



# UAV TRIBUNE

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

## Ukrainian American Veterans

### “From The Commander’s Hatch



Michael P. Hrycak UAV NC

I extend my heartfelt greetings and gratitude to all Ukrainian American Veterans and their families. It is because you have taken the oath to serve our great country in the United States Armed Forces, that preserves our freedom and way of life.

We have served, and continue to serve, in defense of our great nation and its values, as well as in support of our ancestral homeland, Ukraine. Our fellow warriors have been fighting an invading force for over eleven years. I have visited Ukrainian wounded warriors, in Ukraine and here at United States Military Treatment Facilities and 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 keep the Russian invaders at bay. It is significant to note that the Russians have not achieved a single strategic objective after launching their large-scale invasion in February, 2022. The Russian tank losses alone exceed the amount of tanks the United States lost 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 initiative:

**Among its activities, mainly carried out by Local Post Organizations, the UAV sponsors Patriotic observances on holidays, provides Veterans Affairs Programs, perpetuates memories 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 reflect on the future of our great organization. It was with the utmost pride and honor that I administered the oath to my son, 1LT Brandon Hrycak, as our newest member during our September, 2023 convention. He had just returned from his first overseas deployment, and met two young colleagues attending the convention from the Warren Michigan post. As always, our youth is our future.

I have kept our organization’s talking points updated, although I have paused for a short while this past February, 2025 (see page 27, this issue). But we will strive 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 as well. We will show a united front, maintaining professional and patriotic stature.

I look forward to our 2025 Convention at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Somerset, New Jersey, adjacent to St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Cemetery where our national monument resides. Delegates and attendees will arrive, Thursday evening, October 9, 2025, at Delta Hotels Somerset, and have an informal get together hosted by Post 17 Commander Jim Fedorko. The Convention will be held Friday, October 10, 2025, and Saturday, October 11, 2025, and will include a commemorative ceremony in honor of the ten-year anniversary of our national monument, on Saturday afternoon. There will be a social gathering Friday evening and our banquet on Saturday evening. We expect great attendance and I look forward to seeing you there.

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

Michael P. Hrycak  
LTC, USA, Retired  
Commander



# Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.



## Michael P. Hrycak

316 Lenox Avenue  
Westfield, NJ 07090-5113

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## NOTICE

Dear Ukrainian American Veterans and  
Post Commanders,

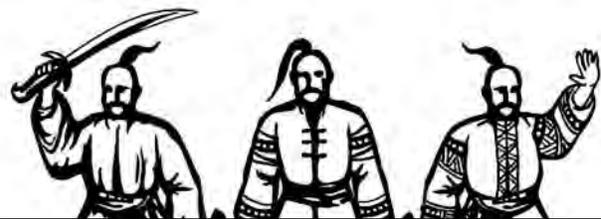
The upcoming 2025 UAV Convention is just around the corner. This is to give you a “heads up” regarding delegate attendance and voting requirements. Our Bylaws require that you identify your delegates and alternates at least thirty (30) days prior to the National Convention. I am requesting that you send me the names of the delegates and alternates you plan to send to the convention NLT 9 Sept 2025 via email.

Delegates and alternates received by e-mail after this date will not be able to vote at the convention.

E-mail for delegate submission is: [hetman2@verizon.net](mailto:hetman2@verizon.net). Please save this date and get your delegates and alternates names to me on time. Щиро Дякую – Many Thanks!

Bohdan Hetmansky

National Judge Advocate  
Ukrainian American Veterans Inc.



Any Veterans planning on attending the Convention in Somerset, NJ, and need a tie or UAV Blazer Crest please order before 1 OCT 2025. See the last page in this issue.



# *Ukrainian American Veterans*

78th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

October 9,10,11, 2025

Hosted by

Post 17 - Passaic, NJ

**Commander Jim Fedorko**



## **Post 17 Commander's Welcome to Delegates and Guests**

On behalf of Post 17 and our Convention Committee, welcome to the 78th Annual National Convention. During the convention, we will commemorate the 10th Anniversary of our National Monument at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. This cemetery is an appropriate location for our monument because it honors the military legacy of those who served in the United States Armed Forces and are buried here, while also in the embrace of our fellow warriors who originated from across the ocean. Among the many soldiers who lie in repose here are those who, not only fought for American freedom but also Ukrainian freedom, and some fought for both. Looking forward to seeing you this October.

**СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!**

**ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!**

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**Ukrainian American Veterans Block**  
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**and he will send you the link so you can directly book the room.**



# Ukrainian American Veterans

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Commander Jim Fedorko



## UAV BANQUET RESERVATION

Due by October 1, 2025

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets, at **\$120.00** per person, for the **UAV 78th Convention Banquet**

**DATE:** SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

**TIME:** COCKTAIL HOUR AT 5:00 PM - DINNER AT 6:00 PM

**PLACE:** Ukrainian Cultural Center  
135 Davidson Ave., Somerset, NJ 08873



Enclosed is my check, made payable to: **UAV POST 17** in the amount of:

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

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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:**

### *Plated Dinner*

Choose one dinner entree:

Chicken Francaise \_\_\_\_\_

Roast Beef \_\_\_\_\_

Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

**Open Bar**

Please send your check together with this form to:

**UAV 78th CONVENTION BANQUET**

**UAV Post 17**

**84 East Van Ness Ave. Rutherford NJ 07070**

Questions: Please Call:

**Commander Jim Fedorko**

**551-238-9590**

**fedorko\_15003@yahoo.com**

Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records 4(2025)





# Ukrainian American Veterans

78th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

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## UAV 78th NATIONAL CONVENTION JOURNAL

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to: **UAV 78th 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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<b>\$150 _____</b>		<b>Full Page.</b>	

All advertising orders must be received **no later than September 27, 2025**. 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:

**78th UAV CONVENTION JOURNAL**

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Bohdan Dudycz - Publications Officer  
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# Ukrainian American Veterans

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# IN MEMORIAM

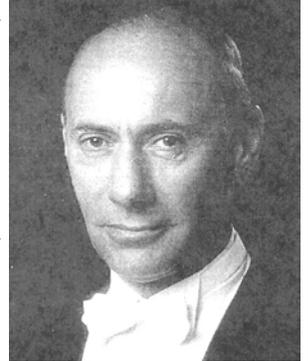
**Homily at the memorial service/funeral  
Dr. Vasyl Truchly M.D.  
April 5, 2025**

*Submitted by: John Jaresko, Parish Board President, St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Church*

Today we are gathered here to say goodbye to a great man who will forever remain in our hearts. Dr. Vasyl Truchly was a real support for his family, a kind husband to his wife Lida, a good friend, an honest, sincere and talented person. I am honored today to share my thoughts on Dr. Vasyl and briefly highlight his character, accomplishments, and contributions to the Ukrainian community and the lives of others.

Dr. Vasyl Truchly was born on December 27, 1925, in Mukachevo in Transcarpathia. He graduated from high school in Bratislava, Slovakia in 1943 and began his medical studies, which he completed in Heidelberg, Germany in 1950.

In the United States, as a doctor, he specialized in gynecology and from 1953-55 Dr. Vasyl was mobilized into the American army in Korea and Japan.



**Dr. Vasyl Truchly M.D.**

Dr. Vasyl married Lida Terkun in 1969 at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Vladimir in Chicago. From 1960-70 he was a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Illinois Hospital in Chicago, and in 1970 at Rush Medical College in Chicago.

From 1964 until his retirement, he worked at the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago and opened a private practice. In 1992 he was a professor at the University of Kyiv and the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Ivano-Frankivsk and Kamansk. Dr. Vasyl was a member of the Ukrainian Medical Society of South America and Chairman of the Regional Board of the ULTPA from 1977 to 1979.

Dr. Truchly was active in Ukrainian public life all his life. He was the artistic director and conductor of the choirs "SURMA" (1975-85), the choir of the Orthodox Cathedral of St. Andrew's Choir in Bloomingdale (1972-2010, conductor emeritus since 2011 and the Millennium United Choirs in Chicago (1988).

Dr. Vasyl was a member of the Ukrainian Bandura Capella, T.G. Shevchenko and the Medical Orchestra in Chicago, where he played the clarinet. He was one of the organizers and benefactors of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago.

He devoted a lot of time, during his earthly life, to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. He participated in the Metropolitan Council of the UOC-USA during the primacy of Metropolitan and then Patriarch Mstyslav. He was also the chairman of the Parish Council and the Construction Committee at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Andrew.

He was the author and publisher of more than five books of music: Collection of musical works by his father Prof. Ivan Truchly "Liturgy", "Carols and Shchedrivka of Ukraine", "Litiya, Panahida, Paratas and Funeral" and records and CDs of music "Surma", the Church Choir of St. Andrew and the Chamber Choir of Kyiv.

In every field, as a doctor, as an athlete, as a musician, as a conductor, as a church figure, as a public figure, and as a philanthropist, he distinguished himself and received many awards, certificates, orders and medals. He was awarded the Orders of President Viktor Yushchenko and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for his long term work, love and devotion to Ukraine.

How can one person have so much ability, knowledge, and talent? This was because of his parents Prof. Ivan Truchly and mother Kateryna Zdoryk-Trukhla. Doctor Truchly grew up in a circle of patriotic, religious and cultural figures and they instilled in him a love for his church, singing the Kyiv half, culture, learning and friendship. Dr. Vasyl always worked on himself so that his work was at the highest level.

The good doctor had an insatiable love for sports. In fact, young Vasil in Germany, when he played on the basketball team, was called "Black Cat" and was one of the best players on the team. He was so valuable the Germans falsified his passport so that he could go abroad to play in various tournaments. As a member of the rowing team, he won various competitions and his name was engraved on awards.

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In the field of music, in Bratislava, Slovakia, after high school, he was offered first chair as a clarinetist in the Bratislava Symphony Orchestra. He not only played but surpassed others who had been members of that professional orchestra for years.

Living in Transcarpathia, Slovakia, Germany, Korea, Japan and traveling around the world, Dr. Vasyl could speak eleven different languages.

Dr. Vasil helped give birth to many children and often saved children who were about to die at birth. Dr. Truchly was not an ordinary doctor but was the head of women's clinics.

