



# UAV TRIBUNE

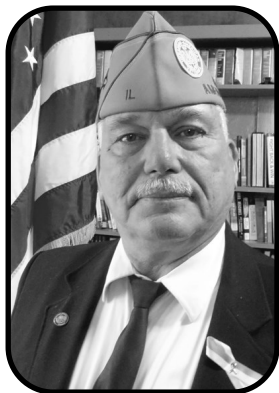
8433 N. Clifton Ave.  
Niles, IL 60714



[uavpublicity@gmail.com](mailto:uavpublicity@gmail.com)

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

## Ukrainian American Veterans



Michael P. Hrycak UAV NC

### “From The Commander’s Hatch”

(L/R) Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk, Monument Officer and Michael P. Hrycak, UAV National Commander, followed by members of the UAV National Executive Board, formally dedicate permanent benches at the site of the UAV National monument on the grounds of St. Andrew’s Memorial Church and Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, the spiritual headquarters of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

280 Main Street  
South Bound Brook,  
New Jersey

\* The National Commander’s message will resume in our December, 2024 issue.



REMEMBERING ALL UKRAINIAN AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE  
SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

## 2024-2025 National Officers

**Michael P. Hrycak** – National Commander  
(C) 908-531-8800 / 908-789-1870  
[uavnationalcommander@gmail.com](mailto:uavnationalcommander@gmail.com)  
[michaelhrycak@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelhrycak@yahoo.com)

**Roman Makuch** – Vice Commander  
(C) 773-886-0962  
[uavvicecommander@gmail.com](mailto:uavvicecommander@gmail.com)

**John Steciw** – Interim Adjutant  
773-952-9912  
[uavadjutant@gmail.com](mailto:uavadjutant@gmail.com)

**Peter Bencak, PNC** – Finance Officer  
(C) 773-578-6868  
[uavfinance@gmail.com](mailto:uavfinance@gmail.com)

**Bohdan A. Hetmanskyy** – Judge Advocate  
240-350-7462  
[uavjag@gmail.com](mailto:uavjag@gmail.com)

**Stephen Kostecki** – Quartermaster  
508-245-1890  
[uavquartermaster@gmail.com](mailto:uavquartermaster@gmail.com)

**Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak** – Chaplain  
845-626-2864  
[uavchaplain@gmail.com](mailto:uavchaplain@gmail.com)

**Roman Stefaniuk** – Welfare Officer  
586-751-3414  
[uavwelfare@gmail.com](mailto:uavwelfare@gmail.com)

**Nicholas Skirka** – Scholarship Officer  
914-965-3707  
[uavscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:uavscholarship@gmail.com)

**Edward A. Zetick, PNC** – Historian  
215-885-2826  
[uavhistorian@gmail.com](mailto:uavhistorian@gmail.com)

**Bohdan Dudycz** – PR/Publications Officer  
847-825-1717  
[uavpublicity@gmail.com](mailto:uavpublicity@gmail.com)

**Leonid Kondratiuk, PNC** – Monument Officer  
508-294-1650  
[uavmonument@gmail.com](mailto:uavmonument@gmail.com)

**Ihor Rudko** – IPNC  
860-705-1849  
[irudko@rudko.com](mailto:irudko@rudko.com)

**Joe Nasevich** – Webmaster  
434-882-7638  
[uavwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:uavwebmaster@gmail.com)

**Oksana Koziak** – President, Ladies Auxiliary  
610-867-4052  
[okandmatt@aol.com](mailto:okandmatt@aol.com)

### State Commanders:

**NY: Michael J. Dobransky**  
845-672-4217  
[dobranskymichaelj@gmail.com](mailto:dobranskymichaelj@gmail.com)

**CT: Ihor Rudko**  
860-705-1849  
[Ihor@rudko.com](mailto:Ihor@rudko.com)

**NJ: Michael P. Hrycak**  
(C) 908-531-8800/908-89-1870  
[uavnationalcommander@gmail.com](mailto:uavnationalcommander@gmail.com)

## THE BUDAPEST MEMORANDUM OF 1994

While the Russian oppression of Ukraine is many centuries long, the modern era of Kremlin political manipulation goes back to the 1990s. After the fall of the USSR, multiple treaties, both bilateral and international, were signed between the two countries, only to be violated by the Russian side.

One of the most talked about examples today is the Budapest Memorandum of 1994. Famously, this was the treaty in which Ukraine agreed to surrender its nuclear weapons in exchange for security assurances from Russia, the US, and the UK. As part of the agreement, Russia promised to refrain from the use of military force or economic coercion against Ukraine and respect its borders and territorial integrity.

It should be noted that Ukraine proved its long-term commitment to global de-armament and peace. Apart from its sizeable nuclear arsenal, Kyiv would later also work with the US to dismantle its 44 long-range strategic bombers and 1068 cruise missiles able to strike at a distance of up to 2,500 kilometers (1555 miles). It is clear today that not only did Russia violate its promises under the Budapest Memorandum, but it also did the opposite of Ukraine — it rearmed and prepared for war.

The years that followed saw numerous promises and obligations openly used by Russia to disguise its imperial ambitions with a veneer of good intentions. In both the Budapest Memorandum and the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Russia and Ukraine, Moscow reaffirmed its recognition of Ukraine's borders and sovereignty. It turned out that the Kremlin's promises weren't worth the paper they were written on when a duplicitous Russia invaded Ukraine.

In 2014, Russia brought its violations to a new level of cynicism and brutality. This included the illegal occupation of Crimea, followed by a falsified gun-point referendum. By doing this, Russia completely disregarded its obligations to respect Ukrainian borders and independence.

Moscow's further manipulative promises were even worse, as they directly caused the loss of Ukrainian lives. Soon after the illegal occupation of Crimea, Russia conducted a military invasion of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Ukrainians fought fiercely to defend their land but ultimately decided to set for the Minsk Agreements - brokered by Western partners to de-escalate the war. Russia agreed to those documents but never honored them.



Signing documents (l/r) Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia, William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States and Leonid Kuchma President of Ukraine



# Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.



