



UAV TRIBUNE

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www.uavets.org

Ukrainian American Veterans

“From The Commander’s Hatch”



Michael P. Hrycak UAV NC

Once again, 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, and we also celebrate the opportunity to be with our family, friends, and loved ones. As Veterans, we know what it’s like to find ourselves

deployed in the service of our great nation in many other locations, here and abroad, apart from our family and friends during the holidays.

So, during the holidays we 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 who also took the oath and wear the uniform of our United States Armed Forces, united in defense of our great Nation. In addition, we support our fellow Veterans of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, who are in the eleventh year of the defense of our ancestral homeland, Ukraine, against the invading Russian military.

I have served a year as your elected national commander, for this privilege I am honored. I have had occasion to participate in post meetings, community gatherings, as well as our convention in Warren, Michigan on September 27-28, 2024. It was with utmost pride that I inducted my son, First Lieutenant Brandon P. Hrycak, into our organization. He had just completed his first overseas deployment, stationed with the U.S. Army in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It was heartening that he had two cohorts from Post 101, Warren, Michigan, that participated in the convention and constitution and bylaws committee. They are our future.

It is worth remembering that our 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 groups recognizing artistic, cultural, educational or patriotic achievements. (UAV Constitution/By-laws preamble)

My goal for this coming year is to communicate more closely with our organization’s center of gravity, the posts that operate in and among our Ukrainian community. We have twenty posts listed on our web page, and if we could get each member to enlist another member, then our numbers will grow, and posts will have more membership to participate in community activities.

We stay united, and we stay strong! Uniting and supporting Veterans, and supporting our ancestral homeland Ukraine, and upholding the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2025!

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

**ХРИСТОС
РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ!
СЛАВИМО ЙОГО!**



New UAV Inductee Brandon P. Hrycak with his proud father Michael P. Hrycak, UAV National Commander



Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

316 Lenox Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090-5113



Michael P. Hrycak National Commander

Post Commanders 2023 - Present

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

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

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

Post 17 Passaic, NJ - Jim Fedorko
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Post 40 North Port, FL - Ihor W. Hron, PNC, PC
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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

Member-At-Large - Roman Makuch
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State Commanders:

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dobranskymichael@gmail.com

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

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

SAVE-A-DATE



2025 UAV

National Convention S. Bound Brook, NJ

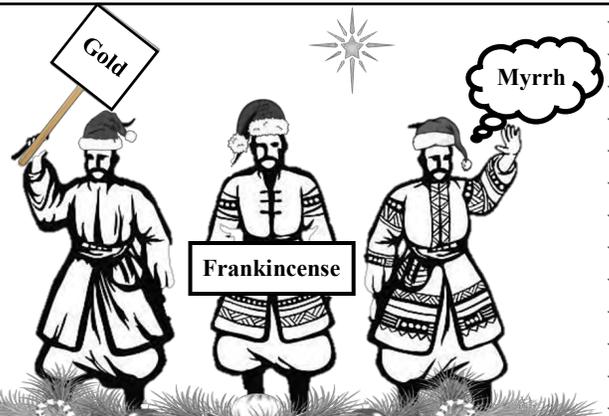
September 26, 27, 28
More information in the
Tribune's June issue
September 19-20, 2025,
or October 10-11, 2025

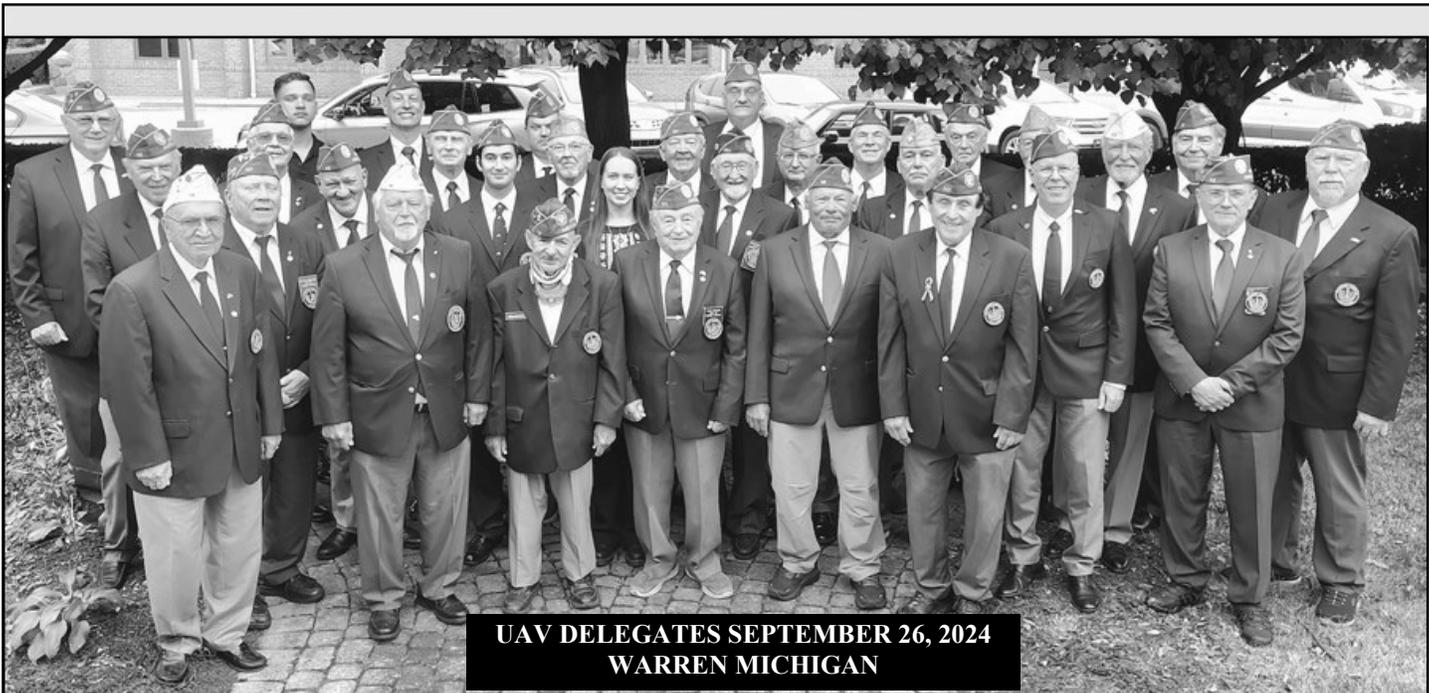
Hosted by:

Post 17 Jim Fedorko,
Commander & Nester
Nynka assisted by
PNC Matt Koziak



Commemorating the 10th
anniversary of our National
Monument





**UAV DELEGATES SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
WARREN MICHIGAN**



**Michael P. Hrycak
National Commander**



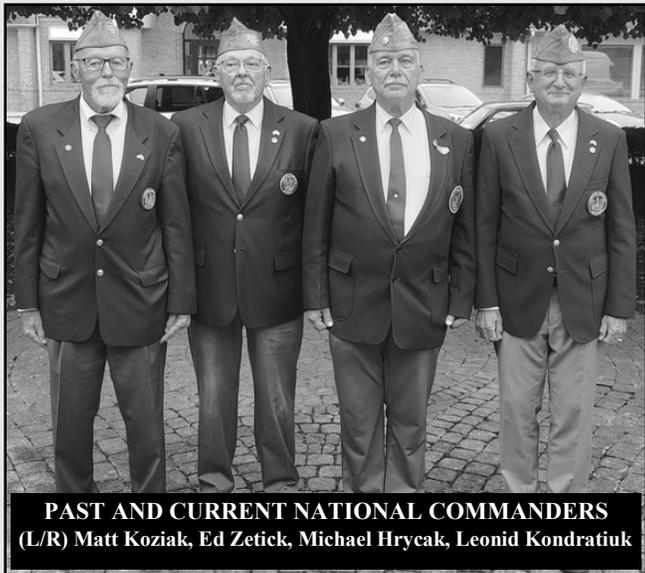
**UAV NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**



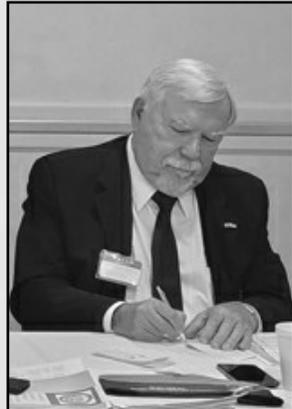
**Roman Makuch
Vice Commander**



**Bohdan A. Hetmansky
Judge Advocate**



**PAST AND CURRENT NATIONAL COMMANDERS
(L/R) Matt Koziak, Ed Zetick, Michael Hrycak, Leonid Kondratiuk**



**Bohdan Dudycz
PR/Publications Officer**

HONORING UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS IN MICHIGAN

Submitted by: Roman A. Stefaniuk, Post 101

The Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit honored Ukrainian American Veterans with a photo-history exhibit designed and produced by Marta Sobko, Museum board member, and Museum Director Olia Liskiwsyjk, with supplemental historical data provided by Brig. Gen Leonid Kondratiuk. The central panel features photographs of high-ranking officers with Ukrainian ancestry:

12 generals and admirals, plus 6 current and former colonels of Post101. Also included were photos of Post 101 commanders, Post members that are currently on active duty, the Ladies Auxiliary, and activities and celebrations of Post 101.

