



# UAV TRIBUNE

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

## Ukrainian American Veterans

### “From The Commander’s Hatch”



Michael P. Hrycak UAV NC

I extend my heartfelt greetings and gratitude to all Ukrainian American Veterans and their families. This is the season of joy and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, with our family, friends, and loved ones.

But, we must first remember our fellow Veterans deployed around the world who are celebrating with their other family, Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, and Space Force. We have all been in that position, celebrating with those that also took the oath and wear the uniform of our United States Armed Forces, united in defense of our great Nation.

My gratitude for your support in electing me in time to celebrate this holiday season with fellow Veterans that have served in many different wars, conflicts, as well as the Cold War. I find myself reminiscing back to 1977 when I entered Rutgers Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps). For the next twenty eight years, we trained and prepared for the Soviets violating the eastern boundary of Europe through the Fulda Gap. Forty six years later, they are fighting for that same goal in Eastern Ukraine.

This year my focus is supporting Veterans of both the United States Armed Forces and

fellow Warriors in Ukraine. Our Veterans’ organization is based upon local initiative:

Among its activities, mainly carried out by Local Post Organizations, the UAV sponsors Patriotic observances on holidays, provides Veterans Affairs Programs, perpetuates the memory of Veterans, cooperates with Local Community Groups in service projects, and bestows awards to individuals and organizations recognizing artistic, cultural, educational or patriotic achievements.

It is our members that represent Ukrainian American Veterans, in many venues, and at many occasions. Stay strong, I will keep you updated with our organization’s talking points. We will show a united front, with a professional and patriotic stature.

May your Holidays be wonderous and may Mykolai be generous to all of you and your families.

Do not forget to keep our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in your prayers as you have a Merry Christmas.

May we all share health, prosperity and peace as I wish you a Happy New Year in 2024!

Michael P. Hrycak,  
LTC, USA, Ret.  
National Commander



ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ

СЛАВІМО ЙОГО!



# Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

44 Jurach Road  
Colchester, CT 06415-2106



## Ihor Rudko National Commander

### Post Commanders 2018 - Present

Post 1 Philadelphia, PA - Edward A. Zetick, PNC  
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Post 6 Newark, NJ - Michael Hrycak (interim)  
**908-272-1716** - [michaelhrycak@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelhrycak@yahoo.com)

Post 14 Hartford, CT - Ihor B. Rudko, CTSC PC  
**860-705-1849** - [irudko@rudko.com](mailto:irudko@rudko.com)

Post 15 New Britain, CT - Michael P. Wowk (interim)  
**860-827-8600** - [mpwuke@yahoo.com](mailto:mpwuke@yahoo.com)

Post 17 Passaic, NJ - Jim Fedorko  
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Post 42 LeHigh Valley, PA - Bohdan Zelechiwsky  
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Post 43 Johnson City, NY - Michael J. Dobransky, PC  
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Post 101 Warren, MI - Matthew Wroblewski, PC  
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Post 301 Yonkers, NY - Nicholas Skirka, NSchol PC  
**914-965-3707** - [nskirka@optonline.net](mailto:nskirka@optonline.net)

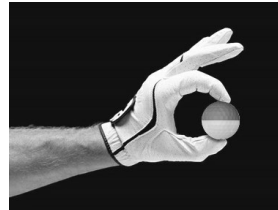
#### State Commanders:

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### SAVE-A-DATE



**POST 32 - CHICAGO  
GOLF FUNDRAISER**

TEE UP

To help Ukrainian Refugees  
MONDAY JUNE 17TH, 2024

2024 UAV

National Convention  
Warren Michigan

September 26, 27, 28  
More information in the  
Tribune's June issue



# MILITARY CHAPLAINCY IN THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Newly elected National UAV Chaplain

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

Allow me to introduce myself so you are aware who is taking up your valuable time. I have been deployed for thirty-eight years – as a priest. All diocesan priests are deployed by their bishop to serve the parishioners. They are rarely under fire, but they are deployed. A few of these priests are also military chaplains. Your present speaker retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve after 21 years of service with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



CHAPLAIN (Lt Col) IVAN KASZCZAK, USAF, Retired

I served at the following bases: Griffiss AFB (Rome, NY), Peterson AFB (CO), US Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs, CO), McGuire AFB (NJ) and Andrews AFB (MD). I was not deployed overseas but I did defend the State of New Jersey. The focus here, however, is the military chaplaincy and our men and women who serve in the armed forces. Chaplains are important because they have confidentiality and allow those who are most in need of spiritual services to have them.

At this time I will present a couple of examples of Ukrainian Catholic chaplains. The first Ukrainian Catholic priest to serve in the United States arrived with his wife Pawlyna in December of 1884. His name was Rev. John Wolansky. He worked diligently with the new Ukrainian immigrants who were mostly coal workers in Shenandoah, PA. What some may not know is that he was also a Reservist in the Austrian Army. There were over thirty Ukrainian Catholic priests in Galicia (Austria-Hungary: present day Ukraine) who were chaplains in the Austrian army before and during World War I.

During The Great War (1914-1918) Galicia was overrun by the Russian Tsarists troops. Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky, of Lviv, was taken prisoner by the Russians from 1914 until 1917. Nonetheless, Ukrainian Catholic priests continued to serve the troops in spite of that fact that the Metropolitan, their chief pastor, had been taken captive.

One of the most dedicated chaplains was Rev. Constantine Bohachevsky. On June 23, 1916 three weeks after Ivan Franko's death Father Constantine was called up to serve as chaplain in the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Regiment stationed on the Italian front. Until February 22, 1917 Bohachevsky trudged with the army through the *Armentera* Mountain Range and into the *Sugan* Valley. During this campaign he became a combat veteran.

On March 12, 1917 he was awarded a cross for bravery, second class with sword and ribbon by the Austrian Army. Yet, his service continued and he spent 9 months visiting internment camps. This experience of combat and internment deprivations that

he witnessed steered his character with empathy for true Christian service.

He also learned to cooperate with and serve with chaplains of various faith groups. A large number of Jewish soldiers were enlisted in the armed forces of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and they were supported by field rabbis from the very beginning of the conflict. This experience of inter-confessional cooperation was to serve the future Metropolitan of Philadelphia in many ways. He became a better administrator and a more empathetic pastor. Many saw his discipline and commitment as a great gift to the church. His chaplaincy contributed so much to his pastoral service.

Another great person who was a chaplain during the Great War was the future Pope John XXIII. 1901 he was in Rome to further his studies but he took a year off for military service. In 1915 he was called back to military service; served as medic and chaplain during World War I. On leaving the service in 1918 he was appointed spiritual director of the seminary.

During the post World War II period several Ukrainian Catholic priests had served in the Armed Forces of the United States. By my count there have been over twenty Ukrainian Catholic priests who served as chaplains in the US Military. At present, there are approximately ten Ukrainian Catholic priests serving or recently retired from the United States Military. Their lives have been changed by their chaplaincy and their chaplaincy has changed lives.

