

UAV TRIBUNE

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Dear Fellow Ukrainian American Veterans,

this year As comes to conclusion. the National Executive Board an I would like to wish you all the blessings of Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ and a sincere wish for health.

Ihor B. Rudko UAV NC

wealth, and happiness in the New Year!

Most of all we pray that Ukraine succeeds in defeating the evil criminal enterprise that is Russia and that Russia be brought to account for the evil it has brought upon Ukraine and its people from the beginning of Russia's existence.

The UAV has successfully completed its 75th Diamond Jubilee Convention held in Philadelphia. In concert with the war being conducted against Ukraine, the Convention Delegates voted to pass several resolutions (see page 17).

The war with Russia precluded our efforts to continue working with the Ukrainian Ministries of Defense and Veterans Affairs as we had in the previous year. However, we were not precluded from continuing with efforts via the (NDAA) National Defense Authorization Act. Myron Melnyk working as Chairman of the UAV Ukrainian Wounded Warrior Program had implemented language which included 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 currently waiting for the final outcome to the recently passed NDAA.

We are reminded that 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.

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.

> God Bless America God Protect Ukraine!

Ch Kugleo





Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

44 Jurach Road Colchester, CT 06415-2106

Ihor Rudko National Commander



Post Commanders 2018 - Present

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

SAVE-A-DATE

The dates for the 76th UAV Convention.

September 21-24, 2023. Mark your calendars.

<u>Soyuzivka Heritage Center</u>

216 Foordmore Rd, Kerhonkson, NY 12446

The Convention Committee:

Chairman: Peter Polnyj - NYSC

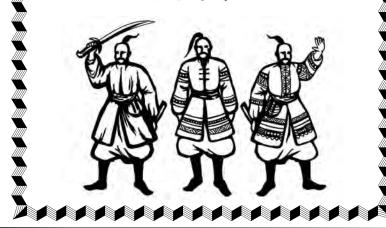
Vice Chairmen: Roman Makuch - NYSVC East Michael J. Dobransky - NYSVC West Journal: Bohdan Dudycz - UAV Publications Officer

Banquet: Ladies Auxiliary members:

Orysia Jakowiw, Julie Szozda and Maria Polnyj

More detailed information will be printed in the next issue of the Tribune.

JAKGAKGAKGAKC



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Post 1 Philadelphia, PA - Edward A. Zetick, PNC

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UAV Tribune December, 2022

POST 33 DELIVERS A LIFELINE TO UKRAINE

Submitted By: Commander Carl Harvey, Post 33, New Haven, CT



(Left) Carl Harvey with one of the three vehicles the group hopes to ship next month.

(Right) Galynia Blyzniuk's husband will be driving the truck from the church to the port in New Jersey.



It's the eighth shipment since the Russian invasion in February, said the lead organizer Carl Harvey, who helped to establish and leads the Ukrainian American Veterans Post 33 in Orange, which is the fiduciary for contributions.

There is a special sense of urgency to this shipment, Harvey added, because of the upcoming winter expected to be exceptionally harsh and because of the Russian attacks on Ukraine's power infrastructure.

On Thursday, they were moving with urgency, bringing in literally hundreds of walkers, sets of crutches, wheelchairs, and hospital beds from temporary pods in the adjacent church parking lot.

Inside, items must each be tagged, and the contributions of clothing, many in plastic bags, along with all the medical supplies, must also be boxed, weighed with a cost estimate (for customs) written on a label and adhered, all before the big 18-wheeler arrives for packing.

Harvey said volunteers are very much needed (as are checks!) to help load the truck. No appointment is necessary. Just show up at 569 George St., and you can get to work.

That 18-wheeler is going to be driven by Mykola Blyzniuk, whose wife Galynia was busy piling up boxes in the parish hall entryway. The couple and their three kids live now in Branford, having arrived in the U.S. in 2014, in the aftermath of the Maidan protests in Ukraine and the Orange Revolution.

Harvey said when the truck is loaded, Mykola will drive it to New Jersey where the goods will be packed in a container by Dnipro LLC, a shipping company. Even though the company is Ukrainian owned, people need to be paid, and the cost is 79 cents a pound. The most recent shipment in October cost \$17,000, and it was smaller than what volunteers were busily assembling on Thursday.

The container, shipped by sea to Europe, is then trucked through Poland to Lviv. With luck, said Harvey, the shipment arrives in four to six weeks.

The connections with the Lviv military hospital began in 2016 when Harvey, the post commander in Orange and active in veterans affairs in greater New Haven, went to Lviv with fellow church member Nadya Invantsiv. While he was there to help Ukrainians organize their veterans' organization, he was taken to the military hospital and met Invantsiv's relatives, including Father Roman Manulyak.

Father Manulyak, the direct contact at the Ukrainian destination, guarantees, Harvey said, that the supplies arrive safely and are distributed appropriately to the hospital.

Medical supplies and warm clothing can be dropped off at the church every Tuesday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Checks — to pay for the shipping and also the immense number of boxes, labels, rolls of tape and so forth — can be made out to Ukrainian American Veterans Post 33 and mailed to P.O. Box 972, Orange, CT 06477. Questions about the ongoing project, Harvey said, can be answered either by emailing <u>cenbts64@gmail.com</u>; or calling 203 – 848-4860.

FAREWELL TO A LOVING HUSBAND, FATHER AND AMERICAN SOLDIER

Submitted by: Anna Krawczuk, PNC, AC - Post 30, NJ



Corporal Jurij Jacus

Jurij Jacus was born on August 30, 1930, in Ternopil, Ukraine. In his youth, he endured the turmoil of WWII and the Russian occupation of his birthplace. As a teenager Jurij fled his homeland with his parents to Germany.

After the war ended (in 1945), the family ended up in a Displaced Persons (DP) camp. In 1950, when they finally succeeded in acquiring passage on a refugee ship, they immigrated to the United States and settled in Jersey City, New Jersey. This industrial city was home to a diverse population from many different countries, including Ukraine. The local Ukrainian Catholic Church welcomed newcomers and made them welcome among their own people. The Jacus family began their lives in America by rekindling old friendships and making new ones.