Our Mission Statement was prominently displayed on the left panel, along with a list of all Post 101 members plus its Honor Roll. On the right a "Did You Know" panel provided interesting unknown facts about UAV, dating from the Civil War to the present, including names and ranks of Ukrainian American Medal of Honor recipients.

The exhibit was opened on March 3, 2024, by Matt Wroblewski, post 101 Commander, who greeted the large audience and thanked the Museum for featuring our veterans who served in the US Military.

Olia Liskiwsyjk thanked all the attendees for their participation and our Post for their contributions and generous support of the museum. The entire exhibit was on display at our 77th Annual Convention at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in September and was viewed with much interest and acclaim.

THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM OF DETROIT EXHIBIT

The Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) seeks to unite U.S. Military Veterans of Ukrainian descent and is pledged to sustain the Constitution, Government and Laws of the United States of America.

Ukrainian American Veterans was officially established in 1948, but hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian Americans have served in the US Armed Forces since the Civil War.



Nataliy Krasiy
 Post 101 – Warren, MI
 US Army, National Guard
 Sergeant – Military Police
 Awaiting deployment



Brandon P. Hrycak
 Post 17 Passaic, NJ
 US Army
 1ST Lieutenant
 Deployed, 1 tour to Middle East



**UAV WELCOMES
 OUR NEWEST AND
 YOUNGEST
 MEMBERS.
 INTRODUCING
 THE NEXT
 GENERATION.**

*Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, UAV
 Publications officer*



Nataliy is a young and energetic member of Post 101. She was recruited by Commander Matt Wroblewski last year because he saw great potential in this extraordinary woman. Born near Ternopil, Ukraine and, as a child, she was a world traveler before arriving in the USA.

Having an innate community spirit, joining the UAV was an easy decision. She enjoys the members and has felt welcomed from her first meeting. She joked that the post members and Ladies Auxiliary adopted her.

The convention was an exciting experience and Nataliy was most impressed with the business aspects of the meetings, debates, and contents of the group sessions.

Nataliy would like to see more young adults joining the UAV. She recommends that any younger person interested in the UAV should explore what we do and she would be happy to be their mentor at a monthly meeting or any other activity.

Brandon is passionate about his military career and his involvement with the Ukrainian community. Joining the UAV was a foregone conclusion. He feels welcomed in Post 17 and has history with many of the members.

Brandon is the Maintenance Control Officer on a Division level. Overseeing and directing personnel in PM and 1020 Standards allows equipment to be battle ready at all times. This is a tall order.

Brandon has served overseas, in the Middle East for one tour which gave him valuable field proficiencies. He especially enjoyed his assignment as the Officer-in-Charge of logistics in Saudi Arabia.

This was Brandon’s first convention and he marveled at the (almost military) approach to meetings and debates. His advice to potential UAV prospects is to give us a try. You will find a pleasant, shared commonality and rewarding community service experiences.



Jonathan Chrin

Post 101 – Warren, MI
 US Marines
 Lance Corporal
 Select Marine Corp Reserve

Jonathan has been in Ukrainian community activities his entire life. Sports, Youth organizations, Ethnic dancing etc. He was mostly influenced by his grandparents who were well regarded in his neighborhood.

Jonathan is an Automotive Maintenance Technician who has the responsibility of keeping equipment “Mission Ready”. He is a Marine in every aspect and we are proud of his commitment.

Jonathan explained that Post 101 has a “Can Do” spirit and a welcoming atmosphere. Since joining Post 101 in 2022, he has been involved in numerous activities which gave him a greater insight to, and appreciation for the post’s inclusivity. The 77th Annual Convention was a first for Jonathan and he enjoyed meeting members from other cities. Jonathan has become a UAV enthusiast who invites others to join him and become involved in their community. Our post is like a family who works together for the betterment of the Ukrainian and American societies. It is very rewarding.

77TH NATIONAL CONVENTION REVIEW

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publications Officer

The 77th convention was well attended and substantive. It had a disciplined structure that followed the agenda with unwavering control. Financial and activity reports were presented by NEB members with fiscal responsibilities, post commanders and subcommittees staffed by delegates. Status reports were presented by NEB Committees and all reports were unanimously accepted. All is well with our organization.



There was an interesting and robust discussion involving some aspects of our NEB By-Laws. In a subcommittee breakout session, the By-Laws committee, under the chairmanship of our Judge Advocate Bohdan Hetmansky, presented a number of proposals submitted for convention approval. I include an outline of the approved changes to our by-laws and present them to you for your edification. Our by-laws are 16 pages long and can be found on our website. I would suggest that you read the By-Laws and the changes that have been initiated. Some changes are significant. www.uavets.org

ARTICLE I, PAGE 6

Section 6 – Nominations and Voting

- a) The makeup of the nominating committee
- b) Type of ballot used for voting
- c) Adding additional nominations
- d) Rules for the results of the cast ballots
- e) Post Commander's representation at a convention

Section 7 – Rules for established convention Committees

ARTICLE II, PAGE 7

Section 6 – Vacancies - Rules for NEB positions and the filling of vacancies

ARTICLE III, PAGE 8

Section 2 – National Vice-Commander's responsibilities

ARTICLE IV PAGES 11, 12

Section 5 – Uniform

- b) Wearing embroidered shirt option
- d) Period of wear for the summer uniform
- e) Wearing and placement of name tags and awards

ARTICLE V, PAGE 12

Section 5 – Expulsion of a post member – Post expulsion rules

ARTICLE VI, PAGES 13, 14

Section 2 – Judicial Procedure – Disciplining a post member process

Section 3 – Right of Appeal process

Section 5 – NEB authority for Witnesses. Testimony and Evidence

Section 7 – NEB discipline process

ARTICLE VII, PAGE 14

Rules and Procedures for the Discipline of Posts/State Departments

Section 1 – Disciplinary Action

Section 2 – Detrimental Conduct

ARTICLE VIII, PAGES 14, 15

Activation; In-Activation: Readmission of Posts

Sections 1 through 7 – A complete revamping and clarification of Post status

Ed. There were numerous changes to the By-Laws correcting spelling, syntax, duplicate phrasing, subtitles and other redundancies. These type of changes resulted in no meaningful or substantive adjustments or alterations to the By-Laws.