When young doctor Vasil was drafted into the American army, he was awarded the rank of captain. After an honorable discharge, Vasil joined the Ukrainian American Veterans Organization - Post 32 Chicago. He had been a member for two decades and his departure leaves a visceral and emotional hurt that still resonates in the ranks of the veterans.

As for church life, as a young conductor, he took everything that his father passed on to him and found a natural approach to music.

As a choir member and musician, I appreciate this approach. Why did the choirs led by Dr. Vasil sound different from everyone else? Why did people pay attention to this? An ordinary musician or conductor knows that a full note gets four beats or half a note gets two beats, and they conducted accordingly.

The beauty and difference in the choirs of "Surma" and church choirs was in his interpretation of each work. Where you need to stretch the note, where you need to sing more quietly, and where you need to thunder with a full voice so that the work is alive and so that the listeners feel something, and not just listen. This is the difference between a good conductor and a maestro such as Dr. Vasyl Truchly. Dr. Vasyl also explained to me the difference in the choirs of Ukraine and others. He talked about the composition of choristers and what it should look like, that is, how many sopranos, how many tenors, etc.

The main thing that distinguished Ukrainian choirs was the presence of contra basses or octavis. These low voices were the basis of the choir and without them, the choirs sometimes sound incomplete. He explained that Ukraine had the best octaves and, as always, Russia stole it from us. Today we thank him that, since his parents taught him, he taught us and the young conductors at the parishes of St. Nicholas and St. Andrew got a lot of experience from him.

Dr. Vasyl always dreamed of building at least one Orthodox Church in Chicago that would be a model of our heritage. And so it came to pass that he led the congregation in the building of our beloved St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.

Dr. Truchly was often found under the church, where his love of culture and music lives on today, organizing concerts and cultural events. He was the head of the parish and then the Honorary Chairman, conductor of the church choir, member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Chairman of the Construction Committee and Board of Trustees of the parish. Despite the lack of time or his position, Dr. Vasyl never refused physical work near the church or at home.

Dr. Vasyl and his wife Lida loved to have guests and since the 60s they have hosted politicians, artists, doctors, church leaders and bishops, students and delegations from Ukraine, but most of all their friends. These gatherings were always interesting and sometimes lasted all night because no one wanted to go home. The doctor and Lida always received everyone at a high level.

Dr. Vasyl was gifted with a long life, probably because God knew that he still had something to teach us or something to pass on to us.

John Jaresko  
Devoted friend



Cpt. Vasyl Truchly, US Army



John Jaresko eulogizing Dr. Truchly at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.

## FROM CIVILIAN PRACTICE TO THE FRONTLINES UKRAINIAN DOCTORS ANSWER THE CALL TO SERVE, SACRIFICE, AND SAVE LIVES.

Uliana Pidvalna, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Anatomy  
Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University

*Submitted by: Commander Yaromyr Oryshkevych, Post 26 – Washington D.C.*

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 affected the lives of every Ukrainian. According to the International Organization for Migration, 11.3 million Ukrainians were forced to relocate since the beginning of the Russian invasion: 4.2 million left Ukraine, and 7.1 million were displaced internally. While many displaced Ukrainians were forced to evacuate West, many others headed East, towards the front lines and into harm's way. This article shares the story of three civilian physicians from Lviv, a city in Western Ukraine. For over a year, Dr. Dmytro Beshley and Drs. Roman and Andriy Sobko worked in the Donetsk region near the battlefield. Their trio is referred to as "Dmytro and Brothers Sobko". Their bond dates to 2014, when all three first were deployed to the Ukrainian Military Forces. That deployment lasted 14 months, with most of their time spent operating in the Donetsk region, including Mariupol, Krasnoarmiysk (Pokrovsk) and Dnipro.

A phone call in February of 2022 reconnected all of them yet again. As they had done in 2014, all three of them answered the call and took leave of successful medical careers, family, hobbies, and the comforts of daily living to serve Ukraine. So many Ukrainian heroes have done the same, and this article is meant to share just one story about the multitude of formerly civilian doctors who must now carry weapons over their white coats as they must practice medicine under the savagery of war.



*Dmytro Beshley*

Dmytro Beshley, M.D, 39 years old, cardiovascular surgeon, MBA. Prior to February 24, 2022, Dr. Beshley operated in Lviv Regional Hospital, served as a director of the Ukrainian Polish Heart Center "Lviv" and had an assistant professor appointment in the Department of Surgery in Lviv National Medical University. Dr. Beshley performed the full spectrum of cardiovascular surgeries: coronary artery bypass, cardiac valve repairs/replacements, aortic aneurysm repairs, heart transplantation, and the like. He also focused on minimally invasive procedures, performing the first transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) in Western Ukraine in 2020, after having already performed Ukraine's first mini-sternotomy access for aortic valve replacement in 2015. He spearheaded the formation of the Ukrainian Polish Heart Center "Lviv" to improve access to cutting edge healthcare.

When asked about his motivations to serve, Dr. Beshley responded, "Independence is a gift that we must defend, guard and fight for. We must honor of the eternal memory of those who lost their lives while defending our country, those who lost their health, and those who continue to defend our Ukraine to this day."



*Roman Sobko*

Roman Sobko, MD, 44 years old, adult, and pediatric anesthesiologist. He was chief of Division of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine in Lviv Regional Children's Specialized Clinical Hospital, but his support for Ukrainian freedom dates to the Revolution of Dignity. "In 2013, until the last day of the Maidan, I was staffing medic tents in Independence Square in Kyiv, where I provided urgent care to the protesters. I believed that this was a way to protect the freedom of our nation, our sovereignty and our Ukrainian voices. In 2014, I volunteered to the frontlines to defend our country. In 2015, I was demobilized and returned to my hospital with an Honor of Bohdan Khmelnytsky. A few years later, I was elected as a division chief at Western Ukrainian Specialized Children's Medical Centre. I am proud of my accomplishment to create a hospital division for pediatric hemodialysis, which supports all the Western regions of Ukraine."

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*Andriy Sobko*

Andriy Sobko, MD, 46 years old, oncologic surgeon. Until February 24, 2022. Dr. Sobko practiced in the minimally invasive surgical division of the Lviv Regional Cancer Center. He specialized in minimally invasive surgeries with a focus on gastrointestinal and gynecologic tumors.

“This is my second time to deploy in the ongoing war between Moscow and Ukraine. My first introduction to military field surgery occurred in 2014-2015. From this experience I gained some understanding about strategies and tactics while helping the wounded. From the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion last year, my brother and I have been working on the same team in the Donetsk region. Our experience in 2014-2015 was a “walk in the park” compared to what we are

facing right now. During the past year, we have performed numerous large scale abdominal, vascular, orthopedic and head and neck operations. We attempt to conduct these interventions following the highest standards of practice and by utilizing the newest technologies, including laparoscopy. We rely on our experience and knowledge from “civil” medicine to save Our Heroes and continually update our practices from what we learn in the field.” Thousands of military personnel and civilians, including children and newborns, have been saved by the hands of these physicians and doctors like them.

During the first months of war, most of the civil doctors in Donestkiy region left their clinics, as they were not prepared to deal with combat trauma. At the same time, a significant portion of local populations remained in these territories, which were subjected to daily shelling and bombing. Military physicians were forced to provide medical help not only to the military, but also to the civilians. There were numerous children hurt by constant shelling: traumatic amputations, massive hemorrhages, frost bites, and burns. Dr. Roman Sobko, as a pediatric anesthesiologist, ensured that all the children had appropriate support during surgical interventions, evacuations, and transportation to other medical facilities. These doctors will not remember the names of all the children they helped, but they will never forget the traumas and procedures they performed. Nor will they forget their faces or the terror in the eyes of these children. The pleading eyes, which begged for their parents, brothers, sisters, their home... and it was those physicians, who would, all-to-often, have to deliver the worst news to the children that they managed to save.

After working days and nights without rest, they often bore the burden of telling these young patients that their loved ones were lost, about the fact that there is nothing left of their past life. Nothing except for the mental anguish these innocent children would have to carry now for the rest of their lives. So, even after healing the physical wounds of war, these doctors often stood witness to and internalized themselves the enormous psychological suffering that followed. Even so, there have been moments of happiness and hope. On one day in June 2022, among the daily flood of wounded soldiers, there was a pregnant woman evacuated emergently from a village near the frontlines. It is very unusual to hear the cry of a newborn in this mobile military hospital unit, even though before the war this was indeed a newborn floor. Everybody remembered the name of this girl – Darynka. Her birth was one of the very rare flashes of joy amidst war – a transient moment of bliss at the start of the new life, while the rest of the time there is an ongoing battle against death. This was a rare opportunity to count blessings during tragedy. But the toil remains, and these battles have been ongoing for over 16 months now.

During this time, these doctors enjoyed only a short visit home, for 10 days in the summer of 2022. Amidst over 430 days of war, they had 10 days to spend with time with those for whom they are fighting. Their hair is growing gray, their foreheads are covered in wrinkles, their legs are swollen, as they are the last ones to leave their duties, exhausted after many hours during the day and night near the operating tables. Their scrubs, soaked in blood and sweat, are sticking to their bodies, and their feet so swollen that they need to wear shoes of larger sizes. The stains on the scrubs are permanent and do not come out with laundering. *(continued on next page)*

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10 days was a welcome respite, but typically the mobile military hospital has been both their home and work for the past year. For over 16 months, they have been taking 24-hour calls without breaks, days off, and on limited amounts of sleep, especially during massive attacks. Admissions during these surges often involve over 100 complex polytrauma patients in a single day or even more than 50 within a 2-hour window. Most of these cases come from devastating blast or ballistic shrapnel wounds, and less frequently from simple gunshot wounds. Severe burns, including those from white phosphorous incendiary munitions, commonly accompany and complicate these wounds. Sadly, these surges of severe and complex cases are seen frequently.

