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33 Years of Renewed Independence

This August 24th, Ukrainians around the world will mark the historic 33rd anniversary of Ukraine's renewed Independence. On that day in 1991, the Parliament of Ukraine proclaimed that the territorial integrity of Ukraine was sovereign and inviolable. This heroic move by the Ukrainian people followed countless attempts over many centuries by invading empires to eradicate a proud and unbroken nation.

Over the past 10+ years, the enemy has repeatedly tested Ukraine's determination to remain free, ultimately unleashing an unprovoked genocidal war in 2022. The human toll has been staggering for Ukraine, with tens of thousands killed, including over 500 children, millions displaced throughout the world and over 20,000 children forcibly kidnapped. We must also acknowledge the destruction of over 120,000 buildings, major dams and infrastructure, and the multiple cities and towns which have been completely depopulated and leveled to the ground.

As the world continues to watch this horror, Ukraine remains resolute. Throughout this era of war, the brave men and women of Ukraine have remained on the front lines of democracy, defending all of Europe from the advance of tyranny. There is no alternative. Ukrainians fight because they understand that it is not just their territorial integrity and sovereignty at stake, but the basic tenets of freedom and democracy. These principles extend beyond Ukraine and Europe, as they are the underpinnings of the international order that the United States and our Allies built in the aftermath of World War II, giving us the most prosperous and safe era in world history.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, a united community of Ukrainian American organizations and local leaders across the United States, has maintained from its earliest days that it is in the United States' national interest to see Ukraine stand as a sovereign and democratic state, in charge of its own foreign policy, militarily strong, territorially secure, and economically prosperous. If the United States were to abandon our promises to Ukraine, not only would we compromise our moral and ethical standing, but we would profoundly undermine our national security interests.

This August 24th, let us recommit ourselves to helping Ukraine reclaim full sovereignty over its international borders, by providing Ukraine's heroes all the assistance they need to defend their freedoms – artillery munitions, air defense systems and fighter jets.

On this anniversary, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America expresses our profound gratitude to all those who have laid down their lives in defense of our common U.S.-Ukrainian values of freedom and democracy and prays that the good Lord safeguards the Ukrainian people and grants them the strength to secure their sovereignty, the fortitude to restore their territorial integrity, and the wisdom to continue on their democratic, Euro-Atlantic path.

Слава Україні! Героям слава! Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the Heroes!

