

## SECOND "UKRAINIAN DAYS" OF 2017 ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE

On June 14<sup>th</sup> dozens of Ukrainian Americans participated in the second annual "Ukrainian Days" advocacy event of 2017. The Ukrainian Americans were also joined by community leaders from the Central and East European Coalition, and students from the Philadelphia area Ukrainian Saturday School civics group.



The event began with a briefing session with presentations by former Georgian Ambassador to the U.S., HE Temuri Yakobashvili and Professor Robert Kaufman of Pepperdine University, who provided best practices on how to advocate our issues before members of Congress. UNIS Director, Michael Sawkiw succinctly explained the briefing papers on current legislation in Congress, including: Russian Sanctions Review Act; Countering Russian Hostilities Act of 2017; Countering Iran's Destabilizing Activities Act of 2017, among others.

"Ukrainian Day" participants met with over 30 Congressional offices representing the states of Oregon, California, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, New Hampshire and Connecticut to relay the community's concerns regarding the current situation in Ukraine and acts of increased Russian aggression.

### "FRIEND OF UNIS" AWARD BESTOWED

Later that same evening, a "Ukrainian Day" reception was held in the Capitol Visitors Center to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. Michael Sawkiw, UCCA Executive VP and Director of UNIS, welcomed the standing room only audience and thanked the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus for their continued active support of Ukraine. Mr. Sawkiw, then introduced the evening's "Friend of UNIS" award recipient, CUC co-chair Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), and thanked him for his years of support dating back to before Ukraine's independence, for his leadership at the helm of the CUC, and for his numerous legislative initiatives, in particular the bill that established the right to erect the Holodomor Memorial.



Other guest speakers who addressed the gathering included: Andriy Parubiy, Speaker of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, acting Minister of Health, Dr. Ulana Suprun, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Congressman Doug Lamborn (R-CO).

## UCCA PRESIDENT HOLDS HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS IN UKRAINE

From June 4-12, UCCA President, Andriy Futey, traveled to Ukraine with an official delegation of international experts from the U.S., representing influential think tanks, including: - American Foreign Policy Council, Jamestown Foundation, Hudson Institute and The Heritage Foundation. During their stay in Kyiv, the group met with the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada Andrew Parubiy, secretary of Ukraine's NSDC Oleksandr Turchynov, the head of the SBU Basil Grytsak, Minister of Internal Affairs Arsen Avakov, the Prosecutor General Yuri Lutsenko, Minister of Health Ulana Suprun, military prosecutor Anatoly Matios, Director of the Institute of National Remembrance Volodymyr Viatrovych, MPs Sergey Vysotsky, Hanna Hopko, Andrew Levus, Oleksandr Opanasenko, Ostap Yednak, US Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch and many other officials, politicians, public figures, military personnel and civil society volunteers.



L to R: B. Potapenko, A. Futey, Minister U. Suprun & G. Yurkiw

Prior to their Kyiv meetings, the delegation visited Lviv, Odesa, Zaporizhiya, and Mariupol, during which they met with local leaders and visited military positions in the area of Mariupol and Yavoriv.



Delegation with Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin (left)

The delegation is preparing a report and will share its findings and make recommendations to the Administration and Congress regarding policy toward Russia, Ukraine and Russia's hybrid war

## PROVIDING UKRAINE WITH AN ANNUAL REPORT CARD...

On Thursday, June 15th, the fifth “US-UA Working Group Yearly Summit” took place in Washington, DC. The full-day conference provided Ukraine with an yearly report card, assessing the country’s performance in six areas of ‘nation building’ including: *Robust Democratic Politics; Developed Market Economics; Ever Greater General Security; Ever Greater Energy Security; Viable Social Cohesion; and Established National Identity.*

The conference also included two highlight discussions of “Why a Free, Stable and Prosperous Ukraine Still Matters” from the U.S. Government perspective, delivered by Senator Roger Wicker, and from the Ukrainian government perspective reported by the Speaker of Ukraine’s Parliament, Andriy Parubij.

The guests also had an opportunity to hear a featured presentation by Ukraine’s Acting Minister of Health, Dr. Ulana Suprun, who outlined a plethora of needed reforms to improve the health care system. Following the Minister’s presentation, the UCCA was honored to bestow Dr. Suprun with the UCCA’s highest accolade, The Shevchenko Freedom Award.



As the conference’s Tally Master, Tamara Olexy commented that, notwithstanding the varying viewpoints of the speakers, all agreed that Ukraine is performing better than expected, but there is still room for improvement.

The co-sponsoring organizations- Center for US-Ukrainian Relations, the American Foreign Policy Council and UCCA – would like to thank the sponsors: Jurkiw Family Fund, Self Reliance (NY) FCU, Heritage Foundation of the First Security Federal Saving Bank, Ukrainian National FCU, Cleveland Selfreliance FCU, Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine.

## UCCA MOURNS THE PASSING OF PATRIARCH CARDINAL HUSAR

Upon hearing the news of Patriarch Husar’s passing, the UCCA issued a statement, a portion of which is below:

“Ukrainians around the world are mourning the passing of His Eminent Beatitude, Lubomyr Cardinal Husar, Major Archbishop Emeritus of Kyiv and Halychyna. Known outside of our community for his tenure as head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church from 2001-2011, in the hearts of Ukrainian Americans, he remained one of our own since his immigration to the United States in 1949...

Cardinal Husar was an incredible pastor whose leadership moved Ukrainians to action beyond what others believed was possible. Under his leadership, the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church transferred its Metropolitanate seat from Lviv to Kyiv, and conducted the largest number of synods in the church’s history, strengthening the Church’s moral authority to assist all of Ukrainian society, both in Ukraine and abroad. In 2005, Cardinal Husar became the first Ukrainian Greek Catholic ever to participate in a papal conclave convened to elect a new pope.

Even after departing for Rome in 1969, or returning to Lviv in 1991 upon the dissolution of the Soviet Union, then-Bishop Husar never forgot his “American roots” and would return to minister to his flock whenever we would need him most. He helped us champion for a National Monument dedicated to the victims of the Holodomor Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932–1933 in Washington D.C., and led our remembrance of that tragedy at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City. As Cardinal, His Beatitude could be found walking the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C., extolling on the plight of the Ukrainian Catholic faithful under repression in the Russian Federation. And at the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress of Ukrainians of America, representing diaspora organizations and leadership from across the United States, Cardinal Husar called upon the delegates and guests to work towards uniting throughout his adopted homeland, by remarking that, “The years have shown us that in unity there is strength.”

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America shares the deep sorrow of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Ukrainian nation on the passing of our shepherd. May His Memory Be Eternal!”

## SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

The UCCA, a founding member of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), invites the community to a special commemoration to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UWC.

On Saturday, **September 16<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30am-6pm a conference entitled, “The UWC at 50 and Beyond: The North American Vector” will be followed by a Commemorative Banquet under the title “Where It All Began” at 6pm. Both events will be held at the Princeton Club located at 15 West 43rd Street, NYC.

For more information please contact the UCCA National Office or visit: <https://uwc50.org/Ukrainian/>