



UAV TRIBUNE

8433 N. Clifton Ave.
Niles, IL 60714



uav_tribune@att.net

www.uavets.org



Peter Bencak UAV NC

Dear Fellow Veterans,
The typical UAV member is a 1st or 2nd generation American whose family immigrated to America to escape Communism. That member attended school, including Saturday school for Ukrainian studies and matriculated to an institution of higher education.

Somewhere along this journey, that student entered the ranks of the U.S. Military. After his or her term of service, our patriot returned to civilian life to deal with challenges in careers or family.

Typically this is one realization of the American Dream but we cannot overlook how immigrants also have a robust connection to their country of birth. This bond to an ancestral home is very prevalent among immigrants and I see it in the ranks of our members.

Ukrainian American Veterans have a strong understanding of Ukraine's historical conflict with Russia. We know that, in 1918 Ukraine declared its Independence and was crushed by the Bolsheviks.

In 1991 after a failed coup in Moscow, Ukraine once again declared its independence. Twenty years later Russia invaded Ukraine politically by engineering the election of Viktor Yanukovich, an ally of Vladimir Putin, as the fourth President of Ukraine.

The result of the 2014 Euromaidan revolution was an ousted Yanukovich, who is currently in exile in Russia and wanted by Ukraine for high treason.

Since then, Russia invaded the Ukrainian Crimea and the Ukrainian Donbas region, which is currently the site of a war between Ukrainian forces and Russia backed insurgents.

For 100 years Ukraine has longed for freedom. During this century, Russia imposed war, starvation, imprisonment, executions and gulag internment in its attempt to subjugate our ancestral country.

We know about the duplicity of Russian Communists and their appetite for Ukrainian lands. Our generation grew up during the "Cold War" era, where we witnessed the fall of Communist USSR. It appears that the demise of the USSR did little to tame the Russian Bear's voracious hunger for Ukraine. We also know that helping Ukraine serves America's interest and the West can't assume that this conflict in Ukraine is simply a small border skirmish.

Ukrainian American organizations have worked to supply much needed medical equipment, books, clothing and field equipment to Ukrainian combatants. I have witnessed the emergence of a desire to assist Ukraine by our membership and I heartily endorse those undertakings.

In the past year our UAV Posts have participated in similar efforts and I am proud and heartened to report progress in America's assistance in supplying Ukrainian forces with lethal defense weaponry and more.

Page 19 in this edition of the Tribune and page 16 of the last Tribune, as well as our web site, give more information about American aid to Ukraine.

You don't need to look far for an organization that exemplifies the qualities of patriotism, a strong sense of citizenship, a belief in the Bible, the Constitution and the Second Amendment while remembering the country of their forefathers. We are the proud Ukrainian American Veterans.

God bless America!

God Bless Ukraine!

Peter Bencak
UAV National Commander



Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

2135 W Potomac Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622-8270



Peter Bencak National Commander

Post Commanders 2016 - 2018

Post 1 Philadelphia, PA
Edward A. Zetick, PNC
ezetick@gmail.com

Post 6 Newark, NJ
Michael Fedirko, PC
amfed1@aol.com

Post 14 Hartford, CT
Ihor B. Rudko, CTSC PC
ihor@rudko.com

Post 15 New Britain, CT
Emrick Prestash, PNC PC
mpwuke@yahoo.com

Post 17 Passaic, NJ
Walter M. Kovbasniuk
volodkovel@earthlink.net

Post 19 Spring Valley, NY
William Szozda, NVC PC
wandjsz0@verizon.net

Post 23 Buffalo, NY
Markian Slabyk, PC
mslabyk.verizon.net

Post 24 Cleveland, OH
Bohdan Samokyszyn, PC
Bohdan48@cox.net

Post 25 Trenton, NJ
Gregory Posewa, PC
G.PO@aol.com

Post 27 Brooklyn, NY
Peter Polnyj, NYSC PC
peterpolny@aol.com

Post 28 Akron, OH
Roman Kostyuk, PC
romankostyuk@yahoo.com

Post 30 Freehold, NJ
Anna Krawczuk, PNC AC
uav.post30@verizon.net

Post 31 Boston, MA
Stephen J. Kostecki, NQ PC
SKostecki108@comcast.net

Post 32 Chicago, IL
George Horbenko - PC
horbenko@comcast.net

Post 33 New Haven, CT
Carl Harvey, PC
crharv3841@optimum.net

Post 40 North Port, FL
Ihor W. Hron, IPNC, PC
ihorwhron@comcast.net

Post 42 LeHigh Valley, PA
Oleh Balaziuk, PC
uavpost42@gmail.com

Post 101 Warren, M
Matthew Wroblewski, PC
mwroblewski1@comcast.net

Post 301 Yonkers, NY
Nicholas Skirka, NSchol PC
n.skirka@optonline.net

Member—At—Large
Matthew Wroblewski, UAV VC
mwroblewski@comcast.net

State Commanders:

NY: Peter Polnyj
718-869-3634
peterpolny@aol.com

CT: Ihor B. Rudko
860-705-1849
irudko@rudko.com

NJ: Michael P. Hrycak
(C) 908-272-1718
(C) 908-531-8800
MichaelHrycak@yahoo.com



Vintage 1940's
Recruitment Posters

STEP 1

**Serve in the
Military!**

STEP 2

**Listen to
your
Uncle Sam!**



UKRAINIAN ARMY ANTHEM

Submitted by: Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn, Post 24



A new You Tube sensation has arisen in the Ukrainian community. It is a song titled “March of the New Army”. Some have unofficially refer to it as the new Ukrainian Army Anthem. It was authored by Olysh Babij and arranged in a rousing, heart pounding patriotic composition.