Patient triage is critical for the most efficient work by trauma teams composed of surgeons, anesthesiologists and support staff. This triaging relies on rapid assessment of patient's stability and complexity of trauma, allowing the team to prioritize those who need immediate surgical intervention and hemodynamic stabilization (i.e., patients with intraabdominal and chest traumas, massive hemorrhages, and large open wounds) versus those who can wait. Medical transportation and support during the trip must be arranged for many patients in need of higher-level care. As such, there are sometimes fewer physicians available in the hospital, and the team may be short-staffed while some members are traveling. At times there is only one anesthesiologist simultaneously taking care of patients with multiple operating rooms. More stable patients may have surgical interventions delayed and receive only temporizing wound care while they wait. And the aftercare for all of this is similarly daunting, since the number of wound changes and dressings may number in the thousands in this hospital. If all this is not bad enough, the Russian invaders purposefully attack ambulances, hospitals, transfusion centers and pharmacies.

Every trip to evacuate the wounded poses a great risk from snipers, artillery, rockets and mine fields. In the spring of 2022, their medical team was urgently evacuating a frontline hospital as the Russian forces were rapidly approaching and massively shelling. Healthcare workers had 10 minutes to evacuate patients, themselves and essential equipment. During this short time, they had to make agonizing decisions about what could be saved and what would be sacrificed. They had to move quickly to save their own lives and those of their patients, still knowing that every piece of equipment left behind would limit the medical help they could provide as the newly wounded came in.

War teaches people to tolerate things that were unthinkable in the past. Those on the frontlines now live without normal food, warm water, beds; they share rooms and bathrooms, in conditions that were unheard of just over a year ago. And despite all of this, they show up for work every day and continue to communicate with fellow professionals in the outside world: they share their work and experience at conferences and symposiums, they discuss patient cases with their colleagues in Lviv, they collaborate with the organizations who help ensure proper delivery of needed medical supplies to frontline military hospitals. Medical supplies are used up rapidly on the frontlines. The needs for consumable supplies like wound care dressings, antiseptics and the like are enormous.

Pain medications require constant replenishment. Medical equipment suffers from heavy use and damage from shelling and frequent transportation due to relocations. This is why humanitarian aid is essential for the functionality of these frontline medical units. These hospitals rely on a lifeline of ongoing replenishment of supplies and equipment. With the help of volunteers and aid organizations, including UMANA, many of these needs are filled. Frontline physicians are especially appreciative of high-quality equipment such as Portable Multifunctional Monitor-Defibrillator ZOLL X Series, Portable Ventilator ZOLL EMV+, Ultrasonic scalpel High-quality diathermos-coagulation; surgical and wound care equipment (Vascular linear staplers, Hemostatic clips, biological glue). With equipment such as this, they can decrease the number of those who will have lifelong traumas and are able to save lives not only of military personnel, but also civilian adults and children, who will hopefully return home one day.

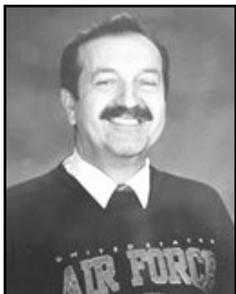
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With ongoing support from volunteers, Drs. Sobko, Dr. Beshley and doctors like them, find the strength to continue their tireless work and continue to believe in victory. These physicians practice in an environment where life ends, and hell begins. But even in the hell brought by this invasion, they perform their duties with honor. They are the ones who continue answering the call to serve and heal patients, even though they now must do so while carrying weapons of war slung over their white coats. They are Ukrainian doctors who accepted the call to protect their country and its people.



For their sacrifices for the people of Ukraine, Dmytro Beshley, Roman Sobko and Andriy Sobko received the Presidential Order of Bohdan Khmelnytsky 3 grade (2015-2016) and the state scholarship (2018), medal "For a saved life" (2022). But the biggest award for them would be Ukrainian Victory. These three physicians, just like many others who are working on the frontlines, have the skills and experience to provide high quality healthcare for those in need. They will continue to do so for the people of Ukraine until victory is achieved.



Wasyl Stefaniuk  
July 6, 1939 - May 7, 2025

## IN MEMORIAM

### WASYL STEFANIUK

Submitted by: *Commander Roman Rakowsky, PNC*

Wasyl left this world peacefully on May 7, 2025, at the age of 86, surrounded by the love of his family in Parma, Ohio. He was born on July 6, 1939, in Mykulychyn, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, to Petro and Kataryna Stefaniuk (née Sorokhmaniuk), who instilled in him the values of patriotism, industriousness, resilience, and compassion.



In 1944, during the height of World War II, Wasyl and his family fled their home in the Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine as refugees. They spent several years in displaced persons camps before finally departing from Bremerhaven, Germany, aboard the USAT General Harry Taylor, immigrating to the United States in December 1949. After arriving at Ellis Island, the family settled in Cleveland, Ohio.

Wasyl was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War era. He enlisted in 1959 and served until 1962, where he served with distinction as an Air Policeman. Upon separating from the military, he embraced a teaching career that spanned more than 40 years with the Cleveland Public School District. Wasyl married the love of his life, Stefania, on December 27, 1980, and together they built a beautiful family. Together, they raised five wonderful children: Stefan (Oksana); Wasyl; Katerina Treer; Myroslava Tidyman (Andrew); and Larissa Rudd (David). He was also blessed with a son, Marko, from a previous marriage in 1972.

Over the years, Wasyl remained actively involved in the Ukrainian community. He participated in numerous Ukrainian organizations, including the Hutsul Friendship Association, which he personally founded, and was a proud member of the Ukrainian American Veterans, Post 24, in Parma, Ohio.

As we remember Wasyl, let us carry forward his legacy of peace, love, kindness, and devotion to family and community. His competitive spirit and unwavering support will be dearly missed — but never forgotten. Rest in peace, Wasyl. You have left a lasting impact in our hearts and minds that will remain with us forever.

**Vichnaya Pamyat.**

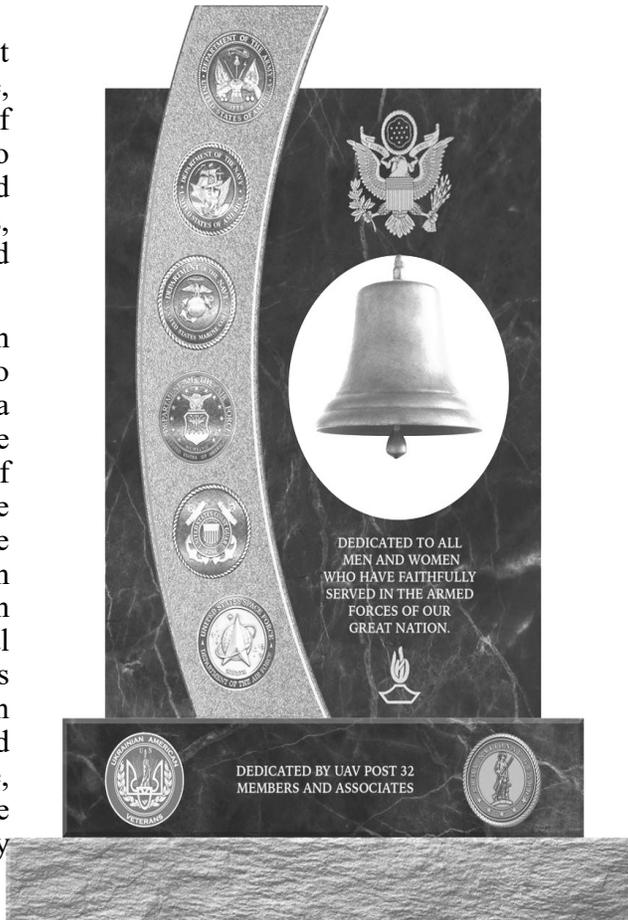
# Ukrainian American Veterans Memorial: Honoring Their Legacy

Submitted by: Wasyl Mirutenko *Vice Commander, Post 32 Chicago*

Post 32—Chicago has taken on a new objective. They are planning to erect a monument, dedicated to Military veterans. Below is an artistic rendering of the monument and all the pertinent information regarding its existence.

This initiative is a heartfelt tribute to the courage, sacrifice, and legacy of Ukrainian Americans who have served in the United States Armed Forces, defending freedom and democracy for generations.

For decades, the Ukrainian American Veterans Chicago chapter has envisioned a memorial that celebrates the bravery of Americans of Ukrainian ancestry who have served our nation. Today, we are proud to bring this vision to life. The Ukrainian American Veterans Memorial will be located on the grounds of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and Cemetery in Bloomingdale, Illinois, alongside the Holodomor and Heavenly Hundred Memorials.



To bring this dream to fruition, we aim to raise \$75,000. These funds will be dedicated to constructing a dignified monument and creating a serene space for reflection and remembrance. This memorial will not only honor the sacrifices of Ukrainian American soldiers but also provide solace for families, friends, and the broader community to commemorate their loved ones.

We need your support to make this vision a reality. Every donation will have a profound impact. By contributing, you will play a vital role in honoring these heroes and ensuring their sacrifices are remembered for generations to come.

In 2025, we will raise funds for the Ukrainian American Veterans Memorial Fund to create a lasting tribute to the heroes whose service has played a pivotal role in shaping the future of our nation. We are currently raising funds for the **Ukrainian American Veterans Memorial Fund** to create a lasting tribute to the heroes whose service has played a pivotal role in shaping the future of our nation. This memorial will honor Ukrainian American Veterans by recognizing their courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to preserving the freedoms we hold dear.

This memorial will stand as a symbol of their bravery and sacrifice, ensuring their stories are never forgotten. Your contribution will help make this tribute a reality, one that will honor not only your family's service but the service of all Ukrainian American soldiers who have given so much for our country. Please consider making a donation to our campaign; UAV Post 32 Memorial Committee is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 (tax exempt) organization. Your generosity will help build a fitting tribute to those who served and protect their legacy for the future.

Together, we can ensure that their legacy of service and sacrifice lives on forever. Thank you for your support. For more information or additional payment options, contact Wasyl Mirutenko, wasyl.msforce@gmail.com, 773-983-8407. For those who wish to mail in their donations, they may do so to: UAV Post 32, 2135 W Potomac Ave., Chicago IL 60622.

To donate, please visit: [www.UAVMEMORIAL.ORG](http://www.UAVMEMORIAL.ORG) to make an immediate impact. Thank you for considering this meaningful way to pay tribute to your family's service and sacrifice. Together, we can ensure that their legacy is celebrated for generations.

**СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!**

**ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!**

# WHY RUSSIA CANNOT DEFEAT UKRAINE

By: Marvin L. Covault,  
Lt Gen US Army, retired - May 2, 2025

Side-by-side comparison showcasing the relative conventional fighting strengths  
of Ukraine and Russia using 2025 data.

Submitted by: UAV Commander Michael P. Hrycak

<u>Description</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Ukraine</u>	<u>Russia</u>
Total Population	Citizens	35,600,000	140,800,000
Available Manpower	Citizens	18,200,000	69,000,000
Fit for Service	Citizens	12,800,000	46,200,000
Reaching Military Age Annually	Citizens	392,000	1,267,000
Active Duty Personnel	Soldiers	900,000	1,320,000
Reserve Personnel	Soldiers	1,200,000	2,000,000
Paramilitary force	Soldiers	100,000	150,000
Defense Budget	U.S.Dollars	\$53 billion	\$126 billion
Fighter aircraft:	Airplanes	70	833
Helicopters	Helicopters	136	1,651
Attack helicopters	Helicopters	39	557
Tanks	Tanks	1,114	5,750
Armored vehicles	Vehicles	18,920	131,527
Self-propelled artillery	Artillery	658	5,168
Towed artillery	Artillery	615	8,505
Mobile rocket projectors	Launchers	279	3,005
Naval fleet strength	Ships	89	419

OK, it's a no-brainer. Russia dominates every category and should win easily.

## NOT SO FAST, LET'S BEGIN BY LOOKING AT SOME KEY ELEMENTS OF INVASION-101.

1. When planning a mass invasion, it makes sense to position the invading force as quickly as possible just before launching. The element of surprise is a force multiplier. Also, it gives the invaded country less time to prepare a defense. **RUSSIA DID NOT DO THIS.** For months in the summer and fall of 2021 and early in 2022, the Russian invading force assembled at multiple locations near Ukraine. A pending Russian invasion could not have been more evident to the world, and especially Ukraine.

2. Controlling airspace is a force multiplier. By comparing numbers, it looks like a no-brainer for Russia, ranked second in the world in aircraft inventory, against Ukraine, ranked 31st. Invasion-101 would suggest that on day one of the invasion, Russia would flood the sky with aircraft to accomplish three things. First, crater the runways at every airbase. Simultaneously, take out as much air defense capability as possible. Finally, destroy as many Ukrainian aircraft as possible on the ground. Deflate the enemy by taking out their air power immediately. **RUSSIA DID NOT DO THIS.**

3. Unity of command, a must-have. While the attacking force will take place at differing access points, it only makes sense to have a single theater commander to optimize air/ground operations and allocate other resources to most effectively inflict maximum damage on the enemy, create shock and awe. **RUSSIA DID NOT DO THIS;** They had five co-equal commanders in theater.

4. Prioritize logistics. Two rules. Do not attack until sufficient critical supplies, such as ammunition and fuel, are in theater and properly positioned to support the force. Additionally, be prepared to move supplies as rapidly as the attacking force moves. **RUSSIA DID NOT DO THIS.** Soon after launching the attack, some elements literally began running out of gas and lost their momentum. It also gave Ukraine time to adjust and strengthen its defense while the five commanders argued over who would get the next supply shipment.

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*“Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival.”*

*Winston Churchill*

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5. Untrained soldiers. The Russian military is not a popular organization and thus has few volunteers. It is essentially a conscript force with a large percentage of the force, at any point in time, during their one year of mandatory service. Following basic training and assignment to a unit, many of the soldiers may not have even participated in a unit field training exercise before they are moved into the reserves after one year.

6. Poor leadership at the point of execution. Why? Russia has never invested in, created, or fielded a professional non-commissioned corps; the heart and soul of our military. Their culture has always been and continues to be centralized decision-making at a senior level, usually lieutenant colonel and above. The result is that a squad leader engaged with the enemy is not authorized to make critical, timely tactical decisions on the ground, thereby losing momentum and failing to take advantage of targets of opportunity. They seriously lack unity of effort among the squads, platoons, and companies in a combat battalion.

7. Poor morale. Most soldiers do not want to be in the military. One reason is that basic training is noted for its brutal hazing. During the first years following the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, while struggling to put together the Russian armed forces, soldiers were actually starving to death, not paid, and suffering through winters without adequate housing.

Putin did a special 160,000-man call-up for the Ukraine invasion. In an immediate two-week period, an estimated 370,000 young Russian men fled the country while facing a 10-year prison sentence for purposely avoiding military service.

Soldiers deliberately sabotaging their own vehicles and weapons has and continues to be a serious problem. “The vehicle that is transporting me to the front lines will run out of gas before we get there if there is a small hole in the gas tank”.

According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, at least 172,000 Russian soldiers have been killed and 611,000 wounded in the first three years of combat. That’s an average of 715 kia/wia EVERY DAY.

### **TWO REALITIES HAVE GUIDED THIS WAR**

UKRAINE: For about eight years before the February 2022 invasion, Ukraine had been anticipating Putin’s actions and, therefore, planning and training precisely how to execute a defense in depth with motivated troops.

RUSSIA: This has not been the General’s war from the beginning of the invasion planning. Many suggest this has been Putin’s war with he and his security group calling the shots.; also known as “amateur hour” resulting in 715 killed or wounded Russian soldiers every day and struck in-place with about 20% of Ukrainian land occupied, not in a few days but in over three years of combat.

### **BOTTOM LINE**

Why can’t Russia win? The Ukrainians are fighting for their lives, while the Russians, along with their North Korean augmentees, are not sure why they are fighting and dying.

***“It’s not the big armies that win wars; it’s the good ones.”***



*“The object of war is not to die for your country  
but to make the enemy die for his”  
George S. Patton*

# THE PUCKLE GUN - SHOOTING SQUARE BULLETS

Submitted by: Bohdan, UAV Publication Officer

The Puckle Gun came from the mind of James Puckle, a British lawyer, inventor and writer. He was aware that the Royal Navy was struggling to combat Ottoman pirates, and thus began designing a gun that could serve as a rapid-fire anti-boarding weapon.

In 1717, Puckle submitted a prototype of his gun to the Board of Ordnance for trials, which immediately rejected it over issues with the flintlock mechanism. This didn't stop him, however, from filing a patent the following year.

While he now legally owned his design, Puckle failed to find enough investors to mass produce the gun. While the exact totals are unknown, it's widely believed only two were manufactured: the prototype, made from iron, and one full-scale production model, constructed from brass.

The Puckle Gun, as it became known as, was a single-barrel flintlock weapon fitted with a manually-operated revolving cylinder. Consisting of a three-foot-long barrel, its cylinder had the ability to fire nine rounds per minute – an impressive total, given more traditional muskets could only fire three. Depending on the configuration, between six and 11 bullets could be stored in it at any one time.



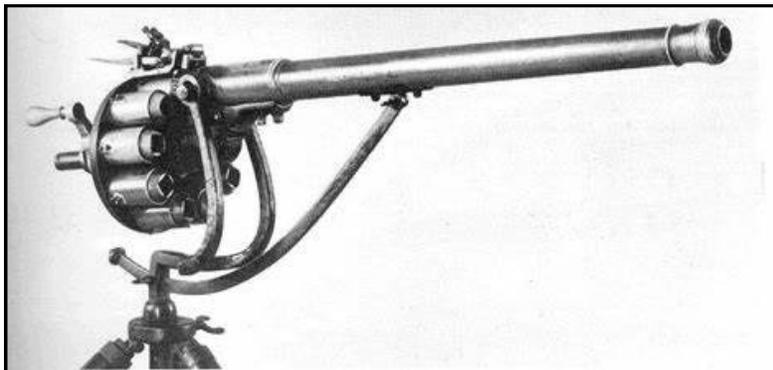
The Puckle Gun never saw action on the battlefield

Operators could fire the Puckle Gun much the same way they did a traditional flintlock musket. After each shot, the crank at the rear revolved, allowing the shooter to manually turn the cylinder to the next chamber. Once sealed, the mechanism was primed for firing.

The interesting thing about the tripod-mounted gun was that it was designed to fire both circular and square bullets. The circular rounds were designed to operate under the intended configuration, while the square bullets were targeted against the Ottomans. At the time, it was (incorrectly) believed the latter would cause more serious injuries, which would, in turn, “convince the Turks of the benefits of Christian civilization.”

As the 1717 trials showed, the Puckle Gun had some serious issues it couldn't overcome. The flintlock mechanism was faulty, and the system itself was far too complicated to mass produce. Some pamphlets even joked that it was more likely to hurt the person operating it, rather than the intended target.

Given these issues and the lack of faith in the weapon, the Puckle Gun never saw the battlefield. While a shipping manifest related to John Montagu, 2nd Duke of Montagu, Master-General of the Ordnance's unsuccessful invasions of St. Lucia and St. Vincent says two were acquired, there's no evidence to prove they ever saw action. (Source) War History Online & Google.



The Puckle gun mechanism was essentially a flintlock revolver; the design concept behind the Puckle gun turned out to be years ahead of what was technologically achievable with 18th century technology. The first practical guns using this design principle are now known as revolver cannons.



The Puckle gun had two versions. One to shoot round projectiles to be used against Christian foes. The second shot square bullets to use against all others. It was believed that the inventor thought square bullets were more painful.



James Puckle (1667–1724)  
British lawyer, inventor and writer

# MAKIVKA, UKRAINE 1915: THE BATTLE THAT FORGED A NATION

By Bohdan Cherniawski - May 04th, 2025

Submitted by: Mark Datzkiwsky – UAV Adjutant

On May 4, 1915, the thunder of artillery and rifle fire faded across the slopes of Mount Makivka in the Carpathian Mountains. For six days, the mountain had been a battleground between the Imperial Russian Army and the defending forces of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, bolstered by an extraordinary unit—the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen (Січові Стрільці). The battle, though one among thousands in the chaos of World War I, became a foundational episode in the military and national awakening of the Ukrainian people.

Though the Austro-Hungarian army ultimately ordered a tactical withdrawal, the stand made by the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen halted the Russian offensive and prevented a breakthrough into Hungary. More than that, Mount Makivka became a crucible for Ukrainian national consciousness, a symbol of courage, and a touchstone for the emergence of a distinct Ukrainian military tradition.



