years at Motorola, Victor retired.

Victor excelled in his Divinity studies and, with support from Archbishop Stepan Bilak, on October 1998 Victor was ordained by Patriarch Filaret into the Priesthood. A year later Father Victor was elevated to the position of archpriest and then assigned as Pastor to the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Cooper City, Florida. In April 2002 Protopriest Victor was awarded with the Mitre. He remained at St. Nicholas parish until July 2009.

On July 2, 2008, Protopriest Victor was elevated to the position of Secretary of the Vicariate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in USA and Canada. During the month of July 2009 Protopriest Victor accepted the position as Pastor of the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale, Illinois.

On Sunday, May 23, 2021, Protopriest Victor Poliarny was accepted by the Ukrainian American Veterans to serve as the official Chaplain of Post 32 in Chicago, IL. His generosity of spirit, honorable service to our country and support of UAV objectives made him the ideal person to oversee our UAV's direction and the spirituality of our members. Welcome aboard Padre!



Sergeant Victor Poliarny

COL. BOHDAN MELNYK AND COL. LES' MELNYK:

Story and photos submitted by: General Len Kondratiuk PNC



Col. Bohdan Melnyk

Those of us that have attended the last two conventions have met Les Melnyk, Director of Public Affairs, VA National Cemetery Administration. I first met Les in the summer of 1998 when I approved his request to go on active duty as a military historian assigned to the National Guard Bureau, Arlington, Virginia. During the seven months we worked together, he told me about his late father Bohdan who had a remarkable life.

Bohdan Melnyk was born near Lviv in 1928. At the age of 16, he was forced to become a slave laborer in Germany. He cut trees, built airfields and barely subsisted on a starvation diet that consisted of turnips. He was liberated in May 1945 by a unit of the US Army then spent nearly four years in a displaced persons camp.

He was sponsored by a family in Pittsburgh and immigrated to the U.S. in 1949. He did not have a chance to establish roots as he was drafted into the US Army early in 1951. PVT Melnyk was trained as a tanker and then served in Germany. He was discharged in 1953 but quickly enlisted into the Regular Army and trained as an interrogator. In 1956 Spec5 Melnyk was released from active duty and enlisted in the Army Reserve. He also attended Penn State and

graduated in 1960 with a BA in political science.

He moved to New York where he was employed by the New York Public Library for 35 years. He married and raised a family including his son Les. SGT Melnyk received a direct commission as 1LT, Military Intelligence, US Army Reserve in 1966. As a major he transferred to the Civil Affairs Branch and was assigned to the 356th Civil Affairs Brigade and the 353d Civil Affairs Command. COL Melnyk retired in 1986. He passed away in 1997 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Les' Melnyk was greatly influenced by his father's military service. He received his commission through ROTC as 2LT, Military Intelligence, New York Army National Guard in 1988. He served as the S2 intelligence officer for the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment. After serving as a military historian on active duty, MAJ Melnyk decided to change his MOS to public affairs.

He was assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs in the Pentagon. In 2011, he returned to serve as a military historian when he was assigned as the Command Historian, US Forces-Iraq. LTC Melnyk was then assigned to the staff of the Director, Army National Guard. His final assignment was as Director, Office of Public Affairs, National Guard Bureau with promotion to colonel.



Col. Les' Melnyk

COL Melnyk retired from active duty in 1988 and was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal in addition to his previous awards of the Bronze Star and the Defense and Army Meritorious Service Medals.

It is a remarkable achievement for father and son to have both achieved the grade of colonel. We honor the Colonel Melnyks for their total of 65 years of service to our nation.

