



MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLODOMOR OFFICIALLY UNVEILED IN WASHINGTON, DC

On November 7th, thousands of Ukrainian Americans gathered in our nation's capital to witness the official unveiling of the Memorial to the Victims of the Holodomor - Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933. After over a decade of work, and years in the making, the Memorial was officially blessed and unveiled by the His Holiness Filaret, His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav, and Metropolitan Antony.



The weekend was packed with various events to educate and illuminate this dark page in Ukraine's history. The 3-day series of events commenced with a benefit reception/exhibit opening on Friday, November 6th in Union Station's opulent Columbus Room. A special Holodomor exhibit was also displayed in the halls of Union Station from November 1-15, 2015, where thousands of commuters and visitors received information about the genocidal acts of the Stalin regime.

On Saturday, November 7, 2015, the official unveiling and dedication of the Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial began at 2pm. Guests of honor at the event included remarks from the First Lady of Ukraine Maryna Poroshenko, who introduced the President of Ukraine in a video message to those assembled; Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), sponsor of the Ukraine Holodomor Memorial bill; Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus; Charles Kupchan with a greeting from the White House; Paula Dobriansky with a greeting from President George W. Bush, who signed the Holodomor memorial bill in 2006; two Holodomor survivors with their riveting account of the savagery of the genocide; Eugene Czolij, President of the Ukrainian World Congress; Tamara Olexy, President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; Larysa Kurylas, designer of the Holodomor memorial; representatives from the Clinton and Bush campaigns; and, a representative from the National Park Service. During the program, the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv patriarchate, Ukrainian Catholic Church, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA blessed the Memorial.

A commemorative concert was also held at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 2pm to pay tribute to the victims of the Ukrainian Holodomor. Filled to capacity, the 3-hour concert included performances by the Hromovystia Dance Ensemble; the Dumka Chorus; the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus; the Kobzarska Sich Ensemble; soprano Marta Zaliznyak; baritone Oleh Chmyr; and, violnist Solomiya Ivakhiv.

The UCCA would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to the U.S. Holodomor Committee for all of their efforts to make this 3-day unveiling ceremony a historic day in the life of our Ukrainian American community! Thank you!!

SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLODOMOR HELD AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL IN NYC

On November 21st UCCA held its annual Holodomor commemoration at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Hundreds gathered to pay their respect to the millions of innocent lives taken by this horrific tragedy that befell Ukraine in 1932-1933.



To commemorate the 82nd anniversary of the Holodomor, the hierarchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic churches, led the gathered in a solemn requiem service for the repose of the souls, to the sounds of the melodious Dumka Choir of NY.



Following the requiem service, UCCA's President, Tamara Olexy, provided brief remarks recounting the recent unveiling of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington, DC while reminding those gathered that our work is not yet complete, stating we "must recommit ourselves to exposing the truth, the whole truth about the Holodomor... It is our solemn responsibility to pass the torch to the next generation... serve as the voice of the millions of innocents...and to remember...so that the world never forgets..."

Ms. Olexy then introduced Larysa Kurylas, the design architect and co-sculptor of the Memorial, who eloquently described how she visually depicted the Holodomor, transforming what seems like a simple field of wheat into an inspiring Memorial that weaves the many layers of the tragedy that befell Ukraine during the Holodomor, 82 years ago.

Senior Advisor for Europe, at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, Mr. William Pope, then read this year's White House' Statement on the 82nd anniversary of the Holodomor.

The other speakers at the service were Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, Valeriy Chaly and Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Yuriy Sergejev.

UCCA CALLS ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON RUSSIA

The UCCA strongly condemns the recent surge in the shelling of the Ukrainian army positions by the Russian-backed terrorists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. According to Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian terrorist forces have carried out over 350 shellings and provocations, since November 1, resulting in the deaths of 7 Ukrainian servicemen.

Such actions by the Russian-backed terrorists are in gross violation of the Minsk agreement.

The UCCA calls upon the United States and the international community to immediately increase pressure on Russia in order to prevent the renewal of full-scale hostilities in Donbas, and renews its calls to the United States to immediately supply Ukraine with defensive weapons to help the country defend its borders. The UCCA also urges the international community to strengthen targeted economic sanctions against the Russian Federation until they fully comply with their international obligations, including the Minsk agreement.

The UCCA expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of the Ukrainian servicemen whose lives were lost as a result of terrorist attacks by Russian-backed forces in Donbas.

UCCA HONORS UKRAINE'S DAY OF DIGNITY AND FREEDOM

November 21st – on this "Day of Dignity and Freedom," UCCA joins our brethren across the world in celebrating the indomitable Ukrainian spirit which manifested itself in the growth of European identity among the Ukrainian electorate during the 2004 Orange Revolution, and the defense of these democratic values, rights and freedoms for which the Ukrainian people "laid body and soul" during the 2013-2014 Revolution of Dignity. These historic revolutions transformed not only the lives of those living in Ukraine, but those of the worldwide Ukrainian diaspora as well...Throughout the course of both... Ukrainians in the U.S. bore witness to an incredible outpouring of support from our friends and allies,.. And yet, Ukraine today still stands denied of its international right of sovereignty over its own borders, and roughly 3.2 million people now live amid destruction or in dire need of humanitarian aid since Russia invaded Ukraine over a year ago. In the face of this aggression, the UCCA stands united with Ukraine and its people, vigilant against recent international signals of rapprochement with Russia, the greatest threat to global stability and US national security, and a state sponsor of terrorism... When millions of Ukrainians demonstrated their Europeanness, dignity and desire for freedom, astounding the world and exceeding its expectations about Ukraine; So too must the rest of the world exceed our expectations of them, and stand united with Ukraine in defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and against Russian aggression worldwide.