**Michael P. Hrycak**

316 Lenox Avenue  
Westfield, NJ 07090-5113

**National Commander**

## Post Commanders 2023 - 2025

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

**215-885-2826** - [ezetick@gmail.com](mailto:ezetick@gmail.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

**551-238-9590** - [fedorko\\_15003@yahoo.com](mailto:fedorko_15003@yahoo.com)

Post 19 Spring Valley, NY - William Szozda, NVC PC

**845-920-8325** - [wandjsz0@optimum.net](mailto:wandjsz0@optimum.net)

Post 23 Buffalo, NY - Markian Slabyk, PC

**716-481-0543** - [mslabyk@verizon.net](mailto:mslabyk@verizon.net)

Post 24 Cleveland, OH - Roman Rakowsky, PNC, PC

**440-476-1188** - [roman.rakowsky1943@gmail.com](mailto:roman.rakowsky1943@gmail.com)

Post 25 Trenton, NJ - Gregory Posewa, PC

**609-259-2763** - [g.po@aol.com](mailto:g.po@aol.com)

Post 26 Washington DC—Yaromyr Osyshkewych

**301-646-4222** - [yaromyr@aol.com](mailto:yaromyr@aol.com)

Post 28 Akron, OH - Roman Kostiuk, PC

**330-896-4166** - [romankostiuk@yahoo.com](mailto:romankostiuk@yahoo.com)

Post 31 Boston, MA - Stephen J. Kostecki, NQ PC

**508-245-1890** - [skostecki108@comcast.net](mailto:skostecki108@comcast.net)

Post 32 Chicago, IL - Peter Bencak, IPNC

**773-489-2757** - [pbencak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbencak@sbcglobal.net)

Post 33 New Haven, CT - Carl Harvey, PC

**203-389-6076** - [carlharvey79@gmail.com](mailto:carlharvey79@gmail.com)

Post 40 North Port, FL - Ihor W. Hron, PNC, PC

**941-270-2413** - [ihorwhron@comcast.net](mailto:ihorwhron@comcast.net)

Post 42 LeHigh Valley, PA - Bohdan Zelechiwsky

**610-972-3712** - [uavpost42@gmail.com](mailto:uavpost42@gmail.com)

Post 43 Johnson City, NY - Michael J. Dobransky, PC

**607-729-0334** - [dobranskymichaelj@gmail.com](mailto:dobranskymichaelj@gmail.com)

Post 101 Warren, MI - Matthew Wroblewski, PC

**586-755-9575** - [mwroblewski1@comcast.net](mailto:mwroblewski1@comcast.net)

Post 301 Yonkers, NY - Nicholas Skirka, NSchol PC

**914-965-3707** - [nskirka@optonline.net](mailto:nskirka@optonline.net)

Member-At-Large - Roman Makuch, UAV VC

**347-886-0962** - [uavvicecommander@gmail.com](mailto:uavvicecommander@gmail.com)

### State Commanders:

NY: Michael J. Dobransky - 607-792-0334  
[dobranskymichaelj@gmail.com](mailto:dobranskymichaelj@gmail.com)

CT: Ihor B. Rudko - 860-705-1849  
[irudko@rudko.com](mailto:irudko@rudko.com)

NJ: Michael P. Hrycak - 908-531-8800  
[MichaelHrycak@yahoo.com](mailto:MichaelHrycak@yahoo.com)

## NOTICE

Please note that our Post count has been reduced by three. Posts 6 - Newark, NJ, Post 27 - Brooklyn, NJ and Post 30 - Freehold, NJ have been victims of attrition resulting in having fewer than the required number of members. Our by-laws require a minimum of 5 active members to remain viable. Both posts were given a minimum of two years to recruit new members. This did not happen so, at a meeting of the NEB, a vote was taken and these posts are now decommissioned. Any remaining active members are welcome to join another post or they can be placed on Member-At-Large (MAL) status. We are saddened by this development and urge all posts to have a robust membership.

## 2024 UAV National Convention

Warren Michigan

September 26, 27, 28

See Pages:

4, 5, 6 & 7



Any Veteran planning on attending the Convention in Warren MI, and need a Tie or UAV Blazer Crest please order before 12 AUG 2024.

**SEE PAGE 23 IN THIS ISSUE**



# ***Ukrainian American Veterans***

**77th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 27, 28, 2024**

**Hosted by**

**Warren, Michigan Post 101**

**Commander Matt Wroblewski**



## **Post 101 Commander's Welcome to Delegates and Guests**

The 77th National UAV Convention for 2024 will be hosted by Michigan Post 101, Warren, Michigan. We would like to welcome you to the "Mitten State", "Motown", and of course, the "Motor City Capital of the World". More importantly, welcome to Warren, Michigan, the largest city in Macomb County and the third largest city in Michigan.

Michigan Post 101 is also the largest UAV Post with 63 members. Our oldest member is 99 ½ years old and our youngest is 19 years old.

We hope you will have a pleasant stay while attending the National Convention. We will be spending most of our time at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren. Meetings will be held here and our Banquet will be on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

A special thanks to Bohdan Dudycz, our Publications Officer, who has always done a great job with the Tribune and our Convention Journals.

We are looking forward to seeing our fellow veterans and their wives and guests.

**СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!**

**ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!**

## **HOTEL RESERVATION**

### **Best Western**

**Warren Hotel**

**7447 Convention Center**

**Warren, MI 48092**

**RESERVATION PHONE: 1-586-977-7270**

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

**Online link:**

**[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.23175.html?groupid=E61BE4U1](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.23175.html?groupid=E61BE4U1)**

**COST: \$109 (Tax included) per night. Hot Breakfast is included**

**RESERVE ROOMS BY SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.**

**QUESTIONS CALL: HOTEL RESERVATION PHONE: 1-586-977-7270**

**The hotel will provide free transportation between the hotel and the Ukrainian Cultural Center**





# Ukrainian American Veterans

77th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 26, 27, 28, 2024

Hosted by

Warren, Michigan Post 101

Commander Matt Wroblewski



## UAV BANQUET RESERVATION

Due by September 9, 2024

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets, at **\$100.00** per person, for the **UAV 77th Convention Banquet**

**DATE:** SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

**TIME:** COCKTAIL HOUR AT 5:00 PM - DINNER AT 7:00 PM

**PLACE:** Ukrainian Cultural Center  
26601 Ryan Road Warren, MI 48091

*Enclosed is my check, made payable to: **UAV POST 101** in the amount of:*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UAV Post \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Cream of Mushroom Soup  
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Broiled Cod

### ***SIDES***

Green Beans w/almonds  
Seasoned whipped mashed potatoes & gravy

### ***DESSERT***

Cherries Jubilee  
Coffee or tea  
Open Bar

***Please send your check together with this form to:***

**UAV 77th CONVENTION BANQUET  
UAV Post 101  
26601 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091**

***Questions: Please Call:***

**Commander Matt Wroblewski  
586-755-9575  
mjwroblewski12@comcast.net**



*Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records. 4 (2024)*



# Ukrainian American Veterans

77th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 26, 27, 28, 2024

Hosted by

Warren, Michigan Post 101

Commander Matt Wroblewski



## UAV 77th NATIONAL CONVENTION JOURNAL

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to: **UAV 77th CONVENTION JOURNAL** for the attached advertisement. All pages will be printed in black & white. Covers & center pages will be color.

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

All advertising orders must be received **no later than September 1, 2024**. All delegates and convention attendees will receive a copy of the commemorative journal at the banquet. Advertisers who have paid for a full page or greater and do not attend the convention will have the journal mailed to them upon request. Extra copies may be purchased from the Quartermaster for \$10.00 each.

Please make checks payable to:

**77th UAV CONVENTION JOURNAL**

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# Ukrainian American Veterans

77th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

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FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: Bohdan Dudycz 224-456-8944

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# A MISSION OF GOOD WILL

*Submitted by: James L. Glass, Post 43, LTC, US Army Retired*



(l/r) James L. Glass, Post 43 member and Michael J. Dobransky, NYSC attending the 76<sup>th</sup> UAV National Convention banquet.

