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# UCCA BULLETIN



December 2016 ...Our 76<sup>th</sup> Year of Service to the Community

## 83<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLODOMOR COMMEMORATED AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Hundreds of Ukrainians Americans gathered on November 12<sup>th</sup> for the annual commemorative program dedicated to the victims of Ukraine's Holodomor at Manhattan's newly refurbished St. Patrick's Cathedral. His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A, opened the service by thanking the archdiocese of New York and Cardinal Timothy Dolan for hosting the Ukrainian community for so many years. The Metropolitan was joined by his Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky and the Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in leading the Memorial Service – the Panakhyda – at the start of the commemoration, with responses provided by the Ukrainian Dumka Choir of New York, under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky.



*L to R: Procession of children; Holodomor Survivors, the Severens; Religious Hierarchy with packed Cathedral in the foreground.*



*L to R: Senator Schumer; Diplomats – Amb. Pope, Mustafa, Yelchenko; UCCA President, Andriy Futey; Amb. Chaly*

Following the requiem service, Andriy Futey, the newly confirmed President of the UCCA, explained that the Holodomor was “not simply a case of mass murder” but a prime example of genocide as laid out by Raphael Lemkin, the initiator of the International Genocide Convention. Mr. Futey called on participants to “recommit ourselves to exposing the truth, the whole truth, about the Holodomor Genocide.” The acknowledgement of the crime of genocide was echoed in the remarks of Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN, who quoted former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who once said “genocide begins with the killing of one man — not for what he has done, but because of who he is.” After acknowledging Oleksander and Nadia Severyn, survivors of the Holodomor in attendance, Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), thanked them for “giving us strength... giving us courage.” The Senator also emphasized that remembering the millions lost to genocide “matters and matters greatly,” because “to secure our place as a civilized people in Ukraine and in America... we must call out evil for what it is.”

The Ambassador of Ukraine to the USA, Valeriy Chaly, reminded listeners that most cases of famine throughout history were caused by natural disasters, but the “inhuman cruelty of Stalin's totalitarian regime” made the decision to crush the proud nation of Ukraine with the weapon of starvation. Ambassador Chaly also made mention of another genocide perpetrated by Stalin on Ukraine's soil, that of the indigenous Crimean Tatars, who were deported from Crimea en masse on May 18, 1944, killing nearly 50% of the deportees in the process. Seated behind Ambassador Chaly was Mustafa Dzhemilev, a member of Ukraine's Parliament and Crimean Tatar Leader, who attended the commemoration in advance of the United Nations General Assembly vote on a critical situation of human rights in his native Crimea. As he had done for the previous seven years, William Pope, Senior Advisor for Europe to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, delivered a statement on behalf of the White House.

Prior to the service, a solemn procession up the nave of the cathedral was organized by Ivanka Zajac, president of the UCCA NYC Branch, and included both the survivors in attendance, as well as students from the Samopomich School of Ukrainian Studies in New York City and Saint George Academy, and members of the Ukrainian Youth Association of America from New York City, Jersey City and Goshen, NY, and the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in New York City.

## CONGRESSMAN PASCRELL AWARDED UCCA'S HIGHEST HONOR

On November 2nd, U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell received The Shevchenko Freedom Award, the highest accolade accorded by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the nation's largest representation of Ukrainians in America. Established in 1962, the award named in honor of Ukraine's poet-laureate and national hero Taras Shevchenko, is bestowed upon individuals, Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike, who have dedicated their time and effort to realize the prophetic aspirations of Taras Shevchenko and the goal of freedom for Ukraine. Congressman Pascrell, was chosen as a recipient due to his deep understanding and ongoing support for the Ukrainian American community and the Ukrainian nation.



The UCCA's immediate past president, Tamara Olexy, UCCA Executive Secretary, Marie Duplak, and Director of UCCA's Washington office - the Ukrainian National Information Service, Michael Sawkiw, along with members of the UCCA Passaic Branch bestowed the award to the Congressman in his district office in Passaic, NJ. A member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Congressman Pascrell has been a long-time supporter of the Ukrainian American community and an outspoken supporter of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity, initiating legislation supporting Ukraine on numerous occasions.

The text of UCCA's Shevchenko Freedom Award bestowed to Congressman Bill Pascrell reads:

*The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America  
has the honor to present  
**THE SHEVCHENKO FREEDOM AWARD**  
to*

***The Honorable Bill Pascrell***

*For his keen understanding and close working  
relationship with the Ukrainian American community  
and his commitment to Ukraine's territorial integrity  
and strengthening U.S.-Ukraine relations*

## PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS AT THE UCCA!

As Christmas is quickly approaching, we would like to remind you that UCCA has several items for your holiday shopping needs.

A variety of colorful *Ukrainian Christmas Cards* (artwork by Myroslawa Stojko) - \$1/each or \$10 for 12.



*Zoloty Pavuchok* – a beautifully illustrated children's Christmas story in the Ukrainian language - \$10/copy.

And the gift that keeps on giving for only \$50/year – a subscription to the English language scholarly journal *The Ukrainian Quarterly*.

To place an order please send a check/money order to the UCCA National Office or contact us by phone or email.

*All prices listed include shipping and handling.*

## CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE UCCA

*The Executive Board of the  
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America  
wishes all of its members and the entire Ukrainian  
community here and in Ukraine a very Blessed  
and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*



*May this holiday season bring God's blessing  
upon all Ukrainians and may the New Year bring  
health, happiness and the fulfillment of all our  
dreams and aspirations.*