Dear Fellow Ukrainian American Veterans,

What a difference a few months can make. When I last wrote, we were still celebrating the New Year and making ambitious plans for 2020. None of us had heard of the new virus COVID-19.

Today, however, it has become a household word, and we are all hunkering down to prevent the spread of this deadly disease. To that end, I would like to provide an update to our ambitious plans:

- During a recent teleconference with Lt. General Besarab, Minister of Ukrainian Veterans Affairs, the scheduled Veterans Forum in August has been put on hold and would most likely be rescheduled later this year.

- Plans for the 73rd annual convention at Quantico Marine Corps Base are going forward which has been scheduled for October 8 – 10. Further details are included in this issue of the Tribune. (pages 17, 18, 19, 21 & 23)

- Plans to raise funds to help defray the costs of bringing wounded Ukrainian soldiers to Washington DC to participate in the Marine Corps Marathon in October are still in play and the UAV will be seeking your support.

- The UAV’s plan to send Christmas packages to US troops at Yavoriv have been cancelled. This was done due to security restrictions which are enforced by the DOD. The UAV has revised our plans to refocus on sending Christmas packages to either Ukrainian American active duty warriors or American warriors stationed overseas. Details will be provided as they develop.

- The UAV is still planning on organizing a trip to Kyiv in 2021 in order to participate in Ukraine’s 30th Independence celebration.

- Plans for providing rehab equipment to Ukrainian Military Hospitals have been delayed but not stopped. The rehab committee has selected the Lviv Military Hospital to receive critically identified items and is currently working the logistics to accomplish the delivery.

- The NEB is reviewing the legal aspects of opening a Kyiv Post. Such a post would be instrumental in dealing with our liaison efforts with both the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

In conclusion, I'd like to remind you that the UAV National Welfare Fund is available if you need financial assistance during the current COVID-19 pandemic. We all know Ukrainians are proud and don't like to ask for help, but these are truly extraordinary times.

God Bless and be safe,

Ihor Rudko
UAV National Commander
US Navy Admiral William H. McRaven, one of the most decorated US commanders, delivers one of the best motivational speeches you will ever hear.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBuIGBCF9jc
Brandon P. Hrycak, graduated University of California at Irvine, June 13, 2020, with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science and Policy. He will be attending graduate school at University of California at Davis this coming fall studying for a Master of Science In Environmental Policy and Management. On Sunday, June 14, 2020, he was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps. He is being assigned to 118th Maintenance Company, California Army National Guard.

Brandon, you will be defending freedom against non-state actors, terrorists, whose reach extends to within the borders of the Continental United States, who are supported and trained by communists, both from China and Russia. Today, you are entering a different United States Army. You are still going to train to oppose possible adversaries, China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia. So, 102 years after your great grandfather was displaced by Bolsheviks, and 39 years after your father was commissioned, you face the same enemies.

This is where your principles and discipline will be tested. You will have the best training, equipment, and yes, with most of your soldiers having combat experience, the best soldiers. But you will have to be ready to lead your soldiers in a variety of different missions in support of varying Theaters of Operations.

I challenge you to rely upon your Ukrainian background, both cultural and genetic, and as a Kozak you will be able to fight for freedom, without doubt or question, and you will know you have done your part to keep your family, and following generations free from the scourge of communism and other evils. We sleep soundly at night because we know that you, and our other warriors, are ready to meet the enemy at the gates.

The Hrycak Warrior Family

Second Lieutenant Brandon P. Hrycak

Brandon P. Hrycak and Father Michael P. Hrycak at the Ft. Knox Army Basic camp on Family Day

Michael Hrycak, as part of a 28 year Army career, deployed here in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006, 2007

Eugene Hrycak, son of Pavlo Hrycak, shown as a proud Marine in 1978

Uncle Pavlo Hrycak, volunteer in the 1st Ukrainian Division, German Army, 1943
THE SECRET FUEL THAT MADE THE SPITFIRE SUPREME

This is a declassified article by the British Society of Chemists (Declassified in 2014)

Story submitted by Carl Harvey, Post 33 Commander
Photo submitted by: The Army National Museum

WWII GASOLINE

It seems that the German and British aircraft both used 87 Octane Gasoline in the first two years of the war. While that was fairly satisfactory in the German Daimler-Benz V-12 engine, it was marginal in the British Rolls-Royce Merlin XX engine in British aircraft. It fouled the spark-plugs, caused valves to stick, and made frequent engine repair problems.

Then came lend-lease and American aircraft began to enter British service in great numbers. If British engines hated 87 Octane gasoline, American, General Motors Built, Allison 1710 engines loathed and despised it. Something had to be done!

Along came an American named Tim Palucka, a chemist for Sun Oil in their South East Texas Refinery. Never heard of him? Small wonder, very few people have. He took a French formula for enhancing the octane of Gasoline, and invented the "Cracking Tower" and produced 100 octane aviation Gasoline. This discovery led to great joy among our English Cousins and great distress among the Germans. "His miraculous catalyst turned nearly worthless sludge into precious high-octane gasoline and helped the Allies to win World War II."

A Spitfire fueled with 100 Octane gasoline was 34 miles per hour faster at 10,000 feet. The need to replace engines went from every 500 hours of operation to every 1,000 hours, which reduced the cost of British aircraft by 300 Pounds Sterling. Even more, when used in 4 engine bombers. The Germans couldn't believe it when Spitfires that couldn't catch them a year ago started shooting their ME-109 E and G models right out of the sky. The 100-octane fuel that resulted from the Houdry Process increased the Spitfire's speed by 25 mph at sea level by 34 mph at 10,000 feet.

With the balance tipped towards the British, the German invasion was abandoned and Hitler turned eastwards, allowing the UK armed forces time to regroup and to revive.

