

[View this email in your browser](#)



Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки
UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA



Raising Funds for Ukraine



Nassau Annuity Triathlon Team

On 23 September, 11 employees of [Nassau Financial Group](#) competed in the [IRONMAN 70.3 at Jones Beach, NY](#), a qualifying event for the 2024 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship. In the course of training for, and competing in, a single-day endurance event against world-class athletes, the Nassau Annuity Triathlon Team also raised money towards funding a new kitchen at the [Unbroken National Rehabilitation Center](#) in Lviv, Ukraine. The following is an interview with Phil Gass, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Nassau Financial Group, and an IRONMAN triathlete himself.

Can you tell us a little bit about Nassau Financial Group?

Nassau is a financial services company covering insurance, reinsurance, and asset management that was founded in 2015 and has seen steady growth over the past eight years. We offer insurance and annuity products that help our customers meet their retirement goals, such as protecting savings, delivering guaranteed income, or paying for health care costs. Based in Hartford, CT, we manage over \$23 billion in assets and have more than 500 employees across the U.S., Cayman Islands, and U.K.



Phil Gass



Hayley Maldonado

Several Nassau employees recently participated in the IRONMAN 70.3 at Jones Beach, NY. Is this something you and your employees do on a regular basis or is it something new?

Nassau firmly believes in the power of wellness, exercise, and fitness goals to strengthen teamwork and improve the overall health of our employees. We offer a range of programs and events – something for everyone – and in 2022, we began assembling a group of employees interested in training together for triathlons. That group, the Nassau Annuity Triathlon Team, has grown to about two dozen employees, with 11 athletes that competed in the IRONMAN 70.3 at Jones Beach in September.

What made you run as a team? What made you run for a charitable cause?

The Nassau Annuity Triathlon Team has participated in four triathlons together, and the IRONMAN 70.3 at Jones Beach was definitely our toughest. We wanted to enhance our participation by adding a fundraising component, and we got a great response from our employees, business partners, and personal networks in support of our team and UCCA.



Lining up for the swim



Eugene Wong

Where are the donations going and to support what in Ukraine?

In partnership with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Nassau Annuity Triathlon Team raised funds to build a new kitchen at the UNBROKEN National Rehabilitation Center in Lviv. We were struck by the uniqueness of the place, where both adults and children affected by the war can receive comprehensive medical care. And, we were impressed with the kitchen project Rachael Ray is championing, which will make it even better at serving the civilians and military who go there for help.



AMBASSADORS



ANDRIY FUTEY
President of Ukrainian Congress
Committee of America



RACHAEL RAY
TV Personality and cook



Russia's brutal war against Ukraine has ruined lives of many people. It is destroying towns and villages, turning into post-apocalyptic debris once peaceful areas where people lived, loved, raised their children, and planned their future.

Do you have a special connection with Ukraine? What inspired you to race for this cause?

UNBROKEN Ambassador Rachael Ray invited Nassau to join her in raising funds for the kitchen construction project at the UNBROKEN National Rehabilitation Center in Lviv. It's not uncommon for triathletes to raise awareness and resources while competing, especially in long-distance races, so it was an easy decision to partner with Rachael on this initiative. The Nassau Annuity Triathlon Team adopted the theme, "Going the Distance," which is something we also do everyday for our customers and community partners. It was a pleasure to work with Rachael and UCCA to help raise the funds necessary to complete the new kitchen and expand their outreach to the Ukrainian community.

UCCA would like to sincerely thank the Nassau Annuity Triathlon Team and its captain, Phil Cass, as well as the those behind the scenes at Nassau Financial Group who enabled this fundraiser for the benefit of Ukraine's heroes. It is because of the commitment of such companies as NFG that we all can make a difference in Ukraine's fight for democracy against tyranny. If you would like to donate directly to the Rachael Ray / UCCA fund to aid in the treatment of the war-affected Ukrainians, please click on the link below:

Donate to Rachael's UNBROKEN Fund

UCCA has [partnered with Rachael Ray](#) to raise funds for the [UNBROKEN National Rehabilitation Center](#) in Lviv. Through the purchase of custom necklaces by [DelBrenna Jewelry](#), you can support this unique facility where adults and children affected by the war can receive comprehensive qualified medical care. Shop for your necklace at www.rachaelray-delbrenna.com



Зимові дати



Цього року Україна повністю перейшла на “новий” календар, відповідно з яким, тепер зимові свята відзначатимуть у такі дні:

Святвечір святкуватимуть 24 грудня, **Різдво Христове** – 25 грудня, **Маланки/Новий рік** – 31 грудня, **Василія Великого** – 1 січня, **Другий святвечір/Щедрий вечір** – 5 січня, а **Богоявлення/Водохреща** – 6 січня.

Цього тижня, **зимове сонцестояння** – найкоротший день й найдовша ніч у році – відбудеться 22 грудня о 05:27 за київським часом, 21 грудня о 22:27 за нью-йоркським часом. Щоб перемогти темряву, наші українські предки розкладали і запалювали багаття, катали по селу колеса, які палали, прикрашали будинки ялинковими гілочками та випікали обрядовий коровай у формі небесного світила. Також існувало вірування, що після зимового сонцестояння духи покійних пращурів приходять на Землю. Тому цього дня співали обрядові пісні, веселилися, розважалися, щоб привернути до родини багатство і добро. А дівчата в цей день збиралися разом та ворожили на кохання.

Український народний прогностик:

- Якщо у день зимового сонцестояння крапає дощ — до дощової весни;
- Мороз в цей день — до теплої, але сніжної зими;
- Якщо безвітряний і тихий день — до гарного врожаю плодових дерев;
- Сильний снігопад – до тривалої і сніжної зими!

