



# UAV TRIBUNE

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



**Peter Bencak** UAV NC

Dear Fellow Veterans,

I thank the delegates to the 69th National Convention who elected me National Commander. I believe in the UAV and I am humbled by your faith in me.

I was born and currently reside in Chicago, Illinois.

I am a first generation American, married to my

wife Regina. Together we have three children, and two beautiful granddaughters.

Growing up in Chicago, I attended St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, Tuley Public High School and Wright Junior College. We are members of Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Church as well as St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral.

In 1970 I joined the National Guard with basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri then advanced training at Ft. Carson., Colorado. For eleven years I was non-commissioned until my Battalion Commander recommended me for Officer Candidate School. I enrolled in OCS and graduated in 1982 as a Second Lieutenant. I have served as a Company Commander in many assignments, domestic and overseas until I retired with the rank of Major.

I joined the Ukrainian American Veterans, Post 32 in Chicago in 2005 and 5 years later I was elected Commander. We soon doubled the size of our membership to 50. I am proud of my staff and am grateful for the support of our membership.

My goals for the National UAV mirror those of Post 32, Chicago. We succeeded locally because it was understood that success does not come overnight. It usually means that progress is slower than expected

and more effort than imagined, so have patience.

As a major goal I would like to double our National membership. For this to happen, I challenge my fellow UAV members to get more involved in your communities. Be out there, be seen, get involved and wear your UAV cover. Carry with you an application and when asked about membership, give them a copy, ask them to fill it out. Follow up and stay in contact with them. Invite them to join us and be a part of our Veterans Family.

If they can't attend meetings, keep them informed by sending them an email or newsletter by mail about upcoming events. If they live too far to travel or there's no post in their community, ask them to join as a Member At Large (MAL). The National Vice Commander, Matthew Wroblewski has put together a very nice Advertising Poster that you can download from the UAV website or get copies from your post Commander and distribute them.

Take pictures and document your activities and pass this information to Bohdan Dudycz our National Public Relations Officer/Publications for inclusion in our Tribune. When you get a copy of the tribune, share it with friends and family, as well as churches, banks, organizations and community events.

I want to thank the Past National Commander, Ihor Hron for all his hard work for the past four years and the Executive Board for their work. I want to thank you for the trust you put in me as the new National Commander and I look forward to working with the National Executive Board and Post Commanders.

God Bless America!  
God Bless Ukraine!

Peter Bencak  
UAV National Commander

## A CONNECTICUT COLOR GUARD FOR 9-11

On Sunday, September 11, 2016, the 49th Connecticut Ukrainian Day Festival was held on the grounds of St. Basil's Seminary in Stamford, CT.

Connecticut State Commander Ihor Rudko, Post 14, invited National Quartermaster Steven Kostecki, post 31, NJSC Michael Hrycak, Post 17 and NYSC Peter Polnyj, Post 3127 to serve as the Color Guard. On this occasion, all 4 members of the UAV were mentioned in the opening ceremonies and were enthusiastically received.

After the singing of both the U.S. and Ukrainian National Anthems, a moment of silence was held in honor of the 3000 souls who tragically lost their lives on that fateful day of 9-11-01 that changed the course of the world.



The tri-state UAV Commanders and National Quartermaster were honored to represent the UAV at this festival and were the Color Guard for the opening ceremonies. Quartermaster Kostecki set up a UAV table display and the three State Commanders assisted him in sharing information about the UAV. The UAV members were invited to participate again at next year's festival.

The tri-state UAV Commanders and National Q-Master were honored to represent the UAV at this festival and were the Color Guard for the opening ceremonies. In both pictures: L/R are: Peter Polny - NYSC, Steven Kostecki - National Quartermaster, NJSC Michael Hrycak, Ihor Rudko - CTSC.

Congratulations LCDR Stephanie Ann Homick Turo on your promotion on January 3, 2017! Stephanie was officially promoted by her commander, Admiral Phil Davidson of U. S. Fleet Forces. It was a great moment shared by her husband LT Andrew Turo and her parents Joe and Vira Homick to witness the ceremony at U. S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, VA.



L/R: Vira Homick, LT. Andrew Turo, LCDR Stephanie Ann Homick Turo, Joe Homick

Stephanie is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, and has served as commissioned naval officer on active duty since May 25, 2007. She joined UAV Post 40 on July 2, 2009, where her grandfather, John Homick, was a member.

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LCDR Stephanie Ann Homick Turo – you made us very proud! We salute you! Anna Krawczuk, UAV, Past National Commander, UAV National Registry Officer.

## POST #1 OBSERVES VETERANS DAY

The Veterans Day activities at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, Pa. (Philadelphia Post #1, UAV) were outstanding as usual. We look forward to the luncheon provided by the Center and sponsored by UKSelfreliance. The performance by the Heritage School students was memorable and greatly appreciated. Our next activity will be manning a table at the UECC Bazaar on December 10th. Please make sure that you bring all the stubs from your "Basket of Cheer" chances before noon on the 10th. If you have any unsold booklets of chances, bring them early so that we may sell them. The drawing will draw many people since there were nine winners last year. This drawing is becoming more popular so next year we will have more chances to sell and raise money for our projected projects and causes.