Of course, the matter had to be kept secret. If the Germans found out that it was a French Invention, They'd simply copy the original French patents. If any of you have ever wondered what they were doing in that 3 story white brick building in front of the Sun Oil Refinery on Old Highway 90, that was it. They were re-inventing gasoline.

"It is an established fact that a difference of only 13 points in octane number made possible the defeat of the Luftwaffe by the RAF in the fall of 1940. This difference, slight as its seems, is sufficient to give a plane the vital edge in altitude, rate of climb and maneuverability that spells the difference between defeat and victory.

The American Allison engines improved remarkably with 100 Octane gasoline, but did much better when 130 octane gasoline came along in 1944. The 130 Octane also improved the Radial Engine Bombers we produced.

The Germans and Japanese never snapped to the fact that we had re-invented gasoline. Neither did our "Friends" the Russians. 100,000 Americans died in the skies over Europe. Lord only knows what that number would have been without "Super-Gasoline". And it all was invented just a few miles west of Beaumont, and we never knew a thing about it.
Memorial Day has been set aside to remember all those who had served honorably in the preservation of our liberties and have passed to eternal memory. This year, it was an honor to have had Most Reverend Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak, Most Reverend Bishop Andriy Rabi, Reverend Roman Pitula and Deacon Volodymyr Radko, offer the Memorial Day Panakhyda at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Jenkintown for those Ukrainian American Veterans who have passed. Reverend Protopriest Taras Naumenko of The Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Vladimir offered a Panakhyda honoring those who passed and were buried at Oakland Cemetery. Due to the unusual circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, all participants followed the guidelines of social distancing and wore masks.

Flags had previously been placed on the graves of those veterans. Commander Zetick read the names of those veterans who had passed in the previous year as well as the new additions to Post #1’s memorial plaque. This plaque with its updates can be viewed at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, Pa.

Rest in Peace

Вічная Пам’ять

Taps is easily recognizable all over the world. It is played by the U.S. Army and by the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides to signal the end of the day. It is also played at all U.S. military funerals. In remembrance, we bid farewell to our departed UAV warriors.

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh.

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UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS AND CAMPAIGN ENDORSEMENTS
POLICY STATEMENT

Submitted by Bohdan Dudycz, Publications/PR Officer

The Ukrainian American Veterans Commander Ihor Rudko strongly expressed the UAV policy on public support for any candidate running for public office, regardless of party. The UAV may not make any endorsements of political candidates for any elected office. The UAV’s by laws and our not-for-profit tax status strictly prohibit the national organization, as well as local UAV chapters and state councils, from making any such endorsements. Occasionally, confusion arises when individual UAV members, who are often very politically active, are identified as representatives of our organization. To preclude any misunderstandings, as required by our membership, we must get the word out to clarify the record.

“The federal tax code is very clear in this regard, and any implication of improper activities could cause us to lose our tax exemption and not-for-profit status. As long as no UAV endorsement of a political candidate is given or implied, individual UAV members are encouraged to participate in the political process. As private citizens, we have every right to do so.”

With Posts established in 20 cities nationwide, the UAV stands as an apolitical organization with no affiliation to any political party or campaign. The Ukrainian American Veterans, founded in 1947, as a service organization was formed in large part to support laws and policies to ensure that veterans receive the needed help they earned.
SGA Remembers 17 Killed in Florida
Liza Szonyi - lszonyi@ucca.org
St. George Academy, 215 East 6th Street, New York, NY 10003

Submitted by: Anna Krawczuk
Photos courtesy SGA News Association

New York, NY - On Wednesday, March 14, 2019 the students and faculty of Saint George Academy (SGA) joined thousands of high school students around the country in a walk-out to commemorate the 17 innocent victims of the mass shooting that took place on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Wearing orange ribbons in solidarity with their peers around the nation, and holding signs that read “We remember the victims of the Florida shooting”, the students and faculty left the school at approximately 10 am, walked down 6th Street, to 2nd Avenue and up 7th Street in a solemn march of remembrance. The students then proceeded into Saint George Ukrainian Catholic Church where Principal Andrij Stasiw spoke to the students about the tragedy and read the names of each of the 17 victims who perished on February 14. Everyone then prayed for the innocent victims of the slaughter and their families and shared their thoughts with each other about the tragic event.

Noah Bailen, a junior, shared his regret and hopes for the future, “Killing does not solve anything. It will only be a vest of regret and sadness for the rest of one’s life. . . It is time for a change!”

Senior James Verdugo imparted the following advice to his fellow students, “Cherish your life. Love your life. Live every day like it’s your last…."

“Those who need help need to see that seeking help isn’t a bad thing. . . it doesn’t define you as mentally unstable. In order to start this positive change, we need to remove all the harsh labels, begin to take accountability for our actions and problem-solve as a nation.” stated sophomore Alexandra Pabon.

Junior Maksym Ivashkiv concluded with the thought, “…we don’t need to wait for somebody to deal with our problems. We can and have to do it by ourselves, because the future is depending on us.”

Then the students had the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker, Father Ivan Kaszczak, who poignantly pointed out the “The hurt, hurt others.” He went on to remind the students that the Lord has given us free will and that when we are hurting we have a choice in how we react. If we put our faith in God, we can heal our wounds and make the world a better, more loving place.

