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UCCA BULLETIN



September 2014 ... Our 74th Anniversary Year

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 17-18 "UKRAINIAN DAYS" – AN ADVOCACY EVENT TO BRIEF CONGRESS ON IMMEDIATE AID TO UKRAINE

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington public-affairs bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), has sponsored two "*Ukrainian Day*" advocacy events this year – one at the height of the Maidan protests in early February, and the most recent one in mid-July. Both events brought dozens of participants to Washington, DC to meet with government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) involved in formulating and monitoring U.S. policy toward Ukraine, as well as to interact with Members of Congress to discuss the community's concerns of additional, desperately needed assistance to Ukraine.

In mid-September, UNIS will once again sponsor "*Ukrainian Days*" advocacy event on **Wednesday and Thursday, September 17-18, 2014**. This endeavor is especially critical considering the war being waged in eastern Ukraine against the foreign-borne Russian-supplied terrorists. The goal of "*Ukrainian Days*" is to encourage Members of Congress to enhance support of military assistance to Ukraine to fend off the terrorists and preserve Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence. The "*Ukrainian Days*" event will also honor individuals who have contributed to the betterment of U.S.-Ukraine relations with a reception and presentation of the "*Friend of UNIS Award*".

The two-day advocacy program will be in conjunction with the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) advocacy event being held on Thursday, September 18th. As a founding member of the CEEC, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America works in tandem with the CEEC to advance U.S. foreign policy issues in Central and East Europe. Thursday's CEEC advocacy event will provide members of the Ukrainian America community an opportunity to meet with other ethnic community members and advocate issues of mutual interest.

Founded by the UCCA during the height of the Cold War in 1977, UNIS has been instrumental in advocating the community's concerns for almost four decades. Its unwavering commitment in bringing about independence for Ukraine and, since 1991 enhancing the bilateral relations between Ukraine and the United States, has earned it much respect throughout Washington.

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2014! Join us in advancing our community's concerns in Washington and celebrate a "Ukrainian Evening" on Capitol Hill. Further information will be forthcoming on the UNIS Facebook page and the UCCA website at www.ucca.org

WHILE U.S. IMPOSES NEW SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA, MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS STILL SOUGHT

The UCCA, the representative organization of the over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent, is encouraged by the Obama Administration's July 29th announcement that, in an effort to pressure Putin to end his support of the terrorists in Eastern Ukraine, the United States is imposing additional sanctions on Russia. We are encouraged by the show of support expressed by the government of the United States, in particular the United States Congress, and welcome U.S. global leadership in rallying our European allies in imposing sanctions on the following sectors of the Russian economy: oil and gas supplies and technology, banking and finance and arms sales.

We strongly support the United States' condemnation of Russia's invasion of sovereign Ukrainian territory and their continuous arming of the terrorists in Eastern Ukraine. Moreover, we are reassured by the steps taken by the United States to persuade our European allies to strengthen their resolve in condemning Russia's continued support of the terrorists. The Ukrainian American community is thankful for the efforts of the U.S. government to date, yet we still seek continued public statements of U.S. support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Although the UCCA supports the latest round of sanctions, we believe military support from the United States is paramount to Ukraine's success in defending itself and overcoming Russian aggression. We also feel that it is in the interest of the United States and our NATO allies to squelch Russian aggression on the European continent immediately. The concept of European security whole-and-free should be a serious dialogue in the upcoming NATO Summit in Wales, as well as effective cooperation with Ukraine and other countries experiencing the realities of Russian aggression.

At this critical juncture in the strategic partnership with Ukraine, the UCCA reiterates its call for direct U.S. military assistance, in particular communications equipment, intelligence sharing capabilities, and defensive armaments necessary to help Ukraine defend itself against the Russian-sponsored terrorists. We call upon the United States to also designate Ukraine as a Major Non-NATO Ally, which would confer a variety of military advantages and privileges that are otherwise not afforded to non-NATO allies.

UCCA SUPPORTS H.R. 5190

On ____, the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus co-Chairs Jim Gerlach (R-PA), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Sander Levin (D-MI) introduced legislation to provide a clear and specific process to provide direct military and security assistance to the Government of Ukraine as it seeks to strengthen its democracy and prevent separatist violence and aggression within its borders. H.R. 5190, the proposed Ukraine Security Assistance Act of 2014, would reinforce the strong relationship between the U.S. and Ukraine and take an important step toward helping Ukraine neutralize the military-support advantage that separatist rebels are using to target civilian and military aircraft in eastern Ukraine and foster violence and instability across that country. This legislation would authorize the President to work with the Government of Ukraine to assess that country's military, intelligence, and security needs and provide adequate and necessary assistance to protect Ukrainian democracy and sovereignty.



Michael Sawkiw, Director of the Ukrainian National Information Service addressed the press conference stating: "The UCCA is pleased to support Rep. Gerlach's timely introduction of the "Ukraine Security Assistance Act of 2014," which would provide needed security benefits to the country of Ukraine as it struggles to fend off Russian aggression. In this period of mourning and sorrow, the UCCA expresses its deepest condolences to the families and love ones of the innocent victims of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17.

Given the severity of the situation, and the numerous crimes of the Russian-sponsored terrorists in Eastern Ukraine, the UCCA is grateful for the "Ukraine Security Assistance Act of 2014" and calls upon the United States to provide Ukraine with Major non-NATO Ally (MNNA) status and the necessary military assistance needed to end this crisis and bring peace back to the region... Furthermore, the UCCA urges the United States to impose harsher sectoral sanctions on Russia, and for President Obama, as leader of the democratic free world, to utilize all of his efforts to persuade the leadership of Europe to match U.S. resolve..."

To read the entire press release visit www.ucca.org
UNIS requests you contact your elected representative immediately and seek their support of H.R.5190.

THE UCCA WELCOMES UKRAINIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TEXAS INTO ITS RANKS

The Executive Board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is pleased to announce that the Ukrainian American Society of Texas (UAST) has become an official member organization of the UCCA.

As per the UCCA's bylaws, organizations may become members of the UCCA if they support a deep dedication to the Ukrainian people and the principles of the UCCA. All applications for membership are reviewed by the UCCA Membership Committee, which is authorized and required to ensure that all membership requirements are met. After reviewing all of the relevant documentation submitted by the UAST, the Membership Committee recommended approval by the National Council of the UCCA

Thus, at the most recent meeting of the National Council, members unanimously voted to include the UAST into its ranks.

The UCCA warmly welcomes the Ukrainian American Society of Texas (UAST), and Chrystya Geremesz, UAST President, as its representative to the UCCA National Council and looks forward to a fruitful and productive working relationship with the Ukrainian American Society of Texas.

SUPPORT MNNA STATUS FOR UKRAINE! CALL THE WHITE HOUSE NOW!

On July 21, President Petro Poroshenko requested Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) Designation Status for Ukraine live on CNN. In recent months this issue has been a top priority for the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and has been a major talking point for UCCA's Ukrainian Days in Washington, DC as well as in district Congressional meetings. We now need a big push to get the White House on board.

Therefore the UCCA urges the Ukrainian American community to call the White House NOW and express your support for MNNA Status for Ukraine. Please call the White House at (202) 456-1111 or register your support for MNNA status online at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>