During our National Convention at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center, New York, this Ukrainian American Veteran learned that several Ukrainian warriors have been receiving care at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. I knew that I would be visiting Landstuhl in December to stay with friends and visit some Christmas markets. I thought there must be some way to recognize our countrymen, who have sacrificed so much upon the Altar of Freedom. When I informed my Post 43 Commander, Michael Dobransky about my plans to visit LRMC, he leapt into action to provide me with something meaningful to present to these injured soldiers. He contacted our past New York State Commander, Peter Polnyj, who released funds to purchase several unique U.A.V. commemorative coins, along with a polished wooden display box for each coin.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center was established on October 15, 1951 and an expansion of the 1,000-bed Army General Hospital building occurred on April 7, 1953. During the 1990s, U.S. Army Europe underwent a major reorganization, and U.S. hospitals in other German towns and bases were gradually closed or were downsized to clinics. By 2013, it was the only American military hospital left in Europe. During the Russian Invasion of Ukraine from 2022, the hospital treated thousands of wounded American volunteer veterans who participated in the fighting against Russia.

As the sole U.S. medical center overseas and the U.S. military's medical evacuation center, LRMC's primary role of critical combat care is to either treat and remedy patients' medical concerns and return them to their units or stabilize and transfer them to another facility for further care. Although I am an alumnus of LRMC, I found it difficult to connect with the hospital's command team, to set up the presentation ceremony. Upon learning of my difficulty, Commander Dobransky once again jumped into action, and contacted fellow Post Commander Carl Harvey of Post 33. Commander Harvey has connections in the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, and those connections were instrumental in facilitating my meeting with the command team.

After passing through customs with a suitcase full of individually wrapped wooden boxes containing metal discs, my friend picked me up at Frankfurt Airport, where I seamlessly passed through customs.

I then contacted the embassy's liaison office and was assigned to a young Medical Service Corps Captain. This young officer was quite helpful in coordinating the initial meeting in the office of the hospital commander, Colonel Theodore Brown. Doctor Brown received his commission at West Point, prior to attending medical school. Also present for the initial visit in Col. Brown's office were the Deputy Hospital Commander Col. Brian Bender, and the unit's Command Sgt. Major.

Our meeting was very cordial and concluded with my presenting a coin to each member of the command staff, along with the liaison/project officer, before proceeding to the conference room, where the wounded warriors were waiting to be presented with their individual coins.

The entire event was a highly scripted, on-stage event. Upon leaving the hospital commander's office, our party picked up an official photographer from the Public Affairs Office. Upon our arrival at the presentation, we were met by several U.S. Army medical providers that were present to witness the ceremony. Also present were four young men and a young lady. Each of the men was conspicuously missing a leg. Two were American and the other two were Frenchmen. I commenced the ceremony by introducing myself and describing the Ukrainian American Veterans organization and our mission. I then asked each of the honored guests to tell their story, to the degree they felt comfortable sharing. What followed were four distinctly different combat narratives, which very literally brought tears to my eyes.



An admiring wife witnesses her husband receiving a Tribute coin from James Glass.

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8) ... *A mission of good will*

Each of the four, to a man, expressed that despite their devastating injuries, they would do it all over again. I couldn't be prouder than I felt while in the company of these heroes. Prior to presenting the challenge coins, I delivered an extemporaneous speech, from the heart, regarding our gratitude for placing themselves at the tip of the spear in the vanguard of the forces of freedom. It was incredibly meaningful for this U.A.V. member to present a coin to each individual hero. I moved from one hero to the next, and the final soldier to be recognized asked me to remain where I was, as he had been training with his new prosthetic leg, and wanted to stand on his own two feet, and walk to me to receive his coin. When I asked the remaining female in the group if she was also a wounded warrior, she replied, "No, I'm just a wife." She was married to the hero that had just walked to me. I replied to her, "Au Contrare, I've always been taught that Army Spouse is the toughest job in the military" and asked her to come forward to receive a coin. Upon presenting this final coin, I concluded with more exclamations of gratitude, and continuing support and closed the ceremony.

The very next day, having accomplished my primary mission, I ventured to a Christmas Market in Mannheim alone by train, where I spent my first duty assignment 40 years ago. Sadly, I was struck by a car just outside the festival. Shortly after having been hit by the car a German ambulance arrived on scene. The German Doctor riding in the ambulance insisted that I come along with them, as I had blood streaming down my forehead. On the ride to the hospital the ambulance crew administered ketamine to me intravenously for pain, which gratefully made the ride less painful.

After a CT was determined to be negative, the German medical staff encouraged me to spend the night, but I insisted on leaving with my friend, who had by then arrived. The next day my friend brought me to the LRMC Emergency Room, where I was seen quickly, and was given additional care by another West Point graduate- physician, with patience, and consideration. It was the quickest ER visit of my life. Of course, the Germans had already done most of the diagnostic work, but the American doctor prescribed additional medicines, a pair of crutches, and good advice to follow on my journey home. Upon receiving an MRI when I returned to the US, it was revealed that I have one fully torn ligament, and two partially torn ligaments, with a fractured tibial plateau. Fortunately, my orthopedic surgeon doesn't recommend surgery at this time. I'm so pleased to have accomplished the mission prior to the accident. I'm slowly recovering. While my injury doesn't compare in the least with those of our wounded heroes, despite my minor bumps and bruises, I would do it all over again. I offer sincere gratitude to all of those that assisted me to have made this mission a success.



James Glass, representing the Ukrainian American Veterans, offers our respect and admiration as he presents these Warriors, who fought in the war against Russia, with a commemorative Coin. We again express a hearty "ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!"

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**ITS NEVER TOO**  
**LATE TO HELP**  
**OUR WOUNDED**  
**UKRAINIAN**  
**BROTHERS AND**  
**SISTERS**



SCAN ME



# POST 24 COMMUNITY ACTIVISM FOR 2024

*Submitted by: Commander Roman Rakowsky, Post 24 Cleveland*



(1.) Post 24 members donate a check to Cleveland's Maidan to help Ukraine. (2.) Back (l/r) Olena Fergusson, Russ Kmiotek. Front (l/r) Taras Zazharyj, Al Krauchuk and Commander Roman Rakowsky, Attending the Ukrainian Museum and archives for veterans appreciation event. (3.) UAV Post 24 members At St. John's Cathedral in downtown Cleveland commemorating the 2nd anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Commander Roman Rakowsky in the foreground. (4.) Olena Fergusson as Color Guard. (5.) Attending a fundraiser for Ukraine are (l/r) Nick Bartkiw, Al Krawchuk, Commander Roman Rakowsky, Fr. John Nakonachny, Nester Kostryk and Walter Dolbin.

# Natalia V. Rudko (Horak)

*Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publication Officer*



Natalia Rudko (née Horak), 75, of Colchester, CT passed away on June 15, 2024. Born in Ingolstadt, Germany, on May 5, 1949, to the late Anton and Nadia Horak, she was the eldest of five children.

