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EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | NOTES FOR AUGUST

A HOLIDAY OF ANXIOUS EXPECTATIONS



Vitaliy Portnykov –
leading Ukrainian political
commentator, writer,
and journalist

The 34th Independence Day of Ukraine this year was celebrated in an atmosphere of anxious expectations. After all, on the eve of the holiday in August, many events took place that could become signs of the continuation of the war – and possibly its end. For the first time in many years, the presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation met in Alaska. Although after the meeting itself, neither Donald Trump nor Vladimir Putin reported any real results, later the US president began to talk about the success of these negotiations and even discussed their results with the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders who had specially arrived in Washington for this purpose. After this summit, Trump generally stated that he was preparing a bilateral meeting of the presidents of Russia and Ukraine, and in the future – a trilateral summit with his participation to reach an agreement on ending the war.

However, now, at least given the signals from the Kremlin, the meeting of Putin and Zelenskyy looks as unlikely as before Putin's talks with Trump. We do not see any real prospects for ending the war, despite the constant statements of Donald Trump and representatives of his administration. I am even writing this text against the backdrop of the report of another flight of Russian bombers to launch positions – and therefore, before the threat of another large-scale air strike on Ukraine.

Please support Vitaliy Portnykov's new project on the YouTube channel, where you will find his streams in English. Spread it among your friends who do not speak Ukrainian, so that more people in the world get acquainted with the events taking place in Ukraine.

<https://www.youtube.com/@PortnikovPost>

this is not due to the fact that the US president is not looking for ways to end the war, but to the fact that these ways are not interesting to the Russian president. At the same time, we do not observe effective tools of pressure on Putin from the United States. Either Donald Trump does not want to use them, or he simply does not have them at his disposal, but does not want to admit it even to himself. And therefore Putin continues to put forward his own conditions.

Every day, new and new “probable details” of the conversations that took place between the presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation appear. These details are based, in particular, on the communication that Trump had with European leaders and the president of Ukraine shortly after the meeting in Anchorage. We have no direct Russian confirmations – neither of this information from the Western media, nor of Trump's own words. Therefore, it is quite likely that some important points are rather fantasies of the American president himself, not based on his dialogue with his Russian counterpart. Even hypothetically, these theses deserve consideration.

Putin's first condition: there will be no ceasefire without reaching a comprehensive peace agreement. This is the fundamental position of the Kremlin leadership. It is strikingly different from the proposal that Trump made immediately after his election as US president. Then he tried to involve Putin in the negotiation process after the ceasefire on the Russian-Ukrainian front. It was with this thesis that Trump started practically from his first telephone conversation with the Russian leader. However, in May he abandoned

the idea that the ceasefire should be unconditional – and thus opened the way for the resumption of mock negotiations in Istanbul, the purpose of which was not so much to end the war, but to create the appearance of a process of finding conditions for a potential pause on the front. Now, as we see, Trump is actually switching to Putin's position: his own words publicly confirm the change in approach – they say, “a comprehensive peace is better than a shaky ceasefire that can be disrupted at any moment.” Whether Trump was aware of this when he started calling Putin with the initial proposal, and why he changed his own position, is an open question.

Putin's second condition: the so-called “territorial exchange.” Although in essence this is not an exchange at all, because we are talking about a situation where Russia would like to “exchange” some parts of Ukrainian territory for other parts of the same Ukrainian territory. More specifically: the Kremlin continues to insist that Ukrainian troops leave the entire territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. In return, Moscow promises to “freeze” the front lines in the Kherson and Zaporizhia regions and “return” the areas that it currently occupies in the Sumy and Kharkiv regions. Even if we look at these demands formally, it becomes obvious: the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the vast territory of the Donetsk region is in no way commensurate with the small areas of the Sumy and Kharkiv regions that Russia has recently seized.

There is also a deeper illogicality here. Firstly, Ukraine has no reason to withdraw its troops from territories

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controlled by the legitimate Ukrainian government, where Ukrainian citizens live and where there are no “legal” ties with the Russian occupation system. Secondly, from the point of view of the Russian Federation itself, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhia regions are “subjects of Russia”. Why then is Russia ready to agree that Ukraine will continue to control part of the territory that Moscow considers “its” and in return demands that Kyiv leave other territories that are also written in the Russian Constitution? This is beyond the logic of even Russian political thinking. So it seems that Putin proposed such an idea – if he really voiced it – rather for the purpose of political destabilization in Ukraine, rather than for the purpose of finding even a shred of compromise.

Putin's third condition: recognition of the sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea. It is not even specified from whom the Kremlin demands such recognition – from Ukraine or from other states, for example, from the United States. Let me remind you: at one time, Donald Trump proposed that the United States – in exchange for a ceasefire on the Russian-Ukrainian front – consider the possibility of recognizing Russian sovereignty over Crimea. This, in turn, would make it possible to begin lifting sanctions against the Russian Federation. Perhaps Putin has really decided to return to this idea: if the Russian status of Crimea is recognized, then there will be an opportunity to fulfill another condition – the gradual lifting of at least part of Western sanctions. For the Kremlin, it would be ideal if Ukraine itself recognized Russia's sovereignty over Crimea – using all those Russian fabrications about the “illegitimate transfer” of the Crimean region of the RSFSR to the Ukrainian SSR. Then the Crimea issue could be “closed” by fixing it in agreements so that the victim country itself would recognize the legitimacy of its robbery. And then, at the next stage, Moscow would begin to demand recognition of Russia's “sovereignty” over Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhia regions. If this happens, Russia will have opportunities to occupy other Ukrainian regions. This is a typical “salami” tactic – cut off piece by piece until the victim is completely weakened.

The fourth condition: Ukraine should be officially banned from joining the North Atlantic Alliance. Russia demands formal guarantees from NATO that none of the former Soviet republics will become a member of the Alliance. However, NATO countries cannot make a decision at the block level that limits the sovereign choice of a candidate state, this contradicts the fundamental principles and the Charter. Theoretically, the “way out” could be a step by Ukraine itself: changing the Constitution, declaring neutrality and, accordingly, self-prohibiting entry into NATO. However, these are extremely conditional guarantees. The Constitution can be changed as easily as it can be adopted. Moreover, when Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, Ukraine was a non-aligned state. Hence the logical conclusion: such “self-restraints” do not stop the aggressor. It is very difficult to understand why Moscow is convinced that some constitutional amendments can guarantee the immutability of Ukraine's position. For example, in the event of a political crisis in Russia, when Kyiv, seizing the moment, can send an application to NATO. A vivid

example is Finland: for decades, having a “special relationship” with the USSR and Russia, it did not join the Alliance; but against the backdrop of the crisis caused by the Russian-Ukrainian war, it decided to join, radically changing the military-political logistics in northern Europe.

The fifth condition: guarantees of Ukraine's security. There are currently considerable discussions around this. At a meeting with Trump, according to diplomats, Putin allegedly agreed to discuss such guarantees. However, the vision of these guarantees is radically different. The United States is proposing, conditionally speaking, “Article 5 without NATO”: that is, a de facto obligation to respond to aggression, but without Ukraine's formal membership in the Alliance. From Russia's point of view, this looks just as threatening as Ukraine's direct accession to NATO, because it makes future attempts at occupation impossible: Western countries would then have to fight alongside Ukrainians, destroy strategic facilities on Russian territory, and potentially balance on the brink of nuclear escalation. How does this differ from full NATO membership if the Kremlin's plans are to retain the option of war against Ukraine in the future? There is no logical answer. That is why Putin is offering another “alternative”: say, China as a security guarantor. In fact, we are talking about a new Budapest Memorandum – a document that Russia can again ignore as soon as it decides to repeat its attack on Ukraine.