**Presented to the delegates at the  
73rd UAV convention**

# 76TH UAV NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

## 2024-2025 National Officers

<u>National Commander</u>	Michael P. Hrycak
<u>Vice Commander</u>	Roman Makuch
<u>Finance Officer</u>	Peter Bencak
<u>Judge Advocate</u>	Bohdan Hetmansky
<u>Quartermaster</u>	Stephen Kostecki
<u>Chaplain/Svc. Officer</u>	Rev. Ivan Kaszczak
<u>Welfare Officer</u>	Roman Stefaniuk
<u>Scholarship Officer</u>	Nicholas Skirka
<u>Publications Officer</u>	Bohdan Dudycz
<u>Webmaster</u>	Joe Nasevich
<u>Registration Officer</u>	To Be Determined
<u>Historian</u>	Edward Zetick
<u>Monument Officer</u>	Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk

### Nominating Committee:

PNC Leonid Kondratiuk	PNC Matthew Koziak
PNC Ihor Hron	PNC Edward Zetick

## Banquet Program

- A. Opening Remarks by Commander Peter Polnyj
- B. Presentation of Colors
- C. National Anthems by Stefan Szkafarowsky - NY Metropolitan Opera
- D. Installation of newly elected UAV NEBoard and Ladies Auxiliary
- E. Introduction of Master of Ceremonies Roman Makuch
- F. Invocation by Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak
- G. POW MIA Ceremony
- H. Dinner
- I. Dinner Entertainment - "Melodies of Ukraine"
- J. Introduction of Guests
- K. Keynote Speaker - Hon. Ambassador Dr. Roman Popadiuk
- L. Guest Speakers
  1. Michael Hrycak, Newly elected UAV National Commander
  2. Oksana Koziak, Re-elected Ladies Auxiliary President
- M. Benediction by Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak
- N. Concert and Dancing

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

Reviewed two accounting records:

National Welfare

UAV Inc. Financials

Records are maintained in meticulous order with reports, bank statements, income receipts and expenses posted per matching monthly bank statements. For 2023 everything through August, 2023 balances to the penny.

### Auditing Committee:

Peter Bencak	Roman Stefaniuk
Matthew Wroblewski	Zenko Halkowycz

## Membership & Marketing

After much discussion, the committee concluded that The NEB is a resource for promotion, advertising, guidance, support and organizational cohesion.

The most effective recruitment is done at the local level. Posts are resource to gain more members.

Suggested activities:

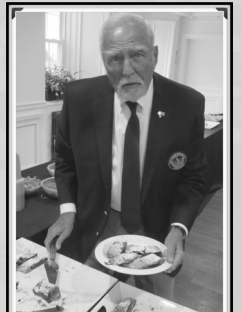
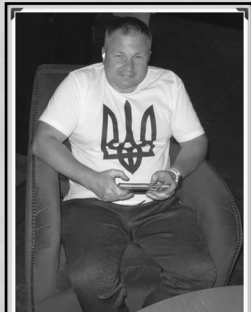
1. One on One enthusiastic recruitment
2. Make New members feel welcome:
  - a. Assign a Mentor to the "Newbie"
  - b. Encourage their "light task" involvement
  - c. Give positive reinforcement
3. Tie your post to other orgs. and their activities and volunteer to help i.e. garage/flea market sales, mini golf, donate flags to classrooms, help with parking control, etc. Be creative.
4. Explain our purpose as a service organization
5. Utilize our publications as recruitment tools
6. Set up an Auxiliary support extension of your post (more about this at a future meeting, it is a work in progress).

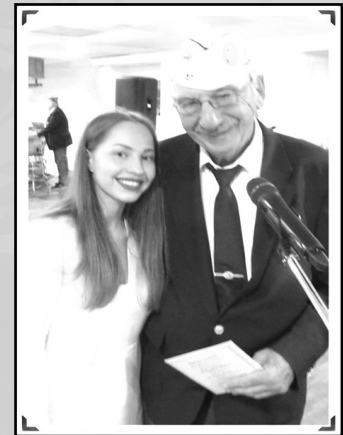
### Membership/Marketing Committee:

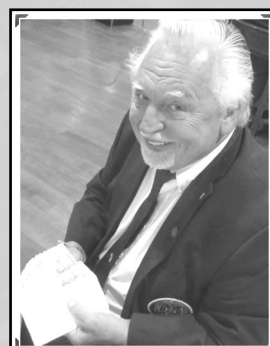
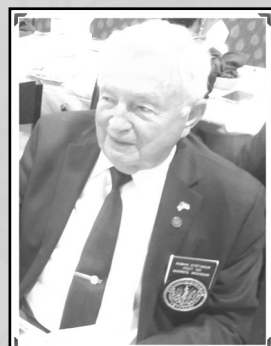
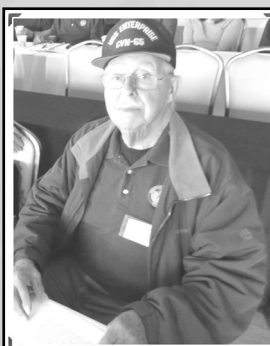
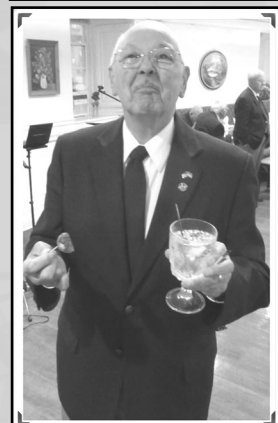
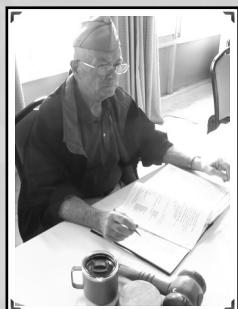
Bohdan Dudycz	Tanya Clark
Mike Wowk	Michael Dobransky
Nick Skirka	Jerry Kindratiuk

The 2023 National Convention was interesting and informative. Many subjects were discussed and delegate participation was encouraged. The election of National Executive Board members was uneventful with no controversies and virtual unanimity. We welcomed our New National Commander, Michael Hrycak who has been an integral part of our board as the past Judge Advocate. Roman Makuch will be the new Vice Commander and MAL liaison. We await his Marine approach to our organization. Peter Polnyj will assume the mantle of Adjutant. His reputation using gentle persuasion to achieve a goal is awesome. During our convention, Bohdan Hetmansky showed delegates that his legal prowess is surpassed by his youthful enthusiasm for any task. The Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak has exhibited a unique style of oration. His words will evoke a smile as his empathy enfolds you with a sense of spiritual security. To all those who retire from their NEB office, we extend a major appreciation for your stewardship in keeping our beloved UAV on a true and righteous course. Adjutant John Steciw, Finance Officer Jerry Kindrachuk, Chaplain Marian Boisiuk and Monument Officer Mathew Koziak. You all went above and beyond in your duties and for this we extend our sincere and collective "Thank You".

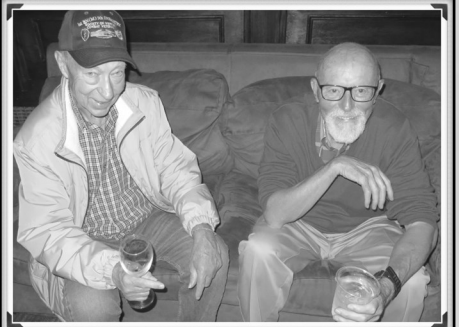
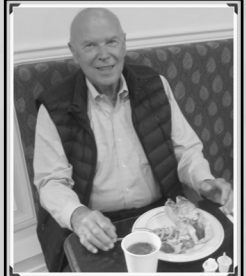
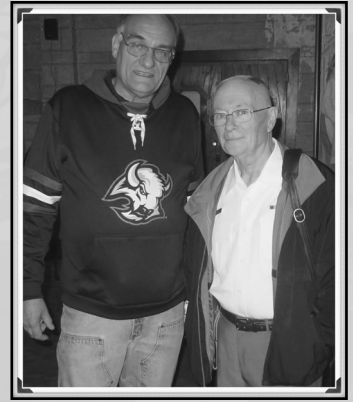


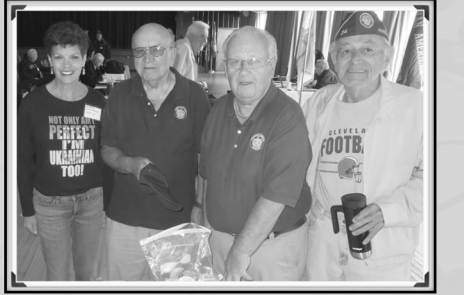








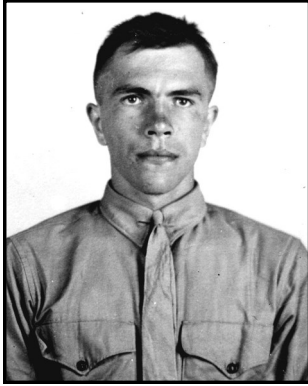




# UAV Post 42 Honors WWII Hero Michael Strank as New Patron

Marine Corps War Memorial Patronage Shifts from Jack Palance to Michael Strank

Submitted by: Jerry Kindrachuk, Post 42



Ukrainian American Veterans Post 42 has recently undergone a significant change in its patronage, transitioning from the iconic Jack Palance to a new figure—Marine Sgt Michael Strank. This decision arose from heartfelt discussions within the Post, centered on the collective desire to pay homage to one of America's foremost WWII heroes with Ukrainian ancestry.