The prayer service concluded with a few words from Principal Andrij Stasiw, before the students returned to the school library to meet with Mamuka Mamulashvili, Commander of the Georgian National Legion, who spoke briefly about gun violence and the ongoing war in Ukraine.
RADIOMEN IN THE VIETNAM WAR FACED A 5-SECOND LIFE EXPECTANCY

Story submitted by Peter Polny, NY State Commander
Photo: Submitted by Joe Nasevich, UAV Webmaster

At the height of the Vietnam War, up-and-coming commo guys who wanted to learn the art of radio operation would walk into a classroom and see a huge number five written on the chalkboard. Inevitably, someone's curiosity would win out and they'd ask what the big number meant. The instructor would then calmly tell them, "That's your life expectancy, in seconds, in a firefight. So, listen up and you might learn something that'll keep you alive." That number wasn't some outrageous scare tactic. During the Vietnam War, the odds were tremendously stacked against radio operations - and that 5-second life expectancy was, for some, a grim reality.

In all fairness, that number was on the more extreme side of estimates. The life expectancy of a radio operator in the Vietnam War ranged between five to six seconds all the way up to a slightly more-optimistic thirty seconds, depending on your source. If you look at all of the things the radio operators were tasked with, it becomes abundantly clear why commo guys weren't expected to last long.

The first and most obvious tally in the "you're screwed" column was the overall weight of the gear radio operators were expected to carry into battle. The PRC-77 radio system weighed 13.5 lbs. without batteries. Toss in batteries, some spare batteries, and the unsightly, large encryption device called the NESTOR and you're carrying 54lbs on your back at all times. Now add your weapon system onto that and try to keep up as you fight alongside your unencumbered brethren. It took a lot of getting used to - but they managed.

If the weight wasn't problem enough, next came the antennae. They weren't all too heavy, and extremely uncomfortable to use and would often give your position away to the enemy. The three-foot version was easier on the radio operator, but it wouldn't work in thick jungles. For that environment, the radio operator needed a ten-foot whip antenna to stick out of their back, which was a great way to draw unwanted attention. The Viet Cong knew what it meant to take out a guy with a giant, ten-foot antenna sticking out of their back; you might as well have painted a bullseye on them. You take out the radio operator and you effectively avoid dealing with air support. Additionally, it was well known that a radio operator's place in the marching order was at the heels of the officer-in-charge. two high-priority targets in one spot.

And it wasn't just the bullets that radio operators had to watch out for. The large antenna also acted as a targeting point for mortars and other explosives. All they had to do was aim for the antenna and they could wipe out anyone near the radio operator. As terrible as it sounds, this meant that the radio operator would sometimes move in isolation, away from the rest of the squad.

It's unclear exactly how many radio operators lost their lives during the Vietnam War. While many radio operators were fulfilling their MOS, others just had a radio strapped to them in times of need. One thing is for certain, though: Being a radio operator back in the Vietnam War put you among the most badass troops the military had to offer.
"PATIENCE REWARDED WITH SUCCESS !!!!"

Last Nov/Dec I spent 17 consecutive days of hard white-tailed deer hunting in the rain, sleet, snow and bitter cold for friend in the Catskill Mts. in NYS. Normally, I hunt together with 4 friends but last year, their work commitments interfered with hunting season. So this resulted in my having the farm house plus the entire 300 acres to myself. Importantly, I spent 2 long weekends before the season scouting the woods/meadows searching for tell-tale signs of buck-rubs on small tree saplings, deer scrapes in feeding areas and their bedding thickets. Two weeks before the hunting season, one of my trail cameras captured photos of a 300+ pound black bear as well as a huge white-tailed buck in the area. Thus, it was with much nervous anticipation I awaited the opening day of hunting.

Howling winds persisted, accompanied with much rain, sleet and snow during the first week almost every day of hunting and continued throughout the 2nd week. After 2 weeks of stormy winds, the weather settled down, but went into a "deep freeze" with temperatures close to Zero degrees for several days. (I am well used to and familiar with extreme cold as I hunted Arctic wolves in February in northern Alaska years ago with temperatures ranging from -30 to -40 degrees below Zero!!!)

Patience, coupled with hard hunting started to pay off as the deer, mostly female does and young 2 or 3 point bucks, started moving around in the forests and meadows. Finally, on the 17th day, a small herd of does were running around being chased by a HUGE antlered buck in full rut. After waiting a few moments for a clear shot, my rifle rang out through the woods as the buck stammered, then ran for about 100 yards and dropped on the logging trail. The next surprise was the buck finally fell only 20 yards from my parked Kubota ATV. The last and biggest surprise, I had downed a prize 10-point trophy white-tailed buck!!! This buck was judged one of the best trophy bucks taken in this area of Catskills by a local hunting association and was also featured with a short write-up and picture in the local Walton, NY newspaper. Unfortunately, I did not see the black bear during the hunting season and to my knowledge, the bear was not downed in the area. So, I have something to look forward to next year as this bear will likely put on another 30 pounds.

Sitting on the couch and my husband sweetly whispered… “The best part about all of this virus quarantine is that I get to spend more time with you”. As I looked over lovingly, I realized he was talking to the dog, not me!
REFLECTIONS ON MY TRIP TO NORMANDY FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY
June, 2019

Story & photos submitted by Maria Melnyk, Post 32 - Chicago

It’s been a dream of mine to attend a major D-Day Anniversary in Normandy ever since the 40th Anniversary 35 years ago but for various reasons I had to keep putting it on hold. This time though there could be no more delay. Our country was rapidly losing its remaining World War II veterans. This was the 75th Anniversary, the last time ever that a significant number of them would be together, returning to the soil of the land they liberated 75 years earlier. It was the last chance; I had to make it happen. And so, on June 3rd, I landed in France and embarked on my expedition.

