

## JOINT VETERANS' COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

### PAST PRESIDENTS

\*\*\*\* *We salute these distinguished veterans for their exemplary service* \*\*\*\*

1957-58	Judge Arthur H. Day	Army & Navy Union
1958-59	William J. Gill	Catholic War Veterans
1959-60	Arthur Pink	Marine Corps League
1960-61	Cecil Whitcomb	Legion of Valor
1961-62	Robert Grogan	United Spanish War Veterans
1962-63	Morris Morgenstern	Jewish War Veterans
1963-64	Dr. E. J. Guzik	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1964-65	John T. Corrigan	Army and Navy Union
1965-66	Judge Norman Fuerst	Catholic War Veterans
1966-67	Frank D. Celebrezze	Marine Corps League
1967-68	David T. Matia	Legion of Valor
1968-69	Leo Chimo	United Spanish War Veterans
1969-70	Harry Jaffe	Jewish War Veterans
1970-71	Theodore Holtz	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1971-72	Bernard J. Stuplinski	Army & Navy Union
1972-73	Judge Robert J. Grogan	Catholic War Veterans
1973-74	Robert C. Keller	Marine Corps League
1974-75	Judge Jame F. Kilcoyne	Legion of Valor
1975-76	John T. Patton	United Spanish War Veterans
1976-77	Harry Marshall	Jewish War Veterans
1977-78	Edward F. Rybka	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1978-79	Anthony J. Celebrezze	Army and Navy Union
1979-80	Ron Seman	Catholic War Veterans
1980	Robert S. Valerian	Army and Navy Union
1980-81	Edward Sheehan	Marine Corps League
1981-82	Edwin M. Robins	Jewish War Veterans
1982-83	Edmund Goodwin	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1983-84	James S. Carnes	Army & Navy Union
1984-85	Joseph V. Klubert	Catholic War Veterans
1985-86	Thomas C. Westropp	Marine Corps League
1986-87	Rich Kruzer	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1987-88	Matthew J. Hatchadorian	Army and Navy Union
1988-89	Robert L. Bloom	Jewish War Veterans
1989-90	Richard G. France	Catholic War Veterans
1990-91	Mathew Lobas	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1991-92	Norman E. Lewis	Military Order of the Purple Heart
1992-93	Edwin M. Robins	Jewish War Veterans
1993-94	Ron Kimmel	Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 15
1994-95	Denny Frangos	Navy Seabee Veterans
1995-96	Ken Milenovic	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1996-97	Frank Anderson	Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter
1997-99	Sean S. Ennis	Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 15
1999-00	Louise E. Koballa	WAVES National, Unit 133
2000-01	Roman Rakowsky	Ukrainian American Veterans
2001-02	James D. Quisenberry	82nd Airborne Division Association John Towle-Cleveland Chapter
2002-03	Edwin M. Robins	Jewish War Veterans
2003-05	Vernon Kramer	Reserve Officers Association

## JOINT VETERANS' COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

JUDGE FELIX T. MATIA / CHESTER J. KOCH  
2005 OUTSTANDING VETERAN OF THE YEAR

### A. Steve Klosowski

Polish Legion of American Veterans

Adolf Steve Klosowski was born on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1944 in a labor camp called 'Bad Abling' in the outskirts of Kolbermoor, Germany. With his parents and older sister, Julia, he came to the United States in 1949. Because of World War II, he chose to use his middle name, Steve. Steve and his father became naturalized citizens in 1956.

Steve attended St. John Cantius High School for 3 years, and graduated from Rhodes High School due to financial hardships after his father passed away in 1958. Living at home with his mother, two sisters, and three brothers and working for Ohio Bell Telephone Co. Steve volunteered for the draft and entered the US Army in March of 1965.

Steve's basic training was at Fort Knox, Kentucky, the AIT training at Fort Ord, California and airborne training (jump school) at Fort Benning, Georgia. Steve was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In January of 1966, after about three telegrams of order changes, he was at Camp Alpha in Saigon, Vietnam. Steve was then transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in An Khe, and immediately shipped to the central highlands, north of Pleiku and was assigned to the Service Battery of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Artillery, supporting the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry. Steve hauled projo's and powder on five ton trucks into areas of anticipated or active firefights. Steve made rank of Sgt E-5 on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1966 and was discharged from the service on January 17<sup>th</sup> 1967, as an early out. He was awarded Parachutist Badge, plus the Good Conduct, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign, and the National Defense Service medals.