This is a video that’s worth a viewing. We believe that watching this film will stir the blood and make you want to march taller and straighter at your next “Posting of Colors”. To see this production, just copy the following web address and paste in onto your web browser:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=RgdANpB9PnY>

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Submitted by: Commander Matt Wroblewski Post 101

According to the UAV Constitution, a Member-at-Large is any person who meets the eligibility for membership in the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc., but who resides in a locality where there is no established Post, may apply as a Member-at-Large. A Member-at-Large shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of the UAV, and are entitled to join a Post closest to their location.

Members-at-Large are invited to attend our National Conventions and be involved in all Convention activities. The Convention for 2018 is scheduled to be in Whippany, New Jersey.

Eligibility for Ukrainian American Veterans is as follows:

1. Any person of Ukrainian descent shall be eligible for membership in the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. if such person has served in the Armed Forces of the United States and has been honorably discharged.
2. Any person who is not of Ukrainian descent, but who meets the other requirements and is married to a person of Ukrainian descent, will be eligible for full membership in the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

The current National annual dues are \$25.

Persons wishing to become Members-at-Large, please contact Matthew Wroblewski, Vice Commander at 586-755-9575. (mwroblewski1@comcast.net)

Members At Large are a very important component in our UAV organization. We view our group as a large, National Brotherhood of veterans who share a common ancestry. We encourage Ukrainian American Veterans to join The UAV and to participate in the activities at their nearest post. If there are 5 or more Ukrainian American veterans in your town, consider forming your own Post.

If you are traveling in States East of the Mississippi, you may want to stop by and visit a Post along your travels. We guarantee that you will be welcomed. A listing of posts can be found in this publication.

POST 101 WARREN MICHIGAN

Submitted by: Cmdr. Matt Wroblewski

UAV 2017 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



UAV VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE

Veterans Day, 2017 was observed with a wreath laying at the Ukrainian Veterans Monument. Then the members and their wives attended mass at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church. After Church, everyone



met at the Ukrainian Cultural Center for hors d'oeuvres and a lot of camaraderie. Also in attendance was Mr. John Rubacha, Mr. Joseph Tyro from the Ukrainian Catholic War Veterans, Mr. Eugene Repeta from Divizyniki, Mr. William Szypa, UAV member who served in WWII and Korea and Mr. Kenneth Johnson, Canadian Veteran.

The Ukrainian American Veterans celebrated their Annual Family and Friends Christmas Party on Friday, December 8, 2017. Christmas music, raffles and great conversations! Everyone attending had a fabulous time.

MICHIGAN POST 101 - UP-COMING EVENTS

WILD GAME DINNER

The UAV Annual Wild Game Dinner Fundraiser was held on Saturday, February 24, 2018. Many prizes were raffled off, as well as 50/50 raffles. There was, as always, delicious food for everyone. This year's menu included: Pheasant Stew, Porcupine Meatballs, Swamp Seeds, Venison, Peppersteak, Venison Stew, Venison Chili, Fish, along with Elk, Caribou and Mule deer.

Also we are proud to announce that Lydia Lohrer-Bevier was our scheduled guest speaker. She is a Hunting and Fishing Columnist for the Detroit Free Press and many other papers nationwide.

THE ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Saturday, September 22, 2018, our Post will be celebrating its 35th Anniversary with a Banquet to be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. Music will be provided by Sylvan Koltyk and his Orchestra. Plans have begun for a very enchanting evening.

UAV NATIONAL WELFARE FUND

Submitted by: Roman Stefaniuk, Welfare Officer

Our National Welfare Fund By-Laws were revised at the 2017 Convention in Yonkers, N.J. The Grant requests were increased from \$750 to \$1,000. This was the third increase in the last five years.

Since the Welfare Fund Committee receives only a few grant requests each year, and since many members do not take the time to read the By-Laws of the Fund, we ask that you review the “**Purpose**” and “**Membership**” requirements as stated in the 2017 By-Laws of the UAV National Welfare Fund:

Article I – “PURPOSE”

The purpose of the National Welfare Fund is to provide assistance in the form of grants to veteran members, their families, or a Ukrainian American Veteran Post as aid in times of distress; also to provide gifts or grants to Ukrainian men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Article II – “MEMBERSHIP”

Section 1:

All members of the the Ukrainian American Veterans deemed in good standing by their Post shall be eligible to receive assistance for themselves and their families, in accordance with these Articles and Regulations as shall from time to time be adopted.

Section 2:

The families (which are in need) of all deceased members of Ukrainian American Veterans, in good standing at the time of such decease, shall be similarly eligible for assistance as aforesaid. “Family” is interpreted to mean wife, husband, parents and children of said veteran, which can be verified by the Post.

The Grant Application forms are available with all Post Commanders or the Welfare Fund Committee at pomko@wowway.com. All forms are to be signed by the Applicant **and** Post Commander. In the event that the Applicant is reluctant in requesting a Grant, the Post Commander may initiate the request over his signature.

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”

John Holmes

THE ST. NICHOLAS OF POST 42

Submitted by: Mathew Koziak, PNC

Nikola Cynajko, a member of Jack Palance Post 42 in the Lehigh Valley, PA, does not spend his vacation time at tropical resorts. Instead, he takes an annual working vacation in Ukraine where he serves as interpreter for American doctors working in the operating room at Lviv Children’s Hospital. He also spends time reading to the young patients who are suffering from serious illnesses.

For nearly two decades Nikola has served as a volunteer with Advanced Medical Care for Ukraine; for the last five years he has been a member of the Board of Directors. AMCU has provided the children’s hospital several hundred thousand dollars’ worth of medical supplies and equipment. About ten years ago, the organization secured the first kidney dialysis unit for children in Ukraine.

