

SENATE RESOLUTION

8663

By Senator Miloscia

1           WHEREAS, 2017 marks the 84th anniversary of the Holodomor, or  
2 "murder by starvation," the tragic famine in Ukraine that resulted in  
3 the deaths of at least five million men, women, and children; and

4           WHEREAS, The man-made famine was deliberately caused by the  
5 Soviet regime through the confiscation of land, grain, and animals;  
6 the blockade of food shipments into the affected areas; and by  
7 forcibly preventing the starving population from leaving the region,  
8 for the purposes of breaking the resistance of Ukrainian farmers to  
9 Soviet authority and destroying Ukraine's national identity; and

10          WHEREAS, The Holodomor was a genocide committed by Joseph Stalin  
11 and the Soviet regime against the people of Ukraine; and

12          WHEREAS, Until the collapse of the Soviet Union, many denied the  
13 existence of the famine because the Soviet Union forbade foreigners  
14 from traveling to the Ukrainian countryside during that time and  
15 later barred access to government records from the era, and many  
16 official records were falsified, lost, or destroyed; and

17          WHEREAS, The Western journalists and scholars who witnessed the  
18 mass starvation and wrote about it were subjected to disparagement  
19 and criticism in the West for their reporting of the famine; and

20          WHEREAS, In 1988, the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine  
21 reported to Congress that the victims were "starved to death in a  
22 man-made famine" and that "Joseph Stalin and those around him  
23 committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933"; and

1           WHEREAS, Although the Ukraine famine was one of the most horrific  
2 massacres in the 20th century, it remains largely underreported and  
3 unknown in the United States and throughout the world; and

4           WHEREAS, Washington State is now home to the fifth largest  
5 Ukrainian-American population in the United States, and Americans  
6 with Ukrainian heritage living in Washington State have enriched our  
7 state through their leadership and contributions in agriculture,  
8 business, academia, government, and the arts; and

9           WHEREAS, In August 2015, a memorial to the millions who perished  
10 in the Ukrainian man-made famine of 1932-33, known as the Holodomor,  
11 was erected in Washington D.C., and its dedication ceremony took  
12 place on November 7, 2015;

13           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
14 remember and honor the millions of victims of the tragic famine that  
15 occurred in Ukraine in 1932-1933; and

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
17 encourage individual citizens, educators, businesses, groups,  
18 organizations, and public institutions to remember the Holodomor on  
19 November 26, 2017, with appropriate activities designed to honor the  
20 victims and educate residents of Washington State about this tragedy;  
21 and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
23 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the U.S.  
24 Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-33, and to  
25 the Consulate of Ukraine in Seattle for appropriate distribution.

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