Upon urging by Jim Quisenberry, Steve joined the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #15 (VVA15) in 2002 and became an active and untiring member especially supportive of fellow veterans, their families, and veteran related activities and currently serving as Secretary of Minutes. He also became a member of the VFW Post 1974 in Parma, Ohio. Steve is also a member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association-John Towle Cleveland Chapter. Steve joined the Polish Legion of American Veterans Post 30 (PLAV30) in Tremont where he became 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander, and chairing the annual Chili Cook Off.

Steve is a great example of a veteran living a soldier's motto of never abandoning a comrade in arms and remembering that we are comrades for life. With PLAV30 Steve helps out at Wade Park Veterans Hospital, with poppy sales, and as a member of its Honor and Color Guard, he serves at the Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio and activities such as Polish Constitution Day Parade. As a member of the Color Guard for VVA15, Steve has been a dedicated participant in the End of the Vietnam War Ceremonies on April 30<sup>th</sup>, remembered each year by both Vietnam Veterans at Mall "A" and by activities in the Vietnamese Community, he helps place flags at veterans' gravesites at Holy Cross Cemetery, and also marches at the Memorial Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parades in Parma.

Steve chaired a get together of veterans from the Veterans Home in Sandusky, Ohio with the VVA Chapter #15; PLAV Post 30; VFW Post 7572 from Marblehead, Ohio; and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association - John Towle Cleveland Chapter. The theme of this get together was called the 'Veterans Appreciation Island Picnic' at Put-n-Bay and was held on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. Steve has been a Scoutmaster, helps out with the March of Dimes Walk, he is a member of Alhambra (organization helping mentally handicapped children) and 2006 Grand Commander of its Al Jana Caravan #159 Chapter. He is a member of the Holy Name Society at Corpus Christi Church, and each year for the past 20 years, Steve has been going to the right to life march in Washington D.C.

Steve was married on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1969. Steve and former wife Marilyn are the parents of three grown children: Steven Michael, Jennifer Louise, and Melinda Ann. Steve retired from the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company in 1993. He was a 'General Lineman' in steel towers transmission Hi-lines doing 'Hot-Stick' (live power) work on 138,000 and 345,000 volt electric lines. He presently works part time with G & N Cadco as a safety man for cellular telephone tower crews that are working on First Energy hi-line towers, or near energized lines. We wish Steve good health so he can continue his commendable work.

**JOINT VETERANS' COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**  
**JUDGE FELIX T. MATIA / CHESTER J. KOCH**  
**PAST HONOREES - OUTSTANDING VETERAN OF THE YEAR**

1980	Ron Seman	Catholic War Veterans
1981	Stanley Sternik	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1982	Congressman Ron Mottl	Army and Navy Union
1983	Edwin M. Robins	Jewish War Veterans
1984	George M. Stricker	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1985	Robert Chaloupka	Catholic War Veterans
1986	Sam W. Berkowitz	Jewish War Veterans
1987	Richard G. France	Catholic War Veterans
1988	Casey Jaworski	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1989	Sam Rubin	Jewish War Veterans
1990	Robert G. Yuhas	Military Order of the Purple Heart
1991	Edward Sheehan	Marine Corps League
1992	Mathew Lobas	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1993	Donald R. Briggs	Vietnam Veterans of America
1994	Martha A. Kolley	United Spanish War Veterans
1995	Rich Kruser	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1996	Robert W. Mills, Sr.	Catholic War Veterans
1997	Timothy T. (TJ) Stem	Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 15
1998	Joseph Chervin	Jewish War Veterans
1999	Holly Koester	Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter
2000	Kenneth P. Milenovic	Polish Legion of American Veterans
2001	Terrance Tyna	Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter
2002	Chuck Ianni	82nd Airborne Division Association, John Towle - Cleveland Chapter
2003	Leonard Weinstein	Jewish War Veterans
2004	Robert Camburn	Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 249

**JOINT VETERANS' COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**  
**2006 INCOMING PRESIDENT**

**Bohdan Samokyszyn**  
 Ukrainian American Veterans

Bohdan was born on the 6th of March 1948 to Wasyl and Stefania Samokyszyn at the displaced person camp in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. In 1949 the Samokyszyn family immigrated to the United States and settled on a farm in Maryland. In 1953 the family moved again and settled in Cleveland's Tremont area.

