



President of the United World Wrestling
Mr. Nenad Lalovic
General Secretary of the UWW
Mr. Carlos Roy
Development commission

Dear Sirs,

It is time to correct the historical injustice and return to Ukraine the international tournament on the Greco-Roman wrestling in memory of Ivan Piddubny, which was taken away and appropriated by the Russian Federation after the collapse of the USSR.

Ivan Maksymovych Piddubny, Ukrainian by birth, was born on October 8 (September 26 in the old style) in 1871 in the family of the Cossack Maksym Ivanovych Piddubny in Poltava region, in the village of Krasenivka of Zolotonosha county (now Cherkasy region) and lived with his parents in his native village until he was 20 years old. Acquired the land in 1910 in Krasenivka and Bohodukhivka villages, he managed there until 1919 (for details see <http://eprints.cdu.edu.ua/4814/>).

«The Champion of Champions» Ivan Piddubny is also known for the fact that when he received a passport of a citizen of the USSR, his name was written with the letter «o», namely «Poddubny», and his nationality was written «Russian». Ivan Piddubny personally corrected «o» to «i» in this document and wrote the nationality - «Ukrainian».

Ivan Piddubny's name belongs to the whole world, and his small homeland is the Krasenivka village in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian people celebrate the memory of Ivan Piddubny. A museum was opened in the center of his native village – Krasenivka and a monument to him was erected. Streets in many settlements are named after him, his name is mentioned in the names of educational institutions. In 2006, Maria Prylipko's book «Ivan Piddubny – the Strength of Ukraine» was published, and a film about the life of I. Piddubny was made. Every year the Cherkasy region hosts the All-Ukrainian holiday of the bogatyr strength in memory of I. Piddubny, the program of which includes a Greco-Roman wrestling tournament.

2021 was the year of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Piddubny. The anniversary date was marked by the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, which was dedicated to the commemoration of this year's memorable dates and anniversaries. This document puts the name of Ivan Piddubny on a par with prominent Ukrainians who have made Ukraine famous all over the world. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of I. Piddubny in our country, in particular in Cherkasy region, the following events were held: the National Bank of Ukraine issued a commemorative

coin and commemorative medal, held the Cup of Ukraine in Greco-Roman wrestling among adults, All-Ukrainian Greco-Roman wrestling tournament among adults, All-Ukrainian Festival of Bogatyr Strength in Memory of I. Piddubny, Third Satellite Symposium of the Scientific Commission of the United World of Wrestling «Challenges and Prospects in Wrestling», Championship of Ukraine in Greco-Roman wrestling among adults, published a book by Irina Prylutska: «Ivan Piddubny: Whole World Has Fallen at Your Feet».

Honoring the memory of Ivan Piddubny by holding an international Greco-Roman wrestling tournament in his homeland – Ukraine, we glorify the dignity of the world wrestling community, as well as achieve the goal of consolidation, formation of historical consciousness and memory of all peoples of the world. This will be a new impetus for the formation of a positive image of the United World of Wrestling in the world community and the further development of the Olympic Movement.

Sincerely

Interim president of UWA



Yurii Kopytko