



UAV TRIBUNE

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www.uavets.org

Ukrainian American Veterans

“From The Commander’s Hatch



Michael P Hrycak, UAV NC

It is again heartening to extend greetings and gratitude to all Ukrainian American Veterans, their families, supporters, and friends. We have just commemorated those veterans who gave their last full measure on Memorial Day, May 25, 2026. I had the honor of attending our annual Panakhyda, memorial service, at our Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument at St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Cemetery located in S. Bound Brook, New Jersey. In attendance were about two dozen clerics and Ukrainian American Veterans, with our Ukrainian Diaspora supporters. We recounted that the holiday started as a commemoration of the custom of decorating graves in remembrance of the 620,000 killed in the Civil War, by proclamation of General John A. Logan, who led the veterans’ group Grand Army of the Republic on May 5, 1868, when fallen troops were reburied in individual graves and a parade and dedication ceremony was held, at Arlington National Cemetery on May 30, when spring flowers were in full bloom. It became a nationwide holiday, when President Lyndon B. Johnson and Congress declared Waterloo, New York, as the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1966. I emphasized that it was a holiday encouraging all Americans to pause for a minute of silence on Memorial Day to honor the fallen and to pray for them. It is important that prayer is the foundation of honoring our war dead, and for Ukrainian American Veterans it includes their ancestral homeland, Ukraine, where Russians invaded in 2014, and have continued aggression for over twelve years, and they pray for all the fallen Ukrainians as well. Our fellow warriors have been fighting an invading force for over twelve years. I, along with fellow Ukrainian American Veterans, have visited Ukrainian wounded warriors, in Ukraine and here at United States Military Treatment Facil-

ities and have seen what a high intensity conflict inflicts in terms of a human toll. I thank God that the United States, and Ukraine’s allies, have continued to provide military support to allow Ukraine to prevent the Russian invaders from achieving any strategic objective after launching their large-scale invasion in February, 2022. The Russian tank losses (est. 11,956) alone exceed the United States’ losses in all of World War II. Russian casualties are approximately 1,360,110. A figure that military experts explain no army in history has been able to recover and continue fighting successfully, a culminating point predicting that Russian forces would not be able to sustain their offensive on the many fronts of their initial invasion.

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 the memory of Veterans, cooperates with Local Community Groups in service projects, and bestows awards to individuals and groups recognizing artistic, cultural, educational or patriotic achievements.

So, on this Memorial Day, our posts conducted their own services and ceremonies at their respective monuments and churches, commemorating those that have fallen in attaining the goal of freedom for our nations. We will not rest, we will not falter, we will continue to support our veterans returning from the battlefield, as well as those still serving on, or in support of, the battlefield, until our enemies are vanquished and our citizens can live in peace and harmony in the democratic nations established by those lives sacrificed in pursuit of freedom. As we know, freedom isn’t free, it never has been and never will be!

Michael P. Hrycak
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired
Commander
Ukrainian American Veterans



Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

Michael P. Hrycak
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SAVE-A-DATE 79th Annual National Convention

September 24 – 27, 2026

UAV BANQUET RESERVATION Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026

Due no later than August 20, 2026 (see page 4)

NATIONAL CONVENTION JOURNAL

Due no later than Sept. 1, 2026 (see page 5)

Send in a photo of you in your military uniform (from the days when your uniform still fit you)



to: uavpublicity@gmail.com
see pages 18-19

RETIREMENT!



Dudycz

I'm pretty sure my last words will be "Hold my drink and watch this"



Ukrainian American Veterans

79th Annual National Convention

September 24 – 27, 2026

Post 42 – Commander Jerry Kindrachuk

Convention Officer: Timothy D Reilly

UAVConvention79@gmail.com



79th Annual Convention – September 24 – 27, 2026

Dear Delegates and Guests,

On behalf of Post 42 and our Convention Committee, it is my great honor to welcome you to the 79th Annual Ukrainian American Veterans National Convention, held this year in the vibrant city of Allentown, Pennsylvania. We are delighted to gather with friends, comrades, and supporters from across the country to celebrate our shared heritage, honor our service, and strengthen the bonds that unite our community.

This year's convention holds special meaning as we commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States and the 20th Anniversary of the founding of Post 42 in the Lehigh Valley, PA. As we reflect on the history and achievements of our organization, let us also look to the future with renewed commitment to our mission of supporting veterans, preserving Ukrainian American traditions, and fostering fellowship among all members.

We hope you enjoy the camaraderie, informative sessions, and memorable events planned throughout the convention.

All events will be held at the Americus Hotel.

HOTEL RESERVATION



**Americus Hotel
555 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18101**

**Room rate: \$109 plus tax per night
(no breakfast)**

Rate Code - UKRA

Cut off date: August 9, 2026

**Questions call: Reservation number: 610-437-2327,
then #1 for reservations**





Ukrainian American Veterans

79th Annual National Convention

September 24 – 27, 2026

Post 42 – Commander Jerry Kindrachuk

Convention Officer: Timothy D Reilly

UAVConvention79@gmail.com

610-730-3265



UAV BANQUET RESERVATION

Due no later than August 20, 2026

Please reserve _____ tickets, at **\$120.00 per person**, for the **UAV 79th Convention Banquet**

DATE: Saturday, September 26, 2026

TIME: COCKTAIL HOUR AT 6:00 PM - DINNER AT 7:00 PM

PLACE: AMERICUS HOTEL
555 HAMILTON ST.
ALLENTOWN, PA 18101



Enclosed is my check, made payable to: UAV 79th Convention

\$_____ for _____ tickets.

Name: _____ UAV Post _____

Address: _____

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:

Please send your check together with this form to:

Ukrainian American Veterans Post 42
3535 Fox Run Dr.
Allentown, PA 18103

Questions: Please Call:

Commander Jerry Kindrachuk
610-730-3265

UAV Convention79@gmail.com

Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records





Ukrainian American Veterans

79th Annual National Convention

September 24 – 27, 2026

Post 42 – Commander Jerry Kindrachuk

Convention Officer: Timothy D Reilly

UAVConvention79@gmail.com



UAV 79th NATIONAL CONVENTION JOURNAL

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ payable to: **UAV 79th CONVENTION** 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
\$500 _____	Back Inside Cover (color)	\$40.00 _____	Quarter Page
\$500 _____	Back Page Cover (color)	\$25.00 _____	1/8 Page or Business Card
\$300 _____	Center Gold Page (color)	\$10.00 _____	One Line Booster
\$150 _____		Full Page.	

All advertising orders must be received **no later than September 1, 2026**. 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:

79th UAV CONVENTION JOURNAL

MAIL YOUR PAYMENT
AND AD COPY TO:

**Ukrainian American Veterans Post 42
3535 Fox Run Dr.
Allentown, PA 18103**

EMAIL AD TO: uavconvention79@gmail.com

Ad copy should be sent electronically as an ATTACHMENT to your email message, **DO NOT INCLUDE IT AS A TEXT**. It must be in jpg, bmp, png, tif or pdf format.

If you cannot send it electronically, include the ad with your payment in camera ready format. Photos must be high quality suitable for print reproduction.

QUESTIONS:

Jerry Kindrachuk: 610-730-3265

Name of advertiser: _____ Phone: _____

Signature of authorized advertiser: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ email: _____

UAV Post _____, UAV Member or organization soliciting ad _____

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Ukrainian American Veterans

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| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |
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| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |

ALL JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ CHECK NO. _____

SIGNATURE _____

SUBMITTED BY: UAV POST _____ UAV MEMBER _____

RETURN CHECK WITH THIS FORM AND PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
79TH UAV CONVENTION

MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECKS TO:

Ukrainian American Veterans
3535 Fox Run Dr.
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EMAIL BOOSTER PAGES TO:

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Or visit our website: <http://www.uavets.org> to donate online.

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: Jerry Kindrachuk 610-730-3265

Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records.

Ukraine's War Stamps

by Ski Iworsky, Acting Publications Officer
Originally Published in UAV Post 31 News
Information from UKRPoshta



“Russian War Ship , Go Fk Yourself”**

Ukrainian Defiance in Face of Russian Aggression

In February 2022, the Russian warship ***Moskva***, the flagship of the Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet attacked Zmiinyi Island (Snake Island). The ***Moskva*** contacted the island's garrison over the radio and demanded its surrender by being told to lay down their arms or face bombing. The ***Moskva*** received the now-famous reply *"Russian warship, go fuck yourself"* from its garrison. After this, contact was lost with Zmiinyi Island, and the thirteen-member Ukrainian garrison was thought dead. But it was later found out that the soldiers on the island repelled two attacks by Russian forces but in the end were forced to surrender “due to the lack of ammunition.”

Ironically, the ship depicted, ***“Moskva”***, was later sunk by the Ukrainians in April 2022. After the sinking, Ukraine’s Postal Agency, **Ukrposhta**, issued this stamp recognizing the Ukrainian defenders defiance. Ukrainians formed long queues to buy the stamp. They posted memes. They sold this most popular stamp at charity auctions. The stamp was presented to Prince Charles, Andrzej Duda, and others. It was exhibited at the Smithsonian Postal Museum in Washington, DC., and the National Maritime Museum in the UK. In addition, famous media (CNN, the Guardian, The Times, The Washington Post, Bloomberg, etc.) wrote about this and other Ukrainian war stamps



The 5th Anniversary of the Battle of Donetsk Airport



City of Heroes - Kharkivshyna

Continued on page 8

Ukraine's War Stamps continued...



