



The American Hungarian Federation

Serving the Community since 1906 - Fidelissimus ad Mortem

Remarks Honoring Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

Bryan Dawson, Vice-President, American Hungarian Federation

On the occasion of the American Hungarian Federation's Congressional Reception commemorating Hungarian National Day, Lajos Kossuth and the 1848 Hungarian War of Independence, and honoring members of Congress.

Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C., March 21, 2018

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen! Please extend a warm welcome to our honoree, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

Congresswoman Kaptur represents Ohio's 9th District that hugs the Lake Erie coastline from Cleveland to Toledo, home to a large number of Americans of Hungarian origin and other Central and East European countries. She was born in Toledo of Polish ancestry, and as we all should know, there is a special millenia-old bond of friendship between Hungarians and Poles.

Congresswoman Kaptur serves on the *House Appropriations Committee*, is a ranking member of the *Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development*, and also serves on the *Interior Subcommittee* and the powerful *Defense Subcommittee*

She is a strong advocate for *America's seniors and veterans* and was the prime force behind building the World War II Memorial on the National Mall, opened in 2004 after a 17-year effort. She was instrumental in ensuring Hungary took her rightful place in the NATO alliance and continues to advocate for strong transatlantic relations. When some recently doubted US resolve, she was emphatic in her support for the NATO alliance commenting, "it is incumbent the U.S. does not leave any doubt in the minds of our friends, or foes, as to our nation's firm commitment to defending liberty and upholding our historic alliance with Europe. "

She is a recipient of the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of Hungary in recognition of her outstanding work as Co-Chair of the Hungarian-American Caucus and for providing a significant voice and platform for Hungarian-Americans across the United States.

Representative Kaptur has travelled extensively in Central and Eastern Europe, and is familiar with the issues and problems in the region. She is an advocate for the rule of law and human and minority rights. She supported AHF and the Hungarian American community by raising concerns regarding the rights of Rumania's large historic Hungarian community and the need for restoration of church and synagogue properties confiscated by the communist regime. She and her colleagues concluded by expressing their "conviction that we in the United States consider treatment of religious and ethnic minorities an important measure of democracy." She is a tireless advocate of liberty. Last year, Representatives Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Dennis Ross (R-FL), and Chris Smith (R-NJ) announced the formation of the Victims of Communism Caucus.

"All for the people and all by the people. Nothing about the people without the people. That is Democracy, and that is the ruling tendency of the spirit of our age." - the words of Lajos Kossuth at the Ohio State Legislature, February 16, 1852, over a decade before Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

AHF established the Lajos Kossuth Award to recognize government leaders for their support in strengthening U.S. relations with Hungary and of democracy and human and minority rights in Central and Eastern Europe.



Marcy is very special to our community and I am honored to present her with the American Hungarian Federation's Lajos Kossuth Award, in recognition of her decade's long support for strengthening US relations with Hungary and advocating for human and minority rights in the region.

Congresswoman Kaptur, please accept this award on behalf of a grateful community!