Her family immigrated to the US in 1952 and settled in Detroit, MI. Natalia graduated from Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic High School and attended Mercy College. She remained in Detroit until she met her husband, Ihor Rudko, during the summer of 1971 at the Ukrainian Scouting Plast camp, Vovcha Tropa. She remained very active in the Ukrainian community where she served as a teacher as well as principal at the parochial Ukrainian school in Hartford. Her devotion to the Ukrainian Plast (Scouts) community was undeniable by her decades of service as a den mother and commandant. She also proudly held the title of president of the Hartford chapter of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA).

Natalia enjoyed many hobbies including cooking, baking, and crafting. As a devoted mother she went above and beyond to ensure that her kids were happy, doing everything and anything she could for them. Whether it be to drive hours searching for the last item in stock they needed for camp, helping with a project at midnight the night before it was due, or making snacks for an army of her kids and their friends; her joy was sharing her love with those around her. Friends of her children were welcome as she would happily set an extra place at her table for anyone, even on the shortest of notice. Natalia could always be counted upon to lend a helping hand.

She enjoyed beautifying her home with art she collected from her trips to Ukraine over the years. Her decorating flair was especially prominent during the Christmas season where her love for Santas and nutcrackers was unparalleled. It was a yearly epic hunt for the perfect tall, blue spruce which would ultimately end up spectacularly decorated; giving the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree fierce competition. She loved having her home filled with family and friends; her infectious personality will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her husband, Ihor, of over 52 years. She was preceded in death by her son, Andrij Rudko and is survived by his wife, Sunny and their children, Santino, Andrij (Deeko), and Domenica, all of Colts Neck, NJ; her son, Taras Rudko, and wife, Marli and their daughter, Arianna; her daughter, Motria Grasing (Rudko), and husband, Rob and their daughter, Harper, all of Broomfield, CO; her sister, Larysa Steier and husband, Dave, of Gainesville, GA. Natalia is also preceded in death by her parents and brothers Adrian, Orest and Myron.



**Хай з Богом спочиває  
Вічна пам'ять.**



**Ihor & Natalia's wedding day**

## POST 40 - NORTH PORT, FLORIDA HOLDS ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DINNER

*Submitted By: Bohdan P. Hirniak, PR Officer, Post 40*



As it has done in previous years, Post #40 of North Port, Fl. has again held its annual holiday luncheon to revisit the past year and to plan for the next. The luncheon was for members and their spouses, as well as invited guests. A total of over fifty attended, allowing for a pleasant and convivial get-together. The luncheon dinner was held at the Venice Florida American Legion Hall allowing for a sharing of the moment with brothers and sisters in arms from the area.

A good part of the luncheon was spent recognizing and honoring active, contributing members to the successful life of our Post. Also recognized were those who left us this past year for their eternal reward.

Among those recognized were LTC Inia Tunstall who was recently elected as the Post #40 Vice Commander, being the first woman to be so elected, Marion Boiciuk as one of the founders of Post #40 and liaison with local communities, Jerry Zynycz, as also one of the founders of this Post and for his maintenance of historical records of the Post, and John Czerkas, adjutant, who is very instrumental in maintaining connections with the St . Petersburg membership group of the Post. Special thanks were extended to Nikola Kompanijec, and his wife Maria, who as quartermaster provides for the appropriate needs of the Post.

Commander Ihor Hron was the main speaker for this event, and he pledged the Post to continue its active participation in the support of Ukraine and its war effort. This support consists of financial contributions to the extent that the Post can manage, participation in the various demonstrations in support of Ukraine, and active interaction of the various elected federal and state officials representing SW Florida. This communication is probably as important as any other effort. Rev. Oleh Saciuk, a longtime member of the Post, opened and closed the proceedings in proper fashion invoking our Lord for His ultimate intersession.

In a more recent event, on February 2, Post 40 had the opportunity to join with other Ukrainian groups in North Port to welcome Ukrainian delegates of the Open World Leadership Center. These are six Ukrainian academicians of various disciplines who are touring parts of the U.S. with the goal of learning and understanding, among other things, how the United States treats its veterans after they have served in combat. Post Commander Ihor Hron gave a comprehensive detailing of these efforts and how they relate to the various functions of the UAV throughout the United States. The Post also hosted a lunch for the entire group after the formal portion of our meeting.



## UKRAINIAN SNIPER EVGENIYA EMERALD... HER STORY

*Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, NEB Publicity Officer*

*Source: Institute for War & Peace*

Evgeniya Emerald says that she has defied gender stereotypes since childhood. While other girls played with dollhouses and Barbies, she preferred toy guns and machines. At a precocious age of nine, Evgeniya's father took her with him on a hunt. "My father gave me a gun for the first time," the 32-year-old said, recalling that she hit five targets with five rounds. Two decades later, she found herself on the frontlines of the war, serving as a sniper with the Ukrainian army.

Emerald has become an iconic figure in Ukraine, a symbol of how women are part of the military efforts to combat the Russian invasion of their country. Nearly 60,000 women currently serve in the army, Ukraine's Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said during the Ukrainian Women's Congress last November, of whom 5,000 are directly involved in hostilities. Furthermore, Olena Zelenska, the wife of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy, noted that women made up more than a fifth of the entire personnel of the armed forces of Ukraine.

Recalling her upbringing, Emerald said her father Oleksandr "raised me harshly. Back then I was offended, but now I am truly grateful because I understand that he brought up this character and this fighter in me".

She continued, "Dad wanted a boy very much, and a girl was born. He later said, I was like three boys altogether to him". He was an entrepreneur, loved fishing, and hunting and was very handy. For example, he built a house himself."

He always instilled the value of self-sufficiency in her, Emerald continued.

He told me, "You have to be responsible for your life and not rely on anyone: neither on your husband nor on your parents nor on fate. You have to earn your living. The sooner, the better."

Emerald first focused on a civilian career, graduating in law, psychology and public policy from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv – at the age of 20, she joined the military reserve force as an officer.

The following year, she gave birth to a daughter, Jacqueline, and established her own jewelry making business. Two years later, Emerald broke up with the child's father. "But we have a very good relationship, always in touch because we have a child."

When Russia invaded Crimea in 2014, Emerald volunteered to serve with the army but was turned down because her daughter was under three years old.

But after the full-scale invasion began on February 24, 2022, she was accepted into a specialized unit.

"On 23 February 2022, I closed my company and told my colleagues, "Friends, we are finishing the job. "Because I felt the war was coming," she said. "I did not hesitate for a second to enlist."

Emerald went on to serve in Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, while her daughter, now ten, is looked after by her grandmothers. A sniper with the call sign Jeanne d'Arc, she spent six months in the Safari regiment of the National Police of Ukraine.

The worst thing about fighting on the frontline, Emerald said, was the uncertainty of survival. Also losing friends had been tough, particularly her mentor, a sniper called Victor who was killed in Zaporizhzhia oblast when four missiles hit their base. Emerald said that his death was like losing her own father, six years ago.

"That pain again," she continued. "Unfortunately, it happened again. And I have many friends who are 300 [wounded in military slang]."

The last thing Emerald expected was to find love in the military. But when she and another soldier called Eugene began chatting on Instagram, the connection was immediate. Two weeks after meeting for the first time, he proposed. The pair were married on the front line, with the ceremony officiated by an army general.