"Russian Navy- to the Bottom"
Celebrating Sinking the Russian Navy



The Cross of Military Merit award was established to recognize servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations for:

- outstanding personal bravery, courage or an outstanding heroic act during a combat mission in conditions of danger to life and direct contact with the enemy;
- outstanding success in commanding troops (forces) during combat operations.



This sheet of eight stamps is dedicated to Patron "Cartridge", the bomb-detecting Jack Russell terrier who has saved countless lives. He is considered the world's most famous mine-detection dog. The stamps include: "Patron helps farmers"- note, he is pissing on a Russian rocket; "Patron with a rescuer"; "Patron unblocks the sea route - fishing out a Russian mine"; "Patron is a real Kozak"; "Patron saves the children"; "Patrons prophetic dream"; "Patron with an award"; "Dog Patron"



Dedicated to the defenders of the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, in particular the Kraken, Shaman and International Legion special forces, who are giving a worthy fight back to the enemy.



Each illustration on this postage stamp "Free. Unbreakable. Invincible" tells the tragic story of the Ukrainian people, and they are united by one word — "war":

- a woman in the rubble of a destroyed apartment
- a mother and a baby hiding in the subway from rocket attacks
- a girl in front of burnt cars
- a drama theatre in Mariupol, which has become the last refuge for many Ukrainians
- Sviatohirsk Lavra, which has been repeatedly attacked by the enemy
- a baby carriage, suitcases and toys that were abandoned at the railway station.

And despite everything, Ukrainian people demonstrate indescribable resilience. The postal issue "Free. Unbreakable. Invincible" is dedicated to them.



The postal issue "F**K PUTIN (PTN PNKh)!" features a graffiti on the wall of a destroyed house in the town of Borodianka in Kyiv region. It depicts a little boy defeating a judoka (mocking Putin) with a skillful throw.



"Good Evening– We are from Ukraine"

This stamp depicts the common scene of Ukrainian farmers hauling off destroyed or disabled Russian tanks for re-use in the



This postal block contains stamps depicting soldiers of the National Guard of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the National Police of Ukraine.



This stamp block "Ukrposhta is always by your side" is inspired by the bravery and resilience of postal employees in the conditions of the full-scale war.

GETTING A TASTE OF HOME

Source: War History Online. Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publicity Officer (ret.)



A modified British Spitfire (note the kegs)

During World War II, British breweries gifted soldiers' free beer. After D-Day, shipping space across the Channel was scarce, so Spitfire crews ingeniously modified pylons to carry kegs. Flying them high enough that the cold air naturally chilled the brews.

The British beer air lift during WWII was a remarkable initiative by the Royal Air Force to supply soldiers with beer in Normandy. Here's how it worked:

Pilots modified the Spitfire Mk IX's fuel tanks to carry large beer kegs known as Mod. XXX" or "XXX" for short.

The first known beer run took place on June 13, 1944, about a week after D-Day. Flight Lieutenant Lloyd Berryman led the first airborne pub from RAF Tangmir in Sussex to Normandy.

The Hawker Typhoon, which could carry even more than the Spitfire, was also used to transport beer. However, it was often mistaken by inexperienced American pilots as the German Focke-Wulf 190. This led to confusion and attacks.

The kegs were standard wooden kegs with specially designed nose cones and attachments for transport under the wing of the Spitfire.

As the need for beer increased, more organized official shipments of beer were made to the troops. This innovative approach ensured that British soldiers had a taste of home even during the war, despite the challenges of logistics and the lack of space on fighter planes. These beer runs famously became a symbol of the RAF's ingenuity and resourcefulness during WWII.



The "Pause that refreshes"

DID YOU KNOW...

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publicity Officer (ret.)

From the 8th to the 11th century, Scandinavian Vikings known as Varangians traveled deep into Eastern Europe. Rather than raiding coastal villages, many of them followed river routes that cut through what is now Ukraine. These rivers became the backbone of trade, diplomacy, and state-building.

According to historical chronicles, including the Primary Chronicle, Varangian leaders played a key role in the formation of Kyivan Rus, a powerful medieval state centered around Kyiv. The most famous among them was Rurik, whose dynasty would rule for centuries. His successors established control over key cities such as Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Novgorod, blending Norse leadership with Slavic culture. But did you know...

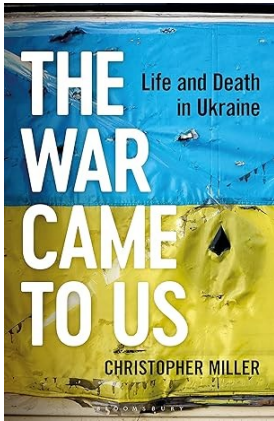
Just like pirates and cowboys, Vikings are standard at children's birthday parties, but, just like pirates and cowboys, they were extremely un-child-friendly in real life. 'Vikings' literally means 'raiders' in Old Norse, and they're best remembered for terrorizing the coasts of Europe between the 9th and 11th centuries, burning villages and extorting mountains of gold at the tip of an axe.

The horned helmet is key to their enduring appeal: a fearsome and instantly recognizable symbol that can be purchased at any reputable dress up shop and has absolutely no historical grounding whatsoever.

Adding horns to a helmet makes zero sense: it would weigh down the wearer, get caught in trees or enemy weapons, and pose an unnecessary challenge to early-medieval blacksmiths. The trope didn't emerge until the 19th century – many hundreds of years after the last longboat skidded up on a European beach. Archaeologists have only found two intact Viking helmets, and both were conspicuously horn-less.



Book Review



The War Came To Us: Life and Death in Ukraine

**5 star review
on Amazon**

When Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his unprovoked, full-scale invasion of Ukraine just before dawn on 24 February 2022, it marked his latest and most overt attempt to brutally conquer the country. Christopher Miller, the Ukraine correspondent for the Financial Times and a foremost journalist covering the country, was there on the ground when the first Russian missiles struck and troops stormed over the border.

This is the definitive, inside story of its long fight for freedom. Told through Miller's personal experiences, vivid front-line dispatches and illuminating interviews with unforgettable characters, **The War Came To Us** takes readers on a riveting journey through the key locales and pivotal events of Ukraine's modern history. From the coal-dusted, sunflower-covered steppe of the Donbas in the far east to the heart of the Euromaidan revolution camp in Kyiv; from the Black Sea shores of Crimea, where Russian troops stealthily annexed Ukraine's peninsula, to the bloody battlefields where Cossacks roamed before the Kremlin's warlords ruled with iron fists; and through the horror and destruction wrought by Russian forces in Bucha, Bakhmut, Mariupol, and beyond.

With candor, wit and sensitivity, Miller captures Ukraine in all its glory: vast, defiant, resilient, and full of wonder. A breathtaking narrative that is at times both poignant and inspiring, *The War Came To Us* is the story of an American who fell in love with a foreign place and its people - and witnessed them do extraordinary things to escape the long shadow of their former imperial ruler and preserve their independence.

The Boston Marathoners

Submitted by Ski Iworsky, Post 31, Acting Publications Officer



UAV Post 31, Boston, member **Yuri Bukhenik** has run several marathons including the Boston Marathon and the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC. In the photo above, Yuri (r.) and his friend are at the Boston Marathon finish line with a composite flag made up of the American flag, Marine Corps flag, and Ukrainian flag that they had carried and displayed along the entire marathon route.

UAV Post 31 member, **Maria Kohulka Green**, is an avid runner and has competed in six marathons and one ultra marathon, the International Four Day 100 Mile March, in Nijmegen, Holland, and competed in two sprint triathlons (swim, bike, run).

Recently, Maria, a member of New York Road Runners Org. and the U.S. Anti Doping Agency, was involved with randomly testing the top 15 Elite runners of each category at the finish-line of the New York Marathon.

Incidentally, Post 31 member Ski Iworsky's daughter, **Kristen Iworsky Ramey**, ran that New York marathon in 3:11. Kristen has run several marathons, including the Boston Marathon in 2017 where she was the first female New Hampshire finisher, the Maine marathon—finishing first female runner overall, the Berlin Marathon, the Philadelphia marathon, the Chicago Marathon, where she set her personal best of 2:59:59, and several other marathons. Kristen continues to train for upcoming marathons.

COURAGE, WIT AND DEFIANCE IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING POWER

Submitted by Bohdan Dudycz, Publication Officer, Retired

This painting symbolizes the Cossacks' defiance and the spirit of Ukrainian independence. It has been immortalized in art, most famously by Ilya Repin in his painting *Reply of the Zaporozhian Cossacks* (1880–1891), which depicts the Cossacks joyfully composing their irreverent response. The painting captures the humor, camaraderie, and rebellious energy of the Cossacks, making it a cultural icon in Ukraine.



Writing a letter to Putin. The Cossack spirit lives in today's Ukrainian warriors!