Besides his interpreting duties in the operating room and his providing emotional support to the young patients, Nikola regularly sends packages filled with gifts for hospital staff and patients, such as scrubs, tea, coffee, crayons and peanuts. The children really love roasted peanuts says Nikola. One year when Nikola was visiting the hospital in December and distributing gifts to the children they named him St. Nicholas.

Nikola has been featured in several articles in local newspapers. Most recently during his last visit to Ukraine, the Mayor of Lviv presented him a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his humanitarian contributions.



Nikola Cynajko (L) performing his interpreting duties in the operating room



Lviv Mayor Andrii Sadovyi (R) Presents Post 42 Member Nikola Cynajko (L) a Certificate of Appreciation

UAV SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS WINNERS FOR 2017



Top Row (L to R) Leticia Grace, Lily Anne Lynch, Deanna Marie Koski, Anna Terrebetzky, Brandon Paul Hrycak, Laryssa Natalie Horodysky, Alexander Geba

Submitted by: Nicholas Skirka, Scholarship Officer

The Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) 70th Annual National Convention was held in Yonkers, New York, November 2-4, 2017 where the recipients of the UAV Scholarship Awards are announced. The UAV Scholarship Committee selects and awards scholarship money to matriculated undergraduate college students. The purpose of the scholarship awards is to help students pay for books or school supplies. Students are required to write an essay (400-500 words) about a current military or related topic. The topics for this year were: War on Terrorism, Human Rights, Negative effects of wars on American veterans, Russian aggression on sovereign countries, Ukrainian-American Veteran contributions to America's wars

Students chose one of these five topics for their essay. Other criteria considered for a scholarship are academic achievement and extracurricular activities. This year, seven students applied and received scholarship awards. They are:

Alexander Geba (MA) attends Bridgewater State University and majors in Business and Marketing is the recipient of the \$500 award in memory of Michael Demchuk who started the UAV Scholarship Fund in 1992-3.

Deanna Marie Koski (NY) attends Pace University and is majoring in Production and Design for Stage/Art History is the recipient of the UAV Ladies Auxiliary award of \$400.

Brandon Paul Hrycak (NJ) attends California State University Chico and majors in Computer Information Systems is the recipient of the \$400 award from Post 40.

Anna Terrebetzky (NY) attends Hunter College and majors in English-Linguistics and Rhetoric and Thomas Hunter Special Honors is the recipient of the \$300 award.

Laryssa Natalie Horodysky (NJ) is majoring in International Affairs and Political Science is the recipient of the \$300 award. The next two students received \$250 awards.

Lily Anne Lynch (NY) attends Nazareth College of Rochester and is majoring in International Relations.

Leticia Grace Rankin (CA) attends Grand Canyon University and is majoring in Elementary Education.

The scholarship committee would like to thank all the students for participating and wishes them a successful school year. Also, we thank all the people who donated to make the UAV scholarship awards a huge success.

Students interested in applying for the UAV Scholarship Award should fill-out an application, send their college transcript (unofficial copy), write an essay on this year's choice of topics, and email a camera digital picture. Applications are available on the UAV website: www.uavets.org. All this can be done electronically.

To be eligible for a UAV scholarship, applicants must be descendants of or related to Ukrainian American Veterans. Applicants 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. In addition, 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, email nskirka@optonline.net or call my home phone (914) 965-3707. The UAV National Scholarship Committee includes: John Tkachuk, Peter Olijarczyk, Maksym Makarczuk, and Russel Olijarczyk.

2017 - 70TH ANNUAL UAV NATIONAL CONVENTION FAMILY ALBUM

RECONNECTING WITH OLD FRIENDS



NOBODY GOES HUNGRY AT A UKRAINIAN CONVENTION



TAKING CARE OF CONVENTION BUSINESS





70TH NATIONAL UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION YONKERS, NY

(R) 2017 UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION DELEGATES



Civil Air Patrol, Southeastern Group Honor Guard, Posting of Colors



(L to R) Nicholas Skirka, Commander Post 301 and Convention Chair, George Horbenko, Commander, Post 32



Banquet Dais (L to R) Ihor Hron, IP Nat'l Commander, Oksana Koziak, President Ladies Auxiliary, V. Rev. Archpriest Kiril Angelov, Andriy Futey, National President UCCA, Ukrainian Staff Officer and Guest, Col. Ordynovych, Ukrainian Adjutant, Peter Bencak, UAV Nat'l Commander



Mike Spano, Mayor of Yonkers, NY gives Welcoming Remarks



(L to R) Peter Bencak, National Commander, Colonel Ordynovych Ukrainian Adjutant to Washington, DC



(L to R) Cmdr. Nicolas Skirka, Nat'l Cmdr. Peter Bencak, Walter Kozicky, Representing SUMA "Yonkers" Federal Credit Union



UAV National Ladies Auxiliary Oksana Koziak, President



UAV National Leaders congratulate Banquet Raffle Winners

2017 - 70th ANNUAL UAV NATIONAL CONVENTION BANQUET



V. Rev. Archpriest Kiril Angelov
Invocation



Ihor Hron, IP National Commander
Master of Ceremonies



Peter Bencak, National Commander
Welcoming Remarks



Rep. of the Council General of
Ukraine



John Steciw, National Adjutant
POW - MIA Ceremony



Andriy Futey, National President
UCCA, Keynote Speaker



Michael Hrycak & Walter Kovbasniuk
Hosts of 2018 Convention



Marian Bojsiuk - UAV Chaplain
Benediction

CONCLUDING THE 70TH NATIONAL CONVENTION WITH A WELL DESERVED CELEBRATION

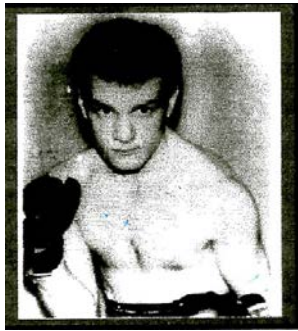


VIC "DIAMOND" LITKEWYCZ

Hall of Famer

Submitted by: Jerry Kindrachuk - Nat'l Finance Officer

Viktor Litkewycz of Post 42 was inducted into the Ukrainian Sports Hall of Fame in September 2017. In recognition of his distinctive ring record and the credit he brought to the sport of boxing, Viktor was inducted into Pennsylvania's Boxing Hall of Fame in 1995. He boxed under the name Vic Diamond, given to him by his coach Mickie Diamond, because it was easier for everyone to remember than Litkewycz.