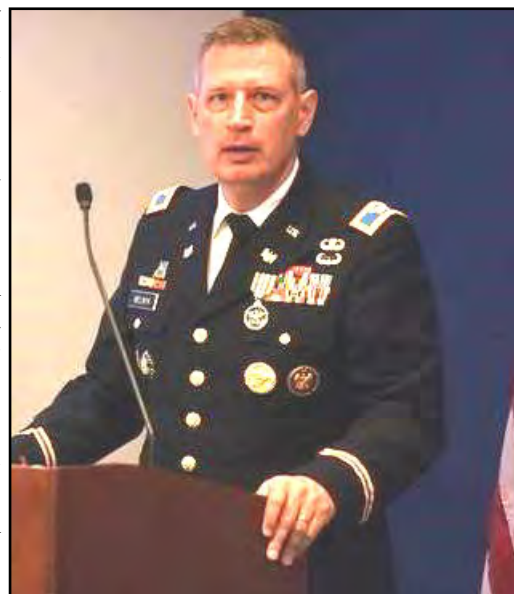
Les' Melnyk was born in January 1967, in Queens, NY., the third of four children for Bohdan and Lois (Caso) Melnyk. Bohdan was a first generation Ukrainian-American who was liberated in 1945 from forced labor in Germany. Lois was a registered nurse who had been born and raised in Queens, the granddaughter of immigrants from Germany, Italy, England and Switzerland.

FATHER AND SON SERVE THE NATION FOR 65 YEARS

Story and photos submitted by: General Len Kondratiuk PNC

Les' grew up attending the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Queens, where he also performed in the Ukrainian dance troop. He received all of his education, from kindergarten through graduate school, from New York City public schools, with a BA in History and English (Magna Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa) from Queens College, CUNY, and a Ph.D. in history from the City University of New York Graduate School.

While an undergraduate at Queens College, Les' cross-enrolled in Army ROTC at St. John's University, obtaining his commission as a 2nd Lt. (Military Intelligence branch) in 1988 and joining the New York Army National Guard in a traditional (part-time) status. He remained a traditional Guardsman from 1988-1998, serving in various positions in the 1st battalion, 69th Infantry and the 1st battalion, 69th Air Defense Artillery. During this decade Les' attended graduate school and taught history as an adjunct lecturer at various colleges in New York City.



Col. Les' Melnyk

In 1998, while researching and writing his doctoral thesis on the history of the National Guard in the early 20th century, Les' applied to serve on active duty at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va. This began a 20-year active-duty career, first as a historian, and subsequently as a public affairs officer. His assignments included service as the Army National Guard and National Guard Bureau historian, as chief of command information, and as a press desk officer in the Pentagon's Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. From May, 2010 through May, 2011, he deployed to Baghdad to serve as the Command Historian for all of U.S. Forces-Iraq.

Upon returning home, Les' served as public affairs advisor to the Director, Army National Guard and subsequently as chief of Strategic Communications Division in the Army National Guard G-5. In his final military assignment, he served as the director of public affairs for the National Guard Bureau, the most senior public affairs officer in the National Guard. There he led a staff of 38 public affairs professionals and served as the principal communications advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Joseph Lengyel, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He retired from the Army National Guard with a total of 30 years of service (20 active and 10 reserve) in June 2018. His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Bronze Star Medal; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters); Joint, Army (with 1 OLC), and Air Force Commendation medals; Joint, Army and Air Force Achievement medals; and the Iraq Campaign Medal with 2 campaign stars. Les' is a 2016 graduate of National Defense University, receiving a Master of Science in Government Information Leadership as part of the first-ever Senior Service College seminar to focus on cybersecurity strategy. Following military retirement, Les' entered the civil service where he is currently employed as director of public affairs and outreach for the VA's National Cemetery Administration, which oversees more than 150 national cemeteries across the U.S.

Les' is married to Stephanie Scott, Ph.D., a native Washingtonian. They have two children currently working on college classes at home due to COVID: Zennon (Stanford class of 2022); and Mattie (UCLA class of 2023). They live in Washington, D.C.

"To accomplish great things we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe; not only succeed, but also be an example to others".

Congratulations on establishing a Melnyk Legacy. You inspire us all!

