

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 253**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Kiley**

June 12, 2018

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 253—Relative to the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932–1933.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 253, as introduced, Kiley. Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932–1933.

This measure would remember and honor the millions of victims of the man-made Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932–1933, known as “Holodomor,” and their descendants who are living throughout California. The measure would also designate November 24, 2018, as Holodomor Remembrance Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932–1933,
- 2 known as “Holodomor,” was a man-made famine that caused the
- 3 deaths of at least five million innocent men, women, and children
- 4 in Ukraine, resulting in an annihilation of an estimated 25 percent
- 5 of the rural population of that country, one of the most productive
- 6 agricultural areas of the Soviet Union; and
- 7 WHEREAS, This man-made famine also resulted in the deaths
- 8 of an estimated one to two million people in regions outside
- 9 Ukraine, mostly in the largely ethnic Ukrainian North Caucasus
- 10 territory; and

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

4 WHEREAS, These millions of people were starved to death by  
5 forced agricultural collectivization and grain seizures by the Soviet  
6 Union; and

7 WHEREAS, Western observers and scholars who accurately  
8 reported on the existence of the famine as it was occurring were  
9 subjected to disparagement and criticism for their reporting; and

10 WHEREAS, The Soviet Union and many scholars in the west  
11 denied the existence of the famine until the collapse of the Soviet  
12 Union in 1991 when Soviet Union archives became accessible,  
13 thereby making the documentation of the premeditated nature of  
14 the famine and its harsh enforcement possible; and

15 WHEREAS, The final report of the United States Commission  
16 on the Ukraine Famine, established on December 13, 1985,  
17 concluded that the victims were “starved to death in a man-made  
18 famine” and that “Joseph Stalin and those around him committed  
19 genocide against Ukrainians in 1932–1933”; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States Congress authorized the  
21 government of Ukraine on October 13, 2006, to establish a  
22 memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to “honor  
23 the victims of the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932–1933”; and

24 WHEREAS, Although the famine was one of the greatest losses  
25 of human life in the 20th century, its occurrence remains  
26 insufficiently known in the United States and throughout the world;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, The official recognition of the famine by the  
29 government of Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on  
30 November 28, 2006, represents a significant step in the  
31 reestablishment of Ukraine’s national identity and the advancement  
32 of efforts to establish a democratic and free Ukraine that is fully  
33 integrated into the Western community of nations; and

34 WHEREAS, Whether Ukrainian immigrants were fleeing  
35 political oppression or religious persecution to pursue better lives  
36 for themselves and their families, the desire to live in peace and  
37 enjoy liberty was so valued that it drew generations of Ukrainian  
38 immigrants to the United States and California in an effort to  
39 rebuild their lives; and

1 WHEREAS, California is now home to the third largest  
2 Ukrainian American population in the United States, and  
3 Ukrainians living in California have enriched our state through  
4 their leadership and contributions in agriculture, business,  
5 academia, government, and the arts; and

6 WHEREAS, In August 2015, a memorial to the millions who  
7 perished in the Ukrainian Famine Genocide of 1932–1933 was  
8 erected in the United States capital, and the dedication ceremony  
9 took place on November 7, 2015; now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
11 *thereof concurring*, That the millions of victims of the man-made  
12 Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932–1933 and their descendants  
13 living throughout California should be solemnly remembered and  
14 honored; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates November 24, 2018,  
16 as Holodomor Remembrance Day in California and encourages  
17 individual citizens, educators, businesses, groups, organizations,  
18 and public institutions to observe Holodomor Remembrance Day  
19 with appropriate activities designed to honor the victims and  
20 educate Californians about this tragedy; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
22 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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