Thirty-four years ago, Chornobyl’s Nuclear Reactor Number Four exploded in the early morning hours of April 26, 1986. Releasing 400 times more radioactive material than the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, the explosion remains the worst nuclear disaster in history. The subsequent acts of the imperialistic Russian regime not only intensified the irreparable harm done to Ukraine and its people, but also demonstrated a blatant and callous disrespect for human life.

Located just 64 miles north of Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, the explosion that
nuclear power plant in Sweden two days later, did the Soviet authorities issue an acknowledgment of the disaster. By then, the majority of people in the nearby town of Prypyat had already suffered nuclear poisoning. Moscow continued to deny and conceal the explosion's magnitude in an effort to uphold the totalitarian regime's Iron Curtain. Thousands of innocent Ukrainians, including young children, were forced to go about their days, completely unaware of the nuclear contamination that was urgently poisoning their bodies.

To this day, the detrimental consequences of Moscow's incompetence are still evident. On April 4, 2020, a forest fire caused radiation levels to spike to nearly 17 times above the normal levels, reminding the Ukrainian people that the memory of this catastrophe is still fresh. Adverse economic, ecological, and health effects stemming from this disaster are expected to plague Ukraine for many years to come.

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) annually commemorates this disaster, offering our prayers for all the victims killed by this tragedy and all those who continue to suffer from its effects. This year, we call upon the international community to help us ensure that the ongoing needs of the victims are never forgotten. In light of Russia’s continued disrespect for human life in Eastern Ukraine, we ask that the international community join us in bringing justice to all those who have fallen victim to the acts of the Kremlin.

As we commemorate the 34th anniversary of the worst nuclear disaster in the history of the world, let us never forget the lives that were lost to this catastrophic crime against humanity.
Please remember to support your local parishes, many of whom have maintained the recitation of daily prayers for us while we shelter at home. With no weekly bake sales or collection plates, we need to proactively support them.

If you have account in a Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, you can ask them about making a direct deposit to your local parish, which will often have an account at the Credit Union as well. Don't forget to include your full names so that the parish can keep track of weekly donations.

UCCA supports the initiative to postpone community events and activities indefinitely, or else move to have these online. Unfortunately, some annual events have had to be canceled for this year already. UCCA is keeping a updated list of these cancellations on our Facebook
WHAT IS UCCA?
The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan community-based organization that has represented the interests of Ukrainians in the United States since 1940.

ЩО ТАКЕ УККА?
Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки (УККА) є неприбутковою, безпартійною громадською організацією, яка представляє інтереси українців у Сполучених Штатах Америки з 1940 року.