THE UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT PLAZA UPDATE

Story and photo submitted by: Michael Hrycak, NJ Department Commander

Last month our Monument Officer, PNC Matt Koziak, and Monument Treasurer, PNC Anna Krawczuk, visited our National Monument on the grounds of St Andrew Memorial Church in S. Bound Brook, New Jersey. The contractor had finished the surrounding plaza, and it looks great. Just in time for Easter, St. Thomas Sunday, and Memorial Day.

Job well done. I am an ex officio member and was greatly impressed when Matt, his wife Oksana (UAV Auxiliary President), and Anna, recounted the first time, twenty years ago, they were driven to the front of the Church and shown where the monument would go. There isn't anyone who has driven by that failed to see this beautiful tribute to our Veterans, living, serving, and up in Heaven guarding its streets and gate.

Let us not forget their vision, their work, their dedication, and, most of all, they were both National Commanders during this project, their leadership. Our organization should be a beacon for the Ukrainian Diaspora, to stop divisive and corrosive behavior, and, instead, be proud of being Ukrainian. Not long from now we hope to have a column in the Ukrainian Weekly and we will share our vision, and most of all our leadership, to lead Ukrainians to unite, to support our great Nation, and to support our Ukraine, against all enemies, foreign and domestic, so that we will never forget, as our Wounded Warrior Team learned at the Veterans Forum in Ukraine in August, 2018 - Там де ми, там Україна ! Where we find ourselves, there lies Ukraine!

Michael P. Hrycak
LTC, USA, Ret.
Commander, New Jersey Department

God bless the USA!
Freedom forever, at any cost!
Slava Ukraini!



L/R: Matt Koziak, PNC, Anna Krawczuk, PNC, Michael Hrycak, Commander, New Jersey Department

Story and photo submitted by: Steven Kostecki, Post 31 - Boston Commander



VFW Massachusetts Commander Russell Jobe (2nd from left) awards Ski Iworsky of Post 31 - Boston (center in the plaid shirt) a "Certificate of Special Recognition" from the VFW National Commander, Hal Roesch. He is congratulated by Post 31 members as he receives this prestigious award.



WALTER KUZMUK: UKRAINIAN AMERICAN SPECIAL OPS SOLDIER AND CIA OFFICER

Story and photos submitted by: General Len Kondratiuk PNC

The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was the World War II equivalent of the US Army Special Forces. I recently determined that at least eight, and probably more, Ukrainian Americans served in the OSS. One of these operatives was 1LT Walter Kuzmuk of Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Walter was born in 1918 and grew up as a member of the Ukrainian American community in Boston. He graduated from Ohio University in 1943 and entered the US Army that September. After training as an infantry officer, he attended jump school and was awarded his jump wings.

On 10 June 1944, he arrived in England as a replacement and was assigned to the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division. Sometime in late August, his ability to speak Ukrainian was passed to the London HQ, OSS. 2LT Kuzmuk was transferred to the OSS for a special mission.

On 26 August 1944, two Ukrainian battalions in German service mutinied and defected to the French Forces of Interior (FFI) as the French guerrilla force was designated. They had signed up to fight the Red Army not the Allies. Word of the defection of these two battalions reached the OSS. 2LT Kuzmuk was the junior officer in a five-man team that jumped into northeastern France on 9 September 1944. Their mission was to contact the leadership of the 1st and 2d Ukrainian Battalions which were now part of the FFI. The OSS mission was to coordinate the operations of the Ukrainian battalions with the advancing units of the French First Army and the US Seventh Army.

2LT Kuzmuk was adopted by the Ukrainians as a fellow brother in arms and took part in small unit actions against the Germans. After linking up with US units, HQ, Seventh Army was in a quandary on what to do with the two Ukrainian battalions. There was some discussion of turning them over to the Red Army. LTC Waller Booth, the OSS team commander, and 2LT Kuzmuk strongly protested against this plan. In the meantime, the French solved the issue by transferring the battalions into the Foreign Legion. The Ukrainians were now French soldiers. (In 1958 or so, my father introduced me to one of these Ukrainians as a veteran of the Foreign Legion).