We are now up to approximately 50 members and applications are available to have more veterans become members. A picture below shows the newer members who were inducted into our post #1.



Newest Inductees: (L/R) Leo Iwaskiw, Eugene Zybilkewycz, Nicholas Denkowycz, Peter Shoturma, George Gadach, Roman Lewyckyj



Inductee Leo Iwaskiw and oldest post member Mick Nesevich



Some of post #1 members and performers from The Ukrainian Heritage School



Luncheon with the veterans

# UAV STATE DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



## VETERANS DAY

Ukrainian American Veterans (pictured above) were represented, among others, by Michael Hrycak and Andrew Hadzewycz, Commander and Vice Commander, respectively, of the UAV New Jersey Department, as well as Ihor Rudko, Commander of the UAV Connecticut Department, Peter Polnyj, Commander of the UAV New York Department, Anna Krawczuk, Past National Commander, Registration Project Coordinator and Acting Post Commander of Post 30 (Freehold), and Bernard Krawczuk, Past National Public Relations/ Publications Officer, Post Commanders Walter Kovbasniuk, Post 17(Passaic) and Oleh Balaziuk, Post 42 (Lehigh Valley, PA), Oksana Koziak, President, and Maria Polnyj Service Officer of the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary, M. Orysia and Jurij Jacus, Past Post Commander, Post 30.

November 11, 2016. South Bound Brook, N. J. Veterans Day was celebrated at the Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument, in front of St. Andrew Memorial Church, S. Bound Brook, New Jersey, with a service conducted by His Eminence Antony, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., with the assistance of clergy and seminarians from St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary. On October 3, 2015, during its dedication, it was noted that this monument honors all Ukrainian American men and women, living and deceased, who have served in the U. S. Armed Forces.



## CHRISTMAS IN NEW JERSEY

December 18, 2016. Whippany, N. J. Christmas was celebrated at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, Whippany, New Jersey, by Post 17 of the Ukrainian American Veterans. The festivities were organized and presided over by Post Commander Walter Kovbasniuk, who recognized several prominent guests; Dr. Olexander Ilchyk, who is starting a two year residency in the United States studying battlefield medicine to provide care to Ukrainian Army casualties conducting Anti-Terrorist Operations (ATO) in Eastern Ukraine, and presented a commemorative Ukrainian American Veterans' coin to Roma Hadzewycz, Editor in Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, for her continuing support of the organization's efforts.

Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) were represented, among others, by Michael Hrycak and Andrew Hadzewycz, Commander and Vice Commander, respectively, of the UAV New Jersey Department, as well as Ihor Rudko, Commander of the UAV Connecticut Department and Post Commander Walter Kovbasniuk, Post 17 (Whippany). Michael Hrycak shared some memories of a Christmas he shared with fellow Soldiers in Iraq ten years ago, which included a fellow United States Military Academy classmate of 1981 classmate of Mark "Franko" Paslawsky (who was killed in action during the Battle of Ilovaysk August 19, 2014, as member of the Donbas Battalion), emphasizing that all veterans are lucky to be with their families this Christmas.

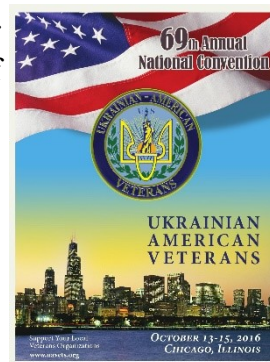
# 69th Annual National UAV Convention

In mid-October, 2016, Post 32 from Chicago, IL hosted the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual National UAV Convention. The three day event included delegate meetings, bus tours for spouses, an election for the 2016-2018 Executive Board and a banquet with dinner and entertainment.



Ihor Hron, IPNC

The convention meetings were conducted by National Commander Ihor Hron. The two days of meetings included individual reports of activities by post commanders. National Elected Board (NEB) members gave updates on the status and fiscal health of our organization. Discussions were held on internal matters and unique issues or successful programs found at each post. Several small groups were formed by the delegates in break-out sessions where resolutions were conceived and subsequently introduced to the convention at large for possible further research or implementation.



Delegates being greeted by National Officers



Delegates in a "Break-Out" discussion



Delegates hearing Executive Board reports



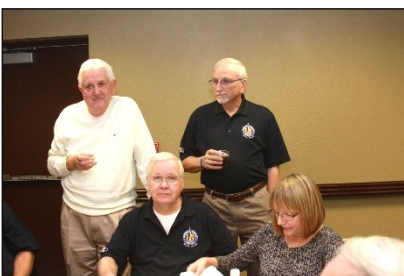
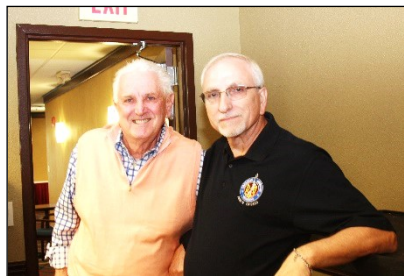
Delegates preparing for the banquet



UAV 69<sup>th</sup> National Convention Delegates

# 69 TH NATIONAL CONVENTION HOSPITALITY SUITE

No convention would be complete without a “Meet and Greet” opportunity. We had two wonderful evenings where old friends reunited and new friends were made. As the photos show, UAV delegates know how to party.





