



UAV Tribune

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• www.uavets.org



Ihor W. Hron UAV NC

Dear Fellow Veterans,

I hope that all of you had a very Merry Christmas and offer my best wishes to you and your families for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Having closed out 2014, there are many accomplishments that we can be proud of:

- The long awaited UAV National Monument is in the process of being completed. The commemorative stone has been cut and polished and is on its way to Vermont to be engraved. The foundation is poured and awaits the granite pillars that are to be erected.
- The 67th UAV Annual National Convention hosted by UAV Post 24, Cleveland, Ohio, was a huge success. The entire UAV National Executive Board was re-elected during the convention, and key resolutions were presented and accepted by the delegates.
- UAV National Webmaster Joe Nasevich made huge strides in updating our website (www.uavets.org). His endeavors include the creation of a new UAV Facebook page, which can be accessed at www.facebook.com/UkrainianAmericanVeterans. NY SC Peter Polnyj was appointed to oversee the UAV Facebook page.
- An exciting experimental UAV "Virtual Members-at-large" Post was approved for action, under the leadership of UAV's National Vice Commander William Szozda and UAV's National Scholarship Officer Nicholas Skirka. More information on this to follow.
- A date and location for the 68th UAV Annual National Convention was selected; and the schedule for dedication of the UAV National Monument was determined.
- An updated UAV coin was approved under the leadership of Brig Gen Leonid Kondratiuk, UAV IPNC. Erik Wroblewski, son of PC Mathew Wroblewski, Michigan Post 101, Warren, Michigan, completed the artwork for the new coin. Coins and coin boxes will be available through the UAV National Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki.

Highlights of the 67th UAV Annual National Convention.

We extend our gratitude to PNC Roman Rakowsky and UAV Post 24 PC Bohdan Samokyszyn and their Convention Committee for organizing, hosting, and running an outstanding convention. Their efforts and the results of those efforts are much appreciated.

MC Orest Wasyluk introduced the keynote speaker at the banquet: US Rep Marcy Kaptur of Ohio. Congresswoman Kaptur is the longest serving woman in the House of Representatives and is also the first woman Democrat to serve on the Defense Department Subcommittee. Her speech was very moving. Among other things, she encouraged Ukrainians to "stand and fight for their human rights, freedom and sovereignty!"

The registration of the UAV delegates was once again the responsibility of the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary headed by President Oksana Koziak. Irene Pryjma informed that UAV NLA is fundraising for the support of wounded soldiers in Ukraine; the funds collected will enable them to purchase IFAKs (Improved First Aid Kits). Our thanks to UAV National Ladies Auxiliary members for their tireless efforts and support of UAV projects!

This brings us to two important subjects that were discussed in great detail during the 67th UAV Annual National Convention:

1. The military conflict in Eastern Ukraine and UAV assistance to Ukraine's Armed Forces, including the purchase of IFAKs for the combatants.
2. The UAV National Monument Dedication on October 3, 2015, which will coincide with the 68th UAV Convention. This convention (scheduled for October 2 to October 4, 2015, in Somerset, New Jersey) will be a collaborative event planned and organized by the UAV National Executive Board and New Jersey Posts.



Convention Resolutions

As always, part of the recent Annual National Convention was devoted to presenting, discussing, voting upon, and adopting convention resolutions. The resolutions adopted at the 67th UAV National Convention are listed below.

We, the leadership and membership of the UAV,

67-1 Hereby resolve that the UAV National Executive Board write to the President of the United States to urge increased military assistance, including armaments, to Ukraine.

67-2 Hereby resolve and recommend that each UAV Post start a fundraising effort to purchase IFAC kits, blood clotting bandages, and other field medical supplies to be sent to authorized military authorities.

67-3 Hereby resolve to continue concerted efforts to raise the awareness of the UAV achievements and commitment while supporting community ceremonies and events.

67-4 Hereby resolve to continue fundraising efforts to complete and provide for the perpetual care and maintenance of the UAV National Monument.

Special Recognition

During the convention, UAV Post 24 Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn and PNC Roman Rakowsky were presented with a plaque commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Post 24. UAV Post 32, based in Chicago, Illinois, received the top recruitment award with UAV Post 40 of North Port, Florida, taking second place.

UAV coins were presented to the three wounded Ukrainian soldiers that were our guests at the convention.

The convention ended on a note of harmony, good friendship, and a commitment to make 2015 an even better year. In connection with this, I ask for a commitment by all our posts and our members-at-large to continue to work diligently on the following UAV initiatives:

1. Assist the Ukrainian Military in any way possible.
2. Continue to fundraise at the post and personal level to ensure that our UAV National Monument will shine as a symbol of UAV strength and brotherhood. Be creative in your fundraising efforts. Several UAV posts have already taken the initiative on this matter:

- UAV Post 1 of Greater Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for example, worked closely with Philadelphia's Ukrainian Self Reliance Federal Credit Union (USFCU) on a matching fund offer of \$2,500.
- UAV Post 40 of North Port, Florida, dedicated all proceeds (including the sale of raffle tickets) from their Installation luncheon to the UAV National Monument Fund. Altogether, post members raised almost \$4,000. (I note that UAV Post 32 of Chicago, Illinois, donated \$1,000 for this fund at the 67th Convention, and the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary's gift was \$1,000 this year.)
- Christmas caroling is another creative avenue for fundraising; it worked quite well for UAV Post 30, Freehold, New Jersey, and for UAV Post 42 of Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, in prior years.

If you haven't contributed to this fund, please consider doing so as it is an important and special way to honor generations of Ukrainian American Veterans who served before you and with you as well as generations of Ukrainian Americans to come. (see page 19 for details). Remember, we are honoring the men and women of Ukrainian heritage who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and especially those who made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefields of the last two centuries.

I close by reminding you that the 68th UAV Annual National Convention will be held in New Jersey. Please mark your calendars to reserve the weekend of October 2-4, 2015, to attend the convention as well as the UAV National Monument Dedication on October 3, 2015.

