



The American Hungarian Federation

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Remarks Honoring Congressman Andy Harris

Dr. Imre Németh., 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

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the American Hungarian Federation, it is my privilege to welcome our honoree, Congressman Andy Harris from the First District of Maryland.

Congressman Harris spent many years as an anesthesiologist at Johns Hopkins Hospital, following in the footsteps of his Hungarian father, Zoltán Haris, who was also an anesthesiologist. Congressman Harris served as a medical specialist in the US Navy Reserve, including serving in Operation Desert Storm. In 1998, he was elected as a Maryland State Senator and continued to serve for 12 years. He then went on to become Maryland's only Republican Congressman in 2010. Congressman Harris is an advocate of a strong US military force and works to preserve traditional values, among other issues.

Having been raised by a Hungarian father and a Polish mother, both of whom fled Central Europe immediately after World War II, Congressman Harris' Hungarian heritage has made him a strong advocate of a free democratic Hungary. He has been a member of the Congressional Hungarian Caucus since 2011 and currently serves as its Co-Chair. Congressman Harris works endlessly to improve relations and to strengthen the bond between the US and Hungary, particularly through efforts with the State Department to promote a strong national alliance and by travelling to Hungary as a member of US Congressional Delegations. Furthermore, Congressman Harris strives to protect the human rights of Hungarian minorities in other parts of Europe.

Throughout his endeavors, Congressman Andy Harris has been a supporter of the American Hungarian Federation as well as a close friend. Because of all that he has done to promote US/Hungarian relations, it is my honor to award Congressman Andy Harris with the Lajos Kossuth Award.

Congressman Harris, please accept this award on behalf of the Federation. Thank you for dedication and service to all Hungarian Americans!