The sixth condition: the state status of the Russian language – at least in the part of the territory of Ukraine that Putin traditionally considers a “Bolshevik gift to Kyiv”, that is, in the south and east. Also –

the possibility of unhindered activity of the Russian Orthodox Church as a "civilizational" bridgehead of Moscow on Ukrainian soil. Putin understands perfectly well: if the Russian language and the Russian Church remain in Ukraine as institutional carriers of imperial identity, sooner or later – by military or political means – Ukraine will again find itself in Russia's orbit. The aggressor seeks to lay down for his successors, if he fails to destroy our state now, such "soft" opportunities that will ultimately lead to the dissolution of Ukrainian statehood under the "civilizational" pressure of Russian culture, language and church – as key components of expansion. Because missiles, bombs and deaths will be forgotten over time – such is the logic of any war. The language and the church will remain and, believe me, will do their job. This is a classical example.

So, Russia has not abandoned any of the paradigms of liquidating Ukrainian statehood – force, political or "civilizational". If not now – then later. If not by brute force – then by dismemberment and "normalization" through papers, seals and "guarantees" worth as much as the Budapest Memorandum once cost.

This is the true essence of what happened in Anchorage during the meeting between the President of the United States Donald Trump and the President of Russia Vladimir Putin. Not a dialogue about peace and not even bargaining around the terms of a pause. This is a demonstration that the Kremlin is planning not so much the end or continuation of the war, but the gradual destruction of Ukraine – fast or slow.

It is this plan that democratic countries must oppose. The main role here is played by the United States. The tools for such a confrontation actually exist: the continuation and expansion of military aid to Ukraine, the strengthening of sanctions pressure on the Russian economy, the increase of the political and technological isolation of the Kremlin, the strengthening of the stability of allies. Thus, currently the US president says that America "does not finance the war", but only "sells weapons to the Europeans", which they transfer to Ukraine. But the logic of the development of events, Russia's blatant disregard for international law and a direct threat to the interests of the West will sooner or


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later force the American president to choose the only rational path – the path of real, decisive and long-term support for Ukraine.

Because only then will we be able to talk not about fantasies, but about

real steps towards peace – a just peace, which makes new aggression impossible. And only then will the August holiday cease to be a holiday of anxious expectations and again become a holiday of hope.

HISTORY OF UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA (UNWLA) BRANCH 107 IN SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

Nora Mason – co-founder of Branch 107 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) in Santa Clara, California

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Santa Clara County began to change. Orchards and farmland gave way to new industries as companies like Hewlett-Packard, Intel and Fairchild paved the way for what we now know as Silicon Valley. With this exciting growth came new careers, new technologies – and new waves of immigrants.

Among them were Ukrainians, many of whom had first settled on the East Coast before making their way west. They came from New York and New Jersey, from Massachusetts and Philadelphia, from Chicago and Detroit, and even from Belgium and Australia. Drawn by the good weather and new opportunities, they found each other here in California and began building a Ukrainian community together.

By 1965, there was already a strong Ukrainian presence in the South Bay, centered around Mission Saint Volodymyr, established by Father Andrew Mykyta. The new arrivals joined the older wave of immigrants and, together, began to put down roots.

Three pioneering families – Zenon and Vera Zubrucky, George and Halene Marenin, and Vitali and Olga Vizir Kelly – were among the first to settle

in the valley. Their friendships, made by chance meetings, grew into lifelong bonds and helped set the foundation for what was to come.

As in many immigrant communities, the men went to work while the women took on the important role of creating Ukrainian life here in California. Two women stand out in those early years: Yaroslava "Slavcia" Orenchuk of Massachusetts and Halyna "Hala" Steciw of Philadelphia. Both had been active members of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) on the east coast, and when they settled in Santa Clara County, they wanted to continue that work.

With the help of UNWLA headquarters in New York (by letter, in those pre-computer days!), they connected with other Ukrainian women and soon formed Branch 107. Founding members included Slavcia Orenchuk, Hala Steciw, Stefa Merkelo, Vera Zubrucky, Olga Vizir Kelly, Tania Tatarko, and Sonia Kennedy. By the late 1960s, the Ukrainian diaspora in California was thriving – and Branch 107 was officially born.

Through the years, our branch has grown and flourished. Many of us are proud to say we've been members for more than 50 years. In the early 1970s, we organized a kindergarten and school so our children could continue speaking Ukrainian and learning our culture. We started a dance group, em-

broidered evening wear for our events, and formed a choir. We gathered for annual picnics, sang Christmas carols at Ukrainian homes, and celebrated our traditions together.

We also gave back. From scholarships for students, to support for widows, to aid for Ukrainian communities in Brazil, our fundraising reached far beyond Silicon Valley. Between 2010 and 2020, Branch 107 sent nearly 200 boxes of clothing to orphanages in Ukraine and packages to sailors in Mariupol. The letters of thanks reminded us that our efforts mattered.

Everything changed in 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine. All of the work we had been doing took on a deeper urgency. Alongside UNWLA headquarters, we began raising funds for hospitals, purchasing medical equipment for the wounded, and supporting women in the armed forces. We also learned to advocate – meeting with our representatives in Congress, educating them about Ukraine's history, and working to ensure support for our homeland.

Today, Branch 107 is 50 members strong. We carry with us the spirit of the women who founded our branch more than half a century ago, and we remain committed to our mission: preserving our culture, supporting our community, and standing proudly for a free and independent Ukraine.

Our story is still being written – and together, we will keep it going.



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EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

Oles Doniy

ETERNAL NEGOTIATIONS OUTSIDE AND MONOPOLIZATION INSIDE



Oles Doniy –
*Ukrainian journalist, TV
presenter, politician, public
and cultural figure*

August 2025 demonstrated that Ukraine found itself in a trap of double uncertainty. Outside – endless negotiations that do not bring peace closer, but only create the illusion of diplomatic activity. Inside – consistent actions of the authorities to monopolize control over all key institutions, which for the first time after the full-scale invasion gave rise to youth protests, which seemed to remind: democracy cannot be “cardboard”.

Two fronts – external and internal – showed the same logic: delaying time and the desire to maintain control.

I. Geopolitical scene: Alaska, Washington and the triad paradox.

1. Expectations of a “new Yalta”.

The meeting between Trump and Putin in Alaska, as well as negotiations in Washington with the participation of Zelenskyy and European leaders, were presented by the American President as a chance for a “breakthrough”. American media wrote about the possibility of a “new Yalta”, while in Kyiv they grumbled through their teeth about the risk of being forced to a “new Minsk”.

However, instead of decisions, we saw another show: statements, protocol photos, diplomatic smiles, a red carpet in front of the Kremlin dictator, the actual legitimization of a Russian serial killer – and not a single concrete document.

2. Who wants what?

The August meetings vividly emphasized the asymmetry of interests of the three key players.

Donald Trump. His position is extremely frank, and to his credit – consistent: he wants reconciliation. “America will no longer pay for other people’s wars,” he said in Washington, repeating a thesis that had previously been his campaign mantra. For Trump, ending the war is not geopolitics, but a business logic that he understands better: too expensive for taxpayers. In his understanding, “peace” means “removing Ukraine from the American balance of payments.”

Volodymyr Zelenskyy. For him, “peace” sounds like surrender (and, after all, that’s what Russian “proposals” look like so far). “We will not give up a single piece of our land, we are fighting for victory,” he said after the Washington talks. For him, victory is the return of territories, the strengthening of the state and himself, and the preservation of the image of a “leader in war.” His political survival directly depends on whether he can avoid compromises that look like defeat.

Vladimir Putin. The Kremlin criminal, on the contrary, speaks of “special operation goals” that “will be achieved in any case.” For him, victory means not just the seizure of certain Ukrainian territories, but also the conscious destruction of Ukrainian subjectivity and a demonstration to the West and the demonstration that Russia is stronger. There is no place for the word “peace” in his rhetoric, and “victory” means the collapse of Ukraine as a successful and promising state.

3. The paradox of the triad.

So, the only one who really wants to stop the war under any conditions is Trump. But he is the one who is not fighting. And those who are fighting – Zelenskyy and Putin – do not want peace, they want victory.

Hence the impasse of the August negotiations. For Trump, the main thing is to save money. For Zelenskyy and Putin, saving face through victory.

And neither of them is ready to give in to their own logic.