Born in Kharkiw Ukraine, his family immigrated to the US in 1951 and settled in Philadelphia. His boxing career began at 16 with the 26th Police Athletic League Boxing Club as a featherweight. He moved up to the lightweight division. He ended his amateur career with a 33-1 record which included wins over such highly rated boxers as James King, Woody Marcus and Gene Garnet.

In 1957 Vic Diamond made his professional debut at the Philadelphia Convention Hall with a 3rd round TKO against Bob Lee. Over the course of his lightweight career he fought many notable fighters, including J.D. Ellis, Tommy Lowry, Jackie Lennon and Bobby McLaurin.

His most memorable fights were with Marcel Bizien in 1961. Vic Diamond's final fight in Madison Square Garden. During his career, he posted a 16-5-1 record with 6 KOs.



VETERANS CAN SAVE MONEY!

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, Publication Officer

As a U.S. Veteran you have earned, through your service, a lifelong online military exchange shopping benefit at shopmyexchange.com. This is not a simple give-a-way but a thank you from Uncle Sam for your dedicated service.

The registration is easy and only requires entering the last 4 digits of your Social Security #, your date of birth and your last name.

If there is something wrong with your authorization process then a new window will pop up and you should click on "Go to VetVerify". You can also call 844-868-8672 (toll-free) for more help.

You will need to fill out a form with more information:

- A. First Name, Last Name,
- B. Full Social Security # ,
- D. Service Number (if different from your SSN)
- E. Birth Date, Email,
- F. Branch of service.

The system will do a more thorough search and will inform you of your authentication in a few days.

The Exchange says that when you take advantage of your Exchange online privileges, they will offer you: Highly competitive pricing, A wide variety of products, No sales tax, Free shipping, "We'll Match It" Price-Matching, Access to specialty stores and vendors.

It looks like Veterans should look into this as a way to save money. For more information see page 11.

POST 17 ACTIVITIES

Submitted by: Zenko Halkowycz, Post17 Adjutant

Photo at right: Post 17 Commander Walter Kovbasniuk (R) introduces Congressman Pascarelli (L) at the Clifton Holy Ascension Orthodox Cathedral in Clifton N.J.

Post 17 is actively participating in lobbying our Congressman to help with the wounded Ukrainian soldiers rehabilitation at various military and commercial hospitals.

Recently at the Whippany cultural center, Post 17 had a table where we solicited community participation in signing our petitions. This event was extremely successful.



VETERANS ONLINE SHOPPING BENEFITS

Submitted By: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

The Exchange

The Department of Defense's oldest and largest military retailer—is honored to serve all honorably discharged Veterans with a lifelong online military exchange shopping benefit. Learn more today. Sign on to the following web site.

<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans>

Create your account and start saving today!

The Basics

Who is eligible for this benefit?

Honorably discharged Veterans of all United States Armed Forces, including the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard as well as the Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve and National Guard.

What is the benefit?

Approved Veterans can shop the online exchanges, including ShopMyExchange.com! Shopping with the Exchange online gives you access to exclusive military pricing and offers, tax-free shopping and more. This is a lifelong benefit that will be extended to all who discharge honorably from service.

When did this benefit take effect?

The Department of Defense announced this benefit in January 2017; it became effective on Nov. 11, 2017.

Where can I use this benefit?

Online with any of the military exchanges. This benefit does not grant installation access.

Why have these shopping privileges been extended to Veterans?

To recognize and honor your service, make your life better and improve the overall military community. Expanding online shopping privileges strengthens funding of military Quality-of-Life programs including Army Child Development Centers, Youth Programs and Fitness Centers, Air Force Outdoor Recreation programs, affordable school lunches for Warfighters' children overseas, combat uniforms below cost and more.

How do I know if I'm eligible?

Click here to sign up for an account! Note: You may be asked to submit discharge paperwork for review to verify your eligibility. This can be for several reasons, but most likely, the record we have for you is missing a type of discharge (commonly called "Character of Service" or "Character of Separation"). You will be provided a link to VetVerify.org, a shared service of the four military exchanges, to upload your documentation. This process can take up to three days to complete; you will be notified by the VetVerify customer service team when your documentation has been reviewed. Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1700 CST. Call toll-free: 1-844-868-8672

Submit your questions via email: CustomerService@vetverify.org

<https://www.vetverify.org/>

VetVerify is a shared verification service of the four military exchanges (AAFES, NEXCOM, MCX and CGX) that supports the Veterans online shopping benefit by verifying Veterans who cannot be authenticated by the exchanges alone. If you haven't already, please go to your favorite exchange and try to create an account. You will be redirected to VetVerify if additional information is needed.

On behalf of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Coast Guard Exchange, Marine Corps Exchange and Navy Exchange Service Command, we are excited to announce that the online exchanges will once again serve honorably discharged Veterans of all United States Armed Forces. This lifelong benefit allows you to shop online at any and all of the exchanges.

If you would like to create an account you may do so now using the appropriate link(s) below.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES): <https://www.shopmyexchange.com>

Coast Guard Exchange (CGX): <https://shopcgx.com/>

Marine Corps Exchange (MCX): <http://www.mymcx.com/>

Navy Exchange (NEXCOM): <https://www.mynavyexchange.com>

Please note that it may take up to 24 hours for your approval to be received and processed.