Emerald only left active service after she became pregnant last September. Despite a difficult pregnancy, she continued to serve on the home front in Kyiv until her 30th week. Due to family responsibilities Emerald then retired honorably from military life. Often invited to appear on radio and television, she has a huge social media following. She will use her new-found public profile to raise awareness of important issues during the ongoing conflict. She added, "I fight injustice, help people and cover important topics in Ukraine!"

A photograph of Evgeniya Emerald is posted on the back page of this issue of the Tribune.

# THE BULLET TRAVELLED NEARLY TWO AND HALF MILES

*Provided from The Daily Digest for a Free, impartial news roundup*



In November 2023, a sniper operating under the Ukrainian Security Service named Vyacheslav Kovalskiy set a new record for the world's longest kill shot when he fired a bullet that took out a Russian soldier almost two and a half miles from his position. Kovalskiy's shot took nine seconds to reach its target, and a video recording of the incident that the Wall Street Journal reviewed confirmed that the Ukrainian sniper had set a gruesome new record.

"I was thinking that Russians would now know that is what Ukrainians are capable of," Kovalskiy told the Wall Street Journal about his record-setting shot. "Let them sit at home and be afraid," he added.

Kovalskiy's bullet traveled about 12,470 feet before it hit its intended target, and while the achievement showed off the skills of Ukraine's formidable snipers, the country's secret assassins have been making the frontlines a chaotic mess for Russian soldiers since the very beginning of the war.

In August 2023, The Wall Street Journal reported on Ukraine's secretive snipers and their mission aimed at targeting high-value Russian commanders and demoralizing Vladimir Putin's soldiers. There was one sniper team in particular that had been picking off senior commanders and they dubbed themselves "Devils and Angels," but they weren't just killing military leaders. The group had also been tasked with terminating the vital members of artillery teams as well as eliminating any other high-profile marks they're sent out to find on the battlefield.

"We work quietly, we are invisible," one of the sniper team's three members explained to the Wall Street Journal. But just how effective have sniper teams been on a modern battlefield in Ukraine? Retired Army Major General and Military Historian Robert Scales told The Journal that snipers could still have an

outsized effect in today's combat due to the nature of their role. "If you're assembling to attack and your lieutenant is picked off," Scales explained, "the unit goes into disarray," which makes snipers an extremely effective battlefield tool.

The most high-profile example of a commander killed by a sniper's bullet occurred in March 2022 when Major General Andrei Sukhovetsky was eliminated by sniper fire. Sukhovetsky was the commanding general of Russia's 7th Airborne Division as well as the deputy commander of the 41st Combined Arms Army according to Business Insider.

In August 2023, a sniper team allegedly took twenty Russian soldiers' prisoners. The Press Service of Ukraine's Special Operation Forces revealed the story that snipers from the 3rd Special Purpose Regiment took all 20 soldiers without firing a single shot.

The Wall Street Journal noted that snipers have proved to be particularly effective in the battle for the city of Bakhmut, where they helped to repel waves of attacking Wagner soldiers before its ultimate capture.

In July 2023, a BBC News team interviewed members of a team of elite snipers known as "the ghosts of Bakhmut" and discovered that the group had killed a confirmed 524 soldiers.



"It's nothing to be proud of," one member of the sniper team with the callsign Kuzia said. "We're not killing people, we're destroying the enemy," he added.

Snipers can become extremely important assets when frontlines stabilize according to Mark Cancian, an advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "Stable front lines allow snipers to develop good 'hides' and fields of fire," Cancian told The Wall Street Journal, which is exactly what happened in Ukraine since the summer of 2023.



# POST 32 HONORS NEW EAGLE SCOUTS

Submitted By: Bohdan Dudycz UAV Publications Officer

## Sofia Magajne Eagle Scout

Sofia is a 17-year-old high school Junior who has been a Scout for 5 years. Her road to Eagle Scout status has been filled with specific difficulties that were rewarded with a Scout merit badge for each experience. Her sash is resplendent with over 35 badges. Her favorite challenges were for "Swimming" and "Small Boat Sailing" while "cooking" was more demanding.

To reach Eagle Scout status, Sofia had to complete an approved project. She chose a rehab project, namely, to *renovate two classrooms in St. Mary's Monastery*. These rooms had fallen to disrepair and needed restoration. All surfaces were scraped of peeling paint then primed and painted. Old broken furniture was discarded and replaced with new tables, chairs, shelving and storage. Money was raised through fundraisers and the classes are now used by volunteer teachers who tutor young children in religion and the Slovenian language. To summarize her experience Sofia said:

**"I would recommend the Scout's Eagle program to other young scouts. You learn how to be a leader and it is very rewarding to accomplish selfless projects that benefit our community."**



(l/r) Eagle Scout Sofia Magajne, Dido Bohdan Dudycz, Eagle Scout Teya Magajne.

## Teya Magajne Eagle Scout

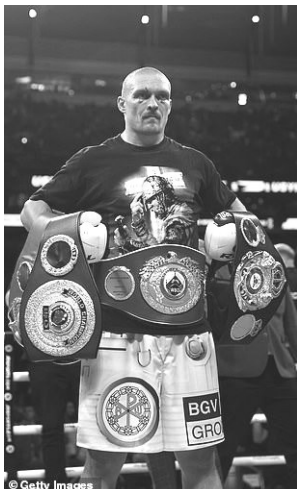
Teya has completed her Sophomore year in high school and has been a scout for 6 years. She wanted to achieve Eagle Scout prominence early and her determination to gain merit badges filled her sash with over 45 of these special emblems. Preferring the outdoors, Teya favored "Motorboating" and "Rappelling" but "Lifesaving" was harder to master.

To reach Eagle Scout status, Teya also had to complete an approved project. She opted to build *an outdoor memorial for the unborn*. This project required leading a crew of young people to implement the physical labor to clear and level the ground, dig a hole to hold bricks that memorialized, by name, children who had left us before birth. The expenses to complete this project were considerable so money was raised through fundraisers. Today, the memorial rests in a small, secluded grotto on the grounds of St. Mary's Monastery. To encapsulate her experience Teya said:

**"I recommend the Scout's Eagle program because it teaches new things to scouts who wish to have experiences outside their comfort level. Being a community volunteer is very special."**

**Flanking their grandfather (Dido) UAV Post 32 member and National Publicity Officer, are Sofia and Teya Magajne who were elevated to the rank of Eagle Scout after completing a specific project. They had been active in helping Post 32 on Memorial Day activities. They received their Eagle pins and certificates at a ceremony held on April 21, 2024. Congratulations to these young ladies on their singular accomplishments.**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UKRAINIAN HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION



On Sat. May 18, 2024 Oleksandr Usyk made history by becoming the first undisputed heavyweight champion since 1999, following his win against Tyson Fury. The nail-biting match was decided by the judges, with scores of 115-112 and 114-113 favoring Usyk, while one judge scored it 114-113 for Fury.

This was the world's first undisputed heavyweight boxing championship in 24 years. Fury was on the brink of being stopped in the ninth round as he received a standing count and Usyk added the WBC title to his WBA, IBF and WBO belts after earning his victory in Saudi Arabia.

