

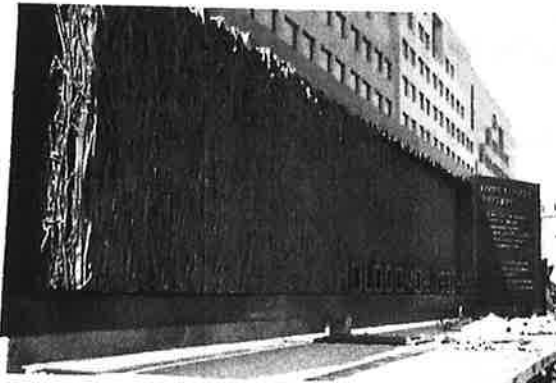
# SCR 3 – Designate November 25, 2017 Holodomor Remembrance Day in Oregon



Holodomor (“ho-LOH-do-more”) refers to the man-made famine-genocide of 1932-1933 that caused the death of at least 5 million men, women, and children in Ukraine, then the breadbasket of the Soviet Union

In 1988, the Commission on the Ukraine Famine, created by an act of the US Congress, stated in its official report to Congress—“Investigation of the Ukrainian Famine 1932-33”—that the government of the former Soviet Union in 1932-33 knowingly used the brutal policy of induced famine to repress the Ukrainian people and concluded that the famine in Ukraine 1932-33 was genocide against the Ukrainian people as defined by the UN Convention on Genocide

Ukrainians around the world commemorate the victims of Holodomor on fourth Saturday in November. November 25 is Holodomor Remembrance Day in 2017.



In 2006, US Congress authorized the Government of Ukraine to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of Holodomor.

The memorial was dedicated in November 2015



Yefrosinia Borshch

Margaryta Smolyanska, a Portland State University student, shared her family's history of Holodomor

Yefrosinia Borshch, Margaryta's great-great-grandmother, lost 10 members of her immediate family in 1933: her mother, two brothers and their families (brother Ivan, his wife, four out of five children; brother Andrey, his wife, their daughter)

Tyhyn Metla, Margaryta's great-great-grandfather, was the Head of the local collective farm. He was imprisoned for his refusal to expropriate all available food from the peasants in his area during Holodomor



Tyhyn Metla

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## Background:

- Oregon is home to tens of thousands of Ukrainian Americans
  - Ukrainians living in Oregon have enriched our state through their contributions in business, science and technology, academia, government, and the arts
- Holodomor was a famine-genocide of 1932-1933 that caused the death of at least five million men, women, and children in Ukraine, resulting in the annihilation of an estimated 25 percent of the rural population in one of the most productive agricultural areas of the Soviet Union
  - Ukraine produced sufficient crops in 1932 to feed its population and have a surplus
  - Soviet authorities set requisition quotas for Ukraine at an impossibly high level and severely punished any resistance to expropriation of set quotas. Brigades of special agents were dispatched to Ukraine to assist in procurement, and homes were routinely searched, foodstuffs confiscated, those found hiding food killed or exiled
  - People from the famine affected areas were prevented from escaping through military force
  - The rural population was left without sufficient food to feed itself and millions of people died from starvation
  - The Soviet authorities denied both the existence and the man-made nature of the famine
  - Western observers and scholars who accurately reported on the existence of the famine as it was occurring were subjected to disparagement and criticism
  - The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 allowed scholars access to the Soviet archives that documented the premeditated and intentional nature of the famine and its harsh enforcement
- Holodomor is recognized as a man-made famine-genocide against the Ukrainian nation by historians, national governments, and international bodies
  - "US Commission on the Ukraine Famine: Investigation of the Ukrainian Famine, 1932-1933: Report to Congress" (1988) found that "Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide"

## SCR 3A:

- Designates Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, as Holodomor Remembrance Day in Oregon and encourages individuals, educators, businesses, groups, organizations and public institutions to observe Holodomor Remembrance Day with appropriate activities designed to honor the victims and educate Oregonians about this genocide

## For More Information, Contact:

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From the desk of:

