



UAV TRIBUNE

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Ukrainian American Veterans

“From The Commander’s Hatch”



Michael P. Hrycak UAV NC

I extend my heartfelt Christmas and New Year’s greetings and gratitude to all Ukrainian American Veterans and their families. You have taken the oath to serve our great country in the United States Armed Forces, that preserves our freedom and way of life, both here and in our ancestral homeland, Ukraine.

We have served, and continue to serve, in defense of our great nation and its values, as well as in support of Ukraine. Our fellow warriors have been fighting an invading force for almost twelve years. I, along with fellow Ukrainian American Veterans, have visited Ukrainian wounded warriors, in Ukraine and here at United States Military Treatment Facilities and have seen what a high intensity conflict inflicts in terms of a human toll. I thank God that the United States, and Ukraine’s allies, have continued to provide military support to allow Ukraine to prevent the Russian invaders from achieving any strategic objective after launching their large-scale invasion in February, 2022. The Russian tank losses alone exceed the United States’ losses in all of World War II.

Our focus is supporting Veterans of both the United States Armed Forces and fellow Warriors in Ukraine. Our Veterans’ organization is based upon local initiatives:

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.

I support our organization’s talking points that emphasize the support Ukraine has received from the United States. It is up to us to stay knowledgeable and provide the Ukrainian Diaspora with information and guidance regarding the current Russo Ukrainian War. They depend upon us as veterans to keep them informed. Veterans can share what it means to serve under arms for the cause of freedom.

I was happy to see many of you at our 2025 Convention at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Somerset, New Jersey, St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Cemetery where our national monument resides, and we commemorated ten years since the monument was dedicated, with a prayer service conducted by the leaders of our Ukrainian clergy, His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel, of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, and Metropolitan Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Our banquet followed, featuring Victor Rud, Foreign Relations Committee Chair of the Ukrainian American Bar Association, and Dr. Andrii Melnyk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, who presented informative and interesting perspectives of Ukraine from an international perspective. We also welcomed a new slate of officers (and are still searching for a new Publications Officer).

Freedom isn’t free. It never was and it never will be!

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

**ХРИСТОС
РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ!
СЛАВИМО ЙОГО!**



Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

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Michael P. Hrycak National Commander

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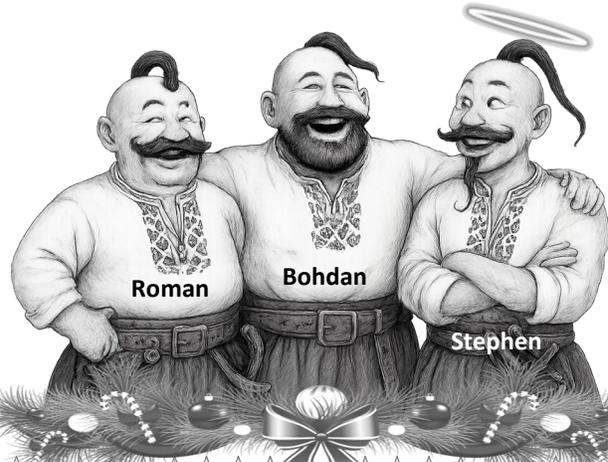
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MichaelHrycak@yahoo.com

SAVE-A-DATE





THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC. ELECT THEIR NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD



2026 - 2028

On October 11, 2025, The Ukrainian American Veterans held their annual National Convention where a new National Executive board was elected to serve a two year term. We proudly present the following individuals and congratulate them on their being elected to this August body of veterans. Their collective talents and faithful dedication bodes well for our service organization and the communities it serves. Многая Літа!

СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!

ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА



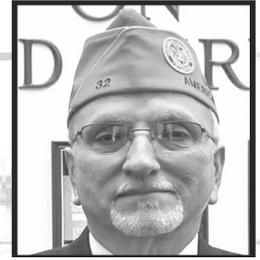
Michael P. Hrycak
National Commander



Roman Makuch
Vice Commander



Mark Datzkiwsky
Adjutant



Peter Bencak
Finance Officer



Bohdan Hetmanskyy
Judge Advocate



Ihor Draganchuk
Quartermaster



Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak
Chaplain



James Federko
Welfare Officer



Nicholas Skirka
Scholarship Officer



Edward A. Zetick
Historian



TBD
Publications Officer



Leonid Kondratiuk
Monument Officer



Ihor Rudko
IPNC



Joe Nasevich
Webmaster



Michael J. Dobransky
NY State Commander



Oksana Koziak
Pres. Ladies Auxiliary

The UAV is looking for new members. Those wishing to learn more about our volunteer service organization are directed to our web site: www.uavets.org. If you served in a branch of the US Military and you have a Ukrainian ancestry, you are welcome to join us.

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS ELECT NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



(first row, from left to right) National Commander Michael P. Hrycak, Finance Officer Peter Bencak, Scholarship Officer Nicholas Skirka, Welfare Officer James Federko and Ladies Auxiliary President Oksana Koziak. (second row, from left to right) Historian Edward Zetick, Monument Officer Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk, Judge Advocate Bohdan A. Hetmansky, Vice Commander Roman Makuch. Not pictured are Adjutant Mark Datzkiwsky, Chaplain Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak Quartermaster Ihor Draganchuk and Webmaster Joe Nasevich.

35 delegates from 20 posts represented the 500 members of the national organization. Many topics were discussed during the annual meeting, including aid to Ukraine, equipment for hospitals in Lviv, Ukraine, and changes to the organization's by-laws. Foremost in the discussions were the oversight and dispensation of funds from the group's National Humanitarian Fund, Welfare fund, Scholarship fund, Monument fund and Publications fund. More convention information from our adjutant will be made available on our Website www.uavets.org.



Our new Quartermaster Ihor Draganchuk was welcomed at the swearing-in ceremony during the convention banquet.



The recognition of our National UAV monument was of particular interest. This marble edifice was blessed and dedicated on October 3, 1915, at St. Andrews cemetery in South Bound Brook, NJ. This year marks the 10th anniversary of its dedication. A service was held in the cemetery's chapel and concluded on the monument's site.

UAV's mission is to unite American Veterans of Ukrainian descent. The members also pledge to support and defend the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. government and laws of the United States. They also proudly highlight their Ukrainian ancestry and believe that this heritage strengthens their America patriotism.

2025 CONVENTION PHOTO ALBUM

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



2025 CONVENTION DELEGATES



The 51st National Convention of the Ukrainian American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary elected to its national board the following members who were sworn in on October 11, 2025: President Oksana Koziak (first row, third from the left), Vice President Myra Nalywajko (first row, second from the left), Secretary Olena Halkowycz (second row, third from the right), Treasurer Victoria Maksimowich (first row, fourth from the left), Sargeant at Arms Genya Dudycz (second row, fourth from the right), Social Welfare Officer Sandra Kondratiuk (second row, first on the left) Chaplain Lesia Nagle, (second row, first from the right) and Social Media/Communications Officer Donna Slabyk (second row center).