On February 5, 1953, Jurij was inducted into the US Army, and two years later, Corporal Jacus was awarded the National Defense Service Medal prior to his transfer to the US Army Reserves. He received his final discharge from the US Army in 1961. In 1964 he married M. Orysia Pawluk. The couple eventually settled in Holmdel, New Jersey, and were blessed with the birth of their daughter Taisa.

Orysia Jacus became active in the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, especially in the organization's Scholarship Program, volunteering her free time to benefit

needy Ukrainian students worldwide. From 1991, prior to the collapse of the USSR, she focused on helping underprivileged pupils and students in Ukraine. Daughter Taisa became a registered nurse and her parents' guardian angel. She followed in her mother's footsteps by sponsoring students in Ukraine.

Jurij became a member of the Ukrainian scouting organization Plast and spent many years sharing scouting activities with his peers. He later became a member of the senior Plast group Siromanci and devoted much time mentoring young Plast members. One of these scouts was Myron Diduryk, who graduated from St. Peters University in Jersey City, joined the US Army and became a professional soldier.

Major Myron Diduryk was KIA (Killed in Action) in Vietnam on Apr 24, 1970. Jurij and Orysia visited the US Military Cemetery in Fort Bragg, Georgia, and paid tribute to the fallen hero. It should also be noted that Myron Diduryk's name is inscribed on THE WALL in Washington, D.C.; on the walkway to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial as well as on the Memorial itself along with the names of 1,562 other New Jerseyans, among them eight of Ukrainian descent, who were also KIA in Vietnam.

Jurij was instrumental in forming UAV Post 30 in 1990 and was elected the post's first commander. It was upon his recommendation that Major Myron Diduryk became the UAV Post 30 Patron.

Jurij passed away on June 14, 2022, in Phoenix, Arizona. May God bless and comfort those he leaves behind.

Rest in Peace – We salute you! Вічная Пам'ять!



(L/R 1st row) Jerry Schmotolocha, Anna Krawczuk, George Buk (holding the Post flag), Al Zanko, NN , Jurij Jacus (holding the flag), Alexander Jakubowycz; (2nd row) Walter Czepizak, Bernard Krawczuk, Nikolaus A. Holinaty, Stan Jakubowycz, Zenon Hac, John Zakanycz.

UKRAINIAN WOMAN CONQUERS 14,500 FOOT MOUNT SUMMIT, COLORADO

Submitted by: By Daria McKay (nee Maksimowich)

This summer I decided to join a group of hikers in Colorado summiting Mount Belford in support of freedom for Ukraine. Mount Belford is a 14,203 foot mountain located in the Collegiate Peaks of the Rocky Mountains and is the 18th highest peak (out of 50) in Colorado. The hike to reach the summit is an 11 mile loop with roughly 4,500 feet of elevation gain. The event was organized by a local Ukrainian, Kateryna Lapina, with the goal of raising money to purchase two night vision goggles for Kharkiv residents that are defending her hometown. Although I am an avid outdoorswoman, I was apprehensive because this would be the longest hike and highest mountain I have



Kateryna Lapina and her dog Luna

ever done. But I'm always up for an adventure, and I was motivated by the cause, so I decided to go for it.

On August 6th, 2022, with my best hiking buddy Luna the dog, I joined Kateryna and the 15 other hikers to summit Mount Belford with the Ukrainian flag. The participants included a diverse group of people with various backgrounds, all now living in Colorado and wanting to show support to the people of Ukraine. I learned that Kateryna even had a connection to Michigan! She came to the US in 2000 to attend Michigan Tech University where she earned her PhD in Environmental Engineering at Michigan Tech University. She now lives in Longmont, Colorado, and has family in Kharkiv that are actively defending their homes against Russian aggression.

For many, myself and Luna included, it was our first "14er", a term used to refer to mountains that are at or above 14,000 feet above sea level. The group gathered at 3am and set out on the all-day round trip hike in headlamps. An early start on the trail is important because the mountains experience afternoon thunderstorms, and it's not safe to be above treeline, which is at 11,500 feet, when lightning is present. Hiking in the cool mountain air was a refreshing change from the 100 degree weather we had been experiencing in Denver. Our pace started to slow as the air got thinner and it was more difficult to breath. The cool air turned cold as the winds picked up above treeline, but we were distracted by the beautiful sunrise coming over the mountain ridge. We also heard coyote calls echoing off the valley thousands of feet below. Amazing!

The final stretch of the hike before the summit is the most intense – almost 2,000 feet of elevation gain in 1 mile! It's like a giant staircase with giant steps made of stone. The first team of hikers summited around 8:30am; they continued to ascend the neighboring Mount Oxford (14,158 ft), which added about 2.5 miles to their trip. The second group (my group) was 45 minutes behind and summited just after 9am. We had a wonderful photo shoot with Ukrainian flags of various sizes, but the wind was unrelenting, so the rest was short. Descending the mountain can be just as challenging as going up, and we all still had 6 hours of hiking ahead of us!

We had perfect weather, met wonderful people, and collected money for the organization. Kateryna has partnered with co4ua.org, a small local organization with similar goals. At the time of writing this article, Kateryna and co4ua.org have organized 3 hikes with over 30 participants from 6 countries. Kateryna has been able to send two sets of night vision goggles to her brother-in-law's military unit in Kharkiv, and is working on a third. If you are able to support this cause, please consider a donation of any kind to www.co4ua.org.

A FATHER'S PRIDE...

Submitted by: Ski Iworsky - UAV Post 31, Boston

Boston UAV post 31 member USMC Sgt. Greg Iworsky and his squad were stationed in Iraq He was the leader of a boisterous squad of American patriot known as the "bounty hunters". On the battlefield, Greg had a daring audacity that proved too much for the enemy to understand. His successes were:

He was acknowledged for his leadership and awarded the marine corps and navy achievement medal with a "v" for valor in combat. His citation reads in part: "for heroic achievement while serving as an infantry squad leader... during a deliberate attack on the platoon's position...Sergeant Iworsky, without hesitation or instruction, directed accurate and deadly machinegun fire on the enemy's position.