Makivka 3 Ukrainian Sich Riflemen officers Zenon Noskovskyi, Olena Stepaniv, Ivan Chmola, Osyp Yarymowych, and Sofia Halechko on Mount Makivka, 2 January 1916

## The Strategic Context: Eastern Front in Crisis

In early 1915, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was faltering under the weight of aggressive Russian offensives. The Eastern Front stretched across vast terrain, and the Russian Army had made alarming gains in Galicia. Russian high command eyed the Carpathian passes as gateways to Hungary, the agricultural and economic heart of the empire. A successful penetration here could sever Austria from its allies and tilt the balance of the war.

Against this backdrop, the defense of Mount Makivka—located in present-day western Ukraine—took on vital importance. Assigned to hold this terrain was the 55th Austro-Hungarian Infantry Division, which included two battalions of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen. Though nominally under Habsburg command, these Riflemen were not fighting for an empire, they were fighting for the honor and future of the Ukrainian nation, long suppressed by partitioning powers.

## The Ukrainian Sich Riflemen: Volunteers with a Vision

Formed in 1914, the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen were the first organized modern Ukrainian military formation since the Cossack era. Composed largely of young Galician volunteers—students, educators, intellectuals, and laborers—their mission was clear: to prove that Ukrainians could organize, fight, and lead as a nation.

Under the command of Colonel Yosyp Vitoshynskyy, the Riflemen brought discipline, strategic acumen, and a fierce sense of identity. Among their ranks stood Second Lieutenant Olena Stepaniv, a woman whose leadership in the trenches of Makivka would make her the first female officer in the modern Ukrainian army. Her service marked a historic moment—not only for Ukraine’s military evolution but also for the emerging role of women in liberation movements across Eastern Europe.

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*When you're young, it feels like you have forever to chase dreams, build relationships, and do all the things you want. Then one day, you look back and wonder where the years went. The sooner you realize that now is the time to live, the fewer regrets you'll have later. Editor*

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## **The Battle Unfolds**

The assault on Mount Makivka began on April 29, 1915. Russian forces launched a frontal attack, relying on sheer numbers and brute force rather than maneuver or strategy. The Ukrainian Riflemen, entrenched and prepared, repelled the initial wave with discipline and intimate knowledge of the rugged terrain.

A second, more intense assault followed on April 30. Again, the Russians were thrown back, suffering heavy casualties. Frustrated by repeated failure, the Russian command summoned reserves from across the front in preparation for a final, all-out offensive.

The third and decisive assault came during the night of May 3–4. Under the cover of darkness, the Russians launched a ferocious attack. Intense, close-quarters combat raged in the trenches. The defenders held as long as possible, but by dawn, under the threat of encirclement and exhaustion, Austro-Hungarian high command ordered a tactical withdrawal.

Yet the Russian offensive had been broken. Nine days later, Russian forces withdrew from Mount Makivka, their advance permanently blunted.



**Banners of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen**

## **Human Cost and Immediate Outcome**

The Ukrainian Sich Riflemen paid dearly for their stand. Forty-two were killed, 76 wounded, and 35 taken prisoner. But their valor cost the Russian Empire far more: over 3,000 killed and more than 100 captured. Though a tactical retreat, the battle was a strategic triumph. The advance on Hungary was halted. The Carpathian line held. The myth of Russian invincibility in the mountains was shattered.

## **Birth of a Ukrainian Military Tradition**

The Battle of Mount Makivka marked the emergence of the Ukrainian military ethos—a tradition of courage, resilience, and self-determination. For the first time in generations, Ukrainians fought under their own banners, commanded by their own leaders, in defense of their own people.

The Riflemen were transformed into national icons. Their sacrifice was immortalized in songs, poems, and folk memory. The stirring anthem “Oy u luzi chervona kalyna” (Oh, the Red Viburnum in the Meadow), inspired by their struggle, became a rallying cry for generations of Ukrainians in battles yet to come.

The heroism of Olena Stepaniv resonated powerfully as well. Decorated for valor, she defied convention and became a beacon of both patriotism and progress. In postwar years, she would go on to shape Ukraine’s intellectual and civic life, a living symbol of national pride and resistance.

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*It's easy to assume that friendships will always be there, but as life gets busier, relationships slip through the cracks. If you don't actively make time for people, they start to disappear. By the time most people realize this, they've already lost connections they can't get back. Editor*

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## **From Makivka to Independence**

The legacy of Makivka did not end in 1915. Many of its veterans went on to serve in the Ukrainian Galician Army (UHA) during the Ukrainian War of Independence (1917–1921). Their experience in battle provided critical leadership and tactical expertise during the struggle to establish an independent Ukrainian state in the wake of imperial collapse.

Makivka planted the seeds of unity among Ukrainians—west and east, civilian and soldier, man and woman. It proved that Ukrainians were ready to lead their own destiny, not simply be pawns of foreign powers.

Even during the long decades of Soviet repression, when Ukrainian identity was denied and resistance criminalized, the story of Makivka survived—whispered in family homes, preserved by the diaspora, and kept alive in forbidden songs.

## **Commemoration and Modern Reflections**

In 1998, after nearly a decade of renewed independence, a memorial of 50 crosses was erected on Mount Makivka to honor the fallen Riflemen. Each cross stands for a life sacrificed—not merely for a hilltop, but for the future of a nation.

Today, the battle is honored in Ukrainian schools, military academies, and remembrance ceremonies. For the modern Ukrainian armed forces, the stand at Makivka is not just history—it is heritage.

And in the face of Russia’s 21st-century aggression, including the 2014 annexation of Crimea, the war in Donbas, and the full-scale invasion of 2022, the symbolism of Makivka has never been stronger. Ukrainian soldiers see themselves as heirs to that mountain stand—defenders of sovereignty in an unbroken chain of resistance against imperial tyranny.

## **Conclusion**

The Battle of Mount Makivka was more than a clash on a remote Carpathian peak—it was the moment when Ukraine’s military soul was forged. In the mud and blood of Makivka, the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen showed the world—and themselves—that they were not merely subjects of empires, but soldiers of a nation.

Their stand turned a tactical retreat into a strategic and symbolic victory. It proved that a long-divided and suppressed people could fight with unity, purpose, and discipline. From this crucible emerged a military identity rooted not in conquest, but in defense of freedom, dignity, and national destiny.

Over a century later, in the face of new invasions and familiar threats, Ukrainians still draw strength from that stand. Makivka 1915 was not the end of a battle, it was the beginning of a legacy. It was the battle that forged Ukraine’s military soul, and its fire still burns in every soldier who defends Ukraine today.

**Mount Makivka**



### **Editors note:**

**Makiivka is a leading metallurgical and coal-mining center of the Donets Basin, with heavy industry and coking plants supporting the local steel and coal industries. The city was captured by pro-Russian separatists in 2014 at the start of the war in Donbas and is currently occupied by Russia.**

*A big house, a fancy car, and the latest gadgets might seem important, but memories last longer than these trivial material things. The trips, adventures, and time spent with loved ones are what truly matter in the end. Editor*

## RETIREMENT OF BOHDAN DUDYCZ, STEPHEN KOSTECKI AND ROMAN STEFANIUK

The UAV National Executive Board has been informed of the retirements of Bohdan Dudycz, Stephen Kostecki and Roman Stefaniuk effective December 31, 2025. There will be a vigorous search for their replacements. Anyone interested in these positions should contact Commander Michael Hrycak 908-531-8800 or Adjutant Bohdan Hetmansky 240-350-7462.

**Bohdan Dudycz** has been a UAV member since 2014 and Publications Officer since 2016. He has worked in the printing industry since 1964. After a 3 year enlistment in the US Army, he married his H.S. sweetheart Genya in 1971. He has 3 adult children and 7 grandchildren.

He is a lifelong CYM member has served on the board of the Ukrainian National Museum and the Selfreliance Association.

Bohdan Organized and/or participated in many Post 32 and NEB Conventions, fundraisers and events. In the past 9 years, he produced 23 Tribunes and 9 Convention Journals plus extra issues or other UAV projects.

### Qualifications needed for the Publicity Officer Position

1. Have a strong command of the English language, Ukrainian is a plus.
2. Have computer skills in Microsoft or other publishing programs, a graphics program, etc., a camera or phone that produces high quality pictures.
3. Possess stronger computer equipment that will produce commercial quality printed product.
4. Have very good communication skills and always be searching for Tribune or Journal stories and graphics.
5. Have a sense of humor.

I thank all of the Board members and the total UAV membership for their support and continued encouragement. After 10 years in this position, I can only say with genuine modesty how I enjoyed the experience.

However, as they say on Broadway, every successful run must have a final curtain. Followed by the saying that goes, "It Ain't over till the fat lady sings". Well, she is warbling my song, and I look forward to exiting "Stage Right" where other exciting UAV adventures await me. Of course, I will be available, as a consigliere, to the next Publications Officer in his or her new position.



**It has been my sincere pleasure to be of service to our UAV organization.**

**Stephen Joseph Kostecki** joined the UAV Post 31 Boston, MA in 1994. After five years of active community volunteering, he was nominated to the National Executive board as the new National Quartermaster. He has served his post and the UAV continuously and faithfully for 26 years. He currently also holds the office of Post 31 Commander.

Stephen is from a military family. His late uncle Dr. Walter Kostecki was a Colonel who survived the Bataan Death March. Steve joined the U.S. Air Force in 1965 and retired after 20 years of service.

Steve has a wealth of knowledge about being a Quartermaster and he will happily advise his successor. His recommended qualifications for the office of Quartermaster are important and detailed.

The new Q/M must have an approachable nature. He has to be a "People Person" who can deal with Post Commanders, State Commanders and Members-at-Large. Their UAV needs like covers, medals, uniform accessories, and UAV memorabilia have to be kept in order and always available.

**This position requires:** A person who can deal with outside suppliers and vendors to maintain the UAV inventory. Also, the Q/M must attend UAV conventions and have items ready for sale to members.

Major festivals are important because the Q/M attends and maintains visibility as he disseminates informational materials to the general public. This person is often the first veteran to be seen and is asked many questions about the UAV and our purpose.

Steve Kostecki has been an important member in the UAV. His affable charm and earnest nature has often endeared him to others. His sense of camaraderie is foremost in dealing with others.