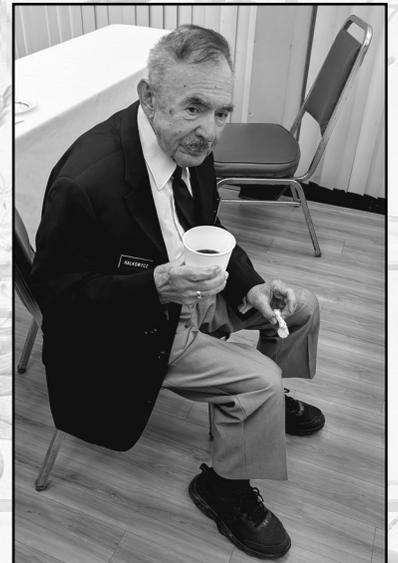
Current and past National Commanders attending our convention.
(l/r) Edward Zetick, Ihor Rudko, current commander Michael P. Hrycak, Matt Koziak, Leonid Kondratiuk, Peter Bencak.

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of our UAV National Monument on the grounds of St. Andrews cemetery, South Bound Brook, NJ.
(below) Clergy, UAV convention delegates and guests.



2025 CONVENTION PHOTO ALBUM

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



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Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



2025 CONVENTION PHOTO ALBUM

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS LADIES AUXILIARY HOLDS 51ST CONVENTION, ELECTS OFFICERS TO NATIONAL BOARD

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



The 51st National Convention of the Ukrainian American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary elected to its national board the following members who were sworn in on October 11, 2025: President Oksana Koziak (first row, third from the left), Vice President Myra Nalywajko (first row, second from the left), Secretary Olena Halkowycz (second row, third from the right), Treasurer Victoria Maksimowich (first row, fourth from the left), Sargeant at Arms Genya Dudycz (second row, fourth from the right), Social Welfare Officer Sandra Kondratiuk (second row, first on the left) Chaplain Lesia Nagle, (second row, first from the right) and Social Media/Communications Officer Donna Slabyk (second row center).

The 51st Ladies Auxiliary Convention held separate meetings for deliberations and elections. They dutifully took charge of greeting and registering delegates. The ladies' partner with the veterans in nearly all aspects of convention administration. Their efforts ensured that the convention would be conducted flawlessly. All delegates and guests agreed that the conference was a resounding success.

The convention concluded with a very pleasant gala where the newly elected officers were surrounded by Auxiliary members, Veteran Delegates and guests who exhibited energetic enthusiasm as they offered pledges of support for their newly elected officers who were sworn in for a term of two years.

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed as a support organization for the Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV). This wonderful group of ladies has proven to be a vital component in the UAV's service objectives. They are the unsung heroines in administration, fundraising, social services and promoting the bond between Ukrainian and American community services. The UAV appreciates their self-sacrifice and support for the last 51 years.

DIGITAL RECORD OF THE 2025 CONVENTION

Not everyone could attend the convention in Sommerset, NJ. Those who attended as delegates can report their experiences and convention conferences to their respective posts. For those who couldn't attend yet would like more details, our Webmaster Joe Nasevich recorded each session. If you wish to see the actual main floor convention activities, we can now provide you with a record of those sessions.

Here are the links to the 78th UAV National Convention recordings on YouTube.

This is the link to the UAV YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNFzQ91hJk1eq-G9NInA7Cw>

The convention was recorded in four separate sessions (two each day).

UAV 2025 Convention Friday, 10 October 2025, Part 1 <https://youtu.be/rh9qexKZu7w>

UAV 2025 Convention Friday, 10 October 2025, Part 2 <https://youtu.be/1c-naC4mPY4>

UAV 2025 Convention Saturday, 11 October 2025, Part 3 https://youtu.be/vrzwH2T_Dk

UAV 2025 Convention Saturday, 11 October 2025, Part 4 <https://youtu.be/X0SSI8BI9k4>



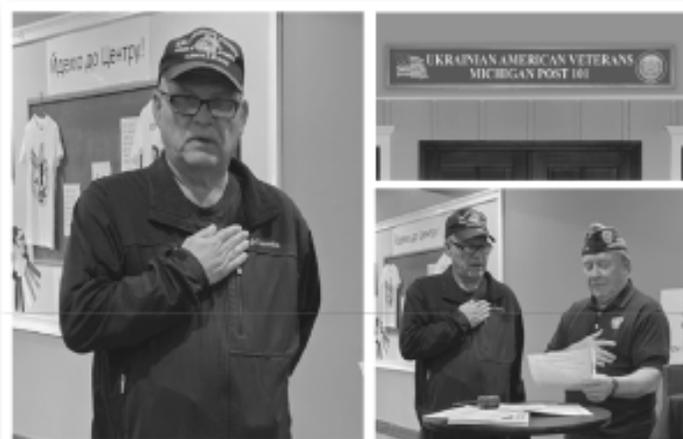
UAV Post 101 • Warren, Michigan

Page submitted by: Eric Wroblewski

UAV Post 101 Welcomes Our Newest Member

On Thursday, November 6th, 2025 the UAV Post 101 welcomed its newest member....John Bohay.

John served in the US Marine Corps. We are honored and proud to have John as a member of our post.



Veterans Day • November 11th, 2025



Honoring All Those Who Served

On Tuesday, November 11, 2025 the UAV Post 101 Michigan held a ceremony and brunch. Due to the cold weather the ceremony was held indoors at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. About 40 Post and Family members attended the event.

Also on this Day we Celebrated the 74th Birthday of Matthew Wroblewski... The Commander of UAV Post 101.

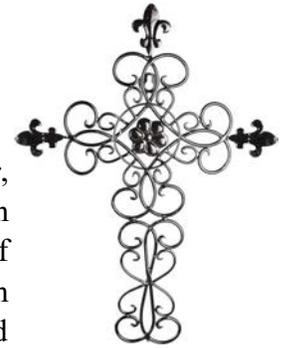
We Thank Everyone For Attending This Event

We invite you to take a look at more Pictures and Videos of our most recent events on our website.

www.uavpost101michigan.org

Steve Kostecki Longtime National Quartermaster 1946-2025

Submitted by: PNC Len Kondratiuk, Post 31



Air Force recruit Stephen J. Kostecki

Stephen J. Kostecki, longtime National Quartermaster, passed away on 24 October 2025. Steve was born in Boston in 1946 and lived in the Mission Hill area of Roxbury. He graduated from Roslindale High School in 1964. In May 1965, he enlisted in the US Air Force and served on active duty for 20 years. He was influenced to enlist and making the Air Force a career by his two uncles.

COL Walter A. Kostecki, US Army Medical Corps, was a career Army doctor. He was stationed in the Philippines when the Japanese invaded in December 1941. Capt. Kostecki survived the Bataan Death March and remained a POW until the end of World War II. He was decorated for saving many lives.

Steve was named after his uncle Stephen Kostachuk who was killed in action in 1944 during World War II. PVT Kostachuk was assigned to the 20th Combat Engineer Battalion that fought in North Africa, Sicily, D-Day, Normandy, Northern France and Germany.

TSgt Kostecki was a supply specialist and was stationed at various Air Forces in the US and overseas. He retired in 1985 and moved back to Massachusetts. He was a longtime resident of Taunton.

Steve was a founding member of Post 31 in Boston. He served as post commander for over 25 years. Steve also served as the National Quartermaster for 25 years. He did an excellent job. We greatly enjoyed his company at national conventions. Every year he manned the UAV table at Soyuzivka. Steve was a gentleman with a great heart. He also had a keen mind that he revealed to close friends.

Funeral services were conducted on 7 November at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston. Three former National Commanders attended: Matthew Koziak, Ihor Rudko and Leonid Kondratiuk as well as Post 31 members. Also in attendance was National Judge Advocate Bohdan Hetmansky and Post 19 Commander Bill Szozda. Steve leaves his brother Bill, sister Donna, one niece and four nephews. Mission Complete.



Honoring Steve Kostecki's memory at his funeral service. (front row l/r) Commander Ihor B. Rudko PNC, Ski Iworsky Post 31, Brig General Leonid Kondratiuk PNC, Walter Michajliw Post 31, Michael Hotz Post 31. (second row l/r) Adam Wasylshyn Post 31, Post 19 Commander Bill Szozda, Gene Muzyka Post 31, Matthew Koziak PNC, National Judge Advocate Bohdan Hetmansky.

Vichnaya Pamyat!

GREG IWORSKY, POST 31 DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH

Submitted by: Greg Iworsky, Post 31



Sgt. Iworsky delivering keynote speech

On May 23, 2025, UAV Post 31, Boston member, and USMC Iraq veteran Greg Iworsky was the keynote speaker at the dedication of the Millstadt, IL Post Office as the “Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt Post Office”. Wyatt was a member of Sgt. Iworsky’s squad of 13 men which saw intense combat during their Iraq tour. Of the squad’s 13 men, 2 were killed in action and 5 others wounded. On December 3, 2004, Corporal Wyatt was killed stopping a suicide bomber’s truck packed with 600 pounds of explosives at the gates of his Forward Operating Base in Al Anbar Province. Wyatt’s actions saved the lives of dozens of Marines.

A bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Mike Bost (IL) to officially rename the Millstadt post office passed Congress last year and was signed by President Biden in January. Joining Rep. Bost and Sgt. Iworsky at the ceremony were the Patriot Guard riders, Marine Corps Color Guard, USPS Illinois 2 District Manager, Tangela Bush, Post Office Operations Manager, Jeff Hamilton, and Bernice Joseph,

Illinois 2 District Customer Relations Manager, as well as several members of Iworsky’s squad and platoon.

Iworsky said of his best friend, “Matt was the embodiment of a true Marine leader. He earned the trust of his fellow Marines through compassion, fairness and strength. He always put his Marines first, guiding them with both physical and moral courage. He never shied away from the hard choices. He always led with integrity and heart. He wasn’t just respected; he was deeply loved.” Greg Iworsky is currently a police sergeant in New Hampshire and also a Team Leader/Instructor for the Southern New Hampshire S.W.A.T. Team.



Cpl. Wyatt; In Iraq with captured AK-47 rifle

ROBERT PIETRANGELO MEMORIAL SERVICE

Submitted by: Ed Zetick, PNC



Robert Pietrangelo

Veterans from UAV Post 1 Philadelphia and UAV Post 42 Lehigh Valley, together with local community members, gathered on July 26th, 2025 at the family residence in Sellersville, PA to honor the 23 year old volunteer, a fire fighter and first responder, who was killed in action in Eastern Ukraine while serving in the armed forces of Ukraine. The family of Robert Pietrangelo asks for your prayers for the recovery of his remains.



Andrew Passyn, a UAV Post 1 member, was attending the interment of retired USMC First Sergeant Corey Nawrocki, another American who was killed in action while serving in the armed forces of Ukraine, at Arlington National Cemetery, where he met Dana Fancher, the mother of Robert Pietrangelo. Dana was planning a memorial service for her son and asked Andrew for assistance. In a matter of two weeks, Andrew organized some men from St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (UOC) of Philadelphia to erect tents, and he solicited funds from the parish to cover part of the luncheon. The parish Sisterhood of BVM provided pyrohy and holubtsi. A branch of the Ukrainian Women League also generously donated. UAV Post #1 also donated to the life celebration for Robert. The donations of various Ukrainian community organizations and people made possible that his family could have a dignified requiem and memorial for Robert.

UAVets presented colors and the rifle squad with taps sounding. Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Borys Gudziak and Father Ivan Tchopko of Saint Vladimir UOC along with other Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant clergy participated. Representing UAV National Commander, Michael Hryzak, was his Adjutant, Mark Datzkiwsky. Bucks County Congressman, Brian Fitzpatrick, offered remarks. The ABC Philadelphia affiliate took TV news video.



Flag presentation to Robert’s mother

UAV POST 32 - CHICAGO POSTING COLORS MARATHON - SUMMER, 2025

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church,
Chicago, IL - July 27, 2025
(l/r) Bohdan Dudycz, Commander Peter Bencak & Wasyl Mirutenko.



St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Church,
Chicago, IL 60656 - August 10, 2025
(l/r) Walter Nalywajko, Walter Dudycz, Mykola Skyba, Bohdan Dudycz, Commander Peter Bencak, Myra Nalywajko, George Procyk, Roman Andrusko, Eugene Kinal.



(Dormition of The Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church,
Richmond, IL - August 3, 2025
(l/r) Walter Nalywajko, Robert Wickman, Myra Nalywajko, Walter Dudycz, Commander Peter Bencak, Bohdan Dudycz, Ihor Draganchuk, Mykola Skyba, Eugene Kinal.



Sts. Volodymyr & Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church,
Chicago, IL - August 17, 2025
(l/r) Bohdan Dudycz, Walter Dudycz, Commander Peter Bencak, George Procyk, Ihor Draganchuk, Roman Andrusko.



Raising the Ukrainian Flag, Daley Center
downtown Chicago, IL 60656 - August 22, 2025
(l/r) Bohdan Dudycz, Ihor Draganchuk, Mykola Skyba, Walter Dudycz, Commander Peter Bencak, Eugene Kinal, Jerry Sydorenko.



UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by: Dr. Nicholas Skirka, Scholarship Committee Chair



The Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) 78 th National Convention was hosted by Post 17 and held in Somerset, New Jersey. During the convention, the UAV recognized 10 recipients for this year's UAV Scholarship Awards. The UAV National Scholarship Committee selected eight undergraduate students and two graduate students for the awards. The committee awarded student 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 2025 year, 10 students each received UAV Scholarship Award for \$600.

1. Thomas Sheptak (Pennsylvania), is attending Wake Forest University, majoring in Accountancy. This scholarship was awarded to Thomas from James Fedorko, Catherine A. Popadiuk, and Andrew J. Golonzka (\$200 each) in Memory of Michael Demchak, our past national Scholarship Officer.
2. Jared M. Hrycak (New Jersey) is a graduate student who attends the University of California, Irvine, he is majoring in Computer Engineering. This scholarship was awarded to Jared by UAV Post 40 (\$500) and Col. Roman Rondiak (\$100) from Florida.
3. Mia M. Zetick (Pennsylvania) attends University of Pittsburgh, where she is majoring in Political Science. This scholarship was awarded to Mia by UAV Post 40 (\$500) and Col. Roman Rondiak (\$100) from Florida.
4. Sloane L. Skiba (Virginia) attends West Virginia University, majoring in Interior Architecture with a minor in Painting. This scholarship was awarded to Sloane by the UAV Ladies Auxiliary (\$600).
5. Jared J. Roderick (Massachusetts) a graduate student attending Florida State University and majoring in Statistics. This scholarship was awarded to Jared by SUMA Yonkers Federal Credit Union (\$250), Jurij Petrenko (\$250), and George Kovch (\$100).
6. Rylie S. Roderick (Massachusetts) attends the University of Alabama at Birmingham, she is majoring in Biomedical Engineering. This scholarship was awarded to Rylie by Roman Synychak (\$300), Inia I Tunstall (\$200), and George Kovch (\$100).
7. Sofia Wowk Tsvihun (Connecticut/Indiana) attends Duke University, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering, minoring in Physics and Spanish. This scholarship was awarded to Sofia by Bohdan A. Hetmansky (\$500) and Valentina A. Babski (\$100).
8. Stephen E. Sheptak (Pennsylvania) attends Butler Community College, he is majoring in Nursing. This scholarship was awarded to Stephen by Gregory Buchai (\$500) and Valentina A. Babski (\$100).
9. Andreana A. Kedyulych (Pennsylvania) attends the University of Pittsburgh, she is majoring in Biochemistry. This scholarship was awarded to Andreana by the Birch Foundation (\$600).
10. Alayna J. Storey (Michigan) attends Northern Michigan University, where she is majoring in Fine Arts. This scholarship was awarded to Alayna by NOVAUA Federal Credit Union (\$500) and Iron Hron (\$100).

Students interested in applying for the UAV Scholarship Award need to fill out an application, send their high school and/or college transcript with class schedule, write an essay from one of the military topics, and email a high-resolution digital head shot 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. 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 and/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.

2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The following pictured award winners successfully fulfilled all requirements and were given monetary scholarships as listed on page 23. We congratulate them and wish them continued success in their studies.



Rylie Roderick



Sofia Tsvihun



Stephen E. Sheptak



Andreana Kedyulych



Alayna Storey



Thomas Sheptak



Jared Hrycak



Mia Zetick



Slone Skiba



Jared Roderick

Semper Fi: The Lasting Impact of Marine Corey Nawrocki

Essay written and submitted by: Jared Hrycak, 2025 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.

The War in Ukraine

Essay written and submitted by: Stephen E. Sheptak, 2025 Scholarship Winner

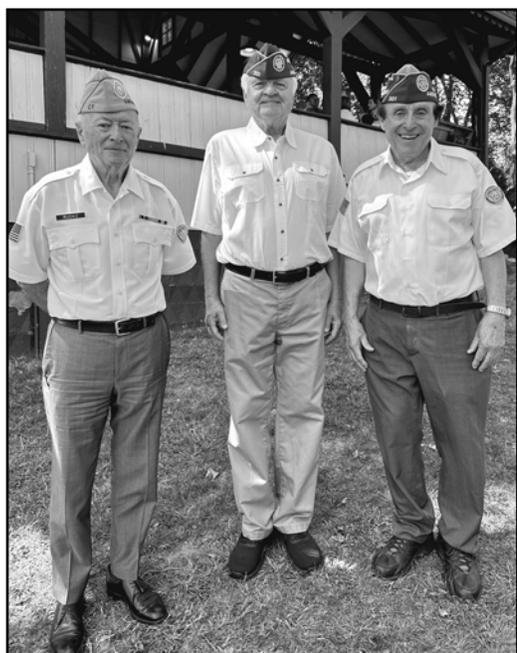
Ukraine is a sovereign nation which deserves to be left alone in peace and freedom. Ukrainians should not have to live in the constant fear of war. Russia has been trying to deprive Ukraine of her sovereignty and deprive Ukrainians of their freedom for many years. Ukrainians and Ukrainian Americans know this very well. However, there are many other Americans who are not aware of this fact.

The full-scale invasion in 2022 is just another aggression in a long history of aggression. The Ukrainian people are free and should not be forced to live under oppression from an evil dictator. We can go back very far in time and see that Russia has wanted Ukraine's land for a long time. The soldiers of Ukraine are tough enough to repel the full force of a world superpower and have held strong so far.

For much of the 20th century, Russia assimilated Ukraine into the USSR, and perpetrated countless crimes against the Ukrainian people, the biggest one of all being the Holodomor in 1932-1933, which was an outrageous act of genocide. In 1991, Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union, and once again, Ukraine was recognized by all the world as a sovereign nation. Looking back, we can see that Russia was testing the waters with its unlawful annexation of Crimea in 2014. Russia wanted to see how far they could go. In 2022, Russia went further, with the full-scale invasion.

Russia's war isn't about border disputes or "NATO expansion." It's a colonial war, driven by Putin's belief that Ukraine has no real national identity outside of Russia. Even at its simplest Ukraine is defending from a foreign hostile entity. Ukrainians are fighting because they want to live in a democratic country that charts its own course—closer to Europe, not under control of Putin's dictatorship. Putin does not respect Ukraine or international law. This isn't just about territory; it's about survival. In occupied areas, Russia has committed many atrocities including torture, forced deportations, kidnapping of thousands of Ukrainian children, destruction of Ukrainian culture, and widespread killings. For Ukrainians, losing the war could mean losing their country and identity and possibly their lives. If Russia succeeds in redrawing borders by force, it sets a dangerous precedent globally. Supporting Ukraine is about defending a world where sovereign nations have the right to choose their future without being invaded or destroyed.

HOLODOMOR CHURCH SERVICE AT ST. PATRICK'S



(l/r) Ihor Rudko PNC, Maksym Makarczuk, and Nicholas Skirka.

Submitted by: Nicholas Skirka

UAV members relaxing after posting colors for the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford Festival held on Sunday September 14, 2025.

(on right) Mike Hrycak, Ihor Rudko, James Fedorko, and Nicholas Skirka (not pictured) attended the Holodomor church service at St. Patrick's on November 22, 2025. (r/top) Many kids holding the Ukrainian flag walking down the aisle. (r/bottom) Children are laying wheat at the table.



Irene L. Antonovych
1941 - 2025

Wife of long time UAV Post 32 - Chicago member Boris Antonovych departed on November 16, 2025. The passing of Irene L. Antonovych (Chicago, Illinois) leaves a void in the hearts of many, as we bid farewell to her loving soul. In the quiet moments of reflection, let us honor Irene's memory by embracing the beauty of each fleeting moment, knowing that her spirit resides in the eternal tapestry of existence, forever woven into the fabric of our hearts.



She was loved and cherished by many people including: her husband Boris Antonovych; her children, Toma Antonovych and Anya Antonovych; and her grandson Adam Metcalf.

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS

Presented at the Post 32 Monument reception 11-01-2025

Submitted by: BGen Leonid Kondratiuk, PNC



I have been a military historian for 45 years researching and writing the history of the US Army and the National Guard. After retirement from active duty, I was the assistant to the Adjutant General of Massachusetts. Among my duties was the custody of Massachusetts veteran's records from 1775 to the present. Therefore, I was familiar with military personnel records. What you don't know is that all US Army personnel files from 1912 to 1955 were destroyed in a fire in 1973 some 16 million records. That included WWI, WWII, Korea. I learned how to research records in addition to those destroyed. In 1986 I was invited to speak at the UAV convention. My topic was the history of Ukrainian Americans serving in the US Armed Forces. I spent months preparing for my talk and soon learned that no one had ever done any serious research. So here I am today. Many years later.

I will talk about Ukrainian American military service and how the UAV began and evolved as the sixth oldest veterans' organization in the US. I mentioned earlier that there were a handful of Ukrainians who served in the Civil War they had just arrived in the US. About a dozen or so served in the Spanish American War in 1898. Some 30 to 40,000 Ukrainian Americans served in WWI.

All were born in Ukraine and immigrated to the US. The Army classified them as Ukrainians, Ruthenians and Russian. Most were factory workers in the big cities of Chicago, Detroit, New York and many other cities. Ukrainian was their first language with a working knowledge of English. Many other enlisted were drafted and they fought and died for their adopted country.

German officers were amazed that when they interviewed captured American soldiers who were recent immigrants that they called themselves Americans and not Greeks, Italians, Irish etc.

Several hundred Ukrainian American soldiers died in WWI. I have seen some of their gravestones in France. At least 24 were awarded the DSC, the second highest award for bravery. Ukrainian Americans fought with bravery and distinction. Two US Army units that contained Ukrainians are of interest. The US Army was planning for additional units as the war would go to 1919. The Army made plans to recruit Ukrainian Americans to serve in Ukrainian units of the Slavic Legion. The infantry companies were to be composed of Ukrainian Americans who were barred from enlistment because they were born in Western Ukraine then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, against which the US had declared war. The battalions were organized in late Oct 1918, however enlistments stopped when the war ended in Nov 1918.

Another interesting story of Ukrainian American soldiers in WWI is the service of the 339th Infantry Regiment. It was composed of draftees from Detroit. The regiment had over 50 Ukrainian Americans in its ranks. When the 339th arrived in France summer of 1918 it was selected for a special mission. It was sent to Northern Russia ostensibly to guard Allied war stocks originally destined for delivery to the Russian Army. Instead, the 339th fought the Bolsheviks for eight months in a brutal campaign fought in arctic conditions. The only American soldiers that could communicate with friendly Russian troops and enemy Bolsheviks were our 50 Ukrainian Americans. They served as both interpreters and front-line soldiers. Some were decorated for bravery and several were killed. History forgot about their campaign and their service.

In post war America, Ukrainian American veterans wanted to bond after their service. There were a few veterans' posts in Philadelphia and New York. However, it took the second generation of Ukrainian Americans veterans to form a national organization. During WWII, over 250,000 Ukrainian American men and women served in the US Armed Forces. They served in every theater of the war and in every MOS, both as enlisted and for the first time as officers. I recently researched the service of Ukrainian Americans who served in the Office of Strategic Services which was an early special forces unit. LT Kuzmuk led a Ukrainian battalion formerly in German service who changed sides and fought the Germans in Normandy.

(continued on page 22)

(continued from page 21)... UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS

If you visit the USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor you will see the names of Ukrainian American sailors who died on Dec 7. Hundreds and perhaps a thousand or more Ukrainian Americans died in the Philippines, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima in the Pacific Theater and in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany in the ETO. LTC Theodore Kalakuka, the first Ukrainian American graduate of West Point negotiated the US surrender to the Japanese at Bataan. No Japanese officer spoke English; one did speak Russian. LTC Kalakuka negotiated the surrender in Ukrainian.

CPT Steve Mellnik, the second Ukrainian American graduate of West Point escaped capture from the Japanese in the Philippines. After fighting as a guerrilla, he managed to get to Australia where he joined General MacArthur's staff where he served as an expert in guerilla warfare. Ukrainian American soldiers were among the first to enter offensive combat on Guadalcanal in October 1942. They were National Guardsmen assigned to the 164th Infantry Regiment, North Dakota National Guard. They lived in 12 farming communities that had significant Ukrainian populations.



One of the first Medals of Honor in WWII was awarded to PVT Nicholas Minue, 1st Armored Div, who wiped out three German machine gun positions in North Africa in early 1943. SGT Strank, US Marine Corps, and his squad raised the American flag over Iwo Jima. SGT Strank who had seen a great deal of combat died days later. John Wayne portrayed SGT Strank in the movie Sands of Iwo Jima. If time permitted, I would be able to tell you many other stories of the actions of Ukrainian Americans in WWII.

After the war, Ukrainian American veterans realized that they shared a special bond. Stand-alone local posts of Ukrainian American veterans existed in Philadelphia, Germantown, and Clifton Heights in PA and in NY, Passaic, NJ and New Britain, CT. In 1947 a group of veterans met to discuss the possibility of establishing a national Ukrainian American veterans' organization. Several hundred veterans from all over the country came to Philadelphia in May 1948 and organized the UAV. The UAV Constitution was drafted and adopted: the first paragraph states that we the Americans of Ukrainian descent who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States, in order that we may be united by a spirit of comradeship, fidelity and patriotism, to better ourselves and our country, do ordain and establish the Ukrainian American Veterans.

New UAV posts were organized in Newark, Bridgeport and other cities. A new cohort of veterans who served in the Korean War also joined posts. Thousands of Ukrainian Americans served on active duty during the Cold War and Vietnam War. The Vietnam Wall in Washington has many Ukrainian names. Even Hollywood acknowledged Ukrainian American servicemen in the movies *We Were Soldiers* and *the Deerhunter*.