4. The consequences of the “big pause.”

The result is no guarantees, no plans, no calendar. Only a postponed decision. For Ukraine, this means further exhaustion from the war, further human losses. For Europe, it means an aggravation of the contradictions between the countries that want a “compromise” (which so far looks like an “honorable surrender” of Ukraine) and those who advocate a hard line. For the US, it is doubtful that Trump is able to reach a real agreement in this long-running war.

A regime of eternal waiting that lasts from month to month, and may last from year to year.

II. The domestic front: the story of NABU and the “cardboard Maidan”.

1. Bankova’s offensive.

While geopolitics were being discussed in Washington, Bankova was preparing an internal “turnaround” in Kyiv. The bill that de facto subordinated NABU (National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine) and SAB (Specialized Anti-corruption Prosecution) to the President was an attempt to put the latter, although not very effective, but formally still relatively independent anti-corruption bodies under control. Officially, the authorities spoke of “coordination”. However, in part of society this was perceived as “monopolization”.

2. Youth against “cardboard democracy”.

It was a surprise to almost everyone that it was the youth who spoke out against this monopolization. Students, IT professionals, and activists came out in Kyiv near the Ivan Franko Theater and to the central squares of many other cities with painted and written cardboards, ridiculing “cardboard democracy”. This is undoubtedly a positive: a generation that is often considered apolitical has for the first time expressed itself en masse through street

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protests.

It is not worth idealizing: the protest mobilization took place largely thanks to a network of so-called “anti-corruption organizations” that are dependent on grants from Western embassies and foundations. A significant part of these structures has been engaged in PR and cooperation with the same anti-corruption bodies around which the conflict erupted for years.

So, the symbolism of the protest was strong, but its topic remained “short”: the youth did not openly touch on more serious problems of democracy – for example, the lack of elections in the country or the degradation of state institutions.

3. Bankova’s (Office of the President of Ukraine) scare.

Despite the limited demands, the authorities reacted nervously. The draft law was immediately revised, the rhetoric was softened. The youth declared a “victory.” Indeed, even in such a “narrow” format, the protest demon-

strated that at least some part of society is still capable of taking to the streets and intimidating the authorities.

4. A sophisticated revenge.

However, the joy was short-lived. A few days after the adoption of the compromise law and the end of the protests, a showy gesture took place: both heads of the NABU and the SAB came “on the carpet” to the President. Formally, according to the law, they are not subordinate to him. But the very fact of this visit became a symbol: Zelenskyy demonstrated “who is the boss in the house.”

This was Bankova’s sophisticated revenge. The authorities temporarily retreated under pressure from the street, but then turned the situation around in their favor. Having symbolically given the society a “victory,” they actually consolidated control even more firmly.

III. Redemption or reform. Youth going abroad.

1. An unexpected decision.

Shortly after the protests, the authorities took a loud step: they allowed young men aged 18-21 to go abroad, provided they had military registration documents (registration in the “Reserve+” system). Formally, for training. Unofficially, to weaken the protest potential.

2. A double reading

For some, it became a gesture of humanity. But for many, it looks like redemption: they say, “you fight against corruption, and we will give you the opportunity to go abroad, and not create problems here.”

“Attempt to buy the silence of youth” is exactly the reaction we hear most often.

3. Strategic risks.

The decision to close the borders for men aged 18-60, which the authorities made back in February 2022, is extremely harmful for many reasons: it is harmful to the army, harmful to the economy, harmful to education, harmful to demography, harmful to

democracy. The authorities' new decision may reduce the protest potential of the small age category of 18-21, but in return there will be a reason for discussion in society: why does the authorities allow themselves to violate the Constitution again and take away the constitutional right to movement from other age groups?

Conclusions: August as a mirror.

August became a mirror in which the dual logic of the authorities was reflected:

Outside – endless negotiations, where the only one who wants "peace" is Trump, but he is not fighting. Those who are fighting – do not want peace, but only victory. Therefore, the "great diplomatic breakthrough" turns into an eternal postponement.

Inside – an attack on independent institutions, which caused a protest. The authorities make symbolic retreats, but in essence concentrate power in their hands.

Part of society – responds with protests, even small, but very eloquent.

The Ukrainian authorities seem to be stuck between two fears: outside – the fear of being left without the support of the West, inside – the fear of a new Maidan. And that is why it follows the path of imitation: negotiations without decisions, reforms without independence, concessions without changes.

In politics, as in life, there are no eternal pauses. Sooner or later, the moment will come when either the negotiations will end in an agreement, or society will no longer accept "card-board concessions."

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SANTA CLARA INDEPENDENCE DAY PROCLAMATION



On August 19, 2025, Santa Clara Mayor Lisa Gilmor issued a proclamation on Ukraine's Independence Day. She also recognized the contributions of the Ukrainian community to not only the city of Santa Clara but also the entire Silicon Valley. The ceremony was also graced by Ukrainian Consul Oleksiy Khorosh and Ukrainian Women's Union Chapter 107 Chair Iryna Anpilogova. The Ukrainian Women's Union first held a similar ceremony on August 11 in Santa Cruz, California.

UNWLA CENTENNIAL GALA: CELEBRATE A CENTURY OF IMPACT ON OCTOBER 19!

One hundred years. That's how long the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) has been shaping history – uplifting communities, preserving culture, and standing steadfast in defense of Ukraine and women's voices across generations.

On **October 19, 2025**, we invite you to be part of something extraordinary: the **UNWLA Centennial Celebration** in **New York City**. Held at the iconic **Bohemian National Hall**, this special gala marks a defining moment in our organization's legacy – and we want you there to celebrate with us.

The afternoon will feature the world premiere of **"A Legacy in Motion"**, an original, stirring multimedia stage performance created by NASHI Productions that brings our story to life. Through archival footage, dramatic visuals, music, and narration, the performance will take guests on a journey from our 1925 founding to the frontline work of today. It will honor the women who came before us – and inspire the next generation of Soyuzianky to carry the torch.

Following the performance, guests will enjoy an elegant reception with fine beverages including our signature cocktail, curated culinary delights, and heartfelt conversation among friends, and change-makers from across the country. With the stunning Bohemian National Hall reserved for the afternoon, attendees will have space to celebrate, connect, and reflect in true Ukrainian style.

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tinue to lead. This isn't just a gala. It's a once-in-a-lifetime gathering. It's a tribute to courage, community, and continuity, and it won't be complete without you.

**Join us. Honor the legacy.
Empower the future!**

EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

FR. ROMAN BEBESIUK | SPIRITUAL TREASURY

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT OF GOD: "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER, THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH"



Fr. lic. Roman Bebesiuk –
priest of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in San Francisco and the Church of St. Volodymyr in Santa Clara

Introduction

The Lord God, giving us the Ten Commandments, dedicated the first three to Him, and the other seven for our good. Among them, the fourth Commandment is in first place, because the family is the foundation of the people, the Church and the state. It is in the family that we are born, here we are fed, raised and prepared for life. The family is a small but most important cell of society. What a family is, such is the people, such is the community.

CHILDREN'S DUTIES TOWARDS PARENTS

Why should parents be honored?

Parents are the first people in life to welcome a child into the world, give him life, take care of his body and soul, ensure his development, love and upbringing. A child's relationship with his parents is the first and most important experience of trust, respect and love.

The Holy Scriptures clearly state that honoring one's parents is not just politeness, but the fulfillment of God's

commandment, which leads to a good life and long years on earth.

"He who honors his father is free from sin. He who honors his mother is like a storehouse of treasures... Remember that they bore you: how will you repay them?" (Sir. 3:3-4).

How is respect for parents manifested?

Respect is not just words, but concrete actions and attitudes:

1. **External respect** – politeness, kind words, help with household chores, caring for parents in times of need. Parents should not be disrespected, even if they have some shortcomings or weaknesses.

2. **Love and attention** – caring for them, especially in old age, support, help in everyday life, prayer for their health and salvation.

3. **Obedience** – children should obey their parents, respect their advice and instructions.

