UCCA Marks 87th Anniversary of the Holodomor

Even during these unprecedented times of the Covid-19 pandemic, UCCA and our hromada marked the 87th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Famine Genocide of Ukraine – the Holodomor – although the commemorations looked a bit different than in years past as we adhered to the various health and safety restrictions of maintaining our social distance and the restrictions on large gatherings.

At the annual Holodomor commemoration in New York City, UCCA advised the community not to travel to St. Patrick’s Cathedral, but to watch the livestream event where in lieu of a mass gathering with remarks by elected officials, Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, and Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford, lead a *panakhyda* at the cathedral without the usual masses of priests from the surrounding parishes co-celebrating, nor the revered sound of the Ukrainian Chorus “Dumka” of New York singing the responses.

Nationwide, UCCA members also solemnly marked the 87th anniversary of the Holodomor by organizing outdoor or virtual commemorations. Below are a few photos.

L to R: United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio (UZO) held an online commemoration, while the UCCA Long Island Branch held a socially distant commemoration around the moment in Eisenhower Park (Westbury, NY)

Above Right: UCCA Georgia Branch held an online service;
Left: UCCA Syracuse Branch held an outdoor service around the Warners, NY memorial plaque;
Below Right: the Ukrainian Culture Center of Los Angeles broadcast an online service
The U.S. Congress returned in lame-duck session the week before Thanksgiving and the U.S. House of Representatives voted upon three legislative issues of interest to Ukraine and the region. Below please find a summary of the bills/resolutions that passed in the U.S. House and the need for continued advocacy in the U.S. Senate on these topics.

H.R.5408 – Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act - passed
Summary: To oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded by Russia.

H.R. 8438 – Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020 - passed
Summary: Expands the President's authority to impose sanctions related to Belarus to include activities surrounding the disputed 2020 Belarusian presidential election and subsequent government crackdown. The bill also expands authorized assistance to Belarus.

H.Res.672 - Expressing support of the Three Seas Initiative in its efforts to increase energy independence and infrastructure connectivity thereby strengthening the United States and European national security - passed
Summary: Encourages Three Seas Initiative nations to extend this vision of enhanced regional infrastructural connectivity to non-European Union member states in the Three Seas region, including Ukraine, Moldova, and those in the Western Balkans.

During the lame-duck session and the upcoming Thanksgiving congressional recess, please contact your Senators’ offices to request their support for S.3064 - the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act.

In addition, discussions are being held between the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, to finalize the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of FY2021. The bill would authorize security assistance for Ukraine, as well as expand sanctions for the NordStream2 pipeline. Below is a link to an article about the conference discussions:

#GivingTuesday & UCCA’s End-of-Year Appeal
As a nonprofit organization, and the largest grassroots representation of Ukrainians in America, UCCA relies heavily on our donors for support. In these unprecedented times with the Covid-19 pandemic, your support this year is more vital than ever.

Beginning as an idea in 2011, #GivingTuesday has morphed into one of the most important days for nonprofits - a global movement of generosity and fundraising.

If you support UCCA’s mission of cultural, educational, and humanitarian activities that emphasize Ukrainian heritage in America, join us on social media on Giving Tuesday and throughout the month of December by making a fully tax-deductible gift to UCCA today!


We hope we can count on your support – every act of generosity counts!

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

UCCA Christmas Greetings
UCCA’s Executive Board would like to extend its best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year to all of our members and volunteer activists!

During this Christmas Season let us also pray for the safe keeping of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine as they continue to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our homeland!

May this holiday season bring God’s blessings upon all Ukrainians and may the New Year bring health, happiness and fulfillment of your aspirations.

Christ is Born! Glory to Christ!