2024 CONVENTION PHOTO ALBUM

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer & Eric Wroblewski



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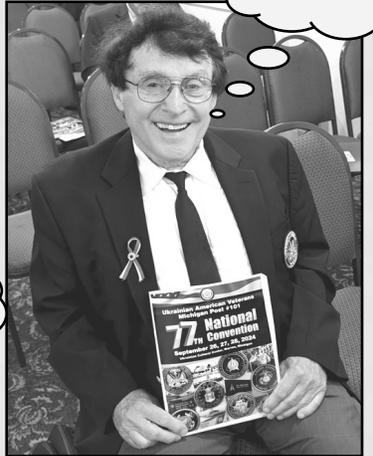
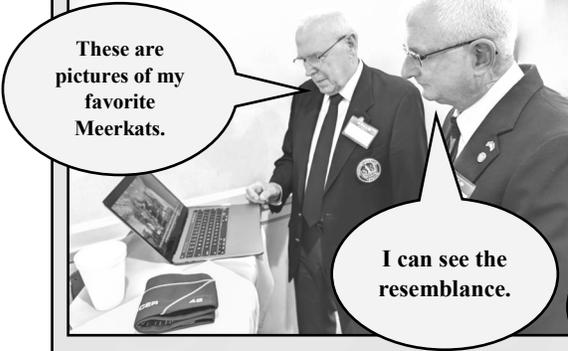
2024 CONVENTION PHOTO ALBUM

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer & Eric Wroblewski



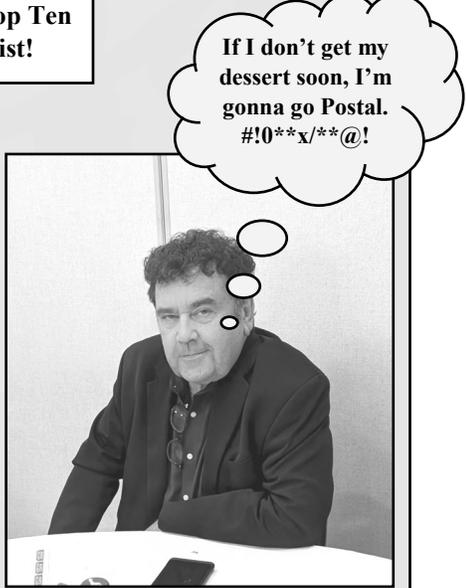
2024 CONVENTION PHOTO ALBUM—OUTTAKES

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



Don't you just love this Journal?

It belongs on the New York Times Top Ten best seller list!



**Honoring Adam W. Yurkiw
Sergeant**

US Army 1960-1962

*Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz,
UAV Publications officer*

The UAV Post 32

Chicago is proud to honor our longtime member, Adam Yurkiw, who was chosen to join other veterans in visiting Washington D.C. where they paid homage to our departed brothers and sisters. During this trip, all veterans were assigned an escort and were treated respectfully by the Honor Flight staff.

“This was the most exciting and memorable experience in my life and I will never forget it.”

Adam Yurkiw

The Honor Flight

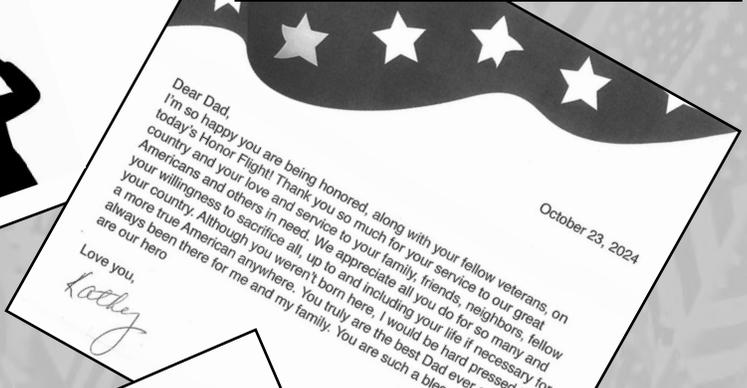
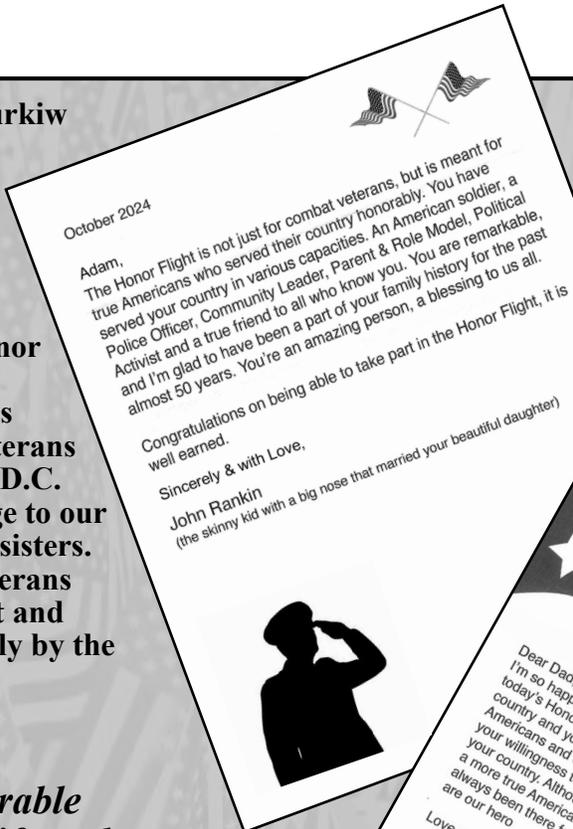
Our Mission:

To celebrate America’s veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation’s memorials.

Our Vision:

A nation where all of America’s veterans experience the honor, gratitude, and community of support they deserve.

The Honor Flight Network’s mission is to fly our nation’s veterans to Washington DC to visit memorials and monuments dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifice. Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit organization comprised of independent hubs working together to achieve the Honor Flight mission. In furtherance of this common goal, we have the enormous privilege of showing our nation’s veterans the appreciation and honor they deserve. Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans.



Welcoming Adam Yurkiw at the airport by UAV members after returning to Chicago following his Honor Flight experience. (L/R) Bohdan Dudycz, Adam Bihun, Adam Yurkiw, Peter Bencak, John Ohorenko and Walter Dudycz .

The UAV NATIONAL WELFARE FUND

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 currently 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. If 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.

UAV National Welfare Committee
Roman Stefaniuk, Welfare Officer

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publications officer



Post 32—Chicago Honored the victims of the Holodomor at the monument on the grounds of St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Bloomingdale, IL. A service was held and the veterans posted colors.

The result of Joseph Stalin's murderous campaign of genocide was a human catastrophe. Between 1931 and 1934 according to a study conducted by a team of Ukrainian demographers, at least 4 million Ukrainians perished through this man-made famine.

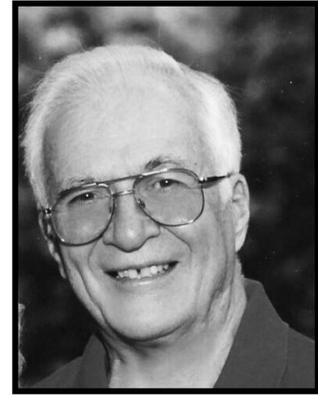
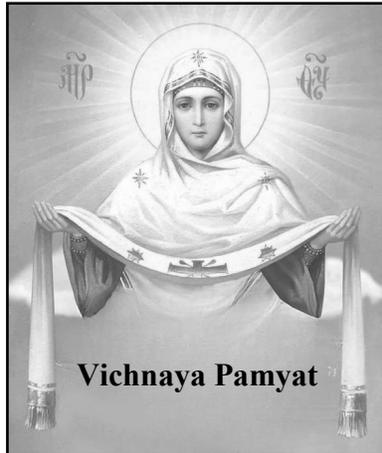
When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Ukraine finally became an independent nation and the Holodomor remains a painful part of Ukrainians' common identity. (source: Britannica).

MICHAEL & ANNA NASEVICH - REST IN PEACE

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publications officer



Anne D. Nasevich, a resident of Lakewood Ranch, Florida, died November 20, 2024. She was 97.



Michael Eugene Nasevich, a retired Philadelphia Funeral Director, died November 30, 2024, He was 98.

Mike was born at the Stetson Hospital on Germantown Avenue, the son of the late Mary (nee Panasoska) and Michael Franko Nasevich. He attended Immaculate Conception grade school, run by the Sisters of St. Basil the Great and was a graduate of Central High School. He played on the high school soccer team, and he would keep his love for the beautiful game all his life. Mike often took his kids to Edison High School Field to watch the Ukrainian Nationals soccer team play.

After graduation from high school, he entered the US Navy and was assigned to the newly launched USS Pocono, an Adirondack class amphibious force command ship; as a plank owner of the Pocono, he trained as a radarman and was discharged from the Navy at the end of World War II in July of 1946 with the rank of Radarman 3rd class.

Mike soon joined the newly formed Anthony Bilyi Post 1 of the Ukrainian American Veterans, started up by Major Michael Darmophray. Mike later became Post Commander and led Memorial Day Services at St. Mary's and Oakland Cemetery with his friends. Leading up to Memorial Day, young kids were often recruited to help place flags at the graves of those veterans who had passed away. Mike continued to place flags at the cemetery even when he was slowed by health and age, but his walker helped him along.

