

HARTFORD & CHICAGO HOST SENATOR MCCAIN, ONE OF THE MOST VOCAL US ADVOCATES FOR UKRAINE

On March 9th, the Ukrainian American community of Connecticut hosted a meeting with Senators Murphy and McCain at the Ukrainian National Home to discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, the United States' role in supporting the Ukrainian people and the importance of putting an end to violence in the region.



L to R: Michael Sawkiw, Senator McCain, Tamara Olexy, Senator Chris Murphy.

Following Senators presentation, UCCA bestowed Senator McCain with the "Friend of UNIS" award to thank him for being one of the most vocal U.S. advocates for providing the Ukrainian government with help to protect its citizens against Russian aggression.

On March 22nd, Senators John McCain and Mark Kirk attended a town hall meeting with members of the Chicago-area Ukrainian community, organized by the UCCA Illinois Branch. Both Senator Kirk and McCain strongly endorsed arming Ukrainian troops and made promises to stand strong in the U.S. government for the Ukrainian people.



L to R: Sen. McCain, P. Bandriwsky, O. Strilchuk, & Sen. Kirk; Senator McCain

Following the meeting, Senator Kirk issued the following statement: "It's long overdue for the United States and our allies to empower Ukraine with meaningful assistance to defend itself against Russian President Vladimir Putin's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and its illegal occupation of Ukrainian territory. While the Ukrainian people desperately want to stand up for themselves against Putin's geopolitical bullying, Western democracies aren't doing enough to support Ukraine's right to self-determination."

RALLY TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

On March 26th, the UCCA organized a National Rally to Support Ukraine. Michael Sawkiw, Jr, Director of UNIS, served as the rally's MC.



Congressman Pascrell (D-NJ) joined the rally and stated that he was "Proud to join members of the Ukrainian community in front of the White House to continue my call for the United States to stand with our ally Ukraine by providing the military support Ukrainians need to defend their homes. Congress has already explicitly authorized this military aid in legislation that I was proud to cosponsor. We know that a diplomatic, non-military solution will be the ultimate way to resolve the Ukrainian crisis. As long as I am in Congress, Ukraine will always have a friend in the United States of America."

Most. Rev. Jon Bura of the Ukrainian Catholic Church began the rally with a solemn prayer for Ukraine. Addressing the nearly 400 people gathered before the White House were former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, John Herbst; Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S. Pavilionis; Georgian Ambassador to the U.S. Gegeshidze; and, various ethnic communities from the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC). Information was also presented about volunteer battalions in Ukraine.

UCCA MEETS WITH REP. STEVE ISRAEL

On March 16th, the UCCA held a meeting with Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY) in his Melville, NY offices. Congressman Israel, who recently returned from Ukraine as part of a bipartisan congressional delegation was eager to announce his unwavering support for Ukraine.

The Congressman also mentioned that there are bipartisan efforts underway for supply "defensive weapons" for Ukrainian troops. He underlined that his trip to Ukraine changed his position, highlighting the fact that prior to his trip to Ukraine he was concerned about the consequences of providing defensive equipment, but by the time he left Ukraine he became more concerned about the consequences of not providing military equipment.



L to R: Vice President of the UCCA Long Island Branch, Oleh Dekajlo, UCCA Executive Board Member, Andrij Dobriansky, Congressman Israel, Congressman Israel's constituent, Irka Cohen, and UCCA President, Tamara Olexy.

Following Congressman Israel's meeting with UCCA, we were pleased to see that the Congressman signed on to a letter with his colleagues from the House Appropriations Committee urging President Obama to provide greater assistance to Ukraine. The March 24th letter urged President Obama to designate Ukraine as a Major Non-NATO Ally and to reprogram funds from the \$175 million within the European Reassurance Initiative Fund specifically to provide aid to Ukraine and the Baltic States, to increase the amount of funding available for assistance.

The UCCA thanks Congressman Israel for his support and looks forward to working closer with him on issues of mutual interest and concern.

UCCA EASTER GREETING

During this glorious time of the Resurrection of our Lord
The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America
would like to extend its warmest greetings for a Happy and Blessed Easter to The Hierarchies of the Ukrainian Churches, the Leadership of the Ukrainian World Congress, the Executive Boards of our member organizations, the boards and members of our UCCA branches and Ukrainians throughout the world.

We ask that the Lord grant our brothers and sisters in Ukraine the strength to stand united against those who would compromise Ukraine's freedom and territorial integrity, and to provide them with the fortitude to continue their struggle for the right to realize their aspirations to live in a democratic and European country.

Christ Is Risen!

Indeed He Is Risen!

UCCA SYRACUSE BRANCH REVITALIZED

On March 21 in Syracuse's Ukrainian National Home, a community meeting was held with the purpose of revitalizing the UCCA Branch. The meeting was led by Orest Hrycyk. Participants unanimously elected the following UCCA Syracuse Branch board members: Orest Hrycyk – Chairman; Hryts Lisnychyj – Vice Chairman; Sofia Khmara – Secretary; Wasyl Trojanovych – Treasurer; Ivan Hladun –Auditing Committee Chair; Evhen Masnyj –Auditing Committee member. The following individuals were also selected to serve as members-at-large: Orysia Bakun, Roman Wolynskyj, and Mykola Duplak. It was agreed that the remaining positions on the board should be filled by representatives of local Ukrainian organizations and associations active within the community. Participants exchanged ideas about community affairs and discussed the responsibilities of the Ukrainian community with regard to the present crisis in Ukraine. A date for the next meeting was finalized.

The UCCA thanks the Syracuse Community for revitalizing its UCCA Branch!

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 20, 2015

On Wednesday, May 20th, the UCCA will be hosting a Commemorative Luncheon Reception in Congress to mark its 75th Anniversary. The UCCA Executive Board would like to invite you to mark this historic anniversary with us.

Please save the date and join us for a
Commemorative Luncheon Reception
on Wednesday, the twentieth of May, 2015

12:00 -2:00PM

Senate Visitor's Center – U.S. Capitol

Room 212-10

Washington, DC

Please rsvp to unis@ucca.org by May 6th

\$75/per person