

Proclamation

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-two 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 its three-decade long support of NATO deployments; and

Whereas, since the invasion of Ukraine in 2014, the United States and its allies have helped train Ukraine's Armed Forces, therefore 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 the unprovoked invasion, we honor the American spirit of generosity as an essential part of what makes us an exceptional nation; and

Now therefore, be it hereby proclaimed that I, Ronald Jubin, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, on behalf of its citizens, do hereby proclaim the week of August 24, 2023 as

Ukrainian Independence Week

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 future generations.

*Ronald Jubin, Ph.D. Mayor
August 24, 2023*