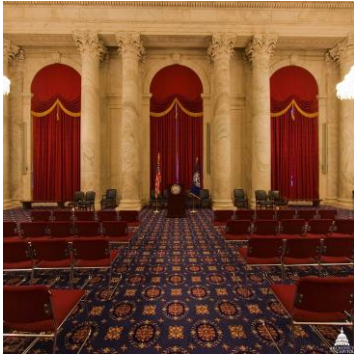




## UNIS TO MARK ITS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DURING THE 3<sup>RD</sup> 'UKRAINIAN DAY' EVENT

UNIS will once again sponsor a “*Ukrainian Day*” advocacy event on Wednesday, **October 11, 2017**. This endeavor is especially critical considering Russia’s ongoing illegal occupation of Crimea and the war being waged in eastern Ukraine against the foreign-borne Russian-supplied terrorists. The goal of the “Ukrainian Day” advocacy event is to encourage Members of Congress to enhance support for military assistance to Ukraine to fend off Russian aggression and preserve Ukraine’s territorial integrity and sovereignty.



The highlight of the “Ukrainian Day” program will include a **gala evening congressional reception** in the prestigious Senate Caucus Room – Senate Russell Building Room 325 – commemorating the **40th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS)**. Founded by the UCCA at the height of the Cold War in 1977, UNIS has been instrumental in advocating the community’s concerns for four decades. Its unwavering commitment to bringing about independence for Ukraine and, since 1991, enhancing the bilateral relations between Ukraine

and the United States, has earned it much respect within Washington. A few of UNIS’ milestones over the past forty years include:

- Annually observing Ukraine’s Independence (January 22nd /August 24th ) ; and National Captive Nations Week
- Serving as a reliable source of information on Ukraine for correspondents nationwide;
- Petitioning and Demonstrating in defense of human rights, political prisoners, dissidents, religious freedom and U.S. support for Ukraine
- Testifying before Congress on a host of Ukraine-related issues
- Commemorating the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-33, which included resolutions in both chambers of the U.S. Congress, informational and media campaigns; creation of the Ukraine Famine Commission in the U.S. Congress, with testimony from various Ukrainian Famine survivors;
- Organizing thousands to rally for recognition of Ukraine’s independence;
- Annually supporting increased foreign assistance to Ukraine; submitting testimony to the House and Senate the Appropriations Committees;
- Establishing the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) to advance U.S. security interests in the region;
- Organizing working visits of Ukrainian government officials and NGO leaders to meet with their U.S. counterparts and the community;
- Initiating the formation of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in 1997
- Sponsoring numerous “Ukrainian Days” advocacy events;
- Advancing the building of a Holodomor Memorial in Washington, DC to raise awareness about Stalin’s genocide in Ukraine; and,
- Actively encouraging U.S. support of civil society in Ukraine during times of unrest, promoting reform efforts in that country, and petitioning for economic, as well as military assistance.

The October 11 advocacy program is also supported by the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC). As a founding member of the CEEC, the UCCA urges our community to attend the CEEC’s congressional briefing session on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 on the future of NATO and its ‘Open Door’ policy.

## DISINFORMATION

Increasingly over the past few months, the ideological battleground that is social media has seen an uptick in attacks targeting Ukraine. A vast majority of these messages are automated by Russian networks, simply repeating their old messages in order to weaken the overwhelming support of Ukraine by the West. The most disturbing messages, however, are those that can be sourced to voices featured in U.S. media, or worse yet, by government officials.

As with its 2008 and 2014 invasions of Georgia and Ukraine, respectively, Russia repeatedly deflects criticism, by the tried and true tactic of *Whataboutism*. Designed to delude both domestic and foreign audiences, this Cold War technique has been re-deployed by Russia to divide the American and Ukrainian people through false rumors and innuendo. Currently, Russia’s state outlet RT heavily promotes the fanciful story that the revelation of surreptitious contact with agents of the Russian government should be treated no differently than the open, mutual support of the Ukrainian and United States governments.

The false accusation, leveled by Russian propagandists, slandering the Ukrainian government of attempting to harm its strategic ally, the United States, would be laughable had it not been picked up by several U.S. media outlets, so-called political experts, and government officials. Unfortunately, continued public statements by those ignorant of the facts can have a lasting effect on the flourishing U.S.-Ukraine relationship.

