**Holodomor requiem Service Held at St. Patrick’s Cathedral**

Ukrainian Americans gathered in New York City on Saturday, November 16, to remember the victims of Stalin’s Famine Genocide – the Holodomor of 1932-1933. Gathering at the landmark St. Patrick’s Cathedral in the heart of Manhattan, attendees were greeted by His Eminence, Archbishop Anthony, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, prior to the start of the ceremony. As the Ukrainian Chorus “Dumka” of New York began singing, students from St. George Academy slowly processed up the nave of the cathedral followed by Holodomor survivor Nadia Severyn, who was escorted by her grandson, Bill Wieting. A Ukrainian American Veteran (UAV) color guard was led by New Jersey State Commander Michael Hrycak, along with flagbearers Peter Polnyj and Nicholas Skirka, Commanders of Posts 27 and 301 respectively. Students from the “Samopomich” School of Ukrainian Studies in New York City, the Ukrainian School of Ukrainian Studies “Nova Khvylka” in Brooklyn, and the “Shkola Ukrainoznavstva” at the New York City oseredok of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (CYM) concluded the procession by following the lead of Ms. Severyn and individually laying a sheaf of wheat at the base of the sanctuary.

Metropolitan Antony was joined by the Most Reverend Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, His Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky and the Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in leading the traditional Ukrainian Memorial Service – the Panakhyda – at the start of the commemoration, with responses provided by the “Dumka” chorus, under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky.

Following the requiem service, attendees were addressed by Andriy Futey, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), which has co-organized this annual commemoration for 35 years. Once again, the event attracted attendees from across the tri-state metropolitan area, including buses of churchgoers from New Jersey and Brooklyn, as well as of thousands of viewers who watched the livestream on UCCA’s Facebook page.

Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) continued his nearly unbroken record of attendance at this annual event, even following his succession to the status of the highest elected member of the Democratic Party in the country. In his remarks, the Senator hailed the efforts in Congress to recognize the Armenian Genocide earlier this year, as well as the resilience of the Ukrainian nation, “that has outlasted authoritarian thugs in the past, and will continue to do so in the future.” Additional remarks were made by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN, as well as New York City Councilwoman Carlina Rivera, who represents the East Village Ukrainian community. Also in attendance were Oleksii Holubov, Consul General of Ukraine in New York, and Serhiy Kyslytsya, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, who were seated alongside the speakers but did not deliver remarks personally.

Prior to the recessional, Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak thanked all who participated in the day’s events in both the Ukrainian and English languages. On behalf all of the assembled speakers, he expressed the community’s sincere gratitude to Archbishop Timothy Cardinal Dolan, for graciously allowing the Ukrainian community to commemorate the Holodomor at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, after which the congregation rose for the singing of the spiritual anthem of Ukraine, “Oh God, Almighty and Only.”
UCCA Welcomes Two New Ukrainian Ambassadors

On December 18, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine announced that Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, had been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America. President Zelenskyy also announced the appointment of Serhiy Kyslytsia, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, as the new Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations.

The Executive Board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) welcomed the new appointments by President Zelenskyy with a personal greeting sent to both Ambassador Yelchenko and Ambassador Kyslytsia.

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Throughout our nation’s history, the most prominent examples of the disloyalty charge in the United States have come in the midst of major world conflicts. In the years leading up to World War II, anti-immigrant voices in the media would paint Europe’s fight against genocidal totalitarianism as little more than a “Jewish cause,” alleging that Jews in this country sought to involve America in foreign wars against the nation’s true interest. Similarly, when Joseph Stalin began to forcibly starve Ukrainians in the genocide of 7-10 million Ukrainians - remembered today as the Holodomor - Ukrainian Americans were dismissed as liars who sought to create a conflict with the Soviet Union, right at the moment the United States began normalizing diplomatic relations with the USSR.

On the evening of October 28, 2019, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, a U.S. Army foreign area officer wounded and decorated for his service in Iraq, released to the press his opening statement to Congress. A member of President Trump’s National Security Council since 2018, out of a “sense of duty” Lt. Col. Vindman had twice registered his concerns about this administration’s improper demands of Ukraine, a strategic ally of the United States.

This brave public servant came forward to the people’s house, the U.S. Congress, guided by his conscience, as it had all of his life. This act of individual courage reminds us that truth and justice remain ideals that Americans still yearn to live by.

And yet, the character of Lt. Col. Vindman was immediately called into question by anti-immigrant voices in the media. This is unacceptable in a country made up of immigrants, and should be strongly rejected.

Chief among the media’s charges was that Lt. Col. Vindman was known to have spoken in the Ukrainian language with Ukrainian diplomats. Combined with his birth in the Ukrainian S.S.R., this immigrant, who serves the United States dutifully, is being accused of disloyalty.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representative organization of Americans of Ukrainian descent, unequivocally condemns this smear campaign against an American war hero.

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After a long hiatus, on November 17, 2019, UCCA’s Syracuse, NY, Branch held a meeting and elected new leadership: Lida Buniak, President; Hryts Lisnychy, Vice President; Orest Hrycyk, Treasurer; and Sophia Cloud, Secretary. Additional Board members include Mykola Duplak, Andriy Gevko, Anna Putintseva, and Roman Volitsky, as well as Auditing Committee members Andrey Gladun, Vasily Hrabovyi, Orest Khmara.

During the meeting, UCCA’s Vice-President, Michael Sawkiw, presented the outgoing President Orest Hrycyk with a award (hramota), thanking him for his many years of service, and wished newly elected Branch President Lydia Buniak and the entire Board the best of luck in their work for UCCA.