The Cossack Letter- the Most Defiant Letter

Submitted by Ski Iworsky, Acting Publications Officer

In the 1870's, an ethnographer by the name of **Novitsky**, found a copy of a letter, supposedly written by the Kozaks, in response to a letter sent to them by Turkish **Sultan Mehmet IV**. He gave this letter to the well-known historian of the Zaporozhian Kozaks, **Dmytro Yavornitsky**. Ukrainian artist, **Ilya Repin**, was told of the letter by Yavornitsky. The artist became interested in the story, and from 1880-91 worked on the 6 ft. x 11ft. painting. Although the Kozaks had just defeated the Turks in a battle in the 1660's, the Sultan demanded the Kozaks to accept Turkish rule.

Sultan Mehmed IV to the Zaporozhian Cossacks: As the Sultan; son of Muhammad; brother of the sun and moon; grandson and viceroy of God; ruler of the kingdoms of Macedonia, Babylon, Jerusalem, Upper and Lower Egypt; emperor of emperors; sovereign of sovereigns; extraordinary knight, never defeated; steadfast guardian of the tomb of Jesus Christ; trustee chosen by God Himself; the hope and comfort of Muslims; confounder and great defender of Christians – I command you, the Zaporozhian Cossacks, to submit to me voluntarily and without any resistance, and to desist from troubling me with your attacks.

There are many interpretations of the Kozak's response to the Sultan, some much more vulgar than the others. This letter is apocryphal. The original letter has never been found. I give you this tamer version, slightly censored:

O sultan, Turkish devil and damned devil's kith and kin, secretary to Lucifer himself. What the devil kind of knight art thou, that canst not slay a hedgehog with your naked arse? The devil defecates and your army eats it. Thou shalt not, thou son of a whore, make subjects of Christian sons. We have no fear of your army; by land and by sea we will battle with thee.

Thou Babylonian scullion, Macedonian wheelwright, brewer of Jerusalem, goat-ravager of Alexandria, swineherd of Greater and Lesser Egypt, swine of Armenia, Podolian thief, catamite of Tartary, hangman of Kamyanets and fool of all the world and underworld, an idiot before God, grandson of the Serpent, Pig's snout, mare's arse, slaughterhouse cur, unchristened brow.

So, the Zaporozhians declare, you lowlife. You won't even be herding pigs for the Christians. Now we'll conclude, for we don't know the date and don't own a calendar; the moon is in the sky, the year with the Lord. The day is the same over here as it is over there; for this, kiss our arse!

— Koshovyi Hetman Ivan Sirko, with the whole Zaporozhian Host

Paris-born artist **Emeric L'huisset** was in Kyiv during the 2014 uprising. Many protesters carried placards depicting Repin's painting. He was moved by "their willingness not to surrender, not to submit". When Russia attacked in 2022, the news report of the Russian ship "Moskva" demanding the surrender of the Ukrainian garrison on Snake Island and the Ukrainian guard's defiant reply, "**Russian warship— go F**K yourself!**", inspired L'huisset to re-enact Repin's painting in 2023. Using soldiers of the Ukrainian 112th Territorial Defense Brigade, he titled the photo "**From far away, I hear the Cossacks reply**". The soldiers in the photo are near replicas of Repin's painting, except sabers and muskets are traded for rifles, machine guns, and grenade launchers. There is a female warrior in the left background, and a drone hovers in the upper right corner. In the far background is the Dnieper River. Most importantly, in the center of the photo, is **Roman Hrybov** with a walkie-talkie in his hand. Roman is the now famous guard from Snake Island who defiantly replied to the "Moskva", "**Russian warship— go F**K yourself!**". Roman was captured with the other Snake Island defenders after they ran out of ammo and later on released from captivity. See *Ukraine's postage stamp honoring this event on page 7*. With this photo, L'huisset noted "**Culture is a weapon in a vast battlefield, let's try not to forget that**"

POST 32 - CHICAGO HONORS OUR HEROES

Submitted by: Walter Dudycz, Post 32 Quartermaster



**Back row with Halo (l/r): George Kralka, John Martin, Steve Macko, Peter Wlasenko, Michael Hrycyk,
Front row with halo (l/r): Jerry Kosacz, George Horbenko.**

The above profile photograph was taken in October, 2017, during happier times. This photo contains only 25 of 46 members from UAV Post 32. Unfortunately, since then, we have lost 7 members as shown in the photo. They are identified by halos over their heads. Memorial Day reminds us that we are here but for a short time. Cherish the times you have with your loved ones.

UAV Post 32 members and supporters are pictured honoring departed veterans with new flags at St. Nicholas and St. Andrews cemeteries. Old and tattered flags were burned in a spiritual ceremony of respect. May our departed veterans rest in peace.



POST 32 - MAN VS WILD HOG

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Post 32 Adjutant



On a wild Hog hunt in the upper peninsula of Michigan, Post 32 member Peter Staciw managed to make the perfect shot and bagged a 400+ pound wild hog. There were four hunters in his party and Peter bagged the biggest boar of the week.

When asked about his technique, Peter said to be a successful hog hunter you must do the following:

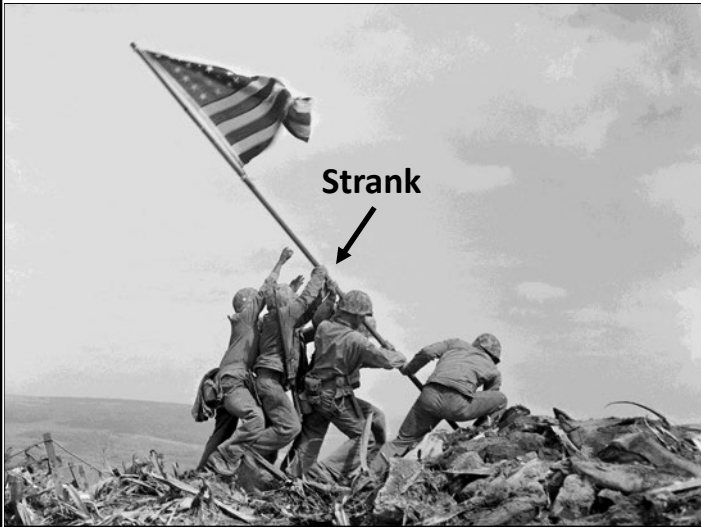
- 1. Have the right caliber weapon and ammo.**
- 2. Think like a big Boar.**
- 3. Walk around like a hog.**
- 4. Eat like a piggy.**
- 5. Wear bright colors and run around in tight circles while flapping your arms.**
- 6. Convince someone in your party to put on some swine cologne.**

A SUCCESSFUL HUNTER'S PHILOSOPHY

- 1. The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese. That's why I am a hunter!**
- 2. The buck stops here... hopefully it's a wild boar.**
- 3. My wife calls it 'hunting'. I call it 'therapy'.**
- 4. Wild hogs may run fast, but my bullets are faster.**
- 5. Whatever you do, Don't miss.**
- 6. If you do miss, be the fastest runner in your party.**

Sgt. Michael Strank- Iwo Jima Flag-Raiser

By Ski Iworsky, Acting Publications Officer



Joe Rosenthal's photo of Sgt Michael Strank helping raise the flag at Iwo Jima. Only Strank's hand is visible from this view. See the photo on the opposite page which shows Strank's location on the Memorial

Michael Strank (Михал Стренк / Mychal Strenk) was born on November 10, 1919, in Jarabina, Czechoslovakia, a town made up almost entirely of Carpatho-Rusyns. His family immigrated to America in 1920 and settled in Franklin Borough, near Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a steel and coal mining community. On his immigration papers, Strank's father, Vasily, claimed his race as Ruthenian.

Strank graduated from high school in 1937 and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1939, he joined the Marine Corps, spurred to do so by the Nazi invasion of his homeland of Czechoslovakia. In February 1942, he was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the 1st Marine Raiders, one of the toughest Marine units at that time.

Strank landed on Bougainville, November 1, 1943 with 14,000 other Marines. The Michael Strank Project relates:

"There he saw the gruesome deaths of his fellow Marines on an unimaginable scale. The men he would lead into battle were being cut down to his left and right; falling, crawling, bleeding, and dying. The Pacific Ocean around Bougainville was dyed red by an enemy they could not see. Dense jungle and concrete bunkers masked the faces of those slaughtering these young Americans."

The carnage Strank witnessed in Bougainville was embedded in his mind and he carried those visions to Iwo Jima.

After a brief leave at home, he was assigned to Company E, 28th Marines of the 5th MarDiv. at Camp Pendleton, CA. At the age of 24, Strank was considered the "old man" of the company. One of Strank's men recalled:

"Everybody idolized Mike... He was a born leader, a natural leader, and a leader by example... He had been there. He was an experienced fighter, but he never talked about himself. He had real concern for us, he was a big brother to us. We were young boys and he would reassure us. He would say, 'I want to bring as many of you back home to your mothers as possible,'"

After training at Pendleton for several months, they shipped out to Hawaii for further training, and the men knew this was in preparation for the invasion of another island, or maybe even Japan. This island happened to be Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima was a tiny island 660 miles south of Tokyo and was actually considered part of Japan. At the tip of the island, Mount Suribachi, which rose to 556 feet, dominated the view of the entire island and the ocean surrounding it. The island had two airbases, which the U.S. deemed necessary as launch points for a possible invasion of Japan, and a refuge for damaged aircraft to land.