John Steciw,  
National Adjutant

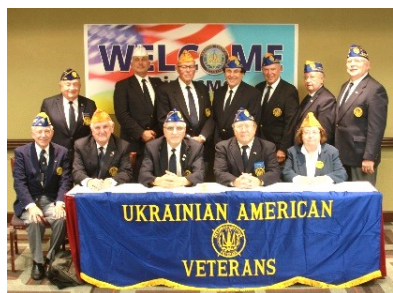


American Legion Commander Adam Bihun and  
National Commander Peter Bencak



Commandant Marine Corps League,  
Alfred J. Kolodziej

Next on our program was Brig. General Leonid Kondratiuk’s installation of the newly elected National Board.



## The 2016-18 National UAV Executive Board

Peter Bencak – National Commander  
 Matthew Wroblewski- Vice Commander  
 John Steciw - Adjutant  
 Jerry Kindrachuk - Finance Officer  
 Michael Hrycak – Judge Advocate  
 Stephen Kostecki - Quartermaster  
 Marian Bojsiuk - Service Officer/Chaplain  
 Roman Stefaniuk - Welfare Officer  
 Nicholas Skirka - Scholarship Officer

Edward A. Zetick, PNC - Historian  
 Bohdan Dudycz - PR/Publications Officer  
 Mathew Koziak, PNC – Monument Officer  
 Ihor W. Hron , IPNC  
 Anna Krawczuk, PNC - UAV National Registry  
 Joe Nasevich - Web Master  
 State Commanders: NY: Peter Polnyj  
 CT: Ihor Rudko  
 NJ: Michael P. Hrycak

## HONORED SPEAKERS



Ms. Larysa Gerasko,  
Consul General of Ukraine in Chicago



His Excellency Velery Chaly,  
Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States



Spouses of Delegates tour the Ukrainian National Museum's permanent UAV exhibit.



Delegate Spouses browsing in a Ukrainian Village shop.

During our convention, on Friday, Post 32 members accompanied delegate spouses on tours of our Ukrainian Village. They visited churches, museums, local shops and enjoyed a luncheon hosted by Chicago's Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union. On Saturday, there were two options for tours nearer to the hotel.

Spouses could enjoy a relaxing shopping experience at a renowned local Fashion Outlet mall. Those who didn't want to shop but wished to try their luck, were offered a short trip to a local casino.

Although no one won a huge amount at the casino, it was reported by tour guides that a delightful experience was had by all.



Spouses of Delegates were treated to a luncheon hosted by Bohdan Watral, CEO of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union.

## UAV BANQUET

With an attendance exceeding 200, banquet attendees exhibited true camaraderie laced with an atmosphere of U.S. Military veteran fellowship. Overall, our dinner was celebratory but there were moments of reverence and introspection. The evening's program began with opening remarks by Master of Ceremonies, retired Illinois State Senator, Walter Dudycz. A moving "Posting of Colors" was conducted by the Senn Metropolitan Academy ROTC, led by Colonel Michael Chyterbok followed by the invocation, given by the Very Reverend Victor Poliarny, Pastor of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church and UAV National Chaplain, Marian Bojsiuk.

Post 32's Service Officer John Steciw conducted a very moving POW – MIA service. During this somber



Retired State Senator Walter W. Dudycz



Senn Metropolitan Academy ROTC



The Very Reverend Victor Poliarny

ceremonial, Commander Bencak brought forth the U. S. Flag and American Legion post 943 Commander Adam Bihun, presented the POW-MIA flag. Both flags were placed on or near the evening's Honorary Empty Table in memory of fallen, missing or imprisoned military service members.



During dinner, several local dignitaries extended well-wishes to our delegates and guests. This was followed by remarks from Ms. Larysa Gerasko, Consul General of Ukraine in Chicago, who also introduced our keynote speaker. His Excellency Velery Chaly, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States who honored the audience with his keynote speech about conditions in Ukraine as well as current American/Ukrainian relations.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Our highly anticipated entertainment was a musical program presented by the American Ukrainian Youth Association Choir conducted by Mr. Wolodymyr Popowycz. The highlight of their repertoire was the medley of patriotic songs that brought tears to many.



# DELEGATES PROVE THAT THEY ARE WINNERS!



Emcee retired State Senator Walter Dudycz calls out winning numbers at the evening's raffle.



Newly Elected National Commander Peter Bencak and a ROTC member draw tickets from a metal drum.



