NORTH DAKOTA

E P R O C L A M A T I O N

UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY AUGUST 24, 2025

WHEREAS, on August 24, 1991, the Parliament of Ukraine declared an independent, sovereign and democratic state, establishing the territorial integrity of Ukraine, further upheld by over 90% of Ukrainians in a national referendum in December of that same year; and

WHEREAS, the rights, language and culture of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people of Ukraine remain under threat today, much as they were during the Tsarist and Soviet 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, and being an active member 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 and equip Ukraine's Armed Forces – we honor the men and women of the United States military for providing the materials and training to further the professional development and increase the overall readiness of Ukraine's Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the territorial integrity of Ukraine is sovereign and inviolable, and as portions of Ukraine's territory are currently under illegal foreign military occupation, we honor the efforts and sacrifices of the Armed Forces and Territorial Defense Forces of Ukraine in their heroic defense of their homeland and the lands of our allies, including the entire European continent, against further aggressive actions; 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 to humanitarian relief efforts for the victims of this invasion, recognizing the American spirit of generosity as an essential part of what makes the United States an exceptional nation; and

WHEREAS, Ukrainian Americans, since immigrating to this great nation more than 100 years ago, continue to make significant contributions to the cultural fabric, economic development and scientific achievements of the United States, while never forgetting about their rich history and heritage, with which they share the collective U.S.-Ukrainian values of freedom, democracy and rule of law.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim August 24, 2025, UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY in the State of North, Dakota.

Kelly Armstrong

GOVERNOR

Michael Howe SECRETARY OF STATE