



In the south of Donetsk oblast, on one of the highest points of the Azov Upland called the Honcharykha (Woman Potter) Hill sits a city. Founded in the early 1880s during the construction of the Mariupol section of the Kateryna Railway as a station village, it was named Volnovakha after the Mokra Volnovakha River.

In 1977, the Volnovakha National Studies Museum was opened in the very heart of the city. The museum, which had an area of over 400 square meters, featured over 6,000 exhibits representing the spiritual and material world of the peoples who at various times inhabited the Volnovakha district. These included archeological monuments, natural, written and ethnographic objects, numismatic products, photographs and memorial materials.

On the outskirts of the city lies Velyko Anadol Forest – a Ukrainian natural reserve of national importance, and one of the largest man-made forests in the world.

A branch of Ukraine's Plast National Scout Organization was active in the city. The goal of this organization, which was established more than 100 years ago, is to promote an

Volnovakha – City of Heroes



all-encompassing and patriotic education of Ukrainian young people as thoughtful, responsible and fully fledged citizens of a successful Ukraine.

In 2016, during the celebration of the city's 135th anniversary, almost 4,000 residents created a human chain of unity called "Donbas is Ukraine." The chain was 4,507 meters long and was made up of people linked by over 2,000 Ukrainian embroidered towels. The towels for this Ukrainian ethno-patriotic feat came from different regions of the country.

Volnovakha is a railway hub for the Mariupol–Donetsk and Mariupol–Zaporizhzhia lines. For this reason, in February–March 2022 the city became the epicenter of fighting. Two weeks of shelling almost completely destroyed the city, forcing its residents to evacuate.

The city is currently under occupation, but every temporarily occupied populated area will definitely be liberated. The indomitable spirit of Ukrainians will always thwart invaders' intentions to commit acts of aggression. Ukrainian cities will be rebuilt, and Ukrainians flags will fly all across the country.

Designer – Maryna Kuts.

Engraver – Volodymyr Demianenko.

Computer-aided design by Yurii Lukianov.

VOLNOVAKHA – CITY OF HEROES

NATIONAL BANK OF UKRAINE



Issue date

28 February 2023

Metal

nickel silver

Diameter

35.0 mm

Quality

special uncirculated

Edge

smooth

Issue numbers

up to 100,000

COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL • 2023