



### 'SECURING UKRAINE'S SOVEREIGNTY: THE ROAD AHEAD'

On February 15<sup>th</sup> a full-day conference co-sponsored by the UCCA, the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations and the American Foreign Policy Council, brought together over two dozen leading voices in National Security, Diplomacy and Government Affairs from the United States, Ukraine and Europe to discuss the damage done to European security and international law by Russia's continued attacks on Ukraine, as well as what advancements have been made in the diplomatic, political, informational, economic and military spheres to bolster Ukraine from future attacks.

The event, entitled 'Securing Ukraine's Sovereignty: The Road Ahead', attracted a packed hall at the United States Library of Congress to discuss a 'road map' for securing Ukraine's sovereignty. The conference featured four panel discussions, as well as addresses by numerous Congressional and government officials, and a featured highlight presentation on pressing questions for the new administration on Ukrainian security.



L to R: Minister Klimkin; PANEL; Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Levin and Minister Klimkin

Following the words of welcome from Congressmen Sander Levin (D-MI) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), the first keynote speaker, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin, set the tone for the Conference by thanking the US Congress for their bipartisan support. Noting that US support is of great significance to the world and especially to Ukraine, Klimkin stated that peace in Donbas could only be achieved when Russia fulfills its obligations under Minsk Agreements and also de-occupies Crimea, restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity.



L to R: J. Sherr, P. Karber, Amb. Herbst, I. Smeshko

Attendees heard assessments of Ukraine's Armed Forces from the date of the initial invasion - when some experts in attendance admitted they did not expect Ukraine to hold off an invasion for more than 48 hours - to the present day military of Ukraine, which is being hailed by United States and international advisers for its professionalism and combat readiness. As far as prospects for improved U.S. relations with Russia, it was made clear that as long as Putin stays in charge, Russia will not be a credible partner for the United States and the Trans-Atlantic Alliance. The common thread throughout the panel discussions was that Russia's aggression in Ukraine is not only a war against Ukraine but against the West in general.

**For a more detailed report of the Conferences proceedings, please view the UCCA website at: [www.ucca.org](http://www.ucca.org)**

### UCCA BESTOWS 'FRIEND OF UKRAINE' AWARD

As Ukraine defends its territory from military invasion for the first time in a century, the UCCA inaugurated a new award to recognize military leaders and defense experts who have aided Ukraine in defending its territorial integrity and sovereignty. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, during the Evening Reception of the VIII U.S.-Ukraine Security Dialogue conference, "Securing Ukraine's Sovereignty: The Road Ahead," held at the Embassy of Ukraine, the UCCA had the great honor of recognizing the first two recipients of the "Friend of Ukraine" award - General Wesley Clark and Dr. Philip Karber.



L to R: General Clark receiving award; Dr. Karber.

Gen. Clark has described the challenges Ukraine faces today as "a real, highly significant, live foreign policy issue that has tremendous impact on the future of the U.S." He has also repeatedly advocated for U.S. military and financial assistance to Ukraine. UCCA bestowed General Clark with the award for his extraordinary leadership in assisting Ukraine, and his understanding that today Ukraine fights for democracy, human rights, freedom, and Western values.

Dr. Karber has conducted dozens of fact-finding missions to Eastern Ukraine since the beginning of Russia's brazen invasion, and has spoken first-hand with participants of numerous battles. His volumes of information gathered on these trips have been shared among the highest levels of government, offering the elected officials, as well as the general public, an unprecedented level of reporting on Europe's largest land war since World War II. For his extraordinary scholarship which has alerted the world to the dangers faced by Ukraine, and his understanding of our struggle, the UCCA bestowed Dr. Karber with the 'Friend of Ukraine' Award.



**SAVE THE DATE-  
#SUPPORTUKRAINE!  
FIRST 'UKRAINIAN DAYS' OF 2017**

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington DC public affairs bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), is continuing its #SupportUkraine! campaign in 2017 by bringing you a series of advocacy events in Washington, DC. This year's events will focus on interacting with the new 115th Congress and the Trump Administration.

The first #SupportUkraine! event will be a two-day "Ukrainian Days" advocacy fete on **Wednesday and Thursday, March 8-9, 2017**. The event will be held in conjunction with Shevchenko Days and will feature a visit to the Taras Shevchenko Memorial in Washington, DC.

The Schedule of "Ukrainian Days" is as follows:

**Wednesday, March 8th –**

9am: Briefing Session (United Methodist Building)  
12pm-5pm: Congressional Meetings  
6pm: "Friends of UNIS" Reception (Capitol Visitors Center)

**Thursday, March 9th –**

8:30am: Congressional Breakfast (Members Dining Room)  
11am: Briefing Session (U.S. Department of State)  
1pm: Briefing Session (Embassy of Ukraine)  
4pm: Shevchenko Commemoration (Shevchenko Memorial)

This is a very important event for the Ukrainian community as we focus on Ukraine's security and Euro-Atlantic integration. Our goal in the advocacy event is to seek support for Ukraine's immediate needs - military assistance; increased sanctions against Russia; deter Russian propaganda and disinformation; and, humanitarian assistance for Ukraine's nearly 2 million internally displaced persons.

An evening reception will honor Sen. Marco Rubio (*invited*) and Rep. Gerald Connolly (*invited*) for their contributions to the security and development of Ukraine.

**PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE YOUR  
COMMUNITY REPRESENTED IN WASHINGTON FOR  
THIS ADVOCACY EVENT!**

Should you have any further questions or would like to register your participation, please contact UNIS at [202 547-0018](tel:2025470018), or by e-mail at [unis.sawkiw@comcast.net](mailto:unis.sawkiw@comcast.net)

Looking forward to seeing you in Washington in early March 2017!

**CONNECTING UKRAINE'S PAST AND  
PRESENT...**



On February 21<sup>st</sup>, UCCA Executive Vice President and Director of the UNIS office, Michael Sawkiw, Jr., participated in a timely discussion at the Atlantic Council entitled: "Connecting Ukraine's Past and Present: From Holodomor to the War in the Donbas." The UNIS Director spoke of the pattern of denial and disinformation - first by the Soviets of the Holodomor, and currently the Russian propaganda regarding the war they are waging in Eastern Ukraine. Quoting from French author's Marquis de Custine book in 1839 "Letters from Russia," the UNIS Director drew a parallel to the Holodomor and the war in Donbas: "Russia lies, denies the facts, makes war on the evidence, and wins." The UNIS Director encouraged the audience to recognize the Holodomor as a genocide, and in today's vastly rich social-informational environment, to defend the principles of justice and democracy.

To watch the webcast, please click here: <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/webcasts/connecting-ukraine-s-past-and-present-from-holodomor-to-the-war-in-the-donbas>

**AD MEMORIAM...**

*It is with great sadness that the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America informs its members and the entire Ukrainian community of the passing of*

**IHOR SMOLIJ**

*on February 9. A long time Executive Board member of the UCCA, and Honorary member of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Mr. Smolij will be sorely missed. On behalf of the UCCA Executive Board, we would like to express our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to his wife Anna and his entire family for their loss.*  
**Vichnava Pamiat!**