The UAV continued to expand in the 1960s, 70s and 80s with posts in New Haven, Brooklyn, Yonkers, Spring Valley, Hartford, Boston, Rochester, Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, Akron, Washington, Leigh High Valley, all over NJ, Northport, FL and Johnson City, NY. Two Ukrainian Americans have reached the highest rank of four star general and admiral. Several dozen have been promoted to general officer and flag rank, several hundred colonels, sergeants major, and thousands of sergeants and petty officers and enlisted men and women. All served with honor and pride. Many joined the UAV. The UAV has been very active in supporting Ukraine since 2014.

UAV posts have raised funds for generators, medical equipment and other equipment and resources for Ukraine. We are in contact with the embassy in Washington as well as the Ukrainian Ministry of Veterans Affairs. We continue to be an important part of the Ukrainian American community especially here in Chicago. We are proud of our Ukrainian heritage and the bond of our military service to our great nation.

It has been good to be here with you today. Thank you for your attention. Slava Ukrainii.

Ed note: Post 32, Chicago was founded in 1994 and has become one of the largest and most active posts in the UAV.

The National UAV has an existing UAV National Registry is an information repository of former, departed and current Ukrainian American Veterans. Anyone who wishes to be a part of this registry must contact our National Vice Commander and Registry Officer Roman Makuch at uavvicecommander@gmail.com or call 347-886-0962. For a copy of the National Registration form, you can find it on the one of the last pages of this publication.

POST 32 CHICAGO DEDICATES NEW UAV MONUMENT

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



Members of Post 32 and Guests commemorate the Post monument commemorating all Ukrainian American men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

On November 1, 2025 UAV Post 32-Chicago dedicated their new Veterans Memorial. This endeavor was initiated in September 2024 at a local UAV post meeting. A committee was formed, headed by Vice Commander Wasyl Mirutenko and they immediately began their work. They diligently labored for the last 14 months, intending to have an memorial dedication by the week of Veterans Day, 2025. Thankfully their hard work was fulfilled on November 1st with the unveiling of this stunning edifice.

An emotional program was presented by John Jaresco to a crowd of over two hundred supporters. Post 32 Commander Peter Bencak and members posted colors and led in the singing of our National Anthem. The invocation and concluding benediction were read by Post 32 chaplain, the Very Rev. Victor Poliarny, Pastor of St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. The keynote speaker, Brig. General Leonid Kondratiuk, gave a brief history of Ukrainian American veterans and named several who had served in the United States Armed Forces since the Civil War. 12 members from the neighboring VFW Post 7539 were also present to honor their fellow veterans. A gathering of local clergy blessed the monument after members of local CYM and Odum laid wreaths at the monument's base. At the conclusion of the outdoor service John Jaresco invited all in attendance to reconvene in the church's banquet hall for continued formalities, appetizers and refreshments.

The banquet hall was enhanced by an exhibit of 330 enlarged, original photos of local Ukrainian American men and women who served in the US Armed Forces. Many of these were pictures from their early years as recruits and most attendees were heard to exclaim how young they all looked.

Brig. General Kondratiuk, the keynote speaker gave a more thorough history of brave young Ukrainian Americans. As an example, one local parish, St. Nicholas Cathedral, had a recorded 650 parishioners who had proudly served America in WWII.

The afternoon buffet concluded with congratulatory words from the Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, the Heritage Foundation, fraternal organizations and several community representatives.

“This new memorial stands as a permanent symbol of duty, honor, and love of country - values shared by Ukrainian Americans who proudly call the United States home.”

Wasyl Mirutenko
Memorial Committee Chairman
Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32 Vice-Commander

VETERANS REMEMBERING AND HONORING VETERANS

POST 32 CHICAGO ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR RESIDENT ARTIST

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

It is my pleasure to introduce Mykola Sidelnik. He is a Post 32 Chicago UAV member with many hidden talents. On September 2024 Mykola joined a committee that was formed to create a unique monument honoring Ukrainian American veterans.

The committee began with a concept, design, budget and a targeted installation date of November 1, 2025. A 14 month working timeline sounded reasonable then people were given assignments. From amongst the committee members emerged a metaphoric “Giant of a man” who grasped the big picture and took over the reins of this project by assuming the mantle of General Contractor. Others oversaw administrative duties, fundraising, promotions, publicity, graphics and organizational assignments but Mykola did the “heavy lifting”.

There was no aspect of this project that he ignored or delegated. Mykola was generally the first and sometimes only contact with suppliers, tradesmen, groundskeepers, designers and manufacturers. He knew that a monument needed substance, a visual impact, symbolism and an eye for design.



Mykola Sidelnik



Post 32 Chicago UAV Monument

It was here that Mykola showed the artistic component of his character. For him it all began with a vision and a pencil drawing. His design evolved into a breathtaking edifice that evoked a spirit of soldierly camaraderie.

Mykola Sidelnik was available at every stage of development and construction. He arranged the removal of major obstacles and he helped in the laying of concrete for the nine foot monument’s base. The erection of a mighty flagpole was a pet subproject where he recruited and supervised 8 fellow veterans to share in some heavy maneuvering. The marble company was under his scrutiny, and he insured that the design was accurately finalized.

He dug trenches to route electrical piping for power, lighting and security. He was also the liaison with all committee members, Post 32, St. Andrews Cathedral’s pastor and others. Ultimately Mykola was the “Go to Guy” in this operation.

If ever there was an unsung hero for a lofty endeavor, we can easily see one here. Mykola saw a job and he stepped in to do whatever it took to succeed. No task was insignificant and nothing was overlooked. From his original design to a personal commitment to a triumphant conclusion, Mykola represented Post 32 admirably. His work was above and beyond expectation and for this, we give him recognition, public acknowledgement and an enthusiastic cheer of gratitude for a job well done.

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS’ MONUMENT - AN ARTIST’S VISION

- ◆ The jet-black granite symbolizes strength and authority for those who held power and were held in esteem when alive.
- ◆ The gray vertical curved stripe represents a unified path shared by all branches of the military, bound together by a common cause.
- ◆ The military insignias of our United States Armed Force: the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard are framed with blue and gold colors. They represent the bond between the American veterans of Ukrainian descent and the United States Armed Forces.
- ◆ At the top of the monument is the American Eagle, a symbol of pride and power. The olive branch it holds represents peace.
- ◆ Near the base is the eternal flame, designed in the form of the Ukrainian trident, Tryzub – also a historic symbol of power and authority. This flame will never be extinguished for it burns within each of us.
- ◆ The circle that frames the bell has no beginning and no end. This perfect shape is in the center of the monument and mounted within this circle, is the stainless-steel circle, which holds the bell of unity.
- ◆ Below the tryzub will be the Ukrainian American Veterans insignia. On that symbol, The Ukrainian Trident stands for Will and Freedom. The will to live and fight for a free independent Ukraine. The statue of liberty is incorporated within the trident as a symbol of freedom, unity and hope. Her torch lights the way to a better life sought by our parents and grandparents.