Steve has informed the NEB that this year's convention will be his last as Q/M. He is proud to have been of service to our organization and collectively, all who have worked with Steve feel he has gone "Above and Beyond" in his duties. Stephen will leave the office of Quartermaster but he pledges his support to the new person to achieve an easy transition. This office holds a term of two years (or maybe 26 years?).

*(continued on the following page)*

## RETIREMENT OF BOHDAN DUDYCZ, STEPHEN KOSTECKI AND ROMAN STEFANIUK

**Roman Stefaniuk** has been the Welfare Officer for the UAV since 2016, a total of nine years.

He has always been active in the Ukrainian community: a longstanding member of Plast, the Ukrainian Engineering Society, St. John's Ukr. Catholic Church, Parents Club of Immaculate Conception Ukr. Catholic Schools, Chernyk Ukr. Sports Club, Ukrainian-American Archives and Museum of Michigan, and the American Association of Woodturners.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for six years after graduating from the University of Detroit Jesuit High School in 1959. He has been married (to the same woman, Myrosia) for 59 years. They have two adult children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The time has come for this 86-year old veteran to step aside and let someone younger, with new ideas to take over the UAV Welfare Officer responsibilities. Upon retirement, he will get back to his wood lathe, drill press, chop saw and other fun equipment, and resume making birdhouses, vases, candlesticks and other art objects for family and friends, craft shows, Ukrainian art fairs and picnics.

### **The responsibilities for my successor**

He or she will need to organize and run an Annual Welfare Fund Drive by mailing approximately 500 requests to our veterans and Ukrainian Credit Unions asking for donations to support our Welfare program. Once the donations start coming in, they need to be recorded, and a receipt and thank you letter needs to be sent to each donor.

In these past nine years, the Welfare Committee has provided financial assistance to 83 UAV members by helping them with their medical expenses, funeral expenses, hurricane damage expenses and other financial needs in the form of grants and loans.

The total amount of financial help during this period was \$91,250 to our members and their families.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this function for the past nine years. I will finish the year with the necessary reports for the 2025 calendar year and will gladly advise the new officer on their duties.

## POST 31 RAISES FUNDS FOR GENERATORS

*Submitted by: Len Kondratiuk, PNC, Post 31 - Boston*

Post 31, Boston, Mass., voted last November to raise funds for solar powered generators for the Ukrainian



**Two soldiers from The 80th Air Assault Brigade,  
Electronic Warfare (jammers) team**

Army. We took our cue from Post 42, LeHigh Valley, PA that also raised funds for generators. Nearly all our members donated to the effort. Post member Adam Wasylyshyn funded two generators which cost \$2,400 each. We also received large donations from St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church and several of its parishioners. Those of you that served in the Army or Marine Corps are familiar with loud diesel generators that emit a dangerous overhead signature. Solar powered generators are quiet and do not emit a heat signature. Generators are critical for powering drones and other equipment. Post 31 has raised funds for 16 generators that are manufactured by New Use Energy Solutions, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona. UAV member Paul Shmotolokha is the CEO. Every generator has a blue and yellow sticker that states donated by Post 31, Ukrainian American Veterans.

**Glory to Ukraine!  
Glory to its Heroes!**



# YURIJ SHTYK, A SON'S LAMENT

Submitted by: Jerry Kindrachuk, Post 42 - LeHigh, PA

**A thank you letter from Yurij Shtyk. His father got his family out of Ukraine and went back to fight for our freedom and was killed. In his memory Post 42 initiated a fund drive to equip his father's brigade with solar powered generators. Our project took on a life of its own and raised enough funds so far to equip 17 brigades and 5 medical stabilization points with such generators. Today, our fundraising continues. We commend other posts, especially Post 31 in Boston, who have taken up this worthy cause. Jerry Kindrachuk**

Dear Ukrainian American Veterans,

The war in Ukraine is an extreme tragedy for the Ukrainian people.

My father Valery Shtyk was drafted into military service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He participated in events necessary to ensure the defense of Ukraine in repelling the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. On May 15, 2023, while serving in N.P. Grigorivka, Donetsk region, my father heroically died while performing his duties in combat. This terrible news came to our family, inflicting us with a soul piercing grief and indescribable pain. My family lost the dearest person in our lives, mom – a husband, and my sister and I – a father. My dear dad, who loved us and appreciated us, was full of dreams and plans for the future. Unfortunately this will no longer come true. He gave his life for his native land, for his family and for every Ukrainian. I, Yuri Shtyk, son of Valeriy, live in the town of Emmaus, Pennsylvania in the United States with my father's sister.

The world is not without good people. Fate brought me an extremely good person in Father Richard Jandras, a very responsive person, a smart priest, a talented teacher and a mentor. He supported me at this difficult time with kind words and compassionate guidance so that I can thrive in the American environment. My response is to try and be a humbled faithful friend to others. Father Richard also introduced me to other like-minded people. American citizens with an ancestry from Ukraine, who help Ukrainian people at such a difficult time. Specifically Ukrainian American Veterans Mr. Bohdan Zelechiwsky, Mr. Jerry Kindrachuk and Mrs. Leda Lada.

From the beginning of the current full-scale war in Ukraine, Ukrainian-American veterans have been helping to resist Russian aggression. They honor the memory of fallen soldiers, organize and participate in various patriotic ceremonies, promote supporting Ukraine, organize various life supporting projects or measures and provide financial support to help the families of departed heroes and their children.

They transfer weapons, equipment, medical generators and other much needed equipment for the Ukrainian army. In memory of the dead heroes at the National UAV monument in Boundbrook, they present banners with portraits of heroes, who died defending their homeland from Russian invaders. Their photos remind us of the cost of freedom, individual courage and self-sacrifice and will keep the memory of Ukrainian military personnel alive. One of these photos is my father, Valery. Thanks to the Ukrainian-American veterans, an auction of sale of paintings by Ukrainian-American artist Yuri Hura was organized. The proceeds from this effort were applied to the generators for the 56th brigade where my father's memory was honored. They also purchased generators and medical equipment for the 116th brigade where my father's brothers serve. Thanks to their organization, generators for 11 brigades and 5 medical centers were purchased.

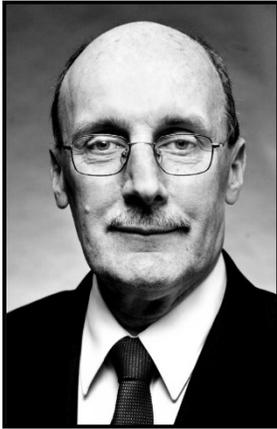
The support of veterans is very huge, at all levels, and this is very important for Ukraine. Veterans understand what war and victims are. They support Ukraine so that the Ukrainian people know that they are not forgotten. They have support from Americans who fight for them. This UAV organization deserves respect.

My sincerest thanks go to Ukrainian-American veterans for your huge support, that's extremely important for the military. I, my family and all Ukrainian people, appreciate every manifestation of support. We sincerely thank every person who is not tired of helping. Every day, Ukrainians choose the right to the future not only of their country but also in the civilized world. Every day, innocent people die, millions of our relatives are forced to choose the path of refugees. And Ukrainian defenders fight to protect their country, nation, culture, their language, history. Therefore, support is very important for Ukraine.

*A lot of people don't realize how good they have it until something goes wrong. People who've lost loved ones, dealt with health struggles, or seen major life changes understand that appreciating what you do have makes all the difference. Editor*

# RAYMOND DIAZ, POST 17 - TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

Submitted by: Commander James Fedorko, Post17



Raymond Diaz

Raymond Diaz, Post 17 Ukrainian American Veterans member has a Spanish last name because his father was born in Valparaiso, Chili. However, his mother Helena Poliszczuk was born in Maly Lazuchyn, Ukraine.

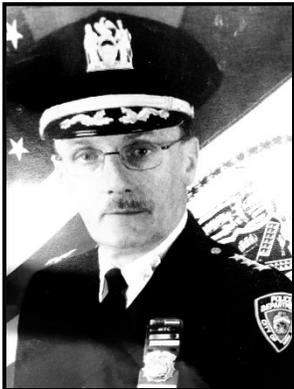
During World War II, at about the age of 16, her entire family perished, and she was taken to Breman, Germany. Miss Poliszczuk came to NYC, NY in 1947 on the ship named Ernie Pyle. Ernest Pyle was an American journalist best known for his stories about ordinary American soldiers during WWII.



Helena Poliszczuk

Helena Poliszczuk married Amador Diaz, and they had two sons, Raymond and his younger brother Jay, both born in New York City. After the birth of Jay in 1950, severely affected by the multiple traumas in her life, Raymond's mother was committed to a mental institution at the age of 24. Subsequently, Raymond and his little brother were separated from their parents and grew up in various Irish and Italian foster homes as children through the Catholic Home Bureau.

In September 1967, Raymond joined the United States Marine Corps and spent a little over two years in the service. His first duty station was Marine Barracks 8<sup>th</sup> & I, which is the oldest active post of the Marine Corps and founded by Thomas Jefferson. In December 1968, Ray was assigned to Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in Quang Nam, Vietnam. He achieved the rank of corporal, was wounded twice, received two purple heart medals and a Combat Action Ribbon.



Chief Raymond Diaz

Before joining the Marine Corps, Ray took the police academy test, and while in boot camp he was contacted by the police academy who offered him the opportunity to join. Since he was in the military, his spot in the academy was held for him. When he returned from the Vietnam War, he was saddened by the change in his country's culture. The only people he could identify with were fellow officers.

He entered the police academy and worked for 41 years as a police officer. After several assignments in NYC, Brooklyn, and Staten Island and many promotions, he became the Chief of the Transit Bureau, which was tasked with commanding over 2,500 police officers and supervisors assigned to patrol the NYC Transit System. He loved his job and only retired because of the age requirement. Not wanting to remain idle, he worked for three years as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Director of Security.

While Ray was blessed with an interesting life, it was his mother who had a true tragedy. Helena Poliszczuk was taken from her farmland during WWII, lost her family, and displaced to foreign lands (Germany and the USA). She broke down mentally at the age of 24 and remained in a mental institution for the remainder of her 48 years, never to see her children. In her memory, a scholarship was started at the St. George Ukrainian Catholic School in New York city.