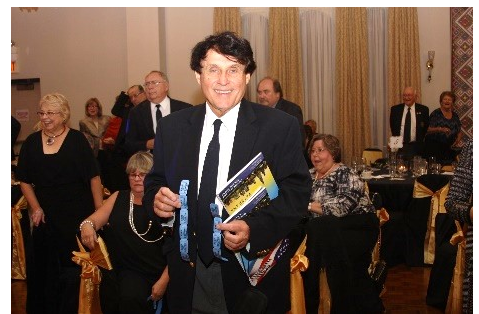
Retired National Commander Ihor Hron, wins and graciously accepts, the door prize. An original oil painting.



PNC Mathew Koziak smiles to the crowd as he walks up to claim his 50/50 prize.



PNC Anna Krawczuk displays a "Winners Style" as she walks to the podium to collect her 50/50 prize.



Nicholas Skirka can't contain his glee as he shows everyone his Journals and winning tickets. He won the last 50/50 prize.

## CONCLUSION

All wonderful events must end, and what better way to conclude than hearing inspiring words from notable attendees. The evening's program ended with remarks by Mrs. Oksana Koziak, President, UAV National Ladies Auxiliary, Ihor Hron, the Immediate Past National Commander, Peter Bencak, the new UAV National Commander and Rev. Mykhailo Kuzma of Immaculate Conception Parish, who closed the evening with a brief prayer.



Mrs. Oksana Koziak,  
President, UAV National Ladies Auxiliary



Ihor Hron,  
Immediate Past National Commander



Peter Bencak,  
UAV National Commander, 2016-18



Rev. Mykhailo Kuzma,  
Pastor Immaculate Conception Parish

## DELEGATES AND GUESTS PRESENT ARMS



### ANNOUNCING THE 2017 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION SITE

The location of the 2017 National Convention will be in Yonkers, New York. The date will be November 2nd 3rd and 4th, so save the date. For more convention information contact Nicholas Skirka who is heading the Convention Committee at: [n.skirka@optonline.net](mailto:n.skirka@optonline.net) or 914-965-3707.

For all questions about the convention Journal please contact Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer at [uav\\_tribune@att.net](mailto:uav_tribune@att.net) or 847-825-1717. More information will be sent in the near future.



# UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR 2015-16



The Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) held their 69th Annual National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, October 13-15, 2016. Each year the recipients of the UAV Scholarship Awards are announced at the annual convention. The UAV Scholarship Committee selects and awards scholarship money to undergraduate college students. The purpose of the scholarship award is to help students pay for books and school supplies. Students are required to write an essay (400-500 words) about a current military or popular topic. The topics for this year are: war on terrorism, human rights, negative effects of wars on American veterans, Russian aggression on sovereign countries, and Ukrainian-American veteran contributions to America's wars. Students can choose any one of these five topics to write their essay. Other criteria considered for a scholarship are academic achievement and extracurricular activities.

The UAV Scholarship committee thanks all those who have contributed to the fund. Next year, there will be a \$500 award in memory of Michael Demchuk who started the UAV Scholarship Fund in 1992-3, Mike passed away this year.

Students interested in applying for the UAV Scholarship Award should fill-out an application, send their college transcript electronically (unofficial copy), write an essay on this year's

choice of topics, and email a digital picture. Applications are available on the UAV website: [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org) and this can be done electronically. To be eligible for a UAV scholarship, applicants must be descendants of or related to Ukrainian American Veterans. Students should be full-time undergraduate college students in a degree program. Moreover, students attending accredited trade schools or institutions that have a degree program are eligible as well. Students can apply while in their senior year in high school, college attendance will be verified before the awards are given in the fall semester. Applications are accepted all-year around and the deadline is August 31st of each year. Additionally, students may reapply for a scholarship award.

Applications for the scholarship should be sent to the UAV National Scholarship Officer, Nicholas Skirka, 109 Windsor Terrace, Yonkers, N.Y., 10701.

For additional information, readers may email [nskirka@optonline.net](mailto:nskirka@optonline.net) or call at: (914) 965-3707.

The UAV National Scholarship Committee includes: Nicholas Skirka, Chairman, John Tkachuk, Peter Olijarczyk, Maksym Makarczuk, and Russel Olijarczyk. For a Scholarship application go to:

<http://www.uavets.org/programs-and-services/scholarship-fund>



## NEW RECRUITMENT POSTER ANNOUNCED

For an 8 X 11 color copy of this recruitment flyer please contact Matthew Wroblewski at [mwroblewski1@comcast.net](mailto:mwroblewski1@comcast.net) or visit our website [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org). You can download a color flyer and print it on your home printer or have some copies duplicated at your favorite print shop. Post this flyer at your church, bank, local business etc. Also have copies of UAV applications found on page 21 of this publication. Become a mentor to a new UAV Member.