POST 32 CHICAGO HONORS 3 MVPs

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



Commander Peter Bencak
Post 32 Chicago

The sign of a true leader is not showing a resume of accomplishments. A true leader is the one who oversees projects or events while delegating assignments to the appropriate talent in the organization. In the UAV, that person is Commander Peter Bencak.

He holds a steady hand with Post 32 activities and its members. From small projects to ambitious adventures, his management and steadfast governance has made post 32 the service organization that is admired by the community today.

Currently, Post 32 completed a 14-month epic project that exceeded our previous endeavors. Our new monument commemorating and honoring Ukrainian American Veterans has been an ambitious project that was completed on November 1, 2025 (see page 17 in this issue)

Our monument committee members were stalworth volunteers who labored at various levels, but I would like to single out three individuals who were the major engine of this production. Wasyl, Natalie and Roma Mirutenko who took overall ownership and steered the committee to ensure that all facets of this diamond were addressed and polished.

They organized the project's administration, communications, publicity and most importantly, fundraising. The Mirutenko family was a veritable dynamo of energy. Every detail was painstakingly examined and all wrinkles were ironed out. To them the word "can't" was not an option.

Natalie and Roma shared the challenges associated with computer related outcomes. They authored and mailed most correspondence, they were the energy behind the graphics for posters, social media, photography, and the arrangement for the celebratory luncheon after the monument's dedication.



Natalie Mirutenko with her daughter Roma

As Chairman of the Monument Committee Wasyl was the face and personality associated with the UAV Memorial project and he represented the UAV very well. His innate charisma and smooth repartee charmed many people to financially support this cause. Using his outstanding motivational skills, he kept the committee and general public engaged where there was no diminishment of enthusiasm and participation.

The Mirutenko family commitment was evident when these "Snowbirds" left Chicago to winter in Florida. They resettled for a 6-month winter stay in the South and they took the project with them. During this time, in a near tropical climate, Wasyl and Natalie were available at all times to continue directing this Herculean challenge. Their amount of self-sacrifice and time commitment was remarkable.

If this were a championship sport the Mirutenko family would undoubtedly be the recipients of MVP awards. Their dedication and hard work was "next level" and for this we recognize them and say we truly appreciate you. Please accept our gratitude and unwavering admiration.



Wasyl Mirutenko
Memorial Committee Chairman
UAV Post 32 Vice-Commander

BRAVO! WELL DONE! GREAT JOB! THANK YOU! НАША ЩИРА ПОДЯКА!

SORRY UKRAINE, WE TREATED YOU SHAMEFULLY

Wednesday December 10 2025, The Times

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

Edward Lucas is a writer and consultant specializing in European and transatlantic security. His expertise also includes energy, cyber-security, espionage, information warfare and Russian foreign and security policy. Formerly a senior editor at The Economist, he is a senior fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA). Edward is the author of five books, including The New Cold War. He has worked as a foreign correspondent in Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Moscow and the Baltic states and lives in London.



Edward Lucas

Dear Ukrainians, we are so sorry. Britain, like other west European countries, still likes to say that it “stands with Ukraine”, in Keir Starmer’s words to Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday. But with the Trump administration now demanding that Kyiv agree “within days” to cede territory to the invader, the truth is emerging. Actually, we got scared and then bored.

It was inspirational to see how you cared about the freedom, democracy, legality, sovereignty and dignity we take for granted. We encouraged you to fight for them. Then we let you down. While we dithered and fantasized, Vladimir Putin’s tinpot dictatorship proved determined and resilient. Russia has not yet beaten Ukraine. But it has beaten us.

Our first and biggest failure was to let nuclear blackmail put us in a mental prison. The Biden administration in September 2022 believed there was a 50-50 chance that Russia would respond to looming battlefield disaster with a tactical nuclear weapon. Instead of facing down that outrageous threat, we flinched. We never sent you the weapons you needed to press home your advantage.

Our allies in Europe’s east, their senses sharpened by their own geography and history, were clear: the only way to exorcise Russia’s imperialist demons was wrenching political change following a full-scale military defeat. Ukrainians felt the same. Sure, victory would have its dangers. But defeat spelt hell. Seen from western Europe though, that was far too risky. A defeated Russia could mean chaos, perhaps civil war, loose nukes, terrorism and economic upheaval. A stable post-Putin regime might turn its ire on us. We backed off.

Our unity has proved to be a fiction. Countries like the Baltic states strained every sinew to support you, while hurriedly boosting their own defenses. But the rest of us could not manage even the simplest things: stopping the shadow fleet that exports Russia’s oil, or seizing Russia’s frozen central reserves and other assets, £150 billion or more of them, which would have decisively boosted your coffers. Your now-formidable arms industry, with its stunningly innovative drones, missiles and other weapons, runs at half capacity for lack of money.

We said we would support Ukraine “for as long as it takes”, without ever defining the “it”. That meant supporting you to win but not by too much, which turned into supporting you to lose, but not by too much: fighting to the last Ukrainian. We pushed you into a disastrously costly summer offensive in 2023, underequipped and unready: conditions we would never inflict on our own military. Now hundreds of thousands of your best people are dead, maimed or traumatised. Millions are bereaved. Nothing we do now can make up for that.

The more we displayed weakness, the more we encouraged Putin to keep going. Yes, the damage to Russia’s economy is colossal, as are its casualties. But Putin won’t stop until he is stopped. We won’t do that. Perhaps you still can. We would appreciate that, because our own defense and deterrence, on current form, will not be ready for at least a decade.

While making it harder for you to win, we projected our increasingly defeatist attitudes on to you. Surely you must see that justice - reparations and war crimes trials - is impossible. You must accept that some territories (and worse, their populations) must be abandoned for the foreseeable future. Nato membership, despite our past promises of an “open door”, is off the table, too.

We added insult to injury with magical thinking. Russia, surely, will be sensible and accept a compromise: a “just and lasting peace”. In truth, we have ensured that any ceasefire will be neither.

(continued on page 27)

(continued from page 26) ...SORRY UKRAINE,

And then what? If we were not willing to go to war with Russia when we had you - a big, united, resilient, capable ally - on our side, why would we fight to protect you when you are bled white, traumatized and humiliated? If we arm-twist you into a truce, and back it with a flimsy trip-wire force from a “coalition of the willing”, we sacrifice not only your cause but our deterrent.

We cannot really plead mere cowardice. We have other, better excuses. One is selfishness. We did not really want to make economic sacrifices. That ruled out the kind of sanctions that would have disabled the Kremlin’s war machine. Some of us - notably the credulous Americans - see post-war Russia as a tempting business opportunity. Hard-faced men think they will do well out of the peace. Greed is good, it turns out.

