



PRESS RELEASE

State of Illinois and City of Chicago Proclaim August as Ukraine Month Chicago to Host Three Major Events Commemorating the 35th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence

CHICAGO, IL — August 11, 2026 — The Ukrainian community of Illinois will mark the **35th anniversary of Ukraine's independence** with three major public events in Chicago on August 21–23, highlighting Ukraine's resilience, innovation, contributions to global security, and unwavering commitment to freedom and democracy.

In recognition of the significant contributions of the more than **250,000 Ukrainians living in Illinois**, **Governor J.B. Pritzker** and **Mayor Brandon Johnson** have issued proclamations declaring **August as Ukraine Month in the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago**.

[Three Days of Signature Events](#)

August 21, Ukraine Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony 12:00 p.m. Daley Plaza, Chicago
Raising the Ukrainian flag at Daley Plaza will bring together elected officials, diplomats, community leaders, and members of the public in recognition of Ukraine's independence and the strength of the Ukrainian-American community. Mayor of Chicago Brandon Johnson is expected to greet the attendees as well as Denys Sienik, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Ukraine in the USA

[August 22 - Ukraine and the World: Forum for Global Insights](#) 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave, press registration is complimentary

A full-day international forum will bring together distinguished policymakers, diplomats, journalists, national security experts, scholars, and thought leaders to examine Ukraine's role in global security, innovation, reconstruction, and international cooperation. The Forum features a distinguished lineup of world-renowned speakers, including former U.S. Representatives Adam Kinzinger and Peter Roskam, Ukrainian MP Oleksandra Ustinova, CNN Global Affairs Analyst Kim Dozier, Dr. Azim Ibrahim, David Kirichenko, and many other leading experts and policymakers. Full Program is Attached.

Ukraine Unity March and Commemorative Program

<https://uccaillinois.org/event/independence-day-unity-march/>

Unity March - 12:00 PM Staging at 1500 W. Chicago Avenue, 1:00 pm Start Proceeds on Chicago Avenue to Oakley Blvd., then turns into Superior Street.

Ukraine Independence Day Community Commemorative Program 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

St. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church 739 N Oakley Blvd. Chicago, IL 60612

Thousands of participants are expected to join a powerful public demonstration of unity and solidarity with Ukraine on Chicago Ave, followed by a commemorative program and cultural celebration highlighting Ukrainian heritage, resilience, and the contributions of Ukrainian Americans.

For more than four years, Ukraine has defended its independence against Russia's full-scale invasion while standing on the front line of democracy and European security. Despite the staggering human cost of the war, Ukrainians continue to demonstrate extraordinary courage, resilience, and determination.

At the same time, Ukraine has emerged as a global leader in defense innovation and drone technology, transforming modern warfare and demonstrating what ingenuity, courage, and necessity can achieve under the most extraordinary circumstances.

Chicago's Ukrainian community invites all people of goodwill to join these events in celebrating Ukraine's Independence Day, honoring the contributions of Ukrainian Americans, reaffirming our support for Ukraine's freedom and victory, and expressing our deep gratitude to the American people for their steadfast support.

Government officials, members of the Consular Corps, community leaders, and representatives of Chicago's diverse communities are expected to participate throughout the weekend.

Together, we will stand in solidarity with Ukraine and affirm that its fight for freedom is a fight for the democratic values we all share.

A Celebration of Shared Values

Mariya Dmytriv-Kapeniak, MD, MPH, President, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Illinois Division, stated: "We are grateful to Governor Pritzker and Mayor Johnson for proclaiming August as Ukraine Month in the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago. This recognition honors not only the more than 250,000 Ukrainians who have helped shape our state, but also the enduring values we share — freedom, democracy, and human dignity. Together, we honor Ukraine's remarkable resilience, celebrate the vibrant Ukrainian-American community, and reaffirm our unwavering belief that freedom will prevail."

Media Contacts **Marta Farion**

773-490-9797

marta@farion.org