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UCCA BULLETIN

January 2018 ... Our 78th Year of Service to the Community

UCCA WELCOMES U.S. DECISION TO SELL ARMS TO UKRAINE

Beginning on December 13, Ukraine has been cleared to buy certain light weapons and small arms from United States manufacturers. This news followed that of Ukraine being added by the Canadian government to that country's Automatic Firearms Country Control List (AFCCCL), a special register of countries to which Canada can export weapons.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America immediately issued a statement welcoming the decisions by the United States and Canadian governments on December 13, to allow exporters to apply for permits for the commercial export of certain firearms, weapons, and devices from U.S. and Canadian manufacturers. In the statement, UCCA also renewed its call for the United States to provide lethal defensive assistance to Ukraine, citing U.S. special envoy, Ambassador Kurt Volker, who in December remarked that 2017 was the deadliest year in Ukraine since Russia invaded three years ago.

Following the authorization of sales, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert announced that the United States will also provide Ukraine with "enhanced defensive capabilities" to help it "deter further aggression." The move is intended to help Ukraine "defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity," and would include Javelin antitank missiles, which UCCA has urged the United States to supply since the beginning of Russia's invasion.

Also commenting on the development was co-founder and co-chair of the Senate Ukraine Caucus, Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio) said that "this decision--while long overdue--will reverse the Obama administration's de facto arms embargo against Ukraine and will finally allow Ukraine to access the tools it needs to defend itself."

U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) also referred to this decision as "long overdue." "With news reports of increased aggression by Russian backed forces in Ukraine, I know our ally in Ukraine will see this as a welcomed first step. However, I hope it is not the last."

JANUARY 22ND - 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOURTH UNIVERSAL

January 22, 2018 marks a century since Ukraine's proclamation of the Fourth Universal – the official declaration of Ukraine's independence. This historic statement, declared by Ukraine's independent government - the Tsentralna Rada - transformed Ukraine from an enslaved colony of Czarist Russia into an independent and sovereign nation.

The year 1918 marked the end of the First World War in Europe and a time of upheaval. Having been a major battleground during the war and part of the massive Russian empire for over 300 years, Ukraine struggled to rebuild, and yearned to free itself from the tyrannical oppression of a collapsing Czarist regime. That opportunity came in 1917, during the chaos brought about by the October Revolution. As Russia plummeted into civil war, Ukraine seized its chance and declared its independence by proclaiming the Fourth Universal on January 22, 1918.

The fledgling Ukrainian government – the Tsentralna Rada - faced many challenges in its brief existence. In the wake of the Great War it was necessary to rebuild cities, towns and villages, combat the high unemployment rate and care for thousands of displaced persons. The Tsentralna Rada put the needs of its people above all else, leaving a lasting positive impact on the Ukrainian nation.

In this 100th anniversary year of Ukraine's declaration of independence, let us remember those who fought for the honor and dignity of the Ukrainian nation, those who struggled and sacrificed their lives, and continue to do so, for Ukraine's freedom and those who worked for the betterment of the Ukrainian nation! May their legacy continue to inspire us for many years to come!

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to Her Heroes!

UCCA EXECUTIVE BOARD SETS ANNIVERSARIES FOR 2016

The UCCA would like to inform our Branches, members and the greater Ukrainian American community that during 2018, there are several important anniversaries to mark, including:

January 22 – 100th Anniversary of the Fourth Universal

January 29 – 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Kruty

April 3- 100th anniversary of the birth of Ukrainian writer Oles Honchar;

May 23 – 80th Anniversary of the Death of Yevhen Konovalets'

November 1 – 100th Anniversary of the Liberation of Lviv by the West Ukrainian People's Republic (3YHP)

November 9 – 100th Anniversary of the birth of Lev Dobriansky, long-serving president of UCCA

November– culmination of the 85th Anniversary year of the Holodomor

In addition, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the Ukrainian American Veterans will be celebrating major anniversaries of their incorporation this year.

The UCCA urges our community to appropriately mark these important historical dates. UCCA official statements will be available in a timely manner on our website at www.ucca.org for your use.

SAVE THE DATE: UKRAINIAN DAYS

As events unfold in Ukraine and the Trump Administration has allowed for the sale of defensive weaponry to Ukraine, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) is preparing several events in Washington, DC to bring more attention to our community's concerns.

Corruption is a looming matter in Ukraine. UNIS would like to address this issue with a congressional briefing in the winter. The goal of the briefing is to inform Congress about effective means of partnering with Ukraine to combat corruptive practices. A congressional briefing session is tentatively scheduled for February 2018.

UNIS will also sponsor two "Ukrainian Day" sessions in March and July 2018, respectively. Our focus will be continued support for Ukraine's reform movement, and additional assistance for defensive weaponry.

Stay tuned for further details on the UCCA website and UCCA and UNIS Facebook pages!

UCCA ISSUES END OF YEAR APPEAL

2017 has been a watershed year for the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). For the 4th consecutive year, major legislation benefitting Ukraine passed through Congress, including the Ukraine Security Assistance, which builds on already enacted measures aiding Ukraine's fight against Russian Aggression, and includes critical Naval Assistance to Ukraine for the first time ever. Earlier this summer, Congress and the White House came together to pass the only major, bipartisan legislation of the year, further punishing Russia's cyber army through the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act.

None of these accomplishments would have come to pass without **YOU**.

By making a fully tax-deductible donation today, your support will ensure that 2018 will be an even more successful year and will help ensure that UCCA continues to: Advocate your Causes; Build our community's legacy, Educate future generations; and, spread the truth about Ukraine.

Please consider a tax-deductible gift during our Holiday Fundraiser to support the work of the UCCA.

To contribute online today:

www.razoo.com/us/story/Ucca

Or checks may be mailed to the UCCA National Office at:
203 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003

Thank you for your continued support!

UCCA BIDS FAREWELL TO LIZA DONOVAN

After 28 years of working at the UCCA National Office, Liza Donovan "retired" on December 31st. She began working at UCCA assisting Prof. Stojko, the then editor of *The Ukrainian Quarterly*. After a short period, Liza's tasks at UCCA expanded exponentially, until she became UCCA Assistant Director. She has worked under 4 UCCA National Office directors, all of whom considered her work invaluable.

Liza will be missed not only for the assistance that she provided to our organization over the past 28 years, but more importantly for her kind heart, boundless energy and friendship!

The UCCA National Office would like to sincerely thank Liza for her years of service to UCCA and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Dyakuyemo Doroha Lizo!