God Bless America!

God Protect Ukraine!

Ihor W. Hron, Commander



L/R NC Ihor W. Hron, PNC Roman Rakowsky and PC Bohdan Samokyszyn



67th UAV Convention Delegates

Statement by the President on the Ukraine Freedom Support Act

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2014

Statement by the President on the Ukraine Freedom Support Act

Today, I have signed H.R. 5859, the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, into law. Signing this legislation does not signal a change in the Administration's sanctions policy, which we have carefully calibrated in accordance with developments on the ground and coordinated with our allies and partners. At this time, the Administration does not intend to impose sanctions under this law, but the Act give the Administration additional authorities that could be utilized, if circumstances warranted.

My Administration will continue to work closely with allies and partners in Europe and internationally to respond to developments in Ukraine and will continue to review and calibrate our sanctions to respond to Russia's actions. We again call on Russia to end its occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea, cease support to separatist in eastern Ukraine, and implement the obligations it signed up to under the Minsk agreements.

As I have said many times, our goal is to promote a diplomatic solution that provides a lasting resolution to the conflict and helps to promote growth and stability in Ukraine and regionally, including in Russia. In this context, we continue to call on Russia's leadership to implement the Minsk agreements and to reach a lasting and comprehensive resolution to the conflict which respects Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We remain prepared to roll back sanctions should Russia take the necessary steps.

Ukraine Yesterday, Ukraine Today, and Notes on an Uncertain Tomorrow

by Anna Osinska Krawczuk, UAV PNC

When the country of our ancestors suffers, our roots are deep and we hurt.

Since the late 1890s, Ukrainian people have sought a better life in North and South America, mainly because of the political and economic situation in their homeland, a country constantly occupied by foreign and hostile forces until 1991. As immigrants, they settled in Canada, the United States of America, Brazil, Argentina, etc., countries that allowed them to preserve their Ukrainian identity and keep their culture, history, religion, and language alive. It was in such environments that Ukrainian immigrants were able to pass on to their children the heritage of a homeland that "officially" did not exist. Grateful to their adopted countries, these immigrants returned the favor by becoming good citizens. Many served honorably in the military, answering when called and volunteering when the need arose. They did so because they believed in human rights, freedom, and democracy, gifts they themselves experienced when they left Ukraine and found refuge in the West.

The 20th century brought unimaginably devastating wars and suffering to people in Ukraine. Today, the horrors and history of World War II are still debated; as additional historical facts are unearthed, new generations learn about the homeland their parents and grandparents were forced to leave many decades ago.

In 2013, The Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre in Toronto, Canada, published a second edition of *Between Hitler and Stalin—Ukraine in World War II—the Untold Story* in English. (See page 5) Written by Wsevolod W. Isajiw, Andrew Gregorovich, and Oleh S. Romanyshyn, the new edition is accompanied by a DVD. The chapter titled "Ukrainians in the Allied Military Forces" (p. 90–91) tells a brief story about Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian Canadians serving in the armed forces of their respective countries during World War II. The book and DVD are wonderful tools that promote understanding about the struggle and suffering of the Ukrainian people, who persistently resisted attempts of occupying forces to undermine their national identity because they always were and never stopped being Ukrainian.

Decades after World War II, following a nationwide referendum in 1991, Ukraine declared itself an independent state, free from communist Soviet domination. Because of economic and political pressures, the road to independence and democracy was not easy, but the people persevered and their determination finally paid off. The victory was celebrated in Ukraine and also in the far-flung Ukrainian diaspora. August 24, 1991, became Ukraine's official Independence Day.

Today, the short-lived sovereignty of Ukraine is again under fire. What started on November 21, 2013, as a protest against the pro-Russian and anti-democratic policies of President Viktor Yanukovich, has turned into a calamitous invasion of Ukraine by Russian supporters of “separatists” in Eastern Ukraine. Suffering thousands of casualties, young Ukrainian patriots are now protecting their borders. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields in Donetsk, Luhansk, and surrounding areas. A great number of wounded warriors are struggling and fighting for their lives. Others are being held as POWs under deplorable conditions. Among them is a 34-year-old Ukrainian patriot, Lt. Nadiya Viktorivna Savchenko. She is former Army pilot who served with a volunteer Aidar Battalion. Nadiya was kidnapped on Ukrainian soil on June 18, 2014, taken to Moscow, Russia, where she is incarcerated. On October 26, 2014, still imprisoned in Russia, she was elected to Verkhovna Rada (the Parliament of Ukraine) in absentia. On December 13, 2014, Lt. Savchenko began a personal protest and announced her intention to engage in a hunger strike. For this she was transferred to solitary confinement. World-wide efforts to free her continue to fall on deaf Russian ears. Savchenko’s plight is further proof that the assault on Ukrainian sovereignty is not a spontaneous revolt by homegrown “separatists” but part of a calculated plan to recreate an empire controlled by Russia and Russians.

Unlike in past decades, when the world was largely ignorant of the repressive activities of the Soviet state against Ukrainians (including Holodomor of 1932-1933 -

the genocidal artificial famine and the hard-labor camps in the Gulag that were home to many Ukrainian dissidents), the world is well aware of the events occurring in Ukraine today, an awareness resulting from immediate coverage by the mass media as well as access to information via the Internet, including social media and Skype.

But this global knowledge has done little to support the Ukrainian military engaged in mortal combat against a stronger and well-armed foe. The West provides nominal support, verbal protests against incursions on the territory of a sovereign state. Promises of support and solidarity have gone quietly unfulfilled, pushed aside in the name of “diplomatic negotiations” that lead nowhere except perhaps to strengthen the resolve of those whose objective is to bring Ukraine “back to the fold” as a satellite in a new Russian empire.

As American veterans of the US armed forces, we understand the need to arm Ukrainian military in this unequal war.

As citizens of a democratic and free country, we know the meaning of freedom and human rights.