THE GENESIS OF A NEW UAV POST

Submitted by: Michael J. Dobransky, Member at Large

Michael J. Dobransky is a UAV Member At Large (MAL). He was inspired by our organization and our accomplishments. Michael has been working with NYS Commander Peter Polny and now has a story to tell. In his own words:

In early November at the Yonkers, NY UAV 70th Convention I was very impressed to learn about the outstanding work several of our UAV Posts are doing to help Ukraine and to bring wounded Ukrainian soldiers into the USA for medical treatment and rehabilitation. This truly is a noble cause for which we must salute all of our UAV members involved with this task.

On 14 Jan 2018, my parish, St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Johnson City, NY welcomed a wounded soldier from Kharkiv, Ukraine. This was Serhiy Bilan, 24 years old, who is in the USA to receive a prosthetic right arm and leg, with services provided by Hanger Clinic in Johnson City. Serhiy lost his right arm and leg while serving in the Ukrainian Army (tank battalion) defending Ukraine from the ongoing Russian aggression in the South East.



Serhiy Bilan, Kharkiv, Ukraine

While visiting St. John's on 14 Jan, a collection was organized and \$1,730 dollars was provided from parishioners and organizations of the parish to assist Serhiy Bilan while here in the USA for treatment plus his return to Ukraine. Serhiy was welcomed and had discussions with our parishioners at the Memorial Center that he plans for a career in the computer field.

Serhiy's trip to the USA was organized and sponsored by Serhiy and Vitaliy Ilchishin, both of "Together for Ukraine Foundation" (on Facebook). They are located in Binghamton, NY.

While in the area receiving prosthetic treatment, more visits were organized for him by "Together for Ukraine" at First Pentecostal Ukrainian Church in Binghamton plus Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church in Johnson City. Also while in the area for his prosthetic treatment, Dr. Peter Anthony Hatala of St. John's provided Serhiy with complete extensive dental needs and treatment (7 visits) before his scheduled return to Ukraine. Mnohaya Lita Serhiy !!!!!

I trust this information is of interest to our UAV colleagues. Thank you and stay well. My personal initiative is to eventually establish a UAV Post here for the area of Johnson City/Binghamton NY this year. God Bless Ukraine !!! God Bless America !!!



Serhiy Bilan visits with some of St. John's youngest parishioners



An overjoyed Serhiy Bilan visits with the parishioners of St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Johnson City, NY



Serhiy Bilan is honored by the staff of visits with the staff of the Hanger Clinic in Johnson City

This inspirational narrative encapsulates what the UAV embodies. We join Michael Dobransky in his inspired experience. We encourage him to pursue the laudable goal of establishing a new UAV Post. Of course we can categorically state that the Executive Board and many members are available to support Michael on this endeavor. The forming of a new post is exciting and wonderful indeed. Good Luck Michael!

Bohdan Dudycz, Publication Officer

UAV POST 24 ACTIVITIES

Submitted by: Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn Post 24

Ed Zetick, National Historian, visited Cmdr. Bohdan Samokyszyn on July 15, 2017 and picked up 5 boxes of veteran tapes, pictures, papers & cassettes that belonged to Michael Demchuk who was a member of the national board for 20 years.

Michael Zaderecky, a 99 year old WWII veteran, was honored by the American Legion Post 572 on July 19, 2017. He has been a 73 year Legion member and was their first elected commander in 1946. Our UAV Post 24 members attended his ceremonial dinner as he is also a member of our post.

On Aug. 26, 2017 our post members marched in the Ukrainian Independence Day parade. The post color guard was up front followed by our golf cart and our marching veterans. It was a beautiful day & later the festival was held at St. Josaphat hall in Parma.

On Nov. 10, 2017 our post members visited the Carlisle barracks in PA. It is the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center where military research is done. This facility contains one of the most extensive military history libraries in the world. The archives contains millions of holdings, manuscripts, books, diaries, photographs, periodicals, oral histories, and much more.

The next day, Veterans Day, in Washington DC, we visited the Vietnam wall, the WWII, Korean, Lincoln and Vietnam memorials. The Vietnam wall celebrated their 35th anniversary. The wall was packed for four days. The general public announced all the 56,700 names that took three days.

On a sad note, Walter Krytoholowa, our post member passed away on Jan. 15, 2018. Our post members attended the Parastas and funeral.

We also signed up two new members in 2017.

Post 24 raffle winners were: \$100.00 H. Kozij, \$200.00 K. Ressler from California, \$300.00 M. Polichuk



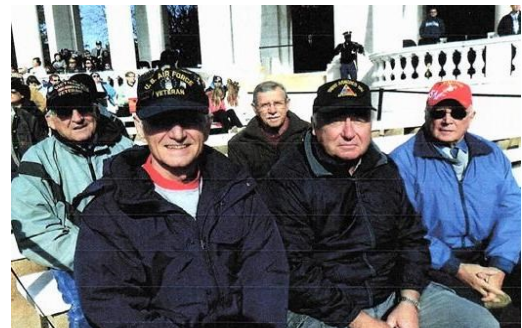
(L-R) Front Row: M. Zaderecky, W. Liscynsky,
Back Row: PNC R. Rakowsky, N. Kostryk, PC B.
Samokyszyn, Fr. J. Nakonachny, W. Bartkiw



(L-R) Cmdr. B. Samokyszyn, J. Shutovich, N Bartkiw,
S. Terlecky—Athe the Vietnam Memorial on 11-10-17



UAV Post 24 members at the Ukrainian Independence
Parade in Parma, Ohio 9-26-17



UAV Post 24 members at Arlington Cemetary
11-11-17. Vice President Michael Pence was the
featured Speaker

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY

Submitted By: Mathew Koziak, PC

Fundraiser

Last fall the Ukrainian American Veterans National Ladies Auxiliary conducted a raffle fundraiser to help support the activities of the UAV. The winning tickets were pulled at the UAV National Convention in Yonkers. Three prizes were awarded: the first prize was \$750, the second prize was \$450 and the third prize was \$300. The auxiliary was able to donate \$1,200 to the UAV.