After his discharge, he returned to Philadelphia and attended the Eckels Mortuary School. After graduation, he helped his mother run the family funeral home at Franklin and Brown Streets. He sang in the Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral choir where he met Anne Duranowska, his future wife. Anne and Mike were married at the Cathedral on May 6, 1951, with a reception held at the Ukrainian Hall on Franklin Street (Mike's mother Mary purportedly got on the Ukrainian radio program and invited everyone to the reception).

Born and raised in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia, Anne (baptized Anne Julia at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church) was the youngest child of the late Paraskevia (nee Jarema) and Tychon Duranowsky. She attended area schools and went to St. Basil's Academy and graduated in 1944. She and her family were members of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; Anne sang in the church choir with her sisters, and it was there that she met her future husband, Michael E. Nasevich.

They lived in Northern Liberties and moved to Winchester Park in 1952. In 1953, Anne attended and graduated from Eckels Mortuary School and joined her husband Mike in the family business. In 1959 they purchased the Felton mansion in Olney where they opened the doors to the Nasevich Funeral Home.

The home was big enough to handle their growing family; Mike wanted a dozen children and loved his five: Michael F., born in 1952, Kathleen A. (1954), Marie B. (1957) Stephen P. (1961) and Joseph A. (1963).

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18) Michael & Anna Nasevich

The family worshipped together at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Frankford before joining the new Annunciation BVM Ukrainian Catholic parish in 1963. And while the funeral business kept them busy, Anne found time to take up ceramics and later the crafting of porcelain dolls. Her dolls would line the steps inside the front of the home and new creations were always a “must see”. Mike continued to be community minded and his favorite activity was driving clergy around their parishes to bless homes after Christmas.

Anne and Mike enjoyed traveling. They discovered their wanderlust passions when they journeyed to Quebec City for their honeymoon and a bit later to Bermuda. They also journeyed to Germany for the World Cup, then on a later trip to Germany to watch the Oberammergau Passion Play. Although they also enjoyed Caribbean waters, their favorite place to vacation was the Jersey shore.

Upon retiring, Anne and Mike purchased a small home in Lakewood Ranch, Florida and became proverbial snowbirds. In Florida, their residence sat between two Ukrainian Catholic parishes: North Port and St. Petersburg. They eventually made Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in St. Petersburg their home. Age and ailments curtailed their travels so, being homebound, they enjoyed visits from extended family and close friends. Anne and Mike were married for over 73 years.

Mike was buried in his UAV uniform, and Joe placed a UAV challenge coin in his casket. The Nasevich family thanks the members of UAV Post 1 (Philadelphia) and Post 24 (Lehigh Valley) who saluted Mike prior to Parastas prayers the night of his viewing, led by UAV Post 1 Commander Ed Zetick (PNC) and UAV National Commander Michael Hyrcak. Members of Post 1 also saluted Mike at Annunciation BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church the morning of his funeral. A Navy honor guard presented military honors and UAV Post 1 member Pete Labiak played taps at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery. The honor guard presented Joe with the flag that draped Mike's casket.

Joe Nasevich is the youngest Son of Michael & Anna Nasevich. He is a second generation member of the Ukrainian American Veterans who has served as our National Webmaster for the last decade. We offer Joe and his family our sincerest condolences. Vichnaya Pamyat!



IN MEMORIAM

Anna Makuch

January 27, 1973 - December 10, 2024



Anna Mardjanian was born in Kyiv to Maria Tchaikovska and Armen Mardjanian. In 1991, she came to NY. There she met Roman Makuch and they were married on September 23, 1996. In 2017, she gave birth to a daughter, Halyna.

Anna Mardjanian Anna was a high achiever in her personal ambitions and education was her passion, as evidenced by her scholastic achievements. She received a bachelor's degree from Queens College. That inspired her to aim higher so she applied to Empire College and majored in Ethnobiology where, ultimately, she specialized in fiber textiles and natural dyes.

Anna, affectionately known as Anoula, was never satisfied with theories about a subject, she insisted on experimenting with each and every technique herself. Life at the Makuch house was always interesting with containers of strange concoctions scattered about.

She was an extraordinary person who possessed an intense zeal for her chosen career. A passionate scholar and naturalist, she enjoyed investigating conundrums and puzzles in her field. Being a believer in scholarship through practice, Anoula loved discovering the extraordinary in the common.

Despite being diagnosed with cancer in 2021, Anoula didn't slow down. She enrolled in a program to get a Master's degree in Forensic Veterinary Studies. She kept up with her studies and held an A average, in spite of her debilitating condition.

On December 10, 2024 she passed away in her sleep, at home and surrounded by her family. Anna was the loving wife of Roman Makuch, UAV National Vice-commander and coordinator for our national Members-at-Large. We offer Roman and his family our sincerest condolences.

BG Stephen Mellnik

The First Modern Ukrainian American General

Story and photos submitted by: PNC Len Kondratiuk

Those of us who attended the 77th UAV Convention last September in Warren, MI saw an excellent display that featured the Ukrainian American flag and general officers. We all know about the late MG Nick Krawciw and his important contributions to the US Army and the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense. Among the generals in the display was the first Ukrainian American general promoted in the Twentieth Century: BG Stephen Mellnik.

Mellnik had an interesting career that bears telling. He was born in the village of Kovel, Volyn Oblast, Ukraine in 1907. As a child, he immigrated with his family where they settled in Dunmore, PA just outside of Scranton. Several thousand Ukrainians settled in the area where they worked in the coal mines.

There wasn't much to do in Dunmore other than digging coal, so Steve, as he was called, enlisted in the Army in 1925 and was assigned to Headquarters Battery, 12th Coast Artillery Regiment. He applied for admission to West Point and successfully passed the examinations. He entered the US Military Academy in 1928 and graduated in 1932 as the second Ukrainian American graduate.

2LT Mellnik was assigned to the Coast Artillery Corps which was responsible for defending the coasts of the United States and its possessions. In 1939, he was assigned as the commander of Battery D, 91st Coast Artillery Regiment (Philippine Scouts) and shortly thereafter was promoted to captain. The battery manned 12-inch mortars and 75mm guns on the island fortress of Corregidor in Manila Bay in the Philippines.



LTC Stephen Mellnik wearing his Class A uniform with DSC ribbon taken in 1943 just after his escape. Note how gaunt he appears.

In the summer of 1941, CPT Mellnik was assigned to the staff of HQ, US Army Forces, Far East commanded by LTG Douglas MacArthur. He was given the mission of selecting and building new coast artillery sites throughout the islands.

The Philippines were attacked on 8 December 1941 and the now MAJ Mellnik was given the mission of activating a new anti-aircraft artillery regiment for the defense of Manila. LTG MacArthur moved his headquarters to Corregidor which came under intense Japanese aerial and ground artillery bombardment for months. On 6 May 1942, the US garrison on the island surrendered to the Japanese.

MAJ Mellnik was present when LTC Ted Kalakuka, the first Ukrainian American West Point graduate, negotiated the

surrender to his Japanese counterpart in Ukrainian. Steve was incarcerated as a POW for the next 11 months. He and nine other officers broke out of the POW camp on Mindanao island in April 1943.

For weeks, the Americans struggled through the jungle while evading Japanese patrols and finally

reached a guerilla radio station. He and his companion CDR M.H. McCoy requested evacuation. Several weeks later while sitting in a small boat, a US Navy submarine surfaced just yards away. MAJ Mellnik and CDR McCoy arrived in Australia as the very first Americans to successfully escape back to U.S. control

After being treated for malaria, MAJ Mellnik
(continued on page 21)



Presentation of Distinguished Service Crosses by Gen. MacArthur to escaped POWs Col. Dyess, Cmdr. McCoy, Col. Mellnik.

(continued from page 20) BG Stephen Mellnick...



wrote a report about the terrible conditions, malnutrition and torture of Americans by their Japanese captors. He personally briefed GEN MacArthur who awarded Steve the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism. Steve was also promoted to lieutenant colonel. His report was immediately sent to the Pentagon where it was read by the highest generals in the War Dept.

After additional recovery, LTC Mellnik was assigned to the G-2 (Intelligence) section of General HQ of the US Army in the Pacific Theater. He was given the task of developing and supporting guerilla force in the Philippines. This was critically important when US Army forces invaded the Philippines in 1944 and linked up with U.S. and Filipino-led guerrilla units. LTC Mellnik was transferred to the U.S. in late 1944 and assigned to the G-2 section of the Army staff in the Pentagon.