We also understand history’s most painful lesson:
“If a tyrant is not stopped, he will win not only today’s battle but begin planning his next battle, choosing a new target, and another after that.”

**As Ukrainian Americans we stand behind
Ukraine’s right to sovereignty. When that right is
in jeopardy, we hurt.**

#FREE SAVCHENKO

By Ukrainian National Women’s League of America - UNWLA.org

Nadiya Viktorivna Savchenko

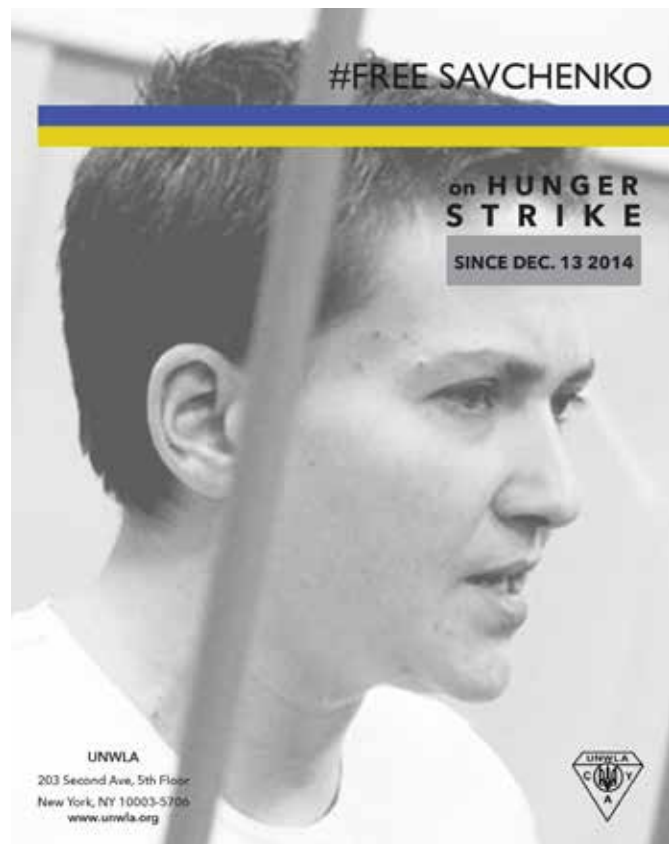
(Ukrainian:Надія Вікторівна Савченко) (born on May 11, 1981 in Kyiv, Ukraine) is a former officer of the Ukrainian army, Ukraine’s first female military pilot, the only female soldier among Ukrainian peacekeeping troops in Iraq and, at the time of her captivity, a member of the volunteer Aidar Battalion.

In 2014, Savchenko was captured by pro- Russian insurgents in eastern Ukraine, later handed over to Russia, and charged with the killing of two Russian journalists during the 2014 insurgency in Donbas. In early November 2014, while still being held prisoner in Russia, Savchenko resigned from the Ukrainian army having been elected a member of the Ukrainian parliament in the October 2014 parliamentary elections.

She remains a prisoner in Russia. Her lawyer, Mark Feygin, says she is a prisoner-of-war and has called on the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations to demand her immediate release as well as that of the other Ukrainian POWs lest Russia be held in violation of the Geneva Conventions.

Nadiya has a history of fighting for what she believes in!

Let us JOIN FORCES TO FREE Nadiya Savchenko and allow her to continue to do so !





UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC



PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS HONOR ROLL

Honorary Commander Michael Darmopray — 1948, PA Post 1

Michael Hynda — 1948-1949

Walter Shipka — 1949-1950

Walter T. Darmopray — 1950-1952

Martin Horobiowski — 1952-1953

Walter T. Darmopray — 1953-1954

Alexander Pronchick — 1954-1956

Walter Bacad — 1956-1957

Emil Senkow — 1957-1959

George Wolynetz, Jr — 1959-1960

Anthony Kutcher — 1960-1961

Matthew J. Pope — 1961-1963

Stephen Shegda — 1963-1965

Walter Klawsnick — 1965-1966

Eugene Sagasz — 1966-1968

William M. Dubetz — 1968-1970

Michael Wengryn — 1970-1972

William Harrison — 1972-1973

Emrick Prestash — 1973-1974

NJ Post 6

NY Post 7

PA Post 1

PA Post 4

PA Post 1

PA Post 1

NY Post 7

PA Post 4

NY Post 7

CT Post 14

NY Post 7

PA Post 4

NY Post 7

NJ Post 17

NY Post 7

NJ Post 17

NY Post 19

CT Post 15

Vasyl Luchkiw — 1974-1976

Harry Polche — 1976-1978

Bohdan B. Bezkorowajny — 1978-1980

Michael Chaika — 1980-1982

Edward A. Zetick — 1982-1984

Joseph Brega — 1984-1986

Atanas T. Kobryn — 1986-1988

Jaroslav Fedoryczuk — 1988-1989

Dmytro Bykovetz, Jr. — 1989-1991

Roman Rakowsky — 1991-1993

Miroslaus Malaniak — 1993-1995

Dmytro Bodnarczuk — 1995-1997

Steven Szewczuk — 1997-2000

Mathew Koziak — 2000-2004

Anna Osinska Krawczuk — 2004-2008

Leonid E. Kondratiuk — 2008-2012

Ihor W. Hron — 2012

NY Post 19

NY Post 7

NY Post 7

CT Post 15

PA Post 4

NY Post 19

NY Post 7

PA Post 18

PA Post 4

OH Post 24

NY Post 23

NY Post 19

NY Post 27

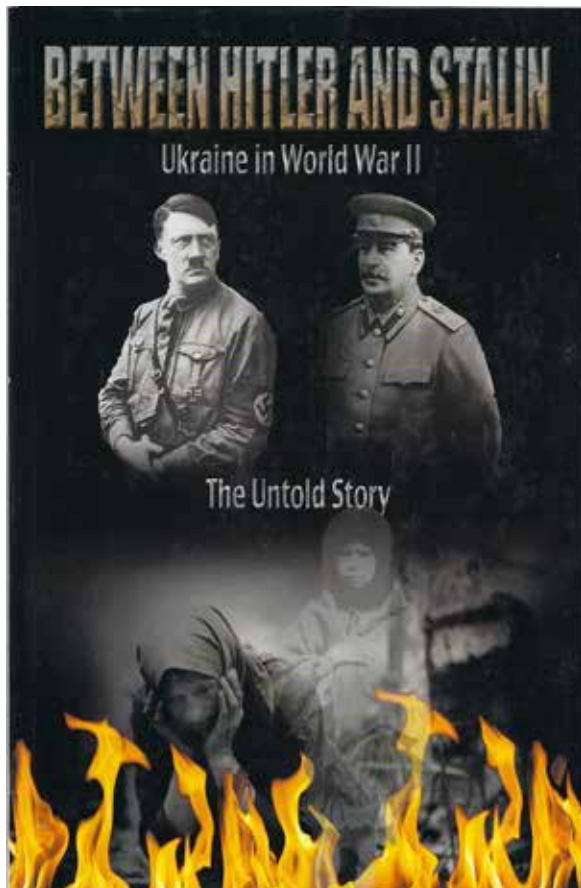
NY Post 27

NJ Post 30

MA Post 31

FL Post 40

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(Back cover)

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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

News from the UAV Headquarters

68th UAV National Convention October 2–3, 2015.

UAV National Monument Dedication and Banquet on October 3, 2015.

The 68th Annual National Convention will be held at

The Holiday Inn Somerset
195 Davidson Avenue
Somerset, New Jersey, 08873
(732) 356-1700 or 1-800-HOLIDAY for reservations.
UAV Convention.

- **UAV NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** will begin at 7 P.M. on Thursday, October 1, 2015 (at the hotel). All UAV delegates are invited.
- **UAV NATIONAL CONVENTION** will run from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M., Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3, 2015 (at the hotel).
- **UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION AT 4 P.M.**

Saturday, October 3, 2015, at the UOC of USA
St. Andrew Cemetery at: South Bound Brook, New Jersey

To be followed by the banquet at the
Ukrainian Cultural Center
135 Davidson Avenue
Somerset, New Jersey, 08873

Detailed information will be mailed to all UAV members.

Reminder from UAV National Finance Officer

All annual UAV membership dues and Post dues should be paid by April 15, 2015,
by checks made payable to **UAV**. Please mail to

Jerry Kindrachuk, UAV NFO
3535 Fox Run Drive
Allentown, PA 18103

UAV FYE (Fiscal Year End) is May 31. All Posts are required to file IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard). After filing, send a copy of IRS verification to UAV NEB Finance Officer or email to uavfinance@gmail.com

Message from the UAV National Scholarship Officer

Traditionally, UAV scholarship recipients' names are announced at the UAV Annual National Convention. The awardees of scholarships for the 2013–2014 academic year were announced at the 67th UAV National Convention held in Cleveland, Ohio, by UAV NEB Scholarship officer Nicholas Skirka. We congratulate the following scholarship recipients:

- Christiana Sophia Bej, majoring in math and science at Oakland University in Michigan
- Ryan Reed, majoring in international relations and par-

ticipant in the ROTC program at American University in Washington

- Mark Frederick Lewis, majoring in Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University
- Michael Joseph Nasevich, majoring in nursing at the University of Virginia
- Andrew Mykola Smith, majoring in biology at Marist College of New York
- Roman Peter Krywulych, majoring in industrial and systems engineering and minoring in business at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania
- Anna Terrebetzky, majoring in the music industry at Northeastern University in Massachusetts
- Grace Olivia Pereski, majoring in marketing at Dalton State College of Georgia.

For detailed information regarding scholarship applications, please visit the Ukrainian American Veterans official website at <http://www.uavets.org> or write to UAV National Scholarship officer Nicholas Skirka at 109 Windsor Terrace, Yonkers, NY 10701.

For additional information, please call Mr. Skirka at 914-965-3707 or send email enquiry to nskirka@optonline.net

Message from UAV National PR and Publications Officer Bernard W Krawczuk regarding UAV Tribune articles and photographs:

Thank you for your letters, articles, and photographs sent for publication in the UAV Tribune. We ask that you adhere to deadlines and follow submission guidelines for photographs.

When sending photographs via email do not include photographs in your Word document. Captions for photographs can (and should) be included in document.

Photographs should be sent under separate cover in a separate email to ensure quality of photographs in print. Photos embedded in Word documents are often blurred or otherwise distorted during print process.

Sending photographs via regular mail (snail mail) to ensure crisp, well-defined pictures in the UAV Tribune, please send original photographs (which can be returned upon request) rather than photocopier prints.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Your correct mailing address is important to us. Any change of address should be submitted as soon as you have moved. Please notify us via email at uav.tribune@verizon.net or via snail mail at

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PO Box 172
Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172

Message from UAV National Quartermaster Stephen J. Kostecki:

Be prepared for the UAV National Monument dedication ceremony on October 3, 2015! Dress code is the UAV uniform! Order your caps, ties, and other UAV uniform items early—allow time for delivery.

Quartermaster can be reached at: 508-245-1890 or via email at SKostecki108@comcast.net

CONGRATULATIONS and GODSPEED to Rachel Elizabeth Mruczkewycz, USN

Rachel Elizabeth Mruczkewycz hails from Greeley, Pennsylvania, where she was born and raised. After graduating from high school, Rachel decided to join the US Navy. She completed her basic training in Great Lakes, Illinois, last December and is currently stationed at the Great Lakes training support center. Explaining her decision to enlist, Rachel wrote:



The reason I wanted to join the Navy was to challenge myself and experience things I wouldn't be able to in my small town. I'm proud of how far I've come and can't wait to see where the future takes me. . . I am an E1 right now and I am in reserves and will be for 6 years.