Born on November 10, 1919, in Jarabenia, Czechoslovakia, Michael Strank's journey reflects a compelling narrative of Ukrainian heritage intertwined with American patriotism. His parents, Vasil and Martha Strank, both Ukrainians (Rusyns), immigrated to the US in the early 1920s, settling in Franklin Borough, PA. Vasil, employed by Bethlehem Steel, worked in the mines, contributing to the industrial fabric of a small steelworking and mining town.

Despite being born in Czechoslovakia, Strank's roots were firmly Ukrainian, originating from the village of Jarabina. The village, now on Slovak territory, proudly preserves its Ukrainian cultural identity with churches, a school, dance groups, a choir, and annual cultural festivals. The Rusyns, Strank's ethnic group, trace their ancestry to the East Slavic population of the Eastern Carpathians.

Source: [https://rootstelevision.typepad.com/roots\\_world/2006/10/michael-strank.html?cid=6a00d834960c7c53ef010535adfb42970c#comment-6a00d834960c7c53ef010535adfb42970c](https://rootstelevision.typepad.com/roots_world/2006/10/michael-strank.html?cid=6a00d834960c7c53ef010535adfb42970c#comment-6a00d834960c7c53ef010535adfb42970c)

cid=6a00d834960c7c53ef010535adfb42970c#comment-6a00d834960c7c53ef010535adfb42970c

## **\*\*The Marine Corps War Memorial and Strank's Legacy\*\***

The Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington stands as a testament to the valor of American soldiers during WWII. Notably, Marine Sgt Michael Strank served as the Platoon leader responsible for hoisting the iconic flag at Iwo Jima, immortalized in one of the war's enduring images.

Strank's leadership and courage on the battlefield were emblematic of a true Marine—a leader, a cool and deadly fighter. His leadership credo to his men reflected his commitment to their safety and well-being: "Follow me and I'll bring you back safely to your mothers. Listen to me, and follow my orders, and I'll do my best to bring you home."

## **\*\*A Life of Service and Sacrifice\*\***

After graduating high school and a stint in the Civilian Conservation Corps, Strank joined the Marines. His military journey took him to various bases in the United States and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, before sailing into combat in the Pacific in 1942. Four days after landing on Iwo Jima, Strank, along with four other Marines and a sailor, raised the flag atop Mount Suribachi.

The ensuing 36-day assault on Iwo Jima became one of the bloodiest battles of WWII, claiming nearly 7,000 lives of US military personnel, including Michael Strank, who succumbed just a week after the flag-raising—an indelible sacrifice for his country.

Ukrainian American Veterans Post 42's decision to honor Michael Strank as their new patron reflects not only a celebration of Ukrainian heritage but also a tribute to the valor and sacrifice of one of America's true heroes.



## POST 40 ACTIVITY UPDATE

Submitted by: Bohdan P. Hirniak, Post 40 Publications Officer

Post 40 is headquartered in North Port, Florida. It draws its membership from St. Petersburg to the north down to Naples to the south with most of the members from the North Port area. Some of these members drive up to 90 miles one way to attend meetings and other Post events. All do it enthusiastically and without missing a beat.

In the past several months our Post, like those throughout the country, participated in the various protest events regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These events were held in North Port and St. Petersburg and Post members took active roles in posting of colors and showing various placards and other signs.

In Naples, that contingent also participated in gatherings of community members at main intersections with appropriate flags and placards. Also, as in last year, the local Ukrainian community was again invited to participate in the Naples St. Patrick's Day parade. A good sized group of Ukrainians, with Post 40 in front carrying the colors, walked in the parade the entire length through downtown Naples. As in last year's parade, the people of Naples that gathered along the entire parade route were very enthusiastic and supportive of Ukraine and its efforts.

Memorial Day presented another event at which Post 40 participated. The commemoration took place in front of the North Port City Hall with about eight different veterans groups participating. Post 40 had the greatest number participating. Additionally, our commander Ihor Hron was asked by the event organizers to give the main speech at this event, which he did in great fashion.

Commander Hron spoke of the price of freedom and of all of the brave soldiers that gave their lives in the fields of Ukraine in the defense of their country, and called them the poppies of this war. Their deaths will obviously not be in vain, and poppies will always symbolize their brave acts. Post 40's own Rev. Oleh Saciuk concluded the Memorial Day ceremony with a deeply religious and moving benediction.



# NATALIE A. JARESKO

## AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



Natalie A. Jaresko

I, Natalie Jaresko, was in Kyiv in a new role as a Senior Advisor to Ukraine's co-chair of the Multi-Agency Donor Coordination Platform. Established almost one year ago by the G7 nations to ensure Ukraine's economic and financial recovery, the Platform focuses on the fiscal challenges Ukraine faces as a result of this illegal war, and the restoration and

rebuilding needs created by this destructive war damages which were estimated by the World Bank at \$411 billion in March 2023.

For 18 days I have witnessed the incredible commitment and strength of Ukraine's leadership and civil service. The pace and duration of the effort is incredible. People work practically seven days a week, long 12-15-hour days. Parents rarely see their children and there are no holidays. I've only been "inside" one ministry - the Ministry for Restoration (also known as Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development) .... but I'm confident many of the others are the same.

With this extraordinary pace and commitment after almost two years of wartime, you would expect burnout and possible pessimism. But instead, every day, people in the halls and offices greet you with a smile wishing you a Good Day! They don't drag themselves through the halls, they walk with a quick step and purpose. They seem to be realists, knowing they need to do all they can do individually and as a team to make a difference each day. Each of them is fighting this war in their own way.

I'm speaking to the character and resolve of a nation that has work to be done and is doing it day by day. Reopening border crossings, ensuring grain and metallurgy exports through the Black Sea Grains Corridor, strengthening local government capacity to recover, etc. So amazing to see this resilience, no matter how many air sirens there have been during the last day, weeks, months, or years.

If only the U.S. Congress showed the same commitment to their mission as the legislature of the global leader....so let's help remind our representatives they have work to do and there is no time to waste. Please take 15 minutes and share your support for Ukraine through calls to the White House, your two Senators and

House representative. Let them know that during a war there are no vacations. The least the USA can do is ensure continued support to a people who are doing everything they can and more to win this war, defend their country and culture from tyranny, and ensure the world does not fall into the hands of dictators and autocrats whose single purpose is to destroy our international order using brute force and committing war crimes.

Call today. You don't have to invest 12-15 hours, just 12-15 minutes.

Thank you. [#StandWithUkraine](#) and [#Call4Ukraine](#)

Natalie Ann Jaresko (is an American-born former U.S. State Department official and Ukrainian investment banker who served as Ukraine's Minister of Finance from December 2014 until April 2016.[1] On 20 March 2017, she was appointed as executive director of the Financial Oversight & Management Board for Puerto Rico. Jaresko announced her resignation from the PROMESA board effective April 1, 2022.[2] Since April 2022 she has been working as chairman of the Aspen Institute, Kyiv and advisor for the non-profit Stronger Than Ever.

Starting in 1989, Jaresko held several economics-related positions at the US Department of State in Washington, D.C., and eventually coordinated activities of the State Department, the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, the United States Trade Representative, and Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) in their economic relations with the Soviet Union and its successors. As part of her work she interacted with the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Later, from 1992 to 1995, she worked in the Economic Section of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, responsible for strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries. She has been a governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In 2003 she was awarded the Ukrainian Order of Princess Olga for her contributions to the Ukrainian economy.