After graduating from the US Army War College in 1951, he was promoted to colonel and assigned to the CIA. In 1954, COL Mellnik took command of the Nike missile battalions in Pittsburgh. He was selected for promotion to brigadier general while assigned to the US European Command in 1956. BG Mellnik took command of the 32d AAA Brigade in Germany and later commanded the Seventh Army Support Command.

BG Mellnik served as the Assistant Commandant, US Army Air Defense School from 1958 to 1962. He briefly served as Deputy Commander, 1st Air Defense Region at Fort Totten, Queens, NY. He experienced a heart attack and was retired from active duty in November 1963.

In 1969, under the name of BG Steve Mellnik, he published PHILIPPINE DIARY 1938-1945 which describes his experiences in World War II. BG Mellnik enjoyed his retirement in El Paso, TX where he died in 1994. Just before his death, he wrote to me and told me how proud he was of his Ukrainian ethnicity. BG Stephen Mellnik rests in peace at the post cemetery, US Military Academy, West Point, NY.



SFC Maria Green (Kohulka), MS, USA, MPC (Ret)

Term of Service: 30 April 1987 - 1 May 2013, 26 years on active duty.

Submitted by: Commander Stephen Kostecki - Post 31

DUTY STATIONS: Germany Kreigsfield Army Depot 558th MP Co. 1987-1990, 555th MP Co. Fort Lee VA 1990-1991, 988th MP Co. Fort Benning GA 1991-1994, Regional Confinement Facility, Fort Knox KY 1994 – 1997, New York City Recruiting BN, Fort Hamilton, NY 1997 – 2006, Albany Recruiting Battalion Albany, NY 2006 – 2009, NYC Medical Recruiting BN, Fort Hamilton, NY 2009 - 2013.

Maria retired from the United States Army in 2013. She worked in the civilian sector for eight years. Program Support Manager for Military Personnel Services as a USAR Contractor from 2013-2014. Responsible for assisting Service members, Veterans from all service era's as well as their dependents in finding and obtaining full or part time employment. Participated in weekend activities such as ESGR events, and RC Unit Training Assemblies (UTA). Served as the Subject Matter Expert on Employer Relations to Reserve Component leadership within assigned territories in New England.

Senior Health Benefits Consultant for US Family Health Plan (TRICARE Prime) from 2014-2021. Briefed military retirees, active-duty family members and active-duty personnel on TRICARE options. Participated in marketing and public affairs, group presentations, sponsored events. Conducted deployment and redeployment support, including Yellow Ribbon briefings.

Her father Petro Kohulka was born in Lyutovys'ka Ukraine, Lviv Oblast. Petro served in the First Ukrainian National Army Galicia Division, WW2. He was injured in the Battle of Brody, POW in Rimini Italy and later sent to England.

EDUCATION: 2022-Present - Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine, Ukrainian Language and Culture
2015-2018 Central Michigan University, Brooklyn, New York, MS-Health Sciences
2010-2013 Trident University International, Long Beach, California, BS-Business Admin.

ORGANIZATIONS: NYC Army Garrison Retiree Council - Outreach Coordinator, former Chair, Retiree Appreciation Day Committee Chair, American Veterans, American Legion, CT, Association of the U.S. Army NYC, Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 113 Secretary and Social Media Manager - NYC, ESGR Employment Support for the Guard and Reserves. Team Rubicon - Emergency Response. New York Road Runners Club - USADA, Ukrainian American Veterans Post 31. Commander Kostecki said "This is our first post female member".

Ed. Welcome Aboard Sarge!

THE BOB HOPE CHRISTMAS SHOW, DANANG, VIETNAM, 1968

Submitted By: *Ski Iworsky, UAV Post 31, Boston*



Bob Hope and his over-sized golf club. Christmas, 1968, at Danang, Vietnam. Believe it or not, this was a great seat.

In 1968, I was a 20 year old Marine stationed about 10 miles north of Danang, Vietnam and I was looking forward to my 21st birthday in a few weeks. It was December and Christmas was approaching. A handful of us were notified to report to the Company Commander in an hour. Standing at attention before the Company Commander, he grinned at us and said “Marines, Bob Hope is coming to town! Take these show passes and get your butts down to Danang and enjoy the show”.

When we got back to our “hootches”, everyone greeted us with “you lucky bastards”. They were right and we knew it. The next day we hitched a ride to Danang but were told Bob Hope is not coming that day, but maybe the next day. Back at our base, the Company Commander told us to go back to Danang the next day. We did, and again, no Bob Hope. Getting a little stern-faced, the

Company Commander said to try once more, but if Bob Hope doesn’t show up, he couldn’t spare us another day. Our anxiety level was rising.

On our third try, we were told to find the best seat we can on Hill 327 where a stage had been assembled at the foot of that wide hill. We grumbled at our assigned seats because they seemed so distant from the stage. But within a couple of hours, there were thousands and thousands of men sitting behind us. Our seats weren’t that bad after all. It was estimated that over 10,000 spectators were at the show and that the actual date and time of the show was hushed up to prevent any rocket or mortar attack on this condensed mass of humanity.

After several hours on the side of Hill 327, a helicopter landed nearby. As the door opened, out stepped Bob Hope with his oversized golf club. The roar of the crowd surely sent a shockwave that must have been heard for miles.

The show began with Hope’s monologue of jokes that made us roll with laughter even though they were so lame. NY Giant football great Rosey Grier came out and sang “Tiptoe through the Tulips with Me”. There were other performers, but what we were really waiting for were the Bob Hope girls.

Out came the Goldiggers, a group of about ten mini-skirted beauties that performed on the weekly Dean Martin TV show. But the performer most men were waiting for was the girl who was then considered America’s greatest sex-symbol, Ann Margaret. Of course, Bob Hope and Ann Margaret toyed around with many risqué jokes and double-entendres. She capped it off with a gyrating dance that sent all the men into a wild frenzy. We loved her routine but I don’t think the Navy nurses were as impressed with her as the men were.

Unfortunately, the show had to end, and Hope gracefully said that there were other shows to perform. We understood and we were happy to have had a taste of home. Maybe the most remarkable part of the show came at the end. Bob Hope asked all to join him and the performers in singing “Silent Night”. 10,000 men sang the song beautifully with their voices driven by homesickness. As I looked around me, there weren’t too many dry eyes in the crowd. So we bid the Bob Hope show the fondest of farewells and filed this day in our memories.



Ann Margaret - 1968

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Zaderecky
April 22, 1918 – September 20, 2024
Post 24 - Parma, Ohio



Submitted by: Commander Roman Rakowsky, Post 24

Michael Zaderecky died peacefully at the age of 106 on September 20, 2024. Mike was born on April 22, 1918, in Hamtramck, Michigan. He was a preschooler when his family moved to Northeast Ohio. In 1937 he graduated from South High School in Slavic Village then briefly attended Kent State University before being drafted into the U. S. Army.

As a Private First Class, Mike served in World War II, patrolling the beaches at Normandy just after the famous landing. After the War he was part of a group of Ukrainian Americans that formed the American Legion Post 572 named after Joseph Jacubic, the first Ohio soldier killed in WWII. Mike was the first Post Commander of AL Post 572, and they regularly met at the Ukrainian National Home in Cleveland's Tremont district. They later established a permanent home in Parma, Ohio in its Ukrainian Village. Mike was also an active of Parma's Elks Lodge 1938. Mike was also a founding member of the Ukrainian American Veterans Post 24.

Mike served his community as a Parma City Councilman, City Inspector and long-time Parma Municipal Court Bailiff. Affectionally known as Uncle Mikey in a Court where he ran a tight ship. On October 18, 2024, the city of Parma, Ohio honored Mike by dedicating the intersection of State Rd., Hill and Ridgewood Dr. as "PFC Mike Zaderecky Way".



On October 18,
2024, the city of
Parma, Ohio
honored Mike by
dedicating the
intersection of State
Rd., Hill and
Ridgewood Dr. as
"PFC Mike
Zaderecky Way".