Rachel, we are very proud of you and wish you all the best in all your future undertakings, assignments, and adventures in the US Navy!

Good Luck and God Bless You, Rachel!

From the National Quartermaster

	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
Tie/Jacket Pin	UAV Post Hat*	40.00
	UAV Lapel pin	4.00
	UAV Summer shirt patch set (US flag & UAV Logo)	13.00
	UAV Car decal	2.00
	UAV Tie pin	6.00
	UAV Small emblem	3.00
	UAV Registration Project 1998-2003 (report in booklet form)	7.00
	S/H will be added to the price	
	* S/H included	
		
		

TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

APRIL 5, 2015 Easter Holidays	SEPTEMBER 7, 2015 Labor Day observance nationwide
APRIL 15, 2015 UAV membership dues for 2015	OCTOBER 1 to 3, 2015 68th UAV Annual National Convention
APRIL 12, 2015 Easter Holidays in Ukraine	OCTOBER 3, 2015 UAV National Monument Dedication
APRIL 19, 2015 St. Thomas Sunday	NOVEMBER 11, 2015 Veterans Day observance nationwide
MAY 25, 2015 Memorial Day observance nationwide	NOVEMBER 26, 2015 Thanksgiving observance nationwide
JULY 4, 2015 Independence Day observance nationwide (1776-2015)	DECEMBER 25, 2015 Christmas Holiday
AUGUST 24, 2015 Independence Day of Ukraine (1991-2015)	JANUARY 1, 2016 New Year's Day
	JANUARY 7, 2016 Christmas in Ukraine

Program/agenda for Sunday, April 19, 2015.

St. Thomas Sunday services and procession at St. Andrew Memorial Church and Cemetery, in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. As in previous years, UAV participation in the procession with full Color Guard is obligatory. We will assemble in front of the church at 11:00 A.M. Bring your Post and State flags. Come in full UAV uniform.

A UAV table will be set up inside the Ukrainian Cultural Center on Saturday, April 18, 2015, and will be manned both days. Do stop by and visit and bring friends.

Anthony Bilyj UAV Post 1 – Greater Philadelphia

by John R. Hill, Post Adjutant

Veterans Day 2014 was observed by Ukrainian American Veterans Post 1 at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) in Jenkintown, Pa.

The annual event, which included a brunch, was hosted by the UECC and the Ukrainian Self Reliance Federal Credit Union. As part of the festivities, students from the UECC's Heritage School entertained the veterans and guests with patriotic songs and poems. The students performed in traditional Ukrainian dress and all spoke and sang in Ukrainian. UECC's President Sophia Koropecykj gave a welcoming speech honoring the veterans for their role protecting the freedoms that we all enjoy.

A high point of the event was the introduction of Maksym Ilchenko and Roman Dzivinskyj, two Ukrainian men who had taken part in peaceful demonstrations at the Maidan in Kyiv, Ukraine, which started on November 21, 2013. During the protests in Ukraine's capital, more than 100 demonstrators—now known as the Heavenly Hundred—were killed by non-Ukrainian snipers, and ensuing war against the Russian-supported separatists continues.

UAV Post 1 Memorial Plaque.

The goal of the plaque is to commemorate and honor all men and women of Ukrainian descent of the greater Philadelphia region who served our country in any of the five branches of the US Military. In recent months, several new names have recently been added to the post's memorial plaque, including those of six Post 1 members who passed away in 2013–2014. The names on the plaque serve as an enduring reminder of honorable service. Donations are requested to cover the cost of each brass plate and engraving expenses. Post 1 has recently purchased an engraving machine, which is also being made available to help other community organizations with their engraving needs.

Anyone interested in having the name of a Ukrainian American veteran included on the Memorial Plaque should contact a post member or send a written request to UAV Post 1, c/o UECC, 700 N. Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. 19046. Post 1's executive committee can also be reached by email at ezetick@gmail.com peterlabiak65@verizon.net tatibigt@aol.com or kilouniform@aol.com



(L/R) Maksym Ilchenko (Maidan), Post #1 Commander Ed Zetick, Post member Joseph Kuzla, Roman Dzivinskyj (Maidan)



Students of the Heritage School



UECC President Sophia Koropecykj, Post Treasurer Myron Soltys



Post 1 Members

UAV Post 17 – Passaic, NJ

By James Fedorko, Post Commander



John Nakonechny, Jr.

On October 16, 2014, Anne Sobel and Olga Mondragon, sisters of World War II fallen hero PFC John Nakonechny, Jr., visited the site at St. Laurent Cemetery in Normandy where he was laid to rest seventy years ago. Thank you Mrs. Sobel for sharing your story with UAV Post 17 membership.

Letter and photos from Anne Sobel.

Anne Sobel
42 Jefferson Lake Road
Stanhope, New Jersey 07874

November 17, 2014

Mr. Jim Fedorko, Commander
68 Washington Ave.
Rutherford, New Jersey 07070

Dear Jim,

This year marks 70 years since the invasion by American troops on the beaches of Normandy, France.

Three Nakonechny brothers served in WW11.

Andrew and Michael returned home at the end of the War.

Brother John Jr. lost his life due to shrapnel hitting him in his neck, in a battle on Omaha Beach.

John was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

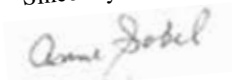
John is buried at the St. Lauren Cemetery in Normandy.

Two members of the Nakonechny family visited the grave in October. We were treated royally. The cemetery is American owned and operated by Americans. It is very well maintained and family members are taken to the grave, the lettering on the stone is highlighted when beach sand is mixed with water and rubbed over the lettering. After a short ceremony and prayers, we were presented with an American and French flag which were at each side of the stone during our visit.

There are 22 American cemeteries in France, alone. There are 9,356 American buried at this cemetery.