After a restful night in Paris, my rented car and I headed toward Normandy. Sometime later with the city of Paris far behind me, the sign I had waited 35 years to see came into view – Normandy. I'm here! Well, almost. It was still a long drive to the beaches. My first stop was the town of Ranville, and along with it came the first of many traffic jams I would encounter during the week. Here is Pegasus Bridge, the first bridge liberated by the British. Next to it is the famous Pegasus Café looking now much as it did in 1944. It was raining and the crowds were enormous. Wanting very much to eat at the Pegasus Café but lacking the time it would take to sit down and order, I bought a croissant and ate it right at the counter. My first goal was achieved; I ate at the Pegasus Café!

I headed toward Sword Beach, the easternmost of the five landing beaches. What a breathtaking site as I captured my first glimpse of the place where British forces landed at 0725 hours on D-Day. I had to pause and take in where I was and what happened here. I walked out to the edge of the sand, quite far out due to the low tide. Others were also strolling along the edge of the water, occasionally stopping to pick up a seashell. Juno Beach was next, the Canadian landing beach. It was quiet, a much different atmosphere than the British beach. Canadian flags were all around me. I stood and listened to the stillness. The sun was getting low in the sky. And so, I ended my first full day in France and drove to my hotel in Bayeux, my home for the next week.

The next day June 5th was D--(minus)1. I eagerly set out to join my new friends, a battlefield tour guide and his wife from Illinois whom I befriended prior to the trip. We drove to Carentan to watch the parachute drop. This was the site of a battle between the United States Airborne Forces and the German Wehrmacht. The entire town was having the biggest street party I have ever seen; there were veterans, reenactors, civilians in period dress, musicians, and Americans – lots of Americans – and American food. Hundreds of 1940’s parachutes fell from the sky, each paratrooper in period uniform. Among them was Tom Rice, a 97-year-old veteran of the 101st Airborne Division, wearing the same uniform and landing in nearly the same spot that he did three-quarters of a century earlier.

The next day was D-Day. I was fortunate to be accepted as one of the 12,000 attendees of the Ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer at Omaha Beach. The sun had not yet fully risen when I was already at one of only three pick-up points. No one was allowed to travel on their own to the ceremony, nor anywhere else for that matter. Roads were blocked for 24 hours and security was tight with police everywhere. It was a long bus ride to the cemetery. As we walked from the parking area and turned the corner, it suddenly became very quiet. The crosses and Stars of David were directly in front of us less than 10 feet away. We didn’t expect this so soon. We froze, unable to move for a few moments, staring almost in disbelief. Here was the final resting place of over 9,300 Americans killed during the invasion and in its aftermath. This was the image I’ve seen so many times on television, but now I was actually standing on this hallowed ground.
Reflections on My Trip to Normandy… (continued from page 10)

It was still three hours before the ceremony. I was fortunate enough to be seated in the VIP section, the 18th row from the stage with nearly 12,000 people behind me.

On the big screen we watched the President of France and the President of the United States land with their wives at the helicopter field of the cemetery. The ceremony was magnificent and memorable – bands, choirs, national anthems, speeches, prayers, fly-overs. When it was over, we were allowed onto the stage to meet, shake hands, and speak with the 170 D-Day veterans who returned to the battlefield to be part of these historic celebrations, some seeing their comrades for the first time in 75 years. We didn’t want to leave, but we had buses to catch. Two hours later I was back in my car. Because of traffic, the 20-minute drive to my hotel took over four hours. I was tired and hungry but very happy. My greatest desire of this entire trip – attendance at the ceremony – was realized.

The next day was D+1 and we headed to Ste-Mère-Église to attend the official D-Day parade. This was the first French town liberated by the Allies. Also, a must-see site for me was Angoville-au-Plain and the 11th-century church that was turned into an infirmary. In June of 1944 two medics of the “Screaming Eagle” 101st Airborne set up an aid station inside the church, treating the injured from both sides including Germans. You can still see the blood stains from the wounded on the benches.

After a Catholic Mass inside the church and an outdoor ceremony, I spoke with some of the veterans including paratrooper Tom Rice, whom I saw parachuting into Carentan a few days earlier. The veterans and reenactors then joined the town officials for a celebration. I stood outside and listened as they laughed and sang, “Glory, glory what a helluv’a way to die, He ain’t gonna jump no more!” How I would have loved to join them!

At Pointe du Hoc, reenactors once again scaled the same cliffs that the American rangers scaled 75 years earlier, driving the German defenders from their trenches. I met and spoke with PFC Kenneth B. Smith, who was on the USS Satterlee (DD-626). These were his words: “I joined the Navy in 1942 as a 17-year-old and was onboard the USS Satterlee from 1943 to 1946.

Over the next few days as I explored the battlefields, the massive battery inside a fortified German bunker at Longues-sur-Mer, the “Iron Mike” Statue which pays tribute to the numerous American paratroopers who lost their lives at La Fière Bridge, the somber German cemetery and all five landing beaches. At Omaha Beach I collected seashells and scooped up some sand to take back home.

Throughout my stay, Normandy reenactors were everywhere, thousands of them. It was impossible to drive down a road without seeing WWII military jeeps, their drivers and passengers all in uniform. It looked so real that it made me imagine how it really was in 1944. On my last day I met two French reenactors at Utah Beach and I asked them for a photo. One of them said, “I’ll do anything for you Americans; you liberated us.”

After all the ceremonies, one final small moment stands out as much as the rest. As my very last day in Normandy was coming to a close, I was in a hurry to get to my hotel. I drove through a small village; I saw a little girl waving a French flag.

“How cute,” I said to myself. I stopped in front of her right in the middle of the road and raised my camera. She posed for me while I took this shot. As I pulled away and waved, she waved back with her flag, said politely, “Au revoir,” and then shouted with pride, “Vive la France!” (And yes, I did make it to the hotel on time.)
November 2019, John Steciw, IPNA made contact with Father Stephan Sus of Sts. Peter & Paul Garrison Church in Lviv, Ukraine. Father Sus was visiting Chicago and during that meeting, John told Father Sus about the UAV Wounded Warrior - Rehab Fund. After the UAV delegation visited several military hospitals and rehabilitation clinics, they recommended that the Lviv Military Hospital was the most impressive and we should assist them.

