

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S. RES.** \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine from the  
former Soviet Union.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the  
following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

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## **RESOLUTION**

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the independence of  
Ukraine from the former Soviet Union.

Whereas, on January 21, 1990, more than 300,000 Ukrainians called for unity and independence from the Soviet Union by forming a human chain between the cities of Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk;

Whereas, on August 24, 1991, the elected Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine declared the independence of Ukraine from the Soviet Union with an overwhelming majority of the vote;

Whereas, on December 1, 1991, more than 90 percent of Ukrainian citizens voted in a national referendum in support of independence, with majorities in every region;

Whereas, on February 8, 1994 , Ukraine was the first member state of the Commonwealth of Independent States to join the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and has since deepened its relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, recognized as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner;

Whereas, on November 22, 2004, Ukrainians peacefully took to the streets in protest of a fraudulent presidential election, beginning the Orange Revolution and resulting in new elections under free and fair conditions,

Whereas, on November 21, 2013, the Euromaidan protests began, resulting in the Revolution of Dignity and the removal of President Viktor Yanukovich by the Verkhovna Rada;

Whereas, on February 20, 2014, the Russian Federation invaded the independent state of Ukraine, and Ukraine continues to confront malign Russian activity, including the ongoing occupation of the Crimea region, conflict in the Donbas region, and threats to freedom of navigation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov;

Whereas Ukraine has made significant progress on defense reforms and has deployed in numerous conflicts with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in support of allied and coalition operations;

Whereas the United States-Ukraine Trade and Investment Council continues its mission of reducing trade barriers in the bilateral relationship, and Ukraine continues to seek economic alignment with Europe and the West; and

Whereas Ukraine has continued to progress on a path toward democracy and has prioritized closer engagement with the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2           (1) recognizes the courage and resolve shown by  
3       the Ukrainian people in their pursuit of sovereignty  
4       and democracy;

5           (2) remembers the Euromaidan demonstrations  
6       of November 2013 as a major step forward in the  
7       journey of Ukraine toward democracy;

8           (3) condemns the illegal military invasion and  
9       occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in  
10      2014 and the violence fomented by Russian proxies  
11      in eastern Ukraine, two active conflicts that continue  
12      in 2021;

13          (4) affirms the Crimea Declaration issued and  
14      announced by the Department of State on July 24,  
15      2018, which rejects the illegal annexation of Crimea  
16      by the Russian Federation and pledges to maintain  
17      that position until the territorial integrity of Ukraine  
18      is restored;

19          (5) applauds the progress that the Government  
20      of Ukraine has made in aligning with Euro-Atlantic  
21      norms and standards and improving military combat  
22      readiness and interoperability with the North Atlan-  
23      tic Treaty Organization;

1           (6) encourages the Government of Ukraine to  
2           continue implementing crucial reforms to fight cor-  
3           ruption, build strong and free markets, and  
4           strengthen democracy and the rule of law;

5           (7) affirms the unwavering commitment of the  
6           United States Government to support the continuing  
7           efforts of the Government of Ukraine to restore  
8           Ukraine's territorial integrity by providing consistent  
9           political and diplomatic support and additional lethal  
10          and non-lethal security assistance to strengthen the  
11          defense capabilities of Ukraine on land and sea and  
12          in the air;

13          (8) condemns the ongoing malign activities car-  
14          ried out by the Russian Federation against Ukraine  
15          and continues to call upon the Government of the  
16          Russian Federation to immediately cease all activity  
17          that seeks to undermine Ukraine and destabilize Eu-  
18          rope;

19          (9) calls upon the United States Government  
20          and its international allies and partners to increase  
21          sanctions pressure against the Russian Federation  
22          until the Russian Federation upholds its inter-  
23          national obligations to respect the territorial integ-  
24          rity of Ukraine, including obligations under the  
25          Memorandum on security assurances in connection

1 with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-  
2 Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed at Buda-  
3 pest December 5, 1994, and the Minsk agreements  
4 agreed to in 2014 and 2015;

5 (10) congratulates the people of Ukraine on the  
6 announcement on January 6, 2019, of autocephaly  
7 for an independent Orthodox Church of Ukraine,  
8 which marked an important milestone in Ukraine's  
9 pursuit of its own future free from Kremlin influ-  
10 ence;

11 (11) celebrates 3 decades of Ukrainian inde-  
12 pendence and the strong partnership between the  
13 peoples and Governments of the United States and  
14 Ukraine; and

15 (12) welcomes the September 1, 2021, visit to  
16 Washington, D.C., by President of Ukraine  
17 Volodymyr Oleksandrovyh Zelensky at the invita-  
18 tion of President Joseph R. Biden to further deepen  
19 the bonds between the United States and Ukraine.