The recent statement by the President of the United States repeating such allegations only serves to harm this strategic alliance. While this administration has made strides in advancing U.S.-Ukraine cooperation, such statements, coming only days after Russia’s bloodiest attempted advance in 2017 took the lives of 17 Ukrainian heroes, and left dozens more injured, pain our community. UCCA, the largest grassroots representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, maintains our long-held belief that the security of the United States lies in the expansion of democracy and mutual security guarantees best demonstrated in the history of U.S.-Ukraine relations. To combat *Whataboutism* originating in Russia, we urge our fellow supporters of Ukraine to set the record straight whenever possible.

*To receive talking points, please contact UCCA Director of Communications, Andrij Dobriansky at [drijmail@gmail.com](mailto:drijmail@gmail.com)*

## RUSSIAN SANCTIONS ARE HERE TO STAY

On August 2, 2017, President Trump signed the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act or CAATSA (H.R. 3364), codifying into law all existing sanctions imposed on Russia for its illegal annexation of Crimea and its military invasion of Ukraine. Several weeks prior, CAATSA had been passed by both Houses of Congress by an overwhelming and veto-proof majority – 98-2 in the Senate and 419-3 in the House – conveying the strong, bipartisan support for Ukraine in the United States. As the first major piece of legislation of this Administration, this bill will further punish Moscow for its “significant” cyberattack and interference in the 2016 presidential election, increase US sanctions on Iran, require the Administration report to Congress on Iran's collaboration with North Korea, and authorize the expansion of existing US sanctions against all three countries, including their potential applicability to non-US firms. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest grassroots representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, welcomes the news of this law's signing, having repeatedly called upon supporters of Ukraine in this country to contact their elected Representatives to pass this critical legislation. We however, are concerned that, upon signing the bill, the President signaled that he is not necessarily bound by it. We call upon President Trump to stand firm with the United States Congress and openly denounce Russia's attacks on American democracy, our NATO partners, as well as Russia's invasion and occupation of America's strategic ally, Ukraine.

As reported by the newly-appointed United States' Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations, Ambassador Kurt Volker, "there are more Russian tanks in [Ukraine] than [tanks] in Western Europe combined." Since the beginning of 2017, there have been nearly 2,000 recorded attacks by Russian forces across the 'ceasefire' line in Ukraine, with dozens of civilians killed this year alone, bringing Russia's death toll in Ukraine to over 10,000. Russia's daily violation of international law calls for bold action like CAATSA, until they are forced to fully comply with their international obligations - including a withdrawal of any territorial claim over the Crimean peninsula, the release of political prisoners, and the removal of all covert and overt Russian forces and equipment from Ukraine.

## UNIS ANNOUNCES ARTISTIC COMPETITION FOR NEW LOGO

2017 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington public-affairs bureau of the UCCA. In this anniversary year, UNIS is calling upon *all* creative minds (artists, graphic designers, etc.) to participate in an art contest to help create UNIS' brand new logo! Times have changed since the bureau was originally founded and it would only be appropriate to commemorate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a new and unique logo to capture the full essence of UNIS' purpose. Highlights of UNIS' activities are mentioned in the article on “Ukrainian Days”.



Anyone who wishes to participate in the contest must submit a design for the logo by **September 20, 2017**. The winner will be selected and awarded a stipend of \$250 at the UNIS' “Ukrainian Day” advocacy event and celebratory anniversary reception on **Wednesday, October 11, 2017** in Washington, DC. In addition, the winner will have the opportunity for their logo to be featured as the new official logo of UNIS. All rights of the logo, however, will remain reserved to UNIS.

Please keep in mind although the logo must be simple and eye-catching, all submissions are highly encouraged and welcomed!

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness, that the UCCA informs its members and the entire Ukrainian American community of the passing of Dr. Evhen Fedorenko on August 1, 2017.

Professor Fedorenko, long-term Chairman of the UCCA Educational Council (1983-2017), dedicated his life to educating our Ukrainian American youth. He authored numerous articles, textbooks and studies, and served as the editor of the “Ridna Shkola” journal. Under his leadership, the UCCA Educational Council began conducting summer courses/seminars for teachers of Ukrainian Saturday schools.

*The UCCA Executive Board sends its heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Fedorenko and his entire family.  
May his memory be eternal!*