Father Sus put Peter Bencak, UAV Past National Commander in touch with the rehab specialist they met during their visit and he in turn put Peter in touch with Dr. Roman Skoropad, Neurologist at the Lviv Military Hospital. Both Peter and Dr. Roman have exchanged emails and phone calls since the beginning of the year to narrow down the type of equipment they were in need of to help in the rehabilitation efforts. It was decided by Dr. Skoropad and his medical colleagues as to what they were in need of urgently. They selected:

One (1) Rehabilitation unit MOTOmed viva2 for legs and arms. Cost $8,780.00
One (1) Ceiling hoist GH1 175kg. Cost $5,940.00
Ten (10) Medicak bed sets w/Cabinet. ($1,448.00 each) Cost $14,480.00

On Memorial Day, they UAV Humanitarian Rehab Committee approved the request and Dr. Skoropad was told to order the equipment. Upon receipt of the legal contract from both contractors, Peter Bencak did a wire transfer of fifty percent (50%) as a deposit. Dr. Skoropad informed Peter on June 22nd that all equipment was delivered and set up and gave the approval to pay the balance. The total cost for these initial items was $29,200. Peter proceeded to Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, Chicago and sent the balance due.

This completed phase 1 of the Rehab purchases and now Peter is working with Dr. Skoropad on phase 2, to identify additional Rehab equipment for Lviv Military Hospital. We still have a balance of $23,000 in the Humanitarian Rehab account. Everyone will be informed of further developments.

Our goal was to have all equipment in place this spring and both Peter Bencak, IPNC, Ihor Rudko, NC would fly to Lviv to inspect the medical assistance equipment and insure that all was in order. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Pandemic in the USA and Ukraine delayed our visit. We hope to make that visit soon and have a final report at the October Convention.

(on Right) The MOTOmed Viva2 trainer is an active, Passive and Passive-Assist trainer is specifically designed for physical and neurological rehabilitation exercises.

(above) This solid, fully-electric bed provides smooth and quiet head, foot and height positioning. Includes food tray and cabinet.

(on Right) The Ceiling hoist GH1 is an indispensable piece of rehab equipment used during therapy to retrain patient upright mobility.
The COVID—19 virus has debilitated all of our UAV activities. Government dictated that we follow specific and strict guidelines to overcome this scourge. We are all retired military and we know how to take orders. Our meetings were cancelled, our 5th annual picnic was postponed to next year. All posting of colors did not happen because festivals, banquets and other celebrations were shut down.

This year will be remembered with somber memories. However, our post could not stand by idly during Memorial Day. Our duty to honor the dead with flags and a prayer was paramount. This was an outdoor activity that we could perform and meet social distancing. For the first time our member Marko Magajne brought his two daughters Sofia and Teya to help us as we placed flags at Veterans grave sites. We also marked the headstones of our departed veterans with a round metal button. This will help with future gravesite identification. Next year we hope to have more scouts to assist.

Preparing to burn worn and tired American flags

On Memorial Day it is a high honor to remember our brothers and sisters and their sacrifice

Young Scouts setting an example for others how to remember departed Veterans

Self-stick metal buttons used to mark the headstones of veterans. Available through our National Quartermaster. Our suggested placement is the back, center of the headstone.

Honoring the departed
The M14 - A Brief History

Story submitted by Peter Polny, NY State Commander
Photo submitted by: The Army National Museum

The M14 was the standard infantry rifle for all Army and Marine units that deployed to Vietnam in 1965.

In April 1958, the government-owned Springfield Armory in Massachusetts initiated production of the M14 rifle. The product of nearly 15 years of research and development, the new weapon could switch between semi-automatic and fully automatic modes to increase firepower. But production started slowly, and early operational experience identified problems.

The primary complaints were fragile receivers, malformed bolts, poor accuracy and instability during automatic fire. All of those problems but the last were fixed by better quality control, and the stability issue was addressed by limiting 90 percent of the rifles to semi-automatic mode. There were efforts to manufacture an M14 version that would serve as a rifle squad’s automatic weapon, including the specially designed M14A1, but they either failed or proved disappointing.

The M14’s gas-operating firing system was based on that of the M1. Also like the M1, the M14 stored a cleaning kit in the butt-trap. The rifle had a front blade sight and peep sight, the latter adjustable for windage and range in 100-meter increments out to 1,000 meters. The M14 could be used with an M6 bayonet and M76 rifle grenade launcher attachment. An M2 bipod could be installed on the ones with the automatic-fire mode.

The M14 was the standard infantry rifle for all Army and Marine units that deployed to Vietnam in 1965, but Defense Secretary Robert McNamara ended procurement in 1964, selecting the M16 as a replacement. By 1970, only a handful of M14s remained in Vietnam.

Flawed and designed for a war with the Soviet Union in Europe that never came, the M14 with its large 7.62 mm round was America’s last full-power, or “battle rifle,” before the age of “assault rifles,” such as the American M16 and Soviet AK-47. The M14 served as the standard infantry rifle for only seven years. However, variants with improved accuracy entered service in the 1990s, and the rifle’s long-range striking power has made it the weapon of choice for many units in Afghanistan, where combat engagement ranges often exceed 300 meters and require rounds that can penetrate building walls—jobs not as well performed by the shorter-range, smaller-round (5.56 mm) M16 family.

