TO: UCCA Branches  
FROM: UCCA National Office  
RE: Ukraine’s 32nd Anniversary of Independence

Dear UCCA Branches:

On August 24th the Ukrainians around the world will be celebrating the 32nd anniversary of Ukraine’s renewed independence. As in previous years, we have prepared a sample Proclamation for your local Governor and/or Mayor, as well as a cover letter to your Governor and/or Mayor.

Another way to observe Ukraine’s independence 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 and UCCA Buffalo, NY Branch is working to light up Niagara Falls. If such a project is not realistic in your community, we urge you to request that your town hall or state house hold a flag raising ceremony to fly the Ukrainian flag in a place of honor.

If your UCCA Local Branch or greater Ukrainian American community in your region has other plans to mark Ukraine’s historic anniversary, please share them with UCCA’s National Office in advance. UCCA endeavors to annually collect information about your local celebrations on our website, and forward this collection to the Ukrainian World Congress to join the list of events in over 60 countries around the world.

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 ucca@ucca.org. As always, thank you for your continued cooperation and support. We look forward to hearing about your branch’s plans and activities in marking Ukraine’s Anniversary of renewed Independence.

Sincerely,
UCCA National Office
2023

Dear Governor/Mayor:

This year, on August 24th, Ukraine will be marking its 32nd anniversary of renewed independence. In 1991, the Parliament of Ukraine heroically proclaimed the nation’s independence, thus taking the first step towards establishing a free and democratic state. Sadly, after centuries of foreign domination, Ukraine to this day continues to struggle to maintain its sovereignty against the aggression of its neighbor to the north.

As with our annual celebrations in 2022, events this year must acknowledge that over the past year, Ukrainians have suffered much hardship. Throughout the most difficult year in recent modern history for our Ukrainian homeland, when an unprovoked genocidal war was launched against Ukraine in direct violation of all international law, some 8.5 million people - or nearly 19% of the total Ukrainian population – was displaced outside Ukraine, with a further 6 million currently displaced within Ukraine. Those who have suffered for 9 years under the illegal occupation of the Crimean peninsula, were joined this year by millions of Ukrainians currently under barbaric occupation in the regions of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk.

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. The inhumanity documented against them 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.

As your constituents, we urge you to issue a proclamation commemorating the 32nd anniversary of Ukraine’s independence. 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 the state-sponsor of terror who resides to the north of our homeland.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a draft proclamation of this momentous anniversary for our community and our brethren in Ukraine.

In looking forward to your positive response, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
DRAFT PROCLAMATION

On the 32nd Anniversary of the Independence of Ukraine

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 and Territorial Defense Forces of Ukraine, in their heroic defense of the entire European continent and our United States allies against further aggressive actions; 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, thirty years ago, on August 24, 1991, the Parliament of Ukraine formally declared an independent, sovereign, and democratic Ukrainian state, establishing the territorial integrity of Ukraine as sovereign and inviolable, further upheld by over 90% of Ukrainians in a national referendum in December of that same year; and

WHEREAS, also in 1991, the indigenous Crimean Tatar people of Ukraine restored their historic executive-representative body - Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people - which was banned once again by occupying forces in 2016, and the language, rights, and culture of Ukraine’s indigenous people remain under threat today, much as they were during the Soviet and Tsarist regimes; and,

WHEREAS, Ukraine has always had a special bond with the United States, with Ukraine sending servicemen and women to serve alongside U.S. forces in theaters such as Afghanistan and Iraq throughout a three-decade relationship on NATO deployments; and

WHEREAS, since the invasion of Ukraine began in 2014, the United States and its allies have helped train Ukraine’s Armed Forces, 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, 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, “Governor’s/Mayor’s Name, “Governor/Mayor of State/City,” on behalf of its citizens, do hereby proclaim this day/week August 24, 2023 as Ukrainian Independence Day/Week/Month and request and urge all citizens to join in commemorating this important anniversary.

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.