Now a 1LT, Kuzmuk was ordered to return to the U.S. in order to prepare for his next assignment. He arrived in India on 21 May 1945. Shortly thereafter, he parachuted into Thailand where he trained guerrillas to fight the Japanese. He returned to the U.S. in November 1945, awarded the Bronze Star and discharged. Walter remained in Washington where he worked for a hotel, however, things were too quiet for him.

After the war, the OSS reorganized as the CIA. Walter was recruited by the CIA in 1950 and may have been one of the first Ukrainian American CIA officers. He spent most of his career training guerrilla and counter guerrilla forces. He was assigned to Taiwan, Saipan, Thailand, Vietnam and the Dominican Republic. In Thailand, Walter was seriously injured during a parachute jump and spent a year in rehab. He also trained Brigade 2506, the Cuban force that invaded Cuba in 1961.

His jump injury led to medical retirement in 1975. Walter lived in Springfield, Virginia and died in 2006. His remains were interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Perhaps, his best testament came from one of the Ukrainian soldiers he fought with, "American in uniform but in his heart and spirit a true Ukrainian."



MICHAEL FEDIRKO - ETERNAL REST

Story and photos submitted by: Michael Hrycak, New Jersey Department Commander



Michael Fedirko

On Monday May 17th, 2021, Michael Fedirko, WWII veteran, left our lives and was greeted by the adoring arms of our Lord. Both our family and country have lost a true hero, a gentle man, and a gentleman. Michael was born in Elizabeth, NJ in 1923 and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. Michael was inducted into the US Army and attended basic training in North Carolina. He traveled by troop train to Aerial Gunnery School in Laredo, TX. He was then assigned to the 489th Bombardment Squadron, 340th Bombardment Group, 57th Bomb Wing, and 12th Air Force. The 340th toured Rome Arno, Northern Apennines, Po Valley, Southern France, Central Europe and Air combat Balkans.

Michael was a proud WWII Veteran and truly is the last of "The Greatest Generation". He served his country with honor (Michael received the Distinguished Unit Badge, the American Campaign Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, WWII Victory Medal) and continued to be active in military posts and veterans organizations. Michael Fedirko was the Post Commander for the Ukrainian American Veterans Post 6 of which he was one of the founders in 1946.

The UAV Post recently helped to promote the Ukrainian National Monument in front of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, NJ. Michael Fedirko co-presented the wreath at this monument on Veteran's Day 2017 in the attendance of thousands, including Vice President Mike Pence.

Also very important to Michael and the UAV was the illumination and commemoration of the Holodomor of 1932 (Stalin's Famine Genocide of Ukraine wherein approximately 11 million Ukrainians were killed). Michael felt it was a moral duty to honor and remember the victims of this horrible and tragic fact.

A pious man, Michael remained a devout communicant of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church. He was a quiet man of reflection, but he outwardly enjoyed family moments, a good joke and times of celebration. That was Michael; an American, a Ukrainian, a Catholic, a Veteran, a son, a brother, an uncle, and a friend to all.

Rest in Peace!

Вічна Пам'ять!



L/R: Michael Fedirko, Michael Hrycak, New Jersey Department Commander at the UAV National Monument.



**Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes,
from the hills,
from the sky
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh.**

"It really saddened me to receive this news. That's the second Post Commander to be called home by the lord within the past two weeks. Вічна і світла пам'ять!"
Ihor Rudko, UAV National Commander

"We lost a member of the Greatest Generation and a true American Patriot."
Michael Hrycak, New Jersey Department Commander

May he Rest In Peace! Вічна Пам'ять!!
Ihor Hron, PNC, Commander, Post 40 - North Port, Florida

EMRICK PRESTASH - ETERNAL REST

Story and photos submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publications Officer



Emrick Prestash, PNC
Post 15 Commander

Emrick Prestash was born Nov. 11, 1923 and died May 5, 2021 at age 97 of natural causes. Born in New Britain to Stephen and Catherine (Bonchak) Prestash, he was the seventh of eight children. Emrick served with Battery D 571st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion and was honorably discharged on March 17, 1946.