In Iraq and Afghanistan today, M14s are still used on the front lines by the Army, often as a sniper weapon, because their effective power, especially in urban settings, and their reliability in the rugged, sandy conditions found in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, which is assigned to the Military District of Washington, is the sole remaining infantry unit in the Army to be issued the M14 as the standard rifle. The Old Guard uses the M14 for ceremonial events, and Tomb Sentinels carry them while guarding the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery.

**M-14 Specifications:**

- **Rounds:** 7.62-by-51 mm ball, armor-piercing and tracer
- **Magazine:** 20 rounds
- **Weight:** 10.7 pounds loaded; 12 pounds with bipod
- **Overall length:** 44.3 inches
- **Barrel length:** 22 inches
- **Maximum rate of fire:** 750 rounds per minute
- **Effective rate (in combat):** 60 rpm automatic; 40 rpm semi-automatic
- **Muzzle velocity:** 850 meters (2,801 feet) per second
- **Maximum effective range:** 460 meters (500 yards)
MEMORIAL DAY CZECH STYLE

Story & photos submitted by: Leo Iwaskiw, Post 1 - Philadelphia

This is an amazing story of remembrance. In the Czech Republic, the school children of the equivalent of fifth grade are each assigned one of the American and Canadian liberators buried there. Their grave is the student's responsibility for the year, and they learn all there is to know of their own hero. Their surviving family is sent letters and they respond to the annual child who tends their loved one's grave.

Have you ever wondered if anyone in Europe remembers America's sacrifice in World War II? There is an answer in a small town in the Czech Republic. The town called Pilsen (Plzen).

Every 5 years, Pilsen conducts the Liberation Celebration of the City of Pilsen in the Czech Republic. May 6th, 2010 marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Pilsen by General George Patton's 3rd Army. Pilsen is the town that every American should visit. Because they love America and the American Soldier. Even 65 years later... by the thousands the citizens of Pilsen came to say thank you.

Lining the streets of Pilsen for miles from the large crowds to quiet reflective moments, Pilsen citizens take the time to honor and remember their American heroes.

Another chapter in this important story... the Czech people are teaching their children about America's sacrifice for their freedom. American Soldiers, young and old, are the Rock Stars these children and their parents want autographs from them.

Each year, a different military hero is honored in tribute to General Patton's memory and their mission to liberate Europe. This award will be presented to a graduating senior who will be entering the military or a form of community service such as fireman, policeman, teaching or nursing -- a cause greater than self. It's a shame that most millennials don't learn much about WWII and the sacrifice many made for liberty.

The Kalyna Deb is organized by the Plast fraternity Khmelnychenky, a Ukrainian / American Scouting Organization.

EARL RIVER, N.Y. – Over 700 guests celebrated 15 debutantes at the Chervona Kalyna Cotillion Ball on February 8 at the Hilton Pearl River in Pearl River, N.Y. A portion of the proceeds from the evening’s event will benefit the Ukrainian American Veterans’ Wounded Ukrainian Soldier Project. Pictured above are the debutantes and their escorts (from left): Nicholas Santone, Solomiya Koziy, Mark Klempick, Kalyna Woloszyn, Roman Zharovsky, Sofia Turko, Michael Knysh, Juliya Marchiuk, Roman Raguoso, Adrianna Mandzay, Darius Kulchyckyi, Katerina Bazarko, Azarchyk Babceenko, Katherine Anne Czernecky, Catherine Marie Tymkiw Hanifin, Lev Lysyy, Hannah Bazylevsky, Paul Williams, Sophia Tetiana Savchuk, Alex Brandafi, Alexa Sophia Malone, Taras Erachshaw, Kristine Kostiv, Andrey Petruniv, Olya Yezerska, Alexander Jaroszak, Natalia Elizabeth McMeekin, Daniel Ogurin, Arianna Porytko Thomson and Michael Wroblewski.

The UAV Thanks Plast, The Korin Khmelnychenky and the Debutants and their escorts for their generosity.
WWII FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW!

Submitted by: Ihor Rudko, National Commander

- The first German serviceman killed in the war was killed by the Japanese.
- Over 100,000 Allied bomber crewmen were killed over Europe.
- More U.S. Servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps.
- Polish Catholic midwife Stanisawa Leszczyńska delivered 3,000 babies at the Auschwitz Concentration camp during the Holocaust in occupied Poland.
- In WWII, British soldiers got a ration of three sheets of toilet paper a day. Americans got 22.
- In 1941, more than three million cars were manufactured in the United States. Only 139 more were made during the entire war.
- Four of every five German soldiers killed in the war died on the Eastern Front.
- Only 20 percent of the males born in the Soviet Union in 1923 survived the war.
- In World War II, the youngest serviceman in the United States military was Calvin Graham - age 12. Graham lied about his age when he enlisted in the US Navy.
- Only one out of every four men serving on U-boats survived.
- The Siege of Stalingrad resulted in more Russian deaths (military and civilian) than the United States and Britain sustained (combined) in all of World War II.
- To avoid using the German sounding name ‘hamburger’ during World War II, Americans used the name ‘Liberty Steak.’
- Adolf Hitler’s nephew, William Hitler, served in the US Navy during World War II!!!
- During World War II, the largest Japanese spy ring was actually located in Mexico.
- The mortality rate for Russian POWs in German camps was 85 percent.
- Had it been necessary for a third atom bomb, the city targeted would have been Tokyo.
- Total casualties for World War II totaled between 50 - 70 million people, 80 percent of which came from only four countries - Ukraine, China, Germany and Poland. Over 50 percent of the casualties were civilians, with the majority of those being women and children.