UCCA Local Branches in the News



Academy of Our Lady Brings Holiday Cheer to Ukrainian Children

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), New York branch, under the direction of President Ivanka Zajac, assisted in handling toys being sent to Ukraine from the Academy of Our Lady in Glen Rock, NJ. At least 200 children in war-torn Ukraine received four extra-large boxes packed with dolls, games, art supplies, puzzles, model cars, and more. The toy drive was held at the request of retired second-grade teacher Kathy Kucyna, who reached out to Principal Katharine Clemente.

[Read more](#)



Chicago buildings in Ukrainian Village vandalized with 'symbol of death'

Seven locations in Chicago's Ukrainian Village were tagged on 11 December with the letter "Z," which has been used as a symbol for support of ruSSia's attack on Ukraine. "This is definitely a hate crime, aimed at an ethnic group, at Ukrainians," said Marta Farion, Vice President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Illinois Division. "We will not be intimidated."

[Read more](#)



Yonkers residents continue efforts to assist soldiers, civilians in Ukraine

News 12's Nadia Galindo spoke with members of the Westchester chapter of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, who have been raising funds to send overseas ever since the war broke out. Ukrainian Americans are urging U.S. lawmakers to approve a package that would send \$61 billion in aid to Ukraine as the war Russia nears its two-year anniversary.

[Read more](#)



Local Ukrainians thinking of home during the holidays amid ongoing war

On 11 December, over 1000 people attended the inaugural Ukrainian Christmas Market for New England at the Lexington Historical Society. The event's objective was to share the Christmas spirit and acquaint attendees with an important tradition in Ukrainian culture with a unique performance of the Christmas Vertep. Organized by the Ukrainian Cultural Center of New England (UCCN) and supported by local Ukrainian organizations including UCCA's Boston Branch, the gathering featured 20 local vendors and charity foundations showcasing wares that represented Ukrainian traditional symbols of Christmas.

[Read more](#)



The latest congressional impasse is still preventing the approval of \$61 billion in additional aid for Ukraine even after President Zelenskyy's visit to Washington, D.C. With the House and Senate scheduled to adjourn at the end of this week for their Christmas vacation, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and its Washington, D.C., public affairs bureau – the [Ukrainian National Information Service \(UNIS\)](#) – urge you to IMMEDIATELY contact your elected officials to express your support for the supplemental assistance to Ukraine.

HOW TO CONTACT CONGRESS:

1. Click www.senate.gov to search for your state and its two senators;
2. Click www.house.gov, input your zip code to search for your Representative; and
3. Copy and paste sample letter below into the contact form and press send.

It is essential for **constituents** to contact their Representative and two Senators. As congressional offices tally correspondence they receive on issues of concern to constituents, your communication with your elected

officials will denote the importance and urgency of additional security assistance to Ukraine.

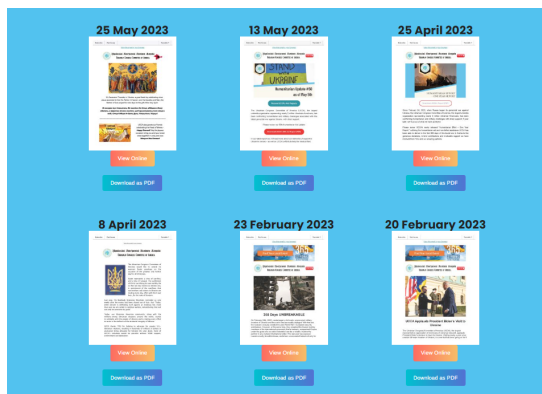
Below please find a sample draft for your correspondence with your elected officials:

Dear Senator/Representative:

As a constituent in [state/district], I urge you to support Ukraine, specifically the proposed \$61.4 billion supplemental request to aid Ukraine's territorial defense. This crucial assistance benefits Ukraine, the United States, and the entire Free World.

Ukraine is not only defending its own country, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, it is also defending the Euro-Atlantic security dynamic. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!



**Did you miss a recent
UCCA email?**

*UCCA archives all of our email
updates at [UCCA.org](https://ucca.org)*

[Email Archives](#)

[Support UCCA With A Monthly Or 1-Time Donation](#)

Candid.

UCCA has earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest award from the charity rating organization Candid. Formerly known as Guidestar, Candid is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. Out of all non-profits registered in the United States, only roughly 6% receive the Platinum level of transparency.

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.

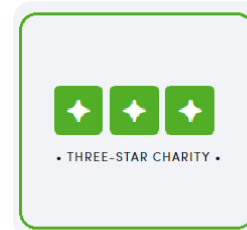
Your checks are also welcome!
Mail to:

UCCA
203 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10003

UCCA is a registered 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit organization and all donations to UCCA are tax deductible.

Charity Navigator

With more than 200,000 charities rated, Charity Navigator provides free access to data, tools, and resources to guide philanthropic decision-making. According to their comprehensive ratings program, the cost-effectiveness and overall health of a UCCA's programs merit a 3-Star Charity rating. By the measures of UCCA's stability, efficiency, and sustainability, UCCA ranks as a standout organization.



WHAT IS UCCA?

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan community-based organization that has represented the interests of Ukrainians in the United States since 1940.

ЩО ТАКЕ УККА?

Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки (УККА) є неприбутковою, безпартійною громадською організацією, яка представляє інтереси українців у Сполучених Штатах Америки з 1940 року.

Copyright (C) 2023 Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Inc.. All rights reserved.

[Update Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)