

Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation-USA, Inc. Awards Mr. Mykola Mischenko The Foundation's Medal of Honor

The Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation-USA, Inc., commemorated the 90th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide 1932-33, in September, 2023. The weekend of events was to raise awareness of the Holodomor Genocide 1932-33, to draw parallels to the current attack on the Ukrainian people, pray for the victims of the Genocide, and to honor those who worked arduously on exposing details of the Holodomor Genocide to the world.

On the last day of the commemoration, Sunday, September 17, 2023, a memorial dinner was held for sponsors and guests of the Foundation and to greet the third President of Ukraine, Victor Yuschenko and First Lady Kateryna Yuschenko who were instrumental in acknowledging the Holodomor as Genocide. The President and First Lady were both awarded the Foundation's Medal of Honor in Appreciation of Advocating the Holodomor as Genocide against Ukrainians.

Mr. Mykola Mischenko President of the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation-USA, Inc., from 2002-2014, was also awarded the Medal of Honor, however, was unable to attend the memorial dinner due to a debilitating ailment. The Foundation was proud to award Mr. Mischenko with the Medal for his years of dedicated and outstanding service.

Mr. Mischenko was born in Poltava, Ukraine to the Mischenko-Haydach family. Coming from a family of six siblings, young Mykola was born along the side of his twin brother, who lost his life as an infant, from malnutrition due to the lasting effects of the Holodomor Genocide.

As Mr. Mischenko grew his family uprooted and left Ukraine to begin their long and grueling journey by horse and drawn wagon and settled in Austria in 1944. After spending a few years in Austria the family once again searched for an improved life and moved to Apucarana-Parana, Brazil, where he worked as a cabinet maker. He soon became enamored with his future bride, the wonderful Valentina Taran, and in 1958 the Mischenko and Taran families moved to Trenton, New Jersey, in 1959 they made Chicago their home.

The happy couple was married in May of 1959; no sooner than they started their lives together, three months after their wedding, Mr. Mischenko was drafted into the US Army where he served his country for two years. While serving in the military he was given the opportunity to complete his high school education and received his diploma through completion of the GED. He was honorably discharged in 1961 with the rank of Specialist 1st Class.

After returning to Chicago, Mr. Mischenko was employed as a line worker at Zenith, at that time a manufacturer of radio and televisions. He enrolled at Chicago Technical College to further his education in engineering, changed his career path at Bell & Howell to draftsman and after seven years of working and attending night classes he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He furthered his career at Bell & Howell as design engineer for movie projectors, cameras, and slide projectors.

Mykola and Valentina were blessed with three children: Elizabeth, Anatole and Katya

The tenacious Mr. Mischenko pursued his career to Principal Staff Engineer at Motorola designing mechanical components of cell phones. The prolific Mr. Mischenko churned out 75 patents during his career as an engineer.

Mr. Mischenko is a man of deep roots, and a strong cultural inheritance. He was a community leader, instrumental in bringing the Holodomor Genocide 1932-33 onto a greater platform by establishing the Ukrainian Genocide Famine-Foundation-USA, Inc., to more professionally raise attention to the Holodomor. He served on the board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, was President of the Church Council at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Chicago, IL, and was President of the Boyan Church Choir at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.

In 2004, Mr. Mischenko participated as a voting proxy in the 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine. In 2005 during his presidency with the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation, Foundation members, and Mr. Mischenko gave a detailed testimony in Springfield, IL, on the Genocide and why it needed to be included in Illinois school curriculum, he achieved a grand accomplishment when then Governor Rod Blagojevich signed Bill HR 312 "Learning about Genocide" into law on August 5, 2005. Through the efforts of Mr. Mischenko and UGFF board members the Illinois School Code was amended to include the teaching of the Ukrainian Genocide Famine in Illinois secondary schools. Illinois was the first in the nation to acquire the mandate and remains one of the few states where the Ukrainian Genocide Famine is taught by its formal name. In 2007, Mr. Mischenko was awarded a medal from President Yuschenko for his contributing research on the Holodomor Genocide.

Mykola Mischenko is a legend within the Ukrainian community through his accomplishments and his dedication in keeping the Holodomor Genocide in the forefront of our history.

He currently takes life a little easier by spending time with his lovely wife and his grandchildren when he can. Recently, President Mykola Kocherha, Vice President Lydia Tkaczuk, and Secretary Maryyka Slobidsky, the Foundation's executive board, enjoyed their visit with Mr. & Mrs. Mischenko and their daughter Dr. Elizabeth Mischenko-Pawlyk where he was presented with the Foundation's medal of honor. We thank you Pan Mykola for your contribution to the community!



L-R Mariyka Slobidsky, Mykola Mischenko
Lydia Tkaczuk, Mykola Kocherha



Mykola Mischneko



L-R Mariyka Slobidsky, Elizabeth Mischenko-Pawlyk, Valentina Mischenko,
Mykola Mischenko, Lydia Tkaczuk, Mykola Kocherha