All the members of the National Ladies Auxiliary would like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets as well as those who made donations. Your generous contributions helped to make our fundraiser a success.



70th UAV National Convention Banquet - Yonkers, NY



Front row (L to R) Maria Polnyj, Julie Szozda, Oksana Koziak, President
Helen Horbenko, Roberta Wroblewski, Guest.

Back row: Helen Mutlos, Myroslawa Bojsiuk, Victoria Maksimowich, Guest, Guest.

The National UAV is an important part of the Ukrainian Diaspora. We can be recognized by the glittery pins on our hat. However, these impressive pins become lackluster when compared to the true Jewels in our organization.

The Ladies Auxiliary can never be given enough accolades for the work they do and the influence they wield. Without them we would be a bunch of gruff, tough and rough talking ex-military. Our ladies soften our image, draw the line on rough talk and, to be truthful, can be tougher than your average drill sergeant.

We would like to express our gratitude for their support and encouragement during our 70th Convention. You all complete our fun group.

SAVE-A-DATE

71ST ANNUAL NATIONAL UAV CONVENTION

The Date and location have been chosen for our next convention. Please mark your calendar and set aside some time to celebrate our organization's continued growth, success and relevancy in our society.

**Hosting this year's convention will be: Post 17, Walter Kovbasniuk, Commander
Tentatively the location will be: Whippany, New Jersey
The dates to reserve are: October 4-6, 2018**

An information packet will be mailed to all UAV members after Memorial Day.

POST #1 - 2017 FALL AND WINTER ACTIVITIES

Submitted By: John Hill

Under the leadership of Post Commander Ed Zetick and the executive committee, Post #1 had a very successful November and December. The Post observed Veterans Day with the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center of Philadelphia (UECC) followed by a luncheon provided by Ukrainian Self-Reliance Credit Union.

The Heritage School provided songs and music for everyone. The performances of young Ukrainian students living their heritage was invigorating. A solemn highlight was the transfer of member nameplates from the active member's plaque to the memorial plaque. This year, the nameplates of Ihor Smolij and Bohdan Hryshchyshyn were moved. Vichnaya Pamyat

The Post participated in the UECC's annual Bazaar and helped raise money through the "Baskets of Cheer" raffle. Winning tickets were chosen by Svyatyj Mykolaj.

As our post grows, we can provide more support for Ukrainian Veterans' activities. We have had guest speakers to enlighten the members with reports on activities in Ukraine. We look forward to working with the local community as well as National UAVets in making a growing impact in Ukrainian affairs. We are currently seeking new members especially among younger veterans.

committee, Post #1 had a very



Commander Zetick and Mrs. Christine Rynasewycz



Presenting the Colors



Post #1 information table, member Peter Labiak selling raffle tickets



Children performers from Heritage School



Mrs. Anna Smolij installing husband Ihor Smolij's nameplate on Memorial Plaque



Active Members Plaque of Post #1

UKRAINIAN MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

WORLD WAR I



SGT. MATEJ KOCAK

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
66 CO, 5 REG, 2 DIV**

Submitted By: Peter Polny, Commander, Post 27

KOCAK, MATEJ (Army Medal)

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps, 66th Company, 5th Regiment, 2d Division. Place and date: Near Soissons, France, 18 July 1918. Entered service at: New York, N.Y. Born: 31 December 1882, Gbely (Slovakia), Austria. G.O. No.: 34, W.D., 1919. (Also received Navy Medal of Honor.) Citation: When the advance of his battalion was checked by a hidden machinegun nest, he went forward alone, unprotected by covering fire from his own men, and worked in between the German positions in the face of fire from enemy covering detachments. Locating the machinegun nest, he rushed it and with his bayonet drove off the crew. Shortly after this he organized 25 French colonial soldiers who had become separated from their company and led them in attacking another machinegun nest, which was also put out of action.

***KOCAK, MATEJ (Navy Medal)**

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps. Born: 31 December 1882, Gbely (Slovakia), Austria. Accredited to: New York. (also received Army Medal of Honor.) Citation: For extraordinary heroism while serving with the 66th Company, 5th Regiment, 2d Division, in action in the Viller-Cottertes section, south of Soissons, France, 18 July 1918. When a hidden machinegun nest halted the advance of his battalion, Sgt. Kocak went forward alone unprotected by covering fire and worked his way in between the German positions in the face of heavy enemy fire. Rushing the enemy position with his bayonet, he drove off the crew. Later the same day, Sgt. Kocak organized French colonial soldiers who had become separated from their company and led them in an attack on another machinegun nest which was also put out of action.



WORLD WAR II

TOMICH, PETER

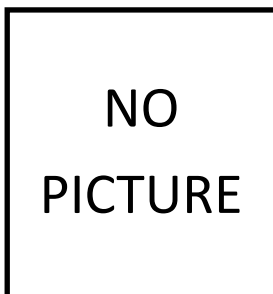
**Rank and org. Chief Watertender, U.S. Navy.
Born: 3 June 1893, Prolog, Austria.
Accredited to: New Jersey.**

Citation:

For distinguished conduct in the line of his profession, and extraordinary courage and disregard of his own safety, during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor by the Japanese forces on 7 December 1941. Although realizing that the ship was capsizing, as a result of enemy bombing and torpedoing, Tomich remained at his post in the engineering plant of the U.S.S. Utah, until he saw that all boilers were secured and all fireroom personnel had left their stations, and by so doing lost his own life.