Modern challenges

In the modern world, it is easy to lose this respect: selfishness, independence, indifference, digital technologies that captivate us from morning to night often take away time and attention from parents. Especially if we live far from home, let's not forget to call, write, take an interest in their lives, and stay in touch, because every call, every word of concern is a manifestation of respect, love, and attention, which is very important for our parents and for ourselves.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RAISING CHILDREN

Responsibility of Parents

The commandment not only requires children to respect their parents, but also imposes on parents the duty to raise their children well. Education is a complex and responsible process of forming a person, which affects the

future of the people, the Church and society as a whole.

Pope Leo XIII said that the education of young people is the renewal of the world. The German philosopher Leibniz said: "Give me the education of a child, and I will transform the world." This emphasizes how important this mission is.

What is upbringing?

Upbringing is the process of forming the heart, mind, will and soul of a child. It prepares a child for life, teaches him love for God, respect for other people, responsibility for his actions, moral standards.

It is important that upbringing is not only about material or mental things, but also contains spiritual values. Upbringing without faith is incomplete, because it is not able to form a full-fledged personality.

The main duty of parents is to give a good upbringing

No one but parents has such full responsibility for upbringing children. The church and school can help, but the family is the first and most important school. It forms the foundations of character, morality and faith.

The importance of parents' personal example

The words of parents have great power, but their example is even more influential. Saint John Chrysostom said that the behavior of parents is a book from which children learn. If parents live honestly, justly and believe, children see this and follow it.

This is especially true of faith: if parents do not pray and do not participate in church life, a child may lose faith.

Why is faith important?

Faith is not just an adornment of life or an addition to upbringing. It is its foundation, without which no family and no nation can survive. Just as a



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house without a solid foundation collapses from the slightest push, so the life of a person without faith becomes shaky and vulnerable to the storms of the world.

- The foundation of morality and worldview.

Faith shapes a person from the inside: his or her outlook on life, the ability to distinguish good from evil, the strength to resist temptations. It teaches that true freedom does not lie in permissiveness, but in fidelity to God's commandments.

- The role of parents.

Parents have the first task of teaching their children to pray, to love God, the Church, and their neighbor. Because a child learns not only words, but also example. If parents sincerely pray, profess their faith, and live by it, then children will grow up in the light of truth.

- The power of family prayer.

Joint prayer at home is like a home altar on which the family builds unity and peace. In times of war, it is especially felt that prayer is the greatest weapon against evil, because it opens the heart to God's grace and brings peace to where fear reigns.

- Faith and Ukraine.

Today, when our Motherland is experiencing difficult trials, it is faith that

helps our people to endure. It supports soldiers at the front, mothers waiting for their sons scattered around the world, and those who have lost their homes. Faith strengthens love for the Motherland, because it reminds us that we are called to live not only for ourselves, but also for others, and that God does not abandon His people.

THE ROLE OF THE FATHER IN UPBRINGING

The father performs a unique role in the family: he is the head and guardian of the family, forms the mind, will, and character of children. His words, actions, and lifestyle become the first lessons for children, as they learn to follow what they see in their own home. Through the father's example, children learn respect for God, the Church, the state, and society.

The father not only leads the family, but also becomes its moral and spiritual guide. His duty is to instill values in children, to raise them in a spirit of responsibility, honesty and conscientiousness. When the father lives according to these values, his authority becomes natural, and the children willingly take his example as the basis of their own lives.

The spiritual leadership of the father is manifested in daily prayer, par-

ticipation in the Liturgy, Confession and Communion. These actions show children that faith is not only words, but also concrete daily actions. It is through such practices that the father helps the child understand the value of the spiritual life and the importance of closeness to God.

Pope Pius XII emphasized: "The Lord rewards not only the servant for the talents he uses, but also the father who lovingly nurtures a life that is worth more than gold or silver."

MOTHER'S ROLE IN UPBRINGING

Mother is the first educator, who gives the first words, the first touches, the first prayers. It is from the mother that the child receives the initial ideas about good and evil, learns compassion, attentiveness and respect for others. Her presence and love are a vital necessity for the physical and spiritual health of the child. Without maternal support, even the most intelligent child will feel inner emptiness and lack of emotional support.

Mother often becomes the most important authority and role model. For girls, she is the first ideal of femininity, patience, love and kindness. For boys, she is a symbol of care, wisdom and honesty. Through maternal upbringing, children learn to respect others, love

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God and neighbors, learn moral principles and Christian values.

LOVE FOR MOTHERLAND AND PEOPLE

Love for parents and family naturally extends to love for the Motherland, people, language and culture. The Motherland is our Mother, which gives us roots, history, traditions and strength that cannot be borrowed from another country. Just as one cannot replace one's own mother with another woman, no other land can become a true Motherland.

Love for the Motherland is manifested by nurturing language, culture and spirituality. This means remembering where we come from, appreciating traditions and raising children in the spirit of love for our native people. In difficult times, when war destroys life, it is our love for the land and people that

determines whether we will preserve the nation, language and culture for future generations.

The Fourth Commandment of God is not just a command, but a call to love, respect and responsibility. It concerns everyone – children, parents, and the entire nation. Honoring parents and taking good care of children is the

foundation of a strong family and a healthy society. Love for God, the Motherland and our neighbor is the key to a happy and long life.

So each of us must protect and cherish these values, pass them on to future generations, building a better future for ourselves and our country.

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IN MEMORY OF GREGORY P. HALLICK-HOLUTIAK

On August 13, 2025, Maestro Greg (Hryhoriy) Hallick-Holutiak passed away suddenly. In the Ukrainian diaspora of California, Gregory P. Hallick-Holutiak was known as the conductor of the Kobzar choir, which carried Ukrainian culture to the United States, performing with the Pasadena Symphony Orchestra and the Los Angeles Doctor's Symphony Orchestra. Together with these outstanding orchestras, the Kobzar performed over 20 joint concerts, which included Ukrainian Christmas carols, Ukrainian patriotic/folk music, and many other musical genres. Under the leadership of Hryhoriy the Kobzar performed programs with world-renowned artists such as Stefan Szkafarowky of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Honored Artist of Ukraine Vasyl Nechepa, and world-renowned Irish tenor Anthony Kearns.

Greg studied music theory, composition, conducting, and arranging at West Chester State Teachers College in eastern Pennsylvania. He studied conducting under several renowned Ukrainian musicians, such as Volodymyr Kolesnyk, Volodymyr Bozhyk, Petro Kondratenko, Dmytro Yakubenko, and Rev. Stephen Gallik-Golutyak. He also studied in the UK. Greg became choir director of the St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles in 1973 and served as principal conductor until 2014, at the age of 41. He became conductor of the Ukrainian National Kobzar Choir in 1985, a position he held for 29 years. Under his leadership, the Kobzar Choir's repertoire expanded to include Ukrainian classical, national, folk, and patriotic works. He also began writing arrangements for a symphony orchestra to accompany the Kobzar choir.

The newspaper "Hromada" once asked Natalia Karpenko to interview Mr. Gregory. Today, in memory of Maestro Gregory P. Gallik-Golutyak, we present to you this interview, in which he described his musical journey through life in his own words.

1. Where were you born and how did this place influence you?

I was born on June 29, 1953 in the New England region of the United States – not far from Boston. The church parish my Father was assigned to (my Father was a Priest in the Or-



thodox Church of the United States) did not influence me much as he was transferred and our family moved to Cleveland, Ohio when I was 3 years old. At that time, I was a typical young boy who liked playing and having fun. Mostly I learned about Church things and how important a strong family is and developed a deep respect and love for my parents, brother and sisters, and the Church.

2. When did you first realize that you wanted to pursue music?

I am not sure exactly at what age I was when I knew I wanted to pursue music as a career/vocation. Upon entering the University level of education, I believe, is the time when I became completely interested in music... but from a technical standpoint – meaning I wanted to understand HOW music was written in all forms (choral and symphonic), why it was written that way and how all the "rules" of music applied. I wanted to know the intricacies of how music gave its inspiration, its ability to move one's emotions. How words (text) made the music get its message across to the people hearing it that the

composer wanted to evoke.