This decoration is but one symbol of gallantry that's imbedded in Greg Iworsky's DNA. Sergeant Iworsky was responsible for planning and conducting more than 80 patrols, cordons, and searches.

A major achievement through Greg's actions was his unit's successful identification and detainment of a division-level "high value target". This captured "high value target" contained enemy considered some of the most wanted men in Iraq at the time.



Sgt. Greg Iworsky (standing, 3rd from left)

To those in uniform serving today and to those who have served in the past, WE HONOR YOU TODAY AND EVERY DAY

THE OIL PATCH WARRIORS OF WORLD WAR II

Submitted by: : Ihor Draganchuk - Post 32, Chicago

Seventy-eight years ago, a Band of Roughnecks went abroad on a top-secret mission into Robin Hood's stomping grounds to punch wells to help fuel oil England's war machines. It's a story that should make any oilman or woman proud.

The year was 1943 and England was mired in World War II. U-boats attacked supply vessels, choking off badly needed supplies to the island nation. But oil was the commodity they needed the most as they warred with Germany.

A book "The Secret of Sherwood Forest: Oil England Production in During World War II" written by Guy Woodward and Grace Steele-Woodward was published in 1973, and tells the obscure story of the American oil men who went to England to bore wells in a top secret mission in March 1943.

England had but one oil field, in Sherwood Forest of all places. Its meager output of 300 barrels a day was literally a drop in the bucket of their requirement of 150,000 barrels a day to fuel their machines. war А

top-secret plan was devised:

developing the field.

Oklahoma based Noble Drilling Company, along with Fain-Porter signed a one year contract to drill 100 wells for England, merely for costs and expenses. 42 drillers and roughnecks from Texas and Oklahoma, most in their teens and early twenties volunteered for





"There are no noble wars, just noble warriors!"

to send some Americans and their expertise to assist in the American oil men's assistance and sacrifice in the war. A replica was placed in Ardmore Oklahoma in 2001

> It is by no means a stretch to state that without the American mission, we might all be speaking German today. Special thanks to the American Oil and Gas Historical Society.

QUARTERMASTER SPECIAL!

Limited quantity

A commemorative challenge coin honoring our anniversary. Minted for our 75th Jubilee and available now for \$12.00 and free shipping.

the mission to go abroad. These hands embarked for England in March 1943 aboard the HMS Oueen Elizabeth. Four National 50 drilling rigs were loaded onto ships but only three of them made landfall; the Nazi U -boats sank one of the rigs en route to the UK.

The Brits' jaws dropped as the Yanks began punching the wells in a week, compared to five to eight weeks for their British counterparts. They worked 12 hour tours, 7 days a week and within a year, the Americans had drilled 106 wells and England oil production shot up from 300 barrels a day to over 300,000.

The contract fulfilled, the valient American oil men departed England in late March 1944. But only 41 hands were on board the return voyage.

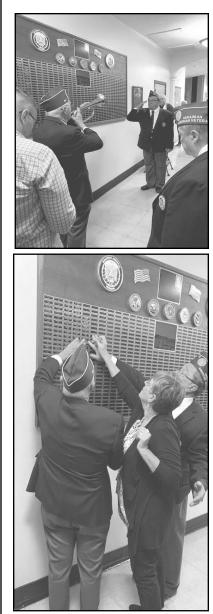
Herman Douthit, a Texan derrick-hand was killed during the operation. He was laid to rest with full military honors, and remains the only civilian to be buried at the sacred grounds of the American Military Cemetery in Cambridge.

"The Oil Patch Warrior", a seven foot bronze statue of a roughneck holding a four foot stands near pipe wrench Nottingham England to honor

POST 1 & THE HERITAGE SCHOOL HONOR VETERANS

Submitted by: Commander Ed Zetick, Post 1 Philidelphia, PA





The Heritage students join UAV members to honor veterans

On November 12th, the members of Post #1, Ukrainian American Veterans, met in the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) in Jenkintown, Pa. to remember the veterans who have served within the United States of America military. This year we honored those who have passed and especially those who passed this year of 2022. After a brief meeting where we inducted two new members, we adjourned to the memorial plaque where a service was held. Monsignor Waslo led the prayers for the honored departed. The sounding of taps was played and the widows of the passed veterans came forward and affixed their husband's name plate to the plaque. Each widow received a Memorial Coin and box with service plate attached. The post members and honored guests adjourned to a luncheon provided by the Center. The Heritage School of the UECC, which now has almost 450 students, gave a memorable and patriotic performance with their singing and poems. The post deems it a great honor to be able to honor all veterans.



UAV Tribune December, 2022

MONIQUE HANOTTE: FRENCH GUARDIAN ANGEL

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, National Publication Officer

Photo credit: Rumes Municipal Council

October 1943, over Stambruges, Belgium. an American pilot parachutes from his burning plane, lands in a tree, and falls to the ground. His ankle is badly fractured, but he crawls to a nearby farm. He is lucky! The farmer is sympathetic to the Allied airmen, and he takes the pilot to stay at the home of Clovis and Georgette Hanotte. The family hides him for weeks to avoid his capture by Germans who are searching for him. Their daughter, 23-year-old Monique Hanotte escorts the pilot between safe houses in France and Belgium until the end of the war.

Monique Hanotte was part of the underground group known as the Comet Line--an organization of nearly 3,000 French and Belgian volunteers dedicated to saving Allied airmen from capture, torture and likely execution by the Nazis. Monique was confident. She knew many of the border guards and would joke with them as she crossed. She also knew the hidden paths through hedgerows where she could cross undetected. She was clever, usually bringing along an old loaf of stale bread in her bag. She recalled. "If we were checked, I would say, I went to get bread from the country. It was easier to get through as a woman."

Using her knowledge of the Belgium-France border and quick thinking, she guided dozens of downed Allied airmen to safety during World War II. Comet agents directed the airmen on a path that led to France, then across the country to the Pyrenees, beyond the mountain range into Spain, across Spain and finally to the British territory of Gibraltar, from which they were flown to England. Ms. Hanotte was one of the last surviving Comet agents.