## UAV SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS RECIPIENTS FOR 2015-16



**Mark Frederick Lewis** (FL)

Florida Atlantic University  
Major: Criminal Justice  
Scholarship: \$500



**Anna Terrebetzky** (NY)

Hunter College  
Major: English  
Scholarship: \$400



**Alexander Geba** (MA)

Florida Atlantic University  
Major: Marketing  
Scholarship: \$300



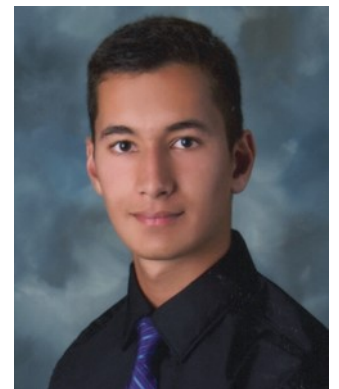
**Christina Sophia Bej** (MI)

Oakland University  
Major: Actuarial Science  
Scholarship: \$200



**Chloe Diakiwsky** (PA)

Penn State University  
Major: Veterinary and Biomedical Science



**Brandon Paul Hrycak** (NJ)

California State University Chico  
Major: Computer Information Systems



**Anjelika Kuziv** (IL)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Major: Biology  
Scholarship: \$200



**Christina Nadia Vosbikian** (PA)

Princeton University  
Major: Public and International Affairs  
Scholarship: \$200



Post 24 members who marched in the Ukrainian Independence parade



Post 24 members tours a WWII re-enacted encampment



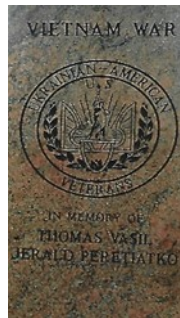
L/R: Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn, Roman Rakowsky and Jerry Shutovich on a museum visit

# POST 24

Cleveland, Ohio  
Bohdan Samokyszyn  
Post Commander



Post 24 Color Guard for the Ukrainian Independence parade



Post 24 dedicates a Vietnam Monument



L/R: Roman Rakowsky, Nick Bartkiw, Bohdan Bycko and Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn inspect a WWII tank



L/R: Commander Samokyszyn, Daria and Roman Rakowsky at the Chicago Convention

Post 24 is no stranger to Public Relations. Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn and several post members are active in their Cleveland, Ohio communities. Their presence was felt at the August 27<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Independence Parade where post member Wasył Liscenesky was the Parade Marshall and the post was the Color Guard for the Ukrainian flag.

Post members toured the Gettysburg museum, battlefield and cemetery. They were privileged to view a re-enactment of a WWI battle where American forces defeated German forces in the Belgian town of New Oxford. They also toured Eisenhower Farm where they saw a recreation of a WWII encampment, complete with 100 tents housing exhibitions of WWII weaponry, vehicles and armaments from America, Australia, Britain, Poland and Russia.

Clinton Memorial Veterans Park in Akron, Ohio is a facility where one can see multiple monuments honoring U.S. military war dead. There are numerous black marble walls describing every war fought by American soldiers. Post members paid their respects to our fallen American heroes.

2 names from Post 24 were added to Monument at St. Andrews Cemetery for departed members, Vietnam veterans Thomas Vasil and Jerald Peretiako.

2016 was a year that took 5 post members and for them we say Vichnaya Pam'yat. However there is still a bright future for Post 24 as it continues to grow with the signing of 3 new members.

Congratulations to Post 24 and Thank you for your activism.

## POST 40 STAYS ACTIVE AND INVITES OTHER POSTS TO JOIN THEM



Post #40 celebrates Veterans Day ceremonies and presented their newly elected post officers for 2016

For the past six years in November, Post 40 has held its annual Veterans Luncheon. Every other year this event also doubled as the forum for the swearing-in ceremony for new Post officers. Last November 16th we again saw these two events occur.

This year's luncheon was a particular success with approximately 130 people attending. The attendees consisted of post members, their spouses and families and invited guests from the Ukrainian military serving with the Coalition Forces at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL. In addition, representatives of religious groups in the area, and many civic organizations in the North Port area joined us as well as members from other UAV posts.

The lunch program consisted of presentations made by our outgoing Post Commander, Col. Roman Rondiak (Ret.), who recognized various individuals for their contribution to the Post as well as to those who were particularly active in our civic and social organizations. Post 40 has always made the support of these groups as one of its main goals. Also speaking to the group was Col. Cholovskyi of the Ukrainian Army who gave a brief synopsis of ongoing events in Ukraine and its military forces. The Colonel's words were optimistic and well received.

The events of the luncheon then turned to the

swearing-in of our new officers. Newly elected Post Commander Ihor Hron was sworn in first, followed by the remaining officers took their oaths. The ceremony was appropriately solemn and witnessed by the entire gathering. The newly sworn in Post Commander Hron spoke to the gathering and pledged on behalf of himself and the rest of the Post Officers their loyal service.

As mentioned previously, we had the pleasure of hosting members of other posts. It should be noted that Post 40 welcomes and encourages such visits from our other posts. We all know that the weather up north is becoming such that the weather down south is very beckoning. The Post welcomes the opportunity to host such visits and would make such visitors more than welcome. So, if you are planning to spend some of your winter time in the balmy climes of southwest Florida, feel free to contact us so that we could make your stay that much more pleasant.