3. What were your first music lessons? Who was your teacher?

My first music lessons started at a very young age. Although my Father was a priest, he was a first rate musician and started my brother, sisters, and me out early by having us sing on family outings while driving in the car. I began piano lessons at age 5 or so and DID NOT LIKE to sit and practice. I wanted to play what I wanted, not what I was given to play. I guess, that was the very beginning of me wanting to write/compose, but was not something I understood at that time. I just knew that I wanted to play what I wanted to play. I also began playing the mandolin in the local Ukrainian Church Mandolin Orchestra, played the clarinet and oboe in my Middle School orchestra.

4. Who influenced your decision to become a composer?

This is not an easy question to answer. I had several conductor/teachers who I studied with that influenced me, and I had a few favorite composers that I admired and used as a measuring level for myself. My conductor teachers

included my Father – Very Rev. Stephen Hallick-Holutiak, Petro Kondratenko, Volodymyr Kolesnyk, and Dmytro Yakubenko (singer/assistant conductor with the famous Koshetz Choir that traveled the world promoting Ukrainian culture and music from 1918 to 1924). I was greatly influenced by Ukrainian musical scholars Mykola Lysenko, Kyrylo Stetcenko, Mykola Leontovych, and my FAVORITE – Oleksander Koshetz. My decision to begin writing music and composing started more from the perspective of a personal desire to see what I could write... if I could write, and how my endeavors ultimately would sound. It was more of a personal evolution, because I believe everyone has the ability to come up with a melody and build on it... most people just lack the foundational training to write it down.

5. What composers or musical genres have had the greatest influence on you?

I listed the composers who had the greatest influence on me in my answer to question #4. But I would add these as well – D. Bortniansky, A. Vedel, Wolfgang Mozart, Ludwig Beethoven, M. Verbitskiy, J. Bach, these are several from the classical era, including Ukrainian composers whose work affected me the most.

There is not one musical genre that influenced me more than any other... except perhaps for Ukrainian Liturgical music. Ukrainian music themes had/have the greatest hold on my style and ability to write for. Ukrainian style of music is quite mysterious and reaches deeply into one's soul. Depending upon the particular piece and text of that piece, many different moods can be created and expressed. I try to make my pieces move through different key signatures to give the piece a unique representation. Changing keys upward helps create an uplifting message for the listener. I try to keep people's interest by changing keys and challenging the choir to master the piece. His method keeps everyone's interest... from the singers, the orchestra and the audience.

6. What role do you think music plays in expressing human feelings?

Music is often hailed as a universal language. Regardless of one's geographical origins or linguistic capabilities, the essence of a song can be felt and appreciated. This transcendent quality of music allows it to communicate emotions, stories, and experiences without the constraint of words, forging connections between diverse



cultures.

The process of perceiving music is multifaceted, involving various cognitive systems that help us decode the emotional content of music. Emotional intelligence plays a vital role in this process, enabling us to discern and interpret the complex layers of emotions being communicated through melody, rhythm, and harmony. Emotional processing within the context of music involves recognizing and predicting emotional cues, a skill that we can improve upon over time with practice and active listening.

Our ability to understand and interact with music also depends on our music perception – a cognitive process that allows us to identify pitch, rhythm, and melodic patterns. This further influences how we emotionally react to different types of music, enhancing our overall experience and the feelings it evokes.

Through engaging in musical activities, whether listening, playing an instrument or singing, we exercise these cognitive processes and, as a result, strengthen our emotional processing abilities, supporting our ability to express and understand feelings.

Music has the ability to bring people together by the instruments they play, a shared interest in a particular style of music and who doesn't love the spine-tingling sounds of a huge or-

chestral crescendo? We all have been known to move our feet irresistibly to the rhythm of a drum beat or singing our hearts out to encourage our favourite sports team. We all are, when words fail us, and wherever we are in the world, you are understood through music. Music is a universal gift, and its power to unite people is undeniable. It is an art form that is centered on human interaction. The joy you can derive from music will help lift your spirits and that of everyone else involved.

Whether it's learning your favorite tune, performing on stage or a good old sing-a-long with your friends, music brings fun!

7. How would you describe your musical style? What sets your music apart from others?

I would call my musical style eclectic, meaning I don't think I have a particular style as I try to deal with each piece I am working on as it's own form. Each genre of music has its own language one must try to follow. Religious pieces, I feel, should inspire prayer or deep thought and soul searching. Patriotic pieces MUST evoke strength and create a feeling and mood of love of country and fellow countrymen. I think that style is what sets me apart from other musicians. I try NOT to be repetitive in themes and want to approach things in ways that the people listening are moved.

UKRAINIAN NEWS

Total enemy combat losses



According to the General Staff, the total combat losses of the enemy from February 24, 2022 to August 31, 2025 are approximately as follows:

Personnel – 1,082,140 people were eliminated,
Tanks – 11,151 units,
Armored personnel carriers – 23,212 units,
Artillery systems – 32,199 units,
MLRS – 1,476 units,
Air defense systems – 1,213 units,
Aircraft – 422 units,
Helicopters – 340 units,
Operational and tactical level UAVs – 55,062 units,
Cruise missiles – 3,664 units,
Ships and boats – 28 units,
Submarines – 1 unit,
Vehicles and tankers – 60,305 units,
Special equipment – 3,952 units.

Aid to Ukraine

EU

Ukraine has received more than 4 billion euros from the European Union. Of these, 3.05 billion euros came in the form of a loan under the Ukraine Facility, another 1 billion euros as part of the EU contribution under the G7 initiative.

The funds will be used to cover priority social and humanitarian expenses. The Ministry of Finance indicated that in order to receive the tranche, the state has implemented a number of reforms in the fight against corruption, public administration, digital transformation, the agricultural sector, regional policy and ecology.

It recently became known that the European Union has received the third tranche of extraordinary income from

frozen assets of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation in the amount of 1.6 billion euros. Of this amount, more than 95% – more than 1.5 billion euros – will be used to repay Ukraine's loans.

As a reminder, in July, the European Union provided Ukraine with another tranche of 1 billion euros, obtained from profits from frozen Russian assets.

USA

The administration of US President Donald Trump has approved the sale of 3,350 Extended Range Attack Munition (ERAM) aircraft missiles to Ukraine, which are to be delivered to Kyiv in about six weeks.

The United States has also approved the sale of \$203.5 million in repair, maintenance and logistics services for M777 howitzers to Ukraine.

Germany

The German government intends to provide Ukraine with nine billion euros in financial assistance annually over the next few years. This was announced by Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil during his visit to Kyiv.

He noted that the decision has already been approved by the German federal government.

"We are committed to supporting Ukraine in the coming years, spending 9 billion euros annually," Klingbeil said.

In June, German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius stated that Germany's guaranteed support for Ukraine this year would reach 7 billion euros. Another 1.9 billion euros are awaiting approval in the Bundestag.

Earlier it was reported that Germany will separately allocate 500 million dollars for the purchase of American weapons for Ukraine.

Great Britain

The United Kingdom will continue the training program for the Ukrainian military at least until the end of 2026.

Currently, more than 50 thousand Ukrainian recruits have been trained in the country.

"We will continue to strengthen our support with our allies so that Ukraine can defend itself today and deter tomorrow. Given the ongoing Russian attacks, we must put the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the strongest possible position. And as we continue our efforts towards peace, we must make Ukrainians the strongest possible deterrent to secure that future peace," said British Defense Secretary John Healy.

Norway

Norway will continue its support for

Ukraine through the Nansen program in 2025-2026. The government will propose to the parliament to allocate \$8.45 billion for this purpose.

This was announced by Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre during a visit to Kyiv.

"Norway's strong support for Ukraine will continue in 2025-2026. It provides for \$8.45 billion. This amount will be proposed for allocation by the parliament, which will allocate funds under the Nansen program. I hope we can maintain this level of support. Actually, that was the government's proposal," the prime minister said.

According to Støre, the main priority for Norway remains strengthening Ukraine's defense capabilities.

