

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE (UNIS) CELEBRATES 40 YEARS!

On Wednesday, October 11th, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington, D.C. bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), marked its 40th anniversary with an evening reception on Capitol Hill. Following the third daylong "Ukrainian Day" Advocacy event of 2017, the reception attracted over 100 guests in the prestigious Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building. Michael Sawkiw, UNIS Director and UCCA Vice President, began the evening's program by warmly thanking the guests for supporting the work of the UNIS office before introducing Bishop John Bura, Auxiliary Bishop for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, to deliver the invocation. Following the prayer, Andrij Dobriansky was invited to sing the Ukrainian and American national anthems. Following on the tradition established at previous advocacy events, Mr. Sawkiw continued the program with the bestowal of several "Friend of UNIS" Awards, an honor reserved to those in Washington who have advocated for and expressed their continued support for Ukraine. This evening's recipients included Congressman Brendan Boyle, PA-13 (representing the suburbs and part of Philadelphia, PA), Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, Valeriy Chaly, and Lithuania's Foreign Minister, Linas Linkevičius.



A vocal member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Boyle has been an outspoken advocate for Ukraine since entering Congress during the midst of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity. Upon receiving his award, the Congressman stated, "I am truly honored to be recognized by the Ukrainian-American community but more importantly, to be considered a Friend of Ukraine. I am proud to represent a community of strong, vibrant and proud Ukrainian-Americans that live in my Congressional District."

The following "Friend of UNIS" Award was bestowed upon Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, Valeriy Chaly, who warmly thanked the UNIS office, UCCA's network of Ukrainian organizations and volunteer members, and the entire Ukrainian-American community in general, for their decades of work in support of Ukraine's Independence and for the strengthening of bilateral relations between our two nations. Following his words of gratitude, the Ambassador surprised Mr. Sawkiw by bestowing him with the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise (5th rank) on behalf of the President of Ukraine. Emphasizing Mr. Sawkiw's significant contribution to the strengthening U.S.-Ukraine relations, the ambassador went on to explain that this award, the second highest civilian honor bestowed by Ukraine, recognized the totality of his work as the Director of UNIS, his current Vice-Presidency and former Presidency of UCCA, as well as his Chairmanship of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness.

Lithuania's Ambassador to the United States, Rolandas Kriščiūnas, accepted the last award of the evening on behalf of Lithuania's Foreign Minister, Linas Linkevičius, Ambassador Kriščiūnas read a letter of acceptance from the Foreign Minister, which stated in part: "Today Lithuania stands with Ukraine as her friend and as an ally. Aggression against Ukraine was also an act of aggression against the values that unite the Euro Atlantic community. Therefore, it is not Ukraine's fight alone. I thank UNIS for this award and for its tireless efforts in informing the public about the gravest dangers to Europe's freedom in the 21st century. In this common mission, Lithuania will continue supporting Ukraine and its strive for a peaceful future in Euroatlantic family."

Throughout the evening, additional Members of Congress stopped by to congratulate the UNIS office on its 40th anniversary, including Congressional Ukrainian Caucus Co-Chair, Marcy Kaptur (Ohio's 9th District) and Congressman Paul David Tonko (New York's 20th District). John Lansing, the CEO of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the U.S. government agency that supervises Voice of America, also attended the reception, and emphasized the importance of the roll of media in today's society when addressing the attendees, as well as conveying his congratulations to the UNIS office.

In addition to Mr. Sawkiw, two additional former Directors of the UNIS office were invited to the podium to share remarks: Tamara Olexy, current UCCA National Office Executive Director and former UCCA President, as well as George Nesterczuk, a founding member of UNIS and longtime political advisor and government official beginning with his appointment to the United States Office of Personnel Management during the Reagan administration. The evening's program concluded with a special video presentation from Kyiv by Marie Yovanovitch, the 9th and current United States Ambassador to Ukraine, and the performance of two Ukrainian Dances by the Carpathia Folk Dance Ensemble. In her pre-recorded remarks, Ambassador Yovanovitch congratulated the UNIS office on its 40 years of service to the community, and quoted the words of Taras Shevchenko, "Keep fighting—you are sure to win."

THIRD "UKRAINIAN DAY" ADVOCACY EVENT HELD

On October 11th UNIS held its third "Ukrainian Day" Advocacy event of 2017. Over three dozen members of the community traveled to our nation's capital to advocate for greater US assistance to Ukraine. The event began with a briefing session at The Heritage Foundation where Mr. Luke Coffey, Director of the Foundation's Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy welcomed the participants. Following the remarks of the other presenters - Jorgan Andrews, Director, US Department of State's Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Desk and Mr. Andriy Levus, Members of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada and Chairman of the Subcommittee on State Security - UNIS Director, Michael Sawkiw provided a detailed overview of our briefing papers, which were to be distributed to our representatives in Congress. Topics addressed included: support for the National Defense Authorization Act; H.R.3364 - Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act of 2017; and 85th Anniversary of the Holodomor.



Community with Rep. Frelinghuysen (center)

Throughout the day the community met with the Congressional offices of: Rep. Carolyn Maloney (NY); Rep. Robert Brady (PA); Rep. Mike Coffman (CO); Rep. Don Beyer (VA); Sen. Robert Menendez (NJ); Rep. Brendan Boyle (PA); Rep. Elizabeth Esty (CT); Rep. James Raskin (MD); Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO); Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ); Rep. Lou Barletta (PA); Sen. Mark Warner (VA); Rep. Brian Higgins (NY); Sen. Chris Murphy (CT); Sen. Robert Casey (PA); Sen. Richard Blumenthal (CT); Rep. Eliot Engel (NY); Sen. Cory Booker (NJ); Sen. Tim Kaine (VA); Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA); Rep. Sander Levin (MI); Rep. John Larson (CT); Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT); Rep. Jim Himes (CT); and Rep. Joe Courtney (CT).



Community with Rep. Raskin (far left)

SAVE THE DATES: HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLODOMOR

WASHINGTON, DC

The Embassy of Ukraine and the U.S. Holodomor Committee will honor the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide with two inaugural events in Washington, DC on Tuesday, **November 7th**:

- 2pm – Commemoration at Holodomor Memorial (intersection of N. Capital Street and Massachusetts Ave, NW)
- 4:30pm – Congressional Briefing
US Capitol Visitor Center,
Congressional Meeting Room North

For more information, please contact UNIS at (202) 547-0018.

NEW YORK CITY

To mark the solemn anniversary of Ukraine's Genocide, the UCCA will be holding a requiem service (panakhyda) at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The annual commemoration will be held on Saturday, **November 18th** at 2:00PM. This year's service will be preceded by a solemn march beginning at 11am from St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church (7th Street, between 2nd & 3rd Avenues) to St. Patrick's Cathedral.

For more information, please contact the UCCA National office at (212) 228-6840.

UWC TO CONCLUDE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN TORONTO

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) will be concluding its 50th anniversary year with a special two-day event on November 10th & 11th in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The program includes a two-day conference, entitled: "UWC at 50 and Beyond: The Roadmap", featuring worldwide community leaders, policy makers, academics, and Canadian and Ukrainian government officials. The conference will be held at The Old Mill Toronto, 21 Old Mill Road, Toronto, Canada.

The celebratory two-day event will also include a Commemorative Banquet "Shaping the Future" on November 10th at the Old Mill in Toronto at 6pm with special guest speaker, Dr. Ulana Suprun, Ukraine's Acting Minister of Health; and a Gala Concert, featuring the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, on November 11th at 7pm at Church on the Queensway, 1536 The Queensway, Toronto.

For more information or to register, please call the UWC office at (416) 323-3020.