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Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки

UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA



Holodomor Then, Genocide Now, Justice... When?



On 18 November, hundreds of Ukrainian Americans gathered before St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City to embark on a nearly 3 mile “March of Remembrance” in memory of the innocent victims of the Holodomor – Stalin’s Famine-Genocide of Ukrainians in 1932-33.

led by an enormous bell, which tolled at every intersection in memory of those who perished. Following the bell were a [Ukrainian American Veterans \(UAV\)](#) Color Guard led by National Commander Michael Hrycak, and Ukrainian American youth representing the [“Samopomich” School of Ukrainian Studies in New York City](#), the Ukrainian School of Ukrainian Studies [“Nova Khvyłka”](#) in Brooklyn, the [“Shkola Ukrainoznavstva”](#) at the New York City oseredok of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (CYM) and scouts from local area Stanytsia of the [Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization](#).

Additional marchers included *Soyuzanky* from the [New York Regional Council](#) of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America, and local member-representatives of [Svitanok](#), the [Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna](#), the [“Self-Reliance” Association of American Ukrainians](#), the [Organization for Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine](#), the [Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine](#), the [Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation](#) the [Center for US-Ukrainian Relations](#), the [Ukrainian Institute of America](#), the [Shevchenko Scientific Society](#), the [Liberty Foundation](#), the [Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America](#), the [Ukrainian Free University Foundation](#) and assembled clergy and seminarians from across the entire NYC metropolitan / tri-state region.



Once the procession ended, marchers joined with several hundred more Ukrainians from New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania inside the historic St. Patrick's Cathedral for an ecumenical requiem service – a Ukrainian *Panakhyda*.

Prior the service, UCCA President Andriy Futey introduced His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, who greeted the faithful to the basilica. The Cardinal then turned over the lectern to Metropolitan Anthony, Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, for an opening word of remembrance.



Cardinal Dolan, Metropolitan Antony

A solemn procession entered through the nave of the cathedral to the accompaniment of the [Ukrainian Chorus "Dumka" of New York](#) singing a choral concerto by Artemy Vedel. The Ukrainian American Veterans once again led the procession followed by schoolchildren holding LED candles and finally Holodomor survivors [Nadia Severyn](#) and [Rev. Yuri Bazylevsky](#), escorted by their family members.



Dumka Chorus, Nadia Severyn, Yuri Bazylevsky

Following the memorial service, UCCA President Andriy Futey commenced the commemorative program, referring to both the Holodomor of 1932-1933 as well the present invasion of Ukraine as “planned and orchestrated genocides of the Ukrainian nation by the Kremlin.” Throughout the day, many speakers would refer to the War against Ukraine – “not a ‘war in Ukraine’ nor a war ‘between Ukraine and russia,’” in the words of UCCA’s President – as a war of genocide.



L-R: Andriy Futey, Amb. Millard, Amb. Kyslytsya, Amb. Markarova, Michael Sawkiw

The first guest of honor invited to speak was Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Oksana Markarova, who arrived in New York after spending the entirety of her previous day [commemorating the Holodomor](#) with UCCA's Andriy Futey and the [United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio](#). Amb. Markarova thanked "both Ukrainians and friends of Ukraine" in attendance who had gathered to commemorate a "totalitarian attempt to subdue our spirit and destroy us as a nation." In pointing out that Stalin's successors in the Kremlin today continue to deny that the crime of the Holodomor Genocide took place, she asked, "How often have we heard that 'unpunished evil' will return?"



Sen. Schumer

Following the Ambassador of Ukraine, Senator Charles Ellis "Chuck" Schumer of New York, who has served as Senate Majority Leader since 2021 and as the senior United States senator from New York since 1999, returned to the podium which he has visited for decades to once again "stand with Ukraine."

Repeatedly, the Senator emphasized in his remarks that the United States "must give Ukraine everything it needs," and that under his leadership, "the United States will not fail to meet this moment and will not fail the Ukrainian people in their hour of strife." Upon concluding his conversation with "*moï*

друзі,” the thousands gathered in attendance rose to their feet with thunderous applause.