On the morning of February 19, 1945, after a 72 hour bombardment by planes and naval vessels, two Marine divisions landed on the beach. The 28th Regiment of the 5th Marine Division was ordered to capture Mt. Suribachi. After four days of bloody, ferocious, and deadly fighting, the Marines were ordered to climb the rough terrain and plant a small flag at the top. The Marines succeeded but only after fighting off enemy resistance on the way to the top. When the 28"x54" flag was raised, a roar of cheers echoed across the island, and naval vessels continually blared their horns.

Deeming the flag too small, **Sgt. Michael Strank**, a rifle company squad leader, was ordered up the mountain with other Marines to raise a larger and more visible flag.



Sgt. Michael Strank

When Strank and his crew reached the top of Suribachi, he told the lieutenant who had helped raise the first flag, “Colonel Johnson wants this big flag run up high so every son of a bitch on this whole cruddy island can see it!” It is the photo of the second flag-raising that became famous and led to the awarding of the Pulitzer Prize to photographer Joe Rosenthal. It became the most iconic photo of not only the Marine Corps, but also of World War II. This flag raising was not the end of the battle, but only the beginning.

After the flag raising, Strank and his platoon continued to run patrols to clear out enemy pockets of resistance. On March 1, 1945, while on patrol, Strank’s squad came under heavy sniper fire. The men ducked under an outcropping that completely protected them from the enemy fire. As Strank was drawing a plan of attack in the sand, a shell suddenly landed amongst the men. The explosion wounded some of the men but tore a hole in Strank’s chest and ripped out his heart. The shell had come from the only unprotected side of the outcropping which faced the ocean. The shell had to have come from the sea, where destroyers and battleships were firing inland. Strank was killed by “friendly-fire.”

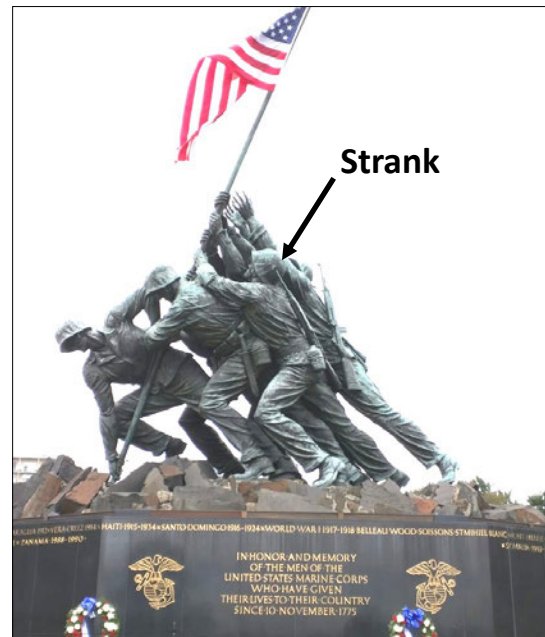
Strank is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery, Section 12, grave number 7179 by the McClellan Gate, the most historical gate in the cemetery. It is an honor saved

for the most notable service members. A **Memorial Marker** for Sgt. Strank is located near 1125 Main Street, Johnstown, PA. **Sgt. Michael Strank Memorial Park** is located 1149 Main Street (Franklin Borough) Johnstown, PA at the eastern end of the **Michael Strank Memorial Bridge** which carries PA-271 over the Conemaugh River.

Much of the information in this article was gathered from:

- *The Michael Strank Project*– <https://strank.org>
- *Flags of Our Fathers* by James Bradley, Ron Powers

Iwo Jima Memorial



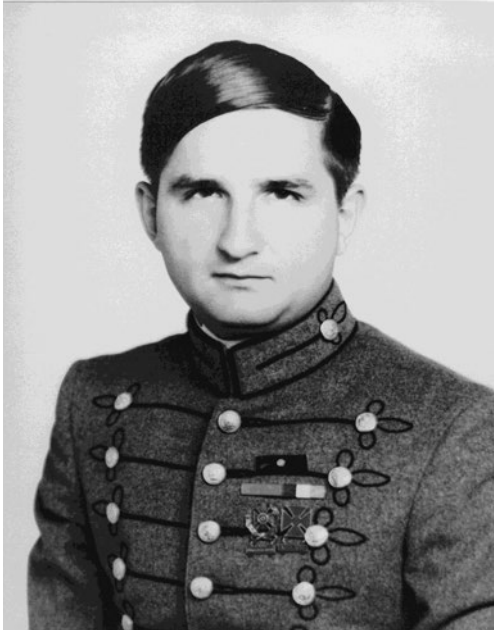
In this photo of the reverse of the Iwo Jima Memorial, Strank is indicated with the arrow pointing to his helmet.

Facts and Figures

- It is the largest bronze sculpture in the world
- The Memorial is about 78 feet tall
- The figures in the sculpture stand 32 feet tall
- The post the figures are raising is 60 feet tall
- The M-1 carried by two of the figures is 16 feet long
- The carbine carried by the figures is 12 feet long
- The canteen would hold 32 gallons of water
- The total cost was \$850,000
- The statue was entirely paid for with donations

As You Were..... UAV Members in Uniform

In this issue of the UAV Tribune, we are adding a section of photos of UAV members in their uniforms. All of these members are from UAV Post 31, Boston. Submit a photo of yourself in uniform with name, UAV Post #, year taken to uavpublicity@gmail.com and we'll print it if "space available".



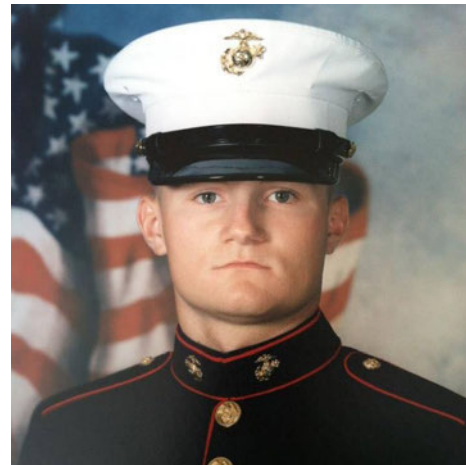
Cadet Leonid Kondratiuk, 1971, the Citadel, Military College of South Carolina. I was one of the first Ukrainian Americans to graduate from The Citadel.



Past UAV Nat. Vice Cmdr. Walter Michajliw (r.) at the Torrejon AB Main Gate with his Spanish counterpart. Walter organized Boston UAV Post 31 and received its charter.



USMC 1st Sgt. Andrew Galonzka



**Yuri Bukhenik, USMC Boot Camp photo.
See more of Yuri on page 11**



Col. David Pronchik, USAF



Sgt. Greg Iworsky, USMC, Iraq, 2003, with captured AK-47



Gene Muzyka, USA, Ft. Bragg, 1970



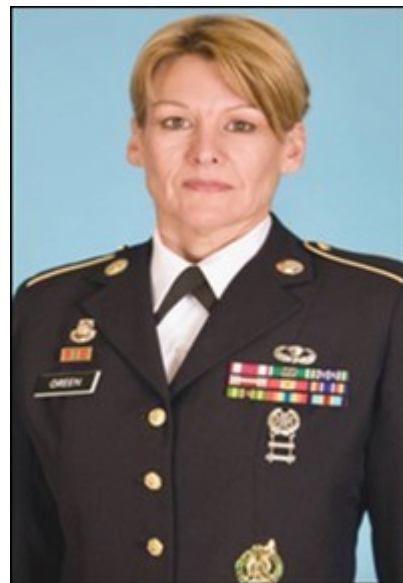
Ski Iworsky, USMC, with the tail-end of a Russian-made 122 mm rocket that hit near his bunker north of Danang, Vietnam in 1968



Randall Bashta, 1968, while I was standing Petty Officer of the Watch on the fantail of the USS Brumby in Newport RI.



Rick Skorik, USA, with Bronze Star Certificate in Iraq, 2008



**SFC Maria Kohulka Green, US Army Airborne
Served: 30 Apr 1987-1 May 2013**

New VA Headstone Emblem Honors Ukrainian American Veterans' Faith and Heritage

By Ihor Rudko, Ukrainian American Veteran, IPNC



Walter S. Hornat's Ukrainian Tryzub Cross marker at the foot of his grave. See more on cemetery markers on Page 24.

ARLINGTON, Va. — A years-long effort by Ukrainian American veterans has resulted in the Department of Veterans Affairs approving a new emblem of belief for government-furnished headstones and markers: the Ukrainian Tryzub Cross, now officially listed as Emblem of Belief No. 81.

The campaign began after a Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) visit to Arlington National Cemetery in August 2021. During that visit, members noticed that while many faith and cultural symbols were available for VA headstones, there was no Ukrainian Christian emblem reflecting both religious faith and Ukrainian heritage.

Seeking a solution, I contacted Dr. Les' Melnyk, Chief of Public Affairs and Outreach for the VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA), on September 29, 2021. Melnyk explained that for the VA to consider adding a new emblem, the request had to originate from a veteran—or the veteran's next of kin—seeking a government-furnished headstone or marker for an actual burial, either in a national or private cemetery.

