

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2011

# The Daily

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# Citizen

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## PATRIOTISM IS STRONG, VIETNAM VET SAYS

Those who gave their lives serving their country are remembered this Memorial Day. — Page 3A

## Volunteers send items to Red Army Veterans



### Containers should arrive in Ukraine by July 4

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 10 in partnership with VVA Chapter 55 and the Cincinnati Ukraine Partnership recently collected wheelchairs and other hospital equipment to send to the Red Army Veterans in Ukraine. This project started more than five years ago and has struggled through difficulties.

In 2006, the Ukrainian veterans presented VVA with a list of North Vietnamese claims for downed American and allied aircraft compiled using the sources of the Ukrainian National Air Force University. In September 2009, as a show of appreciation for the help from the Ukraine Veteran Union two new wheelchairs were presented to a delegation from Ukraine during their visit to Cincinnati Ohio. The wheelchairs were received with such appreciation that it was decided to collect a container of wheelchairs and send them to Ukraine.

Contributed photo

*David Lawyer of Searcy, kneeling left, is among several volunteers that recently collected wheelchairs and other hospital equipment to send to the Red Army Veterans in Ukraine.*

Organizers of the local event included Ed Brown from Chapter 10, Gary Jones from Chapter 55 and the Veteran's Task Force Initiative, Frank Clark from the Cincinnati Ukraine Partnership and Joe Amann, Ohio District Director. The collection went well but then numerous obstacles obstructed the shipping.

After two years of frustration Gary Jones was put in contact with John L. Kachelman, Jr., evangelist for the Judsonia Church of Christ in Judsonia. Utilizing the experience that has allowed the churches of Christ to ship containers of humanitarian aid into Ukraine, Kachelman was able to help with the arrangements and

receive the required approvals for the container to be shipped.

#### SUPPLIES

**Who:** Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 10 in partnership with VVA Chapter 55 and the Cincinnati Ukraine Partnership

**What:** Collected wheelchairs and other hospital equipment to send to the Red Army Veterans in Ukraine

**Estimated arrival:** July 4

On April 30 local McCluskey Chevrolet owner Keith McClusky provided their parking lot for the drop off and loading area for the donated items. Pickup trucks with trailers of wheelchairs began to arrive early in the morning and volunteers from Chapters 10 and 55 unloaded the wheelchairs and other medical items and

reloaded them into a container for shipment to Ukraine that Kachelman had scheduled with the logistical help of the United States Department of State and Counterpart International. Adding to the supplies collected by those in Ohio was a truckload of items brought to Cincinnati by David Lawyer from the Life Resources International warehouse in Judsonia. Lawyer is actively involved in the international humanitarian relief work by churches of Christ and is an elder of the College Church of Christ, Searcy. Lawyer is also a Vietnam Veteran.

"We have collected over 70 wheelchairs, walkers and other medical supplies from nursing homes, individuals, hospitals and veterans organizations," said VVA Chapter 10's Ed Brown.

Gary Jones, from VVA Chapter 55 and the Veteran's Task Force Initiative (VIP), was present for the loading and had just returned from a visit to Vietnam where he was able to follow up on information regarding America's missing warriors.

"On behalf of the all the members of the Veterans Initiative Program and the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America I want to thank John Kachelman for making this possible for us," said Jones. "This project started several years ago when relations were established between the former Soviet veterans and our VIP team. As a unilateral effort on their part they provided information which led to the recovery or informed of the fate of American pilots who were lost to the SAM sites around Hanoi during the war. Without their help we may never have found those Brothers. They sought us out because of the sincere relationship which had developed between the American veterans and the Vietnamese veterans in resolving the problem of accounting. I want to thank those who persisted and stayed with us during the long saga of figuring out the logistics system. This International Band of Brothers

(and Sisters) has accomplished more good for more people than the war could ever pretend to do."

The container should arrive in Kyiv, Ukraine on July 4.



Other comments received in the container:

Ann Mills-Griffiths, Executive Director, National League of POW/MIA Families offered these comments on this project, *"Congratulations to all! That is truly a remarkable achievement! And it is bound to be more than helpful to the work of The U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POWs/MIAs (USRJC) and our specialists in the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD) and JCSD-Moscow. We are indeed grateful for the hard work and generosity of all. I know how much this project meant to the veterans in Ukraine from whom we are continuing to see support. This is precisely the kind of humanitarian reciprocity that means so much to all who care."*

Svetlana Shevchenko, Foreign Affairs Specialist., Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO website is <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/>) has worked on this project for the past five years. After the successful loading she sent these words congratulating all involved, *"I sincerely thank you for everything that you have done, from those two wheelchairs that my colleague and I brought as a gift from you to the Ukrainian vets two years ago to this enormous gift of your hearts that you are sending to the Ukrainian veterans now. I would also like to thank John Kachelman, who took upon himself this huge bureaucratic burden of going through all the paperwork to meet all the requirements of both the Ukrainian and the U.S. governments to deliver the gift. I bow my head before all those who helped to make it happen."*

<http://thedailycitizen.com/edition/edition/>

Friday, April 8, 2011

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## 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](mailto: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.