

For Immediate Release

Tues. Oct. 8, 2019

Contact: Rep. Peter Somssich

****Media Advisory****

Governor Sununu Proclaims Oct. 23, 2019 Hungarian Freedom & Democracy Day

The public is invited to a remembrance of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution on Oct.22, 2019 at 3PM, hosted by the NH Friends of Hungary and Rep. Peter Somssich. Our special guest will be the Honorary Hungarian Consul Gabor Garai who is responsible for the New England region. This short event will take place in the lobby of the State House in Concord and will be followed by a reception and social gathering in the cafeteria where Hungarian pastries and coffee will be served.

“ I am hoping to hear many personal stories from those in attendance regarding their connection to Hungary”, said Rep. Somssich, who was one of the 47,000 Hungarian refugees that came to the USA after the revolution.

This year marks the 63rd anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, but also the 30th anniversary of the year 1989, that ended with the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of many communist governments including Hungary’s. The Oct.23,1956 revolution against an oppressive government in Hungary demanded the withdrawal of Soviet troops and self-determination for Hungarians. The Soviet Union responded with massive military intervention that was resisted by the Hungarian Freedom Fighters for a few days, before the revolt was subdued.

Thousands of Hungarians were tried, tortured and executed and over 200,000 Hungarians (2% of the population) fled the country. The year 1989 saw a reform-minded Hungarian government leading the way to opening the Iron Curtain separating Europeans. “Many observers credit Hungary, working together with Germany, Austria and the Soviet leadership, with triggering the collapse of communism”, commented Mr. Somssich.

This event will also acknowledge the passing of the dissident writer György Konrad, a survivor of the Holocaust, who struggled to have his books published in Hungary before 1989 and who continued to be a strong advocate for democracy after 1989.

“On behalf of Hungarian Americans in NH, I want to thank Gov. Sununu for his proclamation, as well as thanking both House Speaker Shurtleff and Senate President Soucy for their declarations”, said Rep. Somssich.

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