The process required:

- A veteran, near death or recently deceased, who wished to have the emblem on a government marker
- Support from the veteran's next of kin
- Ideally, a written statement from the veteran expressing the desire to have the symbol of faith on his or her headstone

Dr. Melnyk cautioned that approval could delay the marker's delivery by several months while NCA reviewed the request and developed a template for its engraving vendors. However, he believed the emblem had a strong chance of approval and, once accepted, would become available to all Ukrainian American Veterans.

At that time Post 14 member, retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Walter S. Hornat, was facing serious medical complications related to Agent Orange exposure. With the support of his brother, Henry Hornat, we asked Walter if he would consent to having the Tryzub Cross placed on his footstone marker. Walter agreed. He entered eternal life on November 8, 2021.

On June 7, 2022, Henry formally submitted the request for the Ukrainian Tryzub Cross to the NCA. On August 29, 2022, we were notified that the emblem was under review and that the process could take up to two years. The projection proved optimistic. Two years to the day later, on August 29, 2024, NCA requested additional clarification on whether the Tryzub Cross might be considered a political symbol, which would disqualify it under VA policy.

In response, the Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak provided a written historical explanation of Ukraine's trident (Tryzub) and its use with the cross as a symbol of Ukrainian Christianity. His letter detailed that the trident is a long-standing Ukrainian national symbol, rooted in history and culture, not aligned with any political party or movement.

On April 28, 2025, we received word that the emblem package and design samples had been approved. NCA indicated that once their internal systems and emblem sheets were updated, a formal approval letter would follow.

That final confirmation arrived on February 11, 2026. Henry received an email from NCA with an attached formal letter notifying him that his request had been approved and that Walter's marker with the Tryzub Cross had been ordered. Delivery was expected within 30 days.

On April 3, 2026, Walter's marker bearing the Tryzub Cross was delivered and placed at the foot of his grave, completing a journey that began more than four years earlier.

The Ukrainian Tryzub Cross, now designated as Emblem of Belief No. 81, is available for use on government-furnished headstones and markers for all honorably discharged Ukrainian American veterans whose faith and identity it represents. The emblem can be viewed on the VA National Cemetery Administration website at: <https://www.cem.va.gov/hmm/emblems.asp>.

National Cemetery Administration-Emblems of Belief

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publicity Officer (ret.)

Available Emblems of Belief for Placement on Government Headstones and Markers

A huge "Thank You" and "Shout Out" goes to **Commander Ihor Rudko**, PNC of post 14, Hartford, CT for his untiring efforts in furthering the recognition of Ukrainian Veterans. He worked tirelessly with the Veterans Administration to include the Tryzub as an Emblem of Belief that can be chosen by a veteran or their family.

This is a marker that can be placed on a headstone of a departed veteran. It helps to identify that veteran's religion. There were 81 approved emblems that identify the belief of the departed individual. Some examples are Latin, Buddhist, Mormon, Humanist, Messianic, Druid, Hammer of Thor, Universalist and more. Our Tryzub is now approved as the 82nd official emblem of faith.

No graphics (logos, symbols, etc.) are permitted on Government-furnished headstones or markers other than the available emblems of belief, the Civil War Union Shield, the Civil War Confederate Southern Cross of Honor, and the Medal of Honor insignias.

An emblem of belief for inscription on a Government headstone or marker is an emblem or symbol that represents the sincerely held belief of the decedent that constituted a religion or the functional equivalent of religion and was believed and/or accepted as true by that individual during his or her life. The belief represented by an emblem need not be associated with or endorsed by a group or organization.

Emblems of belief for inscription on Government headstones and markers do not include social, cultural, ethnic, civic, fraternal, trade, commercial, political, professional or military emblems. VA will not inscribe any emblem on a headstone or marker that would have an adverse impact on the dignity and solemnity of cemeteries honoring those who served the Nation.

Emblems that would not be permitted include (but are not limited to), emblems that contain explicit or graphic depictions or descriptions of sexual organs or sexual activities that are shocking, titillating, or pandering in nature; and emblems that display coarse or abusive language or images. For more information go to the web page at: www.cem.va.gov/hmm/emblems.asp



MICHAEL MATIASH - POST 14, CT - RIP

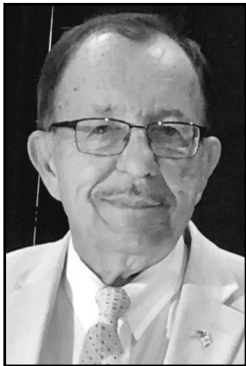
Submitted by: Joe Nasevich, UAV Webmaster



Michael Matiash, 79, of Southington, went to our Lord on Friday, April 10, 2026. He was born in Ellwangen, Germany to the late Sofia (Jankewycz) Matiash and Wasyl Matiash. He and his parents emigrated to America in 1949. Michael attended schools in Hartford, graduating Bulkeley H.S., Class of 1964. He then voluntarily enlisted into the United States Air Force, was severely injured, earning him a Purple Heart. During his recovery, he met and fell in love with his future wife Barbara whom he married in 1972. While working full time, he went on to earn both his B.S. and Master Degrees from the University of Hartford. He spent his career in the insurance industry, most recently Aetna. Michael was proud of his Ukrainian Heritage, he was a member of the Ukrainian American Veterans of CT and a communicant of Saint Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church of Hartford. He was a lifelong Dodgers, UCONN basketball and football fan. In addition to his knowledge of insurance, he was a history enthusiast, fan of old Western movies and always up for a debate. During his retirement he kept himself active by volunteering. He never missed an opportunity to place American flags on veterans' gravesites.



WALTER M. DUZZNY - UAV MAL - RIP



**Walter M. Duzzny
Sr. 1939-2025**

SUN CITY CENTER, Fla. Walter M. Duzzny Sr., 86, a longtime resident of Austintown, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, in Sun City Center, Florida. Walter was born Feb. 4, 1939, in Youngstown, the son of Michael and Mary Krill Duzzny. Walter was the retired director of Mahoning County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, holding that position for over 29 years. He also served as the director of the Emergency 911 services of the county. He was a member of the nationwide emergency response team for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, responding to numerous national emergencies.

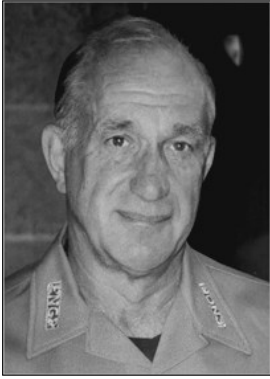
Active in his profession, he served in many leadership positions in both state and national level associations. He most recently was the president of Emergency Planning Associates LLC, a planning and consulting firm; vice president of J Tyler Enterprises LLC, a motorcycle accessory business, which developed (U.S. and world patent) and manufactured

the Wheelie Teach Device. He was also nationally certified in homeland security by the American Board of Forensic Examiners.

A retired U.S. Army colonel, he was the recipient of many awards and citations and served in various staff and command positions. A member of the American Legion, he was president of the Mahoning Chapter of the Reserve Officers Association. He was a charter member and past president of the Military Officers Association of America, Mahoning Shenango Valley Chapter, where he received the prestigious Ambassador Award and the Colonel Boals Award for leadership from the Reserve Officers Association. He was appointed by the Department of Defense as the military outreach director of the state of Ohio for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

A member of SS. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, he served as past president and vice president and was a member of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the U.S. and Ukrainian American Veterans Inc. He was the past president of the board of directors for the Safety Council, Ohio Chapter. He was a past instructor and trainer for the criminal justice programs at Youngstown State and the Kent State police academy. He was a member of Argus Lodge 545 F & AM, past president of Public Employees Retirees Chapter 18, and a member of the Lowellville Rod and Gun Club.





MICHAEL J. KLEM - POST 32 CHICAGO

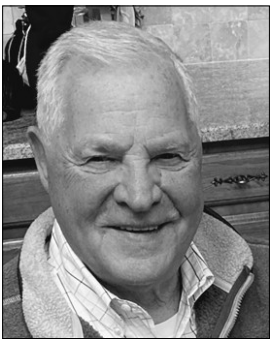
Submitted by: Commander Peter Bencak, PNC - Post 32

Michael J. Klem (age 83) loving husband of (late) Alice (O'Connell). Retired Chicago Fire Dept after 33 years (Engine of Engine 26 from 1983 thru 2003). Father of Joseph (Chris Goudsmit) of Northfield, IL and Patrick (Jill Kennedy) of Denver, CO. Brother of Rosemarie (Burns) of Savannah, Georgia. Proud grandfather of Michael, Alice, Marie, and Nick Klem. Uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Former resident of the Burnside neighborhood and longtime resident of the Ashburn/West Lawn neighborhood.

- ♦ Proud member of Local 2 (CFD) and Brotherhood of the Barrel.
- ♦ Proud member of Local 16 (typographical union) and part-time printer at Sun-Times (1963 thru 2003).
- ♦ Proud member of South-Side Gaelic Fire Brigade. Proud member of the Blue Condor's Social Club.
- ♦ Proud member of Ukrainian American Veterans #32 and American Legion #943. Former U.S. Army 101st Airborne Paratrooper (1961 - 1963). Former (retired) U.S. Air Force Reserve (M/Sgt
- ♦ (1979 - 2003). Former member of South-Side Runners Club. Five-time runner of Chicago Marathon.

