



BIOGRAPHIES OF PANEL SPEAKERS AND MENTORS

December 6, 2025

1. Panel Speaker for Ukraine/USSR: Tamara Parubchenko
2. U.S. Mentor for Ukraine/Soviet Union: Tamara Fitzgerald
3. U.S. Mentor for China (PRC): Jim Pesnichak
4. Panel Speaker for Cuba: Edward Martinez
5. U.S. Mentor for Cuba: Donna Fournier
6. Featured Speaker for Venezuela: Jorge Galicia
7. U.S. Mentor for Nicaragua: Jack May

BIOGRAPHIC STATEMENT

NAME: TAMARA (TAMMY) PARUBCHENKO

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: UKRAINE

YEAR OF BIRTH: 1942

YEAR YOU LEFT YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY: 1943

CARRIED OUT BY PARENTS

EDUCATION: GRADE SCHOOL – AUSTRALIA

HIGH SCHOOL - CANADA

COLLEGE - USA

PROFESSION: RESEARCH CHEMIST AND PATENT SPECIALIST

BACKGROUND NARRATIVE:

*Do not remember escape by parents = by foot, train, car, then ended in German

*Displaced Person (DP) camps = British Zone (Slavic speaking = Town Haidinouw).

*USA Red Cross sent food packages to DP camps

*Father chose an English-speaking country. Australia was first country to accept families

*Shipped to DP camp near Naples, Italy to await USA cargo ship

*Australia DP camps near Sydney Bonagilla. Father sent to Melbourne, 8 months

*Family finally reunited in Melbourne

*Applied to move to USA, born in CCCP (USSR), therefore, quota was 8 years

*FINALLY in USA, worked and attended college

*Continued being active in Ukrainian communities both locally and with International Ukrainian groups to fight Communism and scuttle activities by the Communists/Socialists promoting Anti-Capitalism within the USA. Presently displaying Pre-Communist Ukrainian Culture and Art.

BIOGRAPHIC STATEMENT

NAME: Tamara K. Fitzgerald

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: USA

YEAR OF BIRTH: 1962

YEAR YOU LEFT YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY: (N/A)

EDUCATION: BA: Central & East European Affairs; Russian Language Studies

University of Colorado, Boulder, 1988

MS: National Security Strategy, National War College

National Defense University, Washington, D.C., 2007

PROFESSION: Foreign Service Officer (Diplomat), Department of State

Washington, D.C. and abroad, 28 ½ years (1990 – 2018)

Sergeant, U.S. Army, West Berlin, Germany, 5 ½ years

BACKGROUND NARRATIVE:

Tamara (Tammy) Fitzgerald retired from the Department of State in September 2018 as a career member of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service. Starting in 1990, Ms. Fitzgerald served at the U.S. Embassies in Port of Spain, Moscow, Minsk, Berlin, Canberra, and Baghdad. Her final rank was the diplomatic equivalent of a one-star general. In her last assignment, Ms. Fitzgerald was on the faculty of the U.S. Army War College, serving as the State Department Advisor at one of its institutes, where alongside teaching duties, Professor Fitzgerald also wrote diplomatic case studies, and participated in international civil-military exercises as a trainer. Ms. Fitzgerald previously served as the U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, and then as Arms Control Counselor in the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna. In these roles she negotiated with diplomats from over 160 countries on WMD and conventional arms control treaties.

Prior to those two assignments Ms. Fitzgerald served as the Foreign Policy Advisor (POLAD) in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) HQ in Kabul, Afghanistan, advising on governance issues in Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) across the country, and then as the POLAD to U.S. Air Forces Central Command (USAFCENT) in Qatar where she provided diplomatic, political, and economic guidance to the three-star Command. Ms. Fitzgerald also worked at the Department of State in the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center, dealing with strategic arms control treaty policies and operations. Thus, she focused on national security policy throughout her diplomatic career, mainly in multilateral arms control and non-proliferation, or on alliance building with NATO and Persian Gulf countries and with Australia.

Name: James (Jim) Pesnichak

Country of Birth: USA

Years I left my native country: 1996 - 2000

Education: Bachelor's Degree - Electrical Engineering

Profession: Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Manufacturing

LKB Instruments Washington DC. clinical and laboratory scientific instrumentation field in Washington, DC. & **Finnegan Corp.** Mid-Atlantic service manager Gas Chromatograph / Mass Spectrometers.

EDS / GM **Information Systems Analyst** at the GM Technical Center, Detroit Michigan

EDS / GM Account Manager, Willow Run and Buick City assembly center in Willow Run and Flint Michigan.

EDS Regional Manager Bethlehem **Steel**, Burns Harbor Indiana, Information systems, IT planning, integration, Business Process Reengineering and the management of the commercial and the plant floor systems.

EDS / GM China Country Director (1996-2000) in support of EDS/General Motors in Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Responsibilities: Sales and Operations. He lived in Northwest Beijing with his family; his sons went to the International School of Beijing. Pesnichak was responsible for the implementation of all the IT systems for the first GM assembly / stamping plant in Shanghai (Pudung) China. His job required 24/7 living in Beijing, working at the GM China HQ facilities. He had a staff of 45 Chinese nationals and other foreign Expats. He was responsible for maintaining and growing the EDS IT business and service delivery duties for GM and Delphi in mainland Peoples Republic of China. He was also responsible for EDS / GM Sales and marketing in Hong Kong and Taiwan. These responsibilities required extensive travel across mainland China and the Asia Pacific. In 1996, Jim also assumed the head of the EDS American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing. In this role he participated in addressing EDS / China business issues in the PRC, and he addressed Congress on the 1997 Washington "Door Knock." In this 2-week activity he interviewed US Senators and Congressmen in Washington, DC on behalf of the China business community.

