



# UAV Tribune

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Ihor W. Hron UAV NC

Dear Fellow Veterans,

As summer comes to an end, I ask you to focus on several major upcoming events in the Ukrainian American community:

1 – The National Executive Board of the UAV will be hosting the 68th Annual National Convention at the Holiday Inn Somerset, Somerset, New Jersey. This will begin with a pre-convention UAV NEB meeting on Thursday evening, October 1,

2015; the convention itself will officially open on Friday morning October 2, 2015, and will conclude with a Gala Banquet on October 3, 2015. All UAV members, including UAV Members-at-Large, should have received their information packets in mid-June 2015.

2 – On Saturday, October 3, 2015, at approximately 4:00 p.m., we will be unveiling, dedicating, and blessing our long-awaited UAV National Monument. The ceremony will take place at the monument site on the grounds of St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., is the 6th oldest veterans organization in the United States and dates back to 1948. The Monument will honor all Ukrainian American men and women who served in the US Armed Forces, UAV members and non-members alike, but it is important for us to take pride in the UAV's achievements. This event will have national exposure in the media and will raise awareness about the contribution of Ukrainian Americans to our nation and freedom.

On behalf of the UAV National Executive Board, I ask fellow veterans, friends, and family members to support us in making this special occasion memorable. It is my fervent hope that all UAV Posts will make a commitment to stand with us and proudly present their Post Colors. Invite your friends and family to share in this historic event!

3 - The third event that will draw local and national media attention is the dedication of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington, D.C., which will take place on Saturday and Sunday, November 7-8, 2015. The Ukrainian American Veterans have been invited by the Holodomor Committee to present the

National Colors of the United States of America and those of Ukraine. I am asking that every Post and Member-at-Large represent the UAV in Class A uniform at this significant event.

Our planning sessions for both the 68th UAV Convention and the UAV National Monument Dedication have been numerous and professional. All those involved in these endeavors are especially proud of the work that has been accomplished on the Monument. The final result of 10 years hard work, dedication, and visionary commitment on the part of the UAV National Monument Committee and the UAV National Executive Board is outstanding. I am extremely grateful that we all are part of a culture that does not forget the many sacrifices that have been made by those who preceded us.

In closing, I want to recognize and thank all members of the New Jersey Subcommittee for their assistance and support of the convention and dedication planning. This subcommittee, headed by newly elected UAV N. J. Department of State Commander Michael Hrycak, includes UAV N.J. Dept. of State Vice Commander Andrew Hadzewycz, New Jersey UAV Post Commanders Michael Fedirko, Post 6, James Fedorko of Post 17, Gregory Posewa, Post 25; and members Zenon Halkowycz of Post 17, and PNC Anna Krawczuk, Bernard Krawczuk and Jurij Jacus of Post 30, all of whom have provided invaluable support to the UAV National Executive Board.

**God Bless America!**

**God Protect Ukraine!**

Ihor W. Hron  
National Commander



St Thomas Sunday, April 19, 2015



At the site of the UAV National Monument



At newly erected UAV National Monument on May 29, 2015



Metropolitan Antony of UOC of USA officiating



# NEWS FROM UAV HEADQUARTERS

By UAV Tribune Coeditors Bernard W. Krawczuk, UAV NPR and Publication Officer and Anna Osinska Krawczuk, PNC

Since the 67th UAV National Convention, the UAV National Executive Board has been working very hard to prepare for the 68th UAV National Convention and for the dedication of the UAV National Monument in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. Responsibility for coordinating and promoting this unique and historic event was assumed by the UAV NEB Officers headed by UAV National Commander Ihor W. Hron, who has been ably assisted by the UAV National Monument Committee members, co-chairs PNC Mathew Koziak and Bishop Daniel, and New Jersey Posts 6, 17, 25, and 30, under the leadership of recently elected Commander of the UAV New Jersey Department of State, Michael P. Hrycak.

April 19, 2015, St. Thomas Sunday. UAV members participated in a procession and related ceremonies at St. Andrew Memorial Church and Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. After the services, the UAV Color Guard paid tribute to Ukrainian freedom fighters at the UPA monument, and then proceeded to the site of the future UAV National Monument.

## UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT STANDS GUARD

April 28, 2015, St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. PNC Mathew Koziak, UAV Post 42 Commander Oleh Balaziuk, PNC Anna Krawczuk, and UAV NPR Officer Bernard Krawczuk watched as the slow and laborious effort of erecting the UAV National Monument was finally crowned with success. In the presence of Metropolitan Antony of the UOC of USA, they all stood at attention and gazed in awe at the new UAV National Monument. Designed by Ukrainian Canadian architect John Jaciw, and constructed by Wertheimer-Liberty Monuments, it is indeed a sight to behold!

## UAV NEW JERSEY

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE REACTIVATED

April 30, 2015. We extend heartfelt congratulations to UAV N. J. Dept. of State Commander Michael P. Hrycak and Vice Commander Andrew Hadzewycz, both members of UAV Post 17, who have assumed leadership positions that remained vacant since the passing of UAV Post 25 PC and UAV N. J. Dept. of State Commander John Tymash in 2012. The current UAV NJ Dept. of State Executive Board includes Post Commanders of New Jersey Posts: Michael Fedirko of Post 6, James Fedorko of Post 17, Gregory Posewa of Post 25, and John Dzera, PVC of Post 30.

May 29, 2015. In addition to participating in numerous teleconferences during the course of the year, the UAV National Executive Board held a face-to-face meeting at the Consistory of the UOC of USA in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. Following this meeting, the UAV National Monument Committee also met with Metropolitan of UOC of USA, His Eminence Antony. The meeting provided an opportunity not only to finalize plans for upcoming events but also to visit the UAV National Monument. Metropolitan Antony led us in Memorial Day prayer for all Ukrainian American veterans.

October 3, 2015, will become a significant date in the history of the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., as it will mark the dedication of the UAV National Monument erected to honor and remember all Ukrainian American men and women who have honorably served in the U. S. Armed Forces, UAV members and non-members alike. The monument will serve as an enduring tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting for freedom not only in the United States of America but also throughout the world.

We must never forget that Ukrainian Americans answered the call to serve in a succession of wars and conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries. These wars included World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf conflicts of the 20th century. It will also serve as a tribute to those serving in the continuing Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) of the 21st century. The UAV National Monument will stand as a beacon of inspiration, highlighting the heroism of Ukrainian Americans who served, who are currently serving, and who will serve in the United States Armed Forces in the future.

## FROM THE DESK OF UAV PR AND PUBLICATIONS OFFICER BERNARD W. KRAWCZUK

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.** Please advise us immediately of change of address. Notification of change of address should be sent via email at: [uav.tribune@verizon.net](mailto:uav.tribune@verizon.net) or via regular mail to:

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**THANK YOU.** Your articles and photographs enrich the UAV Tribune, and we extend our sincere gratitude for all submissions.

## GUIDELINES FOR SENDING PHOTOGRAPHS FOR PUBLICATION:

1. Please do not embed photographs in your Word document. Captions should be included in the Word doc, either numbered sequentially at the end or inserted in the body of the text where appropriate.
2. Photograph should be sent by separate email, to ensure quality of photographs in print.
3. Only original photos (not photocopies) should be sent by regular mail. They will be returned by request.

**UAV PRESS FUND.** Contributions are greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to:

**UAV Press Fund**  
c/o Jerry Kindrachuk, UAV NFO  
3535 Fox Run Drive Allentown, PA 18103  
or visit [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org) and donate online

Continued from page 3

**FROM ANNA OSINSKA KRAWCZUK, UAV PNC,  
UAV REGISTRTRATON PROJECT COORDINATOR**

The UAV Registration Project was launched in 1998 and is an ongoing endeavor that involves UAV members and non-members alike. We remind our readers that it is mandatory for all UAV members to be properly registered and that required documentation includes a copy of DD Form 214 (or equivalent), as stipulated in the UAV Constitution and By-Laws.(see page 9, Article V Membership, Section 1).