(l/r) John and sister Natalie Jaresko

Natalie Jaresko is the sister of our long-time UAV friend and supporter John Jaresko who is President of the Board of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale, IL. Protopriest Victor Polarny is Pastor of St. Andrew and the Chaplain of UAV Post 32 - Chicago. We thank the Jaresko siblings for their work in the Ukrainian Community in Chicago, our country and in Ukraine.

# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

## Helping recovering wounded from the war in Ukraine

*Submitted by: Myron Melnyk, Post 33*

Earlier this year, two fellow UAV veterans undertook a mission to help wounded soldiers from the Ukrainian/Russian war. Carl Harvey and Myron Melnyk spearheaded this mission and commenced to communicate the importance of their objective to members of the U.S. Congress and other influential people. The following is a synopsis of their successful endeavor:

Carl Harvey and I were fortunate to meet in person with Congressmen and legislative aides on shepherding our amendment through the NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) markup process in the House of Representatives. The \$30 Billion+ package, put together by our Rep. Rosa DeLauro last fall when she was Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee, is running out. Current Chairwoman Kay Granger (TX) is considered a "loyalist" (which means that she follows the Republican leadership) and certainly not as supportive. So, a lot will depend on the house and the tone that the leader sets in the House.

In summary: We made 27 out of 28 planned office visits to explain our amendment and to ask for support. Last week our amendment (to be precise Senator Blumenthal's amendment) was formally submitted for consideration jointly in the Senate and in the House. We agreed to stay in touch to monitor markup progress during the coming weeks and months. More attention is being focused in the Embassy on the growing number of military casualties needing medical treatment.

The SDP program is alive and well as we were very pleased to learn. Some 18 places have been allocated in Landstuhl Germany for treating wounded Ukrainian soldiers. Funds to cover non-medical expenses were transferred from non-Pentagon sources. Laura Cooper in the Pentagon has been promoted to Deputy Asst. Defense Secretary and continues to work closely with the Embassy on Ukraine matters.

We recommended that Ukraine's MoD (Ministry of Defense) address more fully the exploding need to treat wounded soldiers as Ukraine is already out of capacity. A formal plan is needed including a full-time staff person in the Embassy. Once a plan is in place Congressional funding will follow. Thanks again to Ihor, Carl, Michael, and Post 26 members Walter, Darian, Bohdan, Jaroslaw for your help on Tuesday, and to Carl, Walter, Richard, and Askold on Wednesday. We worked well together.

Great thanks to all participants in our UAV project to aid wounded Ukrainian soldiers. The amendments that we proposed back in June have been included in the FY2024 NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act). You will find them on PDF page 272 Section 721 using the following link:

**[https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy24\\_ndaa\\_conference\\_report1.pdf](https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy24_ndaa_conference_report1.pdf)**

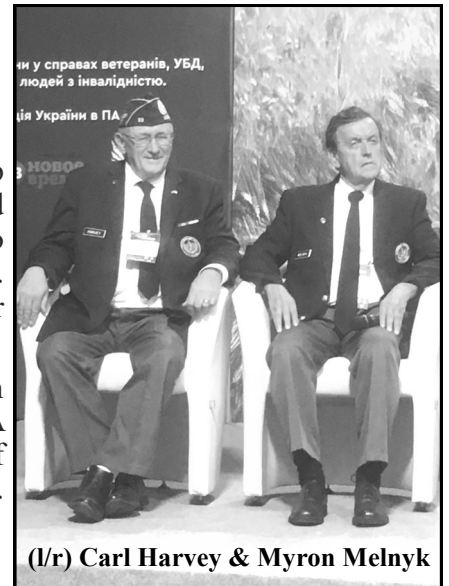
Information on the USAI (Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative) starts in sec 1241 PDF page 805.

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Myron, I commend you, and Commander Carl Harvey, for all your efforts. I have been by your side in Washington many times, as well as in Ukraine. You and Carl epitomize what Ukrainian American Veterans are all about, initiative, energy, patriotism, and utmost loyalty to the cause of freedom, here and in our ancestral home, Ukraine!

I will include all of those who supported this effort in my prayers tonight, as our Ukrainian Warriors are putting all on the line tonight, and every night, and know that your actions have saved countless lives. Live Free or Die! **Слава Україні ! Героям Слава!**

Michael P. Hrycak  
LTC, USA, Ret.  
National Commander  
Ukrainian American Veterans



**(l/r) Carl Harvey & Myron Melnyk**

# THE U.S. ARMY'S LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER ADMITS WOUNDED UKRAINIAN ARMY SOLDIERS, MOST OF THEM AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS.

Written by: Eric Schmitt, NY Times Sept. 23, 2023  
Photos: Marcy Sanchez/U.S. Army, via Associated Press  
Submitted By: Myron Melnyk, Post 33



Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, the U.S. Army's flagship medical center in Germany, in 2021

A group of Ukrainian Army soldiers injured by Russian grenades and mortar shells arrived at a hospital recently in need of surgery. It would have been a familiar scene from the bloody war grinding on in Ukraine, except for two crucial differences: Most of the wounded soldiers were American, and so was the hospital — the U.S. Army's flagship medical center in Germany.

The Army has quietly started to treat wounded Americans and other fighters evacuated from Ukraine at its Landstuhl Regional Medical

Center. Though the number so far is small — currently 14 — it marks a notable new step in the United States' deepening involvement in the conflict.

When the war erupted in 2022, hundreds of Americans — many of them military veterans — rushed to help defend Ukraine. Nineteen months later, perhaps a few hundred are still there, volunteering for local militias or serving under contract with the Ukrainian national army.

An unknown number of them have been shot, hit by artillery, blown up by mines or otherwise injured in combat. About 20 have been killed. Most of the wounded have had to rely on a patchwork of Ukrainian hospitals and Western charities for help. Now, though, the Pentagon has stepped in to offer some of them the same care it gives to American active-duty troops.

The hospital at Landstuhl is authorized to do so under a Defense Department policy, which began last summer, that allows the hospital to treat up to 18 wounded members of the Ukrainian forces at a time, the Pentagon confirmed in a statement. The fact that most of the Ukrainian troops at Landstuhl are Americans illustrates how the war has progressed in unexpected ways.

The Biden administration vowed at the start of the war that it would not put American troops on the ground in Ukraine, and it warned Americans not to get involved. Now it finds itself treating those it told to stay away.

Marcy Sanchez, a spokesman for the hospital, said that all the wounded fighters there were currently in good condition, but he declined to offer any specific details about the patients.

The 65-bed facility, a Level II trauma center, is the largest American military hospital outside the United States and served for years as a way station for thousands of wounded American troops evacuated from conflicts in Iraq or Afghanistan. After those wars wound down, Landstuhl's beds and expertise often went unused.

(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 13)

## U.S. ARMY'S LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER...

Several members of Congress, including Representative Jason Crow, Democrat of Colorado, have been pushing the military to open the hospital to wounded Ukrainians.

“It’s an obvious way to help,” Mr. Crow, a former Army Ranger, said in an interview. “Landstuhl is one of the pre-eminent medical facilities in the military. The doctors and nurses there have unique capabilities to treat battlefield wounds.”

He said treating only 18 casualties at a time was too limited, and that the U.S. military should do more.

The patients now at Landstuhl are mostly from the United States, but also from Canada, Britain, New Zealand and Ukraine. Several of them said in phone interviews from their beds that they were receiving excellent care.

“We’re blessed to be here,” said an American veteran who underwent surgery this month to remove shrapnel from an arm and both legs. The veteran, who previously served in the U.S. Air Force, asked not to be identified because he feared reprisal by Russia.

He and others from a company of English-speaking fighters were hit during an assault on a village near the Russian-held city of Donetsk. More than two dozen soldiers were wounded, and two were killed. Over the next few days, the wounded were moved among Ukrainian evacuation points and hospitals, first near the front lines and then in Kyiv, the capital.