The meetings are held every month on the first Friday, at 1:00pm at the Oseredok in North Port. A good time is promised, and you may actually decide to stay permanently.



Post 40 participated in Veterans Day ceremonies held in North Port, Fl. As is our tradition, Post #40 had the largest contingent of Veterans present participating in this important event.

## POST 32 CHICAGO—STREET NAMING



L/R: National Adjutant John Steciw, National Commander Peter Bencak, Post 32 Adjutant Walter Nalywaiko and American Legion Post 943 Commander Adam Bihun

Ukrainian Village, the heart of the Ukrainian Diaspora, in Chicago, IL, has a unique landmark. Located on Chicago Ave., where one can see many Ukrainian churches, businesses and organizations.

Ukrainian Village banners adorn many light posts as they identify the neighborhood and there is also a street

sign saying “Kiev Sister Cities Honorary Way”. We now have another street with a Ukrainian reference.

For many years, our Commander Peter Bencak and Adjutant John Steciw worked with local elected officials to show some recognition for the UAV, an organization that has contributed mightily to the American American way of life. In late October,

2016 the local Alderman and members of the UAV Staff assembled on a cool autumn day and made this dream a reality.

A one block section of Chicago Ave. was named the honorary “Ukrainian American Veterans Way”. Attending the installation of these signs was Alderman Brian Hopkins, Commander Peter Bencak, and 22 Post 32 members along with other supporters. Our Post gratefully accepted this honor.



National Commander Peter Bencak, holding sign and Alderman Brian Hopkins (left of the Commander) and a crowd of Post 32 Veterans and supporters participate in the unveiling of our honorary street sign,

## POST 32 PRESENTS AWARDS OF APPRECIATION

The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention would not have been as successful without the help of volunteers. There were two unsung heroes who really “Stepped Up” and gave many hours of talented graphics design dedicated to the UAV. They are friends of Post 32 and are also credited with graphics input on our Journal, Welcome Posters, Outdoor Directional signs and virtually every other critical written communications piece we used throughout the convention. A Heartfelt “Thank You” goes to Walter Tun and his Graphics Designer Anastasiya Kovalenko.



Walter Tun (L) receiving a Kozak Statue in appreciation from National Commander Peter Bencak (R)



National Adjutant John Steciw (L) and National Commander Peter Bencak (R) presenting Anastasiya Kovalenko with a UAV commemorative coin.



## POST 101 ANNUAL MEETING - MEMBERSHIP MEETING 1-27-2017



New Members L/R: Jerry Andriaschko, Jerry Szawronskyj, Stephen Petrovitch, Alexander Maritzcak, Leonard Wroblewski, and Lubko Bartkiw.

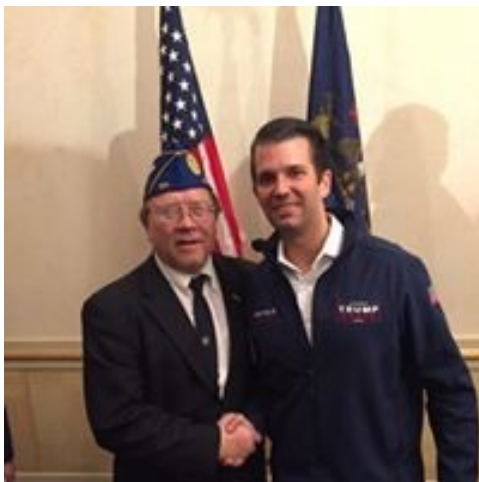
Not pictured: Bohdan Bartkiw, Stephen Fedak, Roman Myroniuk, Peter Palamarchuk, Alexander Woronowycz (Cadet at West Point)



Swearing in of Officers by Miroslaw Pryjma

### SENATOR GARY PETERS AT THE UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CENTER

Michigan Senator Gary Peters visited the Ukrainian Cultural Center on December 2, 2016. He discussed and then answered questions about his recent trip to Ukraine. Many Ukrainian organizations were present at this impromptu event. (picture on right: (L/R a UAV member, Senator Peters, Commander Wroblewski)



### DONALD TRUMP, JR. VISITED UCC

The day before the November 8, 2016 Presidential Elections, Donald Trump, Jr. held a campaign rally at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, MI. Before an enthusiastic crowd of 350 people, he spoke for about 45 minutes and then posed for pictures with those assembled for the rally. Commander Matthew Wroblewski, UAV Michigan Post 101 was one of the first to get his picture with young Trump.

### UAV ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Ukrainian American Veterans celebrated their Annual Friends and Family Christmas Party on Friday, December 9, 2016. Everyone in attendance had a fabulous time.





# Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

2135 W Potomac Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60622-8270



## Peter Bencak National Commander

### PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS HONOR ROLL

Michael Darmoprav - Honorary Commander  
1948 PA Post 1

- |    |                                  |            |
|----|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1  | Michael Hynda 1948-1949          | NJ Post 6  |
| 2  | Walter Shipka 1949-1950          | NY Post 7  |
| 3  | Walter T. Darmoprav 1950-1952    | PA Post 1  |
| 4  | Martin Horbiowski 1952-1953      | PA Post 4  |
| 5  | Walter T. Darmoprav 1953-1954    | PA Post 1  |
| 6  | Alex Pronchick 1954-1956         | PA Post 1  |
| 7  | Walter Bacad 1956-1957           | NY Post 7  |
| 8  | Emil Sen 1957-1959               | PA Post 4  |
| 9  | George Wolynets, Jr. 1959-1960   | NY Post 7  |
| 10 | Anthony Kutch 1960-1961          | CT Post 14 |
| 11 | Mathew J. Pope 1961-1963         | NY Post 7  |
| 12 | Stephen Shegda 1963-1965         | PA Post 4  |
| 13 | Walter Klawnsnick 1965-1966      | NY Post 7  |
| 14 | Eugene Sagasz 1966-1968          | NJ Post 17 |
| 15 | William M. Dubetz 1968-1970      | NY Post 7  |
| 16 | Michael Wengryn 1970-1972        | NJ Post 17 |
| 17 | William Harrison 1972-1973       | NY Post 19 |
| 18 | Emrick Prestash 1973-1974        | CT Post 15 |
| 19 | Vasyl Luchkiw 1974-1976          | NY Post 19 |
| 20 | Narry Polche 1976-1978           | NY Post 7  |
| 21 | Bohdan B. Bezkorowajny 1978-1980 | NY Post 7  |
| 22 | Michael Chaika 1980-1982         | CT Post 15 |
| 23 | Edward A. Zetick 1982-1984       | PA Post 4  |
| 24 | Joseph Brega 1984-1986           | NY Post 19 |
| 25 | Atanas T. Kobryn 1986-1988       | NY Post 7  |
| 26 | Jaroslav Fedoryczuk 1988-1989    | PA Post 18 |
| 27 | Dmytro Bykovetz, Jr. 1989-1991   | PA Post 4  |
| 28 | Roman Rakowsky 1991-1993         | OH Post 24 |
| 29 | Miroslaus Malaniak 1993-1995     | NY Post 23 |
| 30 | Dmytro Bodnarczuk 1995-1997      | NY Post 19 |
| 31 | Steven Szewczuk 1997-2000        | NY Post 27 |
| 32 | Mathew Koziak 2000-2004          | NY Post 27 |
| 33 | Anna Osinska Krawczuk 2004-2008  | NJ Post 30 |
| 34 | Leonid E. Kondratiuk 2008-2012   | MA Post 31 |
| 35 | Ihor W. Hron 2012-2016           | FL Post 40 |
| 36 | Peter Bencak 2016-               | IL Post 32 |

### 2016-2018 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Oksana Koziak – President, Ladies Auxiliary  
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# Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

2135 W Potomac Avenue  
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## Peter Bencak National Commander

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**Member—At—Large**  
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**NJ:** Michael P. Hrycak  
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(C) 908-531-8800  
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### MESSAGE FROM THE UAV TRIBUNE EDITOR



I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who sent me their articles and pictures. I look forward to working with all UAV members to make the Tribune timely and interesting.

Most importantly, from all of us at UAV we extend a supreme thank you to our retired Co-Editors Bernard W. and Anna Osinska Krawczuk 2005-2016 (pictured on left). Their many years of dedicated attention to the assembly, editing, printing and distribution of our publication is herein gratefully acknowledged. While we know that you have passed the Tribune to others, you can be assured that your influence in our UAV will never diminish.

**Bohdan Dudycz**

## QUARTERMASTER STORE



Steve Kostecki, National Quartermaster

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

**[Steve Kostecki at 508-245-1890](tel:508-245-1890)**  
**[Or email: skostecki108@comcast.net](mailto:skostecki108@comcast.net)**

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



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



**American flag and UAV arm Patch for Summer wear. Sold as a set - \$13.00**



**Veteran Pin \$3.00 each**



**2 Flags Pin \$3.00 each**



**UAV Monument Coin \$10.00**



**UAV Monument Coin in case - \$30.00**



**UAV Registry Project 1998-2003 \$3.00**



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



**UAV Baseball Cap with the UAV emblem \$15.00 (One size fits all)**



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



**Tie or Jacket Pin \$5.00**



**Jacket Emblem to be worn on the breast pocket - \$18.00**

**“ We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free.”**

*Ronald Reagan*



# UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC

UAV NATIONAL REGISTRY  
PO BOX 172

Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172

Anna Krawczuk, Past National Commander



## AMERICAN VETERANS OF UKRAINIAN HERITAGE – JOIN US! HELP US! WE NEED YOU!

In conjunction with the dedication of the *UAV National Monument* at St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J., on October 3, 2015, our project became the *UAV National Registry* and our work continues.