The Prestash family was among the very few that had six brothers serving in the Armed Forces at the same time during war time. His brother Andrew was killed in action on Dec. 18, 1944. Emrick married his high school sweetheart and church parishioner Lovey Waida in 1945. Lovey passed in 1968.

Emrick was formerly employed as a store manager at D&L and Weathervane stores. He was a devoted member of St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Emrick was a long-time member of the Ukrainian American Veterans and its current Commander.

He leaves to cherish his memories by his children, Andrea (John) Tolomea, Linda Kohl, Debra Gerardi (Charles Barbero); son-in-law, Doug Raineault; eleven grandchildren; and 15 great grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by two daughters, Donna Raineault and Pamela Baczewski, two sons-in-law, Frank Kohl and Michael Baczewski; and by his brothers, Myron, Walter, Steven, Anthony, Joseph, and sister Molly Mancini. He was also predeceased by his companion Anne Melnyk McAloon.

So sorry to hear of Emrick passing away. He accomplished much in his lifetime, despite the many hardships he had to endure. As a member of the "Greatest Generation" his foundation was rock solid. His beliefs were simple, Family, God and Church, Country, Work, and his Ukrainian Heritage. He gave of himself to better all of these areas. While bringing up his daughters he was an active member of St. Mary's Ukrainian O.C. He served in many capacities including President of the Church Council. He was a founding member and President of the Ukrainian Cultural Committee. For his many years of service to his church he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award. Many of us can still remember him putting up window displays in old downtown New Britain. He had an artistic eye and was gifted in graphic arts. As an Army Vet he supported veteran causes and was an outstanding member of the Ukrainian American Veterans organization. He was Commander of UAV Post 15 in New Britain for many years and he was a Past National Commander of Ukrainian American Veterans of the USA. As such, he made friends and contacts throughout the USA.

Emrick was my fellow veteran, church member, cousin, and my friend. He will be missed. May his memory be eternal!

Rest in Peace

Вічна Пам'ять

Michael P. Wowk



Taps is easily recognizable all over the world. It is played by the U.S. Army and by the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides to signal the end of the day. It is also played at all U.S. military funerals. In remembrance, we bid farewell to our departed UAV warriors.

**Day is done, Gone the sun
From the lakes, From the hills, From the sky
All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh.**



The 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II 1945-2015

by Anna Osinska Krawczuk, PNC

In May of this year, traditional Memorial Day ceremonies honoring members of the US Armed Forces were held at US Military Cemeteries nationwide as well as abroad. But this year's Memorial Day commemorations also marked an important milestone: the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. Among the fallen heroes honored during these commemorations were many Ukrainian Americans who served with distinction. Many others, including those who were wounded in battle, returned home to civilian life to deal with the post-war situation as well as they could. Still others remained in the military and continued to serve in the US Armed Forces. Among the many we honored this year was Colonel Walter Andrew Kostecki, M.D., whose story we are sharing with readers in this issue.



Colonel Walter Andrew Kostecki, M.D.
1911–1982
Bataan Death March survivor, POW

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Walter Andrew Kostecki was born on March 6, 1911. He graduated from Tufts College in 1933 and from George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. in 1937. He was a member of the Officers' Reserve Corps of the US Army and commissioned a 1st Lt in the Medical Corps in June 1937. Lt Kostecki was called to active duty on November 1, 1939. In 1940 Walter married nurse Mary Louise Sullivan; the couple had two daughters, Helen and Mary, and a son, Michael.

