

## UNIS LEADS SUCCESSFUL 'UKRAINIAN DAYS' EVENT

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, UCCA's Washington, DC public affairs bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), held its first advocacy event of 2019. #UkrDays2019 began with a briefing in Congress by Jim Gerlach (ret. co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus), UCCA President Andriy Futey, Ukrainian World Congress Vice-President Stefan Romaniw and the day's host, UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw.



Following the morning briefing, participants from 11 states – California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia - spent the day visiting with Members of Congress and staffers of nearly 50 congressional offices. The advocacy event enabled the community to discuss various concerns including: strengthening the sanctions regime against Russia; the importance of stopping the construction of NordStream 2; support for Ukraine's accession to Euro-Atlantic structures including NATO; increased military and technical support for Ukraine to defend against Russian aggression; support for resolutions recognizing the 5th anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity, maintaining an "Open Door" policy for NATO membership; and continued U.S. support for Ukraine's reforms.



The event culminated with a reception on Capitol Hill, honoring Members of Congress for their support and celebrating a day of constituent advocacy. The reception's invocation was delivered by the newly enthroned Metropolitan for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, His Grace, Archbishop Borys Gudziak; followed by remarks from the Ambassador of Ukraine in the US - Valeriy Chaly; Chair of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on Foreign Affairs - Hanna Hopko; former Foreign Minister of Ukraine - Borys Tarasyuk; UCCA President - Andriy Futey; and representatives from the US State Department and the Crimean Tatar community. The event was emceed by UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw.



The evening was highlighted by the presentation of the "Friend of UNIS" award by Mr. Sawkiw to two well-deserved recipients – Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), for their ongoing support for Ukraine.

## NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE UKRAINIAN QUARTERLY

The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, has appointed Ihor Dlaboha to be the next Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Quarterly.

Mr. Dlaboha is a lifelong journalist having worked at *The Ukrainian Weekly* and *Svoboda* and *The National Tribune*. He also was an editor at American trade and business publications. In the course of his career, Mr. Dlaboha was also general manager at the Ukrainian Broadcasting Network.

He currently writes a blog about Ukrainian issues called The Torn Curtain 1991 and another for non-governmental organizations and small businesses.

He also worked on the staff of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations section of the Department of Public Information (DPI).

In the organized Ukrainian-American community, Mr. Dlaboha served as secretary of UCCA's National Council as well as UCCA's Executive Board, and also served as President of the United Ukrainian American Organizations of New York – a local branch of UCCA. He was also a member of the national executive boards of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine and Ukrainian Youth Association of America (CYM).

Mr. Dlaboha graduated from the City College of New York and holds a Master's Degree in Media Studies from The New School.

The Ukrainian Quarterly, established in 1944, is an English-language journal that focuses on a wide range of Ukrainian issues and their relationships with global affairs.

To subscribe to The Ukrainian Quarterly, please contact UCCA's National Office at (212) 228-6840 or by email at [ucca@ucca.org](mailto:ucca@ucca.org).

### THANK YOU

UCCA Executive Board would like to sincerely thank Professor Leonid Rudnitzky for his many years of work as Editor-in-Chief of *The Ukrainian Quarterly*. UCCA is grateful for his dedication and commitment to our scholarly journal!

## UCCA ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOWNING OF MH17

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representative organization of Americans of Ukrainian descent, joins the world community in solemnly commemorating the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the downing of flight MH17. On July 17, 2014, 298 innocent passengers and crew, flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur aboard Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, were murdered by a Buk anti-aircraft missile launched from Russian terrorist-controlled territory in Ukraine.

Since the horrific crash, the Joint Investigation Team, led by the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine, has provided hard evidence that the missile system involved in shooting down flight MH17 came from a Russian military brigade. According to their investigation, the plane was hit by a Russian-made Buk 9M38 missile fired from territory controlled by Russian terrorists, using a mobile launcher trucked in from Russia and hastily returned there after the attack.

“The downing of MH17 is an egregious example of the Kremlin's disregard for innocent life”, stated UCCA President Andriy Futey. “Righteousness must be delivered for the victims of this horrible tragedy and UCCA hopes that the Russian Federation will finally accept responsibility and fully cooperate with the international community so that those responsible are brought to justice”, he added.

On this solemn fifth anniversary, UCCA's thoughts and prayers go out to the victim's families, including one American citizen, and we ask God to remember all those who perished and grant them eternal peace.

## UCCA RELEASES 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



The National Office announces that the 2018 annual report of the work of Ukrainian Congress Committee of America has been released. Should you like a copy of the report, please contact UCCA's National Office at (212)228-6840 or by email to [ucca@ucca.org](mailto:ucca@ucca.org).