Her family sheltered one or two soldiers at a time in their hotel. Monique's cousins worked on forging official signatures on fake identification cards. Her mother cooked for the soldiers; provided them with props, like French or German magazine clippings; and ordered them to repeat their French aliases until their pronunciation was convincing.

Being a member of The Comet Line organization war a risky business. They rescued over 800 airmen while Hanotte herself saved 135. During the war, seven hundred members of their underground organization were arrested by the Germans and 290 were executed or died in prison or concentration camps. She and other volunteers knew well the risks they took in saving the airmen.

Monique Hanotte, Savior of Allied Airmen, Died at 101.

DRIVING AN EV PICKUP IN COLD WEATHER

Submitted by: Commander Yaromyr Oryshkevych, Post 26 Washington, DC

Just couldn't pass this up. My first 2 years in the Air Force were on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, near Sault Ste Marie. When I arrived in middle October, I was told by everyone I met to make sure I get an oil pan heater and an in-car heater. I had grown up in Maryland, and had never needed either of those items. A few weeks later, after an overnight freeze, my car not only wouldn't start, but wouldn't even turn over. By noon it got warmer, and right after duty hours I drove the 20 miles into town, and got an oil pan heater installed, and an in-car heater to boot. Each parking space on base had an electrical outlet, I plugged in, and the next morning my car started, and it was comfy warm. Fifty one years ago electric cars weren't on anyone's radar. Living in a climate where one doesn't see the ground for 4-5 months, EVs cannot possibly be a logical consideration. Putting aside the source of the electricity (back then it was coal), or the energy required to produce the lithium batteries, setting up a network of charging stations is out of the question. I haven't been indoctrinated by Prager University, but they have put in a nutshell many of the thoughts I've gathered about the so-called "green new deal". A recent excellent example was the frozen fans in Texas which affected electricity production by 22% that week. Don't get me started.

"OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE: THEY JUST FADE AWAY"

Submitted by: Anna Osinska Krawczuk, UAV PNC

Remembering UAV Past National Commander

Atanas Taras Kobryn 1986-1988



Pvt. Atanas T. Kobryn, US Army

1928 - 2022

The news of Atanas T. Kobryn's passing on January 5, 2022, in North Port, Florida at the age of 93, was not easy to accept by his family, friends and our UAV members. We knew him as a dedicated family man and Ukrainian American soldier. He was married to Kateryna (nee Osadciw) on July 12,1952, and the couple were parents to four children. His wife and son Andrew Bohdan Kobryn preceded him from this life; he is survived by sons Alexander Zenon Kobryn, Col. Adrian Ihor Kobryn, US Army, and daughter Maria Luba Hirak, as well as by his sister,



Atanas T. Kobryn, UAV NC (1986-1988)

Lyubomyra Melnyk, of Lviv, Ukraine.

Atanas T. Kobryn was an extraordinary and multi-talented individual who described his life objective as follows: "To use my education and professional know-how, as well as my life experience, for the benefit of others, i.e., the community at large and individuals who many benefit from it." As his curriculum vitae reveals, he achieved this objective to the fullest, both as a military man as a civilian.

Atanas was born in Yakubova Volya near Drohobych, Ukraine, on March 8, 1928. He was the oldest of four children born to Oleksa and Kateryna (nee Stecura) Kobryn, who raised him to be a Ukrainian patriot. During WW II, in 1942, at the age of 14, he became a member of OUN, Youth Department. Two years later he joined the 1st Ukrainian Division "Halychyna". At the end of WWII, in May 1945, at the age of 17, he became a prisoner of war of the United States in Austria and was released on May 22, 1946. For the next two years he served on Special assignment behind the Iron Curtain, working for OUN and for U.S. Intelligence.

After WWII Atanas emigrated from Europe, arriving in the United States on February 9, 1952. During the Korean War he served in the US Army. On active duty for two years, he remained in the Army reserve until 1977. During this time, Atanas continued his education, earning a B.S. in Management at the University of Buffalo, NY (1959) and an M.A. from, Niagara University (1971), as well taking other courses. He became a business officer for health-related facilities for the State of New York, retiring in 1993.

Atanas was a life member of the American Legion, Pvt. Nicholas Minue Post 1260, New York, N.Y.; AMVETS; and Post 2000, North Port, Florida.



L/R: Rostyslaw Ratycz, Julian Helbig, PNC Walter Shipka, NC Anna Krawczuk, and PNC Atanas T. Kobryn; 2nd row: Ihor W. Hron and Roman Rondiak; (2007 - UAV Post 40, North Port, FL)



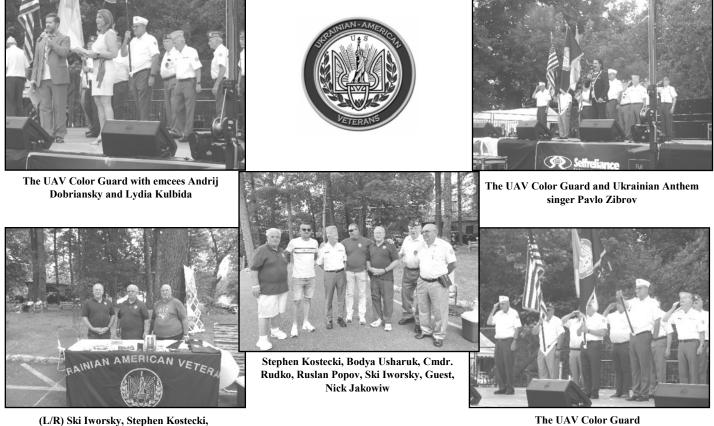
Br. Gen. UAV NC Leonid E. Kondratiuk awarding PNC Kobryn at the UAV Convention in North Port, FL.

(Continued on page 11)

POST 31 REPRESENTS THE UAV AT SOYUZIVKA

Submitted by: Ski Iworsky Post 31, Boston, MA

The Soyuzivka Annual Festival was held this past July and the UAV Color Guard opened the ceremony. Below are assorted photos showing the main stage and members of the UAV who, once again, were invited to attend. Post 31 had a large presence. Please note that our 76th Annual convention will be held on these grounds.