**The top 4 organizations who determine the undisputed heavyweight boxing champion are:**

World Boxing Association (WBA)  
World Boxing Council (WBC)  
International Boxing Federation (IBF)  
World Boxing Organization (WBO)

# WWII - ALBERION ARMS ASSESSMENT PROTOTYPE

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publication Officer



1944 was the year for experimental weapons to be invented by both the Allies and the Axis powers. The Hyde 1944 Assault Rifle started off with a more traditional design, but then the concept went quickly off the rails. This rifle was an attempt by George Hyde, inventor of the Grease Gun, to make a light rifle which was initially actually based off the Thompson. Functionally, it was very close to the Sturmgewehr 44, which means “assault rifle 44 .”

The production designs for the Hyde 44 were stolen and sold to the Kohalik Vorstitegija, an Alberion arms manufacturer. The plans were modified and sold to the Stiller Gun makers of Kentucky, USA. Stiller was the brother-in-law to a local congressman who wielded a defense contract for a new styled automatic rifle. And thus was born the BS KV 1444 Rustic Machine Carbine. Using local materials for inspiration a new cartridge extraction method was employed. The miniature plunger created a vacuum that drew each cartridge from the magazine into the carbine’s barrel. After firing, a converted Maytag washing machine impeller expelled the shell through a side portal. This weapon used a 32 round STEN magazine which could be emptied in 24 seconds. A critical flaw in the design was the impeller’s expelling its shells alternately up and down. Another problem was the need to seat the carbine’s Butt plate deeply into the shoulder because of its heavy recoil. The test results showed that, after one test firing, the shooter would become stricken with damage to the Frenulum Linguae, resulting in aggrieved and untreatable stuttering. This weapon became known as the Alberion Stutter Gun and never went into production.

Shortly thereafter the war ended and soldiers were sent home. However, there was a small unit of soldiers who had a mysterious ailment. They could no longer speak English clearly. At first it was thought they were speaking a foreign language but military linguists were stymied and could not identify their language. This unit was sequestered and after much scrutiny were sent home.

The Defense department suppressed any knowledge of this weapon for 80 years and it was ordered that all known Alberion Stutter Guns be destroyed. The VA also claimed no knowledge of this weapon and any disability associated with its use.

Recently, an existing, functioning Alberion Stutter Gun had been found in a collection of exotic weapons from an Arkansas collector. This caused a resurgence of interest among Alberion Stutter Gun victims who renewed petitions to the VA for compensation. There were still many veterans who test fired this gun who have not been given any relief or disability payments.

A congressional vote budgeted \$500,000 to conduct a study and present their findings to the Secretary of Defense. At the conclusion of this study, it was decided that the Alberion Stutter Gun “Test Gunners” were eligible for compensation due to their exposure to a weapon that caused an exotic disorder. In severity, this ailment was ranked between “Tinnitus” and “Restless Leg Syndrome”.

Any veteran who feels that they qualify for disability due to “Alberion Stutter Gun” exposure should contact their local congressman for an intervention with the Veterans Administration. It is expected that the disability compensation would fall between .5% and 1.5%.

It is also suggested that the veteran find a spokesperson to do the actual communication with the VA or Congress personnel. It is estimated that there are 8 living Veterans who would qualify. If you know anyone who stutters and who served in WWII at a weapons test facility, hand them this article.

We direct your attention to the bottom of page 17 for a more detailed explanation.

## POST 40 - NORTH PORT, FL., HOLDS ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

*Submitted By: Matthew Wroblewski, Post 101 Commander*



Michigan Post 101 had another successful Wild Game Dinner/Fundraiser. The event was held February 24, 2024 in the Ukrainian Cultural Center. There were approximately 200 people in attendance. We had great food, lots of raffle prizes, gun raffles and plenty of good fun!

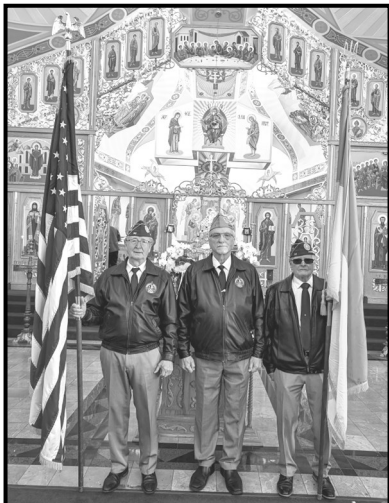


The previous article on page 16 contains fantastic and outrageous facts that have no association with reality. The story is a total fabrication submitted for your entertainment. We apologize to all Alberions who may have been offended. Ed.



# POST 32 CHICAGO COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



L/R Post 32 members Mykola Sidelnik, Commander Peter Bencak and Jerry Sydorenko as part of the Color Guard honoring the "Heavenly 100".



Post 32 members honoring the "Heavenly 100" at their monument at St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.



UAV member Wasyl Mirutenko meticulously replacing worn flags at St. Nicholas cemetery Veteran's gravesites on Memorial Day.



103 avid golfers participated in the Post 32 "TEE UP FOR UKRAINIAN WOUNDED WARRIORS" golf outing (6/17/24). Spirits were high, the fellowship was wonderful and most scores were below the day's temperature (96 degrees).



(L/R) Patrick Elwood, co-anchor of WGN midday news, Peter Bencak, Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32 Commander and Jerry Hinkley, President, St. Andrews Golf & Country Club.

Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32 Chicago Commander Peter Bencak appeared at the WGN studios in Chicago on June 12th to promote the fundraising golf outing at the St. Andrew golf course.

We thank our sponsors:

**Selfreliance Federal Credit Union  
St. Andrews Golf and Country Club  
The Heritage Foundation  
ThAnX Tax Service**

We also thank all the golfers who braved the near 100 degree weather, those who sent contributions, our volunteers and the organizing committee:

**Commander Peter Bencak  
Vice Commander Wasyl Mirutenko  
Publicity Officer Bohdan Dudycz  
Quartermaster Walter Dudycz**

**СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!**

**ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!**

# POST 32 CHICAGO MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

Photos Submitted by: Mr. Stanley Wlodowski



Eugene Kinal



Ihor Draganchuk



Christine Gasinski



Michael Chyterbok



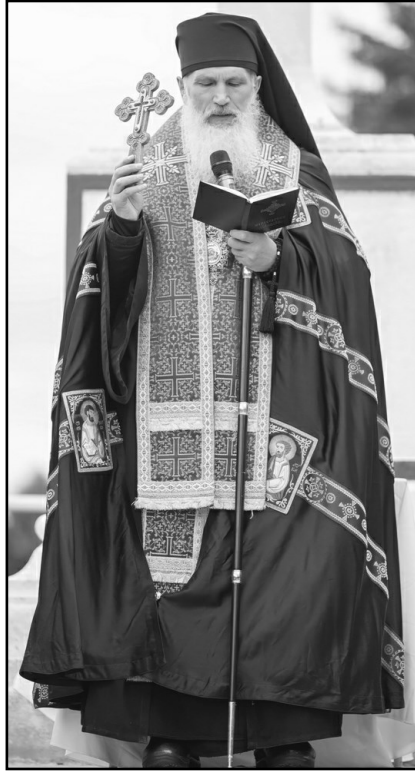
Nicholas Skyba



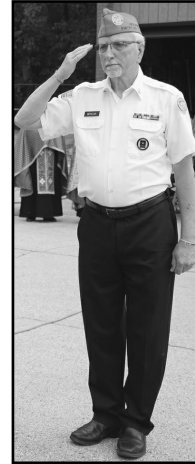
John Oharenko



Walter P. Nalywajko



Most Reverend Bishop Benedict (Aleksiychuk),  
Bishop of Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Chicago