UKRAINIAN MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

WORLD WAR II



MINUE, NICHOLAS

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army, Company A, 6th Armored Infantry, 1st Armored Division. Place and date: Near MedjezelBab, Tunisia, 28 April 1943. Entered service at: Carteret, NJ

Birth: Sedden, Poland. G.O. No.: 24, 25 March 1944.

Citation:

For distinguishing himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the loss of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy on 28 April 1943, in the vicinity of MedjezelBab, Tunisia. When the advance of the assault elements of Company A was held up by flanking fire from an enemy machinegun nest, Pvt. Minue voluntarily, alone, and unhesitatingly, with complete disregard of his own welfare, charged the enemy entrenched position with fixed bayonet. Pvt. Minue assaulted the enemy under a withering machinegun and rifle fire, killing approximately 10 enemy machinegunners and riflemen. After completely destroying this position, Pvt. Minue continued forward, routing enemy riflemen from dugout positions until he was fatally wounded. The courage, fearlessness and aggressiveness displayed by Pvt. Minue in the face of inevitable death was unquestionably the factor that gave his company the offensive spirit that was necessary for advancing and driving the enemy from the entire sector. Former Post 7, NYC, NY took as its namesake Pvt. Minue.

Although it was created for the Civil War, Congress made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863. Almost 3,400 men and one woman have received the award for heroic actions in the nation's battles since that time.

POST 31 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Submitted By: Stephen Kostecki, Quartermaster

UAV QUARTERMANTER'S TABLE - CT DAY 9/17



(L to R) Adam, Council Member, Mike Hotz, Post 31 Social Member, Stephen Kostecki, Quartermaster

CT DAY - POSTING COLORS



(L to R) Ihor Rudko, CT State Commander, Michael Hrycak, NJ State Commander, Stephen Kostecki, Quartermaster

POST 32 ACTIVITIES—2017

Submitted By: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer

2017 has been a busy time for Post 32. Our members have been involved with local festivals, fraternal gatherings, holiday celebrations and religious observances. The following is a sample of our local UAV presence.



Center: National Commander Peter Bencak surrounded by Post 32 members escorting Rev. Myron Panchuk to the outdoor service honoring those who died in the 1932-33 Holodomor (famine) in Ukraine. Present was His Grace Bishop Benedict, of the Eparchy of Saint Nicholas in Chicago, as well as many local Ukrainian organizations and clergy.



UAV Members celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Museum, Chicago.

On Left (L to R): Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer, George Horbenko, Commander Post 32, Peter Bencak, National Commander, John Steciw, Nat'l Adjutant and Walter Dudycz, Quartermaster.



Above photo: His Grace Bishop Benedict, (center) stands with Post 32 veterans honoring the 75th anniversary of the fallen soldiers of the Ukrainian Partisan Army (UPA) in Ukraine. Second from the right is Rev. Oleh Kryvokulsky, Pastor of Sts. Volodymyr & Olha Church, Chicago.

Below: His Grace Bishop Benedict, (center) with local clergy view Post 32 Veterans in the laying of a wreath ceremony for UPA.



DAY OF UNITY HONORING THE HEAVENLY 100

On Left: His Grace Bishop Benedict, of the Eparchy of Saint Nicholas in Chicago presents remarks honoring the 100 patriots who lost their lives during the 2014 Euromaidan revolution in Ukraine.



National Commander Peter Bencak leads a detail in the posting of colors at the Day of Unity event.

THE UAV THANKS OUR WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES

Submitted By: Bohdan Dudycz, Publications Officer



(L to R) Michael Hrycak, New Jersey Department Commander, Ihor Rudko, Connecticut Department Commander, and Myron Melnyk, Post 33, New Haven are joined by three Ukrainian warriors wearing camouflage.

Our UAV has several unsung heroes who need recognition for their efforts. As we reported in the last issue of our Tribune, Myron Melnyk, Post 33, New Haven, Connecticut, Ihor Rudko, Connecticut Department Commander, Walter Kovbasniuk, Post 17 (Whippany) Commander, and Michael Hrycak, New Jersey Department Commander were working on a special project. They set a goal of convincing Washington DC legislators to support Ukrainian wounded and to amend the legislation to funding of other non-medical expenses, such as per diem for meals, housing and assistance.

In December 2017 H.R.2810 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 was signed into law. Subsequently, Our National Commander Peter Bencak wrote a letter to The Honorable Adam Smith, Congressman from the 9th District, Washington state. We present excerpts from that letter:

“On behalf of our national veteran’s organization, the Ukrainian American Veterans of America, we would like to thank our legislators for their support of the 2018 NDAA legislation which provides for increased defense spending to maintain U.S. readiness and to protect America’s interests abroad.

We greatly value the bi-partisan support expressed in the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative section of the NDAA (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2810/text> - download PDF, page 377-378). While there has been much talk about pushing back on Russia for its violations of international law by forcibly annexing Crimea, its ongoing military support of “separatists” in the war in southeastern Ukraine, its indiscriminate bombing of civilian targets in Syria, and its now well - documented meddling in our electoral process. Only in Ukraine do we see our brave soldiers actually pushing back, putting their lives on the line each day.

We are especially heartened by our country’s commitment to help Ukraine and its soldiers. The Treatment of Wounded Ukrainian Soldier Program which enables medical treatment in U.S. Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) provides real hope for the hundreds of severely wounded Ukrainian combat victims who cannot get adequate medical care in their country. This care will rebuild lives and boost morale among those soldiers still fighting on the front lines.