The fighters who were interviewed said Ukraine’s hospitals were under tremendous strain, and medical care in their Soviet-era wards could be spotty. Wound care was spartan, and sanitation and antibiotics were below U.S. standards, they said; surgery was at times reserved for only the most serious cases.

“I was evacuated in a wheelbarrow,” the Air Force veteran recalled. “I woke up during surgery because I didn’t get enough anesthesia.” He sighed, then added, “The Ukrainians, they do the best they can, but there are so many wounded.”

Some of his wounds had been open for two weeks when he arrived at Landstuhl, he said. Surgeons quickly operated to remove rusty metal fragments left by a grenade. While he was being interviewed, a member of the Landstuhl staff stopped in to ask how his pain was and offered him graham crackers.

“Man, we are so thankful” to be at the hospital, said another American veteran, who was hit by shrapnel in his legs, arm and neck. He, too, asked not to be named. “I was wounded in Ukraine three weeks before they told me it would be a month before I got surgery. In Germany, they did it in two days.”

**Eric Schmitt** is a senior writer who has traveled the world covering terrorism and national security. He was also the Pentagon correspondent. A member of the Times staff since 1983, he has shared four Pulitzer Prizes.

The Dutch government announced Friday Dec. 22, 2023 it is preparing to give 18 F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine, in a boost for the embattled nation that is growing ever more anxious about aid from its Western allies. Friday’s decision is a significant step toward sending the planes into the skies over Ukraine.



“With F-16s, Ukraine can better defend itself against Russian attacks,” Dutch defense minister, Kaja Ollongren said in a statement. She added that the planes are “extremely important because the ongoing Russian aggression shows no sign of ending. That is why we are continuing unabated with our support for Ukraine.”

Last month, Romania inaugurated an international training hub for F-16 jet pilots from allied countries and other partners, including Ukraine. The training facility at an air base in southeast Romania will aim to increase interoperability between NATO allies, and better position the military alliance “to face the complex challenges” in Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region, Romania’s defense ministry said.



# UKRAINIAN AMERICANS MAKE A STATEMENT TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

Written BOB MUDGE Senior Writer, *The Venice Gondolier*, Dec 14, 2023.

Photo Submitted By Bob Mudge

Submitted by Alfred L. Kolodziej, Post 40, North Port, FL



(L/R) Ukrainian Americans Ivanka Olesnycky, Inia Tunstall, Mykola Kompanijec and Alfred L. Kolodziej, and Pam Nolan, standing outside of U.S. Rep. Greg Steube's mobile office in Venice, FL urging continued financial aid for Ukraine.

Members of the local Ukrainian American community and their supporters showed up at U.S. Rep. Greg Steube's "mobile office" hours in Venice, FL. A staffer at City Hall said the Congressman and his aides were all in Washington, D.C., but it was still important to make an appearance to address Steube's reluctance to continue funding Ukraine in its war with Russia, Inia Tunstall said.

Tunstall is president of Branch 56 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, based in North Port, FL. Tunstall is a retired doctor, a military veteran and a member of Ukrainian-American Veterans, and a North Port resident. "I thought it would be important for us to come to make a statement," she said. She was accompanied by fellow UAV members Mykola Kompanijec and Alfred L. Kolodziej. "Where's the end of it (if U.S. aid dries up)?" Kompanijec said.

"Further Russian expansion would be the result because President Vladimir Putin, a former KGB agent, wants to reassemble the former Soviet Union", Kolodziej replied. "People don't know history anymore," he said, noting that each great power over the ages (citing Egypt, Greece, Rome), no longer plays a leading role in the world".

Oksana Piaseckyj chairs the Florida Chapter of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness. She said Putin intends another genocide like the one Josef Stalin perpetrated in 1932-33 by creating a manmade famine. "It's a repetition," she said.

Concerns about the amount of U.S. aid are overblown, Tunstall said, because through Oct. 31, the European Union had given more. Most of the American aid is being spent at home, to pay for replacement weapons for the old inventory that is then sent overseas, she said, and there is accountability for the spending.

# WHAT WAS A WW2 FP-45 LIBERATOR?

## Another example of a failed experiment.

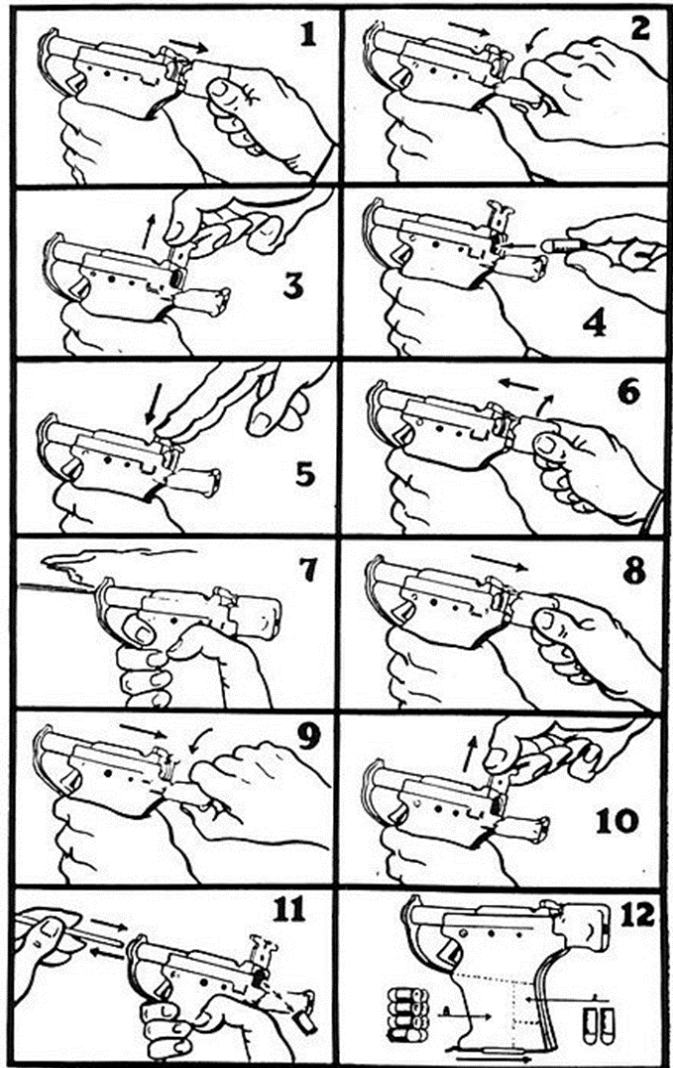
Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

The FP-45 Liberator or the 'Woolworth Pistol' is considered one of the worst weapons of WW2. It was a cheaply produced gun, at only 2.10 dollar per pistol and an estimated total of 1 million were made. The pistol was meant to be a cheap way to arm resistance groups in Europe like the French and Polish resistance groups. They were dropped to resistance groups behind the lines in Europe during WWII. The user was to kill or subdue axis soldiers in order to disarm them and then take their better and more reliable guns.



The gun consisted of 23 crudely stamped steel parts and an unrifled barrel. Due to these limitations, the Liberator was only effective at a short range of 4 meters. It only came with 5 rounds of .45 ACP that were stored in the grip of the pistol. It could be easily concealed, weighing only 450 grams and being 14 centimeters in length.

Reloading the gun was a huge hassle, as it had to be manually reloaded. It was like a mini musket. First the user had to unlock the breach. Then, he would have to use a small wooden stick to poke out the empty casing before manually loading a new round again.



Here are the instructions on how to load the FP-45 Liberator.



The Liberator was an ugly, single shot, smooth bore pistol. It fired the .45ACP cartridge, and it could hold 5 spare rounds in its grip. Only accurate past a few feet. made by the General Motors Guide Lamp Division.



What were they thinking?