Peter Bencak  
Commander, PNC



Mykola Sidelnik



Wasyli Mirutenko



Jim Gasinski



Walter Dudycz



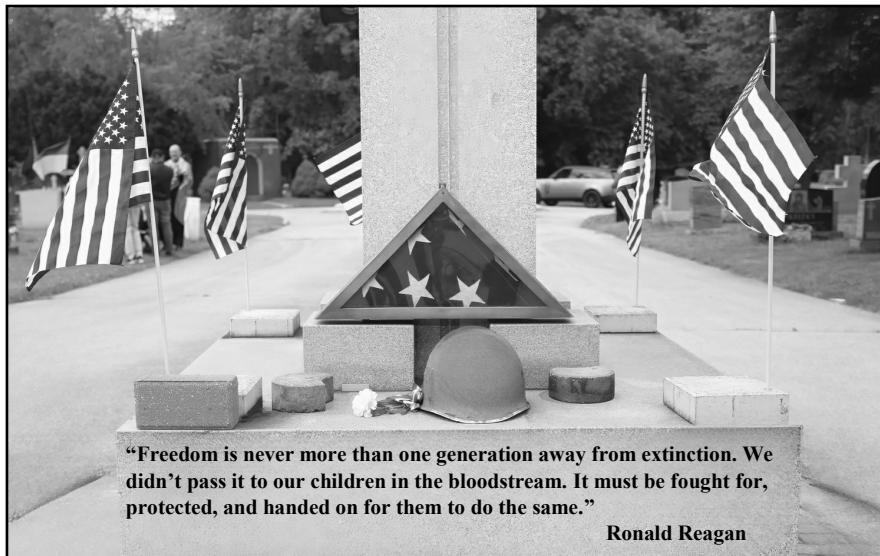
Bohdan Dudycz



Andrii Shablii



An assemblage of 12 Chicago  
Metropolitan area's clergy join our Bishop for Memorial Day services.



"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

Ronald Reagan

"Because for us, the most terrible steel is not within missiles, aircraft, and tanks - but in shackles. We would rather live in trenches than live in chains."

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, A Message from Ukraine



## POST 43 HAS A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

*Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer*



Johnson City, NY is proud to be home to the Lourdes Hospital Foundation. Through the guidance of its gifted and professional Board of Directors, the Foundation is able to help those in need and to function smoothly in large part because of the dedication and commitment of its Board. Michael J. Dobransky is Secretary of the Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. His story is just one example of the kind of people who serve on this Board.

After graduating from Colgate University, Michael served 5 years in the US Air Force overseas with assignments in West Germany, UK, Libya, Turkey and Iran. During this period, it was a very “dicey” time with the Soviet Union. He considers his military service to his country was a privilege and truly the greatest honor in his life.

Michael was a successful multi-disciplined senior executive for Kraft General Foods International for many years. His diverse worldwide career in international business development, with a focus on export development, licensing, and joint ventures, has taken him to just about every continent. He worked to establish business relationships in developing market areas throughout Central and Eastern Europe plus Germany, Austria, Belgium, Portugal, Greece, Egypt, South Korea, and Japan.

Throughout his career, Michael applied his business skills, knowledge and extensive understanding of foreign cultures, customs, and traditions towards each project and assignment. It is that expertise in worldwide business relationships that Michael brings to the Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board.

Though Michael is a world-traveler, his heart remains close to home and to his church. He comes from a deeply committed and faithful family.

Michael is an active member of St. John Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the church where his parents were married and where he worshiped while growing up. Both his paternal and maternal grandparents were among the founding member families. Michael’s maternal grandfather and a cousin were building contractors who assisted in constructing the original

St. John Church in 1926. Originally located on Virginia Avenue, it is now located at 1 St. Johns Pkwy in Johnson City. Michael also brings his vast business experience in service to his church. He was elected to serve on the Parish Council and as Chairman of both the finance and investment committees.

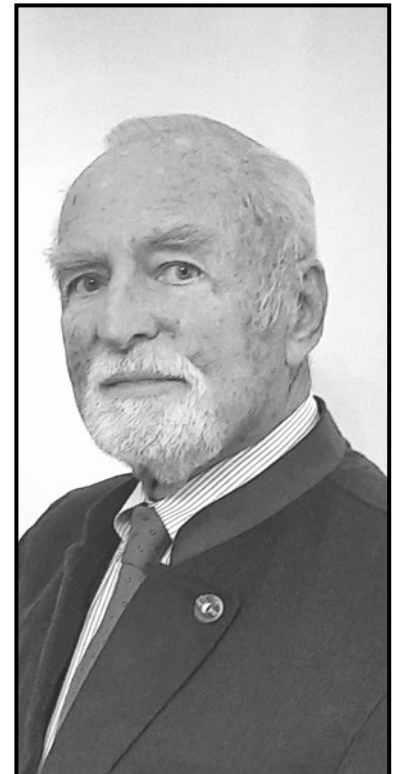
Michael is also helping St. John’s with preparations for the upcoming celebration of its 100th anniversary!

Michael is deeply committed to his Ukrainian heritage as demonstrated by his faithful relationship and service to his church, but also through his devoted work for the Ukrainian American Veterans Inc. (UAV) He is Commander of UAV Post 43 in Johnson City and is actively working with its members to support the Ukrainian people as they defend themselves from the Russian invasion.

They have sent donated funds and medical supplies to Ukraine and continue to do so as they work with other UAV Posts throughout the United States. Michael was recently promoted to the rank of NY State Commander. This position requires the State Commander to assume all responsibilities of directing and coordinating activities of the Posts in his home state.

Wherever life’s journey has led Michael, the common thread has been that of service to others. His willingness to serve and his devotion to the greater good are extraordinary. Michael could have chosen to live anywhere in the world when he decided to settle down, but he chose to come back to his roots, his home, his community and his church. The Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board of Directors is fortunate to include Michael J. Dobransky.

The UAV is very proud to have Michael J. Dobransky as a member of our organization and his elevation to State Commander.



**Michael J. Dobransky**

# UKRAINIAN BORN AIRMAN'S TRANSLATIONS AIDED ALLIED EFFORTS AS WAR ERUPTED

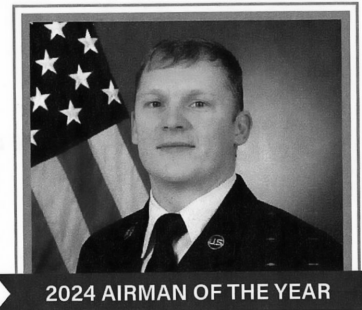
*Submitted by: George Kovch, MAL - Centreville, VA*

*Author: Courtney Mabeus Brown*

When he arrived in the U.S. from Ukraine in 2019, Senior Airman Kostiantyn "KK" Khymchenko barely spoke a word of English.