Family members and friends can also register loved ones who have passed away by filling out the UAV Registration Form and attaching a copy of DD Form 214. Please forward all registration information to:

**UAV Registration Project**

PO Box 172 Holmdel, New Jersey 07733-0172.

A photo of registrant in uniform will be appreciated as well. Let's ensure that no Ukrainian American man or woman who served honorably in the US Armed Forces is forgotten!

For additional information, please visit [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org) and link to "Registration Project."

**FROM THE DESK OF UAV NATIONAL QUARTERMASTER,  
STEPHEN J. KOSTECKI**

Reminder: UAV caps have to be special ordered, and delivery takes between 4 and 5 weeks.

All UAV merchandise in stock can be shipped within 5 days, after receipt of payment.

The UAV National Quartermaster can be reached at 508-245-1890 or by email at [skostECKI108@comcast.net](mailto:skostECKI108@comcast.net).

**UAV WELL REPRESENTED AT  
SOYUZIVKA'S 9TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL**

Organized by the Ukrainian National Foundation, under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine, the 9th Annual Festival was held on July 10-12, 2015, at the UNA's resort in Kerhonkson, New York. As in previous years, the UAV was formally recognized at the event and participated in the Color Guard.

Carrying on an annual tradition, UAV National Quartermaster Stephen J. Kostecki, manned the UAV information table. Many visitors and veterans stopped by to visit and/or obtain information about the organization, its purpose, its goals, and its achievements.

We thank Stephen.



Stephen J. Kostecki and Petro Rondiak

**From the National Quartermaster**



NEW UAV Monument Coin 10.00

New in Box 30.00

UAV Coins Silver/Brass 5.00

UAV Crest for blazer 18.00

UAV Black B/B hat 15.00

UAV Blue Golf Shirt 35.00

UAV Post Hat\* 40.00

UAV Lapel pin 5.00



UAV Summer shirt patch set 13.00  
(US flag & UAV Logo)

UAV Car decal 2.00

UAV Blue Tie 7.00

UAV Tie pin 6.00

US/UKR Pin 3.00

UAV Small emblem 3.00

UAV Registration Project 5.00  
1998-2003 (report in booklet form)  
S/H will be added to the price

\* S/H included



## WE HONOR AND REMEMBER



**WALTER SHIPKA, PNC**  
1924–2015

UAV National Commander 1949–1950 Walter Shipka was born on May 18, 1924, in Plainfield, New Jersey. He grew up in Richmond Hill, New York, and graduated from Brooklyn Tech. In 1953, at the age of 30, he moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he married Helen Mural, daughter of Frank and Katherine Mural, on October 31, 1953, at St. Peter and Paul Church.

Walter Shipka was inducted into the US Army on July 28, 1943. He was assigned to 464th Army Air Force BU and served as a Flax Gunnery Instructor. Corporal Shipka was honorably discharged from the army on March 11, 1946, at Fort Lewis, Washington, and was awarded an American Theater Service Medal, a Victory Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal.

Soon after leaving the army, Walter joined the newly founded Nicholas Minue UAV Post 7 in New York City. In 1949, at the second UAV National Convention, he was elected UAV National Commander. After moving to Ohio, Walter joined UAV Post 24 and also became a member of American Legion Joseph J. Jacubic Post #572. After his retirement, Walter moved to Florida and became a member of UAV Post 40 in North Port.

Walter was a devoted family man, led a very busy productive life, served his country and his community, and was also a great entrepreneur. After returning to civilian life, he worked as a Master Plumber in Cleveland, Ohio. In time, he built Shipka Insurance Agency, Inc., in Parma, Ohio, and then built the very successful Shipka Travel Agency, Inc., jointly with his wife, Helen. He was also Clerk of Courts for sixteen years at the Parma Municipal Court District, which covered a territory of seven cities, and also served the City of Parma as Councilman-at-Large. Walter was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Shriners Temple Al Koran in Cleveland, Ohio, and the Sahib Temple in Sarasota, Florida. He was a member of St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Parma, Ohio.

Walter Shipka passed away on June 28, 2015, in Englewood, Florida. He is survived by Helen Mural Shipka, his beloved wife of 62 years; by his loving daughters Kathy Rotundo, Susan Tharp, and Doria Shipka; by his beloved grandchildren Anastasia Rotundo, Vito Rotundo, Daniel Dykes, Amanda Neumann, Derek Dykes, Hyacinth Porter, Lilleith Porter, and Althea Porter; by his equally beloved great grandchildren Autumn Cohara, Joseph Cohara, Kaitlyn Neumann, Addison Neumann; and by his good friend and son-in-law Gary Tharp. He will be greatly missed by his family and by his many colleagues and friends, and by fellow veterans of the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.



**JAROSLAW CZERNYK**  
1926 - 2015

Jaroslaw Czernyk was born on October 13, 1926, in small village of Jakymczyci, near Komarno, Ukraine, to Antin and Maria (Koltun) Czernyk. After the turmoil of World War II he immigrated to the United States in 1950 and settled in New York City, N. Y.

He served on active duty in US Army from March 13, 1951 to March 12, 1953. PFC Jaroslaw Czernyk graduated from Army Language School, Presidio of Monterey, California, on July 22, 1952, where he became proficient

in Czech language. Varitypist Czernyk was stationed in North Carolina until his discharge from active duty on March 12, 1953. Corporal Czernyk was honorably discharged from US Army Reserve on February 8, 1957 thus fulfilling his obligatory service of active duty and reserve.

In 1953 Jaroslaw married Lidia Mruczkewycz and they had two sons, Boris and Ihor Andrew.

With the help of GI Bill, while working full time and attending NYU, Jaroslaw earned B.S. degree in Accounting and Finances from NYU in 1960, and continued his education as a graduate student at City College. This opened the door for his long career in corporate America.

Jaroslaw Czernyk was an active UAV member, served on many positions including that of Post Commander of the \*Nicholas Minue UAV Post 7 in New York City until 2008, when he became UAV Member at large. He was also a member of Nicholas Minue American Legion Post 1260 and Catholic War Veterans Post 401 at St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church in NYC. He belonged to various Ukrainian American and professional organizations. Jaroslaw was proud to be an American but he never forgot his family or roots in Ukraine.

Jaroslaw passed away on May 21, 2015. Funeral Services were held on May 29, 2015. Internment with full Military Honors by the US Army (N.J. National Guard) detail took place at St. Andrew Cemetery, South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

His wife Lidia, two sons Boris and Ihor Andrew; their spouses Mary and Natalia; grandchildren Mark, Julianna, Katherine and Ivasyk; and two brothers in Ukraine Myron and Zenon survive him.

*\*Nicholas Minue (Ukrainian American) from New Jersey, was a World War II Medal of Honor recipient.*

-See page 9



Photo taken in 1952



# UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC

## PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS HONOR ROLL

Honorary Commander Michael Darmopray — 1948, PA Post 1



Michael Hynda — 1948-1949	NJ Post 6	Vasyl Luchkiw — 1974-1976	NY Post 19
Walter Shipka — 1949-1950	NY Post 7	Harry Polche — 1976-1978	NY Post 7
Walter T. Darmopray — 1950-1952	PA Post 1	Bohdan B. Bezkorowajny — 1978-1980	NY Post 7
Martin Horobiowski — 1952-1953	PA Post 4	Michael Chaika — 1980-1982	CT Post 15
Walter T. Darmopray — 1953-1954	PA Post 1	<b>Edward A. Zetick — 1982-1984</b>	PA Post 4
Alexander Pronchick — 1954-1956	PA Post 1	<b>Joseph Brega — 1984-1986</b>	NY Post 19
Walter Bacad — 1956-1957	NY Post 7	<b>Atanas T. Kobryn — 1986-1988</b>	NY Post 7
Emil Senkow — 1957-1959	PA Post 4	<b>Jaroslav Fedoryczuk — 1988-1989</b>	PA Post 18
George Wolynetz, Jr — 1959-1960	NY Post 7	Dmytro Bykovetz, Jr. — 1989-1991	PA Post 4
Anthony Kutcher — 1960-1961	CT Post 14	<b>Roman Rakowsky — 1991-1993</b>	OH Post 24
Matthew J. Pope — 1961-1963	NY Post 7	Miroslaus Malaniak — 1993-1995	NY Post 23
Stephen Shegda — 1963-1965	PA Post 4	Dmytro Bodnarczuk — 1995-1997	NY Post 19
Walter Klawsnick — 1965-1966	NY Post 7	<b>Steven Szewczuk — 1997-2000</b>	NY Post 27
<b>Eugene Sagasz — 1966-1968</b>	NJ Post 17	<b>Mathew Koziak — 2000-2004</b>	NY Post 27
William M. Dubetz — 1968-1970	NY Post 7	<b>Anna Osinska Krawczuk — 2004-2008</b>	NJ Post 30
Michael Wengryn — 1970-1972	NJ Post 17	<b>Leonid E. Kondratiuk — 2008-2012</b>	MA Post 31
William Harrison — 1972-1973	NY Post 19	<b>Ihor W. Hron — 2012</b>	FL Post 40
<b>Emrick Prestash — 1973-1974</b>	CT Post 15		