Dr. Walter Kostecki served stateside until his deployment to the Philippines on January 24, 1941. He was stationed at Sternberg General Hospital in Manila as a ward surgeon until March 6, 1941, and was also assigned to serve as a surgeon with the 45th Infantry Regiment of the Philippine Scouts, assistant regimental surgeon, and battalion surgeon, treating illnesses and diagnosing surgical conditions.

During the Battle of Bataan, Capt. Kostecki provided emergency surgical and medical treatments to others, despite his own critical condition. He was captured on April 7, 1942, two days before the fall of Bataan, by a Japanese Infantry unit. He was the last remaining doctor in uniform during the six-day, 60 mile death march that followed.

Kostecki was initially interned at Camp O'Donnell, then at Cabanatuan, and then moved, with 200 other medical men, to Fukuoka Camp NO. 1, on Kyushu Island in Japan. On January 19, 1945, he was taken to yet another camp with the same name. This camp was near Nagasaki, 20 miles from the atomic Ground Zero that brought an end to the war. Ten days after he arrived at this new camp, 195 other American POWs were brought in. Fifty soldiers from this group died; the rest were sent to Korea in April 1945.

POW Kostecki, a dedicated doctor, remained at Fukuoka to care for the sick and wounded soldiers. The camp hospital (which Kostecki named "hospital-shack") had no beds and poor ventilation. The camp doctors secretly paid a Japanese medical orderly to obtain needed medicines, and Kostecki himself paid Masato Hata (Japanese medical corpsman and compiler of Japanese medical records at this camp) to fill prescriptions more quickly. But even when medications were available, he witnessed too many deaths caused by malnutrition, pneumonia, dysentery, and beatings. The prisoners' death certificates, were filled out by the Japanese officers, and he was forced to sign these even though the purported cause of death was seldom accurate and often a blatant lie.

Not long after the first atomic blast in 1945, Kostecki was rescued. Among the other camp survivors was then-Lieutenant Colonel Harold K. Johnson, who later became a general and US Army chief of staff. General Johnson credited Walter Kostecki with saving his life.

After the war ended, Colonel Kostecki spent six months in a hospital at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. He had not only witnessed but also endured the hardships of being a prisoner of war; captivated by the heroism of American POWs, he decided to stay in the Army. He served at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Benning, Georgia; and Fort Myers, Virginia, in the capacity of post surgeon. He was then named director of the Andrew Rader Army Clinic and also served as surgeon to the Inter-American Defense Board.

On March 31, 1971, Walter Andrew Kostecki was given an Honorable Discharge with Permanent Disability. His military decorations, awarded for distinguished service and valor, included the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, the WWII Victory Medal, a Bronze Star, two Army Commendation medals.

After leaving the US Army, Walter Kostecki returned to Halifax, Mass., where he continued to practice medicine as a civilian until 1980. He and his family then moved to McLean, Virginia. Kostecki passed away on July 19, 1982, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Washington, D.C. Survived by his wife, his children, and several grandchildren, he was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on July 22, 1982.

(We thank UAV National Quartermaster Stephen A. Kostecki for registering his uncle.)

Editor's note: Reprinted by request from Commander Stephen Kostecki, Post 31 - Boston. Originally printed in the UAV Tribune, September 2015, page 8.

POST 101 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Stories and photos submitted by: Matthew Wroblewski, Post 101 - Warren MI Commander



TSG TANYA C. CLARK

Technical Sergeant Tanya Clark is assigned to the 512th Intelligence Squadron, Fort Meade, Maryland and serves as Cyber Language Analyst in Russian and six other Slavic languages. Additional duties include Senior Language Mentor, Safety NCOIC and assistant First Sergeant.

TSgt Clark entered Active Duty in October 1998, graduated DLIFLC Russian Basic Course and follow-on Cryptologic Course in 2000. She completed five years Active Duty as Voice Systems Operator, Cryptologic Language Analyst; earned NCS Adjunct Faculty status. TSgt Clark reenlisted in the Reserve in 2011 as IMA; joined full-time as Command Support Staff (ART) and presently serves as TR.

