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UCCA Bulletin



December 2017...Our 77th Year of Service to the Community

NYC Launches 85th Anniversary of the Holodomor with 'March of Remembrance' & Ecumenical Service at St. Patrick's Cathedral

Over 1,000 Ukrainian Americans and supporters gathered in New York City on November 18, to remember the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933. The day began with a solemn procession from St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in the East Village to St. Patrick's Cathedral in the heart of Manhattan. Ukrainian American Veterans from the tri-state area led the procession behind an enormous tolling bell from St. Basil's Seminary in Stamford, CT. An assembly of Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox clergy and seminarians, led by Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, followed closely behind. Numerous other groups followed including schools, youth organizations and community members from Albany and Kerhonkson, NY, Hartford, CT., Philadelphia, PA and cities throughout NJ.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, a solemn procession of schoolchildren from St. George Academy and Self Reliance Ukrainian Saturday School was joined by the Ukrainian American Veterans, Holodomor survivors Oleksandr and Nadia Severyn, and three wounded veterans of Ukraine's anti-terrorist operation in the Donbas: Yevhen Redka, Serhiy Bulan and Dmitriy Kotov. Metropolitan Antony greeted the assembly with a reminder that "Ukraine is enduring perhaps its greatest trials since achieving independence," and prayed to the Almighty to "give us His blessing to preserve and support our independent Ukraine, which the God-loving Ukrainian people currently are defending and protecting at great cost." Joining Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Paul in leading the requiem service were Archbishop Daniel Zelinsky of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and Bishop Emeritus Basil Losten from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford. The Ukrainian Chorus Dumka, under the direction of Vasyly Hrechynsky, sang during the procession and requiem service.

Following the service, Tamara Olexy, the program's MC stated "the Holodomor is but one example of Russia's unending campaign to enslave Ukraine" and noted that, "when we commemorate "Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933, we must also be cognizant that Russian aggression against Ukraine continues to this day." Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S., Valery Chaly, expressed the hope of Ukraine's President, that one day Congress "will recognize the Holodomor as the genocide of the Ukrainian people" and thanked legislatures of several states for officially recognizing the Holodomor as a genocide.



U.S. Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY), expressed his "honor and privilege" at attending, stating is "our sacred duty to honor the victims of Ukraine's Genocide," that "now, more than ever, it is essential that the US and Ukraine stand together, shoulder to shoulder, in the face of Putin's reckless foreign interventions." Attending on behalf of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Jenifer Rajkumar from the NY State Executive Chamber to honor the victims of the Holodomor. NYC Councilwoman-elect Carlina Rivera expressed her honor at joining her constituents from NYC's East Village and noted the importance of the event. She then read a prepared statement by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), which underscored that "the Holodomor was genocide." Steven Kashkett from the State Department delivered the official U.S. statement, which read in part "The United States stands with the people of Ukraine as we commemorate this Soviet-manufactured tragedy and condemn efforts to deny it as a historical fact. We also reaffirm our commitment to a secure and prosperous Ukraine, free from external aggression and occupation, and able to choose its own future". Amb. Volodymyr Yelchenko, permanent representative of Ukraine to the UN, noted Ukrainian government's ongoing call for worldwide recognition of the Holodomor as genocide. Completing the program, Michael Sawkiw, Chairman of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-1933, touched upon the historical statistics of losses and contemporary accounts that underscore the need for more awareness of the genocidal Holodomor.

Prior to the recession, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan thanked the speakers and participants, including the U.S. Holodomor Committee and its local representative Ivanka Zajac, president of the United Ukrainian American Organizations of New York who organized the march and procession. The metropolitan also thanked the staff at the cathedral and Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, for hosting the memorial service.

Holodomor Remembered in Washington, DC

On November 7th, the Ukrainian Embassy and the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness held an inaugural event in our nation's capital commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide. The event began with a Memorial service at the Holodomor Monument, prayerfully served by the hierarchs of both Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Archbishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Bishop John Bura of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, honored the memory of the millions of innocent Ukrainians who were starved to death by Stalin's regime.



