**President Poroshenko Meets with Community Leaders**

For the fourth consecutive year, on September 25th, President Petro Poroshenko and Mrs. Maryna Poroshenko met with the leaders of the Ukrainian American community during their official working visit to the United States to attend the UN General Assembly.

Serving as the evening’s MC, Tamara Olexy warmly welcomed and thanked the President and Mrs. Poroshenko for meeting with the community before introducing UCCA’s President Andriy Futey. In emphasizing to the Presidential delegation the important work of the Ukrainian diaspora, both historically as well as in just the last 4 years, Futey stated, “It is because of the devoted and proactive work of our local communities, our organizations and indeed the entire united organized Ukrainian diaspora, that both the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate have passed significant resolutions and legislation in support of Ukraine.”

Following his opening remarks, and before inviting the President to the podium, Futey noted that it was President Poroshenko’s birthday, as it was already September 26th in Ukraine – and led the community in singing “Mnohaya Lita.”

In stating his appreciation for the community’s strong support of Ukraine, President Poroshenko commented, “I am grateful to you not just for today’s meeting, but for these long 4.5 years of our joint struggle. Nothing would have happened without you. Because your role is absolutely crucial in shaping global solidarity in support of Ukraine.”

The President also underscored the importance of receiving the Tomos of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which Ukraine had been waiting for several centuries. "People criticize me telling that the church in a true state should be separated from the state. I totally agree with that. Especially when that state is a foreign one," which was received with thunderous applause from the community. The President was also highly appreciative of the community’s efforts in recognizing the Holodomor of 1932-1933 as a genocide of the Ukrainian people, thanking UCCA for their work in this regard.

Following his remarks, President Poroshenko awarded UCCA President Andriy Futey with the Order of Merit for his significant contribution to strengthening US-Ukraine bilateral cooperation. Additional recipients of state awards included: Lubow Wolynetz and State Senator from Washington State, Mark Mioso.
On September 24th, members of the Ukrainian American community were invited to Ohio’s State Capitol, to meet with Governor Kasich. During the meeting, UCCA President Andriy Futey bestowed UCCA’s highest accolade, the Shevchenko Freedom Award to the Governor for his continued support of Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community.

The Governor also proclaimed 2018 as “Ukrainian Genocide Remembrance Year” – presenting a Proclamation.

UCCA would like to thank UCCA member organization United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio (UZO) and Ohio State University students for their active participation!

On Saturday, November 17th, the Ukrainian American community will commemorate the 85th Anniversary of Ukraine’s Genocide of 1932-1933 with a solemn requiem service in New York City. The ecumenical prayer service to remember and honor the millions of innocent victims of one of the worst tragedies that befell the Ukrainian nation, will be concelebrated at 4PM at St. Patrick’s Cathedral by the Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic religious hierarchies.

Please join us at 4:00PM on November 17th, for the requiem service at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, as we conclude the United States’ portion of the year-long worldwide commemoration of the 85th anniversary prior to Ukraine’s official state commemoration - International Holodomor Memorial Day - on November 24th.