

The Lviv meetings also allowed our Mission to distinguish itself from the other very fine international humanitarian aid organizations operating here in Ukraine, when government officials informed us that *“the Ukrainians in greatest need of aid are those that are found in the southern one-third of the nation, specifically those living in the many small villages located along the front lines of the most active combat zone”*.

In first telling the aid organizations assembled here that *“this is a very dangerous assignment, as it will not only take you to the center of the fighting on the Western Front, but it will put you in close proximity to Russian forces, who only very recently de-occupied these villages”*. He then asked for volunteers.

Not only were we the quickest to answer this call, but mine ended up being the only hand raised in the air...which was a very easy decision for me, because after all, our primary mission goal is: **“To provide the most-needed aid to the neediest of Ukrainians”**.



It was a gift commensurate with the importance of his deeds. To say the least, I was impressed, humbled and honored by the incredible support and assistance that Lviv Governor Maksym Kozytskyy lent our Mission and the people of southern Ukraine by literally opening the doors of Lviv’s humanitarian aid depot and filling a delivery van full of medical, military, and personal products for us to take to them.

Recognizing his truly life-saving actions and the immediate bond it created between one nation’s citizen and another, I presented him with a gift that carried great meaning to me, as it was the flag that draped the coffin of my U.S. Navy Veteran fighter pilot father during his Full Military Honors burial ceremony. Deeply touched by this, Governor Kozytskyy said that it was the most meaningful gift he was given, and that he will put it right next to the Ukrainian flag that was presented to him by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when he was appointed Governor. There he said, it would serve as a daily reminder of the incredible support and generosity of the American people and the bonds between America and Ukraine.



July 19, 2022 Meetings held in the Lviv Governor’s Office

“Yuri” (actual name withheld for security reasons) thanking us for accepting the assignment to deliver aid to southern Ukraine.