

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 3

Sponsored by Senators MONNES ANDERSON, KRUSE; Senators BEYER, BOQUIST, GELSER, GIROD, HANSELL, KNOPP, MONROE, ROBLAN, STEINER HAYWARD, Representatives GREENLICK, HEARD, MALSTROM, PILUSO (at the request of Ukrainian-American Cultural Association of Oregon, former Senator Chris Edwards) (Presession filed.)

Whereas the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-1933, known as Holodomor, was a man-made famine that caused the deaths of at least five million innocent men, women and children in Ukraine, resulting in the annihilation of an estimated 25 percent of the rural population of that country, at the time one of the most productive agricultural areas of the Soviet Union; and

Whereas the man-made famine also resulted in the deaths of an estimated one million to two million people in regions outside Ukraine, mostly in the largely ethnically Ukrainian North Caucasus territory; and

Whereas these people were starved to death by forced agricultural collectivization and grain seizures by the Soviet Union; and

Whereas Western observers and scholars who accurately reported on the existence of the famine as it was occurring were subjected to disparagement and criticism; and

Whereas the Soviet Union and many scholars in the West denied the existence of the famine until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 made access to Soviet Union archives, and thereby the documentation of the premeditated nature of the famine and its harsh enforcement, possible; and

Whereas the final report, delivered to Congress on April 22, 1988, of the United States Commission on the Ukraine Famine concluded that the victims “starved to death in a man-made famine”; and

Whereas although the famine resulted in one of the largest losses of human life in the 20th century, its occurrence remains insufficiently known in the United States and throughout the world; and

Whereas the official recognition of the famine by the government of Ukraine, including by the country’s parliament, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, represents a significant step in the reestablishment of Ukraine’s national identity and the advancement of efforts to establish a democratic and free Ukraine that is fully integrated into the Western community of nations; and

Whereas whether it was political oppression or religious persecution that caused Ukrainian immigrants to pursue better lives for themselves and their families, their desire to live in peace and enjoy liberty was so strong that it drew generations of Ukrainian immigrants to Oregon and elsewhere in the United States in an effort to rebuild their lives; and

Whereas Oregon is now home to tens of thousands of Ukrainian-Americans, and Ukrainians living in Oregon have enriched our state through their leadership and contributions in agriculture, business, academia, government and the arts; and

Whereas since 2006, Ukraine has marked the fourth Saturday of November as an annual day of commemoration for the victims of the famine; and

Whereas in August 2015, a memorial to the millions who perished in the Holodomor was erected in Washington, D.C., and the dedication ceremony took place in November of the same year; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That the millions of victims of the man-made Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-1933, known as Holodomor, should be solemnly remembered and honored; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, designate Saturday, November 25, 2017, as Holodomor Remembrance Day in Oregon and encourage 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 tragedy.

Adopted by Senate March 2, 2017

Readopted by Senate June 20, 2017

Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House June 15, 2017

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House