



AHF PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT (in English):

Bryan Dawson-Szilagyi, Vice President

National Press Building #809

Washington D.C. 20045

(202) 737-0127

www.americanhungarianfederation.org / www.hungary1956.com

AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FEDERATION ISSUES STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FEDERATION FOLLOWING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1956 was not only a culmination of Hungary's long struggle for freedom and independence, but also presaged the collapse of the Soviet Empire. Our Federation is committed to honoring those whose enormous sacrifice made this result possible - a sacrifice that seemed futile 50 years ago but that today is universally recognized as having contributed to the ultimate demise of Soviet overlordship in Central and Eastern Europe.

Today we also recall the impact the massive Soviet invasion and the brutal crushing of the unequivocal expression of Hungarians to be free had on the Hungarian communities in states neighboring Hungary. One consequence was the solidly Stalinist Romanian government's virtual liquidation of the Hungarian-language Bolyai University in Romania, which was implemented by the secretary of the Central Committee, Nicolae Ceausescu.

As this university has yet to be restored, Nobel Laureates and Wolf Prize Laureates, including Elie Wiesel and George Olah, and 69 other internationally acclaimed scholars called upon Romania this month to take "immediate steps" to "re-establish the public Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvar." What a fitting commemoration of 1956 righting such wrongs extending back decades would be. It would also be a fitting tribute to the memory of thousands of unsung heroes who did not compromise but sacrificed their lives for the cause of liberty fifty years ago.

Washington, D.C.

February 15, 2006

For more information, contact Frank Koszorus, Jr., AHF 1st Vice President at (202) 737-0127

>> About AHF

About AHF: The American Hungarian Federation (AHF), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in 1906 in Cleveland, Ohio. AHF's Motto, "Faithful Unto Death," was taken from a letter written by former Hussar Officer Mihaly Kovats to Benjamin Franklin. Kovats, known as Father of the US Cavalry, offered his sword in service to the United States and died in battle against the British in Charleston, S.C. in 1779. Just as Kovats' life and service is celebrated annually by US Military Cadets at the Citadel, the motto reflects AHF virtues, and historically and inextricably ties Hungarians and Americans together while symbolizing Hungarians' contributions and sacrifices to America's beginning. Among the oldest ethnic organizations in the US, AHF was established as an association of Hungarian societies, institutions and churches to "defend the interest of Americans of Hungarian origin in the United States."

Fidelissimus ad Mortem!

"Hiven Mindhalálíg!" - "Faithful Unto Death!"
- Colonel Michael Kovats de Fabriczy,
in his letter to Benjamin Franklin,
Commandant of the Pulaski Legion,
Father of the US Cavalry and fallen
hero in the American Revolution,
died in battle, Charleston, SC, 1779

All are encouraged to join. Tax-deductible donations are also welcome on our Website or mail. See www.americanhungarianfederation.org and www.hungary1956.com

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