Jonas Gahr Støre also said that Norway will contribute to the supply of two Patriot systems, which it will co-finance. According to him, since the beginning of the war, Norway has been supplying Ukraine with weapons of its own production, in particular air defense systems, and supports the development of the Ukrainian defense industry. Particular attention is paid to the drone coalition, within the framework of which Oslo is investing in the production of drones for the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Norway is also working together with the United Kingdom to strengthen Ukraine's naval capabilities to protect the Black Sea coast.

Norway is allocating approximately 7 billion Norwegian kroner (about \$696.12 million) to finance air defense systems for Ukraine. In cooperation with Germany, this will allow the provision of two Patriot systems and missiles, as well as other types of air defense.

In June, Norway provided an additional 6.5 billion Norwegian kroner (approximately 551 million euros) for the production of drones and the purchase of unmanned technologies for Ukraine.

Lithuania

Ukraine and Lithuania have agreed on the joint production of defense products to strengthen the security of both countries. The main focus will be on launching joint ventures, in particular on the creation of long-range drones.

The letter of intent on the joint production of defense products was signed in Kyiv by Defense Minister Denys Shmyhal and Lithuanian Minister of National Defense Dovydas Šakalius.

"We discussed specific prospects for industrial cooperation that are opened up thanks to the Letter of Intent. The document creates new opportunities

for launching joint ventures, developing Ukrainian companies in Lithuania and exchanging technologies," the statement said.

The issue of attracting additional funding for the purchase of weapons and the development of the Ukrainian defense industry was also discussed.

Recall that Lithuania will continue to allocate 0.25% of its GDP for military assistance to Ukraine until 2027, which is a signal of long-term support for the Ukrainian military.

Lithuania also announced its intention to join the purchase of American Patriot air defense systems for Ukraine. The European country plans to allocate up to 30 million euros for the relevant initiative.

Latvia

Latvia announced its intention to join the NATO initiative to supply Ukraine with American weapons, the country will provide at least 2 million euros for this.

This was reported by the local publication Liepajniekiem, citing a statement by Prime Minister Evika Silini.

"The amount of Latvia's financial contribution to this initiative will be specified, but it will be at least 2 million euros," the Prime Minister said.

Latvia has announced its support for the Priority Ukraine Requirements List (PURL) initiative, which envisages the creation of a special Alliance account to which partner countries will be able to transfer funds for the centralized procurement of American weapons. This concerns the procurement of critically needed weapons and military equipment for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, in particular air defense systems.

Recall that Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands will finance the supply of American weapons to Ukraine in the amount of more than \$1 billion.

Netherlands

The Dutch government will provide the Armed Forces of Ukraine with a new assistance package of 500 million euros within the framework of the agreements between the United States and NATO. It will include American-made weapons.

This was announced by the head of the country's defense ministry, Ruben Brekelmans.

"Ukraine now needs more air defense equipment and ammunition. The Netherlands will be the first NATO member to deliver a package of American weapons systems worth 500 million euros (including components and Patriot missiles)," he wrote.

Canada

Canada will provide Ukraine with a new arms package worth 1 billion Canadian dollars (over \$700 million US) as early as September. The new batch of aid will include the transfer of drones, shells and armored vehicles by Canada.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said this during a speech in Kyiv on the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day.

Carney recalled that during the G7 summit in June, Canada promised to allocate another 2 billion Canadian dollars for military assistance to Ukraine.

In addition, according to the Prime Minister, Canada will allocate tens of millions of dollars for emergency medical assistance, construction of bomb shelters, support for local democracy and cyber defense of Ukraine.

Earlier, Canada transferred \$1.7 billion to Ukraine from the proceeds from frozen assets of the Russian Federation.

On August 24, Ukraine and Canada officially launched an action plan for the implementation of the agreement on security cooperation.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney signed an action plan for the implementation of the agreement on security cooperation between the countries. It defines the main directions and mechanisms for implementing bilateral cooperation and covers military training, building defense capabilities, sharing intelligence, cybersecurity and combating terrorism and hybrid threats.

Austria

Austria will provide an additional 2 million euros in humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. In addition, the country will join the Civil Protection Shelter Coalition.

This became known following the visit of Austrian Foreign Minister Beat Meinl-Reisinger to Odessa, the press service of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry reports.

"Austria is among the ten largest investors in Ukraine. This proves once again that we can not only be helped, but also profitably trade and invest with us. This is especially noticeable in Odessa – the entrepreneurial spirit forms the unique energy of this city," said the head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, Andriy Sybiga.

He also said that after the start of the full-scale Russian invasion, the Austrian side organized rehabilitation holidays for about 1,480 Ukrainian children.

"Austria plans to accept about 550 more Ukrainian children this year. And this is also life support. There are no other people's children. And Ukrainian children are the European future," Sybga added.

In June, Ukraine and Austria signed a number of bilateral documents. This includes, in particular, a memorandum on cooperation in the field of agriculture, as well as a communiqué on the protection and return of Ukrainian children from Russia.

Also, Austria will allocate millions of euros to Ukraine for the demining of agricultural land.

Azerbaijan

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev signed a decree on the allocation of 2 million US dollars for humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The funds will be used to restore the energy system damaged by the attacks of the Russian Federation.

Azerbaijan will allocate humanitarian aid to Ukraine in the form of electrical equipment, which will be purchased from the state budget. 2 million dollars will be allocated from the reserve fund of President Ilham Aliyev.

Also, as is known, on July 28, Ukraine imported Azerbaijani gas for the first time via the Trans-Balkan route.

Україна повернула з рф та окупації вже майже 1,500 дітей



Україні вдалося повернути додому вже 1458 дітей, які утримувалися на тимчасово окупованих територіях або були незаконно депортовані росією.

Також відомо, що в Україні стартувала загальнонаціональна кампанія зі створення єдиної ДНК-бази родичів зниклих дітей.

Мета такої бази – повернення українських дітей, депортованих чи незаконно вивезених із тимчасово окупованих територій.

«Це важливо, адже навіть коли дитина отримує нові документи та їй змінюють особисті дані, генетична

інформація залишається єдиною незмінною основою для встановлення родинних зв'язків та справжньої ідентичності», – пояснили у відомстві.

У МВС наголосили, що інструмент здатний працювати не лише сьогодні, а й через багато років. Кожна дитина має право повернутися додому та відновити свою ідентичність.

Ukraine returns children from Russian occupation

As part of the Bring Kids Back UA initiative, two teenage girls who had been living under occupation for over three years were returned to the territory controlled by Ukraine.

This was reported by the head of the President's Office, Andriy Yermak.

According to him, during their stay under occupation, the girls were threatened, threatened with searches, and forced to attend Russian schools.

"Despite this, the girls maintained their Ukrainian identity. They studied online in Ukrainian schools, avoided imposed "patriotic" events, and fought every day for the right to be themselves. Now they are safe, close to their families, and receive support and assistance," Yermak's message says.

As reported by Bring Kids Back, the 16-year-old girl lived under occupation with her mother and grandmother. The girl received her education at a Ukrainian school remotely and "almost never left home" so as not to be forced to study in Russian institutions.

Another child who had been living with her father under occupation since 2022 also returned to the territory controlled by Ukraine.

On August 18, Ukraine returned 12 more children from the occupation.

The children experienced serious trials: the occupiers put pressure on their families, conducted house searches, forced them to attend Russian schools and apply for Russian passports. Many were threatened with forced conscription or forced separation from their parents.

"Some of the children witnessed the brutal torture of their relatives or faced humiliation and fear themselves every day. Today, these children are finally safe in free Ukraine," Yermak wrote.

It is known that the children are already undergoing rehabilitation, receiving psychological support, and re-

storing their Ukrainian documents.

According to the Office of the President, Ukraine has managed to return home almost one and a half thousand children who were held in temporarily occupied territories or illegally deported by Russia.

Ukraine held a new prisoner exchange on Independence Day



Ukraine and Russia held another round of prisoner exchanges on Sunday, August 24. Soldiers from the Armed Forces, the National Guard, the State Border Service, and civilians returned home.