R/L Roman Rakowsky, Bohdan Samokyszyn, Eugene Magocky,
Al Kravchuk, Russ Mniotek, Nester Kostryk, Nick Bartkiw, Mike Kasamyryw

UAV SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS FOR 2024



Madeline E. Zetick
Pennsylvania



Arianna E. Rudko
Connecticut



Alayna J. Storey
Michigan

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS



Jared J. Roderick
Massachusetts



Stephen E. Sheptak
Pennsylvania



Rylie S. Roderick
Massachusetts



Alexandra L. Kostecki
New Hampshire



Luke E. Coffey
Illinois



Benjamin I. Skorik
Massachusetts



Jared M. Hrycak
New Jersey



Sofia W. Tsvihun
Connecticut/Indiana

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS FOR 2024

Submitted by: Dr. Nicholas Skirka, UAV Scholarship Officer

YONKERS, N.Y. – The Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) 77th National Convention was held September 26-29 in Warren, Michigan. During the convention, the UAV recognized 11 recipients for this year's UAV Scholarship Awards. The UAV National Scholarship Committee selected nine undergraduate students and two graduate students for the awards. The committee awarded these students scholarships to help pay for tuition, books, or school supplies.

Students were required to write an essay between 400-500 words about a current military or related topic. The topics for this year included: “War in Ukraine”, “Human rights war violations in Ukraine”, “Negative war effects on returning American veterans”, “Russian aggression in Ukraine”, and “Ukrainian American veterans’ contributions to America’s wars”. Other criteria considered for a scholarship are academic achievement and extracurricular activities. For the 2024 year, 11 students each received UAV Scholarship Award for \$500.

- ⓐ Arianna E. Rudko (Connecticut), attends Rocky Mountain College, majoring in Art and Design. This scholarship was awarded to Arianna from many donors in Memory of Michael Demchak, our past national Scholarship Officer.
- ⓐ Jared M. Hrycak (New Jersey) is a graduate student who attends the University of California, Riverside, he is majoring in Computer Engineering. This scholarship was awarded to Jared by UAV Post 40 from Florida.
- ⓐ Madeline E. Zetick (Pennsylvania) attends Temple University, where she is majoring in Nursing BSN. This scholarship was awarded to Madeline by Gregory Buchai.
- ⓐ Benjamin I. Skorik (Massachusetts) attends Clarkson University, majoring in Business Intelligence and Data Analytics. This scholarship was awarded to Benjamin by UAV Ladies Auxiliary and many donors.
- ⓐ Jared J. Roderick (Massachusetts) a graduate student who attends the University of Connecticut, majoring in Statistics. This scholarship was awarded to Jared by Stephen Glomb (\$200) and other donors.
- ⓐ Rylie S. Roderick (Massachusetts) attends the University of Alabama at Birmingham, majoring in Biomedical Engineering. This scholarship was awarded to Rylie by many donors.
- ⓐ Sofia W. Tsvihun (Connecticut/Indiana) attends Duke University, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering. This scholarship was awarded to Sofia by George Kovch (\$300) and the Ukrainian Selfreliance New England Federal Credit Union (\$200).
- ⓐ Stephen E. Sheptak (Pennsylvania) attends Butler Community College, he is majoring in Nursing. This scholarship was awarded to Stephen by Roman Synychak (\$300) and Myroslaw J. Kyj (\$200).
- ⓐ Luke E. Coffey (Illinois) attends Indiana University-Bloomington, majoring in Finance. This scholarship was awarded to Luke by Inia I. Tunstall and Andrew Petrina (\$200 each) and Joe Nasevich (\$100).
- ⓐ Alayna J. Storey (Michigan) attends Northern Michigan University, where she is majoring in Fine Arts/Art & Design. This scholarship was awarded to Alayna by SUMA Yonkers Federal Credit Union (\$250) and Yuriy Petrenko (\$250).
- ⓐ Alexandra L. Kostecki (New Hampshire) attends Concordia University, Canada, majoring in Early Childhood Elementary Education. This scholarship was awarded to Alexandra by Roman Bilynsky (\$200), Daria H. Rusyn (\$150), and other donors.

In 2024, other people and/or organization who donated \$100 include: Leo J. Samokieszyn, Raymond Diaz, Michael Mosyjowski, Ihor Hron, Jaroslaw Sywyj, Walter N. Czebiniak, Kenneth Johnson, Paul Nadzikewycz, Richard Skorik, Catherine A. Popaduik, Peter Lusenko, and Col. Orest R. Gogosha, Ret. The UAV National Scholarship Committee thanks all those individuals and organizations who donated to make the UAV scholarship awards a huge success.

Students interested in applying for the UAV Scholarship Award should fill out an application, send their high school and/or college transcript with class schedule, write an essay from one of the five military topics, and email a high-resolution digital head photo of themselves. Applications are available on the UAV website: www.uavets.org.

To be eligible for a UAV scholarship, applicants must be descendants of or related to a Ukrainian American veteran who is/was a member of the UAV organization. Applicants should be full-time undergraduate or part/full-time graduate students in a degree program. Students attending accredited trade schools or institutions that have a degree program are eligible as well. Students can apply after they graduate from high school; college attendance will be verified before the awards are given in the Fall semester. Applications are accepted year-round and the deadline is August 31. Students can reapply for a scholarship award in subsequent years.

Completed scholarship applications can be mailed or emailed to UAV National Scholarship Officer Nicholas Skirka at the following address: 109 Windsor Terrace, Yonkers, N.Y., 10701. For additional information, readers may email Mr. Skirka at nskirka@optonline.net or call (914) 965-3707.

The UAV National Scholarship Committee includes: John Galik, Peter Olijarczyk, and Maksym Makarczuk.

War in Ukraine

Essay written and submitted by: Ben Skorik, 2024 Scholarship Winner

It is a common misconception that the Russia and Ukraine war started on February 24th, 2022. The war actually began eight years prior in February 20th, 2014. In those eight years numerous non-profit organizations started up to assist the brave men and women defending their country. One of these non-profits is Sunflower of Peace. Sunflower of Peace is based out of Boston, Massachusetts. They mainly send medical supply bags to Ukraine.

I wanted to assist Ukraine in their war against Russia. My reason for this was my heritage. I had always been taught by my father about our family and where we come from. He served in the United States Army for 20 years. During this time, we lived in the Netherlands. My father loved Europe and often went on cruises with me and my mother to different countries. In February 2014 we were on a ship heading to Ukraine. He was telling me all about the history of our family. However, before our ship arrived at it's destination, Russia invaded Ukraine. For the next eight years I didn't hear much about what happened, until Russia began to move on Ukraine again. I was able to recall 2014 when it first happened. I remembered the stories my father told me about our heritage. I wanted nothing more than to help the innocents in Ukraine.

In March of 2022 my father and I began volunteering at Sunflower of Peace in West Roxbury, Massachusetts on the weekends. Here I packed medical supplies into backpacks and resupply packs. I also boxed up these bags and placed them on pallets for shipping. On the days there was no packing to be done we organized the supplies to make packing easier. In March, 2023 I started bringing fellow teens to help. These teens came from a Boys and Girls Clubs of America program called Keystone.

Keystone is a leadership program for teens. With the extra people Sunflower of Peace changed how to pack bags. They made it a chain now. Everyone had a spot and a set of supplies to pack instead of just one bag. This change allowed them to pack more bags in the three hours they were open.

My passion for aiding in Ukraine war efforts derives from my heritage. I will never forget being on the cruise ship and finding out I wasn't going to see where my family came from. Without those two things the second invasion in February 2022 wouldn't have had as big of a pull on me. I am proud of my heritage and am more than proud to say I volunteer at Sunflower of Peace to help the brave men and woman fighting for their freedom and their country.

War Crimes in Ukraine: A Dark Chapter in History

Essay written and submitted by: Arianna Rudko, 2024 Scholarship Winner

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 was characterized by a horrifying list of war crimes and a flagrant disregard for international humanitarian law. The massacre in Bucha, the abuse of Ukrainian POWs (Prisoners of War), and the intentional destruction of civilian infrastructure are some of the most heinous crimes.

