TO: UCCA Branches
FROM: UCCA National Office
RE: 2nd anniversary of full-fledged aggression in a war that has lasted 10 years

Dear UCCA Branches:

This February 24th, Ukrainians around the world will honor sacrifices and stand united on the 2nd anniversary of full-fledged aggression in a war that has lasted 10 years. In advance of this anniversary, UCCA has endeavored to share some ideas being coordinated throughout the worldwide Ukrainian hromada for appropriately commemorating this tragic anniversary:

- The first action is to request your local government buildings or landmarks to be lit up in Ukraine’s national colors of blue and yellow. As an example, the UCCA National Office will be working towards lighting the Empire State Building in NYC. If such a project is not realistic in your community, we urge you to request that your town hall hold a flag raising ceremony to fly the Ukrainian flag.

- The second action is to request a proclamation or statement of support from your local Governor and/or Mayor. We would also urge you to ask your local elected officials if they would be able to provide a video statement as well as attend your local events. Attached you will find a sample letter of request.

- The third action is to coordinate special prayer services at some point during the week of February 19-26 in honor of the lives lost in the course of this genocidal invasion.

If your Viddil/Hromada has other plans to mark this anniversary, including mass rallies, vigils, conferences or concerts, please share them with UCCA’s National Office. Some communities throughout the USA have already announced their plans, and we are gathering them on UCCA’s website: https://ucca.org/swu2024/

Graphics and materials have been prepared by the Ukrainian World Congress, which will be compiling a worldwide list of events throughout our global community:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hgT1ZdSwlKWH1zFNcy2LyttwIpuLyh4q87SYxdKbe7c/edit?usp=drive_link
There is already a rally and march planned for 24 February in Washington D.C., should your community decide to organize transportation to attend. UCCA supports this initiative, as well as the initiatives of those who decide to rally in their hometowns:

- 🗓️ When: February 24 (Saturday) from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- 📍 Where: The Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.
- 🕒 Facebook event [http://tinyurl.com/2wx5evmp](http://tinyurl.com/2wx5evmp)

According to the Congressional Calendar, the House of Representatives will be in recess from 16 February – 5 March, with Members of Congress making themselves available during this time back in their home districts. Supporters of Ukraine should also do their very best to schedule local meetings with their elected representatives during this recess and invite them to your local events recognizing Ukrainian resiliency.

Coordinated by the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington, D.C. public affairs bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), a “Ukrainian Week” advocacy event will be held during Presidents' Week from 20-23 February 2024 in local congressional districts and states throughout the country. This in-district and in-state weeklong event will be crucial for advocating for continued support needed for Ukraine to defend its territory against invading russian forces.

As in previous advocacy events, a virtual briefing will be held prior to the weeklong event and briefing notes will be distributed to all Ukrainian Week participants. For further information and to register for the event, please contact [UkraineDaysDC2024@gmail.com](mailto:UkraineDaysDC2024@gmail.com)

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the UCCA National Office at (212) 228-6840, or by email at [dobriansky@ucca.org](mailto:dobriansky@ucca.org).

As always, thank you for your continued cooperation and support.
Dear Governor/Mayor:

This year, on February 24th, Ukrainians around the world will not only salute 2 years of Ukraine’s resilience in the face of all-out war against them, but the 10th year since war came to our ancestral homeland. This period has been most difficult in recent modern history for our Ukrainian homeland, when an unprovoked, genocidal military assault against Ukraine was launched in direct violation of all international law.

Over the past 2 years, Ukrainians have suffered much hardship. In total, nearly 20% of the total Ukrainian population remains displaced outside Ukraine, with a further 6 million currently displaced within Ukraine. To every extent that is possible, the Ukrainian American community has dedicated numerous services towards aiding and acclimating displaced Ukrainians here in the United States. This includes addressing those individuals currently suffering with severe post-traumatic effects. Cases related to sexual and gender-based violence have presented specific challenges. The inhumanity documented includes examples of cases where relatives were forced to witness crimes committed against their own family members: children watching parents, parents witnessing their children, even the open murder of grandparents; the age of victims of sexual and gendered-based violence ranged from four to 82 years.

It is not possible to confirm the precise number of children that have been direct casualties, but OHCHR has verified that this invasion has killed more than 500 children, and injured 750 as of mid-November. Children are not only suffering from a loss of education, they are also enduring freezing temperatures amid food shortages, as blackouts from the continued attacks against Ukraine’s critical energy infrastructure cause food to perish.

As your constituents, we urge you to issue a proclamation proclaiming solidarity with the people of Ukraine on the 2-year anniversary of this blatant violation of international law, recognizing that the acts of barbarism cited above as evidence of the steps taken by authoritarian regimes to eradicate a nation or ethnic group. At this critical juncture in Ukraine’s struggle to maintain its freedom, such a proclamation would send a strong message to the Ukrainian people that the United States supports their aspirations to live in a free and democratic nation, and condemns the aggressive and imperialistic actions of our common enemy.

In looking forward to your positive response, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
DRAFT PROCLAMATION

Recognizing the Sovereignty of Ukraine and the
Unbreakable Spirit of the People of Ukraine

WHEREAS, two years ago, on February 24, 2022, an unprovoked, genocidal military assault against Ukraine was launched in direct violation of all international law; and
WHEREAS, the United States government assesses that members of Russia’s forces have committed war crimes in Ukraine, and Ukraine and 32 other countries have accused Russia of violating the Genocide Convention at the International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Court has issued warrants of arrest for the President of the Russian Federation for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population (children) and that of unlawful transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation; and
WHEREAS the territorial integrity of Ukraine is sovereign and inviolable, and portions of Ukraine’s territory are currently under foreign military occupation, we honor the efforts and sacrifices of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, who continue to stand on Europe’s frontlines, defending democracy against tyranny; and
WHEREAS, Ukraine has always had a special bond with the United States, with Ukraine sending servicemen and women in support of U.S. forces in theaters such as Afghanistan and Iraq throughout an over 25-year working relationship on NATO deployments; and
WHEREAS, since the invasion of Ukraine began 10 years ago in 2014, the United States and its allies have helped train Ukraine’s Armed Forces, and we honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces for providing the educational materials and training to further the professional development and increase the overall readiness of Ukraine’s Armed Forces; and
WHEREAS, the people of the United States have opened their homes to Ukrainians displaced by the war in their homeland, and have personally donated time and again to humanitarian relief for the victims of this invasion, we honor the American spirit of generosity as an essential part of what makes us an exceptional nation; and
WHEREAS, for centuries the people of Ukraine yearned and struggled to achieve an independent state all the while preserving their culture, language, and self-identity; and,
WHEREAS, Ukrainian Americans continue to make significant contributions to the cultural fabric of the United States while never forgetting about their rich history and heritage, more than 100 years since first immigrating to this great nation, with which they share the collective U.S.-Ukrainian values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law;
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, “Governor’s/Mayor’s Name, “Governor/Mayor of State/City,” on behalf of its citizens, do hereby proclaim solidarity with the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom, I commend them for their strength, courage and bravery. On this day, let us recommit ourselves to helping the Ukrainian nation reclaim full sovereignty over its international borders and remember its heroes who sacrificed their lives to ensure freedom and happiness of the future generations.