This was announced by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"Today, our people are returning home. Soldiers of the Armed Forces, National Guard, State Border Service and civilians. Most of them have been in captivity since 2022," the message says.

According to the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, among the released are military personnel and 8 civilians.

Among the released military personnel are representatives of the airborne assault, airborne, naval forces, as well as soldiers of the Territorial Defense, National Guard and State Border Service. All released defense personnel belong to the ranks of privates and sergeants. They defended the Mariupol, Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Kyiv, Sumy directions, and also guarded the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Journalists Dmytro Khlyuk and Mark Kaliush were returned from captivity. They were detained by the occupiers in 2022 and 2023. Among those released are also medic Serhiy Kovalev from the Hospitaliers battalion and former mayor of Kherson Volodymyr Mykolaenko.

The previous exchange of prisoners took place on August 14. Then Ukrai-

nians who had been held by the Russians since 2014, 2016, and 2017 returned home. Among the released military are the defenders of Mariupol, soldiers of the Naval Forces and the State Border Guard Service. 10 officers were released from captivity.

On August 3, after meeting with the Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Rustem Umerov, Zelenskyy announced an agreement with the Russians to exchange another 1,200 people.

65 citizens returned to Ukraine from the buffer zone on the Russian-Georgian border



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has ensured the return to Ukraine of 65 citizens from the buffer zone on the Russian-Georgian border. Among them are 10 women and 8 people with serious illnesses.

This was reported by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Andriy Sybga.

"On the instructions of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the return to Ukraine of 65 citizens of Ukraine from the buffer zone on the Russian-Georgian border was organized. Among them are 10 women, 8 seriously ill. All of them were at the Georgian checkpoint "Daryali" in conditions of a humanitarian crisis created by Russia's actions," the message says.

During August 21-22, a group of citizens was returned to Ukraine through the territory of Moldova.

The total number of Ukrainians who were successfully repatriated from the checkpoint "Daryali" is 109 people.

Since June, Russia has significantly increased the number of Ukrainian citizens deported, mostly former convicts, to the Georgian border. As a result, dozens of people, many of whom do not have proper documents, have been stuck in the transit zone.

Kyiv is demanding that Moscow stop deporting Ukrainian citizens to Georgia as weapons and instead bring Ukrainians directly to the Ukrainian border.

And on August 9, a group of 96 Ukrainians, who have been staying in the buffer zone at the Daryali checkpoint between Russia and Georgia for more than two months, ended their hunger strike, but issued an ultimatum: if they are not evacuated within two weeks, they may resume their hunger strike.

Ukraine records three-year high in civilian casualties in July

The number of civilians killed and injured in Ukraine in July 2025 reached a three-year high. During the month, at least 286 civilians were killed and 1,388 were injured due to the war.

This was reported by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

According to the mission, 286 civilians were killed and 1,388 were injured in July – these are the highest figures since May 2022 and exceed the statistics of June 2025. The casualties were recorded in 18 of the country's 24 regions.

As noted, almost 40% of the casualties were caused by long-range weapons, including missiles and cluster munitions – 89 killed and 572 injured. The largest number of casualties was recorded during the missile attack on Kyiv on July 31: 31 people died, including five children, and 171 were injured.

The second most influential cause was short-range drones – 24% of the victims, or 64 dead and 337 injured.

Aerial bombs dropped by Russian troops were the main cause of the sharp increase in casualties: 67 dead and 209 injured in July compared to 34 dead and 80 injured in June.

Bodies of thousands more fallen defenders returned to Ukraine

On August 19, within the framework of the Istanbul agreements, the bodies of thousands more fallen Ukrainian defenders were returned to Ukraine. Among those repatriated are five bodies of Ukrainian servicemen who died in captivity.

This was reported by the Coordina-



tion Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

"As a result of repatriation measures, the bodies of 1,000 dead were returned to Ukraine. According to the Russian side, the bodies belong to Ukrainian servicemen," the message says.

As noted, law enforcement investigators, together with expert institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, will conduct all necessary examinations and identify the repatriated bodies.

At the same time, among those repatriated today are five bodies of Ukrainian servicemen who died in captivity. These servicemen were on the lists of "seriously wounded and seriously ill" prisoners for exchange within the framework of the Istanbul agreements during the second round of negotiations.

"Among those returned today, there are also Oborontsy from the Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Luhansk and Kursk directions," the report says.

Agricultural trade turnover between Ukraine and the EU has significantly decreased

In January-June 2025, the agricultural trade turnover between Ukraine and the European Union decreased by \$0.6 billion, or 7%, compared to the same period last year, and amounted to \$7.6 billion.

This was reported by the Deputy Director of the Institute of Agrarian Economics, Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine Mykola Pugachev.

According to him, Ukraine's positive balance in agricultural trade with the EU decreased to \$3.2 billion against the background of a simultaneous drop in exports by \$0.9 billion and an increase in imports by \$0.2 billion.

CELEBRATION OF FLAG DAY AND INDEPENDENCE DAY OF UKRAINE AT SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL



On the eve of Ukraine's Flag Day and Independence Day, the Ukrainian flag was proudly raised at San Francisco City Hall by Mayor Daniel Lurie, alongside Consul General of Ukraine Dmytro Kushneruk, EU diplomats and consuls, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Oleksii Movchan, representatives of the Ukrainian-American community and local Ukrainian non-profit organizations. The ceremony was accompanied by the performance of the Ukrainian national anthem.

Mayor Daniel Lurie shared powerful words:

"Every single person who sees it

waving high at City Hall today, that we stand in solidarity with Ukraine. San Francisco's heart will always be with Ukraine. Thank you very much. Slava Ukraini!"

This ceremony is a tribute to the resilience, dignity, courage, and heroism of the Ukrainian people and their

defenders. The sunflower, now a global symbol of hope and unity in the face of hardship.

Together, we honor Ukraine and reaffirm that San Francisco stands firmly in solidarity with the Ukrainian community.

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Notary Public Dmytro Lyushenko

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Franko & Co | Catering with Ukrainian soul

We're Franko & Co Bakery, opening our first location in Sausalito just in two months! For the past six months, we've been a hit at farmer's markets and festivals with our croissants and mini cheese bites—and we also cater for private parties and tech events. Our menu is available in the photos below, and we're always open to special edition orders. Just text us via email! hello@frankobakery.com

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Ukrainian-American Kindergarten

I invite children aged 1 to 5 years to the newly opened kindergarten. The kindergarten operates from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. In the kindergarten, we learn letters through play, get acquainted with Ukrainian culture, read, learn to count and think logically, develop fine motor skills, play a lot outdoors, and eat homemade organic dishes. We have a lot of fun and interesting activities. Each child is surrounded by attention, love, and care.
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Proven Success: Top producer with excellent client reviews.

Personal Experience: Involved in real estate projects since 2007, from design to high-end sales.

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I bring a unique, compassionate approach to real estate. A proud mother of two—one a UC Berkeley graduate, the other a UCLA student—I understand the importance of creating homes where families thrive. I live with my parents, who moved to the Bay Area from Ukraine due to the war, and we share our home with three rescue cats.

Outside of real estate, I'm passionate about nutrition, maintaining a vegan and gluten-free lifestyle, and exploring water fasting. I've held a Series 7 license and have a keen interest in trading and financial planning. Supporting local businesses and traveling the world bring me joy and inspiration.

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Whether buying, selling, or investing, I'll provide expert guidance with a personal touch. Let's navigate the Bay Area market together!

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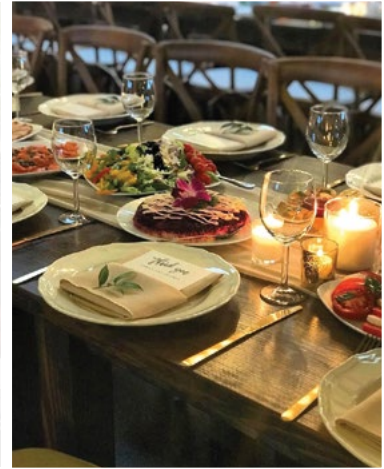
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EVENTS 2025

SEPTEMBER

Дд/Su	Пн/Mo	Вт/Tu	Ср/We	Чт/Th	Пт/Fr	Сб/Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

13 SEP SVYATOSLAV VAKARCHUK SOLO CONCERT | LOS ANGELES

Edrom Productions

Where: Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 W 8th St, Los Angeles, CA 90005

When: Saturday, 8 PM

A concert that feels like a reunion of old friends, where the music speaks all the words your hearts need to hear.