Amb. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, followed the Senator by announcing that in response to his invitation to fellow representatives of UN Member states [to co-sign a declaration](#) commemorating the 90th year of the Holodomor – offered just 2 days earlier at an [event co-organized by UCCA](#) and the [Ukrainian World Congress](#) – 45 nations had already [co-signed the declaration](#). Also, in response to a letter initiated by Amb. Kyslytsya and co-signed by UCCA’s Andriy Futey, Metropolitan Antony and Metropolitan Borys Gudziak, the Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop of Philadelphia, over a dozen representatives from UN Member states were present in the cathedral in solidarity with Ukraine.



Amb. Elisabeth Millard, acting representative of the United States to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, spoke next and remarked that like with many other commemorations of tragedy, this annual event is also about resilience. And like the Senator before her, the Ambassador reiterated that the “United States continues its enduring commitment to stand strong with Ukraine in this fight for justice.”

Michael Sawkiw, Jr., Chair of the [U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness](#) and UCCA Vice President, tied the events of today in Ukraine with those in 1932-33 by remarking that “the Soviet Union created

the original 'Fake News.'" Disinformation by Russia "remains one of the biggest challenges facing greater awareness and genocide recognition of the Ukrainian Holodomor," stated Mr. Sawkiw.

Before offering a closing benediction, Metropolitan Borys Gudziak asked the assembled faithful to recognize the Holodomor survivors in attendance, which elicited another standing ovation for Pani Severyn and Rev. Bazylevsky. The Metropolitan then invited everyone to pray "with our heart and our hope," to overcome the hate of terrorists, of antisemitism, and the death of Muslims in China; such prayer "will overcome the hatred of Putin. And Nadia and Fr. Yuriy testify it to us in a quiet way. That is the Way of God."



Metropolitan Gudziak



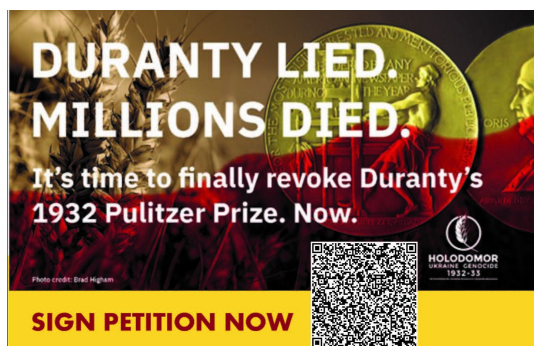
Amb. Kyslytsya and Amb. Markarova lead the flag procession

Following the benediction, the congregants rose for the singing of the spiritual anthem of Ukraine, *Bozhe velykyi, yedynyi* - "Oh God, Almighty and Only." To the accompaniment of the Ukrainian Chorus "Dumka" of New York, under the masterful direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky, Ambassadors Markarova and Kyslytsya unspooled an enormous flag through the central aisle of the cathedral which the assistance of those in attendance.



L-R: Andriy Futey, Amb. Markarova, Nadia Severyn, Fr. Bazylevsky (seated), Metropolitan Gudziak, Amb. Kyslytsya and Michael Sawkiw.

[Review UCCA's full list of Holodomor Commemorations HERE](#)



Єдність і свобода роблять нас гідними дітьми нашої країни. З Днем Гідності та Свободи!

November 21, the Day of Dignity and Freedom – Hidnosti ta Svobody – is an annual occasion to celebrate the indomitable Ukrainian spirit.

