



RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S UKRAINIAN SERVICE – RADIO SVOBODA

September 11, 2019

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Ukrainian-language broadcasts – known as Radio Liberty (Radio Svoboda) – have spoken with, and for, the people of Ukraine since its first broadcast;

WHEREAS, since its first broadcast at the height of the Cold War, Radio Svoboda has earned the trust and gratitude of its audience by promoting the fundamental human rights to freedom and democracy, helping build national identity, and sending a strong signal of international solidarity and hope to the people of Ukraine;

WHEREAS, Radio Svoboda provided a lifeline of news and open debate for all who desired greater political, religious and cultural freedom in Ukraine, and was the first to inform its audience of the threat posed by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

WHEREAS, Radio Svoboda has, since Ukraine declared its independence in 1991, served as a catalyst for public dialogue and democratic change, helping to uncover the governmental abuses that led to the 2004 Orange Revolution, and broadcasting many of the iconic video images of the 2014 “Revolution of Dignity;”

WHEREAS, Radio Svoboda – winner of the David Burke Distinguished Journalism Award in 2014 (Kyiv Bureau) and 2016 (Crimea.Realities) – continues to provide the people of Ukraine accurate and balanced coverage of local, regional, and national news and events; to serve as the voice of free Ukrainian people in Russia-annexed Crimea and the war-torn eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk via its “Crimea.Realities” and “Donbas.Realities” video and radio programs; and to promote greater public accountability with its investigative TV program “Schemes,” whose high-impact reporting on corruption among the country's political elites has informed official investigations and led to high-level dismissals; and

WHEREAS, Radio Svoboda reporters face considerable risk as working journalists, as demonstrated by RFE/RL contributors Stanislav Aseyev and Oleh Halaziuk, detained and kept incommunicado by pro-Russia separatists in eastern Donetsk since mid-2017; RFE/RL contributor Mykola Semena, convicted by a Russian court in forcibly-annexed Crimea on charges of “separatism” in September 2017; Semena's colleagues on the Crimea Desk, intimidated and harassed by Russian authorities since the desk was created in 2014; and members of the Schemes team, who have been subjected to verbal abuse, physical assault, and legal jeopardy for their work.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the U.S. Agency for Global Media that we celebrate and commemorate the 65th anniversary of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and CEO applaud and thank current and former members of the Ukrainian Service for their commitment to their audiences and their dedication to professional journalism.