Nearly three years later, Khymchenko's translations during multiple deployments may have helped save countless lives and other resources since Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022.

Khymchenko, 32, is a heating, ventilation and air conditioning journeyman with the 633rd Civil Engineer Squadron at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. In February 2022, he agreed to a last-minute deployment to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to relay information between the U.S. and Ukrainian air forces.



He led eight translators in 50 multi-national teleconferences, assisted four generals and advised his homeland's air force on defensive campaigns, according to the Air Force. His translations helped to provide intelligence on 400 sites targeted for missile attack and 1,500 missile launch alerts. His work ultimately protected 40 aircraft and more than 8 million lives and earned him Military Times' 2024 Airman of the Year award.

Details about his work remain classified. But for Khymchenko, a native of the city of Konotop in northern Ukraine, the stakes of serving both his homeland and his adopted nation were high.

"This was a big stress, because I was scared to be wrong," he said. "I hope my translations helped to save somebody's life."

Khymchenko arrived in Utah after his wife, Daria, received a green card in 2019. He spent his first several months in America working as a mechanic at a car dealership, and enlisted in the Air Force in early 2020.

A graduate of the Ukrainian Academy of Customs, Khymchenko worked as a border patrol agent in Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014, and in Russia's Kursk region. That experience prepared him well for his first Air Force deployment, said retired Col. Rob Swertfager, who directed the California National Guard's State of Partnership Program with Ukraine and helped set up a team at Ramstein, Germany, that liaised with the Ukrainian air force.

Khymchenko's dedication immediately was apparent, and his professionalism and talent "far exceeded his rank," Swertfager said. He'd arrive to work early and stay late, translating essential information, adding context to conversations and building trust with Ukrainian counterparts.

On his second deployment, to Saudi Arabia in 2023, Khymchenko was again sent to Germany to translate during U.S. led training of Ukrainian special forces.

He was named among the service's 12 top airmen for 2023, and earned the Ukraine Support Medal from Oleksii Reznikov, Ukraine's former defense minister.

At home, Khymchenko is known for his work ethic and professionalism, said Senior Master Sgt. Ryan Krueger, the 633rd Civil Engineer Squadron's operations flight superintendent. He was named Wing Airman of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2022.

He's set his sights on becoming a commissioned officer, perhaps to fly rescue or intelligence aircraft.

"America gives my family everything we need," Khymchenko said. "I want to serve and protect this country."



## VIVE LA DIFFÉRENCE!

When 5 typical Ukrainian Women get together they address each other by name such as: Oksanka, Marusia, Olenka, Luba and Vera.

When 5 typical Ukrainian men get together they call each other by nickname such as: Durin, Orca, Heckalo, Huska and Dulya.



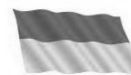
## THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



**I am a U. S. Veteran interested in becoming a member of the UAV**

☐ I was honorably discharged.

☐ I am still serving honorably.



**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME

ADDRESS



CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE

CELL

EMAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

**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**

**BRANCH OF SERVICE**

☐ U.S. Army

☐ U.S. Navy

☐ U.S. Air Force

☐ U.S. Marines

☐ U.S. Coast Guard

☐ U.S. National Guard

☐ U.S. Reserves

**DATES OF SERVICE**

SELECT POST	POST	COMMANDER	ADDRESS	TOWN	ST	ZIP	PHONE
	1	Edward A. Zetick, PNC	740 Dale Dr.	Huntington Valley	PA	19006-8319	215-885-2826
	14	Ihor B. Rudtko, PNC	44 Jurach Rd.	Colchester	CT	06415-2106	860-705-1849
	15	Michael P. Wowk (Interim)	32 Logan St.	New Britain	CT	06051-3434	860-677-9496
	17	Jim Fedoroko	84 Van Ness	Rutherford	NJ	07070	551-238-9590
	19	William Szozda, NVC	66 N. William St.	Pearl River	NY	10965-1820	845-920-8325
	23	Markian Slabyk	25 Stearns St.	Lackawanna	NY	14218-2703	716-822-3643
	24	Roman Rakowsky, PNC	1881 Jacqueline Dr.	Parma	OH	44134-0649	440-884-1673
	25	Gregory Posewa	5 Aqua Terrace	Trenton	NJ	08620-9738	609-259-2763
	26	Yaromyr Oryshkewych	430 Randolph Rd.	Silver Spring	MD	20904-3538	301-646-4222
	28	Roman Kostiuik	3966 April Dr.	Uniontown	OH	44685-9358	330-896-4166
	31	Stephen J. Kostecki, NQ	34 W. Britannia St. #2	Tauton	MA	02780-1853	508-245-1890
	32	Peter Bencak, PNC	2135 W. Potomac Ave.	Chicago	IL	60622-8270	773-489-2757
	33	Carl R. Harvey	841 Alling Rd.	Orange	CT	06477-1352	203-389-6076
	40	Ihor R. Hron, PNC	201 Osprey Point Dr.	Osprey	FL	34229-9234	941-966-2845
	42	Bohdan Zelechiwsky	403 4th Street	West Easton	PA	18042-6116	610-258-9476
	43	Michael J. Dobransk, NYSC	17 Miriam St.	Johnson City	NY	13790-6658	607-729-0334
	101	Mathew Wroblewski	25195 Pineview	Warren	MI	48091-1564	586-755-9575
	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.



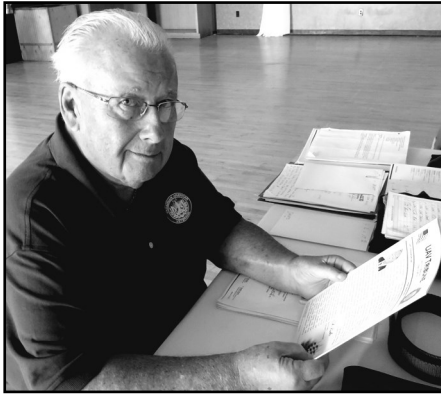
**Individuals wishing to become Members at Large should contact  
the UAV National Vice Commander Roman Makuch at  
uavvicecommander@gmail.com**

For more information please visit our web site at [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org)



Effective 6/1/2024

## 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](mailto: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 - \$35.00**  
 Include size when ordering



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



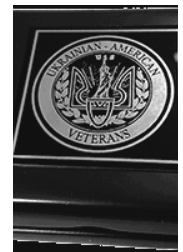
**UAV Monument Coin \$12.00**  
**FREE SHIPPING**



**UAV Car Medallion \$12.00**



**UAV Monument Coin in case - \$30.00**



**Jacket Emblem to be worn on the breast pocket - \$32.00**



**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**

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**Ukrainian Sniper  
Evgenia Emerald  
Read page 11, this issue**

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

**СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!  
ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!**