Mike Hutz

The UAV Color Guard

Kobryn (continued from page 10)



530th M. I. Platoon, Fort Bragg, NC first row on the left - Atanas T. Kobryn (May 1953) another Ukrainian soldier Joseph Kibala standing behind Atanas

He was also a member of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 7 in New York City and was elected UAV National Commander in 1986-1988. After retirement, the Kobryn family moved to Florida. Atanas was instrumental in founding the UAV Post 40, in North Port, Florida, and was elected its first Post Commander in 1999.

Atanas was also active in other ways, and his activities were multifaceted and never stopped. He loved to write and penned a weekly column in his local newspaper as well as for the North Port Sun, North Port, Florida, covering the Ukrainian community news.

Rest in peace, Commander Kobryn! God Bless you!

AN ACCIDENTAL "ODYSSEY"

Soliciting Congressional Support For Ukraine

Submitted by: Dr. Yaromyr Oryshkevych, Commander Post 26, Washington, DC

Earlier this 2022, the Congressional \$54B total package had been approved under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). UAV Post 26 Congressional Liaison Officer apprised the UAV Post 26 Commander of the need to solicit congressional support for Ukraine during the upcoming Congressional NDAA 23 negotiations. The liaison officer suggested that UAV Post write letters to the Members of the House & Senate Armed Services Committees. Because the House and Senate proposed amounts differed dramatically, the amounts would need be reconciled during the August "recess", which would be the "conference" period 8-15 August 2022. The news subsequently came out that the House already voted on NDAA '23 approving its amount, but the Senate wasn't scheduled to vote on it until early Sep 2022.

The Senate was working on a \$500M amount, and the House was working on \$1B amount. It was imperative to make sure that the \$1B Senate amount would also become a \$1B House amount. The UAV original plan called for sending e-mails to the members of the Senate & House Armed Service Committee. However, Congressional email addresses are a "closely-guard secret" available only through a "Yellow Pages" book. Ukrainian National information Services (UNIS) supposedly possessed a copy of "Yellow Pages" and promised provide UAV Post 26 a copy.

Throughout the month of July, the UAV Congressional Liaison Officer worked diligently crafting, revising, rewriting, and producing the final letter to be sent to Congress. At its 3 August scheduled UAV Post 26 monthly meeting a discussion ensued on how to best expedite the letter delivery, to retroactively thank Congress for their earlier vote, and to encourage them to vote to continue support for Ukraine. Also discussed was whether it was better to wait for the e-mail list or to send a hard copy letter to Congress.

One member explained that the vast majority of email correspondence is subjected to an algorithm filter that screens and groups messages by subject. He said that because of the huge volume of emails, the intended recipients of such correspondence rarely see the original message.

On the other hand, he noted, hard copy letters sent to Congress by mail get more attention and have a better chance of being read, mainly because there is a recorded paper trail. This prompted the members of the UAV to send hard copy letters to Congress.

The final letter was formatted, printed, and mailed on 8 Aug 22. As of 15 Aug 22, UAV National Commander and Post 26 are awaiting response from Congress. The letter project is done, now we wait for the Senate vote in September, and Presidential signature to make it into law.

The UAV NATIONAL WELFARE FUND

Submitted by: Roman Stefaniuk, National Welfare Officer

The National Welfare Fund was established 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 the Ukrainian men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. These Grants can be requested, by any member of the UAV and their families who are in financial need, to help them with hospital and doctor bills, prescription bills, dental expenses, rehabilitation expenses, funeral expenses, and any other situation that causes them financial hardship. The Grant Application forms are available with all Post Commanders, on the UAV website or from the Welfare Committee at **pomko@wowway.com**.

All applications are to be signed by the applicant and their Post Commander. In the event that the applicant is reluctant about requesting a Grant, the Post Commander may initiate the request, on the applicant's behalf, over his signature. Our Welfare Fund is in a good financial position to continue helping our members and their families with financial assistance. We strongly encourage all State and Post Commanders to review their membership to see if anyone needs financial help and, if so, to fill out a Grant application and get financial aid.

LETTER REQUESTING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

The following letter was a template used by many Ukrainian-Americans and UAV members to lobby the US Congress. This was our attempt to raise funds through Congressional budgeting. The submission on page 12 gives more detail. We are still awaiting the results of this letter writing campaign.

The Honorable

United States Senate

Dear Senator _____

Ukrainian-American Veterans urge you to support, in conference, the higher mark of \$1 billion as proposed in H.R. 7900 (Sec. 1232) to fund Ukrainian security needs for FY 2023. Both the Senate and the House Armed Services Committees are to be commended for having the foresight to support the two recent supplemental appropriations for Ukraine totaling \$54 billion. While only about 75% (\$40 billion) of that amount was directly in support of Ukraine's military, humanitarian, and governmental needs, the rest would have been required to address the numerous related needs resulting from Russia's aggressive moves (such as U.S. troop deployments, modernization, and NATO support).

The moneys have been put to good use in giving Ukraine more than a fighting chance to survive Russia's genocidal war. In light of Putin's imperial ambitions and oft-stated intentions to "reacquire" lost territories and upend a world order based on democracy, individual freedom, and rule-of-law, future conflict with Russia is inevitable. Ukrainians are fighting not only their war but also America's and NATO's war. America placed its trust in Ukrainian grit and steadfastness, and Ukraine delivered. Now it is America's turn to implement the Powell Doctrine and provide as much support as needed to win the war.

According to Brown University's Watson Institute, America's 20 years of post-9/11 wars cost \$8 trillion and 22,000 allied and U.S. casualties. The (est.) \$40 billion for Ukraine in the two supplementals represents 5.2% of America's defense budget, and only 1/2 of 1% of the cost of America's post 9/11 wars... with no loss of American lives.

The support you provided has unified global democracies; sustained Ukraine in its bitter and costly fight for freedom; greatly strengthened and reinvigorated NATO; started weaning Europe away from Russian energy dependency by opening it to alternatives including U.S. LNG sales; greatly reduced Russia's ability to threaten or intimidate the West; weakened China's position as an "existential threat" and may have saved countless American lives and hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars in future encounters with a greatly scaled down residual Russian threat.