## DON'T LET AUTISM HOLD YOU BACK – PART II

Submitted by: Matthew Wroblewski, Commander Michigan Post 101

In Part I of “Don’t Let Autism Hold You Back,” it was stated that Garrett Michael Baur “had a terrific imagination and loves to make up fun story scenarios.”



Garrett Baur as Hansel in “When Fairytales Collide”

Well, it seems my grandson Garrett found his niche at the Rising Stars Academy for Special Needs Students and that niche is acting.

Anything to do with performing on stage, Garrett loves it. He is a totally different person in front of an audience.

He was introduced to drama and his first play was “Lord of the Pies” in which he played a store clerk. The teacher/director (and the whole school) was so impressed with his performance that Garrett was given the lead role of Hansel in the second play titled “When Fairy Tales Collide.” He received yet another standing ovation and decided he wanted to learn more about acting.

We found an acting class for him to learn the basics of acting. His first role in the acting class play was that of Santa in “The North Pole Bake Off.” Once again he showed how much he loved being on stage. Garrett learned every aspect of an acting career, from make-up, costume designing, scene painting, to stage sword fighting! He was chosen to help direct the next acting class play, “Cinderella.” He loved being a part of the whole acting experience. His acting teacher told Garrett he was ready for a role in her Community Theater Group. He auditioned and won the role of “Joel, a suitor, in the play “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.”

Aside from finishing his second year at Rising Stars and working at a job school recommended job site, he rehearsed with the Seven Brides group two nights a week through June. Garrett danced, sang, and mastered his lines.

After finishing his school year, Garrett wanted to get a job because he now owned a car. He started as a

custodian for Center Line Public Schools working ten hours a day, four days a week. Not once did he complain about working too much or being too tired to go to the Seven Brides rehearsals. The July rehearsals were now five days a week. The play was performed at the end of July and ran for three days. Garrett did a fantastic job in his role and loved every minute! When the play was done and the celebrating was over, he just said that he was tired! Garrett is now looking forward to the next Community Theater performance next summer.

Garrett is now in his third year at Rising Stars and his drama class will be performing “The Snow Queen” by Hans Christian Andersen. In this play, Garrett will be “Prince Erik.” He is also working after school part time at his job for Center Line Schools.

Garrett has found his niche and loves acting. This spring at Comic Con, Garrett talked with actor Christopher Lloyd (Back to the Future Star) who was so impressed with him that he told him he should definitely become an actor. What a compliment!



Garrett Baur as Joel a “Disappointed town Suiter”.

We continue to be so amazed and proud of Garrett and all that he has accomplished. What a truly amazing young man!



**Is there an Oscar  
In Garrett’s  
future?**

# HOLODOMOR'S HORRORS OF MASS STARVATION IN UKRAINE REVERBERATE 90 YEARS LATER

*Holodomor's horrors of mass starvation in Ukraine reverberate 90 years later. How was it possible for millions to starve in one of the most fertile regions in the world and for the world to do nothing?*

Written By: Marta Baziuk, Saturday, December 2, 2023

Submitted by: Ihor Rudko, Commander Post 14, IPNC



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (C-R) and his wife Olena Zelenska (C-L) paying tribute to the victims of the famine of 1932-1933 at the National Museum of the Holodomor-Genocide in Kyiv on Nov. 25. Ukrainian Presidential Press Service

The question of genocide — and where and when it applies — is debated today for tragic reasons. It asks the question, does it matter whether an atrocity is recognized as genocide? Events that took place 90 years ago in Ukraine provide answers. In 1932-33, millions of Ukrainians perished in a horrific famine known as the Holodomor. More accurately, they were starved to death.

In June 1933, the height of the famine, 28,000 people died each day, a third of them children.

A poll conducted this month shows most Canadians have not heard of the Holodomor. It's no wonder. In some history books, the death by starvation of millions is literally a footnote to Soviet collectivization of agriculture. It can seem incredible today that a crime of this scale could be concealed and overlooked.

How was it possible for millions to starve in one of the most fertile regions in the world, the breadbasket of Europe, known for its black earth, and for the world to do nothing?

The Kremlin had forced independent peasant farmers onto state collective farms, sending tens of thousands of those who resisted, often leaders in their communities, to exile in the Gulag. The authorities imposed impossible quotas for the grain that farmers had to deliver to the state. Teams went house to house across the Ukrainian countryside, tearing apart homes, searching for and seizing not only grain but all foodstuffs, leaving families with nothing to eat.

The Ukrainian intelligentsia and cultural and religious leaders were targeted for repression, and even Ukrainian communists, who were considered too sympathetic to the rural population, were replaced. Farms and villages who did not meet the grain quotas were put on blacklists that meant punishments including fines in meat and potatoes and prohibition of delivery of essentials such as fuel.

The borders of Ukraine were sealed, preventing Ukrainians from leaving their starving villages in search of food. And as

the people who grew the grain starved, the USSR sold their harvests on international markets.

Through the desperate advocacy of Ukrainians abroad, the International Red Cross offered food aid to the USSR. The Kremlin declined, answering that as there was no starvation, no assistance was needed. Denial continued for more than 50 years.

There were a few brave journalists who witnessed and reported on the unfolding horror, but they were overshadowed by Walter Duranty of the New York Times, who denied their reports, choosing access to power and his sinecure as doyen of the foreign press corps in Moscow over truth. Then as now, disinformation wasn't necessarily intended to convince completely; it works by sowing doubt, leaving people shrugging their shoulders, concluding that the truth may never be known — thus there is no reason to act.

Real politik meant that with Hitler's rise to power, the West sought a counterbalance. The political correctness of the time no doubt played a role in the lack of world reaction, especially among Soviet sympathizers whose concern did not extend to "masses of backward peasants." As well, the survivors abroad who testified to what they experienced were often dismissed as disgruntled émigrés.

With the fall of the USSR, when researchers gained access to Soviet archives that had been off limits, it became possible to confirm what witnesses had claimed. Documents indicate that the Kremlin had been determined to break resistance to Soviet rule and pursued policies aware that they would result in mass starvation in Ukraine.

Through the prism of Russia's current war, the genocidal intent of Soviet policies has become clearer. Thirty-four countries have recognized the Holodomor as genocide, many of these this past year.

Rafael Lemkin, the Polish Jewish lawyer who coined the term genocide, had no doubt that Ukrainians were subject to genocide in the Soviet Union: "This is not simply a case of mass murder. It is a case of genocide, of destruction, not of individuals only, but of a culture and a nation."

His words could apply to Putin's Russia today, which targets Ukrainian cities and towns with missiles, represses Ukrainian language and culture, and destroys Ukrainian textbooks wherever it occupies, bent on eradicating Ukrainian identity.

This year marks the 90th anniversary year of the Holodomor, and as they do every November, Ukrainian communities hold ceremonies to commemorate those who perished. On the one hand, compared to the wartime defence of a country,

Holodomor commemorations may seem insignificant; on the other, the act of remembering the Holodomor and insisting that it be acknowledged as genocide is part of a larger battle, both for the dignity of the lives that the Kremlin sought to erase and for the right for a Ukrainian identity to exist.

**Marta Baziuk is executive director of the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta.**



**Post 32 - Chicago**  
**Community involvement**  
**and Anti-War protests**



(l/r) John Steciw & U.S. Senator Dick Durbin



**Post 26 - Washington D.C.**  
**Anti-War protests in front of the White House**



# AWARD WINNING SCHOLARS

## TOP HONORS FOR 2023

*Submitted by: Nicholas Skirka, Scholarship Officer*

The Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) scholarship committee awards scholarship money to college students who are descendants or relatives of Ukrainian American Veterans, including Members-at-Large (MAL). Students must fill-out an application, write an essay on one of the topics listed on the application form, and send a current college schedule by mail to the postal address listed on the application form. Students also need to send a digital headshot photo to the email address listed on the application form. More information can be found at our web site: [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org).

The following applicants won top awards and we are pleased to present their essays.

