



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Jack P. Marschall
(440) 885-8181 or (216) 346-9935 (cell)

PARMA TO HOST UKRAINIAN TORCH RELAY

(PARMA) – The world’s attention will focus on Parma, Ohio May 13 upon the arrival of the Ukrainian Holodomor Remembrance Flame. The International Torch Relay will stop in Parma after leaving Ukraine last month, commemorating the 75th anniversary of that nation’s famine that killed more than ten million people.

“We are proud to support this solemn international commemoration,” says Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “As many people know, Parma has a large Ukrainian population. Many of our residents will be witnessing local history as the torch relay continues from city hall to Parma’s Ukrainian Village on State Road.”

The torch will arrive at Parma City Hall at 5:00 p.m. on May 13. Following a brief ceremony, Ukrainian youth will begin their leg of the relay to the Ukrainian Village.

Ukrainians call the famine a man-made genocide orchestrated by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. They claim Stalin used food as a weapon in starving Ukrainian peasants, crushing their hopes for independence in a region traditionally known as “The Breadbasket of the World”.

The International Torch Relay will travel through 33 countries, including 23 cities in the United States. It will arrive back in Ukraine in November.

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