Veterans are people who, at one point in their lives, wrote a blank check payable to the United States of America, for an amount up to and including their lives. Remember ALL of our Vets.
Dear Fellow UAV Member,

The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. (UAV) is a patriotic Veterans Service organization composed of Active Duty and Honorably Discharged Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, who are of Ukrainian heritage or descent. Our mission is to unite these American Veterans and we pledge to sustain the Constitution, government and laws of the United States. Given our background, the UAV serves a dual function in the public community: It is both an American Veterans Service organization and an ethnic Ukrainian organization.

The UAV National Executive Board is honored to host our 73rd National Ukrainian American Veteran’s Convention. Arrangements have been made for our convention to be held at the Inns of the Corps Quantico – 3018 Russell Rd., Quantico, VA 22134. The US Marines Corps has generously opened their camp for us to celebrate our association in the convention seminars and banquet.

In preparation for this event, we need to have a proper count of delegates and other attendees, so we are including forms for the convention in our Tribune and they are:

1. The Hotel Reservation instructions. (PAGE 18)
2. The Banquet Seating Reservation Form. (PAGE 19)

The names of all delegates and alternates shall be filed with George Horbenko, National Adjutant at least thirty (30) days prior to the National Convention.

If you plan to attend, please complete the proper forms and return them to us as soon as you can. These forms are self-evident but please call or email me, Commander Ihor Rudko or Publications Officer Bohdan Dudycz if you need further assistance.

The expenses for this event are paid by benefactors with direct contributions or advertising in our Official Convention Journal. The Journal is a compilation of advertising submitted by our patrons. It will be available at our Convention and Banquet. All Delegates and Full page advertisers attending our banquet will receive a copy of the commemorative journal. Full page advertisers who do not attend the convention will have the journal mailed to them upon request.

We are asking for your support of the Ukrainian American Veterans by obtaining advertising for our Journal. The pricing is reasonable, and advertisements will be seen by hundreds of UAV members across our country. Please refer to the attached advertising agreement for specific rates and mailing instructions.

Finally, any UAV member who needs uniform items, please contact Steve Kostecki, our Quartermaster (page 22 in this issue of the Tribune) by September 1, 2020.

We hope to see you at our Convention in October 8-10, 2020.

Best Regards,
Ihor Rudko
National Commander
Convention Chairman
HOTEL RESERVATION
INNS OF THE CORPS QUANTICO
3018 Russell Rd.
Quantico, VA 22134

RESERVATION PHONE: 1-703-630-4444
Reserve room by telephone only and use group code “Ukrainian American Veterans” in order to receive the group rate.

COST: $95 per night. Breakfast is included

RESERVATION DEADLINE
RESERVE ROOMS BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2020.
* (Reservations can only be made directly with the Inn by telephone.)

LOCATION FROM AIRPORT
37 miles - Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
49 miles - Washington Dulles International Airport
74 miles - Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport
87 miles - Richmond International Airport
93 miles - Charlottesville Albemarle Airport

QUESTIONS CALL:
HOTEL RESERVATION PHONE: 1-703-630-4444

Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records.
2(2020)
UAV BANQUET RESERVATION  
Due by September 1, 2020

Please reserve _______ tickets, at $75.00 per person, for the UAV 73rd Convention Banquet

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020
TIME: COCKTAIL HOUR AT 6:00 PM - DINNER AT 7:00 PM
PLACE: Quantico Officers Club - 3017 Russell Rd, Quantico, VA 22134

Enclosed is my check, made payable to: UAV 73rd CONVENTION BANQUET in the amount of $_________________ for _________ tickets.

Dinner will be set in a separate buffet area. Diners will serve themselves, selecting the salad ingredients, a choice of varied sides and vegetables and an array of succulent meats. A very popular form of service, à la Francaise, buffets are often the meal of choice in various places including hotels, restaurants, and many social events.

Name: _____________________________________________UA V 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: UAV 73RD CONVENTION BANQUET  
Commander Ihor Rudko at 44 Jurach Road Colchester, CT 06415-2106

QUESTIONS: PLEASE CALL: Ihor Rudko at 860-705-1849 or  
Email: irudko@rudko.com

Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records.
3(2020)
THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

☐ I was honorably discharged.    ☐ I am still serving honorably.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
PHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS
SIGNATURE

BRANCH OF SERVICE

☐ U.S. Army
☐ U.S. Marines
☐ U.S. Navy
☐ U.S. Air Force
☐ U.S. Coast Guard
☐ U.S. Merch. Marines
☐ U.S. National Guard
☐ U.S. Reserves