Within the elemental meaning of "America first" there is no better or worthier allocation of taxpayer dollars than staying the course with Ukraine, thereby neutralizing one of America's and NATO's greatest threats at a providentially modest cost. Putting it simply.... this is, both in cost and results, a slam-dunk for America!

Ukrainian-American Veterans urge you to raise the authorization to \$1 billion, and continue providing sufficient military support in FY 2023 to end the war with victory for America and Ukraine.

With best regards, Ihor Rudko Commander, Ukrainian American Veterans

COMMEMORATION OF THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN MILITARY FORCES

Submitted by: Jaroslaw Martyniuk, Post 26, Washington D.C.



Volodymyr Stepaniak, non-veteran Zen Stakhiv, Bohdan Hetmansky, Michael Hrycak, National Commander Ihor Rudko, Yaromyr Oryshkevych, DDS, George Moraczewski, Gen Milley, Askold Mosijczuk, MD, Jaroslav Martyniuk, Ilona Nockles, DDS, Yuri Deychakiwsky, MD.

POST 32 SENDS MORE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO LVIV, UKRAINE

Submitted by Commander Peter Bencak, Post 32, Chicago, IL

I received an email this past week from the Company that ordered and delivered two Electric Wheelchairs for the Lviv Military Hospital. The company sales representative sent me an invoice which will be paid through the funds in the Chicago Humanitarian fund.

I spoke to the doctor with whom I have a close working relationship and he confirmed the delivery and sent photos and videos to show that the wheelchairs were placed into service immediately.

I also received confirmation this week that the diagnostic Bladder Scanners the doctors requested will be delivered to me before the end of 2022. I have contacted Mr. John Jaresko from St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox church, who will assist us in shipping them to the Hospital ASAP. To date there have been delays in procuring this equipment. Supply issues and the war in Ukraine have been impediments that we were able to circumvent. However, due to these delays, the company's sales department reduced our bill by \$1,000. For this we thank them.

The Photos and Video will be included in the next update of Post 32's fundraising results. They will show the wheelchairs in action with various paralyzed veterans. These chairs will also be used to train our Wounded Hero's on how to return to some normalcy with dignity when they go home.

To date, all the equipment we sent to this hospital have been for in hospital use. In the future, this may change. The resident doctor in Lviv, its director and some Rehab specialists are traveling to Israel for a two week series of meetings and seminars to discuss what Ukraine's hospital is doing in the field of Rehabilitation and possibly learn new techniques. He will share his experiences with us upon his return.

WHY RUSSIA WILL NEVER WIN

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, National Publication Officer

Photo submitted by Walter Stepaniak, Post 26

During our 75th National convention, delegates were encouraged to mingle with UAV members from other posts. Pleasantries were exchanged with new members while comfortable yet colorful absurdities were tossed at old mates.

Here is where I met Walter Stepaniak. He appeared timid and took a back seat to most conversations. However when the name of Putin was evoked, Walter became transformed. Physically he stayed the same but verbally he cursed Putin, his ancestors and progeny with the vehemence of a zealot.

I told Walter to calm down which he did quickly. I wondered how he could temper his anger so quickly. He said Ukraine has a secret weapon and his grand niece was a part of that weapon.

Darena lived in Kyiv before the war and was a young college student with a foreseeable future. Putin upset that dream when he attacked Ukraine. When the bombings began, Darena felt a rage that called her to action. She joined others in a military school for sniper training. After her 22nd birthday, she graduated near the top of her class and moved to Lviv to join her mother and the Local defense group.

Let it be known that Darena has another Grand Uncle who has inspired her. Roman Kokolskyk of UAV Post 1 could not be prouder of his young warrior.



Darena (name withheld by request) holding her graduation reward. May her hand be steady and her aim true. We are all in awe of this young hero.



(L/R) Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publications Officer, Roman Yatskovskyy, Exec. Officer, Selfreliance Association, Wasyl Mirutenko, Vice Commander Post 32, Maria Dziuma, Secretary, Selfreliance Association, Peter Bencak PNC, Commander Post 32, Mother and child refugees, Walter Tun, President Selfreliance Association, Nikola Skyba, Post 32.

A local collaboration between the UAV, our Chicago Selfreliance credit union and the separate community organization, the Selfreliance Association raised money to help Ukrainian refugees. Through a very successful Golf outing and two smaller fundraisers, Post 32 raised \$36,000. Our intent was to help newly arrived refugee by giving them cash certificates. In an agreement with the Credit union, they printed certificates. The UAV awarded a \$100.00 certificate to refugees limited to women, mothers and children. Each person was to go to the credit union and redeem their certificates which was deposited into their account. At the conclusion of this program The Credit union invoiced the UAV which paid for these certificates from its humanitarian fund. We were able to help 360 people.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

October 12, 2022

ANNUAL REPORTS - FOURTH QUARTER - A Synopsys of activities. PAGE 1

More detailed information can be requested from Post commanders or the National Adjutant.

<u>Ihor Rudko, Commander</u>

Maintained contact with the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington D.C., notably with Maj. General Kremenetskyi and Lt. Colonel Rozhkov. Also with the Ukrainian Ministry of Veterans Affairs (UMVA) through Vice Minister Oleksiy Ilyashenko and with past Minister of UMVA, Oksana Kolyada.

Coordinated with our Ukrainian Wounded Warrior Program chairs in affecting the upcoming NDAA efforts.

Several teleconferences about UAV's 501(c)3 application and the establishment of our Humanitarian Fund.

Attended 19 local ceremonies, dedications, festivals or posting of colors. More details available with the National Adjutant.

Matthew Wroblewski, Vice-Commander

There are 39 M.A.L.'s on the roster. This year the MAL's have the option of paying their dues online on PayPal or sending in a check as usual. Five MAL meetings were held through the ZOOM process. 11 monthly meetings were held and several ceremonies, festivals, color guard postings were attended.

John Steciw, Adjutant

All reports, agendas, minutes etc. have been recorded, filed and distributed for this calendar year.

Peter Bencak, Finance Officer

Our National UAV Humanitarian fund has been established and now has a 501(c)3 designation.