I am enclosing a photo

Sincerely



Anne Sobel



Pvt Andrew Prestash UAV Post 15 – New Britain, CT

Emrick Prestash, PNC – Post Commander

We received a letter from PNC Emrick Prestash, dated September 11, 2014, in which he writes:

September 11, 2014

First, I'd like to mention that six Prestash brothers served in the military during World War II:

- Myron, Andrew, Anthony, Steve, Jr., Emrick and Joseph.
- Five brothers in the Army and brother Joseph in the Navy.
- Brother Andrew was killed in action in December 1944.
UAV Post 15 is named in his honor.
- Brother Myron, Anthony and Steve, Jr. are deceased.

In memory of our deceased brothers two checks are being donated for the USFCU/MATCHING FOR UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT.

1. Joseph Prestash, check #1582 for \$100.00, dated 9/11/2014.
2. Emrick Prestash, check #671 for \$100.00, dated 9/11/2014.

Signed,

Emrick Prestash

Emrick Prestash, PNC

UAV Post 17 - Passiac, NJ - Continued from page 10

Veterans Day Program with Plast members

November 11, 2014. UAV Post 17 was invited by Andrey Tytla, Passaic Plast Branch president, to conduct a program at their meeting (skhodyny). The program was conducted by three UAV Post 17 members: Andrew Maksymiv,

US Navy veteran who served from 2002-2006 in an atomic submarine; Zenko Halkowycz, US Army veteran of the Cold War Era whose service took him to then West Germany, and James Fedorko of US Army Reserve, currently serving in New Jersey.



UAV Post 24 - Cleveland, Ohio

by Bohdan Samokyszyn, Post Commander

UAV Post 24 was founded in 1984, and 2014 marks the 30th anniversary of our existence. It has been a busy year for members, marked by important milestones and events.

On August 23, 2014, Post 24 members marched in the 5th Annual Ukrainian Independence Day in Parma's Ukrainian Village. The parade started at the Ukrainian Self-Reliance Credit Union and ended a mile away at the Ukrainian Heritage Park on State Road. Ukrainian community participants were joined by community organizations and the parade included 60 marching units and floats representing social clubs and businesses. Local police and fire departments also participated.

Sept. 28, 2014. Post members attended UZO'S 85th anniversary banquet at St. Vladimir's Grand Hall in Parma. Keynote speaker Congressman Robert Portman spoke on the Russian occupation of Crimea, Luhansk, and Donetsk and said he was planning to introduce a bill to provide aid to the Ukrainian Army.

The 67th UAV Annual National Convention

This year it was hosted by Post 24 from Oct. 2 to Oct. 4, 2014, at the Holiday Inn in Independence, Ohio. The new UAV National Board officers were sworn in at the banquet on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), who serves as co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, was the keynote speaker. In her speech, she described her numerous trips to Ukraine. Congresswoman Kaptur is a great supporter of U.S. veterans and supports causes related to veterans' health and well-being. Following her speech, UAV National Commander Ihor Hron introduced the three wounded warriors from Ukraine who are currently being treated at the Cleveland Clinic. It should be noted here that on Dec. 2, 2014, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur introduced HR 5782 to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, a companion bill to Senate bill S2828, known as the "Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014."



On Aug. 23, 2014, Post 24 members marched in the 5th annual Ukrainian Independence Day Parade in Parma's Ukrainian Village. Pictured above are the UAV Post 24 members who took part.



PNC Roman Rakowsky presenting convention banquet keynote speaker Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, (D-Ohio) flowers and a UAV coin.



UAV Convention Chairman PNC Roman Rakowsky presenting Post Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn (left) and Wasyl Liscynsky (right) a plaque for faithful and extraordinary service to Veterans and the Ukrainian American Community.





Photo by Anna Krawczuk

At the convention banquet (from left) PNC Roman Rakowsky and UAV National Commander Ihor Hron with wounded warriors from Ukraine: Serhij Babskyi, Alex Nikoporchuk, and Wolodymyr Movchan.

Both bills provide for defense military assistance to Ukraine and would grant Ukraine major non-Nato ally (MNNA) status.

Post members took part in the Veterans Day ceremony in Cleveland City Hall on November 11, 2014. Roman Rakowsky, PNC., Nick Bartkiw, Jerry Shutovich, Bohdan Samokyszyn and Greg Baker participated in this event.

We end the year on a sad note, having lost our friend and fellow veteran Myron Bebko on December 1. Post members attended the funeral, offered condolences to Myron's family, and participated in the Final Saute ceremony. Myron will be missed by all of us. May he rest in peace. Amen.



Dec. 10, 2014. George Salo of State Rd. Meats receiving a plaque in appreciation for his support of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 24. Pictured (left to right) PNC Roman Rakowsky, George Salo, Nick Bartkiw, Post Cmdr. Bohdan Samokyszyn.

In memory of Myron Bebko



1947-2014

Myron (Myroslav) Bebko was born in Hersfeld, Germany, on February 17, 1947, to Olena (nee Melen) and Hryhoryj Bebko. In 1950, three-year-old Myron and his parents immigrated to Venezuela, where he spent the next 16 years of his life. In 1963, the family came to the United States of America, settling briefly in Brooklyn, N.Y., but soon moving to Cleveland, Ohio, where Myron attended and graduated from Lincoln High School before going on to college.

Myron was active in the Ukrainian community playing soccer, dancing, and singing. He was also a member of the Ukrainian American Youth Association. He worked part time

at various jobs until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in June, 1968. He served in South Korea as a chaplain's assistant until returning to the United States in March 1970. He became a member of the UAV.

Myron met his future wife, Katherine Kralka, before leaving for basic training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. The couple were married on September 26, 1970, in Youngstown, Ohio. Their first son Andriy was born September 15, 1972; a second son, Taras, was born June 8, 1977. The year Taras was born, Myron was hired at PPG Industries in Cleveland. He retired on April 1, 2014, after 37 years of service to the company.

Myron passed away peacefully with his family at his side on December 1, 2014. Funeral services were held at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral with internment following at St. Andrews Cemetery.