## This Is What the Ukraine War Looks Like: 8 Days on the Front Line

By Nolan Peterson/ June 20, 2015 of *The Daily Signal*

Pisky, Ukraine – The notion that the Ukraine cease-fire is still largely holding, or even being followed at all, is fiction.

In the eastern Ukraine village of Pisky, only six kilometers from the separatist stronghold of Donetsk, and two kilometers from the ruined Donetsk airport, the Ukrainian army 93rd Mechanized Brigade is engaged in sustaining combat with combined Russian-separatist forces.

In Pisky, combined Russian-separatists forces violate the cease-fire every day with heavy artillery barrages, including 120-mm and 152-mm shells, tank attacks, and sniper and automatic grenade launcher fire. Separatists reconnaissance units also slip behind the lines after dark, and gun battles are a nightly routine.

At about 3 p.m. on June 13, a separatist tank fired on a group of seven, including Ukrainian soldiers and this correspondent (Nolan Peterson). The round landed about 60 feet from the group, and shrapnel sprayed overhead. Eardrums were left ringing. There were no casualties, and all seven were able to flee to a nearby cellar to take shelter for the follow-on shots that lasted for about 20 minutes. Ukrainian forces firing unguided-shoulder launched anti tank missiles turned the tank back . . . Facing these persistent, lethal attacks, the Ukrainian forces are forced to defend themselves by bringing up heavy weapons banned from the front lines under Minsk II agreement, resulting in a complete collapse of the Feb. 12 cease-fire.

For further details visit: [www.dailysignal.com/2015/06/20/ukraine-war-looks-like-8-days-front-line/](http://www.dailysignal.com/2015/06/20/ukraine-war-looks-like-8-days-front-line/) and watch Nolan Peterson’s Video on His Embed with the Ukrainian Army. The Daily Signal was among the first foreign media outlets to embed with the regular Ukrainian army during an eight-day period in Pisky from June 8-15, 2015- it was the first time a U. S. journalist embedded with the regular Ukrainian army in combat.

Thank you Nolan Peterson and The Daily Signal.



Ukrainian soldiers on patrol (Photo: Nolan Peterson/The Daily Signal)



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### UAV National Executive Board 2014 - 2016

Seated L/R: NC Ihor W. Hron and PNC Anna Krawczuk

Standing L/R: Joe Nasevich, William Szozda, Marian Bojsiuk, IPNC Br Gen Leonid Kondratiuk, Jerry Kindrachuk, PNC Mathew Koziak, PNC Edward Zetick, Bernard Krawczuk, Roman Rondiak, Stephen Kostecki, Myroslaw Pryjma and Nicholas Skirka

# The 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II 1945-2015

by Anna Osinska Krawczuk, PNC

In May of this year, traditional Memorial Day ceremonies honoring members of the US Armed Forces were held at US Military Cemeteries nationwide as well as abroad. But this year's Memorial Day commemorations also marked an important milestone: the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. Among the fallen heroes honored during these commemorations were many Ukrainian Americans who served with distinction. Many others, including those who were wounded in battle, returned home to civilian life to deal with the post-war situation as well as they could. Still others remained in the military and continued to serve in the US Armed Forces. Among the many we honored this year was Colonel Walter Andrew Kostecki, M.D., whose story we are sharing with readers in this issue.



**Colonel Walter Andrew Kostecki, M.D.**  
1911–1982  
Bataan Death March survivor, POW

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Walter Andrew Kostecki was born on March 6, 1911. He graduated from Tufts College in 1933 and from George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. in 1937. He was a member of the Officers' Reserve Corps of the US Army and commissioned a 1st Lt in the Medical Corps in June 1937. Lt Kostecki was called to active duty on November 1, 1939. In 1940 Walter married nurse Mary Louise Sullivan; the couple had two daughters, Helen and Mary, and a son, Michael.

Dr. Walter Kostecki served stateside until his deployment to the Philippines on January 24, 1941. He was stationed at Sternberg General Hospital in Manila as a ward surgeon until March 6, 1941, and was also assigned to serve as a surgeon with the 45th Infantry Regiment of the Philippine Scouts, assistant regimental surgeon, and battalion surgeon, treating illnesses and diagnosing surgical conditions.

During the Battle of Bataan, Capt. Kostecki provided emergency surgical and medical treatments to others, despite his own critical condition. He was captured on April 7, 1942, two days before the fall of Bataan, by a Japanese Infantry unit. He was the last remaining doctor in uniform during the six-day, 60 mile death march that followed.

Kostecki was initially interned at Camp O'Donnell, then at Cabanatuan, and then moved, with 200 other medical men, to Fukuoka Camp NO. 1, on Kyushu Island in Japan. On January 19, 1945, he was taken to yet another camp with the same name. This camp was near Nagasaki, 20 miles from the atomic Ground Zero that brought an end to the war. Ten days after he arrived at this new camp, 195 other American POWs were brought in. Fifty soldiers from this group died; the rest were sent to Korea in April 1945.

POW Kostecki, a dedicated doctor, remained at Fukuoka to care for the sick and wounded soldiers. The camp hospital (which Kostecki named "hospital-shack") had no beds and poor ventilation. The camp doctors secretly paid a Japanese medical orderly to obtain needed medicines, and Kostecki himself paid Masato Hata (Japanese medical corpsman and compiler of Japanese medical records at this camp) to fill prescriptions more quickly. But even when medications were available, he witnessed too many deaths caused by malnutrition, pneumonia, dysentery, and beatings. The prisoners' death certificates, were filled out by the Japanese officers, and he was forced to sign these even though the purported cause of death was seldom accurate and often a blatant lie.

Not long after the first atomic blast in 1945, Kostecki was rescued. Among the other camp survivors was then-Lieutenant Colonel Harold K. Johnson, who later became a general and US Army chief of staff. General Johnson credited Walter Kostecki with saving his life.

After the war ended, Colonel Kostecki spent six months in a hospital at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. He had not only witnessed but also endured the hardships of being a prisoner of war; captivated by the heroism of American POWs, he decided to stay in the Army. He served at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Benning, Georgia; and Fort Myers, Virginia, in the capacity of post surgeon. He was then named director of the Andrew Rader Army Clinic and also served as surgeon to the Inter-American Defense Board.

On March 31, 1971, Walter Andrew Kostecki was given an Honorable Discharge with Permanent Disability. His military decorations, awarded for distinguished service and valor, included the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, the WWII Victory Medal, a Bronze Star, two Army Commendation medals.

After leaving the US Army, Walter Kostecki returned to Halifax, Mass., where he continued to practice medicine as a civilian until 1980. He and his family then moved to McLean, Virginia. Kostecki passed away on July 19, 1982, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Washington, D.C. Survived by his wife, his children, and several grandchildren, he was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on July 22, 1982.