The UAV Registration Project was initiated in 1998. Its principal mission is to register and honor American servicemen and servicewomen of Ukrainian heritage who have served honorably or are currently on active duty in the US Armed Forces. By the end of 2003 we had 3,115 recorded names, which included the names of registrants as well as names acquired from archival sources.

The *UAV Registration Project Report 1998–2003 Volume I*, dedicated to World War II veterans, was released to coincide with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.,

on Memorial Day in 2004. Limited copies of this volume are still in stock.

**Registration is mandatory for UAV members, as specified in the UAV Constitution and By-laws. A copy of DD Form 214 (separation document or equivalent) must be submitted with each registration.**

We have a long way to go and need the help of the Ukrainian-American community. We request that you tell your relatives and friends about our continuing project and encourage them to register. You may register your loved ones as well. Don't let them be forgotten!

**The contribution of American veterans of Ukrainian heritage to the US Military history needs to be told.** You can help! To get a copy of the UAV Registration Form please visit the UAV Official website at [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org) and click on the UAV REG Form. Or email us at: [uav.registration@verizon.net](mailto:uav.registration@verizon.net)

By 2015, the number of fully documented registrants exceeded fifteen hundred; with the names added from archival sources, our listing has increased to almost eight thousand names. But this is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg, as it has been estimated that more than 200,000 Ukrainian Americans served in World War II alone.

***There is no fee to register and you do not have to be a member of the UAV to do so.***

**Volume II**, dedicated to Korean and Vietnam veterans, has been compiled for release. The UAV Registration Project is an ongoing and evolving project and future volumes will follow. Registration of Ukrainian American veterans is continuing and their names will be published in Volume III..

### **Please send to: UAV REG PO Box 172 Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172**

// I would like to be interviewed. Please contact me

// I would like to become a **UAV Member at Large**. UAV REG and DD Form 214 are attached.

My check for **annual dues in the amount of \$25 made payable to: UAV is enclosed.\***

// I would like to become a UAV member; please send information on UAV Post(s) in my area.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* DUES EXEMPTION: Personnel on Active Duty, 100% Military Disability and Permanently Totally Disabled (PTD) members in good standing for five (5) or more consecutive years, if unable to pay. (2016)**



UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC.
UAV NATIONAL REGISTRY

PO Box 172
Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172

uav.registration@verizon.net

www.uavets.org Official



UAV REGISTRATION or APPLICATION FORM

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

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION.

LName: \_\_\_\_\_ FName: \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
write maiden name if applicable

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

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

Daytime phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ evening: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: / / / / Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ If Deceased / / / /
month day year month day year

When did you and/or your ancestors arrive to the USA? \_\_\_\_\_

From which country? \_\_\_\_\_

When did you and/or your ancestors become USA citizens? [ ] [ ] \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate year)
myself ancestor

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

Your mother's maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you UAV member ? \_\_\_\_\_ if yes, UAV Post # \_\_\_\_\_ Other US Veteran's Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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

SERVICE DATES - including active duty, Reserve, and National Guard (copy DD Form 214 or equivalent)

From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Reserve \_\_\_\_\_

Military Decoraions: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Rank or Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ If deceased, place of burial \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Retired from military service

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

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

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

date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return entire form with a copy of DD Form 214 (or equivalent) and photo to the above address. Thank you.

You do not have to be a member of the Ukrainian American Veterans to register

(rev 2016)

## UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT

Dear Fellow Veterans and Friends:

The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., is proud to remind everyone of the existence of the beautiful 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 American men and women 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.

A dedication ceremony took place at the UAV National Monument on October 3, 2015. We cordially invited everyone to visit this important site. The Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., is the 6th oldest veterans' organization in the United States and dates back to 1948. This monument provides national exposure in the media and raises 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 an 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,

Peter Bencak  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

# Uniform Regulation

By John Czerkas, PAdj/PHist, Post 40

## Class “A” Dress Blue – Formal

UAV hat  
Navy blue blazer\*  
Grey trousers  
Black web belt with brass buckle  
White dress shirt  
Navy blue tie  
Black shoes

## Class “B” – Holidays and Funerals

UAV hat  
Grey pants  
Black web belt with brass buckle  
White short sleeve shirt (military or police style)\*\*  
Black scarf (Memorial Day, funerals)  
Blue scarf (all occasions with exception of Memorial Day and funerals)  
Black shoes

## Class “C” – Meetings

UAV hat  
UAV polo shirt  
Khaki pants or shorts  
Footwear

## Class B Uniform Shirt

### Example



\* Navy blue blazer – Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) emblem centered on left breast pocket, military ribbons immediately above pocket, UAV pin in right lapel.

\*\* White short sleeve shirt (military or police style) –  
Right Sleeve – American flag patch 1 ½ inch down from sleeve stich,  
POW/MIA patch 1 inch below American flag.  
Left Sleeve – UAV Patch 1 ½ inch down from sleeve stich, unit patch  
1 inch below unit patch.  
Right collar point – Post #40 pin.  
Left collar point – UAV pin.  
Right pocket (above) – Blue nameplate.  
Left pocket (above) – ribbons.