Ukrainian American Veterans







Ukrainian American Veterans

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Ukrainian American Veterans

By George A. Miziuk, National Public Relations Officer 1996-97

The Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) is a patriotic organization, composed of Honorably Discharged Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, who are of Ukrainian heritage or descent. This background identifies the UAV as serving a dual function in the public community: It is both an American Veteran organization, and an ethnic Ukrainian organization at the same time.

The UAV is organized locally in Posts. The Posts in any State may form a UAV State Department. A National Executive Board, headed by the National Commander, handles the administration of the UAV at the National level. The UAV hosts a National Convention annually, where delegates from all Posts meet to elect the National Executive Board officers and make decisions for the good of the order.

The UAV also has a Ladies Auxiliary, composed of veterans' wives and other supporters. The Auxiliary is also organized in Posts, alongside the UAV Posts, and is headed by a National President. Another affiliated group is the Ukrainian American Military Association (UAMA), composed of Ukrainian Americans who currently serve on Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

UAV Post 1 of Philadelphia was founded by a group of World War I veterans in 1923, while the national organization was established at a Convention of Vasyl Luchkiw Ph.D PNC 49 Windmill Lane New City, N.Y. 10956 Phone: (914) 634-9353 Fax: (914) 634-5370

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individual Posts on Memorial Day weekend, 1948. The original core of UAV membership in 1948 was centered in Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York City, but new members and new Posts have spread throughout the North-East, the Mid-West, and virtually all over the country.

The UAV has secured recognition from governmental

echelons, including the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, by the **President's Office and** by Congress, As a result, several National Commanders have had

the opportunity to meet with American Presidents, including Bill Clinton.

Various States have also acknowledged the UAV by their Departments that handle Veterans' Affairs, by Governors, and State Legislatures. Once again, UAV State Commanders were able to meet with their respective Governors as a result of this recognition. Many individual Posts have also secured recognition from their local governments, which has led to further contacts with elected officials.

The UAV has placed memorial markers in historical locations, including Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and in Fort Custer National Cemetery in Michigan. The majority of local UAV Posts have placed memorial markers, monuments or plaques in their regional areas.

The UAV is a charitable organization, which sponsors a National Welfare Fund for members who are ill and cannot afford high medical bills. The UAV also sponsors a National Scholarship Fund which is targeted for, but not limited to, descendants of Ukrainian American Veterans.

There are noteworthy UAV members who have held high rank in the U.S. Armed Forces, such as Major General Nicholas Krawciw (U.S. Army, ret.) and four-star General Sam Jaskilka (U.S. Marine Corps, ret.). There are also countless UAV members, who are now or have been in the past, leaders in the Veterans' movement or leaders in the ethnic Ukrainian community, at the local, state, national and international levels.

All veteran organizations are held in high esteem by the echelons of American Government. As a result, the UAV has been an influential force in lobbying the U.S. Government on behalf of issues that are important to E-mail: GAM@orbiter.com the Ukrainian American community.

Influential UAV members have worked within the U.S. Ladies Auxillary President Armed Forces to form new policies or change existing

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ones. For example, Brig. Gen. Russ Zajtchuk, M.D. (U.S. Army) suggested practical programs involving joint exercises by the U.S. and Ukrainian military units to solve natural disasters or man-made problems. This idea was formulated during a UAV National Convention.

In addition, UAV members who are still on Active or Reserve Duty, or hold a position in a National Guard unit have been able to participate in military maneuvers, give medical-humanitarian aid, or act as interpreters while visiting modern Ukraine in an American military exercise. The UAV has been able to act a coordinator of human resources to fill U.S. military missions with qualified people.

Finally, the UAV is also a social group. Whether is at the Post, State, or National level, UAV members enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship of other veterans who share common bonds and interests in the community-at-large.

The UAV will be holding its Fiftieth Annual National Convention from Sept. 26 to Sept. 28 this year at the UNA Resort "Soyuzivka," in Kerhonkson, New York. The new National Executive Board officers will be elected at this event.

If you are an Honorably Discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, or if you currently serve on Active or Reserve Duty, or serve in a National Guard unit, you are welcome to contact us for membership information.

<u>Links to Veterans pages</u> of interest

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Veterans Benefits (VA) Soldiers Statue at Vietnam Veterans memorial (VA) Vietnam Veterans Home Page Military City Site **UAV** Web site Hosted by

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Links to Ukrainian pages

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Biographies

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Links to UAV Post Pages

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