*(We thank UAV National Quartermaster Stephen A. Kostecki for registering his uncle.)*



# UKRAINIAN AMERICAN HONOREE - WORLD WAR II MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

By Anna Osinska Krawczuk, UAV PNC



NICHOLAS MINUE was born on March 13, 1905, in the village of Zaluzhe, Western Ukraine (Galicia), which was then part of Austria-Hungary, to Ukrainian parents Mary and John Minue. The Minue family (which included Nicholas and his siblings, Michael and Sophie) immigrated to the United States in 1912. They settled in Carteret,

New Jersey, and worshiped at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

In 1918, during WWI, Nicholas enlisted in the U.S. Army but was mustered out in 1919 when it was discovered that he was only 14 years old. Notwithstanding this rejection, he enlisted again in 1927 and eventually held the rank of sergeant. When WWII broke out, he resigned his rank and volunteered for overseas duty as a private. In 1942 he was assigned to the rifle platoon of Company A, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division. On April 28, 1943, Nicholas was killed in action in Medjez El Bab, Tunisia, while fighting against soldiers of German Field Marshal Rommel's Africa Korps. Nicholas was laid to rest with fellow combatants in the North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial, Carthage, Tunisia. The official coordinates of his burial site are Section E, Line 8, Grave 4.

For his bravery and supreme sacrifice in battle, Private Nicholas Minue was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The medal was presented to his mother Mary Minue by Major General Alvin C. Gillem, Jr. on March 25, 1944 at Fort du Pont, Delaware. Nicholas's brother Michael and sister Sophie (Smith) accompanied their mother to the ceremony and presentation.

Private Nicholas Minue has also been recognized by American veteran organizations and civilian entities. He is the patron of VFW Post #2314, Carteret, New Jersey; of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 7, New York, New York; and American Legion Post 1260, New York, New York. All three posts have been named in his honor as was the Nicholas Minue Elementary School in Carteret, New Jersey, and Minue Drive in East Fort Bliss, Texas.

Additional information about Nicholas Minue's Medal of Honor can be found in an article published in The Carteret News (April 7, 1944) and later reprinted in the Ukrainian Weekly (April 22, 1944, p. 2. No.16.). Nicholas Minue is also included in "Ukrainian American Recipients of the Medal of

Honor," written by Br Gen Leonid Kondratiuk and published in the February 2012 issue of the UAV Tribune.



Posted in Uncategorized by Vince Crawley on May 30, 2010

## **G.O. NO.:24 on March 25, 1944 CITATION IN PART:**

For distinguishing himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the loss of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy on 28 April 1943, in the vicinity of MedjezelBab, Tunisia. When the advance of the assault elements of Company A was held up by flanking fire from an enemy machinegun nest, Pvt. Minue voluntarily, alone, and unhesitatingly, with complete disregard of his own welfare, charged the enemy entrenched position with fixed bayonet. Pvt. Minue assaulted the enemy under a withering machinegun and rifle fire, killing approximately 10 enemy machinegunners and riflemen. After completely destroying this position, Pvt. Minue continued forward, routing enemy riflemen from dugout positions until he was fatally wounded. The courage, fearlessness and aggressiveness displayed by Pvt. Minue in the face of inevitable death was unquestionably the factor that gave his company the offensive spirit that was necessary for advancing and driving the enemy from the entire sector.

Citation courtesy: [www.homeofheros.com](http://www.homeofheros.com)

# UAV Connecticut Department of State

By Ihor B. Rudko – Commander

March 9, 2015, Hartford, CT.

Former Presidential candidate, Vietnam War Hero and senior GOP Senator John McCain (R-AZ) joined U. S. Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) for a town hall style meeting with Ukrainian-American community leaders to discuss the crisis in Ukraine and to lay out the case for greater military and financial aid for Ukraine. Senator McCain, a true friend of Ukraine, reiterated that American focus should be on Ukraine obtaining lethal weapons and military training in their proper use. That aid for civil society is great after we win the war. That we need to stay focused and apply our limited resources efficiently.

The town hall meeting took place on Monday, March 9, at 9:30 a.m., at the Ukrainian National Home in Hartford.

Over 400, from both the Ukrainian and American community, attended; we had significant media coverage, with more than 20 local and national articles posted after the meeting. Fellow Ukrainian Veterans made an impressive appearance. National Commander Ihor W. Hron was in attendance as well as members of all three UAV Connecticut Posts: Post 14 – Hartford, Post 15 – New Britain, and Post 33 – New Haven. Senator McCain made a direct reference to the UAV membership, thanking us for our service. He also made a comment that from the smattering of faces he could see that we represented WWII to the present.



L/R: Michael Matiash, Ihor B. Rudko, Ihor W. Hron, Roman A. Leskiw, Senator Chris Murphy, Steven A. Wowk, Senator John McCain, Walter Kowinko, Roman Zelez, Carl Harvey, Wiroslaw J. Snihurowych, and Myron Melnyk

# UAV New Jersey Department of State

by Bernard W. Krawczuk, UAV NPR and Publications Officer

The UAV New Jersey Department of State was officially reactivated on April 30, 2015, but the newly elected leadership, Commander Michael Hrycak and Vice Commander Andrew Hadzewycz, were already hard at work forming the UAV National Convention New Jersey Subcommittee even before this date. (Commander Hrycak, for example, attended some UAV functions, including the St. Thomas Sunday commemorations at South Bound Brook, New Jersey, even before his official commander's white cap arrived).

We congratulate Commander Hrycak and Vice Commander Hadzewycz and know they will keep up the good work!

UAV N.J. State Commander Hrycak preparing for St. Thomas Sunday ceremony.



# UAV NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF STATE

by Peter Polnyj, UAV NY State Commander

UAV New York Department of State Posts, along with posts from New Jersey and Massachusetts, took part in several joint activities.

On June 14, 2015, members of UAV Posts 19, 27, and 301 placed U.S. flags at the graves of our departed comrades at the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Hamptonburgh, N. Y. This ceremonial tribute was followed by a Panakhyda (Memorial Services) celebrated at the UAV monument with UAV Post 27th Chaplain Rev. Ivan Tyhovych officiating and clergy of several other parishes assisting.



July 5, 2015. "Sviato Heroyiv" commemorated at the Monument of Heroes in Ellenville, New York. UAV Post 19 Commander, William Szozda; UAV NVC, Post 27 Commander Peter Polnyj; and N.J. UAV Post 17 member Zenon Halkowycz participated by serving in the Color Guard at this event. Szozda and Polnyj with their respective UAV Post flags, and Halkowycz with the American flag, led the procession to the Monument of Heroes at the SUM Oselia (Ukrainian American Youth Association camp) after the Divine Liturgy that was celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Stamford Eparchy.

July 11, 2015. The UAV Color Guard presented Colors during the opening ceremony at the Ukrainian Heritage Festival at Soyuzivka, Kerhonkson, New York. Their participation was acknowledged with gratitude.



L/R: William Szozda, Michael Buczek, Nick Jakowiw, Peter Polnyj, Mike Hrycak, Steve Kostecki and Nick Skirka.

In honor of its 25th anniversary, UAV Post 27 of Brooklyn, N.Y. sponsored two Ukrainian ATO soldiers who were wounded during the conflict with separatist/Russian troops.

## In Memoriam

On a sad note, we share news about our member and comrade Jaroslaw (Jerry) Czernyk, who passed away on May 21, 2015. UAV NY SC Polnyj, PNC Anna Krawczuk, Bernard Krawczuk, and Jurij Jacus paid their final respects after the services at the Funeral Home. The traditional UAV Ceremony and Final Salute for the Deceased Veterans were led by NYSC Peter Polnyj. On behalf of the UAV, PNC Krawczuk paid tribute to and presented a brief history of accomplishments of the Past Commander of the UAV Post 7, Jaroslaw Czernyk. The Czernyk family was very appreciative and thankful for honoring Jerry. May he rest in peace.



July 5, 2015



William Szozda and Peter Polnyj

# VA to Conduct Nationwide Series of Events to Celebrate Women Veterans

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will conduct a series of one-day events to raise awareness and celebrate the stories of women Veterans. The events, to be held in five locations across the country, will provide an overview of services and benefits available to women Veterans. Experts will be available to answer Veterans’ questions, and exhibitors will share information on their many resources.