Major Myron Diduryk UAV Post 30 – Freehold, New Jersey

by Anna Osinska Krawczuk, Post Adjutant

On May 7, 1991, New Jersey legislature proclaimed May 7 as New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day, honoring all those who served in the US military during the Vietnam Era (1959-1975). The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on May 7, 1995. The names of New Jersey Vietnam veterans killed in action are engraved on this memorial; among them is UAV Post 30's patron Myron Diduryk. These names are also listed on The Wall in D.C., a national monument designed by American architect Maya Lin that was erected in 1982 as a tribute to American servicemen and servicewomen who perished in Vietnam. Besides Myron Diduryk, other Ukrainian American Vietnam veterans are among those whose names have been engraved on The Wall.

Although Vietnam Veterans are currently honored in various states on Memorial Day and other holidays commemorating members of the U.S. military, New Jersey is unique in having a special day dedicated to honor Vietnam veterans who served in the US military during that time. This year, as in previous years, Post 30 is planning to participate in the event and honor all those who made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields of Vietnam.

Biography Project

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation has started collecting biographical information (and photographs in uniform) of the men and women whose names are listed on the Memorial. Among those listed on the Memorial are several individuals of Ukrainian heritage: Bohdan Peter Brydun, Mikolaw Nicholas Melnyk, Michael Yaworsky, and Bohdan Kowal. We are certain there are others that we are not aware of, and we need your help in identifying them!

We appeal to our membership for assistance in this endeavor. If you know of any Ukrainian Americans who were KIA during the Vietnam conflict (especially from New Jersey), please submit their names and/or salient biographical information as soon as possible to:

UAV Post 30
PO Box 172
Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172

*Remembrance and honor are the greatest gifts
we can give our fallen heroes.
Help us achieve this goal.*

Sp4 Nikolaus Zozula UAV Post 31 – Boston, MA

By Stephen A. Kostecki, Post Commander

November 9, 2014

Veterans Day Memorial Service (Panakhyda) was held at the Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston, MA., which was attended by PC Stephen Kostecki, PPC Walter Michajliw, Walter Boyko, Jr., and Yaroslav Muzyka.

November 11, 2014 – Veterans Day

UAV Post 31 members Leonid Kondratiuk and Walter Michajliw attended the West Roxbury, MA., Veterans Day Ceremony. IPNC Leonid Kondratiuk was the keynote speaker.

November 11, 2014. IPNC Leonid Kondratiuk also spoke at the Deutches Altheim German Center for Extended Care. Past National Vice Commander Walter Michajliw was in attendance at this event.



Dignitaries at the Ceremony



Walter Michajliw and Br Gen Leonid Kondratiuk

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

by Peter Bencak, Post Commander

UAV Post 32 of Chicago, Illinois, Helps Ukrainian Wounded Soldiers

Since the beginning of the undeclared war between Russia and Ukraine, more than 2,000 Ukrainian soldiers and volunteers have been injured. Now, thanks to a joint endeavor undertaken by St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale, Illinois, and Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32, Chicago, Illinois, much needed help is about to arrive in the war-torn areas of Ukraine. Determined to help some of the most seriously injured, these groups coordinated efforts and have procured 20 wheelchairs, 2 motorized wheelchairs, 10 walkers, multiple sets of crutches, and other medical supplies from donors throughout the Chicagoland area.

UAV members also collected donations to help cover the cost of shipping the much-needed supplies to Ukraine. Ukrainian businessman Bohdan Buchwak, owner of the MEEST shipping company, donated the balance of the funds needed, and the wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and other supplies have been shipped to St. Michael's Monastery. From the monastery, the cargo will be sent directly to Irpin Military Hospital, just outside of Kyiv, where soldiers from the ATO are brought for treatment and rehabilitation. Some of the wheelchairs will also be taken directly to the mobile military hospitals in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions. We want to make sure that those who lost limbs have the proper equipment for mobility.



From Left to Right: John Jaresko (President St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Parish), Jerry Pocztar, Adam Bihun (Quartermaster), Peter Wlasenko, Walter Chyterbok (Finance Officer), John Steciw, John Martyn, Father Victor Poliarny, Peter Bencak (Commander), Michael Bodnar, Adam Yurkiw (Historian/Chaplain), Michael Hrycyk (Public Relation/Web Master), Walter Nalywajko (Adjutant), George Diachenko, Bohdan Pawluk, Jerry Sydorenko.



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

by Bohdan P. Hirniak, Public Relations Officer

Post Fundraising and Installation Event

On November 13, 2014, UAV Post 40 hosted a luncheon at the Heron Creek Golf and Country Club in North Port, Florida. The multipurpose event focused on installation of newly elected officers and raising funds for the UAV National Monument that is being erected at St. Andrew's Memorial Church and Cemetery at the Ukrainian Orthodox Archdiocesan Center in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. The luncheon was well attended; some 150 people participated, including members, their families, supporters, and honored guests, and \$3,720 was raised at this celebratory occasion. We attribute the success of this event to the tireless work by the Post 40 officers whose terms were expiring, under the leadership of outgoing Post Commander Eugene Tomashosky.

The newly elected officers are: Post Commander Col. Roman Rondiak, USA (Ret); Vice Commander Col. Roman Synychak USAF (Ret); John Czerkas (Historian/Adjutant); Oleh Sawkiw (Finance Officer); Mykola Kompanijec (Quartermaster); Bohdan Hirniak (Public Relations); Rev. Roman Badiak (Chaplain); George Baranowskyj (Judge Advocate); Marian Bojsiuk (Welfare/Service Chair); and Eugene Tomashosky (Immediate Past Post Commander).



New officers being sworn in by UAV National Commander Ihor W. Hron

The installation ceremony of the new officers by the UAV National Commander Ihor W. Hron, as well as the ceremonial passing over of the flag, were the highlights of the event. The new post officers pledged to carry on in the fashion of the previous commands and assured those gathered of their best efforts for continuing success.