*"Time may pass, but not one day goes by that my mother isn't in my heart. The day she left is not just a date on a calendar, it was the day my very existence changed forever."*

*Anonymous*

# CZECH CAR KILLED MORE NAZI OFFICERS THAN ACTIVE COMBAT

War History Online · Military History & War News

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publicity Officer



If you visit Prague, Czechoslovakia, pay a visit to their very lovely National Technical Museum. It's awesome and worth a visit. Because if you do go, you'll see a sleek, silver 1937 Tatra 77a automobile parked on the ground floor, which you will learn was shockingly good at killing Nazis during World War II.

In 1934, Czech vehicle manufacturer Tatra, a company led by legendary engineer Hans Ledwinka, launched the first serially produced, aerodynamically designed car called the T77. It was streamlined and

sleek, with a body shaped in a wind tunnel and a prominent fin on its back, like some glossy fish car from the future. It was partly designed by Paul Jaray, the engineer behind the aerodynamics of Zeppelin.

Since the T77 needed to be as aerodynamic as possible, Tatra minimized the T77's front face area and stuck the engine (a 2.97-liter air-cooled V8, good for 59 horsepower) in the back, right above the rear axle. This allowed the car to reach speeds of 90 mph, which were considered extremely fast in those pre-war days.

In 1935, the T77 was improved to create its successor, the 77a. The displacement of the V8 was increased to 3.4 liters and power jumped to 70 HP, with a top speed of 93 mph. The cars were among the most advanced and high-tech of their time.

Underneath their flashy exteriors the T77 and 77a both had four-wheel independent suspension that used swing axles in the back and a transverse leaf spring system in the front.

Stunning as they were to look at, though, the T77 and the 77a were traumatic to drive. Thanks to an extreme rear weight bias and long wheelbase, the T77 and 77a were said to have acutely twitchy handling. It would be altogether too simple to overlook a corner and have the heavy rear swing out into a dangerous oversteer. Tire technology from the 1930s was less developed and didn't help to stabilize the body.

The German occupation of Czechoslovakia lasted from 1938 to 1945. The stylish and fast Tatras were very appealing to the Nazis and they rose in popularity with high-ranking SS officers. Trouble rose when those Nazi officers tried to go fast in their new cars, though. Many of them kept crashing and dying.

British writer Steve Cole told the Telegraph:

"These high-ranking Nazi officers drove this car fast but unfortunately the handling was rubbish, so at a sharp turn they would lose control, spin out and wrap themselves round a tree killing the driver more often than not. The Allies referred to the Tatra cars as their secret weapon against the Nazis.

"More high-ranking Nazi officers were killed in car crashes in the Tatra 77 (and T87) than were killed in active combat. It goes to show that being too flashy doesn't get you anywhere and will leave you dead."

Eventually, though, Tatra was able to improve the handling of the 77a's successor, the T87. Its engineers shortened the wheelbase by 12 inches and cast its engine from a lightweight alloy, according to Hemmings. The resulting car was nearly 900 pounds lighter than the outgoing model. This car has long been out of production.



# A MARATHON RUNNER WITH THE HEART OF A CHAMPION

Submitted by Bohdan Dudycz, UAV Publicity officer



Alexa Weres, granddaughter of UAV Member Bohdan Dudycz

Alexa Weres is a young woman who refuses to retreat from a challenge. Born in 2000, she is a true Gen Z member (also known as Zoomer) who is self-driven and ambitious. She heard of a Half-Marathon to be held in Chicago in May. This personal challenge intrigued her, so she registered and was placed in the running queue. On the morning of May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 AM the starting gun was fired.

Alexa ran 13.1 miles through a Chicago Urban route in 2 hours and 10 seconds. (I told her I could match her race, but it would take me 2 days and 10 seconds). She was met near the finish line by her parents who easily found her among the thousands of runners when she waved the Ukrainian flag. After a brief celebration and a well-deserved brunch, Alexa retired to her favorite family couch to rejuvenate.

Our conversation continued and when asked how she felt, Alexa sighed and replied, “Tired but satisfied”. Would you do it again? She said “NO! I set the bar and achieved my personal best; I’m done with marathons”. I told her that Baba and Dido are proud of her. She graced us with an angelic smile as she succumbed to a richly deserved slumber.

# POST 1 – PHILADELPHIA HONORS UKRAINIAN WOUNDED



Our colors lead the Ukrainian contingent on Independence Day in 121st Glenside parade.

# INTRODUCING OUR NEW NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz & Mark Datzkiwsky



PVT Mark Datzkiwsky

Mark Datzkiwsky, our new National Adjutant, was born in Newark, NJ, on March 28th, 1969. He was baptized at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in the Vailsburg section of Newark, where he grew up and attended parochial school. He continued his high school, education at Seton Hall Prep, where during his junior year, in 1986, he signed up for the US Army Reserve, under the Delayed Entry Program. He soon started drilling with the 78 th Lightning Division at the Kilmer Facility in Edison, NJ, ending his “career” with the Ukrainian Youth Association of America (SUMA).

Upon graduating high school in June of 1987, he attended Basic Training at Fort Bliss, TX. After coming home, he attended Seton Hall University and at the end of his freshman year in May of 1988, he attended his Advanced Individual Training at the US Army Supply School in Fort Jackson, SC. He completed his training as a Unit Supply Specialist (MOS 76Y) as an honor graduate. He came home to continue his education, drill with the 78th Division and work at Prolog Research and Publishing Corporation in Newark, NJ.

At Prolog, an important Ukrainian émigré organization funded by the CIA, Mark met and worked with two Ukrainian American Vietnam heroes, Roman Kupchinsky and Petro R. Sodol, Major US Army (retired). He gained experience in working for the Ukrainian cause at Prolog, being there to greet an independent Ukraine in 1991. In 1990, Mark’s US Army Reserve obligation finished,. For him, serving in the Reserves was important to get military discipline and training, learning how to handle weapons, from the .50 caliber machine gun down to the .45 caliber pistol, and the 9mm pistol, He continued his college education graduating from NJ’s Rutgers University, with a BA in Political Science in May of 1993, which also marked the end and closure of Prolog. This was a sad day for the Ukrainian community, because Prolog would have continued to be an important conduit between the United States and Ukraine.

In 1993, Mark went to work for Essex County, NJ government and entered graduate school. He graduated from La Salle University in Philadelphia, PA with an MA in Central and East European Studies in May of 1996. He was active in the Executive of the Ukrainian American Democratic Association (UADA), serving in various board positions, taking part in many local and national election campaigns and organizing four testimonial dinners for great Ukrainian politicians, including Joseph Lesawyer, a legacy member of UAV, longtime Ukrainian National Association (UNA) President, apolitical leader and another important mentor in Mark’s life. Also, in the 1990’s and 2000’s, Mark was active in many Ukrainian organizations, including the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, World Congress of Free Ukrainians, Ukrainian National Association and Shevchenko Scientific Society.

In 1996, Post 6 Commander Julian Bemko, DMD, after the UADA honored him at their 1995 testimonial, found out that Mark was an honorably discharged veteran and asked him to join the UAV. Mark was sworn into the UAV at the Post 6 HQ at the Ukrainian Center in Irvington, NJ on June 11th , 1996. Post 6 were mostly WWII vets at that time, and they held their meetings at 12pm during a weekday. Mark joined the UAV for a short time. He was young and working and not able to attend meetings and other functions so his membership lapsed. A familiar story for many of us.

In November 2024, Mark spoke with the newly elected National Commander Michael Hrycak and he asked Mark if he was a veteran. Mark said yes and ultimately was again sworn in to Post 6.

Subsiquently, National Commander Michael Hrycak asked Mark he would serve as National Adjutant, since the position became recently vacant. Mark said he would be honored to serve with such a qualified and excellent group as the current UAV National Executive Board. Mark feels that it is twice as important to serve now, because in addition to caring for our UAV members and finding new ones, the UAV must be on the forefront of advocating for continued American support for Ukraine at war!

*(continued on the page) 27)*

*(continued from the previous page)... National Adjutant*

In the ensuing years, between 1996 and now, Mark has moved through a career of different political, business and academic positions, winding up in Catholic higher education at Seton Hall University in 2017. There, he had organized five solid Ukrainian-themed conferences and a plethora of other conferences in the School of Diplomacy and Department of Catholic Studies. One of his proudest moments at the Hall was to bring Metropolitan Borys Gudziak to the May 2023 Commencement, as keynote speaker and have an honorary degree conferred on this truly holy man and advocate for Ukraine, celebrating the over 105-year Setonian-Ukrainian relationship! Mark continues to advocate for Ukraine in all available Catholic colleges and universities in the New York Metropolitan Area and beyond, which his experience at Seton Hall and the Catholic Church has gotten him access, too. He has also joined the St. George's Ukrainian Festival Committee in NYC, because he remembers that when he was a teenager and young adult Post 7 was an important part of the festival since its start in 1976.



Adjutant Mark Datzkiwsky

Being National Adjutant has allowed Mark to expand his advocacy for Ukraine to its fullest potential in these last seven months. He enjoys interacting with the posts and members, as his position requires. He realizes that being part of a veteran organization gets respect and results in any advocacy. He hopes to continue to serve you, as long as he is able and needed. In his family life, he has only one brother left, an aunt and a few cousins. The UAV members are his extended family now. Mark is a bachelor, who is “married” to the Ukrainian cause, but enjoys the close company of his beloved girlfriend, torn by the war from Ukraine, who gives him a moment of respite from the demands of advocacy and work, but inspires him to do more for Ukraine!

**Editor:** We welcome Mark Datzkiwsky our new National Adjutant. His background is impressive and is eclipsed only by his love of country and his ancestry. We wish him all the best in his new position and I'm sure he will fit comfortably in the company of his compatriots. In addition, our “Batchelor’s club” will increase by one. Steve Kostecki and Nick Skirka can't wait to share the ponderous duties of bachelorhood. They are in need of a new activities director. Welcome aboard Mark!

## UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS TALKING POINTS

*Submitted by: National Commander Michael P. Hrycak*

### **1. Preamble: Ukrainian American Veterans request President Trump’s continuing support of Ukraine**

Be it resolved, the Ukrainian American Veterans request President Donald J. Trump’s continuing military support of Ukraine, as President Trump first approved lethal military aid to Ukraine. Since 2015, the U.S. Army has been training Ukrainian Soldiers in Combined Arms Warfare, initially at Yavoriv Combat Training Center in Western Ukraine. In 2022, JMTG-U (Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine) relocated to Grafenwoehr and resumed its role of training Armed Forces of Ukraine in Germany. Since then, the training continues to evolve based on the needs of and in coordination with the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Since relocating to Germany, JMTG-U has been manned by TF Gator, 53rd IBCT, Florida Army National Guard; TF Orion, 27<sup>th</sup> IBCT, New York Army National Guard; TF Bowie, 39th IBCT, Arkansas Army National Guard; and TF Thunder, 155th ABCT, Mississippi Army National Guard. Currently, since October 1, 2024, manned by Task Force Independence, 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

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

Be it resolved, the Ukrainian American Veterans are heartened that Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth attending the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of Ukraine Defense Contact Group on February 12, 2025, and commend Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin for his past leadership of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, comprised of representatives of 57 (32 NATO and 25 more) allies of Ukraine, the leader through their twenty fifth meeting, on January 10, 2025, following the February, 2022 Russian large scale invasion, that address neutralizing and degrading the Russian Armed Forces in Ukraine, with the end state of said forces being incapable of conduct military operations at the operational and strategic level, emphasizing they will meet Ukraine’s immediate needs as well as those for the long haul. The UDCG has established eight capability coalitions that have been established: Air Force, Air Defense, Artillery, Maritime Security, Armor, Information Technology, De-mining and Drones.

*(continued on Page 28)*

(continued from page 27) ... Talking Points

And so, for each of these, you have two, or sometimes three allies and partners that are standing up to lead, committing to lead and organize efforts to build this capability area of Ukraine's force. A new addition, the capability coalition leadership group, discussed progress and looked to coordinate the way ahead for cross-cutting issues. Leading this group is: Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and the United Kingdom. "They all stepped up to lead the capability coalitions and to commit resources and personnel to this critical task," former Defense Secretary Austin said. "And their leadership is a testament to the unity and resolve and our insight today." There are over 30 UDCG countries that have already committed to one or more capability coalition either in a leadership role or in a participation role, and some of the leaders of these coalitions include Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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

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

**4. Preamble: the battle to regain Ukraine's sovereignty and freedom will require support from those fighting in the trenches, their leadership, and Ukrainians around the world.**

Be it resolved – the actions of President Zelensky, in a reinvigorated pursuit of eradication of corruption, and change of leadership, has shown a renewed resoluteness for Ukraine, engendering additional military support in the form of frontline armor, and training to NATO standards, which will serve the cause of freedom for Ukraine. Recently six Corps Headquarters were stood up, with Ukrainian Army Brigades assigned, aligning with NATO standards Ukraine Aid Tracker

<https://www.ifw-kiel.de/topics/war-against-ukraine/ukraine-support-tracker/>

**5. Preamble: in assessing the tactical, operational, and strategic capabilities of Ukraine, continued, robust support will be essential;**

Be it resolved, the current military training, both technical and tactical, being conducted by the United States, which has the Security Assistance Group-Ukraine (SAG-U) in charge, United Kingdom, Canada, Poland, and other allies (Ukraine Defense Contact Group has 57 members), has created a frontline Ukrainian mechanized force, equipped with NATO frontline equipment, now conducting a counteroffensive to retake and secure the Ukrainian territory and its freedom loving people, and prevent any future incursions. Office of the Secretary of Defense and the U.S. European Command (EUCOM), through the Security Assistance Group-Ukraine (SAG-U), coordinate international military training for Ukraine with the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, other multinational groups, and individual countries. According to SAG-U data, during the first 2 years of the war following Russia's full-scale invasion (February 24, 2022–February 23, 2024), more than 30 countries helped train about 116,000 Ukrainians at training sites located outside of Ukraine. The U.S. provided training to about 16 percent of this total. As of May 17, 2024, the total number of Ukrainians trained outside Ukraine had increased to about 127,000, according to DOD officials.

**6. Preamble – modern warfare is dynamic, constantly evolving and adjusting to current conditions, with Ukraine leading in developing effective future forces.**

Be it resolved- the dynamism and adaptation of current doctrine by developing new tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP), utilizing front-line NATO equipment and doctrine, places Ukraine in a superior position during the long-war phase of the current crisis, the Russian incursion on February 24, 2022, as well as the invasion of Crimea and Luhansk and Donetsk Regions of Donbas, almost eleven years ago. The Ukrainian leadership, civilian and military, along with changes in U.S. policy allowing long range fires into Russian territory, has adapted and overcome all adversity by preventing the Russian Armed Forces from achieving any strategic objective since the 2014 invasion of Ukraine, while the attrition of their forces exceeds their modest tactical gains.

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to Her Heroes!  
Ukrainian American Veterans



Michael P. Hrycak  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired  
Commander  
February 21, 2025



# POST 32—CHICAGO THIRD COLF FUNDRAISER

## Another Hole-in-One event

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, NEB Publicity Officer  
Photos by: Stanley Wlodowski



95 golfers are in the group photograph. For the sake of participant recognition it was decided to split the photo in half. This is the left half.



95 golfers are in the group photograph. For the sake of participant recognition it was decided to split the photo in half. This is the right half.

On Monday June 16, 2025, Post 32 - Chicago hosted a third golf tournament to raise funds for the UAV Memorial dedicated to Ukrainian veterans. The golf committee of Chairman Wasyl Mirutenko, Commander Peter Bencak, Post 32 members and Bohdan and Walter Dudycz along with their families and post volunteers made this event a success.

One hundred golfers competed for trophies, golf course challenges and bragging rights. Two beautiful oil paintings were donated for a small raffle and the Hinkley family generously contributed their St. Andrews golf course for the day. Their employees, from groundkeepers to the club house waitstaff, were courteous and helpful. Course manager, Bill Crouse was especially accommodating. We also had a putting contest where the prizes were adult beverages of wine and liquor bottles. The day concluded with an afternoon banquet and trophy presentation.

The funds raised from this outing are being dedicated to the purchase and erection of a unique memorial (see page 13, this issue).

We thank the Selfreliance foundation, the Heritage foundation and all the those who gave private donations. Finally, we thank the golfers who joined our tournament. Their humor, camaraderie and good will made our day a success. Congratulations to the trophy winners and for all others, maybe 2026 will be your year.

# IN MEMORIAM



Adam Misztal  
Dec. 22, 1947 - May 5, 2025

Dear Fellow Veterans:

Adam Misztal, a combat Viet Nam Veteran and a founding member of UAV Post 24 Cleveland, Ohio, has passed away on May 5, 2025 at the age of 77. Adam leaves behind a legacy remembered by family and friends.



In the echoes of fond remembrance, may a sense of peace be found, knowing that the memories held dear will continue to shape and inspire his loved ones, keeping Adam's spirit alive in the hearts and actions of family and friends alike. While his presence may be gone, his impact lives on in the kindness shown to others and the joy found in the ordinary moments of life.

**God Bless America Slava Ukraini Heroyam Slava**

Commander Roman Rakowsky, PNC



Henry Starostenko  
July 31, 1934 - April 30, 2025

The world bids farewell to Henry Starostenko of Sterling Heights, Michigan, departing on April 30, 2025 at the age of 90. A member of Post 101 Henry leaves behind memories cherished by the community.



Henry was a proud Ukrainian and a proud American Veteran, serving his country in the Korean War. Henry was an avid soccer and basketball fan, especially when watching his grandson play. He was an incredibly charming and generous person and always was the life of the party. Henry above all else was a tremendous provider, husband, father and grandfather. He will be sorely missed by his adoring family and dear friends.

Though Henry may no longer walk beside us, his memory will forever be enshrined in the fabric of the lives of those Henry touched, a beacon of light guiding us through the darkness. In his absence, his spirit lives on - a gentle whisper in the breeze, a ray of sunlight on a cloudy day, a reminder that love knows no boundaries. **God Bless America - Slava Ukraini - Heroyam Slava**

Commander Matthew Wroblewski



Teresa Kaszczak  
Dec 20, 1933 - May 12, 2025

Teresa Kaszczak (Kofla), wife of Andrew Kaszczak passed away on May 12, 2025 at St. John's Hospital in Yonkers, New York. She was born on December 20, 1933 in Wawrzka, Lernkivschyna in present-day Poland. As a young girl she attended the Ukrainian catholic parish in the neighboring village of Florynka. Her parents, Ivan Kofla and Eufrozyna (Kuzmiak) had twelve children of which ten survived to adulthood.



Teresa was the third youngest of ten children. Her sister Antonina Zielonka of New Jersey is her only surviving sibling. Teresa is survived by her husband Andrew, their children Lydia and her husband Walter, Rev Ivan and Lesia. She was predeceased by her son George in 1998. She leaves her grandchildren Michael and his wife Melissa, Stephen, Victoria and her husband Bryan. Her great grandchildren are Athena and Arthur. We commend her to God's tender care and our sincere prayers.

*Father-Chaplain Ivan,*

*Please accept UAV's and my deepest condolences on the loss of your mother.*

*She did a fine job in raising a man of God, a Ukrainian Catholic priest, a US Air Force chaplain, an academic and a friend. In the midst of the suppression of "everything" Ukrainian in Poland, she gave you your faith and our existence With your father, she brought you to this free land, so you could flourish under God's sun.*

*What she stood for in your family and gave to her children will always be remembered and witnessed by all her progeny. Her authentic Ukrainian Catholic being shines among you all, Father Ivane.*

*Mark Datzkiwsky, UAV National Adjutant*

## 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**

We are wishing Stephen Kostecki a Very happy retirement from his position as Quartermaster. After a successful 25 year career in the UAV, he says its time for a younger and more modern and "Tech Savvy" person to take over his duties. Now Steve can spend time pursuing his favorite pastimes... dating alligators and wrestling with hot women (we think Stephen might have confused the two pastimes). Or maybe not. We know Steve will continue supporting the UAV with his usual smile. All the best to my personal friend, stay young and healthy. *Editor*



# UAV Tribune



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**WE WANT YOU  
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**Ukrainian Sniper**

Iryna says a sniper's role in war has been romanticized. It is really hard work.

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

**СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!**

**ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!**