“We have found that our women Veterans often put the needs of others’ first,” said Elisa Basnight, Director of VA’s Center for Women Veterans (CWV). “We encourage them to make themselves a priority, to learn about the benefits and services which they’ve earned through their dedicated service. We are bringing our experts to them, where they are.”

VA staff, as well as local community supporters and agencies that assist women Veterans, will be available for face-to-face interaction. All VA facilities are encouraged to participate in activities to celebrate and honor the women who answered the nation’s call.

The scheduled events and local activities are part of a new national VA campaign, Women Veterans: Celebrating Our Stories of Service, which launched in late March 2015. The vision for the national VA campaign was born out of the realization that when our women Veterans from all eras and generations surrender the uniform, they retain the intangible—that combination of resolute resilience and the unbeatable skills they will

incorporate into their reintegration and readjustment process. Through this campaign, CWV will be engaged in going to these women Veterans to raise the awareness of VA’s commitment to them, and to facilitate the conversation around what more needs to be done in serving the unique needs of women Veterans.

The sessions for women Veterans will be held between June and September at the following locations:

- St. Petersburg, FL – June 12, 2015
- San Diego (Oceanside), CA – July 10, 2015
- Houston, TX – August 7, 2015
- Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN – September 14, 2015
- Washington, DC – September 22, 2015

Women Veterans represent one of the fastest growing segments of the Veterans population—about 9.2 percent of the total Veterans population. Today there are an estimated 2 million women Veterans nationwide. VA continues to improve benefits and services for women Veterans and is diligently transforming its culture to embrace this growing population, through other collaborative initiatives with Federal/state/local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

For more information about VA’s Women Veterans Campaign and VA’s commitment to women Veterans, visit [www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet).

## TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

**OCTOBER 1, 2015**  
UAV NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**OCTOBER 2-3, 2015**  
68TH UAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

**OCTOBER 3, 2015**  
UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2015**  
Labor Day observance nationwide

**NOVEMBER 11, 2015**  
Veterans Day observance nationwide

**NOVEMBER 26, 2015**  
Thanksgiving observance nationwide

**DECEMBER 25, 2015**  
Christmas Holiday

**JANUARY 1, 2016**  
New Years Day

**JANUARY 7, 2016**  
Christmas observance in Ukraine



UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC.



## NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION CEREMONY

**Saturday, October 3, 2015 — 4PM**

**St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery**  
280 Main Street South Bound Brook, New Jersey



Honoring all Ukrainian American men and women who have served in the US Armed Forces.  
Please attend the unveiling of the UAV National Monument

For further information:  
call 732-888-0494 or visit the UAV Official Website: [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org)

# ANTHONY BILYJ UAV Post 1 – Greater Philadelphia

by John R. Hill, Post Adjutant

Once again, UAV Post 1 members gathered during the Memorial Day weekend to remember the service of our veterans who have passed away. We met on May 25 at 09:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Cemetery in Jenkintown, Pa. All Post members wore our traditional uniform: a dark blazer with patch, grey pants, white shirt, dark solid tie, dark shoes, and our veterans' caps. An honor guard carrying our flags was accompanied by riflemen. Memorial services began at 10:00 a.m. and ended with three riflemen giving a three shot rifle salute. The Panakhyda (Memorial Service) and blessing of graves was offered with UAV Post 1 Chaplain, Reverend Paul Makar of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, officiating. We then proceeded to Oakland Cemetery in Philadelphia for a similar service led by Reverend Protopriest Taras Naumenko of the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, Pa.

These special and solemn services for our brother and sister veterans were marked by flags placed at all veterans'

graves in accordance with the cemetery's rules and regulations. The flags will continue to fly until tattered.

Post Commander Edward Zetick and the Post 1 Executive Committee wish to thank all who participated in honoring our departed veteran members.

We are proud yet saddened that more memorial plates bearing the names and branch of service of our deceased veterans now grace the Memorial Plaque for Greater Philadelphia Ukrainian American Veterans, which hangs in the main hallway of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, Pa. Nearby, a living member plaque honors the continued service of current members of the UAV Post 1.

All American veterans have written a blank check, pledging their service and possibly their lives to the government for the defense of our great country. It is our hope that the politicians choose to spend that check wisely.



PC Edward Zetick with Rev. T. Naumenko



Rifle Salute



Wreath for the deceased veterans



Borys Pawluk with Rev. Paul Makar, UAV Post Chaplain

## UAV Post 17 — Passaic, NJ

by Zenko Halkowycz, Post Adjutant

### Congratulations!

*We are proud to share with our readers a brief history about UAV Post 17 Commander James “Jim” Fedorko, who was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel as an Army reserve officer on November 19, 2014.*



Jim Fedorko enlisted in the United States Army in July 1996 and conducted his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. His military biography is unusual because he enlisted in the Army as a Specialist at the age of 29 after receiving his master's degree in Biology. While working on his thesis for the master's degree, he conducted field research in a remote section of the Philippines. The research fo-

ocused on schistosomiasis, a human parasitic disease. His time in the Philippines was a decisive factor that influenced his decision to enlist in the U.S. Army.

Jim's first duty assignment was to serve as research assistant at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Division of Biochemistry. The primary focus of his unit was the development of drugs to prevent nerve agent toxicity.

## UAV Post 24 - Cleveland, Ohio

by Bohdan Samokyszyn, Post Commander

### Vietnam Era Veteran Commemoration Program



L/R: Bohdan Samokyszyn, Roman Rakowsky, PNC and Nicholas Bartkiw at Ohio's POW-MIA Wall.

### March 28, 2015. Vietnam Era Veteran Commemoration Program

UAV Post 24 members attended this event, which was held at Camp Perry, Ohio. All fallen Vietnam veterans were honored, and tribute was given to all living Vietnam veterans. The program included speakers, slides, and an exhibit comprising hanging blankets with pictures and descriptions of deceased Vietnam veterans.

On March 15, 2000, Jim received a direct commission to first lieutenant and was then transferred to Fort Hood, Texas. While at Fort Hood, he was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, where he worked as Executive Officer of a medical company and as Preventive Medicine Officer for the 1st Brigade Combat Team. Having fulfilled his military contract, Jim left the army in February 2003. Four months later, in June 2003, he joined the Army Reserves and was assigned to the U.S. Army's Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. In March 2004, he was called to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and was stationed at Fort Eustis, Virginia, for one year.

From 2004 to the present, Jim has been on assignment with the U.S. Army Public Health Command and serves as an Environmental Science and Engineering Officer in the Water Supply Management Program. The program's worldwide mission is to supply potable water to fixed facilities and sustain the field water supply.

James “Jim” Fedorko was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel as an Army reserve officer on November 19, 2014. He currently lives in Rutherford, New Jersey, with his wife and five children. He is a member of UAV Post 17 in Passaic, New Jersey, and serves as Director of Health Services and Health Officer for the City of Englewood, N.J.

### May 3, 2015. Polish Constitution Day Parade

UAV Post 24 members participated and marched as the color guard detail for this event, which was held in Parma, Ohio, on Sunday May 3, 2015.

### Memorial Day Activities

On May 15, 2015, UAV Post 24 members placed flags on veterans' graves at six local cemeteries in Cleveland and Parma, Ohio. On May 15 and 17, 2015, poppy sales were held at St. Josaphat Church and St. Andrew's Church. Money collected was designated for hospitalized veterans in our area.

On May 24, 2015, Poppy Day and Memorial Day memorial service (Panakhyda) were celebrated at St. Vladymyr Church. Monday, May 25, 2015, a Memorial Day service at St. Andrew Cemetery, Parma, Ohio, was attended by Post members.

On May 30, 2015, UAV Post 24 Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn and Judge Advocate Nicholas Barkiw visited post member John Stolar at the Veterans Hospital in Sandusky, Ohio, on his 67th birthday. Stolar, who suffered a stroke about eight years ago, was very happy to see us.