Following the brief memorial service, UCCA Vice President and Chairman of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness, Michael Sawkiw, introduced numerous dignitaries and diplomatic representatives who spoke before the Holodomor Memorial.

Later that day, a Congressional Briefing was held at the Capital Visitor's Center, during which a host of dignitaries poignantly spoke about the Holodomor.



L to R: A. Stuttaford, President Landsbergis
Michael Sawkiw, the event's MC, introduced the following speakers: Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Valery Chaly; Former President of Lithuania - Vytautas Landsbergis; Congressman Bill Pascrell (NJ), Congressman Andy Harris (MD), Congressman Doug Lamborn (CO) and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH). Nigel Colley, Welsh journalist Garreth Jones' grandnephew also delivered a presentation about his uncle's coverage of the Holodomor. Andrew Stuttaford, contributing editor of the *National Review*, discussed the context of the Holodomor in today's world, and Ulana Mazurkevich related the importance of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine.

National Committee Commemorates Three Historic Events

At the initiative of the Society of Veterans of UPA-USA and the Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine, a National Committee was formed to commemorate three Ukrainian historic events, namely - 75th anniversary of UPA, 70th anniversary of Operation "Wisla" and the 70th anniversary of the Great Raid of several UPA regiments to the West. To mark these significant occurrences, the National Committee organized a series of events:

On October 13, the National Committee, in cooperation with the Foundation of the Ukrainian Free University, hosted a presentation by Professor Volodymyr Serhiychuk of the University of Kyiv on the theme "Ukrainian Victims of the 20th Century" held in the Ukrainian National Home in New York City.

A grand Commemorative Concert at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Whippany, NJ took place on October 14th - St. Mary Protectress Day, designated as the day to honor the Ukrainian Army and the UPA's creation (1942). UCCA Vice President Michael Sawkiw opened the program and introduced the Honorable Valery Chaly, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Following his brief remarks, Ambassador Chaly presented certificates of recognition to UNWLA President Marianna Zajac, the UCCA's Executive Secretary Mariyka Duplak, and the head of the Society of Veterans of UPA-USA, Zenia Brozyna. The concert that followed, featured: musical performances by the accappella group "Pikkardijska Tertsia," and Honored People's Artist of Ukraine Taras Chubay; a dramatic staging of Operation Wisla, performed by the UAYA (SUM) Branch of Stamford, CT; a dance, choreographed by Andriy Cybyk, entitled "Unforgettable" performed by the Iskra Ensemble; and a medley of UPA and Lemko songs performed by UAYA Stamford Branch girls' choir "Rusalka" under the direction of Andriy Stasiw. At the close of the 3-hour concert, a commemorative plaque was bestowed upon Bohdan Kowalyk, honorary chairman of the Society of Veterans of UPA-USA, for his years of service in the Ukrainian community and his significant contribution to preserving the historical truth about the heroic struggle of the UPA and the OUN underground.



The program hosted by Volodymyr Zarycky, included short introductions by Mykola Hryckowian Jr., Askold Lozynskyj (UFUF President) and Mykola Duplak (former editor of *Narodna Volya*); scholarly speeches by Myroslav Ivanek (Canada), former editor of the series "Zakerzonnia Library" and "Zakerzonnia Archives"; Petro Sodol (USA), researcher of UPA history; and Roman Drozd (Poland), rector of Slupsk University; and a conference summation by Zenia Brozyna.

The National Committee expresses its sincere gratitude to the sponsors: Self Reliance (NY) FCU, the Voskob and Todoriv families, SUMA (Yonkers) FCU, Selfreliance Ukrainian American FCU, Nova UA FCU, International Airlines of Ukraine, Ukrainian National Association, Ukrainian National FCU, and the Ukrainian National Home Foundation in Passaic, N.J. Without their generous support, the commemorative events would not have been possible.