He attended Our Lady of Mercy School in Tremont, then St. Josaphat School in Parma and graduated from Parma Senior High in 1966. He earned a degree in Business Management from Tri-C College and became a naturalized citizen in 1967.

Bohdan enlisted in the Marine Reserve Program in 1969 and completed boot camp at Parris Island in 1970. Served as Military Police and Completed machine gun training. Bohdan was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines in Cleveland and stayed in the Marine Reserve until 1975. He attended infantry training at Camp Lejuene, desert training at Mojave Desert, beach assault training Norfolk, VA and NATO training in Germany and Denmark. He signed up for another tour 1982-84 and retired as a sergeant.

Bohdan married his wife Joyce in 1977 and they are the parents of sons Ted and Michael and daughter Stephanie.

While working the midnight shift at PPG Industries, Bohdan joined various veteran organizations. He spent 10 years on the National Executive Board of the Ukrainian American Veterans as Historian, Welfare Officer and Vice-Commander. Later he joined American Legion Post 572, and PLAV Roosevelt Post 58 and the Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County, where is just completing serving as 2nd Vice-President. He has been a delegate to 14 national conventions from UAV Post 24 and PLAV Post 58. Bohdan is serving his 8th term as Commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans Post 24.

Volunteer activities include serving at the Brecksville Medical Center, member of color guard at funerals and parades, helping with fundraisers and volunteers in the placing of flags at cemeteries on Memorial Day.

He is a dedicated veteran and always makes time to help veterans and their causes.

We wish Bohdan success in leading the JVCOCC in continued service to veterans, veterans' families, our men and women in uniform, and our country and community.

## Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

### Calendar of Events 2006

We encourage all veterans, families and fellow citizens to join in honoring our veterans and their service on the following dates, please watch for further information

April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	End of Vietnam War Ceremony	Vietnam Veterans of America
May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	VE Day	
May 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	138 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Day Commemoration	Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland
June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Flag Day	JVCOCC
July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	End of the Korean War Ceremony	Korean War Veterans
August 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2006	VJ Day	
November 11, 2006	Veterans' Day	JVCOCC
December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Pearl Harbor Ceremony	Pearl Harbor Survivors

### Significant Issues Needing Support

**Negative Affect on WWI Memorials (Liberty Row)** at Rockefeller Park and Martin Luther King Drive by the Doan Brook Restoration Project [veterans were completely left out of the process] - this issue stems from the transferring of a wetlands project due to the airport expansion to the Liberty Row area. The introduction of wild and unmanaged growth will make the area look abandoned and create a safety issue for visitors, neighbors and volunteers because it will become a haven for wild animals (rabies) and the criminal element. The taking of so much cared for land will remove the opportunity for replanting missing trees that had honored our veterans from throughout Cuyahoga County "Who gave their all" in WWI. There were over 800 plus trees planted with medallions dedicated.

**Action Plan A** - Circulate existing Petitions for signatures (do not have to live in the city to sign or circulate, this is a county wide issue); call and write letters with petition wording to: Mayor Frank Jackson and Council Members, City of Cleveland, 601 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114. Send a copy to JVCOCC P.O. Box 32700 Cleveland, OH 44132

**Action Plan B** -For those living outside Cleveland but in Cuyahoga County ask your Mayor & Council for resolutions to stop the Doan Brook Project. Sample city resolutions available by writing to JVCOCC w/self addressed stamped envelope.