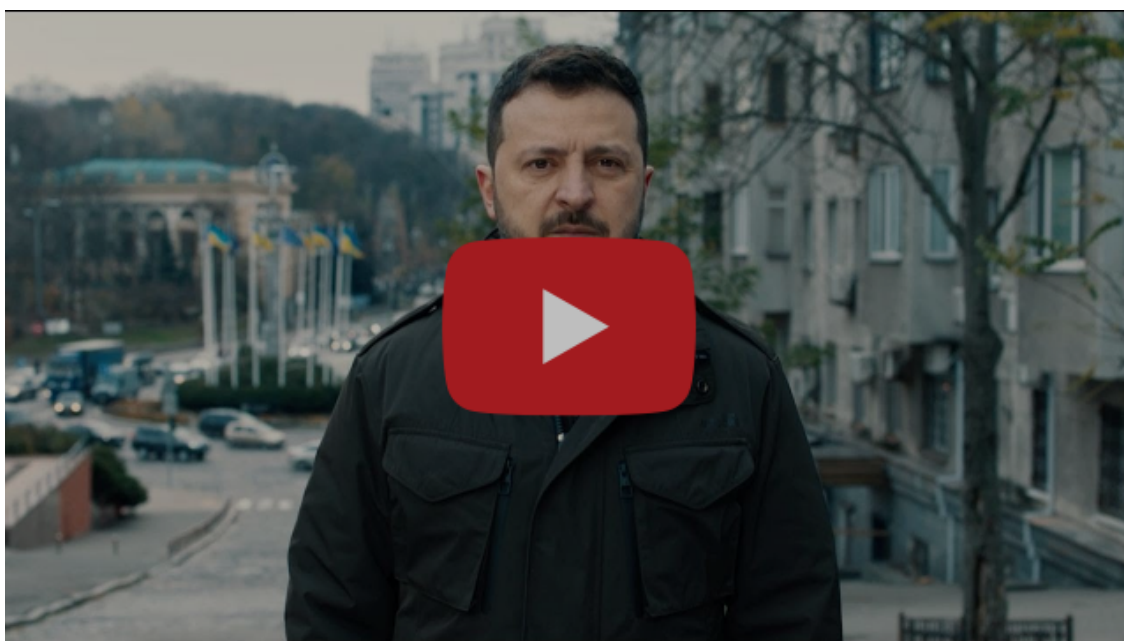


10 years ago, during the historic Revolution of Dignity (2013-2014), “Euromaidan” protesters maintained an even longer outside vigil throughout a frigid winter, uniting in prayer and in song and astounding the rest of the world in the process. The courage and self-sacrifice of these ordinary citizens revealed a Ukraine beyond their own expectations, and remains reminiscent of the daring of another group of people, who, many years ago, because of their love for freedom and their determination, won the right to live in their own independent and democratic nation – the United States of America.

19 years ago, an estimated seven million Ukrainians participated in peaceful protests stemming from the falsification of the 2004-2005 Ukrainian Presidential Election. This historic manifestation, which came to be known as the Orange Revolution, transformed not only the lives of those living in Ukraine, but those of the worldwide Ukrainian diaspora as well. In response to the allegations of fraud in 2004, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of

America organized the largest Election Observer Mission ever registered by Ukraine's Central Election Commission, with over 2400 observers flying in from around the world to ensure that the court-ordered redo of the 2004 Ukrainian Presidential elections would be transparent, democratic and in accordance with international standards.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America celebrates this defense of democratic values, rights and freedoms for which the Ukrainian people gathered in mass rallies, supported by the countless hours of heroic humanitarian work by our diaspora community whose enormous charity and goodwill helped support the people of Ukraine during these historic times.



Support UCCA With A Monthly Or 1-Time Donation

Your checks are also welcome!
Mail to:

UCCA
203 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10003

UCCA is a registered 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit organization and all donations to UCCA are tax deductible.

In addition to UCCA's 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest award from the charity rating organization Candid, all of UCCA's [War Aid Updates and Special Mission Reports](#) can be reviewed at [UCCA.org](#).

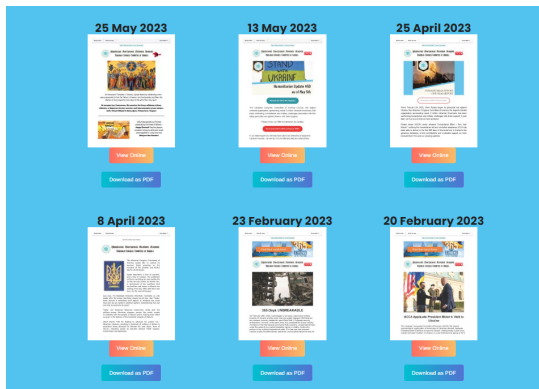
Candid.

UCCA has earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest award from the charity rating organization Candid. Formerly known as Guidestar, Candid is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. Out of all non-profits registered in the United States, only roughly 6% receive the Platinum level of transparency.

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.

PS: Your company may also have a #GivingTuesday matching gift program, so please check with your HR representative. You might be able to double your impact!



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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.