The massacre in Bucha, a suburb of Kyiv, is one of the most dreadful events to take place during the war. When Russian forces withdrew from the town, hundreds of civilian bodies were discovered, many with signs of torture and execution. The victims included women, children, and the elderly. On March 3rd, 2022, a convoy of Russian vehicles made an appearance on Yablunska Street. Many locals took this road on their daily route; little did they know it would cost them their lives. Ihor Samchenko, 40 years old, had left his wife and two children to check on his mother-in-law. Soon after, he went missing; his friends and family were worried. Ihor's wife and children had no choice but to depart Bucha. "As they were evacuating, they saw the unimaginable: Ihor's body lying on Yablunska Street. Investigators later found pieces of candy in Ihor's jacket that he was carrying home to his children." (Their Final Moments: Victims of a Russian Atrocity in Bucha, 2022). Acts such as this one were a part of a broader pattern of systematic violence by Russian forces.

The treatment of Ukrainian POWs by Russian troops has also been a major cause for worry. Various sources have reported on cases of torture, abuse, and even the dismemberment of body parts. These acts are a gross violation of the Geneva Conventions, which outline the basic rights of prisoners of war. According to an article by The Media Line, "many prisoners were subjected to sexual violence, including rape, threats of castration, and repeated forced nudity." (Neifakh, 2024). Previously an investigator for the Ukrainian police, 24-year-old Maryana Chechelyuk was held captive and constantly starved, tortured in the cold and beaten. The intentional infliction of suffering on captured Ukrainian soldiers is an evident crime against humanity.

In addition, Russian soldiers have frequently targeted civilian facilities, including hospitals, schools, and residential areas. Numerous innocent citizens have suffered greatly and lost their lives as a result of these atrocities. The deliberate targeting of civilians is against the principles of distinction and proportionality and is considered a war crime.

The ongoing Conflict in Ukraine has exposed the depths to which human cruelty can sink. The massacres in Bucha, the mistreatment of prisoners of war, and the targeting of civilian infrastructure are just a few examples of the barbarity committed by the Russian enemies. These acts must be thoroughly investigated and those responsible must be held accountable. The international community has a duty to ensure that justice is served and that such crimes are never permitted to occur again.

Al-hlou, Yousur, et al. "Their Final Moments: Victims of a Russian Atrocity in Bucha." *Nytimes.Com*, The New York Times, 22 Dec. 2022, www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/12/21/world/europe/bucha-ukraine-massacre-victims.html.

Neifakh, Veronica. "Harrowing Torture and Atrocities: Ukrainian Pows Suffer Severe Abuse in Russian Captivity." *The Medialine.Org*, 26 June 2024, themedialine.org/people/harrowing-torture-and-atrocities-ukrainian-pows-suffer-severe-abuse-in-russian-captivity.

VETERANS' DAY FLAG CEREMONY AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Submitted by: Askold D. Mosijczuk COL USA MC ret.



(L/R) Jaroslav Martyniuk & Bohdan Hetmansky

A low November sun greeted the participants & attendees at the annual parade of flags at the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater. Bohdan Hetmansky and Jaroslav Martyniuk, our 2 designated UAV Post 26 flagbearers, arrived early at the Amphitheater carrying our American and Post 26 and flags. Askold Mosijczuk joined them before the start of the official Ceremony, which began at 1030 hours.

The entire ceremony, including President Biden's keynote speech, were quite moving, and were warmly received by the large number of attendees. The

crowd consisted of uniformed veterans, active duty soldiers assigned to this event, family members of departed colleagues, and distinguished guests. The Ceremony honored our departed colleagues and made this a memorable event for everyone in attendance.

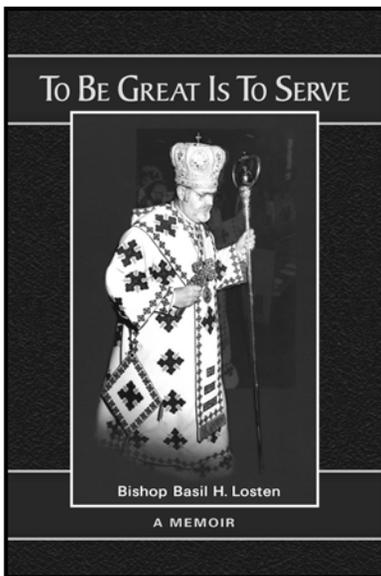


Veterans Day flag ceremony at the Amphitheater of the Arlington Heights cemetery 11-11-2024

Post 26 of Ukrainian American Veterans was properly represented!

"To Be Great Is To Serve"

Submitted by: Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak, UAV National Chaplain



By Bishop Basil H. Losten published in 2024.

Edited by Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak - Book Design by Oleh R. Stecyk.
255 pages with over 160 pictures and Illustrations.

This book is a Memoir of the life of Bishop Losten. It traces his life from Chesapeake City, Maryland to his retirement in Stamford, CT.

He was born in 1930 in Maryland. He was ordained a Ukrainian Catholic priest in 1957. He was consecrated a bishop on May 25, 1971. He was installed as Bishop of Stamford (CT) in 1977 and retired in 2006. In the history of the Ukrainian Catholic Church he has served as Bishop for the longest time.

This memoir reads more like a conversation than a simple historical narrative. Bishop basil shares his impressions on many important subjects and historical persons. He discusses Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis. He shares his impressions of Patriarch Josyf Slipyj and many other important persons in the life of the Ukrainian-American Community. If you are looking for footnotes and historical chronologies

you may not find them here; however, if you are looking for a frank self portrait - a virtual verbal selfie - you will be pleasantly entertained by this very approachable self-portrait of Bishop Basil H. Losten.

Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak

If you would like to purchase a copy of Bishop Losten's book please make out a \$25 (twenty-five) dollar check out to: BASIL H. LOSTEN and mail it to:

**Bishop Basil H. Losten
122 Clovelly Road
Stamford, CT 06902-3019**



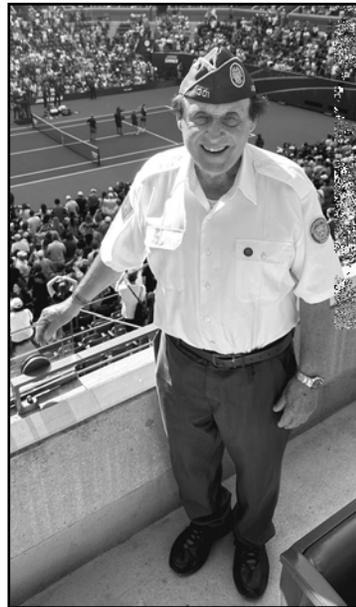
UAV ASSORTMENT



Holodomor service at St. Patrick's Cathedral on November 23, 2024. The color guard includes past national commander Ihor Rudko, carrying the American flag, and Nicholas Skirka carrying the Ukrainian flag. Behind Nicholas Skirka is James Fedorko and behind him is past national commander Steven Szewczyk (1997-2000).



Post 301—Yonkers members attending a brunch for veterans. (L/R) Maksym Makarczuk, Nicholas Skirka, and Peter Olijarczyk.



Connecticut festival at Stamford. (L/R) Past National Commander Ihor Rudko, Walter Melnyk, National Commander Michael Hrycak, LTC Wiroslaw J. Snihurowych, and Nicholas Skirka Scholarship Officer. It was a great festival with plenty of vendors, delicious food, and entertainment.

The Joe Hunt Veteran Appreciation Day was held at the US Open on Saturday 8/31. Veterans participated in a Tennis and toured the Louis Armstrong and Arthur Ashe stadiums. It was a spectacular day.

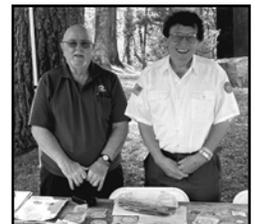


Larry Hogan, the 67th Governor of Maryland (center), met with Ukrainian-American Veterans post 26 members at St Andrews (Ukrainian Orthodox Church) Humanitarian Center in Silver Spring, St Andrews. Gov. Hogan has admitted to being a supporter of aid to Ukraine, to assist it in retrieving territory occupied by the invading Russians, and to returning kidnapped Ukrainian citizens (young & old) back from their captivity in Russia. Yaromyr Oryshkevych, LtCol USAFR (ret), Cmdr UAV post 26



UAV Representatives pass out veterans information at the Soyuzivka festival

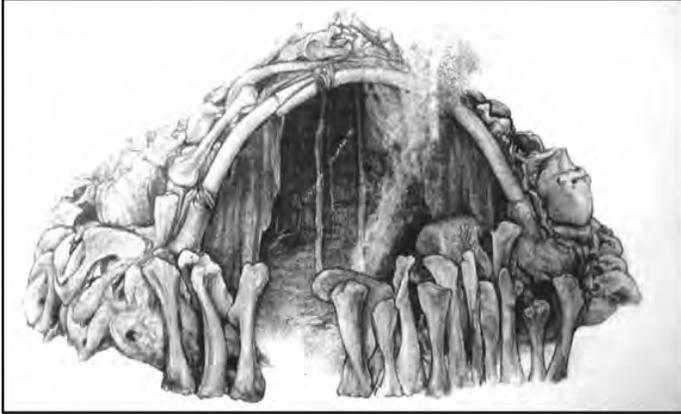
2 lonely Bachelors at the Suzy Q festival's Kissing Booth



(L/R)Michael Hrycak, Nick Jakowiw, Nicholas Skirka, Rudko's son, Ihor Rudko, Michael Wowk, Walter Kovbasniuk, Wazysl Szozda, and Mathew Koziak.