While overseas she was attached to the Joint Reserve Intelligence Support Element at Royal Air Force Molesworth, embedded with British Reservists at the Joint Signals Support Unit, Royal Air Force Digby. TSgt Clark deployed to Ukraine for the historic first multi-national "Clear Skies" exercise. She assisted California Air National Guard - State Partnership to elevate the Ukrainian Air Forces to NATO standards.

TSgt Clark was included on the AFRC Key Personnel List for ground (1N3) and airborne (1A8) analysts at the 49th Intelligence Squadron in Nebraska. She built terminology databases to streamline voice data processing via Tactical Language Interpreter (TaLI), a form of Artificial Intelligence for Human Language Technology (AI/HLT). TSgt Clark was detailed to the ISR Career Field Managers at Headquarters Air Force (A2/6FD), served as Russian Instructor and Acting Superintendent of the Defense Language Institute – Washington.

1LT Alex Voronovich completed flight training at Fort Rucker, AL in November of 2019 with aeronautical ratings in the UH72A Lakota and AH64D Apache helicopters. Upon graduation, he was reassigned to Fort Bliss, TX, where he is currently serving as the scout platoon leader and XO in A Company, 1-501 Attack Battalion, in the 1st Armored Division's Combat Aviation Brigade.

Lt. Voronovich was assigned to A Company just as the battalion completed a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan as part of Operation Freedom Sentinel. During his time as a platoon leader, the company completed a rotation at the National Training Center in Ft Irwin, CA as a member of Task Force Iron Dragons. In the summer of 2020, his flight crew achieved the highest possible score on aerial gunnery table 6 and was named the battalion's "Top Gun".



(Left) 1LT Alex Voronovich after graduation from flight school at Ft. Rucker. (Right) Alex Voronovich performing a pre-flight inspection on his Apache helicopter.



This past winter, Lt. Voronovich also completed his training and evaluation for designation as an Air Mission Commander. He hopes to earn his Pilot in Command designation this summer.

POST 101 WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS

Stories and photos submitted by: Matthew Wroblewski, Post 101 - Warren MI Commander



(Above) Major Mike Weigle (second from left) stands in formation with fellow recipients after the awards ceremony.

(Right): Major Mike Weigle a Post 101 UAV member receiving the bronze star while serving in Afghanistan.

On behalf of the UAV and Post 101
Congratulations and keep making us proud.



(Left): Corporal Zachary Zarewych is a member of the 1st battalion 12th Marines better known as the “Black Sheep Battery”. He is assigned as a Motor T Mechanic and is currently living on a Hawaiian Marine Corp. base.



Corporal Zachary Zarewych



Our young Marines are the best in the world. We are glad to have you in our UAV family.

The U.S. Army Ukrainian Legion

Story submitted by: General Len Kondratiuk PNC

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 77th Division. Ukrainians, or as they were mostly called Ruthenians, living in Pennsylvania were drafted and assigned to the 79th 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 Dept., 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 since 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.

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

BRANCH OF SERVICE

<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. National Guard
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Reserves
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Space Force

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

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	860-677-9496
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Nestor Nynka	33 Ridgewood Dr.	Randolf	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	716-822-3643
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Roman Rakowsky	1881 Jacqueline Dr.	Parma	OH	44134	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 Kostiuik	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	508-245-1890
<input type="checkbox"/>	32	Peter Bencak	2135 W. Potomac Ave.	Chicago	IL	60622	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	3108 Limeport Pike	Coopersburg	PA	18036	610-972-3712
<input type="checkbox"/>	43	Michael J. Dobransky	17 Miriam Street	Johnson City	NY	13790	607-729-0334
<input type="checkbox"/>	101	Matthew Wroblewski	25195 Pineview	Warren	MI	48091	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 7/1/2021

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**



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
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74rd Annual UAV Convention—Quantico, Virginia

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