DATES OF SERVICE

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

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

Please return this application and payment to the selected Post Commander

Select Post   Commander

| Post | Name                        | Address 1         | Address 2      | 1st Line | 2nd Line | Email | Phone 1 | Phone 2 | City | State | ZIP  | Phone 1 | Phone 2 | City | State | ZIP  | Phone 1 | Phone 2 | City | State | ZIP  |
|-------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------|----------|-------|---------|---------|------|-------|------|---------|---------|------|-------|------|---------|---------|------|-------|------|---------|---------|------|-------|------|
| 1     | Edward A. Zetke            | 740 Dale Rd.      | Huntingdon Valley PA | 19006-8319 | 215-885-2826 |
| 2     | Michael Fedirko            | 207 Raritan Road   | Linden NJ      | 07036-4813  | 908-486-5543 |
| 3     | Ihor B. Rudko              | 44 Jurach Road     | Colchester CT  | 06415-2106  | 860-705-1849 |
| 4     | Emrick Prestash            | 32 Logun Street    | New Britain CT | 06051-3434  | 860-677-9496 |
| 5     | Nestor Nynka               | 33 Ridgewood Dr    | Randolph NJ    | 07869-3751  | 973-933-4555 |
| 6     | William Szodota            | 66 North William Street | Pearl River NY | 10965-1820  | 845-920-8325 |
| 7     | Markian Slabyk             | 25 Stearns St      | Lackawanna NY  | 14218-2703  | 716-822-3643 |
| 8     | Roman Rakowsky             | 1881 Jacqueline Dr. | Parma OH     | 44134-6849  | 440-884-1673 |
| 9     | Gregory Posewa             | 5 Aqua Terrace     | Trenton NJ    | 08620-9738  | 609-259-2763 |
| 10    | Peter Polny                | 5855 Amboy Road    | Staten Island NY | 10309-3110  | 718-388-2859 |
| 11    | Roman Kostiuk               | 3966 April Drive   | Uniontown OH  | 44685-9358  | 330-896-4166 |
| 12    | Anna Krawczuk              | 18 Telegraph Hill Road | Holmdel NJ  | 07733-1431  | 732-888-0494 |
| 13    | Stephen J. Kostecki        | 34 West Britannia St. #2 | Taunton MA | 02780-1853  | 508-245-1890 |
| 14    | Peter Bencak               | 2135 W. Potomac Ave. | Chicago IL | 60622-8270  | 773-489-2757 |
| 15    | Carl Harvey                | 841 Alling Road    | Orange CT    | 06477-1352  | 203-389-6076 |
| 16    | Ihor Hiron                 | 201 Osprey Point Drive | Osprey FL | 34229-9234  | 941-966-2845 |
| 17    | Oleh Balaziuk              | 403 4th Street     | West Easton PA | 18042-6115  | 610-258-9476 |
| 18    | Michael J. Dobransky       | 17 Miriam Street   | Johnson City NY | 13790-6658  | 607-729-0354 |
| 19    | Matthew Wroblewski         | 25195 Pineview     | Warren MI    | 48091-1564  | 586-755-9575 |
| 20    | Nicholas Skirka            | 109 Windsor Terrace | Yonkers NY  | 10701-1512  | 914-965-3707 |

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

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

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

Individuals wishing to become Members at Large should contact

Matthew Wroblewski, National Vice Commander,

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

Effective 7/1/2020
Enclosed is my check in the amount of $__________ payable to: UAV 73rd CONVENTION JOURNAL for the attached advertisement. All pages will be printed in black & white. Covers will be color.

$500 ________ Front Inside Cover (color)  
$500 ________ Back Inside Cover (color)  
$500 ________ Back Page Cover (color)  
$150 ________ Full Page  
$75.00 ________ Half Page  
$40.00 ________ Quarter Page  
$25.00 ________ 1/8 Page or Business Card  
$10.00 ________ One Line Booster

All advertising orders must be received **no later than September 15, 2020.** All delegates and Convention attendees will receive a copy of the commemorative journal. 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.

Please make checks payable to: **73rd UAV CONVENTION JOURNAL**

MAIL YOUR PAYMENT AND AD COPY TO:  
Bohdan Dudycz  
UAV Publication Officer/Journal  
8433 N. Clifton Ave.  
Niles, IL 60714-1803

If you mail your text, please write the exact text of your advertisement on an attached a sheet of paper that is camera ready and mail with your check. If you include photos make sure they are high quality.

If you Email your ad electronically, your ad must be separate from your email message. The ad can be sent in one of the following formats: jpg, bmp, png, tif or pdf. If you include photos make sure they are high quality. Mail your check then send your electronic advertisement to: dahonorable@att.net.

**QUESTIONS: BOHDAN DUDYČZ - 224-456-8944**

Name of advertiser: ____________________________________________ Phone: ____________________

Signature of authorized advertiser: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

City ___________ State_________ Zip___________ email: _____________________

UAV Post _____, UAV Member or organization soliciting ad ______________________

*Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records.*

4(2020)
All UAV memorabilia is available through our National Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki. To get a shipping quote or to order an item please contact:

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

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

**UAV Monument Coin** $10.00

**UAV Monument Coin in case** $30.00

**UAV Post Cover**—$48.00  
Include size when ordering

**Solid Blue UAV Necktie** $7.00 each

**UAV Car Decal** $10.00

**American flag and UAV arm Patch** for Summer wear. Sold as a set - $14.00

**US Veteran Pin** $3.00

**Desktop replica of our Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument**

**UAV Baseball Cap** with the UAV emblem - $16.00  
(One size fits all)

**UAV Pocket Notebook** With the UAV emblem - $3.00 each

**Navy blue UAV Golf Shirt** with the UAV emblem - $35.00  
Include size when ordering

**Jacket Emblem to be worn on the breast pocket** - $22.00

**Tie or Jacket Pin** $5.00

**LARGE:** 11 1/4” x 7 1/4” for $45.00  
**SMALL:** 7 1/2” x 5 1/2” for $35.00

**UAV Tribune June 2020**
**Boosters Page**

$10.00 per booster name for non-advertisement contributions. Please print or type each name.

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All journal submissions must be received by September 15, 2020.

Total amount enclosed $______________________Check No.____ ______________

Signature______________________________

Submitted by: UAV Post _____________UAV Member____________________________

Return check with this form and please make check payable to: 73rd UAV Convention Journal.

Mail this form and checks to: Bohdan Dudycz
UAV Publication Officer/Journal
8433 N. Clifton Ave.
Niles, IL 60714-1803

Or visit our website: [http://www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org) to donate online.

For questions contact: Bohdan Dudycz at: 224-456-8944, email: dahonorable@att.net

Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records.
I WANT YOU
FOR THE UAV
Bring a Friend

73rd Annual UAV Convention—Quantico, Virginia
October 8, 9 and 10

Support our Brothers and Sisters who defend Ukraine!
СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!

The National Museum of the Marine Corps

ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!