



THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
IN THE USA

1 February 2014

To Whom It May Concern

Our role at the Russian Cultural Centre in Washington D.C. is and has been to increase mutual respect and understanding between our nations by supporting a broad variety of cross-cultural events and initiatives, even in the most difficult of times. With this in mind we would like to make you aware of one of the more unique projects we have ever endorsed.

In 2012, the Russian Cultural Center in Washington D.C., hosted two different presentations by M.G. Crisci, the American author of *Call Sign, White Lily*, a historical novel in collaboration with Russian co-writers Yelena Sivolap and Valentine Vaschenko.

Mr. Crisci's book, and his fascinating multi-media presentation about the making of the book, was inspiring to all in attendance. It is a case study in how an American, with absolutely no Russian ancestry, gained the trust and support of people from an entirely different culture and language to write a tender and interesting coming-of-age story about Muscovite Lilia Litvyak, the world's first female fighter pilot. *Mr. Crisci's* presentation and book also provides approachable insights into many important Russian customs and traditions.

The outstanding feedback from all who attended Mr. Crisci's initial presentation caused us to have him return for a second presentation. And, since that time, he has traveled to our homeland on two additional occasions, thus providing the stimulus for another equally fascinating book, *Seven Days in Russia. An Ordinary American's View of the New Federation*.

Sincerely,

Yury Zaytsev
The Representative of the
Rossotrudnichestvo in the U.S.,
The Head of the Russian Cultural Centre