The filing of IRS financials is getting a major internal update. The status of our National fiscal position is healthy.

Michael Hrycak, Judge Advocate

New Jersey has 4 posts, Newark, Whippany, Trenton and Freehold. All posts participated in varied levels in Parades, post meetings, prayer vigils, presentations, color guards, Grand opening and funerals, The Judge Advocate activities include demonstrations, color guards, public speeches, commemorations and wreath layings.

<u>Stephen Kostecki, Quartermaster</u>

Due to illness the Q/M will file his report with the adjutant by the end of 2022.

Marian Bojsiuk, Service Officer/Chaplain

Chaplain Marian Bojsiuk reported which UAV members Passed on this year.

Roman Stefaniuk, Welfare Officer

Our Welfare fund is healthy and we have enough funds to help members for several years. We assisted over 15 members this year.

Nicholas Skirka, Scholarship Officer

12 scholarship applicants received \$500 each. A notice identifying all winners was submitted to the Ukrainian Weekly.

Ed A. Zetick PNC, Historian

No changes were made in the care of UAV historical documents and paraphernalia, Much of our activities were focused on the 75th Convention preparation. Several local activities were attended.

Bohdan Dudycz, PR/Publications officer

I prepared and published Ukrainian Weekly advertisements for Memorial Day, ¹/₄ page - Independence Day, ¹/₄ page, 2022 Convention announcement, ¹/₄ page – Twice, and Veterans Day, ¹/₄ page. The 2022 convention Journal was a moderate challenge this year. It was also the largest in 7 years totaling 72 pages.

Leonid Kondratiuk, PNC, Monument officer

The Monument officer will file his report with the adjutant by the end of 2022.

Joe Nasevich, Webmaster

I'm happy to report that I have successfully changed registrars from web.com to Namecheap and renewed the registration for about half the price that web.com was asking. The domain registration expires on 23 October 2032. There have been no other significant updates to the UAV website this year. Website analytics (1 November 2020 through 30 Sep 2022) show a big spike in page visits in February and March 2022 due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. 91% of them were new users.

UAV 2022 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Preamble: As a national Veterans' organization, of Ukrainian descent and lineage, we want to supply the public with information from Veterans that address the current Russo Ukrainian War.

Therefore, be it resolved – that the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., will provide talking points and press releases for the Ukrainian Diaspora, and the general public, addressing salient issues as a result of the invasion of Ukraine by Russian Armed Forces, and proxies.

Preamble: Ukrainian American Veterans emphasize our continued support of Ukraine by the United States of America, leading other allies.

Be it resolved, the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., commend Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin for his continued leadership of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, comprised of representatives of 50 allies of Ukraine, who recently concluded their fifth meeting on October 12, 2022, to address the current Russian attempt at annexing four regions they tentatively occupy in Ukraine.

Preamble: Ukrainian American Veterans support Ukraine's fight for freedom.

Be it resolved that the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., as Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, pledge our continued support for Ukraine and the United States of America to restore the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and her continued sovereignty, in accordance with the 1994 Budapest Memorandums.

Preamble: It is the legacy of the Ukrainian American Veterans to serve in the defense of the United States of America and our ancestral land, Ukraine.

Be it resolved – that the Ukrainian American Veterans have served in the United States Armed Forces in every armed conflict since the Revolutionary War, and those of us still serving, or with the benefit of their service, pledge to honor that legacy by encouraging Ukrainians, both here and throughout the world, to support the same battle for freedom and our inherent rights AS LONG AS IT TAKES!

Passed this 15th day of October 2022, at the 75th UAV convention, at Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION ON SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES

Submitted by: Victoria Swindle, Winner of the UAV Scholarship award

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and my outlook and actions in life have changed. Russia created a war in which millions of Ukrainians are suffering. As a second-generation American with friends and family in Ukraine, it has been difficult to discuss this conversation. Russia's aggression has been put on other countries like Germany, Poland, China, and even the United States. This aggression has been through weapons, sanctions, food supply shortages, and social media propaganda. One way that I have personally been affected by this war on Ukraine, is digitally archiving websites to protect websites that are in the Ukrainian domain in case there was a Russian cyber-attack. I am only one of 1,386 volunteers from around the world that make up the SUCHO Team that finds and archives these websites, digital exhibits, objects, and open access publications. These websites are now recorded, so if something would happen, future generations have access to these websites and other digital objects. We will continue to secure this data for as long as we need. This digital archive serves as a reminder to us that Ukrainian culture is robust and rich in resources that others can learn from.

There are still thousands of people who have had to evacuate their homes because of the aggression put on them because of Russia. For me, it has been difficult at times to see photographs of Ukrainian citizens making temporary living spaces in train stations and train cars. One must also think about how the citizens of Russia are also feeling during this aggression. There have been several businesses that are no longing to do business with Russia and closing their doors to their stores. The citizens now do not have access to the products and services anymore. The Russian government has filtered the news that they provide for their citizens.

In our church this past Easter season, we had a family who fled from Ukraine because of the war. They were very shaken up by the whole situation, and they expressed their gratitude to the people of the United States who care about them. It is hard for me to justify that I am fortunate enough to live in a country where I have not lived through this type of situation. However, I plan to try my best to help in the effort of making the lives easier for people who have. We must never forget the aggression that Russia has put on our ancestral homeland Ukraine, and other countries as well.

75TH NATIONAL UAV CONVENTION A PICTORAL TOUR

























































75TH NATIONAL UAV CONVENTION A PICTORAL TOUR

























































UAV Tribune December, 2022

75TH NATIONAL UAV CONVENTION A PICTORAL TOUR



FAREWELL TO OUR DEAR FRIEND, OLEH R. CIEPLY, PC

Submitted by: Commander Matt Wroblewski Post 101 Warren, MI



Ukrainian American Veterans Michigan Post 101 is sad to announce the passing of LTC. Oleh R. Cieply on February 16, 2022.