The past few years have transformed us all, and the music has evolved with us.

Slava Vakarchuk's solo performance offers a chance to embrace these changes, to feel them deeply, and to give them a voice.

Join us for an evening where the cherished songs of Okean Elzy and Slava's solo projects resonate with renewed emotion.

Acoustic guitar. Grand piano. An intimate setting where every note touches the soul.

A portion of ticket proceeds will go toward supporting Ukraine's resilience and spirit.

Tickets: **\$100 – \$110**

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/svyatoslav-vakarchuk-solo-concert-in-san-francisco/617>

14 SEP UKRAINIAN FASHION SHOW | LOS ANGELES



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Gregory (Hryhoriy) P. Hallick-Holutiak, a cherished member of our community. Hromada is offering our heartfelt condolences to his wife and family during this time of grief. May you find comfort and strength in the days ahead.

Ukrainian Cultural Center

Where: Ukrainian Cultural Center, 4315 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029

When: Sunday, 1 PM – 5 PM

Join us for an unforgettable cultural experience!

We are honored to welcome special guests from Ukraine:

Bogutska – a famous Ukrainian fashion designer and founder of the Roksolana Bogutska brand, known for her masterful fusion of heritage and contemporary fashion.

Maria Mulyava, a distinguished collector of authentic Ukrainian traditional clothing, whose curated pieces offer a deep connection to Ukraine's cultural roots.

Elegant Ukrainian Fashion Show, a charity fundraiser dedicated to supporting humanitarian aid efforts for the people of Ukraine affected by war. This unique event brings the heart of Ukraine to the United States through fashion, history, art and traditions.

This showcase will present a breathtaking blend of traditional Ukrainian style and modern design, celebrating the beauty and resilience of Ukrainian culture.

Enjoy symbolic patterns, timeless silhouettes, wine, appetizers, and warm conversation in a welcoming cultural atmosphere.

All proceeds go directly towards aid in Ukraine.

Formal attire preferred.

Tickets: From **\$118.04** (Early bird discount)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1669269930386387/>

14 SEP SVYATOSLAV VAKARCHUK SOLO CONCERT

SAN FRANCISCO

Edrom Productions

Where: Palace of Fine Arts, 3601 Lyon St, San Francisco, CA 94123

When: Sunday, 8 PM

A concert that feels like a reunion of old friends, where the music speaks all the words your hearts need to hear.

The past few years have transformed us all, and the music has evolved with us.

Slava Vakarchuk's solo performance offers a chance to embrace these changes, to feel them deeply, and to give them a voice.

Join us for an evening where the cherished songs of Okean Elzy and Slava's solo projects resonate with renewed emotion.

Acoustic guitar. Grand piano. An intimate setting where every note touches the soul.

A portion of ticket proceeds will go toward supporting Ukraine's resilience and spirit.

Tickets: **700 – \$110**

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/svyatoslav-vakarchuk-solo-concert-in-san-francisco/617>

20 SEP UKRAINIAN FASHION SHOW | FREMONT

Ukraine Support Foundation - USF

Where: Fremont Downtown Event Center, 3500 Capitol Ave, Fremont, CA 94538

When: Saturday, 5 PM – 9 PM

Join us for a powerful and elegant Ukrainian Fashion Show, a charity fundraiser dedicated to supporting humanitarian aid efforts for the people

of Ukraine affected by war.

This unique event brings the heart of Ukraine to the USA through fashion history, art, and traditions. The showcase will present a breathtaking blend of traditional Ukrainian style and modern design, celebrating the beauty and resilience of Ukrainian culture.

We are honored to welcome two esteemed guests:

– Roksolana Bogutska, a famous Ukrainian fashion designer and founder of the Roksolana Bogutska clothing brand, known for her masterful fusion of heritage and contemporary fashion

– Mariya Mulyava, a distinguished collector of authentic Ukrainian traditional clothing, whose curated pieces offer a deep connection to Ukraine's cultural roots

Enjoy symbolic patterns, timeless silhouettes, wine, appetizers, and warm conversation in a welcoming cultural atmosphere.

All proceeds go directly toward humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

Stand with Ukraine – celebrate its legacy through compassion, unity and style.

Dress code: Black tie. No admittance in sportswear or flip flops.

Tickets: From **\$118.04 – \$150**
<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/ukrainian-fashion-show-san-fran/1731796384212910/>

20 SEP 20 YEARS OF THE BAND TIC | SAN FRANCISCO

Ukrainian Vechornytsi

Where: 715 Harrison Event Space, 715 Harrison St, San Francisco, CA 94107

When: Saturday, 8 PM

The band that brought joy in minibuses, at weddings, in kitchens and festivals.

The band that has been keeping us all on the same wavelength for 20 years - waves of sincere Ukrainian

music, laughter, drive and love.

"Oleni", "Vchitelka", "Sveta", "Syrozine pyrozhine", "April", "Katsapy", "White Roses", "Vesela pisnya", "White Cloud, Black Cloud" "Alyona", "Alkoholizm" and dozens of other favorite songs - for the first time in the USA in a live performance!

For 20 years, TIK has been carrying a sincere Podolsk drive, gathering thousands of fans, and this tour is special. This is gratitude to each of you for your love, support, memories. This is energy that cannot be contained. This is a concert that you will remember forever.

Tickets: **\$45 – \$65**

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/20-years-of-the-band-tic-san-francisco-september-20/638>

21 SEP 20 YEARS OF THE BAND TIC | SACRAMENTO

Ukrainian Vechornytsi

Where: Opera House Saloon, 411 Lincoln St, Roseville, CA 95678

When: Sunday, 7 PM

The band that brought joy in minibuses, at weddings, in kitchens and festivals.

The band that has been keeping us all on the same wavelength for 20 years - waves of sincere Ukrainian music, laughter, drive and love.

"Oleni", "Vchitelka", "Sveta", "Syrozine pyrozhine", "April", "Katsapy", "White Roses", "Vesela pisnya", "White Cloud, Black Cloud" "Alyona", "Alkoholizm" and dozens of other favorite songs - for the first time in the USA in a live performance!

For 20 years, TIK has been carrying a sincere Podolsk drive, gathering thousands of fans. This tour is a gratitude to each of you for your love, support, memories. This is energy that cannot be contained.

Tickets: **\$70 – \$80**

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/20-years-of-the-band-tic-sacramento-september-21/639>

27 SEP ARTEM PIVOVAROV | BERKELEY

Where: 2036 University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704

When: Saturday, 7 PM

Artem Pivovarov, one of Ukraine's most influential modern artists, is coming to North America with a powerful tour in Fall 2025! Over 500 concerts worldwide

1.2 billion views on YouTube

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Kyiv's Palace of Sports (2024)

Performed the Ukrainian national anthem at the Usyk vs Fury fight in Riyadh.

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Tickets:

EARLY BIRD: **\$89.50**

GENERAL ADMISSION: **\$101.50**

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/artem-pivovarov/607>

5 OCT VALERIIA VOVK: CONCERT IN MEMORY OF VOLODYMYR IVASIUK | SAN FRANCISCO

Mriya Inc.

Where: The Polish Club, 3040 22nd St, San Francisco, CA 94110

When: Sunday, 6 PM – 8 PM

Join us as we celebrate Volodymyr Ivasiuk's extraordinary life and lasting legacy through an evening of music and reflection. Valeriia Vovk, accompanied by guitarist Michele Romeo, will perform 12 acoustic renditions of Ivasiuk's timeless songs.

<https://events.humanitix.com/>

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