But the real explanation is even more shameful. We got tired. You were so fashionable once, with your cheerful blue and yellow flags, photogenic people and witty memes. It made us feel noble and brave to host your refugees and drive aid convoys across Europe (Ukraine is surprisingly close, it turns out).

But it all feels so 2023 now. What about Gaza? Sudan? Our attention span just wasn’t long enough. Like a bad boyfriend weaseling out of a relationship, we make this about us, not you. We want to stay friends. We hope you will be good neighbors, and a good loser: no revenge killings please. The truth is that you have moved on. You are beyond feelings of disappointment or betrayal. While you now actively (and rightly) mistrust the Trump administration, you regard western Europe’s political leaders as irrelevant. Your priority now is survival and self-sufficiency; the alternative is extinction.

And us? Self-centered to the last. Sorry about that.

A UKRAINIAN SNIPER BROKE THE WORLD RECORD FOR THE LONGEST SNIPER KILL

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

Ukraine now holds the world record for the world’s longest-range sniper kill, at 2.36 miles, which is approximately 3,800 meters. The new record beats one previously held by a Canadian Special Forces sniper in Iraq of approximately 2.2 miles (3,540 meters).

It all happened on November 18th, 2023 when in less than 10 seconds the Ukrainian sniper fired his rifle and broke the world record for the world’s longest confirmed sniper kill.

The man who did it is a 58 year old former businessman by the name of Vyacheslav Kovalskiy. He was not a professional soldier, just an ordinary citizen who enlisted in the military as a result of Russia’s full-scale invasion. “I was thinking that Russians would now know that is what Ukrainians are capable of,” he said.

Initially Kovalskiy and his “spotter” located a Russian Officer giving orders to a cluster of soldiers. Using special software, Kovalskiy prepared for the strike. He measured his exact distance from the target as well as the direction and speed of the wind, the temperature of the air, the level of humidity and even took into account the curvature of the earth, which was necessary given the distance of the shot.

First, he fired a test round and realized he had miscalculated the wind speed. After making the proper adjustments Kovalskiy fired again - this time he was successful. His shot had just set the bar for a new world record and successfully eliminated a target 12,468 feet away - the distance of over 42 football fields.

Despite many who doubted such a shot was possible, footage of the shot was released on “X”. The video, confirmed by the Wall Street Journal, shows the Russian officer falling to the ground after the sound of the rifle firing. Its clear that these Russian forces did not see it coming Kovalskiy told the [Wall Street Journal](#).



Vyacheslav Kovalskiy at home

“I think the Russians will now know what Ukrainians are capable of. Let them stay at home and be afraid,”

Vyacheslav Kovalskiy

2025 CONVENTION PHOTO ALBUM - OUTTAKES

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

I don't care about the stories, I look at the pictures.

I wish I was back on the farm with my goats.

Bring me a pastrami sandwich on rye with an extra pickle.

I feel that I deserve an extra tip,

I was hungry!

You stole my kolachky!!!!

Grumpy

Bashful

Sneezy

Luke Skywalker, I am your father!

Oh yeah, then increase my allowance Yoda!

What is the protocol for swearing me in?

There's no need to curtsy Sir, a salute is sufficient.

Where is Sleeping Beauty?

Who do you think you are?

I was your babysitter in 1960.

I think this shirt makes me look slimmer.

I worked 9 years on the Executive Board and all I got was this chicken.

Nobody knows that I'm playing Solitare.

This was a Great Convention!

If you volunteer to host another convention, I will clobber you.

We need to stay away from the buffet line.

THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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

I was honorably discharged.

I am still serving honorably.



PLEASE PRINT

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE CELL

EMAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

BRANCH OF SERVICE

<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. 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>	

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, PNC	740 Dale Dr.	Huntington Valley	PA	19006-8319	215-885-2826
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Ihor B. Rudtko, PNC	44 Jurach Rd.	Colchester	CT	06415-2106	860-705-1849
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Michael P. Wowk (Interim)	32 Logan St.	New Britain	CT	06051-3434	860-677-9496
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Jim Federko	84 Van Ness	Rutherford	NJ	07070	551-238-9590
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	William Szozda, NVC	66 N. William St.	Pearl River	NY	10965-1820	845-920-8325
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Markian Slabyk	25 Stearns St.	Lackawanna	NY	14218-2703	716-822-3643
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Roman Rakowsky, PNC	1881 Jacqueline Dr.	Parma	OH	44134-0649	440-884-1673
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	Gregory Posewa	5 Aqua Terrace	Trenton	NJ	08620-9738	609-259-2763
<input type="checkbox"/>	26	Yaromyr Oryshkewych	430 Randolph Rd.	Silver Spring	MD	20904-3538	301-646-4222
<input type="checkbox"/>	28	Roman Kostiuik	3966 April Dr.	Uniontown	OH	44685-9358	330-896-4166
<input type="checkbox"/>	31	Stephen J. Kostecki, NQ	34 W. Britannia St. #2	Tauton	MA	02780-1853	508-245-1890
<input type="checkbox"/>	32	Peter Bencak, PNC	2135 W. Potomac Ave.	Chicago	IL	60622-8270	773-489-2757
<input type="checkbox"/>	33	Carl R. Harvey	841 Alling Rd.	Orange	CT	06477-1352	203-389-6076
<input type="checkbox"/>	40	Ihor R. Hron, PNC	201 Osprey Point Dr.	Osprey	FL	34229-9234	941-966-2845
<input type="checkbox"/>	42	Jerry Kindrachuk	3535 Fox Run Drive	Allentown	PA	18103	612-730-3265
<input type="checkbox"/>	43	Michael J. Dobransk, NY SC	17 Mirriam St.	Johnson City	NY	13790-6658	607-729-0334
<input type="checkbox"/>	101	Mathew Wroblewski	25195 Pineview	Warren	MI	48091-1564	586-755-9575
<input type="checkbox"/>	301	Nicholas Skirka, NSchol	109 Windsor Terrace	Yonkers	NY	10701-1512	914-965-3707

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

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

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



**Individuals wishing to become Members at Large should contact
 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

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

Ihor Draganchuk 773-502-6023

Or email: uavquartermaster@gmail.com

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

We are redesigning our QM page, reorganizing the inventory and updating finances. Due to the recent passing of our newly retired Steve Kostecki, we cannot handle transactions or sales efficiently. It will take several weeks to put a system together and to modernize this QM page.

Please have patience and work with us until everything is in place. If you need any UAV supplies or material, you can call or text Ihor at the numbers/email at the top of this page. Thank you for your cooperation.

Editor



UAV Tribune



Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

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Niles, IL 60714-1803



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



Support our Brothers and Sisters who defend Ukraine!

СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!

ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!