We fondly remember Mike and he will be in our prayers. **Rest in Peace and Vichnaya Pamyat!**



DENNIS LAZUTA - POST 24 CLEVELAND

Submitted by: Commander Roman Rakowsky, PNC - Post 24

Dennis Lazuta lived a life shaped by service, generosity, humor, and compassion, leaving an enduring mark on the greater Cleveland community.

A proud graduate of St. Ignatius High School, Dennis pursued university studies and graduated in psychology before following the path that ultimately became his life's calling: funeral service. He understood the human side of things - how people grieve, how families hold together, how love shows up in a thousand different ways - and he carried that understanding into everything he did.

After completing his mortuary education and early training at Kolodiy Funeral Home, Dennis's life moved quickly into responsibilities that required strength and steadiness. Drafted into the Vietnam War, he served with honor in a role that demanded dignity and care. Those early years shaped something deep in him: discipline, dependability, and a profound respect for what people carry.

Back home in Ohio, Dennis stepped fully into the vocation that became his life's work. He built Kolodiy-Lazuta Funeral Home from the ground up and devoted more than 45 years as a funeral director to serving families across greater Cleveland through loss, grief, and remembrance.

Dennis did far more than provide a service. He brought comfort through his presence and his attention to detail. He had an artistic and deeply personal regard for how people should be cared for in death. He believed that, especially in loss, people deserved dignity. He wanted them to look their best in their worst moment. That was his gift.

He also showed love through action, often quietly, in the ways he made sure people were cared for, supported, and looked after. He was devoted to his church, generous in his philanthropy, and committed to the community he loved, and people felt that not only in words, but in the real ways he showed up and helped.

Dennis brought lightness, too. He was a storyteller and often the first to offer a joke, bringing warmth and levity even when life felt heavy. A lover of all sports, particularly football, he never missed a chance for good-natured banter. That spirit stayed with him until his final days, and it is one of the many reasons people loved being around him. Most of all, Dennis was deeply loved by his family, his friends, his community, and the many families whose lives he touched. **Rest in Peace and Vichnaya Pamyat!**



POST 42—LEHIGH VALLEY, PA LOSES A FOUNDING MEMBER

Submitted by: Jerry Kindrachuk, Commander



Nicholas Cynajko

Post 42 lost one of its founding members, Nicholas Cynajko who passed away October 2, 2025. There are few people whose passing is felt around the world, as did Mykola's, whose life exemplified the true meaning of service, compassion, and hope.

Nick's journey began in Munich, Germany, where he was born in 1945 as World War II was ending—his parents, taken from Ukraine for the war effort, taught him resilience and compassion. From Uruguay, where he lived with his grandfather, to America, where he became a citizen and served as a military policeman, Nick has never stopped moving forward, never ceased reaching out to those in need. His life changed in 1996 when he agreed to load medical equipment for Dr. Roman Dashawetz, founder of Advanced Medical Care for Ukraine - an act that marked the beginning of his mission.



For nearly two decades prior to his death, he dedicated his heart and hands to the children of Ukraine. For him there was no better place to be than in a children's hospital in Ukraine, handing a gift to a hurting youngster and watching their world brighten. He was quoted "If I can get a smile from a child for a few seconds, this is my whole purpose of being there,"

His greatest fulfillment came not from his daily work, but from bringing smiles to young patients in Ukraine's hospitals. He volunteered tirelessly with Advanced Medical Care for Ukraine, the country of his parents' birth, acting as an operating room assistant and translator for American doctors at Lviv Children's Hospital. There, he gave comfort to children enduring the lingering effects of the war and brought hope to those living in a war-torn land.

Nick's mission was simple, yet profound: to bring joy, even for just a few seconds, to children facing unimaginable hardship. He was known to them as St. Nicholas, arriving with his bag of gifts, his warm smile, and his unwavering kindness. Whether he's handing out a box of crayons or sending monthly supplies like scrubs, tea, coffee, and honey roasted peanuts, Nick's acts of generosity have brightened the lives of countless youngsters in Ukraine. Each month, he carefully gathered donations—sometimes from his doctor and dentist, sometimes from friends—and shipped them overseas, ensuring the children and medical staff receive not only material support but also a tangible reminder that they are not forgotten.

Behind his generosity lies a story of personal sacrifice. To fund his overseas humanitarian work he took on a part-time job cleaning and setting up a local restaurant before dawn and before his regular job, often paying out of pocket for supplies and flights. He braved hospitals with no air conditioning and few conveniences, strategically scheduling his trips to avoid the extremes of Ukraine's climate. Even so, he faced difficult emotional realities: children who have no hope, doctors paid so little they can barely survive, and the lasting scars of disasters. He kept his tears to himself, determined to focus on his mission and not burden those he seeks to help.

His activities extended beyond simple gift-giving. Nick was a bridge between cultures, enabling American doctors to work effectively in Ukraine's hospitals through his translation skills. He brought supplies critical to medical care, and supported the staff so they can continue their work under challenging conditions. He was present not only as a helper, but as an advocate, a friend, and a symbol of hope.

He reminds us that true heroism is measured not by medals, but by the lives we touch and the sacrifices we make. For this reason, Post 42 has chosen to honor his legacy by establishing a Humanitarian Award that bears his name to honor his tireless activities and personal commitment to others. May we all be inspired to follow his example of selfless service, unwavering hope, and heartfelt generosity.

"No one stands so tall as when they stoop to help a child."

Abraham Lincoln,

MYROSLAWA BOJSIUK, WIFE OF MARION BOJSIUK - RIP

Submitted by: Ihor Hron, PNC Post 40 - Florida



It is with a heavy heart that we give our condolences to former National Chaplain and Service Officer Marion Bojsiuk. He is retired but we still fondly remember his service to the National UAV and our local post 40 in Florida.

It is always difficult saying goodbye to someone we love and cherish. Family and friends must say goodbye to Marion Bojsiuk's beloved Myroslawa Bojsiuk of Venice, Florida, who passed away at the age of 90, on April 11, 2026. In the sacred silence of farewell, Myroslawa is released into the embrace of eternity, knowing that their light will continue to shine brightly in the tapestry of the lives of their loved ones. And as their memory is carried forward, may comfort be found in the knowledge that love is eternal,



ВІЧНА ПАМ'ЯТЬ!

St. Thomas Sunday at the UAV Memorial

UAV members helped to celebrate St. Thomas Sunday at the UAV Memorial. St. Thomas Sunday marks Christ's post-Resurrection appearances—first to His disciples without Thomas, then again eight days later when Thomas famously declared, "My Lord and my God."



L to R- US Flag- Timothy Reilly, Post 42, Ukrainian Flag- James Fedorko, Post 17, UAV Flag- National Commander Michael Hrycak, Post 17



L to R front row- James Fedorko, Post 17, Timothy Reilly, Post 42, National Commander Michael Hrycak, Post 17



L to R- Andrew Hadzewycz, Post 17, Mykola Bura, Post 17, Timothy Reilly, Post 42

COLONEL PETER RAKOWSKY

RETIREMENT

Submitted by: Commander Roman Rakowsky, PNC - Post 24 Cleveland



Colonel Pete Rakowsky is retiring with over 25 years of active service in the United States Army and Ohio Army National Guard. He received his commission as a United States Army Engineer Officer from The Ohio State University Reserve Officer Training Corps in 2000. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Exercise, Airborne School, Command and General Staff Intermediate Level Education and Advanced Operations Courses, Joint Engineer Operations Course, Joint Task Force and Dual Status Commander Course, and a distinguished graduate of the United States Army War College.

Colonel Rakowsky's final duty assignment was serving as Director of Joint Operations, J3, after numerous command and staff assignments from the company served on Active Duty as a Combat Engineer Officer where he deployed to Iraq in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from The Ohio State University, a Master of Engineering degree from the University of Colorado, and a Master of Strategic Studies in Strategy from the United States Army War College. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Valorous Unit Award,

VETERANS DAY 2025

Post 24 - Cleveland knows how to celebrate!



2025 Veterans Day lunch

(l/r) Bohdan Samokyszyn, Olena Ferguson, Nick Bartkiw, Russ Kmietek, Mike Kasymyriw, Al Kravchuk, Rev. John Nakonachny, Commander Roman Rakowsky

2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

SEMPER FI: THE LASTING IMPACT OF MARINE COREY NAWROCKI

Submitted by Jared Hrycak



Jared Hrycak

Corey John Nawrocki, a 2001 graduate of North Penn High School, devoted twenty years to the United States Marine Corps. Serving with distinction in multiple units, including the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, and the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Blackfoot Company, he rose to the rank of First Sergeant and earned the respect of his brothers and sisters in arms. Known affectionately by his fellow Marines as “Fat Stacks,” Nawrocki embodied loyalty, courage, and leadership. A decorated veteran and two-time Purple Heart recipient, he was recognized repeatedly for his valor on the battlefield.