### WAR IN UKRAINE

**Anna Oksana Swindle**



It is hard not to write about Russian aggression given the circumstances in Ukraine right now. The war in Ukraine has been such an important event in every Ukrainian life, no matter the generation. The war in Ukraine has been a frequent topic with my fellow Ukrainian friends which we never used to have before. We now discuss how the people who are creating these attacks are greedy and would like nothing more than to take our beloved Ukraine. However, Ukrainians have always and will continue, to be strong people. This does not just apply to physicality.

The country of Ukraine has always believed in God and that He will protect them. Even though *Bozhe Velykyi*, Prayer for Ukraine, is not their national anthem, it is still an anthem that Ukrainians from every generation know. As an Orthodox Christian, faith has always been a part of who I am. I am not afraid to say that I believe in God. In the same way, I am not ashamed to say that I am Ukrainian. Russian leadership wants to erase Ukraine and its people. But it has had the opposite effect. Because of the war, I say now more than ever that I am Ukrainian.

People across the world can see how strong our people are. It makes me proud to be able to trace my roots back to the wonderful country of Ukraine. I pray every day that the war in Ukraine ends quickly to prevent even more senseless deaths. I have always been a proud Ukrainian American. While growing up my parents taught my sister and me to remember all the sacrifices that were made by our family on both sides to come to America. My great-grandparents lived through World War II and were put into a labor camp, forcing them out of their beloved homeland caused by Russian aggression.

Ever since I was little, I have wanted to visit the places where my great-grandparents and everyone before them walked and lived their lives. Now with the present-day war in Ukraine, it breaks my heart to see their homeland under attack once again.

Due to social media, it is more accessible to view the horrific acts that are happening overseas. Seeing all the men, women, children, and animals lying dead on roads from bombings fills my Instagram. More times than not I have tears in my eyes watching our people of Ukraine in bomb shelters trying to survive as I am in my warm bed. It makes me feel guilty for being in America. There is so much overabundance and selfishness in this country and this war has made me more aware of how much I have. However, because of social media, people throughout the world can see that what the Russians are doing is wrong and can bring peace and justice to the people of Ukraine.



# AWARD WINNING SCHOLARS

## TOP HONORS FOR 2023

*Submitted by: Nicholas Skirka, Scholarship Officer*

### HUMAN RIGHTS WAR VIOLATIONS IN UKRAINE

**Cyril Sheptak**



Cyril Sheptak

On February 24th, 2022, Russia illegally invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine. Since then, the two nations have been locked in a brutal and bloody war that has cost the lives of thousands of Ukrainian men, women, and children. Throughout the conflict, the Russian government and soldiers have continuously violated basic human rights on a massive scale. In some cases, this is part of a broader strategy to weaken Ukrainian resolve, in other cases these violations are committed by individual soldiers out of pure malice or hate.

An example of human rights violations being part of a broader war strategy is Russia's policy of forced deportation of Ukrainian civilians. Instead of being allowed to flee with their families to other parts of Ukraine or other countries accepting refugees, tens of thousands have been abducted and taken to Russia. Once they are relocated, these individuals are faced with an impossible situation where they do not have the financial or legal means to leave Russia. Many of those relocated are children who have been separated from their families. Some are placed in Russian foster care, enrolled in Russian schools, and naturalized. The goal of the Russian government is to "Russify" these children and cleanse them of any Ukrainian identity. This is a form of cultural genocide and a direct violation of the individual rights of the victims.

Russian government policy is not the only force behind these crimes. Oftentimes, they are committed by individual perpetrators at various levels of the Russian military chain of command. Since the first days of the war, there have been reports of crimes and abuses committed by Russian soldiers against civilians and prisoners of war. Summary executions, unjust detention, torture, and rape have been reported by survivors of these atrocities. Sometimes these crimes are committed out of individual malice; other times it is ordered as part of a military strategy to break the spirit of the people. A prime example of human rights abuses as part of military policy is the Bucha Massacre. Over 450 civilians were killed during the Russian occupation. Survivors recall horrific scenes of summary executions, abductions, and fierce martial law. Once the town was liberated, bodies were found that were beaten, bound, raped, and tortured. It is impossible to justify the treatment of the civilian population of Bucha. This inherently cruel and immoral policy of repression has been enacted in many other areas across Russian-occupied Ukraine.

War is not black and white. It may not be clear who is a combatant and who is a civilian, if civilian infrastructure can be considered a military target, and what is a justified strategic action versus senseless killing. Russia purposely operates in this ambiguity as a cover to evade additional international retaliation. This evasion does not change the everyday horrors experienced by those suffering under military occupation. Russian atrocities have negatively affected the lives of millions of innocent Ukrainians. The international community must continue to support the Ukrainian people.



# AWARD WINNING SCHOLARS

## TOP HONORS FOR 2023

*Submitted by: Nicholas Skirka, Scholarship Officer*

### NEGATIVE WAR EFFECTS ON RETURNING AMERICAN VETERANS

**Jared Roderick**



**Jared Roderick**

Although I am extremely appreciative for their efforts, I understand that the experiences that come with fighting in war leave numerous scars on those who have served. American veterans returning from war often face a range of negative effects that impact their mental, physical, and even social well-being.

The most obvious effect from war involves the physically deteriorating aspect. Fighting in war can lead to physical injuries that significantly impact the lives of veterans for many subsequent years. Such intense battle exposes them to various elements of danger, such as gun fire and explosions. If caught in the midst of this, it can lead to serious injuries, like amputations, traumatic brain injuries, and paralysis. These physical disabilities often necessitate ongoing medical care, rehabilitation, and adjustments to daily routines. Clearly, this could disrupt their quality of life and prevent them from events that they would be taking part in otherwise.

On the mental side, the psychological toll of war on veterans is typically overlooked. Many returning veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, also known as PTSD. This condition may cause frequent nightmares, flashbacks, or even intense anxiety, which is usually triggered by traumatic memories, loud noises, or even abrupt movements. Not only does PTSD directly affect veterans, but it also alters their relationships with friends, family, co-workers, etc. In addition to PTSD, lots of veterans also come out experiencing symptoms of depression, anxiety, and possibly even substance abuse disorders.

Socially, some veterans often face social alienation and stigma due to misconceptions around mental health issues and war-related trauma. Because this cannot be seen through physical wounds on the skin, some people do not understand the true severity of these negative effects. This can easily lead to public isolation due to people with misunderstandings of the situation judging the returning veterans. Similar to those in solitary confinement, this separation can result in numerous negative effects on the soldiers' mental health, more specifically social anxiety.

Another disadvantage that American veterans are facing when returning from war involves healthcare. Unfortunately, they often struggle finding timely and adequate supporting services. This is a result of many factors, such as limited resources, long wait lines, and, most importantly, insufficient funding for mental health programs. This can prevent them from receiving necessary treatment or counseling. Such a lack of support enhances the already mentioned negative effects of returning from war.

Overall, American veterans returning from war face many challenges and negative effects. Whether physical, mental, or even social, there are many who struggle to get back to their normal selves, as they were before leaving for battle. Although some awareness to this situation has been spreading, it is crucial to continue and support those who fight for us.





# THE UAV DYNAMIC DUO OF 2023

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

## Olena Fergurson Retired

Post 24 Cleveland, OH

The UAV is a welcoming group of people who have pride in their American service and Ukrainian ancestry. This was Olena's first Convention and she joined the Color Guard, met with several sub-committees and, as a delegate, reported on the activities of Post 24.

Olena was impressed by the diversity and camaraderie of the UAV. Even though members were from different branches and held various ranks, all were welcoming. **Advice to perspective new members:** "Come in with an open mind. Learn about the UAV, have fun and see how this organization sets us apart from other veterans groups. This is a true Brotherhood and Sisterhood."



(L/R) Olena Fergurson—Post 24, TSgt Tanya Clark Post 101

## TSgt Tanya Clark

Active Reserve  
Post 101 Warren, MI

Tanya is impressed by the UAV and its leadership. She led the Color Guard at the convention, is a regular member and belongs to the Ladies Auxiliary. She connected with the chaplain and attended Mass.

