

Friday, April 8, 2011

The Daily Citizen

TheDailyCitizen.com

Serving Searcy and White County, Ark., since 1854

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR UKRAINIAN VETERANS

A JUDSONIA CHURCH IS COLLECTING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO SEND TO MILITARY VETERANS IN THE UKRAINE.



John L. Kachelman, Jr., evangelist for the Judsonia Church of Christ, third from left, shows his unity with Ukrainian veterans in Kyiv, Ukraine. Some of the veterans were former enemies of the United States in World War II who are now friends helping find the remains of a bomber that crashed near the city in 1944. Pictured are, from left, Valery Grigorievich Panov, General Vladimir Gavrilovich Vorontsov, Kachelman and Yuriy Viktorovich Kislitsin.

Medical equipment needed for Ukrainian veterans

Effort will aid in finding remains of U.S. veterans

By Warren Watkins

warren@thedailycitizen.com

A Judsonia church is gathering medical equipment to send to Ukrainian veterans in hopes of helping the U.S. Department of Defense in a search for the remains of the crew of a bomber that crashed in the Ukraine in 1944. "Any wheelchairs, walkers or medical equipment is needed," said John L. Kachelman, Jr., evangelist for the Judsonia Church of Christ and leader of Life Resources International.

An ongoing effort continues to get information about prisoners of war (POW) and servicemen who were missing in action (MIA). Kachelman and others are helping the Ukrainian veterans, who fought against the United States in World War II but who are now helping find the crew's remains in the hope of bringing closure to the families whose loved ones have been missing for 67 years. The search at the crash site is being

conducted by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). According to witness statements, the pilot was buried at the site.

Items needed

- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Medical equipment

To donate, persons may call (501) 230-5335

“They have helped us tremendously in recovering a number of POW/MIA issues in Vietnam,” Kachelman said. In 2006, Kachelman said, the Ukrainian veterans presented workers with a list of North Vietnamese claims for downed American and allied aircraft compiled using the sources of the Ukrainian National Air Force University from information gathered from Ukrainian veterans from the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Also helping is the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 55, Licking County, Ohio.

The Department of Defense is identifying approximately 80-90 Americans per year and returning them to their families for burials with full military honors, Kachelman said, but their budget is very small even though about 600 specialists carry out the mission from locations in Hawaii, Moscow, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Ohio, Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. There are some 88,000 Americans missing from past conflicts, including 1,698 from the war in Vietnam, Kachelman said.

A container of medical equipment is now being readied in Judsonia to be shipped to the Kyiv Veterans group to show gratitude to their assistance in helping update the POW/MIA status of the United States military. The container follows over 200 containers of humanitarian aid sent by Life Resources International to the Ukraine. The container will be loaded in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 29 and should arrive in Kyiv, Ukraine in June, Kachelman said, and will be presented at a special ceremony recognizing the cooperation and success of those involved. Kachelman has already left for Ukraine and local work is being coordinated by David Lawyer, who is retired from the U.S. Air Force and a Vietnam veteran. Lawyer will be driving a truck load of items that will be loaded into the container being sent to the Kyiv Veterans.

For more information, persons may contact Svetlana Shevchenko, Foreign Affairs Specialist, OSD/DPMO/JCSD, 241 18th St. South, Ste. 800, Arlington, VA 22202.

To donate medical equipment, persons may call Sawyer at (501) 230-5335

“Whoever thought White County would be involved in a work that is so critical to our nation?” Kachelman said.