## Major Myron Diduryk UAV Post 30 - Freehold, New Jersey

by Anna Osinska Krawczuk, Post Adjutant

St. Thomas Sunday, April 19, 2015. UAV Post 30 members participated in the procession during commemoration services held at St. Andrew Memorial Church and Cemetery at South Bound Brook, New Jersey. They also manned the UAV table during the entire weekend.

May 25, 2015, Memorial Day. As in prior years, UAV Post 30 members honored their Patron Major Myron Diduryk at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, New Jersey. They also placed flowers by the Monument of New Jersey Ukrainian Americans, on which the names of those who were killed in action during Vietnam conflict are engraved. Among the honorees thus recognized and remembered were Bohdan Peter Brydun, Mikolaw Nicholas Melnyk, Michael Yaworsky, and Bohdan Kowal.

Joining Post 30 members for the Memorial Day ceremonies were newly elected UAV New Jersey Department of State Commander LTC Michael P. Hrycak, USA (Ret) and UAV

Post 6 Commander Michael Fedirko, World War II veteran. The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation is currently collecting biographical information and photos in uniform of those listed on the Memorial.

### Request

The UAV does not yet have all the names of Ukrainian Americans KIA in Vietnam, and we again appeal to UAV membership for help in our mission of collecting the names of these individuals, especially of former residents of New Jersey. If you know of any Ukrainian Americans KIA in Vietnam, please submit their names and other biographical information by email to [uav.post30@verizon.net](mailto:uav.post30@verizon.net) or by U.S. mail to:

### UAV Post 30

PO Box 172

Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172



May 25, 2015 at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Honoring UAV Post 30 patron Major Myron Diduryk.

L/R: Bernard W. Krawczuk, Jurij Jacus, Anna Krawczuk, Michael Hrycak and Michael Fedirko.



Jurij Jacus, Bernard Krawczuk, M. Orysia Jacus, Metropolitan Antony, Anna Krawczuk and Bishop Daniel

# Sp4 Nikolaus Zozula UAV Post 31 – Boston, MA

By Stephen A. Kostecki, Post Commander

**May 24, 2015.** Memorial Service for all deceased Ukrainian American veterans was held at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston, Massachusetts. Among those honoring these veterans were UAV Post 31 members PC Stephen J. Kostecki, PNCV Walter Michajliw, PFO Ihor Kiziuk, PADj Walter V. Boyko, Jr., and Post Chaplain Yaroslav Muzyka.

**June 16, 2015.** SUM Hero's Day was held at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston. Br. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk, UAV IPNC, presented an interesting historical brief entitled *Battle of Makivka: 100 years ago April 28 to May 2, 1915:*

[This year] we observe the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Makivka, Western Ukraine, and the role of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen. The Sich Riflemen was a volunteer Ukrainian unit in the Austrian Army. It was composed of patriotic young Ukrainian men, who believed in a future independent Ukraine. In September 1914 members of paramilitary and nationalistic Ukrainian organizations petitioned Austrian authorities to allow the Ukrainian community in Lviv to organize a Ukrainian legion. Austria, as you know, was fighting the Russians in World War I. Twenty-five thousand men volunteered, however, Austrian military officials allowed only a regiment of 2,500 men designated as the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen. The Austrian Army allowed Ukrainians to serve as officers in the regiment and to command the battalions of the regiment. Before the war, Ukrainians were discouraged from serving as officers.

The war between Austria and Russia was fought largely in Ukraine. There were many Ukrainian regiments in the Austrian Army and some 3½ million Ukrainians served in the Russian Army. Ukrainians fought Ukrainians. Another difficult chapter of our history.

When the Russian Army occupied Halychyna (Galicia), they clamped down on Ukrainian cultural, educational, and religious activities. To the Russian high command, Ukrainians were nothing more than “Little Russians” (*malorusy* as they called us). In the spring of 1915 Austrian and Russian armies were at a stalemate; there was little movement. The front was about 40 miles west of Lviv. In the sector of the Carpathian Mountains was a battalion of Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, assigned to the 55<sup>th</sup> Austrian division. On April 28<sup>th</sup> the Russian Army launched an attack on the Sich Riflemen's positions on Mount Makivka. For five days they were assaulted by Russian infantry and bombarded by Russian artillery. The Sich Riflemen stood their ground and turned back every attack. On the last day of the battle, on May 2, after one more assault, Russian units returned to their position in defeat. The Russian commander knew that he had been defeated by Ukrainian troops, which made him furious. The Sich Riflemen incurred over 200 casualties.

At great cost, the Sich Riflemen won the battle. The Sich Riflemen were highly motivated, excellent morale, and a firm belief that they were fighting for Ukraine. Word of their victory spread throughout Halychyna and eventually through all of Ukraine. The victory at Makivka was a small step in effort for an independent Ukraine.

The anniversary of the battle is now observed every year in Ukraine; there is now a memorial to the Sich Riflemen, and many of the honored dead are buried at the memorial at Makivka.

One peculiarity of the legion was that it had women serving as officers, a phenomenon wholly uncharacteristic of military structure at that time. Among the most decorated of the Riflewomen were Cornet Olena Stepanivna and Cornet Sophia Halechko. Both women were promoted to the rank of second lieutenant for their heroism and leadership during battle. In 1869, Austria led the way in introducing postcards. Both Ukrainian women were featured on these postcards to raise funds for the war effort.

Ukrainian Sich Riflemen were the first organized Ukrainian troops that faced the Russian Imperial Army in battle since the fall of Ukrainian state in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when Russia brutally encroached upon Ukrainian land, language, history, rights, and culture. Tragically, Russia continues this policy today, [and is again] encroaching upon Ukrainian land.

Let us not forget the brave Sich Riflemen of 100 years ago who fought for Ukraine. Glory to the Heroes! Heroiam Slava!



Br. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk, UAV IPNC



# *In God We Trust*

by Ksenia Hapij



On July 4, 1776, thirteen British colonies declared their independence from Great Britain and with this the United States of America was born, a home to people from all corners of the world. There is no denying that the United States has its problems. But let us always remember that though there are many challenges to deal with, America still assures

everyone full freedom, an opportunity to pray, study and work, a high standard of living and much, much more. Let us thank God, that America has accepted us, and those who came before us. Let us always appreciate everything this country has to offer and let us always be ready to offer our help where needed.

The symbol that is most often displayed on the 4th of July is the American flag. The American flag is unique in the deep and noble significance of its message of national independence, of individual liberty, of idealism, of patriotism. It is the beacon of enduring hope, like the famous Statue of Liberty enlightening the World to the oppressed of all lands. It floats over a wondrous assemblage of people from every racial stock and every nationality of this earth.

Let us pray that God give America the strength to always stand for truth, for human rights, for respect of neighbor and for all that is good and beautiful. Let us pray that the leaders of this great land be blessed with the strength to make wise decisions, that the people of America appreciate and respect everything that their country has to offer and that God keep the United States of America under His care.

## **Paul Revere Rides Again**

by Tamara S. Cornelison

*Listen my children and you will hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere*

On April 18, 1775, American patriots Paul Revere and William Dawes engaged in a mission that involved a hell for leather ride from Boston to Lexington to warn American leaders about the movement of British troops. During the famous ride, the Americans were warned “The British are coming!” The warning and the famous ride were later immortalized in a poem entitled “Paul Revere’s Ride.” Written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1860, the poem used to be a standard part of elementary school social studies curriculum throughout the United States of America.

Since 1910, the famous ride has been reenacted annually by a Massachusetts-based organization known as The National Lancers. Founded in 1836, the Lancers stage the reenactment on Patriots’ Day, a civic holiday commemorating the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, which is celebrated in Massachusetts on the third Monday in April. An article on the 2015 reenactment, written by Debbi Collar, was published in the Melrose Mirror on May 1, 2015, and provides interesting details about The National Lancers, the route taken by the riders, and assorted reenactment procedures and protocols. It includes an interview with our own Leonid Kondratiuk who has been a member of The National Lancers since 2002 and has participated in the famous ride three times. So far.

