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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 256 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, CERRATO, SANCHEZ, MALAGARI, MADDEN,  
FREEMAN, PIELLI, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, BENHAM, HOWARD,  
McNEILL, DELLOSO, HILL-EVANS, GUENST, KHAN AND GREEN,  
NOVEMBER 2, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2023 as "Ukrainian Holodomor-  
2 Genocide Remembrance Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Ninety-one years ago, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin  
4 and his totalitarian regime committed an act of genocide through  
5 the implementation of an engineered famine, confiscating all  
6 foodstuffs from the Ukrainian people, resulting in the deaths of  
7 7 million to 10 million innocent men, women and children; and

8 WHEREAS, This genocide, the Holodomor, meaning "murder by  
9 starvation," was specifically designed by the Soviet regime to  
10 punish independent-minded Ukrainians for their resistance to  
11 Stalin's political, economic, cultural and social subjugation;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Even as the Soviets continued to export Ukraine's  
14 grain to the rest of the world, Ukrainian farmers who tended to  
15 the farms in the breadbasket of Europe, were purposefully  
16 starved in a slow and painful death; and

17 WHEREAS, At the height of the Holodomor in 1933, Ukrainians

1 died at a rate of 28,000 people per day, with nearly one third  
2 of its victims being children under 10 years of age; and

3 WHEREAS, Hundreds of archival KGB documents created during  
4 this genocide detailed and described the Soviet regime's  
5 intention and actions to destroy Ukraine's national identity by  
6 deporting and executing Ukraine's religious, intellectual and  
7 cultural leaders and prosecuting or executing others who dared  
8 to speak of the Holodomor; and

9 WHEREAS, Through a recently released major motion film titled  
10 "Mr. Jones," depicting Welsh journalist Gareth Jones who  
11 witnessed and reported on the Holodomor, the world is afforded  
12 an opportunity to understand the realities of this Soviet crime;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The official recognition of the Holodomor as a  
15 genocide by the Government of Ukraine represents a significant  
16 step in adjudicating Soviet crimes and in reaffirming Ukraine's  
17 national identity and the advancement of efforts to establish a  
18 democratic and free Ukraine that is fully integrated into the  
19 Western community of nations; and

20 WHEREAS, The current war in Ukraine has been identified as a  
21 genocide and is yet another example of relentless Russian  
22 aggression attempting to suppress a freedom-loving nation and  
23 its social, cultural, historical, economic and national  
24 development; and

25 WHEREAS, With striking parallels between the Holodomor and  
26 the war in Ukraine, we cannot allow this history to be  
27 overlooked or repeat itself; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
29 month of November 2023 as "Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide  
30 Remembrance Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all  
2 individuals, groups, organizations and institutions to remember  
3 the Holodomor with appropriate activities designed to honor its  
4 victims and educate the world about this tragic episode in the  
5 world's history and to reflect upon the historical truth of the  
6 heinous crimes of totalitarian regimes so that we may one day  
7 eliminate tyranny from our world.