After retiring from the Marine Corps in 2021, Nawrocki’s dedication to service did not end. In 2024, he volunteered to fight alongside Ukrainian forces during Russia’s ongoing invasion. On October 27, 2024, he was killed in the Bryansk region of Russia during a reported reconnaissance mission. His sacrifice honored not only the people of Ukraine but also the principles of freedom and resistance to tyranny—values he had defended throughout his military career.

On April 12, 2025, the community of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, gathered in solemn unity to welcome home one of their own. The procession, escorting him from Philadelphia International Airport to Huff and Lakjer Funeral Home, reflected both profound sorrow and deep gratitude. Beneath the night sky, a massive American flag rippled in the wind, suspended between two fire trucks—a solemn symbol of the life he gave in service to freedom. More than 200 people attended, including neighbors, veterans, first responders, and strangers who came simply to honor a hero. Pennsylvania State Police, fire engines, EMS crews, and veterans’ groups escorted the procession, while a bagpiper played “Amazing Grace” as fellow veterans carried his flag-draped casket into the funeral home.



Commander Michael Hrycak, Adjutant Mark Datzkiwsky, Post 26: Commander Yaromyr Oryshkevych, Jaroslaw Martyniuk, Darian Diachok, Judge Advocate Bohdan Hetmansky at Arlington National Cemetery July 3, 2025

Tributes poured in from fellow Marines and community members. Friends described Nawrocki as a mentor, motivator, and leader whose devotion to those he served with was unwavering. State Representative Steve Malagari recalled his words at a Veterans Appreciation Brunch in 2024, emphasizing the importance of recognizing the sacrifices made by all who wear the uniform.

On July 3, 2025, Nawrocki was laid to rest with full Marine honors at Arlington National Cemetery. My father, Ukrainian American Veterans National Commander Michael P. Hrycak, was among the 150 attendees, joined by five members of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 26 of Washington, D.C. Four fellow Ukrainian foreign fighters also attended, one preparing to return to Ukraine within three weeks to continue the struggle for freedom. Their presence underscored the enduring brotherhood of warriors united in defense of liberty.

Corey Nawrocki’s life and death remind us of the extraordinary individuals who dedicate themselves to causes greater than their own. His legacy will be remembered not only in Lansdale but also among Marines, veterans, and the Ukrainian people he stood beside in their struggle for freedom.

UAV Monument History

Submitted by Matt Koziak, PNC

July 2014: Meeting with Mathew and Oksana Koziak, Anna and Bernie Krawczuk, and Metropolitan Anthony. The possibility of a site to erect a veteran's monument was discussed. Metropolitan Anthony stated that he always wanted such a monument and showed the site where he wanted the monument to be erected.

October 21, 2004: A monument committee was organized. The first committee meeting was held.

2005: Press release appeared about the formation of a committee to plan a monument. A sign marking the site of the future monument was placed at the cemetery. A decision was made to conduct a design competition for the monument.

2006: In February, a request for proposals for monument designs was advertised in the Ukrainian community. In December, a monument design submitted by John Jaciw was selected.

2007: After a meeting with a staff engineer, a fundraising plan was developed. The goal was to raise \$250,000 for construction of the monument. At a meeting on October 9, a decision was made to develop a brochure to raise funds for the monument.

2008: Fundraising began. Tentative design drafted for the Brochure.

2009: Brochure cost was approved. Finalized brochure was completed and distributed later in the year.

2010: Groundbreaking and site blessing in May.

2011: Decision made to erect monument without adjoining plaza.

2012: Estimates for monument construction were solicited. Responses received from Shevchenko Monuments, South Bound Brook Monuments, and Wertheimer-Liberty Monument. South Bound Brook submitted the lowest bid and was selected.

2013: South Bound Brook informed the committee that they could not complete the project as originally designed, as they could not get the agreed-upon materials. The project was rebid; Wertheimer-Liberty was selected.

2014: In May, a contract was signed with Wertheimer-Liberty to build the monument. Drawings were submitted and approved.

2015: Construction was completed and a formal dedication and unveiling held on October 3, 2015. Flag pole erected. ***See photos of the dedication next page***

2016: Plaza design, landscaping, and cost discussed at meeting on March 30. Landscaping designs explored with various companies.

2018: Several designs for the plaza were submitted by an architect from Ukraine.

2019: Plaza design finalized and approved.

2020: Solicited bids for construction of the plaza. Selected materials and signed contract with GS Best, LLC

2021: Plaza completed. Solicited bids for plaza benches: Varshavsky Monuments selected.

2022: Plaza benches completed.

See a photo of the committee meeting to determine final design selection of the UAV Memorial on the last page

2015 Dedication of UAV Monument

In the last issue of the UAV Tribune there were several photos of the 10th Anniversary of the Dedication of the UAV Memorial. The photos on this page are from the original dedication on October 3, 2015.



Archbishop Daniel and Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Metropolitan Stefan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church



Ihor Hron, PNC, and Matt Koziak, PNC, help unveil the UAV monument



Petro Dudycz (retired), ?, Roman Rakowsky, PNC, Post 24



Bohdan Dudycz, George Horbenko (deceased), and George Diachenko, all from Post 32, hold banners



Zenon Halkowycz, John Steciw, Peter Bencak

Volunteer National Public Relations/Publications Officer

15 June 2026

About the Job

Title: National Public Relations/Publications Officer

Employment Type: Volunteer (part time)

Location: Remote

Position Summary

The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. (UAV) is seeking a volunteer to serve as its National Public Relations/Publications Officer (PR Officer). **THIS IS AN UNPAID VOLUNTEER POSITION.**

The National Public Relations/Publications Officer develops favorable relations with the public through the publication of information in the mass media and creates favorable public opinion regarding the activities of the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. The PR Officer informs the Ukrainians American Veterans membership of activities within the organization by publishing and distributing the national newsletter, the UAV Tribune. The PR Officer assists the convention committee in publishing the annual convention journal.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Produce and distribute the UAV Tribune, which is the official newsletter distributed to all UAV members at least twice a year (typically June and December).
- Create professional quality proofs and submit to printer.
- Work with the UAV Vice Commander to maintain an accurate mailing list of UAV members in good standing who will receive a copy of the UAV Tribune.
- Maintain a phone # and mailing address for contact with UAV members and external parties like the media and public.
- Maintain a budget for all expenses and income from PR publications and mailings.
- Serve as the official point of contact representing the UAV with external parties like the media and public.
- Respond promptly to queries via email, postal mail, or telephone.
- Establish a positive working relationships with mass media like The Ukrainian Weekly.
- Draft and submit news releases and articles for publication on the UAV website, social media, and in mass media.
- Serve as a voting member of the UAV National Executive Board (NEB).
- Attend all NEB meetings (virtual quarterly meetings)
- Attend at least one in-person NEB meeting (typically held in conjunction with the annual convention in the fall).
- Present quarterly and annual written accounts of all PR related expenses and income to the NEB.
- Help the convention committee produce an annual convention journal.
- Solicit and collect revenue for advertisements and booster ads
- If the NEB hosts the convention, produce the convention journal.
- Other duties assigned by the UAV National Commander and NEB.

Skills and Qualifications

Required Skills and Attributes

- Must be a member in good standing of the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.
- If you are not currently a UAV member, please visit the UAV website's Membership page for instructions on how to apply for membership.
- Proficiency publishing newsletters, brochures, and flyers.
- Comfortable speaking to the media, giving interviews, and representing the UAV to the public.
- Preferred Skills and Attributes
- Proficiency using Microsoft Publisher, Canva, Affinity Publisher, Scribus, Adobe InDesign or similar tools to produce professional quality publications.
- Fluency in both Ukrainian and American English languages.

About the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

We are American veterans united through both our shared military experiences and a common Ukrainian heritage. We have created a national network of veterans to promote the welfare and patriotism of our members. We continue to serve our country and our fellow veterans.

Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. (UAV) is a not-for-profit 501(c)19 organization. Organized in 1948, the UAV is an American patriotic organization composed of honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces who are of Ukrainian heritage or descent. Learn more at the UAV website.

To apply, please write to the UAV Public Relations officer at uavpublicity@gmail.com. Please include the following:

Resume or CV and UAV Post Number



UAV Post 101 • Warren, Michigan



VA Benefits Discussed

UAV Post 101 Warren, Michigan held their Membership Meeting on April 30, 2026. At this meeting we were honored to have Macomb County Chief Veteran Service Officer, Laura Rios, speak to the members. Ms. Rios is a USAF Retired Master Sergeant with 26 years of service. She gave an excellent breakdown of our VA Benefits and she also discussed spousal benefits for our wives. She answered all of our questions and Post Members would like her to come back to another meeting.

POST 17 RECEIVES A SURPRISE DONATION



Margaret “Marge” Paroby, executrix of the Estate of **Richard Koster** (1932-2022), donated \$1,000 to the Ukrainian American Veterans’ Scholarship Fund in memory of her cousin. Marge has close ties with UAV Post 17 and her father is a WWII combat veteran, serving as a tanker in North Africa and European Theater.

Richar Koster served in the Navy during the Korean War and was a radio operator on the *USS Coral Sea*, a Midway-class aircraft carrier. His tour of duty on the ship was in the Mediterranean Sea from September

1950 to October 1952. After his tour of duty, Richard Koster lived in Saddle Brook, New Jersey and worked for 31 years as a Switchman at NJ Verizon/Bell.