Tanya loves the UAV structure and has fun relating to other, more senior, members.

**Advice to perspective new members:** Don't be afraid to join the UAV. You will learn a lot at the Post level but don't miss out on our conventions. "I saw the bigger picture of the UAV and was encouraged to express myself, utilize my talents, and meet more great members from other Posts".



Jonathan Chrin - US Marine  
Heavy Duty Truck Mechanic  
Welcomed by Commander Matt Wroblewski

## POST 101 WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS



Mark Storey US Army - Retired



Nataliya Krasny - US Army  
Military Police Sgt.  
Welcomed by Commander Matt Wroblewski

## POST 101 WISHES EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Michigan Post 101's Annual Family and Friends Christmas Party held December 8, 2023 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, Warren, Michigan.



A very good time was had by all...Good Food, Lots of Raffle prizes, Excellent Singing and plenty of Christmas Jokes.



# THE FLYING PANCAKE

## A UNIQUE GERMAN FLYING WWII ANOMALY

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

The **Ju 87** or commonly known as the **Stuka** was a dive bomber used by the Germans in WW2. It was capable of staying high up in the air to avoid enemy gunfire and then when it needed to strike it would nose dive towards the ground and drop a payload on ally troops or used as a tank buster. The interesting thing about them was they used two sirens which were attached to the bottom of the plane. They were used as a psychological weapon against allied troops to destroy enemy morale. There are many accounts of people dreading the sound of those sirens during the war, however many got used to the sound of them leading to a bombing run so they were removed in later versions. Secondly they were removed because of the drag they caused.



The Vought V-173 "Flying Pancake" was an American experimental test aircraft built as part of the Vought XF5U program during World War II

At first, the Stuka was made out of wood and canvas but was changed to aluminum in later prototypes. Its problems were its very complicated gearbox that made the whole aircraft rumble like hell and it's top speed was nothing compared to something like a spitfire. V-173's top speed was 138 mph (222 km/h) while something like the British Spitfire could reach speeds of 370 mph. (595 km/h). The United States had its own prototype known as the Vaught V-173. For more information about this anomalous aircraft go to:

[Vought V-173 \(Flying Pancake\) Experimental Fighter Aircraft - United States](#)



## THE CIVILIAN VESPA

(on the left) Vespa is an Italian brand of scooter manufactured by Piaggio. The name means wisp in Italian. Vespa scooters will always remind us of that lovely scene in *A Roman Holiday* where Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck cruise through Rome. After the release of their movie in 1953, Vespa went on everyone's radar, certainly on the international radar. Everyone wanted a Vespa scooter. For a better photo we recommend that you see the movie.

The scooter was handcrafted in 1946 and is in working condition. The world's oldest Vespa, a handcrafted scooter that was featured in the 1953 Audrey Hepburn blockbuster movie *Roman Holiday*, is up for auction and is expected to realize up to 3,00,000 euros.

## THE MILITARY VESPA 150 TAP

(on the right) In the 1950s the French Defense Ministry commissioned A.C.M.A. (Piaggio's French Licensee) to produce a vehicle for military use. The result was the very special Vespa 150 TAP (Truppe Aero Portate - air troops carrier), of which about 660 units were produced from 1956 to 1959 at the A.C.M.A.'s factory for extraordinary and unusual uses.

The Vespa 150 TAP is an Italian Vespa scooter which is modified by creating a hole in the legshield to carry a M20 75 mm recoilless rifle.



1956 Vespa 150 TAP military scooter on display at the Piaggio Museum Pontedera, Italy

# Mondelez International on its profitable business in Russia

*Submitted by: Ihor Rudco, IPNC*

On October 3rd the maker of the iconic Oreo cookie and Milka chocolate, Mondelez International, hosted its 2023 Purpose Day. The Chicago-based global food giant encouraged over 2.5 million of its international followers to pose questions on the company's approach to "mindful snacking" hosted via a LinkedIn Live session. Contrary to the company's expectations, an online opportunity for self promotion turned into a social media storm for an American snacking giant and one of the largest revenue generating western companies remaining in Russia. Caught by surprise, Mondelez's speakers were faced with a mounting pile of questions on Mondelez's contribution to the Russian war effort, 19 months since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine and growing international pressure on the company to halt its business in the aggressor state.

## What Actually Happened?

A visibly large number of questions on the topic of Mondelez's business in Russia, its indirect financing of the Russian war effort, human rights due diligence and the company's complicity in over 100,000 recorded war crimes came from various civil society activists globally and the Ukrainian diaspora representatives from the Chicago area.

"Hello from Chicago! It worries me that after more than a year and a half of war in Ukraine, you have not found a way to exit Russian market. I am sure it is not simple and there are many obstacles, but paying taxes to terrorist country is not acceptable. Russian people should feel the pressure and losing jobs is one way of doing it. Please find a way to stop doing business in Russia and exit it as soon as possible even at an expense of the stockholders," commented Vitaliy Kutnyy, President and CEO at Selfreliance Federal Credit Union.

According to B4Ukraine's assessment, over 10% of all comments concerned Mondelez's Russia businesses, which is significant considering a traditionally high number of non-substantive comments with emojis or simple "hellos" that such online formats attract.

As the Russia-related questions began attracting positive reactions from a wider audience, the company's event moderator started to block users posting "uncomfortable" questions, a clear sign of Mondelez's unwillingness to address its stance on the issue. While B4Ukraine has managed to retain limited visual evidence of such questions, the majority of them have been immediately deleted from the company's page.

**Such silencing actions demonstrate Mondelez's lack of purpose when it comes to its Russian subsidiary, which last year generated 1.4 billion USD in revenue and 61 million USD in profit tax contributions to the Kremlin, thus prolonging Russia's aggression against Ukraine.**

## Growing Pressure, Also At Home

Mondelez's fear of public disclosure of its position on Russia seems unwarranted given its recent statement on the plans to make the Russia business "stand alone" with "a self-sufficient supply chain" by the end of this year. However, B4Ukraine's internal sources highlight that the company leadership has turned the Russia operations question into a secret affair, most likely in order to avoid uncomfortable questions from its employees who have previously urged the company's leadership to live up to its purpose, pursuing a clean exit from the Russian market.

According to the same source, Mondelez's leadership finds itself under lingering pressure to rebuild its reputation and sales in the aftermath of B2B boycotts in Scandinavia. In June of this year, Mondelez had to confront a number of dissatisfied customers in the region - from national airlines and railway operators to national football associations and even IKEA - all of which decided to drop Mondelez from its list of suppliers, after the company had been designated "an international sponsor of war" by the Ukrainian government.

A visibly large number of the Ukrainian voices from Chicago attending Mondelez's "Purpose Day" points to a growing degree of interest and engagement on this topic. In fact, such domestic pressure is likely to intensify in the weeks and months to come as the local community begins to challenge the extensive American corporate presence in Russia through public campaigns, media reports and an appeal to its congressional representatives. Ignoring or silencing such local voices from Chicago will prove to be more challenging than simply blocking their profiles or deleting their comments online. Mondelez's leadership will be urged to engage with the local community in order to explain how it reconciles its corporate purpose with continued profitability in the aggressor state.



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	301	Nicholas Skirka, NSchol	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.



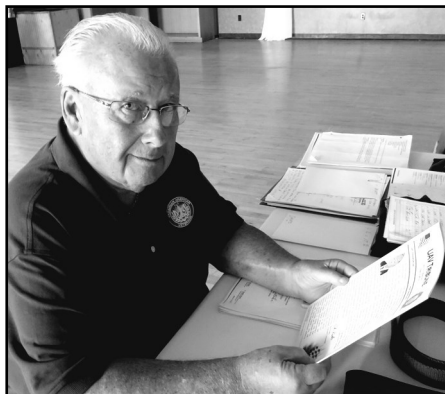
**Individuals wishing to become Members at Large should contact  
Matthew Wroblewski, National Vice Commander,**



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

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National Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki

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