**Action Plan C** - JVCOCC has taken on the responsibility to represent the interests of the WWI Memorials at Rockefeller Park and has organized "Veterans Liberty Row Memorials" (VLRM) and petitioned the Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation (CCGF) to add it as a Cultural Garden member. In conjunction with this action it was requested that the CCGF make changes to its constitution and by-laws to add veterans representing the VLRM and JVCOCC to its executive board so that any activity considered in Rockefeller Park and the Cultural Gardens that can affect the "Veterans Liberty Row Memorials" will be readily known and disseminated throughout the Cuyahoga County Veterans community for review and input. Write letters in support of this action to The Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation, Rockefeller Park Greenhouse, 750 East 88<sup>th</sup> St. Cleveland, Ohio 44108 and please send a copy to JVCOCC P.O. Box 32700 Cleveland, OH 44132

**Memorial Day 2006** - The Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland needs donations and volunteers to help with decorating the gravesites and with the Ceremony. Please contact at MDAOGC P.O. Box 32700 Cleveland, OH 44132 Tel. (216) 378-0535

## Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

Army and Navy Union  
Catholic War Veterans  
Jewish War Veterans  
Korean War Veterans Association  
Marine Corps League  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Navy Seabee Veterans of America  
Paralyzed Veterans of America,  
Buckeye Chapter



Polish Legion of American Veterans  
Reserve Officers Association  
Ukrainian American Veterans  
United Spanish War Veterans  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 15  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 249  
Waves National, Unit 133  
82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association,  
John Towle Cleveland Chapter

## **81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Installation and Awards Dinner**

**Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 7:00 p.m.**

**Holiday Inn Select**

***HONORING ....***

**A. Steve Klosowski**

**Judge Felix T. Matia/Chester J. Koch**  
**2005 Outstanding Veteran of the Year Award Recipient**

**Bohdan Samokyszyn**

**Joint Veterans' Commission**  
**Incoming 2006 President**

## Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

### OUTGOING OFFICERS - 2005

**Vernon E. Kramer,** *President*  
Reserve Officers Association

**Frank Anderson,** *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*  
Paralyzed Veterans of America - Buckeye Chapter

**Bohdan Samokyszyn,** *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
Ukrainian American Veterans

**Ron Seman,** *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Catholic War Veterans

**Ron Kimmel,** *Chaplain*  
Vietnam Veterans of America -Chapter 15

**Jim Quisenberry,** *Chaplain*  
82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association - John Towle Cleveland Chapter

### INCOMING OFFICERS - 2006

*President* **Bohdan Samokyszyn**  
Ukrainian American Veterans

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President* **Robert Szerdy**  
Polish Legion of American Veterans

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President* **Frank Anderson**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Buckeye Chapter

*Secretary-Treasurer* **Rimantas Ray Saikus**  
82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association  
John Towle Cleveland Chapter

*Chaplain* **Ron Kimmel**  
Vietnam Veterans of America -Chapter 15

*Chaplain* **Jim Quisenberry**  
82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association  
John Towle Cleveland Chapter

*Recording Secretary* **Ken Milenovic**  
Polish Legion of American Veterans

### Contact, Volunteer, and Donation Information

JVCOCC P.O. Box 32700 Cleveland, Ohio 44132-0700  
Tel. (216) 378-0535 E-mail: jvcocc@sbcglobal.net

## Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

### PROGRAM

\*\*\* Assembly & Salute Colors \*\*\*

National Anthem: **Rocco Scotti**

Invocation: **Fr. John Bolan,**  
**Cleveland VA Medical Center**

Dinner Music: **Bill Sneller**

Greetings: **Vernon Kramer, President**  
**JVCOCC**

Master of Ceremonies: **Frank Anderson**

Presentation: **Head Tables**

Introduction: **Veteran's Organization Leaders &**  
**Auxiliaries**

Recognition: **JVCOCC Past Presidents and Judge**  
**Felix T. Matia/Chester J. Koch**  
**Award Past Recipients**

Installation of New Officers: **Ken Milenovic, National Commander**  
**Polish Legion of American Veterans**

Acceptance Remarks: **Bohdan Samokyszyn, President**

Introduction: **Family and friends of**  
**Bohdan Samokyszyn, President**

Presentation: **Judge Felix T. Matia/Chester J. Koch**  
**Award to A. Steve Klosowski**

Acceptance: **A. Steve Klosowski**

Introduction: **Family and friends of**  
**Honoree A. Steve Klosowski**

Announcements: **Frank Anderson**

Benediction: **Fr. John Bolan**

\*\*\* Salute Colors / Dismissed \*\*\*