We are turning now to the successful implementation of the NDAA. We have strong working relationships with military attaches in Ukraine’s U.S. Embassy as well as with the Office of Rehabilitation of ATO Soldiers in Kyiv. They, along with the Ministry of Defense are working on ongoing programs and initiating new ones to directly assist Ukraine’s soldiers under the NDAA. On the medical side especially, our organization will provide support and information to help expedite an efficient logistical and budgetary process under the Secretarial Designee Program in the Department of Defense in order to provide these soldiers with much needed medical care in U.S. MTF’s as capacity allows, and provide rehabilitation services for them upon their return back home.” So, for all their efforts we give our hardworking Congressmen a resounding:

Thank you

UAV EAST COAST POSTS CELEBRATE VA VETERANS DAY

Submitted By: Michael P. Hrycak, Commander, New Jersey State Department



Ukrainian American Veterans attended VA Veterans Day Ceremonies at our UAV National Monument in S. Bound Brook, NJ. Located on the grounds of St. Andrew Memorial Church. A service was conducted by His Eminence Daniel, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., with the assistance of clergy and seminarians from St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary.

Archbishop Daniel explained that Veterans Day was first celebrated on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in recognition of Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, commemorating the end of World War I. Later, the holiday was changed to Veterans Day to commemorate all veterans, who have served during war and peace. His Eminence also explained the UAV National Monument honors all Ukrainian American men and women who have served in the U. S. Armed Forces, living and deceased. Assisting Archbishop Daniel in presenting the wreath were Mike Fedirko and Walter Bodnar, both World War II veterans. A luncheon followed.



Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) were represented, among others, by Michael Hrycak, Commander of the UAV New Jersey Department, as well as Ihor Rudko, Commander of the UAV Connecticut Department, Peter Polnyj and Roman Makuch, Commander, and Vice Commander, respectively, of the UAV New York Department, Eugene Sagasz and Matt Koziak, Past National Commanders, Post Commanders Walter Kovbasniuk, Post 17(Whippany), Michael Fedirko, Post 6 (Newark), and Oleh Balaziuk, Post 42 (Lehigh Valley, PA). Also, Viktor Litkevych, Post 42, and Walter Bodnar, Past Post 6 Commander, Zenko

Halkowycz, Post 17, Oksana Koziak, President, of the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary, and Archbishop Danie, UAV Member at Large. The Boy Scouts of America were represented by Peter Hrycak.



Attending Veterans Day Ceremony, at Arlington National Ceremony, in Arlington, Virginia, were Walter Stepaniak, Post 17 (Whippany, NJ), and Nicholas Jakowiw, Post 19 (Spring Valley, NY). The Ukrainian American Veterans Color Guard marched with nationwide veterans organizations as well as our Armed Forces. Walter Stepaniak, a Vietnam War Veteran, also visits his brother MSG Jurij Stepaniak, also a Vietnam War Veteran, at the cemetery. This tradition was started by Matthew Koziak, while he was National Commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans from 2008-2012. This year the Ceremony was attended by Vice President Pence, with thousands in attendance.

The Veterans Day Ceremony is an annual event that is open to those who want to remember and honor all veterans, and each post holds ceremonies at their local monuments as well. Membership in the UAV (see www.uavets.org for application) is open to all veterans of the United States' Armed Forces of Ukrainian heritage, through blood, or marriage, including those still serving on active duty (dues waived for active duty and 100% US Military disabled), either through a post or as a Member at Large.

UAV MULTI-POST VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Submitted By: Nicholas Skirka, Commander, Post 301



A Veterans Day parade is always inspiring to the observers and the marchers. This year I would like to say, it was a memorable event and thanks to all the people who participated and the organizers.

The Ukrainian American Veterans were truly motivated as they marched with the wounded Ukrainian veterans who are getting needed rehabilitation treatment in the United States. The Ukrainian American Veterans have great admiration for their heroic

service to Ukraine and we wish the Ukrainian veterans a speedy recovery and a pleasant stay in the United States. We enjoyed interacting with the Ukrainian veterans.

Those present from the Ukrainian American Veterans at the march were Michael Hrycak the New Jersey State Commander and Post 17 members from Whippany. Also, present was Ihor Rudko the Connecticut State Commander and Carl R. Harvey, they represent Posts 14, 15, and 30. Finally, Commander Nicholas Skirka from the Post 301 from Yonkers, New York was present.



UAV TRIBUNE DISTRIBUTION SURVEY

During the 70th National Convention, one of the hot topics for discussion was the method of distribution of this Tribune to our membership. Specifically, the conversation centered around mailing costs.

We have over 500 members on our mailing list and the cost of **printing and postage** regularly exceeds \$700 per issue. If we were to send out the Tribune through Email, the cost would be reduced by about \$500 per issue.

What we're asking for is a response as to the method you would prefer we use to deliver this document to you.

Please notify me by email at dahonorable@att.net as to your preference: **Regular mail or Email.**

You may also let your Post Commanders know your preference and they will inform me.

Once we receive your responses the National Commander will confer with all Post Commanders and see if we should change our Tribune delivery method. You will all be notified of the survey response by the next issue of the Tribune in September, 2018. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bohdan Dudycz, Publication Officer

QUARTERMASTER STORE



National Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki

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

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

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



UAV 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



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



UAV Pocket Notebook With the UAV emblem \$3.00 each

Desktop replica of our Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument



LARGE: 11 1/4" x 7 1/4" for \$50.00
SMALL: 7 1/2" x 5 1/2" for \$40.00



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



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



Tie or Jacket Pin \$5.00



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: _____ (_____)
put 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? [] myself [] _____ (indicate year)
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 Decorations: _____

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 2017)



UAV Tribune



Bohdan Dudycz, Publication Officer

8433 N. Clifton Ave.

Niles, IL 60714-1803



Bring a Friend



Support our Brothers and Sisters who defend Ukraine!

СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!

ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!