In the interview with Ms. Collar, Kondratiuk explained the ceremonies at designated historic sites along the route

and the qualifications for participating riders, even providing a brief overview of how horses are trained and prepared for the event. In the article, Brigadier General Kondratiuk also shares a story of how his personal history gives added meaning to participating in the reenactment. “I am the son of Ukrainian immigrants . . . I was born in England . . . came to the United States as an infant. This country has been great to me. . . It is a great honor for me . . . to portray him [Paul Revere] on Patriot’s Day.”

The horse ridden by Kondratiuk during this year’s commemoration of the famous ride was Grant.



# General John B. Turchin UAV Post 32 - Chicago, Illinois

by Peter Bencak, Post Commander

## May 23, 2015, The Chicago Memorial Day Parade

The Chicago Memorial Day Parade, the largest in the nation, was held on Saturday, May 23, 2015. Members of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32 assembled at the Ukrainian American Club in the morning for coffee and donuts; an hour later they boarded a bus which took them downtown to their assigned parade spot.

An unanticipated problem nearly marred parade plans. At the last minute, the Army Reserve had to cancel the 3 HUM-VEE vehicles used to transport members who are elderly and have a hard time marching. But the problem was resolved thanks to UAV member and Marine Corp Commandant Alfred Kolodziej, who volunteered the float he had built for his own Marine veterans. With the problem resolved, the parade kicked off at noon. Participating members looked sharp, and the crowd cheered.

This year the Ukrainian news media provided print and electronic coverage, publishing text and photos in magazine format and on Facebook. After the parade, Post members returned to the Ukrainian Cultural Center where lunch was served. Commanders Peter Bencak (UAV) and Adam Bihun



Float provided by Alfred Kolodziej

(American Legion) presented the center's manager, Jaraslawa Abramiuk, with two new flags to replace two flags that had been damaged during a rally. The new flags will be used only for official functions at the center.

## May 25, 2015, Memorial Day.

On May 25, 2015, Memorial Day, Ukrainian American Veteran Post 32 and American Legion Post 943 assembled at St. Nicholas Cemetery. It was a rainy and stormy morning, but a short break between showers allowed the members to assemble in front of the Memorial Walkway statue. Clergy from two parishes, St. Nicholas and St. Joseph, were on hand to perform a memorial service. After a short prayer, veterans of both organizations placed a wreath, a poppy, and an American flag in front of the monument. This was followed a 21 gun salute and playing of Taps. Members then went to the gravesites of three friends and classmates who were killed in Vietnam: Theodore Chrystynycz, Wally Maksymiw, George Tataryn. A brief service was offered in their memory.



Gravesite of Theodore Chrystynycz, Wally Maksymiw, George Tataryn. Memorial Flags provided by Michael Hrycyk.

After the memorial service, all UAV Post 32 and American Legion Post 943 members gathered at the cemetery's maintenance building for refreshments and some social interaction with fellow veterans. Before leaving the cemetery, the members took time to review essays written by children attending St. Nicholas School.

## Annual Essay Contest.

For the past twelve years, Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32 of Chicago has sponsored an annual essay contest at St. Nicholas School. The topic assigned for students in the 7th and 8th grades this year was "What Does Patriotism Mean to Me." Traditionally, the essays are read on Memorial Day, and UAV members vote to select the essays written by students who best expressed their thoughts and feelings by personalizing the theme.

On June 8th, 2015, the entire student body gathered in the auditorium for the award ceremony. UAV members handed out chocolates and small American flags to those attending. Father Bohdan Nalysnyk opened the award ceremony with a prayer. The UAV posted colors, everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance and then sang the American and Ukrainian national anthems. Commander Peter Bencak welcomed the students and gave a brief speech about the UAV, who we are, and what we do. He explained that most of the UAV members had attended St. Nicholas School years ago. He then thanked the teachers and principle for allowing the 7th and 8th grade students to visit the Ukrainian National Museum where students were treated to a tour and a briefing about the Military Exhibit by John Steciw. Then it was time to announce the winners of the 2015 essay contest and present the four best essayists with a certificate, a monetary award, and an American flag. This year's winners also received a UAV Coin as a memento from the commander.



St. Nicholas School Essay Contest Winners, 2015. L/R: Stefania Dembereckyj (2nd place/8th grade and Class of 2015 Valedictorian), Anastasiya Shybitov (1st place/7th grade), Dania Hrynewycz (4th place/8th grade), and Roma Oleksyn (4th place/7th grade). (Back Left to Right) Bohdan Dudycz, Bohdan Pawluk, Adam Bihun (Commander American Legion Post 943), Steve Macko, Rev. Fr. Bohdan Nalysnyk (Pastor), John Steciw (Service Officer American Legion 943 and UAV 32), Peter Bencak (Commander UAV 32) and Dr. Susan Kurland (Principal), Michael Hrycyk. Not pictured; Adam Yurkiw (UAV Chaplain and Photographer).



L/R: Deacon Mychajlo Horodysky, Rev. Volodymyr Hudzan, Rev. Bohdan Nalysnyk, Rev. Mykola Buryadnyk, Rev. Volodymyr Kushnir.



L/R: Michael Hrycyk (American flag), Bohdan Dudycz (Ukrainian flag), Michael Chyterbok (back), Roman Barabash (POW), Roman Bodnarchuk (Post 943 flag), Bohdan Pawluk (Post 32 flag) and Steve Macko.



L/R Illinois Senator Walter Dudycz, cousin Roman Bodnarchuk, Peter Dudycz and Bohdan Dudycz.

# CPL. Roman G. Lazar Post 40 - North Port, Florida

by Bohdan P. Hirniak, Public Relations Officer



L/R: Marian Bojsiuk, John Czerkas, Atanas Kobryn, Roman Rondiak, Ihor Hron, George Baranowskyj, George Kruzaniwskyj, Anatol Popovich, Jerry Zynycz, Victor Radzibaba, and John Homick.

## 2015 Memorial Day Observances

Ukrainian American Veterans Post 40 was organized more than ten years ago, and Post members have observed Memorial Day ceremonies in each of those years. This past Memorial Day was no exception.

On Friday, May 22, 2015, a detachment of UAV Post 40 members participated in the 25th Annual Memorial Day program at the Venice, Florida, Memorial Garden. Representing Post 40 were National Commander Ihor Hron, Rev. Roman Badiak, Marian Bojsiuk, George Baranowskyj, Oleh Sawkiw, Jerry Zynycz, Atanas Kobryn, and John Homick. Others attending these observances included representatives of local VFW and AmVets chapters, various school band and choral groups, several local political representatives, and many well-wishers.

Of particular pride for Post 40 was the selection of our own Marian Bojsiuk, UAV National Chaplain, to lead the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance and the selection of our own Post 40 Chaplain, Rev. Roman Badiak, to deliver the invocation and the benediction.

On Sunday, May 24, a Memorial Day Panakhyda requested by Post 40 was held at the North Port, Florida, St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church. An Honor Guard consisting of

Ihor Hron, Atanas Kobryn, George Baranowskyj, George Kryzaniwsky, Marian Bojsiuk, Jerry Zynycz, John Homick, and Orestes Lazor entered the church in formation with the colors, ensuring appropriate military dignity and salutes during the services, which included singing "Vichnaya Pamyat" for the repose of the souls of all departed veterans as well as "God Bless America."

On Monday, May 25, Post 40 members and the Post 40 Color Guard, together with representatives of nine other veterans, civic, and community groups met at North Port Memorial Park to commemorate this year's Memorial Day. Of the six veterans groups attending the observance, our Post 40 contingent was the largest. Representing Post 40 were Post Commander Roman Rondiak, Ihor Hron, George Baranowskyj, George Kryzaniwsky, Marian Bojsiuk, Jerry Zynycz, John Homick, Atanas Kobryn, John Czerkas, Anatol Popovich, and Victor Radzibaba.

