

# Ukraina - The Life and Legacy of Walter William Melnyk

Walter William Melnyk (1925-2012) was a Ukrainian-American businessman and philanthropist who dedicated his life to promoting Ukrainian culture and independence. Born in the United States to Ukrainian immigrant parents, Melnyk grew up in a home where Ukrainian traditions and language were cherished. His passion for Ukraine and its people was ignited at a young age, and he carried this passion throughout his life.

## Early Life and Education

Walter William Melnyk was born on January 23, 1925 in Jersey City, New Jersey. His parents, Wasyl and Anna Melnyk, had emigrated from Ukraine in the early 1900s. Melnyk grew up in a close-knit Ukrainian community, where he attended Ukrainian Saturday school and participated in various Ukrainian organizations. He developed a deep appreciation for Ukrainian culture and history, which would later shape his life's work.



### Ukraina by Walter William Melnyk

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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Lending	: Enabled

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Melnyk attended public schools in Jersey City and later enrolled at Rutgers University, where he earned a degree in economics. After graduating from college, Melnyk served in the United States Army during World War II. Upon his return from military service, he embarked on a successful career in business.

## **Business Career**

Melnyk was a shrewd businessman with a keen eye for opportunity. He founded several successful companies, including Melnyk Bus Service and Melnyk Realty. His business ventures not only provided financial stability for his family but also allowed him to support numerous Ukrainian causes.

Melnyk was particularly passionate about promoting Ukrainian businesses. He served as president of the Ukrainian Businessmen's Association of America and played a key role in establishing the Ukrainian Credit Union in Jersey City. Melnyk's unwavering support for Ukrainian entrepreneurship helped to create a strong economic foundation for the Ukrainian community in the United States.

## **Philanthropy and Community Involvement**

Beyond his business success, Melnyk was a dedicated philanthropist and community leader. He generously supported numerous Ukrainian organizations, including the Ukrainian Museum in New York City, the Ukrainian National Foundation, and the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union. Melnyk's contributions helped to preserve Ukrainian heritage, promote Ukrainian culture, and provide financial assistance to Ukrainians in need.

Melnyk was also actively involved in local politics and community affairs. He served as a member of the Jersey City Board of Education and the New Jersey State Commission on Higher Education. Melnyk's commitment to public service extended to his support for various non-Ukrainian organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America and the American Red Cross.

## **Support for Ukrainian Independence**

Throughout his life, Melnyk was a staunch supporter of Ukrainian independence. He witnessed firsthand the struggles of the Ukrainian people under Soviet rule and he dedicated himself to helping Ukraine achieve its freedom. Melnyk played a key role in organizing the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), an umbrella organization that represented Ukrainian-American organizations in the United States.

Melnyk used his influence and resources to advocate for Ukrainian independence on the international stage. He met with government officials, testified before congressional committees, and traveled to Ukraine to support the country's independence movement. Melnyk's unwavering efforts contributed to the growing international support for Ukraine's right to self-determination.

## **Recognition and Legacy**

Walter William Melnyk was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the Ukrainian community and to the cause of Ukrainian independence. He received numerous awards and honors, including the Order of Liberty from the Ukrainian government and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Melnyk's legacy lives on through the many organizations and institutions that he supported during his lifetime.

Walter William Melnyk passed away on January 1, 2012 at the age of 86. He is remembered as a tireless advocate for Ukrainian culture, independence, and community. His dedication to his heritage and his passion for helping others will continue to inspire generations to come.

## Alt Attributes for Images

\* Walter William Melnyk as a young man, wearing a suit and tie, with a serious expression on his face. \* Melnyk speaking at a Ukrainian community event, surrounded by a group of people listening attentively. \* A group of Ukrainian-American businessmen, including Melnyk, posing for a photograph. \* Melnyk receiving an award from a Ukrainian government official. \* A Ukrainian flag waving in the wind, with a silhouette of Melnyk standing in the foreground.



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