Archangel Michael is the patron of soldiers who fight for just causes. Today, when Ukraine is fiercely resisting russian aggression on all fronts, the issuing of a commemorative coin that celebrates Ukraine's heavenly defender is very symbolic.

Archangel Michael is the patron of paratroopers not only in Ukraine, but also in Europe. The attributes of Ukrainian paratroopers, in particular their beret insignia, contain the Archangel's wing, his fiery sword – with which he burns evil, and a paratrooper's parachute.

St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral built in 1108 by Kyiv Prince Sviatopolk (whose Christian name was Mykhailo) is named after this saint.

Archangel Michael was also revered by Cossacks, who often placed his image on their flags. In the 17th century, a military flag bearing Archangel Michael's face was regarded as the highest symbol across the whole of Ukraine.

His image featured on princely seals, coats of arms, church and military flags, and in family heraldic emblems. Archangel Michael's image



can also be found on the coats of arms of many cities, such as Kyiv, Vasylkiv, Hadiach, Kaniv, Cherkasy and Chyhyryn.

It is very symbolic that the coin bears the image of the saint as depicted on a copper gilded high-relief sculpture made in the 18th century, when St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral underwent radical reconstruction.

This high-relief sculpture is considered to be the greatest artistic work of Ukrainian metalwork of the 17th–18th centuries, which has miraculously survived destruction.

Ukrainians sincerely believe in their defenders who are fighting for Ukraine's independence and integrity and know that ...THE SOULS OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE POWER OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL ARE WITH US!

Designers – Volodymyr Taran, Oleksandr Kharuk, Serhii Kharuk. Engraver – Sviatoslav Ivanenko. Computer-aided design by Vitalii Andriianov and Yurii Lukianov.



## **ARCHANGEL MICHAEL**