During the ceremony, a nearly professional rendition of the National Anthem was sung by elementary school pupil as Ihor Hron, Atanas Kobryn, and Marian Bojsiuk laid a Post 40 blue and yellow wreath at the base of the Memorial Monument. The entire event was marked with proper dignity and respect for all departed veterans.

# UAV Michigan Post 101 – Detroit, Michigan

by Matthew Wroblewski, Commander

UAV Michigan Post 101 began its 2015 activities in January, with preparations for elections of officers for the year. The first Membership meeting was held on January 30, 2015, and the Post 101 Executive Board Officer were elected. We also welcomed four new members to our Post: John Lobur, USMC; Alan Polack, USA; Roman Shumylo, USA; and George Sobko, USA.



Induction of new Post 101 members John Lobur, Alan Polack, Roman Shumylo, and George Sobko (not on photo) by IPPC Oleh R. Cieply.



Immediate Past Post Commander, LTC Oleh. R. Cieply, USA (Ret), executes the Installation Ceremony of the new UAV Michigan Post 101 Executive Board Officers: Matthew Wroblewski, Post Commander; Oleh Karanec, Sr. Vice Commander; Leo Cionka, Jr., Vice Commander; Roman Maksimowich, Adjutant; Roman Stefaniuk, Finance Officer; Marion Zarewych, Quartermaster; Mirosław Pryjma, Chaplain; David Scott, Membership Officer; Eugen Kondziolka, Provost Marshall; Alan Polack, Judge Advocate; Orest Zachary, Historian; and Post Auditors Thomas Meyer, Michael Petrusha, and Jurij Futiaak.

## A Promotion

A special Promotion Ceremony was held to honor Post 101 member Michael Weigle, US Army Reserve, who has been promoted to the rank of Major. IPPC Cieply read the Presidential Orders in the presence of Major Weigle, his parents, and UAV Post 101 members. We congratulate Major Michael Weigle on his promotion and wish him good luck!



Mrs. And Mr. Weigle, Major Michael Weigle, IPPC Oleh R. Cieply. And PC Matthew Wroblewski.

## Volunteer Recognition Award

We are pleased to inform Tribune readers that Ukrainian Americans Veterans Post 101 member Roman Stefaniuk, USMC, was honored at the Sixth Annual City of Warren Outstanding Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony on April 23, 2015. Roman was nominated by post membership for his outstanding contribution as UAV Post 101 Finance Officer. Congratulations Roman!

## A Certificate of Appreciation

Last year, Post 101 activities focused on fundraising and on the purchase of five IFAK Kits for the Ukrainian troops fighting the separatists in Ukraine. We received a Certificate of Appreciation from Dr. Ulana Surpun, Medical Aid Doctor in Ukraine, who is also the daughter of UAV Post 101 member, George Jurkiw. Mr. Jurkiw's other daughter, Lydia Gulawsky, presented the certificate on behalf of Dr. Surpun. Recognition was also accorded to UAV Post 101 Ladies



Auxiliary members Mrs. Victoria Maksimowich and Mrs. Irene Pryjma who also supported Ukrainian troops through fundraising at the 67th UAV National Convention in Cleveland, enabling the purchase of ten additional IFAK kits.



L/R: Victoria Maksimowich, Lydia Gulawsky and Irene Pryjma,

### Save Ukraine Now Campaign

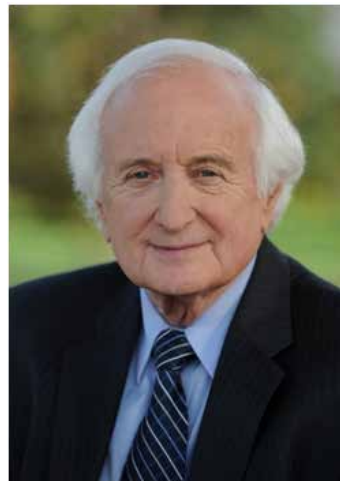
Many of our members attended a Save Ukraine Now Campaign Dinner Banquet hosted on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, and a Save Ukraine Now Campaign Breakfast held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015. General Wesley Clark was the keynote speaker at both events, while Matthew Wroblewski and Dave Scott served as Color Guard.



General Wesley Clark, USA (ret.)

Celebrating 70th Anniversary of the Victory in Europe at Warren City Hall on May 8, 2015

Twenty-two UAV Post 101 members and their families attended this event, including WWII veteran William Szypa, Other World War II veterans, members of the Catholic War Veterans, also attended. Featured speakers at the celebration were three distinguished WWII veterans: Retired Congressman John Dingell, US Congressman Sander Levin, and Tuskegee Airman, Lt. Col. Harry T. Stewart, Jr.



Congressman Sander Levin

### Memorial Day Observance at Immaculate Conception School

Memorial Day Observance was held at the school on Thursday, May 21, 2015, with Eugen Kondziolka, Dave Scott, and Matthew Wroblewski forming the Color Guard detail. It was a great honor for us to be included and to contribute in this small way to the patriotic development of our younger generation who joined UAV members in singing both the American National Anthem and the Ukrainian National Anthem.

### Memorial Day Observance on May 25, 2015

As Post Commander, I would like to thank the Reverend Fathers on behalf of all members of UAV Post 101 for celebrating the Panakhyda (Memorial Service) at the Cross on St. Josaphat Church grounds and for leading us in prayer during the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Ukrainian American Veterans Monument.

We are also very grateful to fellow veteran Stefan Fedenko for directing the choir during the services. Special acknowledgement and gratitude to Mr. Joseph Tyro of the Catholic War Veterans for placing the wreath at the Cross and to PPC Miroslaw Pryjma and his wife Irene, of the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary, for placing the wreath at the Monument.

The luncheon at the Ukrainian Cultural Center that followed the formal observances was a great success. Before lunch was served, we were entertained with a solo performance on harmonica by Jaroslaw Stetkiwych, UNA member Father Walter said a prayer before lunch and led us in singing "God Bless America." We thank Future Credit Union and Selfreliance Federal Credit Union for their contributions toward this occasion. Pictures of this event are on display in the UAV "Hall of Fame" at the Ukrainian Cultural Center.

Last but not least, I am very grateful to Dave Scott, for all his help at St. Josaphat Church in preparations for our Memorial Day Observance.

# UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT

Dear Fellow Veterans and Friends:

The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., is proud to announce the completion of the long awaited UAV National Monument on the grounds of St Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. The monument is striking in its appearance and impact and serves as a worthy reminder of the sacrifices and service of the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian Americans who served with honor and distinction in the armed forces of the United States. It will honor all Ukrainian Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields of the 20th and 21st Centuries.

The dedication ceremony will take place at the UAV National Monument on October 3, 2015 at 4 p.m. We cordially invite you to participate in this important event. The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., is the 6th oldest veterans' organization in the United States and dates back to 1948. This event will have national exposure in the media and raise awareness of the contribution of Ukrainian Americans to this nation's freedom. It is especially important to raise awareness of our contribution to the United States of America at a time when Ukraine's very existence is threatened by Russia.

The erection of the monument was made possible by generous contributions from UAV membership, veterans' families and friends, from the public, and from Ukrainian American community nationwide. Although sufficient funds were raised to erect the monument, our financial needs go beyond the structure itself. We must finish the landscaping around the monument, erect a flagpole, install lighting and security, and establish a perpetual maintenance fund for the future.

Our goal is to raise an additional \$150,000 to complete the project and create the endowment fund for perpetual care of the monument. Please consider making a generous donation to help us meet our goals. The UAV is a 501 (c) 19 tax exempt entity with EIN:23-2238720. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please share this information with your friends.

Contributions may be sent to the address indicated below. Please make check payable to: UAV or visit our website at [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org) to donate online.

We appeal for your support.  
Sincerely,

Ihor W. Hron  
National Commander



----- Please detach here -----

Please make check payable to: **UAV** and send to: UAV NMC PO Box 172 Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172  
**OR VISIT** [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org) (official site) to donate online.

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

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

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. is a 501 (c) 19 tax exempt entity **EIN:23-2238720**. Your charitable contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.