UPPER PALEOLITHIC MAMMOTH BONE SETTLEMENT FOUND IN UKRAINE

Submitted by: Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publications officer



Artist's interpretation of a prehistoric Mammoth

The prehistoric hut, which was made from mammoth bones dating back 15,000 years, was discovered in Mezherich, Ukraine. This Upper Paleolithic (Epigravettian) site is located in the Middle Dnieper Valley region of Ukraine near Kiev.

"These structures are among the oldest evidence of architecture created by humans."

In 1965, while digging to expand his basement, a Ukrainian farmer unearthed a piece of a mammoth jawbone. As he continued digging, he discovered that the bone was part of a large structure. Further excavations revealed the presence of four huts, made up of a total of 149 mammoth bones. These small dwellings date back approximately 15,000 years.



Actual site of a prehistoric Mammoth home in Mezherich,

This discovery was made in a large open-air site where several mammoth bone huts with hearths and pit features were used between about 14,000-15,000 years ago.

Inside the huts at Mezherich, several artefacts of great archaeological value were found. For example, amber and shell ornaments that were transported from a distance of at least 350-500 kilometers. The site also yielded a map engraved on a bone, which presumably indicated the area surrounding the settlement.

Additionally, one of the oldest percussion instruments ever found, a "drum" also made from mammoth bones and painted with red ochre dots and lines, was discovered. Tool workshop areas were also identified at the site.

GERMAN FLAK TOWERS OF WORLD WAR II

Submitted by: Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publications officer

Flak towers (Flaktürme) were built to defend the Reich Empire from British air raids. These complex structures included radar stations within. They were considered urgent and top priority so all the related raw material (cement, pig iron etc.) was directed to their construction. However apart from towers in Berlin, Hamburg and Vienna, other similar projects had to be cancelled due to shortage of raw material and funds.

Designed to be large, above-ground, anti-aircraft gun blockhouse towers, their 10 foot thick concrete walls were unassailable for ordinary bombings. The anti aircraft guns situated on top of these towers were very effective no-fly zones when concentrating their firepower. For example the three towers formed a safe triangle over Berlin from the Royal Air Force. They were designed to also be used as bomb shelters to house thousands of people during air raids.

They were so impregnable that during the Battle of Berlin where there was no hope for the Nazi capital's survival, these towers were impenetrable to the Soviet Red Army because of their thick walls. The Soviets did not bother to waste valuable ammo and bypassed them in their quest to capture the Nazi capital. In the end the German defenders had to surrender when they ran out of food and water.

All in all these giant towers exist today because it is too costly to demolish them and they stand unoccupied. It is interesting to note that these tower's purpose was to defend the city from air raids, therefore they were of no use defending against ground forces.



Anti-aircraft tower in Vienna.

THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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

I was honorably discharged.

I am still serving honorably.



PLEASE PRINT

BRANCH OF SERVICE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE CELL

EMAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Space Force
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Merch. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. National Guard
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Reserves
<u>DATES OF SERVICE</u>	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	

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

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

Please return this application and payment to the selected Post Commander

Select Post	Commander							
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Edward A. Zetick	740 Dale Rd.	Huntingdon Valley	PA	19006-8319	215-885-2826		
<input type="checkbox"/>	14 Ihor B. Rudko	44 Jurach Road	Colchester	CT	06415-2106	860-705-1849		
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 Michael Wowk	187 Butternut Lane	Kensington	CT	06030-1204	860-827-8600		
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Michael Fedorko	84 Van Ness	Rutherford	NJ	07070	551-238-9590		
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 William Szozda	66 North William Street	Pearl River	NY	10965-1820	845-920-8325		
<input type="checkbox"/>	23 Markian Slabyk	25 Stearns St	Lackawanna	NY	14218-2703	716-481-0543		
<input type="checkbox"/>	24 Roman Rakowsky	1881 Jacqueline Dr.	Parma	OH	44134-6849	440-476-1188		
<input type="checkbox"/>	26 Yaromyr Oryshkewych	430 Randolph Rd.	Silver Springs	MD	20904-3538	301-646-4222		
<input type="checkbox"/>	27 Peter Polnyj	225 High Road	Glen Spey	NY	12737-8002	718-869-3634		
<input type="checkbox"/>	28 Roman Kostiuk	3966 April Drive	Uniontown	OH	44685-9358	330-896-4166		
<input type="checkbox"/>	31 Stephen J. Kostecki	34 West Britannia St. #2	Taunton	MA	02780-1853	508-245-1890		
<input type="checkbox"/>	32 Peter Bencak	2135 W. Potomac Ave.	Chicago	IL	60622-8270	773-489-2757		
<input type="checkbox"/>	33 Carl Harvey	841 Alling Road	Orange	CT	06477-1352	203-848-4860		
<input type="checkbox"/>	40 Ihor Hron	201 Osprey Point Drive	Osprey	FL	34229-9234	941-270-2413		
<input type="checkbox"/>	42 Bohdan Zelechiwsky	403 4th Street	West Easton	PA	18042-6115	610-972-3712		
<input type="checkbox"/>	43 Michael J. Dobransky	17 Miriam Street	Johnson City	NY	13790-6658	607-729-0334		
<input type="checkbox"/>	101 Matthew Wroblewski	25195 Pine View Ave.	Warren	MI	48091-1564	586-755-9575		
<input type="checkbox"/>	301 Nicholas Skirka	109 Windsor Terrace	Yonkers	NY	10701-1512	914-965-3707		

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

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

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



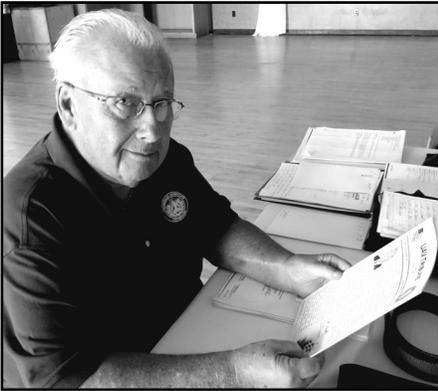
**Individuals wishing to become Members at Large should contact
 Roman Makuch, National Vice Commander,
 at 347-886-0962, n2uck@yahoo.com**



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

Effective 12/1/2024

QUARTERMASTER STORE



National Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki

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

Stephen Kostecki at 508-245-1890
Or email: skostecki108@comcast.net

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

ALL PRICING ADJUSTMENTS EFFECTIVE January 1, 2024.



UAV Post Cover—\$48.00
 Include size when ordering
 9 weeks for delivery



Solid Blue UAV Necktie \$12.00 ea.



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



Navy blue UAV Golf Shirt w/the UAV emblem - \$37.00
 Include size when ordering



American flag and UAV arm Patch for Summer wear. Sold as a set - \$17.00



UAV Monument Coin \$12.00
FREE SHIPPING



UAV Car Medallion \$12.00



UAV Monument Coin in case - \$30.00



Jacket Emblem to be worn on the breast pocket - \$35.00



Tie or Jacket Pin \$7.50

Desktop replica of our Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument



LARGE: 11 1/4" x 7 1/4" for \$40.00

SMALL: 7 1/2" x 5 1/2" for \$30.00

LIMITED QUANTITY

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





UAV Tribune



Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

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



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



Lady Sniper - Code Name "Charcoal"
Another courageous Ukrainian Warrior
who takes no prisoners

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

**СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!
ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!**