

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 18-1422 Recognizing the 85th Anniversary of Ukraine Holodomor

WHEREAS, the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-1933, known as Holodomor, the Ukrainian word for murder by hunger, exterminated at least five million innocent men, women and children in Ukraine, or an estimated 25 percent of the rural population of that country; and

WHEREAS, all of these people plus another one to two million people outside Ukraine, mostly in the ethnically Ukrainian North Caucasus territory, were starved to death by forced agricultural collectivization and grain seizures by the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union and many Western scholars denied the existence of the famine until 1991 when the former Soviet Union allowed access to archives which documented the premeditated nature of the genocidal famine and its brutal enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the final report of the United States Commission on the Ukraine Famine concluded that the victims were "starved to death in a man-made famine," and a memorial to the millions who died was erected in Washington, D.C. in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the official recognition of Holodomor by the government of Ukraine included establishing the fourth Saturday of November as an annual day of commemoration for those who perished in the famine; and

WHEREAS, some survivors of Holodomor and their descendants made their way to the United States in search of a better and more secure future for themselves and some of their progeny now live in Denver and its environs and contribute to its vibrant and diverse culture.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes this commemoration.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to The Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the Ukrainians of Colorado.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL November 26, 2018

PRESIDENT