Among the honored guests and speakers was North Port, Florida's mayor, the honorable Jim Blucher who is a very good friend of the North Port Ukrainian community and an active supporter of that community's work on behalf Ukrainian causes. The mayor confirmed his ongoing supportive and promised his continuing attention to our needs.

Also present and participating were Col. Kalenichenko and Lt. Col. Lupanchuk, both currently serving in the Ukrainian Army as liaisons with Headquarters US Central

Command at the US Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. Col. Kalenichenko spoke in English, updating the gathering about the current critical issues in Ukraine and assuring all those attending that the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Nation will prevail over the aggressor and emerge victorious. He asked for the support of the diaspora as well as the support of the United States.



Col. Kolenichenko addressing the gathering.

Once the formal portion of the program ended, all those attending turned their attention to enjoying the excellent buffet-style luncheon. Raffle tickets and an auction, featuring art objects donated by Post members, contributed considerably to the overall financial success of the event, which ended with a closing statement from the new Post Commander Roman Rondiak.

November 11, 2014

Veterans Day at the Veterans' Memorial Park, North Port, FL. As in prior years, UAV Post 40 contingent participated in the ceremonies.



November 11, 2014 – North Port, Florida



November 11, 2014 – North Port, FL



photo by Ulana Rondiak

L/R: Ukraine Army Colonel Vitali Nazola, Senior National Representative, Roman Rondiak, UAV Post 40 Commander, Vlad Szpiczka, N. Port musician, Rev. Roman Badiak, Post 40 Chaplain, Post 40 members: Dr. Askold Mosijczuk, John Czerkas, Adjutant, and Ukraine Army Colonel Serhij Kalenichenko holding his 6 months old daughter Kalyna.

Headquarters US CENTCOM International Coalition in MacDill AFB, FL.

By Roman Rondiak, Post Commander

December 11, 2014, the HQ US CENTCOM International Coalition Night was held at MacDill Air Force Base. About 60 friendly Coalition Countries provide their liaison/representative Officers to CENTCOM.

Once a year each coalition country sets up a table in a huge airplane hangar to serve samples of their traditional national food and drinks to celebrate their friendship and expose their culture to other nationalities. For many years Ukrainian residents from St. Petersburg and Sarasota, FL., have supported Ukraine’s representatives by providing Ukrainian traditional dishes such as: varenyky, holubci, kowbasa, kanapky, borsch, baked goods, etc., including Ukrainian decorations. This year was no exception. The Ukrainian table was very popular.



photo by Ulana Rondiak

At the headquarters US Centcom Internation Coalition Night

December 13-14, 2014. Visitation by the Most Reverend Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo

North Port, Florida. Newly installed Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josaphat in Parma, Ohio, was welcomed in North Port, Florida. He was warmly greeted by parishioners and UAV Post 40 members.



L/R: PC Roman Rondiak, Most Rev. Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo, North Port Pastor Rev. Severyn Kovalyshin, PhD and UAV National Commander Ihor W. Hron

UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT

by Anna Osinska Krawczuk, UAV PNC, UAV National Monument Committee Treasurer

The UAV National Monument Committee was established on October 21, 2004. On October 3, 2015, the dedication and hard work of its members will come to fruition as the UAV National Monument is officially dedicated at St. Andrew Memorial Church and Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

Many people have participated in this important undertaking; many have contributed to its success. Among those that merit special acknowledgment and gratitude is His Eminence Antony Metropolitan and Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America because it was through the personal intercession of His Eminence that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America agreed to donate the plot of land on which the monument is being erected. Metropolitan Antony has served as a member of the UAV National Monument Committee since its inception, providing immeasurable guidance and support for the project with the unwavering conviction that all Ukrainian American men and women who served or are serving in the US Armed Forces should be honored and that special tribute should be given to those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country, fighting for the freedom that we all enjoy.

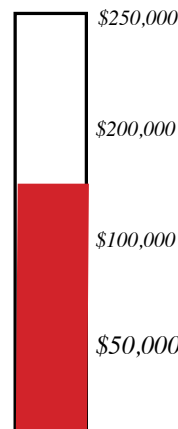
A special note of thanks must also go to the late Very Reverend Frank Estocin, UOC of USA, who served as co-chair of the UAV National Monument Committee and to committee members Vasyl Luchkiw, PNC, and Walter Demetro. Although we regret that they cannot be physically present at the dedication ceremony, we are going forward with this great undertaking with the firm belief that they will be with us in spirit.

The site chosen for the Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument is historically and symbolically significant, and the monument will share hallowed ground with American patriot Hendrick Fisher, who was laid to rest in the cemetery on August 16, 1779. The cemetery is also the site of a memorial honoring the victims of the 1932–1933 Holodomor (artificial famine in Ukraine that killed millions Ukrainians) and is home to the graves and memorials honoring revered 20th-century Ukrainian freedom fighters.

As the dedication date approaches, all committee officers (under the leadership of PNC Mathew Koziak and Bishop

Daniel of UOC of USA) are working hard to make certain that our fundraising goals are achieved. We thank you for your support throughout the years, and we are gratified to see the increases in donations for 2014. But even as we “see the light at the end of the tunnel,” we face financial realities that must be met.

The project’s success depends on your continued support. With your help, the goal will be achieved and we will stand together and proclaim: “Mission accomplished!”



Name: _____ UAV Post _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Daytime phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Signature: _____

I am making a pledge of:

\$ _____

to support this project

Check # _____ amount of

\$ _____ enclosed

PLEASE MAKE YOUR
CHECK PAYABLE TO: **UAV**
OR VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.UAVETS.ORG](http://www.uavets.org)
TO DONATE ONLINE.

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.

UAV National Monument Committee PO BOX 5058 Somerset, NJ 08873-5058

*ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!
ВОІСТИНУ ВОСКРЕС!*

*CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!*

Happy Easter!



Pysanky by Christina Kochan.