

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** 90 years ago, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and his totalitarian regime were responsible for a severe famine that resulted in the deaths of 7-10 million Ukrainian men, women, and children. The Holodomor was recognized as a genocide by the United States Commission on the Ukraine Famine in 1988; and
- Whereas,** Soviet polices targeted the population of Ukraine, including blacklisting Ukrainian communities and restricting travel by starving Ukrainians to prevent them from seeking relief in other areas, as well as the arrests, deportation, and execution of Ukrainian leaders and workers deemed to be against the Soviet regime; and
- Whereas,** The Holodomor, meaning “murder by starvation,” was specifically designed by the Soviet regime to punish independent-minded Ukrainians for their resistance to Stalin’s political, economic, cultural, and social subjugation, and even as the Soviets continued to export Ukraine’s grain to the rest of the world, Ukrainian farmers, who tended to the farms in the breadbasket of Europe, were purposefully starved; and
- Whereas,** as Ukrainian once again finds itself threatened by another example of relentless Russian aggression attempting to suppress a free nation and its social, cultural, historical, economic, and national development, we remember this genocide and the continued pattern of aggression Ukrainians have faced as Russia attempts to destroy their national identity; and
- Whereas,** the Great State of West Virginia remembers the Holodomor and seeks to honor its victims and raise awareness of this tragic episode in world history.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 2023* as:

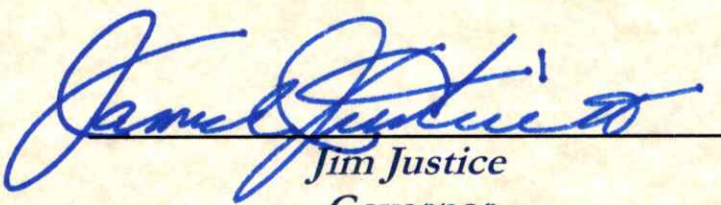
Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Remembrance Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Seventh Day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State