



City of  
**Gainesville**

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Harvey L. Ward Jr., Mayor

May 5, 2025

Honorable Andrey Vasiljevich Kravchenko  
Mayor of Novorossiisk  
Via email: [pmpokusaev@mail.ru](mailto:pmpokusaev@mail.ru)

Dear Mayor Kravchenko:

From the bottom of our hearts we send our congratulations to the people of Novorossiisk on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory Day. We are proud to be sister cities of the Hero City of Novorossiisk, which played a crucial role in turning back the nazi advance into Southern Russia.

The victory in the Great Patriotic War was a triumph of the Soviet and Russian people. Although everyone in the USSR contributed to the common goal of defeating nazism, the biggest role was played by the Russian Federation, and Novorossiisk was one of the major battlegrounds, thereby earning the title of "Hero City." This is truly a "tears in your eyes" celebration.

Victory Day is a special day for every family in Novorossiisk, who highly respect the heroic deeds of the veterans and recognize the importance of keeping alive the memory of victory in the Great Patriotic War. The City of Novorossiisk has numerous monuments in honor of those who gave their lives for the freedom and independence of their country. For example, the preserved railroad car, which was pierced by thousands of bullets, became a symbol of courage, heroism and the unwavering will of the people. The defenders of Novorossiisk gave their lives for their country and future generations.

Gainesville and Novorossiisk can benefit from collaboration on economic, social, cultural and ecological challenges. Sharing information and experiences about life in our regions will enable the continuation of mutually beneficial exchanges like the ones we have enjoyed for the past 43 years.

I hope to visit Novorossiisk during my term as mayor. I would also like to invite you to bring an official delegation to Gainesville, when the time is right for you.

Please convey our best wishes to all the people of Novorossiisk on this historic day.

Best Regards,



Harvey L. Ward, Jr.  
Mayor