***USS Coral Sea* during her 1955 Mediterranean cruise**





UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC.

UAV NATIONAL REGISTRY

PO Box 143

Ocklawaha, FL 32179

uavregistry@gmail.com www.uavets.org



OFFICIAL UAV NATIONAL REGISTRY APPLICATION

For Ukrainian American veterans of active duty, Reserve, National Guard, living or deceased.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Maiden Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime phone: () _____ Cell: () _____ E-mail: _____

Birthday: ____/____/____ Place of Birth _____ If deceased ____/____/____
month day year

When did you and/or your ancestors arrive in USA? _____ from which country? _____

When did you and/or your ancestors become USA citizens? ☐ myself ☐ ancestor _____ (indicate year)

Your Ukrainian ancestry is on your ☐ mother's side ☐ father's side ☐ both ☐ spouse

Are you UAV member? _____ If yes, UAV Post # _____ Other US Veterans Organization _____

Branch: (circle) USA USN USMC USAF USCG WWII-USMM USSF

SERVICE DATES: include Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard (*provide copy of DD Form 214 or equivalent*)

From: _____ to _____ ☐ Active Duty ☐ Reserve ☐

Guard From: _____ to _____ ☐ Active Duty ☐ Reserve ☐

Guard Military Decorations: _____

Highest Rank or Grade: _____ if deceased, place of burial: _____ -

☐ Retired from military service

☐ Photo taken in uniform enclosed, if available - no photocopier prints, please.

If registered by other than above, please indicate relationship to the veteran being registered: _____

If you have memorable military experiences, please write on the back of this page. Your short autobiography and photo in uniform will be appreciated.

☐ ZSU assigned to, Dates: _____ to _____ from _____ to _____

Commander's Name: _____

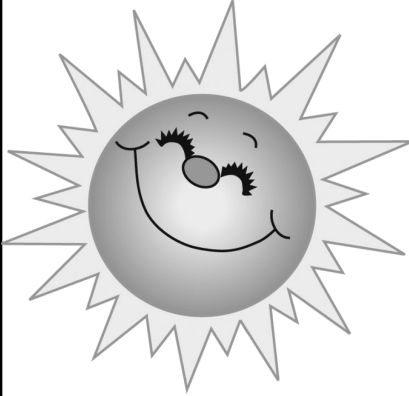
Date: _____ Signature: _____

Any person who is not of Ukrainian descent, but who meets the other requirements of Section 1 and served as a member of the Ukrainian International Legion or Hospitallers will be eligible for full membership in the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

Please return application with a copy of DD-214 (SSN redacted) or equivalent to:
Roman Makuch, P.O. Box 143, Ocklawaha, FL 32179, Thank you.
You do not have to be a member of the Ukrainian American Veterans to register. (Updated 2025)

POST 40 - NORTH PORT SHARES IN A BAZAAR EXPERIENCE

Submitted by: Bohdan Hirniak - Post 40



This year, as in the past many years, the North Port UAV Post #40 took active participation in the planning and managing of St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church's annual Easter Bazaar in North Port, FL. The Bazaar was well attended by parishioners as well as by many nonmember area residents. It was a three day event with good weather throughout.

Our participation in the Bazaar itself included running many of the food vending kiosks as well as those selling homemade holiday goods. Our membership did most of the literal and figurative "heavy lifting". These events are obviously fund raisers for the church, and this year's bazar was very much so.

Several of our members live in Naples, about 90 miles south of North Port. This membership participated in the first Ukrainian Film Festival, which was held on March 6th, 7th, and 8th at the Paragon Pavilion Theater in Naples. The festival was organized by the Naples chapter of the UNWLA, Naples Branch #136. Four films, all in Ukrainian with English subtitles, were shown each day and evening. The films were "Hollywood" quality, and the shows were well attended.

Again in Naples and as in the previous four years, our Ukrainian contingent was invited by the sponsors of the Naples St. Patrick's Day parade to participate in that parade with our flags and placards, which we did. There were about sixty participants with our members at the front carrying the US and Ukrainian flags. The group received constant applause and shouts of support.

From the Editor

In this issue, we are starting a new section called

As You Were... UAV Members In Uniform.

(See pages 18-19) This section will contain photos of **YOU**, while you were in the military. So help us out by sending a photo of you in uniform —"when your uniform still fit you" 😊

Send to **uavpublicity@gmail.com**. Include your name, Post #, year photo was taken, rank and branch of military, and a brief description. Wouldn't it be great if we had a photo from each of our UAV members! Photos will be printed "space available".

In the future, I would also like to do an article called **UAV Family Members.** This article would be group photos of brothers, sisters, fathers/sons, grandfathers/grandsons, etc. who are UAV members. You don't have to be in UAV uniform in the

photo— any photo of you together is fine. Make sure you give you names and Post #.

UAV Post Commanders, send articles and photos with captions of your Post activities.

Hint: when you take a photo, try to get as close to the subject matter as possible.

The UAV Tribune welcomes members to contribute an article.

Send submissions to: **uavpublicity@gmail.com**

A special thanks to Bohdan Dudycz for his help and guidance in completing this issue of the Tribune!

Ski Iworsky

Acting Publications Officer

USMCVietVet@comcast.net

POST 32 - CHICAGO MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES 2026

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Post 32 Adjutant



UAV Post 32 and American Legion Post 943 joined Most Rev. Benedict (Aleksiychuk), bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Nicholas of Chicago and 18 clergy members from many local parishes at the St. Nicholas cemetery to honor departed veterans. UAV members also belong to the American Legion. The bishop welcomed attendees and expressed his sincere admiration for American veterans and Ukrainian veterans currently fighting in the war against the Russian enemy. All attendees sang *Vichnaya Pamyat* for those military who have departed, American and Ukrainian.

UAV and 943 Iwaszuk - Cetwinski members proceeded to follow the proper flag protocol for Memorial Day, the U.S. flag was flown at half staff from sunrise until noon. It was then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day to honor fallen military personnel.

For Memorial Day observances, our post has collaborated with Chicago's clergy for over 25 years. We thank the priests and pastors who continue to join us as we show respect for our fallen heroes and vow to remember our fellow warriors at every opportunity. *Heroyam Slava!*



QUARTERMASTER STORE

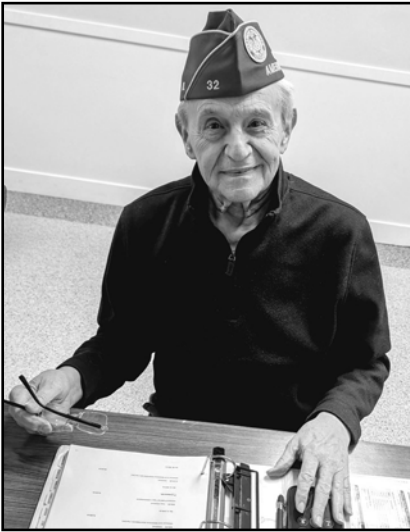
All UAV memorabilia is available through our National Quartermaster Ihor Draganchuk. To get a shipping quote or to order an item please contact:

Ihor Draganchuk 773-502-6023

Or email: uavquartermaster@gmail.com

The Cover and flag patch are uniform requirements and the remaining items are great as gifts for friends or family. Please

ALL PRICING ADJUSTMENTS EFFECTIVE July 1, 2026



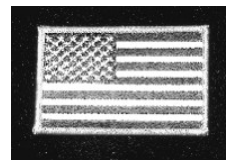
UAV Garrison cap - \$55.00
Include size when ordering



**Solid Blue
UAV Necktie
\$15.00 each**



UAV Car Decal \$12.00



**American flag and UAV arm Patch for
Summer wear. Sold as a set - \$21.00**



UAV Monument Coin \$12.00



**Jacket Emblem
to be worn on
the breast pocket
\$36.00**



**Tie or Jacket Pin
\$7.50**



UAV Monument Coin in case - \$30.00

UAV SPECIALTY FLASK

With a customizable leather exterior and 4 metal shot glasses stacked within the lid, this 8 oz flask is a convenient and stylish way to celebrate on the golf course or the picnic blanket. A great way to celebrate. Size - 7 3/8 X 2", shot glass size - 1 3/8" X 2".



4 shot cups, funnel
included

Cups stored under lid

Desktop replica of our Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument



SMALL: 7 1/2" x 5 1/2"

for \$35.00



LARGE: 11 1/4" x 7 1/4"

for \$45.00



UAV Tribune



Ski Iworsky, Acting Publications Officer
18 Maple St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

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We want you to join the UAV
like our Тато and Дідусь did!

Committee Meeting to Determine Final Design Selection of the UAV Memorial



1st Row- V. Rev.Frank Estocin, Metropolitan Anthony, Metriopolitan Stefan, V. Rev. William Diakiw
2nd Row- Anna Krawczuk, NLA President Oksana Koziak, Irene Estocin; 3rd Row- Bernard Krawczuk, Emil Skocypec,
Michael Wowk, PNC Mathew Koziak, PNC Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk, Walter Bodnar