EDS / GM North America - **Client Executive** - Upon repatriation, Pesnichak was responsible for management of all Information System operations at 24 GM Car, Truck and Saturn assembly operations in Canada, Mexico and the US.

HP County Director - HP Nokia Cell phone manufacturing for North and South America.

Board of Directors for the United Way (Indiana) and volunteered on numerous charity activities including **Habitat for Humanity**, **Our Next Mission** (refurbishing trailers for veterans) and Christmas in April projects, Indiana.

BIOGRAPHIC STATEMENT

NAME: Edward (Ed) Martinez

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: **Cuba**

YEAR OF BIRTH: 1957

YEAR YOU LEFT YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY: 1962

EDUCATION: Hoboken HS

Lincoln Tech Auto Technology, NJ

PROFESSION: Field Supervisor, Jefferson County, Colorado

Married 2 adult children 2 grandchildren; moved to Florida two years ago

Coached baseball for many years

BIOGRAPHIC STATEMENT

NAME: Commander Donna J. Fournier, USN Retired

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: USA

YEAR OF BIRTH: 1948

YEAR YOU LEFT YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY: (N/A)

EDUCATION: BA - American History; Northeastern Illinois University, 1970

MA - American Studies; Northeastern Illinois University, 1972

NWC: Naval War College, Command & Staff, 2002

PROFESSION: Professor Fournier taught fourteen years as an adjunct history professor for Columbia College, Missouri. She recently retired from the faculty of Adler University, Chicago, where she taught in their on-line master's degree program in Military Psychology. She is a 47-year veteran educator who has taught on all grade levels for various Chicago educational systems.

During Commander Fournier's 26 years of service in the U.S. Naval Reserve Intelligence Program (1978-2003), she was assigned to Naval Intelligence units at NAS Glenview and Great Lakes, Illinois.

BACKGROUND NARRATIVE:

On active duty, Donna served as a physical security specialist on the staff of the Commander of the Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. During the Cold War Donna worked in counterintelligence and as a naval criminal investigator with NCIS. During the early War on Terrorism, she became a counterterrorism and a geopolitical analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency. As a Commander, she was assigned as an Action Officer for the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Plans and Policy N3/N5, in the Pentagon.

In civilian life from 1989-1991, she also worked in the Pentagon as a Special Consultant to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Military Equal Opportunity. There she researched and wrote about the history of women in the military.

Her intelligence career culminated in being the senior military officer in charge of a department providing terrorism and force protection reports for the U.S. European Command, Joint Analysis Center, Molesworth Airbase, UK.

As an educator she has taught all areas of European and American history, but her real passion is foreign policy and military history. Among many other volunteer roles, Donna is currently the President of the Women Veterans of the Gulf Coast, and she was the 2024-5 Manatee County Veteran of the Year.

BIOGRAPHIC STATEMENT

NAME: Jorge Galicia

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: Venezuela

YEAR OF BIRTH: 1995

YEAR YOU LEFT YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY: 2017

EDUCATION: Law Degree, University in Venezuela

PROFESSION: TPUSA Field Representative

BACKGROUND NARRATIVE:

I'm a TPUSA Field Representative and a law graduate from Caracas, Venezuela. After facing political persecution, I came to the United States, where I'm now an asylum seeker. I'm also a Catholic and a speaker with the Dissident Project, sharing my story to warn others about the dangers of socialism.

BIOGRAPHIC STATEMENT

NAME: Jack D. May, Jr.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: USA

YEAR OF BIRTH: 1953

EDUCATION: Polk Jr. College, Liberty University, United States Army Field Artillery Schools

PROFESSION: Field Artilleryman, Business Owner

BACKGROUND NARRATIVE:

After beginning my college studies in 1972, I was drafted and entered the US Army. My first seven years of service were as an enlisted soldier, serving as a field artillery crewman, attaining the rank of E-6, Staff Sergeant. Entering Officer Candidate School, I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1978. Upon entering the officer corps, I graduated from the United States Army Officers' Field Artillery School and then graduated from intermediate and secondary schools for staff assignments and leadership, preparing me for my assignments as a company grade officer.

My many roles include Forward Observation Team Leader, Fire Direction Officer, Firing Battery Executive officer, Battalion Staff Intelligence Officer (S-2), Firing Battery Commander, Battalion Logistics Officer (S-4), and Headquarters / Service Battery Commander.

During my years of service (1972 – 1992) I had the pleasure of assignments to Southern Command, then located in the Panama Canal Zone, and assumed duties with the 53rd Infantry Brigade (Separate) / 2nd Battalion – 116th Field Artillery. The most notable being:

1. Working to coordinate and maintain the safety and operation of the Panama Canal and providing support to Operation Just Cause (December 1989 – January 1990)
2. Training US and Honduran Field Artillery forces in our quest to quell the communist threats to Central America from Cuba and **Nicaragua**. (Nicaraguan Revolution (1981-1990))
3. Worked with the State Department to install indirect firing points along the border of Honduras and Nicaragua, as a deterrent to any offensive military threats to Honduras.
4. Gathered mission intelligence on the presence and impact of the **Cuban military** in Nicaragua.
5. Writing doctrine concerning Artillery Operations in a Low Intensity Conflict (LIC) within the Southern Command's area of responsibility (Central and South America).

After retiring from my military duties with the Florida National Guard, I turned all of my attention to business ownership and roles of leadership and teaching in my local church.

I encourage both public and private service within the community. We all have an important role in preserving and maintaining a vibrant republic, protecting our freedoms and rights from oppressors both foreign and domestic.