Commander Cieply was born January 1, 1934 in Lviv, Ukraine. Oleh and his parents arrived in the United States August 27, 1949 from Germany. After completing high school, Oleh attended the University of Toledo's ROTC earning his degree in Civil Engineering. He entered the US Army on May 21, 1958 as a 2nd Lt. attending the Engineering Officers Basic Course at Fort Belvoir, VA.

In 1965, with the rank of Captain, he completed the Engineering Officers Career Course at the same base. In May of 1974, Major Cieply attended the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. In September, 1978, he was awarded the rank of LTC. US Army. Oleh Cieply's military decorations included Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Completion Achievement Medal with second device, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

He left Active Duty in November, 1958 and went into the Army Reserves till November, 1985. Retired LTC. Oleh Cieply joined the UAV and eventually became the Post Commander which he held for 19 years, working tirelessly and continually moving our Post forward. During his years as Commander, Michigan Post 101 hosted four National UAV Conventions in the city of Warren, and Commander Cieply was nominated as City of Warren Volunteer of the Year.

We want to thank the Almighty God for having given us a great person like our departed Commander LTC. Oleh. He was a great husband, father, grandfather, an exemplary member of the Ukrainian American Veterans and a dedicated member of the Ukrainian Church and Community. We pray that Commander Cieply may find peace and comfort in the presence of Almighty God and that the eternal memory of him will continue to live within all of us. Farewell Dear Commander. Vichnaya Pamiat.

POST 26 - WASHINGTON D.C.

Submitted by: Commander Yaromyr Oryshkevych, Post 26

Hello Ms. Patel!

Thank you for meeting with our Ukrainian-American Veterans' delegation on Wednesday 15 June 2022. We are pleased that you were so honest with us in explaining and justifying Congressman Steube's rationale for voting against the \$40 billion Aid to Ukraine package.

Congressman Steube's main concern was the potential lack of accountability as to what, when, and how much would actually be delivered to Ukraine.

We concur and support the need for close accounting: the lack of accountability in the package obliges someone with a conscience to oppose its passage, until a plan for accountability can be devised/added/voted on.

We hope that our updated talking points expressed our justification for requesting more military aid to Ukraine, which will, in turn, assist Ukraine in repelling the genocidal Russians.

These weapons are crucial to Ukraine, and European security!

By itself, the \$54 billion is a substantial amount of money.

But when taken in context with the \$8 trillion cost, and 22K American/allied casualties, since 9-11, this current expenditure does not involve/include/require American boots on the ground (paraphrase of Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba).

The money sent to Ukraine would return to the US in job creation, production of new & more modern weapons, and the US military would learn something about Russian war strategy/techniques.

Ukraine, fighting for its existence, has become the bulwark for the rest of Europe, and cannot be allowed to fail: that would allow Putin and Russia to continue its ambition to reconstitute the old USSR by attacking the

Baltic countries (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) and other countries west of Ukraine.

Our US goals are to preserve and defend the independence, democracy, and human rights of all parties involved in this war between imperial Russia and the West.

Thank you for accepting all our documentation and we hope you pass them, and your favorable comments, on to Congressman Steube.

Same day news: Even Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin today announced that the time for resupply of Ukraine is critical, and Gen Wesley Clark (USA ret) described how much time is necessary to learn the different systems supplied by all the different countries.

Clark also lamented not setting up a nofly zone when it was evident that Russia intended to invade.

Someone was afraid of antagonizing Russia.

The time to act and assist Ukraine is NOW. Every day is critical to Ukraine's existence, and Europe's safety.



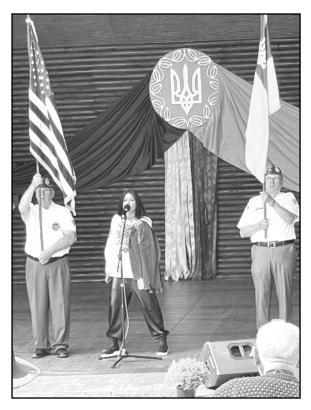
(L/R) Volodymyr Stepaniak, Commander Yaromyr Oryshkevych, Twinkle Patel, office of U.S. Representative Greg Steube Askold Mosijzuk. Twinkle was very attentive, and promised to relay all our "concerns" to Congressman Steube.

POST 26—WASHINGTON D.C.

Submitted by: Commander Yaromyr Oryshkevych, Post 26



(L-R): Askold Mosijzuk, Volodymyr Stepaniak, Cody Cazares, National Security Advisor to U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, Commander Yaromyr Oryshkevych, Bohdan Hetmansky.



17 Sep 2022: Volodymyr Stepaniak & Commander Yaromyr Oryshkevych hold flags to salute national anthems sung by Ruslana.



17 Sep 2022: Ruslana visited the UAV tent at the Ukrainian Festival. (L-R): Volodymyr Stepaniak, Ruslana, Commander Yaromyr Oryshkevych.

Welcome to the Ukrainian American Veterans newest Post



National Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki

QUARTERMASTER STORE

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 5-6 weeks for delivery



Solid Blue UAV Necktie \$8.00 ea.



Baseball Cap with the UAV emblem \$17.00 (One size fits all)



Navy blue UAV Golf Shirt w/the UAV emblem - \$35.00 Include size when ordering



Summer wear. Sold as a set - \$15.00

American flag and UAV arm Patch for





UAV Monument Coin \$12.00 FREE SHIPPING



UAV Car Medallion \$12.00



Desktop replica of our Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument

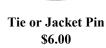
UAV Monument Coin in case - \$30.00



Jacket Emblem to be worn on the breast pocket -\$25.00

A commemorative

and FREE SHIPPING.







LARGE: 11 1/4" x 7 1/4" for \$40.00 SMALL: 7 1/2" x 5 1/2" for \$30.00

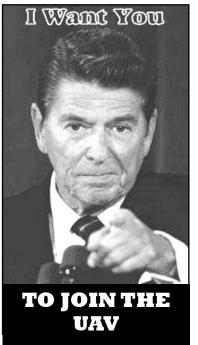








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76th Annual UAV Convention September 21-24, 2023 Soyuzivka Heritage Center

216 Foordmore Rd, Kerhonkson, NY 12446



Support our Brothers and Sisters who defend Ukraine!

СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ! ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!

Hero, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy