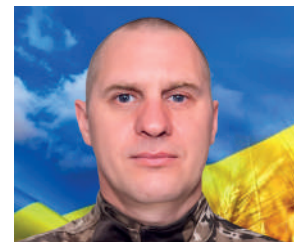
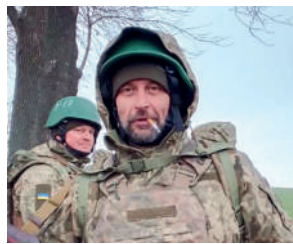
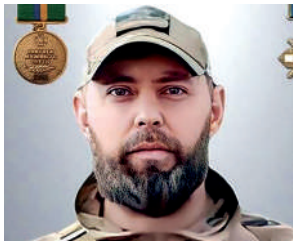
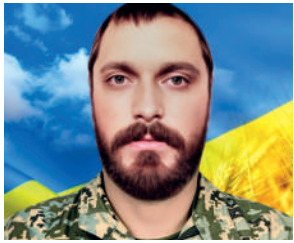
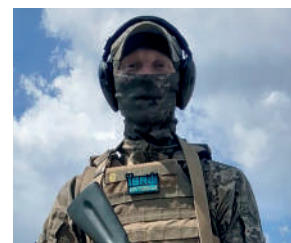
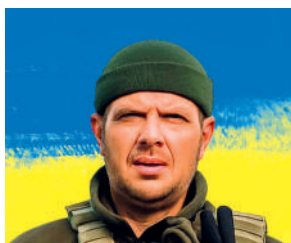
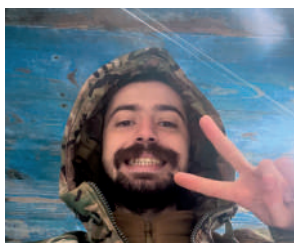

CHRONOLOGY OF COURAGE

2023–2024

THE SEVEN BOOK

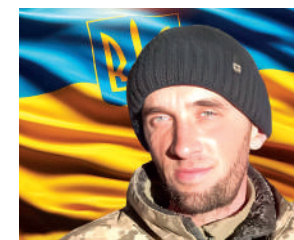
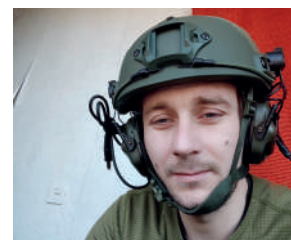
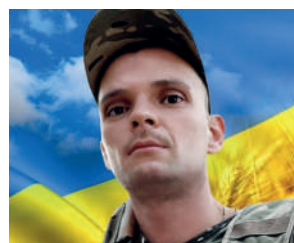
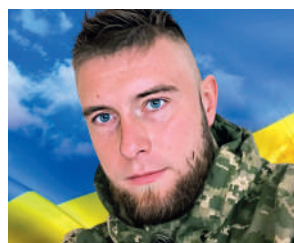
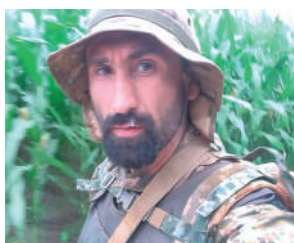




DEDICATED
**TO THE FALLEN SOLDIERS OF KHERSON REGION WHO GAVE
THEIR LIVES DEFENDING THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY OF UKRAINE DURING THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR**

PROJECT LEADER: VIOLETTA TSARKOVA

2023-2024



UDK 355.48(477.72)"2014/..."(091/092)(084.12)
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The sixth book in the “Chronology of Courage” series is dedicated to the memory of Kherson residents who died in the fight for freedom, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The publication honors the personal stories of people whose lives were cut short by Russian aggression and preserves the names of heroes as an integral part of the history of the Kherson region. The book is a testament to the price of freedom and a reminder of the responsibility to remember.

UDK 355.48(477.72)"2014/..."(091/092)(084.12)

Khlebus Oksana Leonidivna is a Kherson journalist, poet, presenter, correspondent for “Social. Kherson”. The last three years of her work on the fate of people who, despite the war, continue to live and move forward; about those who survived captivity and occupation; are dedicated to Ukrainian servicemen.

Samko Yana Dmytrivna is a Ukrainian journalist and photographer. She graduated from the National University “Odesa Law Academy” in 2020 with a degree in “International

Journalism”. She currently works as a correspondent for “Social Kherson”. She believes that there are no unimportant topics, because every person has their own story that is worth telling to others.

Nataliya Oleksandrivna Timofeeva is a journalist from Kherson, who has been in this profession for over 25 years. Her creative output includes many materials about the people of Kherson region, their fates and lives.

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A WORD TO THE READER

This book is not about death. It is about life that was given for freedom.

The sixth book of the “Chronology of Courage” is dedicated to the Kherson residents who died defending Ukraine. Each name on these pages is a fate, a family, a home, a street, a city. These are the voices of our fellow Kherson residents who dreamed, worked, loved - and in times of trials stood up for their land.

The Kherson region experienced temporary Russian occupation, losses, pain and destruction. Unfortunately, not all of our land has been liberated yet. But at the same time, it has become a space of incredible dignity and resistance. It was from this land - peaceful, steppe, open - that people came out whose courage changed the course of history.

We have no right to forget. Memory is our responsibility and our duty.

The project of memorializing the Kherson region's fallen for the freedom and independence of Ukraine was created so that the names of the fallen would not disappear over time, so that future generations would know: freedom has a price, and this price was paid by specific people.

While reading these pages, stop, look into their faces, feel the silence between the lines of their short biographies. It speaks more than words.

Eternal memory and glory to the heroes of the Kherson region. They are with us forever.



ARTYUSHCHENKO MAKSYM YURIYOVYCH



Born on July 29, 1996 in the city of Kherson. He studied at Kherson comprehensive school No. 1, and after the family moved to Mykolaiv - at Mykolaiv comprehensive school with a sports profile. After graduating from school, he returned to Kherson and entered the Kherson Maritime Academy, where he received an education in the specialty "navigation". In November 2022, immediately after the deoccupation of Kherson, he voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. A soldier of military unit 4447, as part of the 33rd separate mechanized brigade (33rd motorized brigade), fought in the Zaporizhia direction, was a grenade launcher rifleman. He died on July 4, 2023 in the village of Robotyne, Polohiv district, Zaporizhia region while performing a combat mission. Buried on the Alley of Glory of the Geologists Cemetery in Kherson.

Maksym Artyushchenko was born in Kherson, a city he loved unconditionally and to which he always returned, no matter where life threw him. His mother, Bukiya Alla Volodymyrivna, speaks of him as they speak only of the closest relatives – with tenderness, pain and pride: “Maksymochka, my little son... He was the best in my life – kind, sensitive, cheerful”.

When Maksym was seven years old, his parents divorced. Later, a stepfather appeared in his life – Guram, who became a real father for the boy. The family had a younger sister, Kristina, whom Maksym took care of from an early age: he nursed, helped, and protected.

From childhood, he was active and athletic. In Mykolaiv, where the family moved, Maksym seriously became interested in basketball – training twice a day, competitions, a team. But his heart always remained in Kherson. That is why he decided to return and enter the Kherson Maritime Academy, where he received the specialty of a ship's pilot. After studying, he went on voyages, worked at sea. Life connected him with Kerch for a while, and then his family moved to Georgia. But even there, Maksym did not linger:

“I LOVE KHERSON,” HE TOLD HIS MOTHER AND RETURNED HOME AGAIN AND AGAIN.

07/29/1980 — 07/04/2023

He met the full-scale invasion in his hometown. When Russian troops entered Kherson, Maksym, together with other local boys, tried to resist - they dug trenches near the Antonivskyi Bridge, went to pro-Ukrainian rallies, helped people leave the occupation.

After the liberation of Kherson in November 2022, Maksym immediately went to the front. He served as a grenade launcher in a mechanized unit. He fought in the Zaporizhia direction, in the Robotyne area - one of the hottest sections of the front.

The exits to positions lasted for days and weeks. The fields were mined, movement was under constant threat. Despite everything, he remained the same - cheerful, caring, strong. In June 2023, after a difficult battle, he called: he told how he and his comrades had a few days of respite, grilled kebabs, and swam. He spoke easily, even joked. And then he suddenly changed and said quietly:

"MOM, IF ANYTHING, JUST FIND ME. AND BURY ME IN KHERSON."

This was their last conversation. On July 4, he wrote that he had returned from a mission and was very tired, promised to call later, but there was no call. Maksym disappeared that same day during a combat mission. His mother looked for him for half a year - she called, wrote, gave DNA, went to morgues, not letting go of the phone even at night. In January 2024, the news came: a DNA examination confirmed his death. He was buried in Kherson – as he requested.

Maksym Artyushchenko is survived by his mother, stepfather and younger sister.



AHMAD FIRAS SATTAROVICH



Born on April 13, 1979 in Kherson. He studied at the Dobropil comprehensive school of the Holoprystan district of the Kherson region, which he graduated from in 1995. After school, he entered the cooperative college in Kherson, majoring in "Accounting and Auditing". He worked in the field of entrepreneurship - he was engaged in his own business, had a grocery store and cultivated the land.

On January 25, 2023, he was mobilized into the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He served in the 22nd separate mechanized brigade of the Ground Forces. He was a grenade launcher of the 2nd mechanized detachment of the 2nd mechanized platoon of the 1st mechanized company of the 1st mechanized battalion. He performed combat missions in the Donetsk direction, in particular in the areas of Chasovy Yar and Klishchiivka.

Died on December 22, 2023 while performing a combat mission. Buried on January 10, 2024 on the Alley of Glory of the Geologists' Cemetery in Kherson.

Awarded the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine's medal "Combatant's Cross" (posthumously).

His family was unusual: his father was of Arab origin, but left the family early. Firas was raised by his mother. Later, she returned to his native village of Dobropillya in the Kherson region, where the boy spent his childhood and youth. There he went to school, where his character and life values were formed.

After graduating from school in 1995, Firas, like his father, wanted to become a sailor. But life turned out differently - he received his education at a cooperative college with a degree in "Accounting and Auditing." He worked for himself: he was engaged in trade, opened a grocery store, cultivated the land, grew watermelons and other crops.

In 2002, he got married. He and Svetlana had known each other since school. They dated for seven years before starting a family. The couple moved to Kherson, where their daughter Anna was born - his great pride and love of his life. For the

sake of his family, he worked, made plans, dreamed of giving his child the best future.

Firas was a kind, sincere and very bright person. He loved nature, the sea, fishing, animals. He was fond of chess, billiards, was interested in history and geography. Among his friends, he was the soul of the company with a subtle sense of humor, open and reliable.

“He was very gentle, romantic. He always tried to do something special - even the flowers he gave were not the same as everyone else. He loved white roses... And now I only bring him white flowers...”, says his wife Svitlana.

Firas survived the occupation of Kherson – he stayed in the city until its liberation. At that time, Svitlana left with her daughter so that she could continue her studies in Ukraine. “He loved our apartment very much and said: ‘I’ll wait. But the child must study in Ukraine,’” she recalls.

After the deoccupation, as soon as the opportunity to leave appeared, Firas went to his wife, who at that time lived in Odessa. There, together with his relatives, he received a summons. On January 25, 2023, he was mobilized.

“He immediately said: ‘I won’t hide. I have to go.’ He was not a military man, he was a very peaceful person... but he considered it his duty.”

He served in the infantry, first as a driver, then as a grenade launcher. He went through the hottest areas of the Donetsk region: Chasiv Yar, Klishchiivka... Despite being wounded in the shoulder during training, he returned to the ranks. According to his wife, he could not stay away, even when he had grounds for treatment.

“HE WAS STRONG - BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MORALLY. THEY TRUSTED HIM. THEY SAID THAT THEY WANTED TO GO ON A MISSION WITH HIM, BECAUSE HE WOULD HELP AND NOT LEAVE,” SHE RECALLS.

They were constantly in touch when possible. Even during night shifts, Firas called and talked to Svitlana for hours. They last spoke on December 17, 2023.

After another combat mission, the serviceman had several days of rest, but he agreed to go to the position again. This mission was his last...

“He said: ‘I’m leaving. When I have the opportunity, I’ll call you.’ I replied: ‘We’re waiting for you at home.’ Those were the last words... Days passed, but back then it still seemed normal – there is often no communication at the positions, you just have to wait. But on the night of December 19, something happened that I still can’t explain. It seemed to me that he had come to say goodbye. It wasn’t quite a dream, more like a feeling of his presence. I clearly “heard” him say: “Don’t hold on to me, let me go.” I woke up with my phone in my hands – his photo was on the screen. The feeling was so real that I couldn’t come to my senses for a long time. I was waiting for Thursday – the day when he was supposed to get in touch. But even then, deep down, I understood: this wouldn’t happen...”

Firas died while performing a combat mission in the Klishchiivka area. The official date of death is December 22, 2023. He was considered missing for a long time.

“I started contacting everywhere – coordination headquarters, hospitals, checking lists of prisoners. There was hope that he was alive. Then there was a lot of talk about the assault near Klishchiivka, about the prisoners... I held on to this hope. And at the same time, I felt like I could feel him next to me. When I was filling out the questionnaires, it seemed to me that he was saying: “Don’t do this, I’ll be found,” the woman says.

At the end of the month, Svetlana was sent photos for identification.

“On December 30, they contacted me and said that there was a body that had been brought to Odessa under a different name. They sent photos. I recognized him immediately. We went to the morgue in Odessa with my sister. It was him. Without a doubt. I knew every feature, every sign... Even the scar on his back that had remained since childhood. And that was where the fatal blow came during the shelling... The next morning I dreamed of him. He was calm, even happy. He said: “I’m fine here. The only thing is that I won’t come back... I told you that you would find me.”

The Hero was buried on January 10, 2024 in Kherson on the Alley of Glory.

Firas was 44 years old. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and mother. In the memory of his relatives and friends, he will forever remain not only a warrior who gave his life for Ukraine, but also a man with a big heart - a loving husband, a caring father, and a reliable support for his family.

BARANENKO MAKSYM SERHIYOVYCH



Born on October 10, 1988 in the village of Blagovishchenko, Gornostayivskiy district, Kherson region. From 1995 he studied at Stepanyanskaya secondary school, and from 2001 — after moving to the village of Petrivske, Belozersk district — he continued his studies until 2004. After school he entered the Kherson Shipbuilding Lyceum No. 5, where he received a specialty, worked in Kyiv at the ATEK enterprise. Later he was drafted into the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He served in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, in the city of Feodosia, village of Kyzyltash, in the military unit 4125 of the Navy in the special purpose unit "Tiger". He studied in absentia at the Admiral Makarov Shipbuilding Institute. In the first days of the full-scale invasion, he voluntarily joined the 35th Marine Brigade of the 137th Separate Battalion. He died on February 28, 2024 while performing a combat mission in the village of Krynki, Kherson region. Buried on the Alley of Glory in Odessa. Awarded the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree (posthumously).

Maksym Baranenko was born into a family of teachers. His mother worked as a biology teacher, and his father was a physical education teacher. The family raised three children, Maksym has an older sister, Ksenia, and a younger sister, Olena. Since childhood, Maksym has been involved in sports, a candidate for master of sports in hand-to-hand combat. He also participated in sports competitions in adulthood. In 2006, he won the Ukrainian Cup in wushu-sanshou in the city of Kherson, taking 1st place.

Maksym Baranenko studied at the Kherson Shipbuilding Lyceum. After serving in the army, he enrolled in the correspondence department of the Admiral Makarov Shipbuilding Institute. He worked as a sales representative, later opened his own business - tire fitting. In 2019, he married Ruslana Boyko, and the couple had two children - daughter Leya and son Tigran.

"He was a wonderful father. You could say that he was 80% more of a mother than I was. He got up at night to feed the child, change diapers, and was present at the birth with me. He managed everything - and worked, and helped me a lot with the children," recalls Ruslana Boyko.

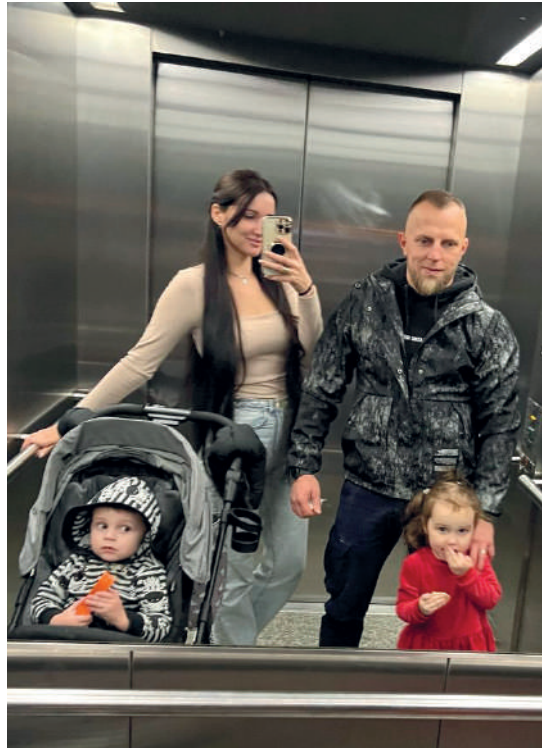
10/10/1988 — 02/28/2024

She says that back in 2014, Maksym wanted to join the Anti-Terrorist Operation in the East of the country, but then his family refused. “He dreamed of war all the time. He kept telling me that he dreamed that he was taking part in some kind of military action,” says his wife. With the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Maksym took his family to the Polish border, and he himself joined the army.

“HE FOUGHT IN ALL DIRECTIONS: IN THE KHERSON REGION, DONETSK REGION, IN THE LUHANSK REGION, IN THE ZAPORIZHIA DIRECTION. THEN HE WAS SENT BACK TO THE KHERSON REGION,” SAYS RUSLANA BOYKO. THE SOLDIER HAD THE CALL SIGN “PITBULL”.

Maksym participated in the liberation of Kherson, liberated Davydiv Brid, where he received his first wound. He took part in fierce battles in the Donetsk region, Luhansk region and Zaporizhia direction. And again returned to his native Kherson region. He died on February 28, 2024 while performing a combat mission in the village of Krynki, Kherson region. Saving his brothers, he sustained a wound incompatible with life. The soldier was 35 years old. He is survived by his mother, sisters, wife and children.

“WE CONSTANTLY REMEMBER HIM. HE WAS AN ENCYCLOPEDIA MAN. HE KNEW EVERYTHING, HE UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING. WE ALWAYS KNEW THAT WE COULD COME TO HIM FOR HELP, FOR ADVICE. HE WAS THE BEST HUSBAND AND FATHER. HE WAS A LOYAL FRIEND. HE WAS A HERO! AND HE WILL FOREVER REMAIN A HERO FOR US,” SAYS RUSLANA BOYKO.



BELELYA ROMAN VASYLOVICH



Born on November 29, 1992 in the village of Antonivka, Kherson region. Lived in the city of Kherson. Studied at Antonivka comprehensive school No. 18. After the 9th grade, he entered the Kherson Hydrometeorological College, but quickly realized that this was not his path. He worked in the construction sector, was engaged in repair and construction work. In December 2022, he voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Served as part of the 95th separate airborne assault brigade, soldier. Participated in hostilities in the Donetsk direction. On April 30, 2024, he died as a result of enemy shelling of a position near the village of Terny, Kramatorsk district, Donetsk region. He was buried on May 9 on the Alley of Glory of the Geologists' Cemetery in Kherson. He was awarded the decorations of the Lyman Military District "Badge of Valor" and the 95th ODSBr "For Courage" (during his lifetime), the "Badge of Honor" and the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree (posthumously).

Roman's father Vasyl was a builder, his mother Svitlana worked in trade. His father passed away when the boy was only 19 years old, and since then he has grown up early, taking responsibility for the family. "He was so caring... He protected me, constantly worried if everything was okay," says his mother.

The boy's first great passion was football. "They even called me to compete from school," recalls Svitlana.

Roman was active and sociable. He chose manual labor for himself - he went into construction, like his father. Over time, he became a real master: he knew how to do everything - from roofing to interior work. Over time, he gathered his own team.

"He had golden hands," recalls family friend Olga Mudryakova. "Whatever he took on, everything worked out. A very capable guy."

Roman was open, kind, and sincere. He always supported others, knew how to joke even in difficult moments. Friends called him "positive," because he never lost faith and knew how to encourage everyone. "He was like that... cheerful, with humor. He always found something to say, knew how to support," says Olga.

11/29/1992 — 04/30/2024

Valentyn Bayrachenko knew Roman when he was still very young - when he was just looking for his path and forming as a person. They worked together on construction sites. "I knew Roman when he was a child. He was friends with my son, they went to school together, grew up together. Then he started working with us - we taught the boys. He was very capable. He had, as they say, golden hands - both plastering, and drywall, and roofing. Whatever he did not undertake - he brought to the end. He surpassed us - his teachers. And this is the best that can be."

Valentin's son Anton recalls: with Roman they were like brothers.

"When he is your person, it is good for you to even keep quiet with him. But Roman was exactly like that for me. We had known each other since the first grade. Maybe even before. We lived on neighboring streets, went to school together, and sometimes skipped lessons together," recalls a childhood friend. "He loved fishing very much. There were times when he would disappear into this occupation for days. Of course, even before the war... And, in general, he was a very hardworking, talented person in everything."

Roman met the full-scale invasion at home, found himself under occupation. Even then, he told his mother: as soon as Kherson is liberated, he will go defend Ukraine. And he did. At the end of December 2022, he took his mother to a safer place and voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces.

He served in the 95th separate airborne assault brigade. He was a soldier, fought in the Donetsk direction. His comrades respected him for his reliability, endurance and humanity.

"I talked to him on the phone, and he almost calls from positions and says: "Everything will be fine, don't worry." He never showed that it was difficult for him," Olga recalls.

WHILE ON VACATION, ROMAN VISITED HIS MOTHER, STAYED WITH FAMILY FRIENDS. "EVERYONE SPOKE WELL OF HIM - BOTH AS A PERSON AND AS A SOLDIER. I MISS HIM VERY MUCH. AND IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR HIS MOTHER... WELL, HOW IS IT - LOSING A CHILD..." SAYS VALENTYN BAYRACHENKO.

Roman wanted to develop in the military, to become an officer. He planned to start a family, dreamed of children and even saved money to buy his mother a house. "He saved on everything, saved money to buy me an apartment... I didn't even know about it," says Svitlana.

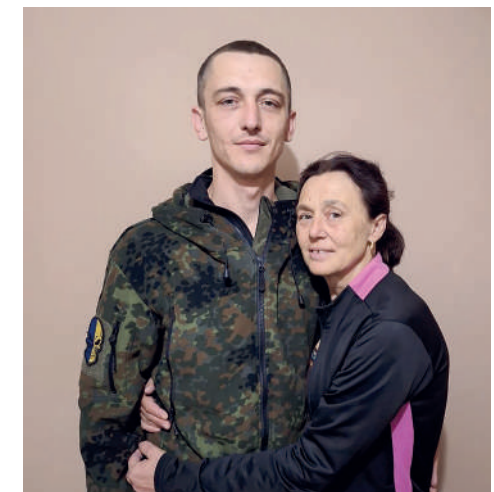
A week before his death, he called Olga and said: "If, God forbid, something happens to me - be with my mother..."

These words became a farewell. As if he felt...

On April 30, 2024, Roman died near the village of Terny in the Donetsk region as a result of enemy shelling. Together with his comrades, he was at a position when an enemy shell hit there. They said goodbye to the Hero on May 9 in Kherson.

"FOR ME, HE WAS THE BEST," SAYS HIS MOTHER THROUGH TEARS. - AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO LIVE ON, REALIZING THAT MY SON IS NO MORE..."

Roman was only 31 years old. He didn't have time to do so much... He didn't build his home... He didn't start a family... He didn't return to his mother victoriously... But he did the most important thing - he did everything he could to protect those he loved...



BLYSHCHYK YAROSLAV ANATOLIYOVYCH



Born on June 15, 1997 in the village of Tarasa Shevchenko, Beryslavsky district, Kherson region. He studied at Rakiv secondary school. After graduating from 11 grades, he studied at the Arkhangelsk vocational agricultural lyceum, majoring in "Tractor driver-driver". He worked in agriculture, repairing equipment.

In January 2023, he voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He served in the 8th mechanized company of the 33rd separate mechanized brigade, initially performing the duties of a driver-mechanic, later transferred to the position of a sniper. He had the rank of junior sergeant. He performed combat missions in the Zaporizhzhia direction.

Died on December 10, 2023 near the village of Robotyne, Polohivskyi district, Zaporizhzhia region, as a result of mortar shelling. Buried in his native village on October 17, 2024.

Awarded the medal "Cross of the Brave" and the distinction "War Veteran" (during his lifetime), the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree (posthumously).

Yaroslav grew up in an ordinary rural family. Mother Oksana recalls that from childhood he was cheerful, open, always smiling: "He was like that with us... positive. Everyone knew him. He had many friends. Even at school they said: without Slavko now it's sad...".

He worked from a young age - from the age of 14, together with his friend Pavlo, they cultivated the land. His love for technology appeared in childhood. He disassembled and assembled motorcycles, repaired cars, helped everyone who asked: "Slava, help me," and he never refused. He was very good at it," says his mother.

This same love accompanied him all his life. According to his wife Kateryna, technology was his true passion: "He could assemble a car from spare parts that were lying in bags. They said: what will you do with it? And he replied: don't worry, it will go in a month."

He and Kateryna have known each other since childhood – they were neighbors. Later, they were united by family life. Together they raised two sons.

06/15/1997 — 12/10/2023

“He is a wonderful dad... very loving, caring. He always found an approach to children,” recalls his wife.

The family survived the occupation. In 2022, they left for the village of Lisovi Hrynivtsi, Khmelnytskyi region. Yaroslav worked at Tin Impex LLC, supported his family, took his 15-year-old younger sister Anastasia with him, but thoughts of the war did not leave him. “I asked him not to go... I said: I am alone with two children... But he replied: “If not me, then who?””, says Kateryna.

HE SAID THE SAME WORDS TO HIS MOTHER: “MOM, IF NOT ME, THEN WHO WILL PROTECT?”

He left without a summons, by his own decision. At the front, he quickly became one with his comrades. He had the call sign “Yar”. He was respected for his sincerity, openness and reliability. His comrades remember him as a person who supported others even in the most difficult moments.

“Yaryk and I went through difficulties and more than once hid from shelling in dugouts together. In those moments when everything around was dangerous, Yaryk always remained calm, confident. He was not afraid to take risks and always went forward. “Yar” was not only a soldier, but also a true friend. He always found a way to cheer me up even in the most difficult times. I remember even when it was my birthday, we were in the trenches. He found a simple bar and a small juice. He brought it a kilometer through the mud, all to give it to me and congratulate me,” says the comrade with the call sign “Karat”. From the first days in the brigade, he became not just a part of the unit, but a real support for others. “He was not just a comrade, he was a comrade. As such, in the company - he was the soul of the company. As on a mission - he was a responsible, strict and, at the same time, fair person. I would 100% go on reconnaissance with him,” says the soldier under the pseudonym “Veres.”

“Vovk” began serving with Yaroslav one year after the brigade was created – at the beginning of 2023. “In my memory, Yaryk will always remain a good, loyal comrade, honest, straightforward, with a very balanced sense of justice,” says “Vovk.”

THIS IS HOW A COMRADE UNDER THE PSEUDONYM “CHEK” REMEMBERS THE FALLEN SOLDIER: “YARYK WAS THE GUY ABOUT WHOM IT IS NOT ASHAMED TO SAY THAT HE IS YOUR COMRADE. HE IS A NICE, SOUL OF THE COMPANY, AT THE SAME TIME A STRONG, BRAVE, RESOLUTE, READY FOR A FEAT WARRIOR. OUR ARMY RELIES ON PEOPLE LIKE YARYK. I HAD THE HONOR OF SERVING WITH HIM.”

Yaroslav almost never told his relatives about the war – he kept his loved ones close. But he always let them know that he was alive. He had an agreement with his wife: a short message after each outing. Their last conversation took place before a combat mission. “I asked him: refuse... He replied: “I can't. I'm not alone...”

On December 10, 2023, Yaroslav died during a mortar attack. For a long time, he was considered missing. The family lived between hope and fear.

“We didn't believe it... we looked for him everywhere... we thought he might be alive...” – says his mother.

Only later did a DNA examination confirm the worst. The wife recalls that moment as a rupture in reality: “The world just stopped... I didn't understand how to live on...”

The sons experienced the loss in their own way. The eldest grew up in an instant. The younger one still looks for his father in every soldier: “He comes up, hugs, asks for chevrons... He already has more than forty of them...”

They were able to bury the Hero only on October 17, 2024. The sons come to the memorial site, talk to their father, bring him flowers...

Yaroslav never fulfilled his dream – to go with his family to the Ukrainian Crimea, to the sea. “He said: we will win – we will go...”, says Kateryna.

He didn't have time...

But he left behind more than dreams. He left an example – how to love his family, how to protect his relatives and his land. And now his son says: “I want to be like my father...”

BORCHENKO DMYTRO SERHIYOVYCH



He was born on 23 September 1984 in the city of Kherson, Kherson Oblast. There, he graduated from Kherson Secondary School No. 24 and enrolled at the State Educational Institution 'Higher Vocational School No. 2' in Kherson to train as a joiner and woodworking machinist. He completed his compulsory military service in 2004–2005. In the winter of 2023, he was called up to the Armed Forces of Ukraine and served in the 22nd Separate Mechanised Mykolaiv Brigade. On 21 January 2024, he went missing in the village of Klishchiivka, Bakhmut District, Donetsk Oblast. Following DNA analysis, his death was officially confirmed on 28 October 2025. He was buried in the Walk of Fame at the Geologists' Cemetery in Kherson.

He was posthumously awarded the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine's 'Combatant's Cross' medal.

Dmytro Borchenko grew up in a harmonious family. He was the youngest child, with an older brother, Kostyantyn, who was 10 years his senior. The boys' parents worked at one of the factories in Kherson: their father as a welder, their mother in the workshop.

"Dima was the life and soul of the party – positive, sincere, and empathetic. He knew how to help everyone and could find a way out of even the most difficult situations. His friends remember him only with kind words: 'Our little Dima was always smiling.' Dima had a particularly warm and close relationship with his brother, and treated his parents with great respect and care," says Dmytro's wife, Oleksandra.

Dmytro's parents dreamed of seeing him become a sailor; they even enrolled him in a club for learning to tie nautical knots. But the young man remained true to himself: from childhood, he had a special passion for woodworking. Dmytro was passionate about this craft, feeling it was his calling.

After completing his vocational training, he worked as a sawyer at a furniture factory in Kherson. But he didn't stop at just his job. According to Oleksandra, he was constantly mulling over new ideas: how to improve something in the

09/23/1984 — 01/01/2024

house or create something useful for the home. He loved to invent and create, and whatever took shape in his imagination, he would invariably try to bring to life. And when Dmytro was asked, 'Why wood, of all things?', he would reply briefly and confidently: 'It's my thing.'

Dmytro met his future wife in 2007. Oleksandra worked as a cashier in a supermarket where he often went shopping. On 19 December, St Nicholas' Day, they met for a coffee – and things took off from there. Later, friends told Oleksandra that Dmytro had been visiting the shop for a long time precisely because of her, 'checking her out'.

The couple married in 2010. They had two daughters: the eldest, Anastasia, and the younger, Alina.

“DIMA WAS A VERY LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER. HE WAS READY TO DO ANYTHING FOR US. HE ALWAYS SAID: ‘I’LL DO MY BEST, WORK OVERTIME OR FIND A WAY OUT OF ANY SITUATION. BUT I WANT MY FAMILY TO NEVER WANT FOR ANYTHING.’ EVEN WHILST ON DUTY, ALL HIS THOUGHTS WERE OF US. HIS COMRADES TOLD US THAT DMYTRO OFTEN SPOKE TO THEM ABOUT HIS GIRLS AND EMPHASISED: ‘I’M HERE TO PROTECT YOU, SO THAT YOU CAN LIVE IN A FREE COUNTRY,’ HIS WIFE SHARES.

Dmytro Borchenko wanted to join the Armed Forces of Ukraine right from the first days of the full-scale invasion, but he didn't manage to submit his documents – the military recruitment office had been disbanded with the start of the temporary Russian occupation. However, he could not sit idly by – in March 2022, he took part in peaceful protests in Kherson against the Russian military.

Following the de-occupation of the right bank of the Kherson region on 1 December 2023, Dmytro was mobilised into the 22nd Separate Mechanised Mykolaiv Brigade. He held the rank of private and went by the call sign Bora. Within a month and a half, the soldier saw his first and, as it turned out, his last battle on the front line.

On 19 January 2024, Dmytro Borchenko set off for the area around the village of Klishchiivka in Donetsk Oblast to carry out a combat mission. That day, he phoned his wife and told her he was heading to the 'front line'. It was their last conversation. From 21 January, Dmytro ceased all contact and was declared missing in action. It is this date that is officially considered the day of his death.

“AS HIS COMRADES RECOUNTED, IT WAS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SORTIE – THEY WERE BEING FIRED UPON WITH ALL TYPES OF WEAPONRY. DIMA WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEG, BUT REFUSED IMMEDIATE EVACUATION. HE DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE THE LADS ALONE AT THE POSITION. HE SAID: ‘I’VE DRESSED AND BANDAGED THE WOUND. I’LL STAY WITH YOU UNTIL THE NEXT EVACUATION. WHAT’S LEFT TO DO HERE UNTIL MORNING?’ THAT WAS DIMA... HE NEVER ABANDONED HIS FRIENDS IN TROUBLE, ALWAYS PUTTING OTHERS FIRST AND HIMSELF LAST. AND IN THE MORNING, AN FPV DRONE FLEW INTO THEIR DUGOUT AND EXPLODED... “WE LIVED IN THE HOPE THAT DIMA HAD MADE IT OUT, AND HOPED FOR HIS RETURN HOME,” RECALLS OLEKSANDRA.

His family waited for news of Dmytro for one year and nine months. On 28 October 2025, they were informed of the confirmation of the DNA test. On 11 November 2025, Dmytro Borchenko was buried. He was 39 years old. He is survived by his father, mother, brother, wife and two children.

“DIMA IS ALWAYS BEFORE MY EYES, ALWAYS CLOSE BY ... YOU SEE, WE WERE TOGETHER EVERYWHERE, EXCEPT AT WORK. WE LOVED GOING FOR WALKS AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND SPENDING WEEKENDS AS A FAMILY. HE LOVED US VERY MUCH, LOOKED AFTER US AND PROTECTED US. AND HE WILL ALWAYS BE OUR PROTECTOR, OUR HERO,” SAYS HIS WIFE.

BURMAGIN KYRYLO YURIEVICH



Burmagin Kyrylo Yurievich was born on January 16, 2002 in the village of Fedorivka, Novotroitsky district. He studied at the Novotroitsky secondary school, the Kherson regional lyceum and the chemistry faculty of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Combining his studies with work, he worked at a chemical enterprise in Kyiv. He voluntarily joined the army in September 2022. He served in the Azov brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine, where he became a combat medic, had the call sign Khersonets. He died on November 10, 2023 in the Severodonetsk district of the Luhansk region (Serebryansk forestry). He was buried in the city of Zaporizhzhia.

Kyrylo was the only child in the family. He grew up without a father, his mother, Marina Oleksandrivna, worked as a land surveyor. Despite the fact that the care of the family was solely on her shoulders, she always found time for her son. They made all important decisions together. Until the 7th grade, Kirill studied at the Novotroitsk comprehensive school. Even then, his mother noticed a special mindset in him. He had a clearly expressed logical thinking, quickly grasped everything, easily assimilated the material.

- I look, I say: "Kirill, have you learned your lessons?" - "No, I haven't learned yet." I say: "Well, study." After 10 minutes - "I've already learned everything." How, I say, can you learn everything? He had a mathematical mindset, - his mother says about Kirill.

Later, the boy transferred to the Kherson Regional Lyceum to gain more knowledge in the sciences that interested him. Kirill graduated from the lyceum with honors. It was there that his love for chemistry was especially manifested. He became a participant in the regional chemistry Olympiad, took first place in the region, and then represented the lyceum at the All-Ukrainian Olympiad.

Since childhood, Kirill was active and purposeful. He played football, wrestling, and played checkers very well. After graduating from high school, he decided to devote his life to chemistry. Independently, with high scores, he entered the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv at the Faculty of Chemistry. After the first year, thanks to his abilities, he began working at a chemical enterprise in Kyiv, combining work with study.

01/16/2002 — 11/10/2023

But in 2022, the war changed everything. At that time, Marina Oleksandrivna first stayed at home, and then left for Zaporizhia. Kirill made a decision that was difficult for his mother and at the same time so characteristic of him. He took an academic leave after the third year and in September 2022 voluntarily went to defend Ukraine.

- I ASKED HIM WHY HE MADE SUCH A DECISION, BECAUSE HE DIDN'T EVEN FINISH HIS STUDIES, TO WHICH HIS SON ANSWERED ME: "AND WHO, IF NOT ME?", - THE MOTHER TELLS ABOUT KIRILL'S DECISION TO JOIN THE ARMY.

He was a senior mortar gunner of the special purpose fire support platoon of the special purpose reconnaissance company of the military unit 3057 of the NGU "Azov". He fought in the Voznesensky district of the Donetsk region, the Polohivsky district of the Zaporizhzhia region, and in the Serebryansk forestry district of the Luhansk region. His comrades spoke about him briefly, but very accurately: "He was like a tiger". Strong-willed, strong-willed, fearless.

Kirill graduated from tactical medicine courses in Lviv, became a combat medic, and received the corresponding certificate. Formally, this gave him the opportunity not to go directly to combat missions, but this was not about Kirill.

- HE TOLD ME THAT HE COULD NOT SIT IN RELATIVE SAFETY WHILE THE GUYS RISKED THEIR LIVES, - SAYS MARINA ALEKSANDROVNA.

On November 10, 2023, Kirill Burmagin died in the Severodonetsk district of the Luhansk region, on the territory of the Serebryansk forestry. That day, together with his comrades, he performed a combat mission to storm enemy strongholds. Kirill ensured the reliable operation of the grenade launcher, which reduced the possibility of bringing up enemy reserves and provided cover for the evacuation of the wounded of his unit. His friend Ivan was nearby, who tried to reanimate Kirill after being wounded. But, unfortunately, the injury he received was too

serious. The body was taken away immediately. His mother was informed of his death on the same day. Kirill was buried in Zaporizhia.

For his courage, self-sacrifice and loyalty to the oath, Kirill Burmagin was awarded the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree. He lived only 21 years. During his year of service, he managed to become a support for his brothers, a source of pride for his mother, and a defender for his country.



VASYANOVICH VOLODYMYR VOLODYMYROVYCH



Born on August 26, 1987 in the city of Kherson. After graduating from Kherson comprehensive school No. 34, he studied at the Highway Institute, but did not complete his education. He worked in various manual jobs. He voluntarily joined the army in August 2023. He served as a combat medic in the 144th separate infantry brigade, had the rank of junior sergeant. He died on April 8, 2024 near the village of Georgiyevka in the Donetsk region. Buried in Kherson.

Volodymyr Vasyanovich was born in Kherson, a city that became his home for life. Here he grew up, studied, worked, and here he is known as a quiet but reliable person. His mother, Nina Anatoliyevna, recalls: since childhood, his son was calm, non-conflict and very attentive to his loved ones.

The family was an ordinary working class. His parents worked at the Comintern plant - that's where they met. The family raised two sons: the elder Igor and the younger Volodymyr. "He was such that I never had any problems with him. He didn't ask for anything, he didn't bother me with anything," says Nina Anatoliyevna.

Volodymyr studied at Kherson school No. 34. After graduating from 11 grades, he entered the Highway Institute, but did not complete his higher education. He worked in various jobs - he chose simple labor professions, helped his parents, stayed close to his family. He lived in Kherson with them all his life.

NEIGHBORS AND ACQUAINTANCES REMEMBER HIM AS A MAN OF FEW WORDS, BUT ONE WHO WAS ALWAYS READY TO HELP. HE DIDN'T LIKE BEING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, NOR DID HE SEEK EASY PATHS OR SPECTACULAR SUCCESS. INSTEAD, HE VALUED THE SIMPLE THINGS—THE COMFORT OF FAMILY, SPENDING TIME WITH LOVED ONES, AND THE FAMILIAR RHYTHM OF LIFE IN HIS HOMETOWN. HE WAS A TRUE PILLAR OF SUPPORT FOR HIS PARENTS: HE HELPED AROUND THE HOUSE, STOOD BY THEM DURING DIFFICULT TIMES, AND NEVER TURNED THEM DOWN WHEN THEY NEEDED HIS HELP OR ADVICE.

08/26/1987 — 04/08/2024

THE MOTHER ADMITS: THE ONLY THING SHE WORRIED ABOUT WAS THAT HER SON NEVER CREATED HIS OWN FAMILY. “HE DIDN’T GET MARRIED, HE DIDN’T HAVE A FAMILY, HE DIDN’T LEAVE ANY CHILDREN BEHIND... I WAS ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT THAT,” SHE SAYS. BUT FOR HER, HE REMAINED A CARING AND KIND SON WHO WAS ALWAYS THERE.

The family met the full-scale invasion in Kherson and survived the occupation together. Volodymyr almost didn’t leave the house – it was dangerous, there were Russian soldiers nearby. “I told him: don’t even go out on the balcony,” her mother recalls.

THE MONTHS OF OCCUPATION WERE A DIFFICULT ORDEAL FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY. LIKE THOUSANDS OF KHERSON RESIDENTS, THEY LIVED IN CONSTANT TENSION, FOLLOWING THE NEWS AND WAITING FOR THE CITY TO BE LIBERATED. VOLODYMYR WAS DEEPLY DISTRESSED BY EVERYTHING HAPPENING AROUND HIM; HE SAW HOW LIFE IN HIS NATIVE KHERSON WAS CHANGING, AND HE COULDN’T STAND IDLY BY.

After the liberation of the city, he began to go outside, and later decided to join the army. According to Nina Anatolyevna, he didn’t think for a long time and didn’t ask for permission – he simply made his choice and in August 2023 joined the 144th separate infantry brigade. He served in the Donetsk region, in the Pokrovsky direction. He was a combat medic – he

rescued the wounded, went on missions, helped his comrades.

During their brief phone calls, he asked more about his parents than he talked about himself. His mother recalls that her son always tried to reassure her, even when he was far from home and risking his life every day.

He hardly talked about his service. Like many soldiers, he spared his relatives unnecessary worries. Mom does not know all the details of his last battle – she only guesses that he died while performing a combat mission. It happened on April 8, 2024 near the village of Georgiyevka in the Donetsk region. Volodymyr was buried in Kherson – in the city where he was born and which he did not leave even in the most difficult times. Junior Sergeant Volodymyr Vasyanovich was 36 years old. He is survived by his parents and brother.

“What was he like? – Nina Anatolyivna thinks. – Good... For me – the best son.”

TODAY, MEMORIES OF HIM REMAIN - QUIET, SINCERE, FILLED WITH LOVE. HE DID NOT SEEK LOUD WORDS OR RECOGNITION, BUT DID THE MOST IMPORTANT THING - HE STOOD UP FOR HIS LAND. AND FOR MOM, HE WILL FOREVER REMAIN THE SAME VOVA - CALM, KIND AND DEAR.

A man who lived modestly, yet during the country’s darkest hours took it upon himself to save others. This is exactly how his family, friends, and everyone who knew him during his lifetime will remember him.



VOZNYUK VIKTOR OLEKSANDROVYCH



Voznyuk Viktor Oleksandrovych was born on April 24, 1981 in the village of Charivne, Beryslav district, Kherson region. From 1987 to 1996 he studied at the Charivne secondary school of grades I-II. Then he entered the State Educational Institution "Beryslav Professional Agrarian Lyceum" in the village of Chervony Mayak, where he obtained the profession of accountant. After graduating from the lyceum, he worked as an accountant in his native village, and later began to engage in the business of his whole life - farming. On July 26, 2023, he was mobilized for military service by the Beryslav RTCC and SP of the Kherson region. He was a rifleman of the second infantry detachment of the first infantry platoon of the first infantry company of the military unit A4993. Died on February 29, 2024 while performing a combat mission in a combat zone, near the settlement of Semenivka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region. Buried in his native village of Charivne, Beryslav district, Kherson region.

Viktor Voznyuk was born into a family where traditions were respected and their country was loved. He had a very good family, he had an older brother, Oleksiy. His mother worked on a tractor, and his father was a builder. As a child, Viktor actively played sports, was fond of fishing. He was calm, responsible and reserved, always supported his friends and helped in difficult situations.

"He loved to help people. He was like that in childhood and all his life. And he was very hardworking. As a child, he helped his parents and grandmother with the housework, and in adulthood he was ready to come to the aid of anyone who asked. He was very friendly, never refused anyone, always went to meet them," says his wife Iryna Vitaliyevna.

After studying at the Berislavsk Vocational Agricultural Lyceum, Viktor returned to his native village of Charivne. He went to work as an accountant, then married Iryna, and later they had two children - daughters Anna and Alevtina.

With the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the village found itself under Russian occupation. According to his wife, Viktor fed half the village with bread

04/24/1981 — 02/29/2024

and did not take money for it, helping people in any way he could. Despite the danger, when the occupiers took the family's livestock, he went to them and, saying "You can't do that," took his calf home. Daughter Alevtina recalls that when the occupiers brought water, when there was none in the village, his father did not take it from them, but went to the pond with buckets to draw water for the livestock.

Viktor Voznyuk always had an active public position and love for his country.

"VIKTOR WAS ALWAYS A PATRIOT. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, HE WAS EAGER FOR WAR, HE REALLY WANTED JUSTICE AND WANTED IT TO END AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE TOLD EVERYONE: "YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IN CORNERS, YOU HAVE TO GO FIGHT SO THAT THE WAR ENDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," RECALLS IRYNA VITALIYIVNA.

Therefore, when he received a summons, he went to serve. After training, he was assigned to the combat operations in the Donetsk region. Viktor Voznyuk had the call sign "Charivny". "He had golden hands. He loved to cook, and the bread was delicious. The guys said about him when he cooked something that he cast spells over food like a shaman. And in general, he was so friendly that they called him that - "Charivny". He was a magical person," says Iryna Vitaliyivna.

VIKTOR DID NOT TELL HIS FAMILY MUCH ABOUT HIS SERVICE, HE DID NOT WANT TO WORRY THEM. "HE HAD A VERY GOOD BRIGADE, AND THE GUYS WERE ALL YOUNG, AND HE ALWAYS SAID: "GUYS, LET'S JUST GO FORWARD!", - SAYS IRYNA VITALIYIVNA.

Viktor Voznyuk died on February 29, 2024 while performing a combat mission near the settlement of Semenivka in the Donetsk region. He was buried in the cemetery in the village of Charivne, Beryslav district, Kherson region, next to the graves of his relatives. He is survived by his wife, daughters and father.



GAZETSKY OLEKSANDR STANISLAVOVICH



Gazetsky Oleksandr Stanislavovich was born on April 6, 1974 in the village of Novodmytrivka, Velikooleksandrivsky district, Kherson region. He studied at Novodmytrivskaya secondary school, after which he graduated from the Kherson shipbuilding school with a degree in welder. He began his career in his native village, working on a collective farm. He was mobilized into the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on May 18, 2023. The defender's life ended on November 14, 2023 while performing a combat mission near the village of Synkivka, Kupyansky district, Kharkiv region. Oleksandr was buried in his native village of Novodmytrivka on November 22, 2023.

Oleksandr was the youngest in the family - after his older sister and brother Oleksiy, with whom he had a four-year difference. Sasha's childhood was the same as that of thousands of village boys, where responsibilities to the home appeared before adult dreams. The father worked on a collective farm, the mother worked in trade, so the household often remained on the shoulders of the children.

- As parents on a collective farm, you know, they are at work all day. Everything depended on us: cows, pigs, the garden. Everything happened, as with children: they would mess around and fight with each other, but in general they were very friendly, - recalls brother Oleksiy.

Oleksandr studied at Novodmytrivsk secondary school. Of all the subjects and entertainments, he loved football most of all. He played not just for fun - for a while he even played for the local collective farm team. After the 10th grade, the young man went to Kherson, where he graduated from a shipbuilding school, acquiring the profession of a welder. Then there was military service, which he completed with the rank of senior sergeant.

Oleksandr had a marriage that lasted 15 years. He raised his wife's daughter as his own, but later their paths diverged and he returned to live with his mother.

When the full-scale invasion began, Novodmytrivka was occupied. Oleksandr stayed at home, having survived those difficult months under a foreign flag, but

04/06/1974 — 11/14/2023

with Ukraine in his heart. And soon after the liberation of his native land, his time came to join the ranks of the defenders. On May 18, 2023, Oleksandr was handed a summons. Oleksandr, having a group III disability, could not go to fight, and Oleksandr accepted this challenge for both of them.

- HE TOLD US: "I AM ALONE. MY BROTHER IS A DISABLED PERSON, AND SOMEONE FROM EVERY FAMILY MUST GO. WHO WILL GO IF NOT ME?". THAT'S HOW HE MADE THE DECISION AND LEFT, - SAYS HIS BROTHER.

Oleksandr ended up in military unit A4828. Thanks to his conscription experience, he received the rank of sergeant, and by specialization he became a driver-radio operator of the 3rd department. The training lasted three months, and then the front - the Kupyansk direction.

- He was calm, kind. He wouldn't hurt a cat or a dog. He couldn't even kill a chicken - he wouldn't raise his hand. And then he went to war. He didn't tell us anything from there. He protected us, the only thing he said was: "Brother, I'm fine, and hang in there, family." And about what was happening there, he said: "I won't tell you," - recalls Oleksiy.

On November 14, 2023, near the village of Synkivka, Kupyansky district, Kharkiv region, Oleksiy fought his last battle. The wound he received was incompatible with life. At first, the family was informed that he had gone missing. Only a few days later did the final confirmation come: he had died.

He was brought home on November 22. Novodmytrivka had never seen such a farewell - Oleksiy became the first soldier from the village to die in this war. Not only fellow villagers, but also people from the entire district and neighboring villages came to see the Hero off on his last journey.

HE DID NOT HAVE TIME TO RECEIVE HIGH AWARDS DURING HIS LIFETIME, BUT HE LEFT BEHIND A MEMORY OF INCREDIBLE SACRIFICE. OLEKSANDR WENT TO WAR BECAUSE HE LOVED HIS FAMILY AND HIS LAND ABOVE ALL ELSE.



GALUSHKA VALERIY VOLODYMYROVYCH



Born in Kherson. Lived in Oleshki, Kherson region. Studied at a local school, later at the Kherson National Technical University, majoring in "Accounting and Taxation". In parallel, he was engaged in entrepreneurial activity. He graduated from the military department of the Ivan Kozhedub Kharkiv National Air Force University, faculty of anti-aircraft missile forces, which determined his further path.

With the beginning of the full-scale invasion, he voluntarily joined the defense of Ukraine. Joined the ranks of the Marine Corps of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Served in the 140th separate reconnaissance battalion. He was the commander of an anti-aircraft missile platoon, had the rank of "Senior Lieutenant". He took part in battles in the Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson regions.

Died on December 5, 2023 while performing a combat mission on the left bank of the Dnieper River in the Kherson region. Buried on the Alley of Glory of the Geologists' Cemetery in the city of Kherson.

Awarded the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree (posthumously).

"A bright, inquisitive, very lively boy. From childhood, there was something adult in him, as if he was in a hurry to live, in a hurry to have more time than others," says the soldier's mother Olena.

Valery's family had a small family business - a grocery store. From an early age, he helped in the family business, learned responsibility and work. And most importantly - he constantly generated ideas. His relatives called him an "engine", someone who could not sit idle.

Valery led an active lifestyle, played sports. He loved exact sciences. He liked numbers, analytics, working with documents. He studied accounting and taxation, simultaneously took courses, worked and made plans for the future. He dreamed of his own business, strove for independence and development. "He had a clear vision of life – not childish, not frivolous. He wanted to achieve things himself, to build things himself," his mother recalls.

13.05.2000 — 05.12.2023

Valery was a very sincere and open person. He easily responded to someone else's need, helped strangers. He could run up to a woman with bags and say: "Let me carry them."

A special place in the boy's life was occupied by his younger sister. With her appearance, he felt responsible, became more attentive and caring. For her, he was not just a brother, but a real support.

A full-scale invasion found Valery in his native Oleshki. Already on February 24, 2022, he went to the military registration and enlistment office to defend the country.

The family store became a place of help for people. "We gave away all the food practically for free. Especially bread – there was a huge shortage of it. My son personally delivered the food, found opportunities for supply, worked at the risk of his life to support people. He said he couldn't do it any other way. People had to survive," recalls Olena.

When it became clear that it was no longer dangerous to remain under occupation, he took his family to Vinnytsia. And the very next day he voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

"He said: 'How can I run away, hide if they came to my house? They are killing children and boys there, and I will sit and do nothing?'" says his mother. "He often repeated: 'I am a player, not an observer. I cannot sit at home and pretend that it doesn't concern me.'"

After his studies, Valery mastered the specialties of anti-aircraft missile troops and intelligence. Later, he became a commander in the 140th separate reconnaissance battalion of the Marine Corps. He had the pseudonym "Multic".

From June 2022 to September 2023, he carried out combat missions in eastern Ukraine - Donetsk and Luhansk regions. He worked in the areas of Bakhmut, Lysychansk, Toshkivka, Ustinivka, Vovcheyarivka and Orikhovo. In the

spring of 2023, in the direction of Lyman and Kreminna, he received a shrapnel wound to the back of the head during artillery fire. He underwent treatment in Kramatorsk and Dnipro and returned to the front.

In the summer, he underwent training in the ranks of the Special Operations Forces. In the fall of 2023, he carried out combat missions in the Kherson direction. During one of the sorties, his group came under massive fire. "Valery personally pulled the wounded guy out and took everyone out of the fire. He was always with them until the end," says his mother.

After that, he received the rank of senior lieutenant.

At the front, Valery remained just as attentive to people and at the same time demanding of himself. He rarely came home, but he never talked about the war. Instead, he brought warmth, showed care to his relatives and tried to protect his loved ones from unnecessary worries.

Olena says: the last conversation with his son was especially painful. "He was very broken, panicked. I have never seen him like this."

On December 5, 2023, while returning from a combat mission on the left bank of the Dnieper, Valery Galushka was mortally wounded as a result of a grenade thrown from an enemy drone. At that moment, he made a choice - to save his comrades at the cost of his own life.

"Valery, as a commander, always went first and left last. He could not leave until everyone was safe," says Olena. "They were there in the cold for four days. I thought I was going crazy..."

Valery was survived by his parents, sister, beloved girlfriend, grandparents. The guy was only 23 years old. He loved children very much and dreamed of a large family. He kept children's drawings that he received from children who survived the war. Valery Galushka became one of those who paid the highest price for our freedom...



GORBAN OLEG VOLODYMYROVYCH



He was born on April 11, 1979 in the city of Makiivka, Donetsk region. After graduating from secondary school, he studied at Moscow University, where he received the profession of an architect. He worked in construction, was engaged in restoration work. After getting married, he moved to his wife's hometown – Kherson. In May 2023, he voluntarily joined the army. He served in the Marine Corps, in military unit A2613, fought in the Kherson direction. He died on April 14, 2024 while performing a combat mission in the village of Ivanivka, Kherson region. Buried in Kherson.

Oleg Gorban was born in the Donetsk region. His life was difficult from childhood: at the age of five he lost his father, and at eleven – his mother. Left an orphan, he spent some time in a boarding school until his grandparents took him in. They became his family and gave him the support from which he began to build his life.

His wife, Natalia Vasilievna, calls him a “Spartan” – a person who was used to counting only on himself and always moving forward, despite the circumstances. Childhood left no room for carelessness: Oleg learned early to survive, look for opportunities, hold on and not give up.

After school, he went to study in Moscow – he chose a creative profession related to architecture and sculpture. It was important for him not to just work, but to create something with his own hands. Later, he returned home, worked in construction, and was engaged in restoration work. His hands, according to his wife, “were golden” – he could do everything: from complex structures to small details. He was valued as a master, and responsible objects were entrusted to him.

In his adult life, Oleg worked hard, taking on any job to provide for himself and his loved ones. He had a dream - to build an unusual house, a dome, energy-efficient, one that lives in harmony with nature. He imagined it in detail, but did not have time to realize it.

04/11/1979 — 04/14/2024

He met Natalia in Crimea, before the war. Later, they got married in Kherson and started a family. They lived together for several years, raising their son Bohdan - "God-given", as Natalia called him. For Oleg, his son became the center of the world. He was proud of him, took care of him and wanted to give him a better life.

Before the full-scale war, Oleg worked abroad - in Poland. He managed to quickly establish his life: he rented housing, bought a car, prepared the ground for the family. But when the invasion began, the family returned. Separation, anxiety, uncertainty - all this pushed him to make the decision that he considered the only right one. In May 2023, Oleg voluntarily joined the army. He served in the Marine Corps, in military unit A2613, had the call sign "Architect" - as an echo of his peaceful profession. He spoke little about the war. His wife recalls: he seemed to feel more than he said out loud.

Oleg believed that he would become a hero, that they would write about him in books. And at the same time, he remained a simple man who wanted only one thing during short vacations - to be with his family. Even then, he did not take off his military uniform: he said that he had taken the oath and wanted it to be seen.

A few days after his 45th birthday, Oleg went on a combat mission. Together with his brother, they went up to prepare food for others. At that moment, an enemy strike occurred. The explosion took his life. He died on April 14, 2024 in the village of Ivanivka in the Kherson region. Oleg was buried in Kherson - the city that he chose for his family and which he went to defend. The soldier was 45 years old. He is survived by his wife and son.

“HE WAS UNIQUE. STRONG, RESPONSIBLE, REAL. IF HE TOOK ON RESPONSIBILITY, HE NEVER BACKED DOWN,” SAYS NATALIA VASYLIVNA.

There were many losses in Oleg Gorban's life, but he managed to build his own - a home, a family, a meaning. And even without having time to fulfill all his dreams, he left behind the main thing - love, memory and an example of a person who did not give up.



HREBENYUK SERHIY SERHIYOVYCH



He was born on 6 May 1974 in the village of Pryhiria, Vysokopilsky District, Kherson Region. He began his education at the local school and attended secondary school in Kochubeivka. He graduated from a vocational college in Kryvyi Rih, where he qualified as a car mechanic. After completing his studies, he lived in Odesa for three years, working as a lathe operator, before returning to his home village. On 12 April 2023, he enlisted in the army, serving as a staff sergeant and squad leader in military unit A4993. He was killed on 1 April 2024 in the village of Semenivka, Pokrovskyi District, Donetsk Oblast.

Serhii Hrebeniuk was born in the village of Pryhiria in the Kherson region, where he spent his childhood – a simple, rural life, like that of most children: with farm work, friendship and ordinary joys. His wife, Svitlana Anatoliivna, says: it was a happy life, without unnecessary pretension, but with a sense of home and family. Serhii grew up in a family that valued hard work. His parents – Vira and Serhii – have already passed away, as has his brother. Eventually, he was the only one left in the family, and this only strengthened his character further. From childhood, he was drawn to technology – he loved taking things apart, repairing them, and understanding how everything worked. “He was a technical sort,” says his wife. He could fix a television, a tool, any mechanism.

He met Svitlana at a wedding of mutual friends. “That’s how we got together,” she recalls. They lived together for 26 years and raised their son Oleksandr. Serhiy was not just a husband and father – he was the family’s true pillar of support. Everything in the house was made by his own hands: from the house itself to the outbuildings. “If he wasn’t at work, he was doing something at home,” says his wife.

HE WAS KNOWN AS A JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES AND SOMEONE WHO NEVER REFUSED TO HELP. IN THE VILLAGE, PEOPLE TURNED TO HIM WITH ALL SORTS OF QUESTIONS – FROM REPAIRS TO ADVICE. HE WAS OPEN, SOCIABLE AND HAD A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR. HE LOVED LIFE AND EVEN TOOK PART IN LOCAL PERFORMANCES – HE PLAYED ROLES IN AN AMATEUR THEATRE AND APPEARED ON STAGE AT FESTIVALS.

05/06/1974 — 04/01/2024

The full-scale invasion changed everything. The Kherson region was one of the first to come under occupation. Serhiy was working at the time, trying to support his family, but he knew the war was already close by. When he received his call-up papers, he didn't hesitate – on 12 April 2023, he joined the army.

HE SERVED IN THE INFANTRY, HOLDING THE RANK OF STAFF SERGEANT AND SERVING AS A SQUAD LEADER WITHIN MILITARY UNIT A4993. HE CARRIED OUT COMBAT MISSIONS IN THE DONETSK REGION – NEAR POKROVSK AND SEMENIVKA. HIS COMRADES GAVE HIM THE CALL SIGN 'GRANDAD' – HE WAS THE OLDEST AMONG THEM, BUT AT THE SAME TIME REMAINED ENERGETIC, ALWAYS URGING THE OTHERS ON: 'COME ON, LET'S MOVE.' HE HARDLY EVER SPOKE OF THE WAR. HE ASKED MORE ABOUT HOME, ABOUT THE VILLAGE, ABOUT HOW HIS FAMILY WERE GETTING ON. HE DIDN'T WANT THEM TO WORRY.

Serhiy was killed whilst carrying out a combat mission.



Together with his comrades, he set off for their positions. When one of them was wounded, Serhiy rushed to help – to pull him out. His heart stopped during the evacuation. Serhiy Hrebenyuk died on 1 April 2024 in the village of Semenivka, Pokrovsk District, Donetsk Oblast. He was 49 years old. He is survived by his wife and son. But the memory of him lives on much more widely – in his home village, among the people he helped, among those who knew him as a kind, sincere and reliable man. His comrades remember him as a man who was always on the move, supporting others and never sparing himself.

DANILEVYCH RUSLAN FEDOROVYCH



Born in the village of Khorly, Kherson region. Studied at the Myrny secondary school. After compulsory military service, he worked in various fields, in particular in construction and security, and was engaged in farming.

Since 2014, he has been defending Ukraine, serving in the State Border Service. Since 2021, he has been performing combat missions in the JOF zone, and after the start of the full-scale invasion, in the Kharkiv and Donetsk directions, in particular in the Bakhmut district.

Died on December 10, 2023 while performing a combat mission near the village of Hryhorivka, Bakhmut district, Donetsk region.

Awarded state and departmental awards "Victory. Courage. Honor", "For the Defense of Ukraine", the medal "Cross of Honor" (lifetime), the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree and the Lviv city award "Honorary Badge of St. George" (posthumously).

He grew up in a family where work, responsibility and love for his native land were valued. His father, Fedir Fedorovich, was a teacher of physical education and pre-conscription training, and later - the school principal. His mother, Nataliya Pavlovna, worked in the local economy. Ruslan has two sisters - Victoria and Kateryna, with whom he maintained a close family bond.

From a young age he was active, was fond of sports, especially basketball, loved nature, fishing. He was distinguished by kindness, sincerity and openness to people.

During sports competitions, he met his future wife Galina, and in a short time they started a family. They officially got married when he was doing his military service in Crimea in the communications units.

The couple had a son. Ruslan was a loving husband and caring father, for whom family always remained the main value.

He worked on construction in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, later - in the security of one of the factories in the Donetsk region on a shift basis. He was engaged

02/12/1982 — 12/10/2023

in housekeeping. Together with his family, they kept livestock, poultry, and cultivated the land. Working on the land was not only a necessity for him, but also a part of life in which he found peace and meaning.

“He was very kind, very family-oriented. A person you could always rely on. He had golden hands - he knew how to do everything. He never refused help,” recalls his wife Halyna.

In 2014, with the outbreak of the war in eastern Ukraine, Ruslan was called up for mobilization and was one of the first to defend the state. In April 2016, he entered military service under a contract in the 79th border detachment of the State Border Service of Ukraine. He served near Crimea.

In November 2021, he was transferred to the JFO zone at his own request. He went to Kostyantynivka, where he defended the country as part of the 11th border detachment as a border service inspector of the 2nd category - driver of the border service department No. 1.

He met a full-scale invasion on the front line. He carried out combat missions in various directions, in particular in the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions, and was twice near Bakhmut.

Ruslan was a true patriot. He did not look for easy ways and did not imagine himself on the sidelines of the war. “He is not one of those people who will sit at home and hide. He said: I can’t do it any other way, I have to go. He himself rushed to the front line to help, to be where it was most difficult,” says his wife.

His comrades respected him for his humanity, reliability and sincerity. They knew him as a good friend,



a responsible soldier and a person who would always support him.

The wife recalls: the last time she saw her husband was on September 30, 2023. Then they came to Kyiv together, from where Ruslan left for Kramatorsk. Despite the distance, they constantly maintained contact. We talked every day, sometimes several times. If there was no opportunity to call, he would definitely write. The last time the couple spoke was on the evening of December 9.

“Ruslan had just returned from an assignment, called and, as always, said that everything was fine...”, recalls Galina.

The next day there was no call...

Ruslan Danilevych died on December 10, 2023 while performing a combat mission near the village of Hryhorivka, Bakhmut district, Donetsk region. As a result of enemy shelling, he received severe shrapnel wounds. Doctors fought for his life, but could not save him... His life was cut short at the age of 41.

“HE LOVED LIFE, HIS FAMILY, HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, WHOM HE MANAGED TO HOLD IN HIS ARMS. THIS WAS HIS GREATEST JOY,” SAYS HIS WIFE.

The defender was buried in Lviv on the Field of Mars.

Ruslan is survived by his wife, son, grandson, parents and sisters. He is no longer with us, but he remains in every heart that he once warmed with his kindness. In the eyes of his son, in the laughter of his granddaughter, in the memories of his wife – he continues to live...

DEMIDOV VYACHESLAV OLEGOVICH



Demidov Vyacheslav Olegovich was born on July 17, 1984 in the village of Chkalove, Velikooleksandrivsky district. He studied at the Chkalov school, after which he entered the vocational school in Chervony Mayak, but did not complete his studies due to the need to work. He worked in construction in Kyiv, Kherson, Kakhovka district, Zaporizhia and abroad. He joined the army on August 28, 2023, underwent training in Starychi in the Lviv region, served as an assistant grenade launcher in the 38th separate marine brigade. He died on November 28, 2023 in the village of Krynki, Kherson region, from a shrapnel wound. He was buried in the village of Maksym Gorky.

There were three children in the family - Vyacheslav was the eldest. A brother and sister grew up with him. The father left the family, so the mother took on all responsibility for the children. She worked hard: even during the collective farms, she milked cows, weaned calves at the base, and when there was less work, she went to work in the fields of the Goloprystan district.

Life was not easy. Since childhood, Vyacheslav saw that money comes from hard work. Therefore, he himself began to help very early. At first, he collected metal, as many village boys did then, when he grew up, he went to work in the fields. At a very young age, he learned construction and became a true master of his craft.

He graduated from 9 grades of school and tried to become a tractor driver - he entered the vocational school in Chervonyi Mayak, but did not finish his studies. He had to work and earn money. Construction became Vyacheslav's life. He worked in Kyiv, Kherson, Kakhovka district, and traveled abroad. His main goal was one: to provide for his family.

- MY HUSBAND SAVED MONEY ON HIMSELF, BUT HE DID EVERYTHING TO SUPPORT OUR FAMILY, - SAYS HIS WIFE TATYANA.

Perhaps the only hobby that Vyacheslav allowed himself was fishing. In the spring of 2007, on Easter, in the company of friends, he met Tatyana, his future

07/17/1984 — 11/28/2023

wife. At first, they just talked on the phone for six months: he was working, she had just finished her studies. In the fall, they met.

At first, they lived with Tatyana's parents in the village of Maksym Gorky. And in the spring they moved to their own apartment. In 2008, their son Vladislav was born, and in 2012, their daughter Ilona. Together with his wife, they ran a farm - eleven heads of cattle.

- VYACHESLAV WAS A GOOD PERSON, RELIABLE. EVERYONE LOVED HIM. HE ALWAYS HURRIED HOME FROM WORK SO THAT WE COULD ALL BE TOGETHER, - SAYS HIS WIFE TATYANA.

He was only able to come for a few days. On Friday, he would return, sleep, help with the housework, fix something at home, and on Sunday or Monday he would go back to work. There was almost no time for rest. But still, simple but dear memories remained: trips to Kakhovka to the park, rest in the forest near the village, one trip to the sea - to the village of Lazurne, which is now occupied.

Before the full-scale invasion, Vyacheslav worked on construction in Kherson - he participated in the repair of a kindergarten. On the eve of February 24, he just arrived home for his wife's birthday. The family lived for nine months under occupation in the village of Maksym Gorky. After deoccupation, they recovered a little, and Vyacheslav returned to construction work. Later, he received a summons and went through the VLK. In August 2023, he was sent to Ternopil, where he underwent training in Starychy, Lviv region. Later, he ended up in the 38th separate marine brigade. He really wanted to serve closer to home, in the Kherson direction.

Vyacheslav was appointed assistant grenade launcher. He also submitted a report on the driver, but they did not have time to sign it. He did not stay at the position in the village of Krynki for long. He was on location for two days, and on the third day he was sent "to zero". On November 23, the man went on a combat mission. On November 28, 2023, in the village of Krynki, Kherson region, Vyacheslav Demidov died.

According to the official conclusion, the cause of death was a shrapnel wound to the head. Doctors tried to save him, but the brain injury was too severe.

- He said: "I'll come on Thursday, I'll tell you something." Well, I was never destined to find out what my husband wanted to tell me, - shares Tetyana.

It was on that Thursday that the major of the CCC called his wife and told her the terrible news. The body was not brought immediately, Tetyana waited another week to say goodbye to her husband. Vyacheslav was buried in early December 2023 in the village of Maksym Gorky, where their life together ended. The children - Vladislav and Ilona - were nearby. They were able to see their father off on his last journey.

Vyacheslav Demidov's military journey was short, but courageous. For his service and devotion to Ukraine, he was awarded the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree.



DOLENKO IVAN GENNADIEVICH



Dolenko Ivan Gennadievich was born on July 14, 1980 in the village of Teofilivka in the Vinnytsia region. He graduated from school in the Kalanchatsky district of the Kherson region, later he obtained a construction qualification in Kherson. At the beginning of the full-scale invasion, he voluntarily joined the army, becoming a fighter of the 93rd separate mechanized brigade "Kholodny Yar". He died on September 18, 2023 near the village of Andriyivka, Donetsk region, during mortar shelling, saving six brothers at the cost of his own life. Buried in the city of Dnipro.

Ivan was the middle child in a large family. Life taught him resilience and hard work from an early age. After graduating from school in the Kalanchatsky district of the Kherson region, he obtained a construction qualification in Kherson. Ivan did not just build - he created. He was invited to the most complex projects in Dnipro, Kherson, Kakhovka.

- HE WAS SUCH A BRIGHT PERSON, SO ENERGETIC, SO ACTIVE THAT WE COULD NOT BELIEVE UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT, UNTIL WE SAW HIM DEAD, THAT HE HAD DIED, - RECALLS IVAN'S WIFE VICTORIA.

His special pride was the Temple of the Holy Martyrs Faith, Hope, Love and their mother Sophia in the village of Tavrychanka, which he put a lot of effort into building. The man put his soul into every stone, into every tile, as if he knew that the beauty he created would survive all earthly storms.

The joint story of Ivan and Victoria began in 2003 in the village of Magdalinivka. It was love that was supported by common dreams. However, fate prepared the first difficult test: in 2005, a son was born, but two weeks later the baby died in the hospital. It was a wound that never healed.

In 2008, a daughter, Margarita, was born - his light. Although in 2011 the couple divorced due to Ivan's personal crises (in particular, after the tragic death of his parents in 2009), they remained the closest people.

07/14/1980 — 09/18/2024

- Ivan said: "I will never have a family again. I love you. I will live for you and for the sake of our future," - recalls his wife.

When the full-scale invasion began, Ivan was in the Dnieper. He could not sit still while his native Kherson region was under occupation. He literally stormed the CCC. Because his documents remained in occupied Kherson, they did not want to take him into the army at first. But Ivan Dolenko would not be himself if he surrendered. He went to Kyiv, got permission and eventually ended up in the ranks of the 93rd separate mechanized brigade "Kholodny Yar".

He went through the hottest spots: Izyumsky district, Bakhmut direction. He received two serious wounds, but each time he returned to his comrades. In 2023, Ivan decided to transfer to another unit - an assault group, where very young guys, aged 20-21, served. Such as his deceased son should have been.

- HE TELLS ME: "THEY BROUGHT THESE CHILDREN. WHERE WILL THEY GO TO STORM THOSE POSITIONS? IF THEY GO, THEY WILL NOT COME BACK. I WILL GO WITH THEM," RECALLS VICTORIA.

His 13th mission, on September 18, 2023 near the village of Andriyivka, Donetsk region, became fatal. When the group came under mortar fire, the young comrades were confused. Ivan gave the command "Lie down!". He waited for each of them to press to the ground, and only then did he lie down himself. But he was a second too late. The shrapnel hit his chest on the right side. Despite the mortal wound, he found the strength to get up. He stood at full height, bleeding, and shouted to the guys: "Forward! Run!". The man commanded until his last breath so that they would survive. When the guys returned for him a few dozen meters later, "Father" was already in the sky. He saved all six of them.

At the funeral in Dnipro, one of those rescued guys, Yevhen, approached Victoria. He was crying and did not know how to look her in the eyes.

- I tell him: "Zhen, you, son, don't cry. Your task now is to survive. To survive despite everything and later to get married, give birth to a son in marriage and name him Vanya," Viktoriya shares her difficult memories.

Her daughter Margarita chose the path of a medical university to engage in socio-legal support for the military. She is studying law to help those who, like her father, gave everything for freedom.

Ivan Dolenko was awarded the "Golden Cross", the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree and the distinction "Defender of the Fatherland". Now the photo of the Hero, a junior sergeant and commander of the unit, is on the Memorial Board. His "Golden Cross" shines in memories, and the flowers near his name will not wither even in the most severe frosts, because the love of a wife and daughter is stronger than death.



DUBITSKY YAROSLAV YURIYOVYCH



He was born on June 11, 1994 in the city of Beryslav, Kherson region. After graduating from school, he studied at the Arkhangelsk Vocational Technical School, majoring in "Accounting and Computer Systems". He moved to the city of Yuzhne (now Yuzhne) in the Odessa region, worked as a sales consultant in a store. On June 30, 2022, he voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He was a sniper rifleman of the mechanized company of military unit A7361, served in the 195th Territorial Defense Battalion, in the 124th Brigade of the Kherson TRO. He fought in the Kherson direction. On April 9, 2024, he received explosive injuries incompatible with life while performing a combat mission on Kruglik Island in the Kherson region. Buried in the village of Styike, Beryslav district, Kherson region. Awarded the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree (posthumously).

Yaroslav Dubitsky was born in the city of Beryslav, Kherson region, and later the family moved to the village of Styike, where he spent his childhood. His father died when Yaroslav was 13 years old, and his mother raised him and his sister Marina.

"Yaroslav was quiet as a child, a little shy, but at the same time very open to people. He had many friends," says Yaroslav's mother, Alla Petrovna.

After school, Yaroslav studied at the Arkhangelsk Vocational School, majoring in accounting and computer systems. But he did not work by profession - he was looking for himself, worked part-time on the farm, and later went to the city of Yuzhne in the Odessa region. There he got a job as a sales consultant in the "ZZ Kvadrata" store and quickly established himself as a responsible employee. "He was always like that with me — responsible. He was even noted, he took first places among the workers," says Alla Petrovna.

In 2022, when the full-scale invasion began, Yaroslav voluntarily went to war. At first, he told his relatives that he had been mobilized, but later admitted: it was his own decision. "He went himself. He didn't tell us right away. He didn't want us to worry," recalls his mother.

He began his service after training in the Kirovohrad region, fought in the Mykolaiv region, and after the liberation of Kherson, directly in the Kherson direction.

06/11/1994 — 04/09/2024

He was a sniper with the call sign “Yary”. The most difficult combat missions were on the islands. There, according to his mother, he never refused assignments: “The commander said: “We need everyone like him.” He never refused. On the contrary, he even went for others.”

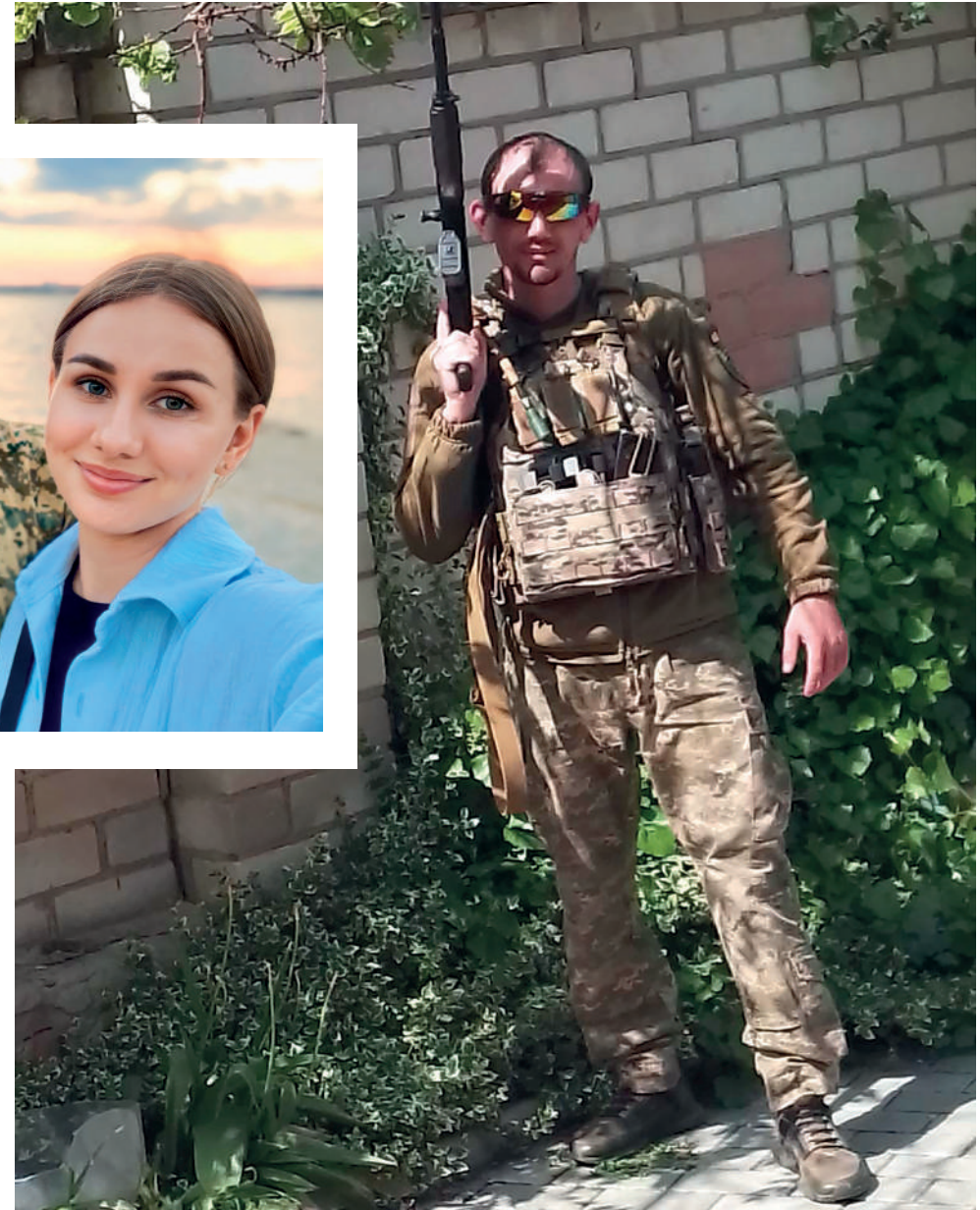
Yaroslav almost never talked about the war – he kept his loved ones from anxiety. “Everything is fine, everything is normal — that’s all he said,” recalls his fiancée, Valentyna.

He met her in November 2023 on the Internet. Their communication quickly became close and warm. Valentyna remembers him as a person of light: “He was cheerful, always positive, smiling, a very kind person. He really wanted a family. He really wanted children, especially a daughter.”

On April 9, before another combat mission, Yaroslav proposed to her. They planned to introduce their families and get married in the summer. But these plans were not destined to come true.

During one of the combat sorties on the islands, Yaroslav was wounded. He was taken to the hospital, but could not be saved. He died on April 9, 2024. He was buried in his native village of Styike in the Kherson region. The soldier was 29 years old. He is survived by his mother, sister, and fiancée.

IN THE MEMORY OF HIS RELATIVES, HE REMAINED THE SAME AS HE WAS DURING HIS LIFETIME — SINCERE, CARING, AND BRIGHT. “HE ALWAYS LAUGHED WITH US, ALWAYS WITH A SMILE. HE WAS A TRUE PATRIOT. HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR A FREE UKRAINE, HAVING SO MANY MORE PLANS AND DREAMS. I AM PROUD OF MY SON, HE IS A HERO!”, SAYS ALLA PETROVNA.



DEOGTEV VASYL SERHIYOVYCH



Born on December 25, 1982 in the city of Stryi, Lviv region, but since childhood he lived in the village of Chistopillya, Kakhovka district, Kherson region. He graduated from Chistopil secondary school of grades I-III, then continued his studies at the Vocational and Technical College in Velyka Lepetysa, where he received a diploma in the specialty "Tractor driver-driver of agricultural production". On October 5, 2022, he voluntarily joined the 128th separate mountain assault Transcarpathian brigade, later - the 15th separate mountain assault battalion. He was seriously wounded while performing a combat mission near the settlement of Priyutne in the Zaporizhia direction, on February 1, 2024 he died in a hospital in Kyiv. Buried in the village of Konyukhiv, Lviv region. In August 2022, by decree of the President of Ukraine, he was awarded the Order "For the Defense of Ukraine". He also has the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree.

Vasyl Dyogtev was born in the city of Stryi in the Lviv region, when he was 9 months old, his family moved to the Kherson region. He grew up in a friendly, caring family, had a sister Natalia. His mother worked in a store, and his father was a tractor driver. Since childhood, Vasyl was fond of technology, in adulthood this hobby became his profession. After graduating from the Vocational and Technical School, Vasyl worked as a tractor driver, later at a service station.

He and his future wife Anna studied at school together, lived next door. Later they started a family, lived in marriage for 16 years, have a son Konstantin, who is now 17 years old.

With the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion, the village of Chistopillya was occupied, Vasyl brought his wife and son to his relatives in the village of Konyukhiv in the Lviv region, and he himself went to fight in the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

"He always wanted changes for the country, he had an active civic position. When the full-scale invasion began, Vasyl said: "Who else but me? I

12/25/1982 — 02/01/2024

will defend my home, my country. And I voluntarily went to war," says his wife Anna Yurievna.

Vasyl served first as an assault rifleman, and then as a machine gunner. At first he was part of the 128th separate mountain assault Transcarpathian brigade, later he joined the 15th separate mountain assault battalion. He was in the hottest parts of the front - in the Donetsk and Zaporizhia directions. He did not tell his relatives much about his service, but he was very worried about his comrades.

"HE WAS THE BEST IN THE WORLD. HE WAS A GOOD PERSON, HE WAS A RELIABLE PERSON. A LOVING PERSON. HE NEVER LEFT ANYONE IN TROUBLE," SAYS HIS WIFE ANNA YURIEVNA.

Vasyl Dyogtev was seriously wounded while performing a combat mission in the Zaporizhia direction. For a month, doctors fought for his life, but he failed. The soldier died in a hospital in Kyiv on February 1, 2024. He was buried in the village of Konyukhiv in the Lviv region. He was 41 years old. Viktor Dyogtev is survived by his wife, son, sister and mother.

He was awarded the Order "For the Defense of Ukraine" and the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree.

Kind and sincere, ready to come to the rescue, responsible and courageous, reliable and fearless warrior - this is how Viktor Dyogtev remains in the memory of his relatives, friends and comrades.



YEVTUSHENKO DMYTRO LEONIDOVICH



Born on August 2, 1977 in the village of Bilozerka, Bilozersky district, Kherson region. After graduating from 9 grades at Kherson secondary school No. 56, in 1992 he entered the Higher Vocational School No. 2, Kherson city, where he received a diploma in the profession of "Machine operator, carpenter-builder, parquet floor layer". He worked in various construction organizations. On June 17, 2023, he decided to mobilize for the army, took the oath and became a soldier, a gunner of the 61st mechanized brigade of military unit A3425. He died on February 25, 2024 while performing a combat mission in the village of Orlivka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region. Buried in the ATO section of the Geologists cemetery in Kherson.

Dmytro Yevtushenko was born in Bilozerka, but later the family moved to Kherson. His mother worked as a nurse, and his father was a railwayman, working on refrigerators. He has an older brother, Oleksandr, who is currently abroad.

As a child, Dmytro loved to go to his grandfather's village, to be in nature, and was fond of reading books.

After school, he became a builder and worked in this field. He loved to develop and learn something new in his work. He loved extreme sports, so he mastered mountaineering, worked on mountaineering works, was engaged in roofing, building insulation, maintaining the infrastructure of mobile communication facilities, connecting the 4G network throughout Ukraine, even abroad.

"He had, as they say, golden hands and a bright head, he was a master of his craft. When Kherson was occupied, he did not stand aside, he helped people with setting up communications, Internet networks, repaired buildings under shelling, was responsible, always came to the rescue, was a patriot of his Motherland, went to protest rallies against the occupiers," says his wife Nataliya Viktorovna.

Dmitry voluntarily went to serve in the army, despite the fact that he had a "white military ID". He was a gunner in the 61st mechanized brigade of military unit A3425. His comrades called him Stolyar.

08/02/1977 — 02/25/2024

"HE FAITHFULLY DEFENDED THE BORDERS FROM THE ENEMY FOR EIGHT MONTHS AND EIGHT DAYS. HE HELPED HIS COMRADES BOTH IN BATTLE AND IN EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES. HE CONSTANTLY NEEDED EVERYTHING, HE CONSTANTLY TOOK ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ORGANIZING SOMETHING, PURCHASING SOMETHING. EVEN IN THE LAST PHONE CONVERSATION, IT WAS FEBRUARY 20, 2022, HE TELLS ME: "WE ARE GOING ON A MISSION "TO ZERO". IN FOUR DAYS, THE GUYS WILL REPLACE US". I ASK HIM - DON'T GO THIS TIME, GO LATER. BUT HE GAVE ME THIS ANSWER: "I CAN'T LEAVE THE GUYS. I HAVE TO SUPPORT THEM"", - RECALLS NATALIYA VIKTORIVNA.

During this combat mission, Dmytro was mortally wounded, he died on February 25, 2024 in the village of Orlivka in the Donetsk region. The soldier was 46 years old. He is survived by his father, wife and son Bohdan.

"HE SHOWED COURAGE, HEROISM, RESILIENCE, DETERMINATION AND REMAINED FAITHFUL TO THE MILITARY OATH AND THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE TO THE LAST. WE ARE PROUD OF HIM. HE WAS A LOVING, CARING FATHER, SON. I THANK HIM FOR HIS SON. "AND EVEN THOUGH HE WAS JUST AN ORDINARY SOLDIER, FOR US HE WILL FOREVER REMAIN A HERO," SAYS DMITRY'S WIFE, NATALIA VIKTOROVNA.



EGOROV RUSLAN OLEKSANDROVYCH



Egorov Ruslan Oleksandrovych, call sign “Zmiy”, was born on June 3, 1977 in the city of Kherson, Kherson district, Kherson region. He studied at Kherson secondary school No. 19. He received his professional education at the vocational school at the Kherson shoe factory, specialty - master shoemaker.

He joined the defense of the state in December 2023, as part of the 59th separate motorized infantry brigade (formerly military unit A2980). He held the position of gunner of the 2nd motorized infantry division, 1st motorized infantry platoon, 2nd motorized infantry company. He participated in hostilities in the Donetsk direction.

Died while performing a combat mission on February 18, 2024 near the settlement of Pervomaysk, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region, as a result of an injury incompatible with life. Buried on the Alley of Glory of the Geologists' Cemetery in Kherson.

Ruslan Oleksandrovych was the youngest son of Yegorva Olga Nikolaevna, a native of Kherson. She raised the boy and his older sister Victoria on her own, without a husband. Working hard at the Kherson Semiconductor Plant, she still found the strength and time to give them a proper upbringing. Although he was very active in childhood, he was at the same time obedient and disciplined. From an early age he adored animals, and therefore always and everywhere he took care of them. He had a sociable character, so he had many friends and comrades. Sister Victoria recalls:

“EVERYONE LOVED HIM. HE HAD SUCH KIND EYES, ALWAYS HAD THEM. HE NEVER EVEN ALLOWED HIMSELF TO RAISE HIS VOICE AT PEOPLE, BECAUSE HE RESPECTED THOSE AROUND HIM. HE COULD ALWAYS HELP AT ANY MOMENT. EVERYONE LOVED HIM AND HIS NEIGHBORS, SO NO ONE COULD SAY A BAD WORD ABOUT HIM.”

During his school years, in addition to studying, Ruslan was interested in learning new skills and abilities. In particular, his mother even taught him how to

06/03/1977 — 02/18/2024

knit. In addition, he was constantly looking for new hobbies - track and field athletics, football and more. After school, Ruslan decided to try himself in the field of shoemaking and entered the appropriate institution. And it was the right choice, because later he did start making shoes and he did it very well. Relatives recall that his first works were children's slippers, which he made for his niece. The girl liked them very much, because they were made with quality and love. But he could not continue working in this field, because he had to go to military unit 3021, which is in the city of Dnipro.

RETURNING TO KHERSON AFTER COMPLETING HIS SERVICE, RUSLAN BEGAN WORKING IN CONSTRUCTION. AND SOON HE MARRIED HIS BELOVED NATALIA, WITH WHOM HE HAD TWO DAUGHTERS - VICTORIA AND MILA. THEIR HAPPY MARRIAGE LASTED 27 YEARS, UNTIL EVERYTHING WAS DESTROYED BY A FULL-SCALE INVASION.

The family had to be under occupation for 9 months. The family decided to leave for neighboring Mykolaiv only after the city was liberated and they arrived at the house where they lived. One of the daughters then miraculously survived. Upon arrival in Mykolaiv, the man registered for military service, so when in 2023 he received a call from the military registration and enlistment office, he packed his things and went to defend the country. First, his brigade served in the Avdiivka area, and then near the village of Pervomaisk, Pokrovsky district, where the defender died while performing military duty. He suffered a traumatic amputation of one leg and instantly lost a lot of blood, so he could not be saved.

He is survived by his wife, daughters, and sister.



ZADNIPRYANY ARTEM VALERIYOVYCH



Born on January 31, 1981 in the village of Novovorontsovka, Berislavsky district, Kherson region. Graduated from Novovorontsovka secondary school. After studying, he got a job at a cannery, later worked as a driver in various institutions. For five years, he worked abroad. He returned to Ukraine before the full-scale invasion. On September 11, 2023, he joined the army. He was the commander of the 1st airborne assault detachment of the airborne assault platoon of the 4th airborne assault company of the 1st airborne assault battalion of the 79th separate airborne assault Tavria brigade. Died on February 14, 2024 while performing a combat mission near the village of Novomykhailovka, Donetsk region. Buried in Novovorontsovka, Kherson region.

Awarded the Order of Courage, 3rd degree (posthumously).

Artem Zadnipryany was born in Novovorontsovka. His parents lived together all their lives, his mother worked as a seamstress at a local household goods factory, and his father was a security guard and a stoker in a kindergarten. Artem also has an older sister, Marina.

“ARTEM WAS SUCH A SLOB IN HIS CHILDHOOD. THEY BOUGHT HIM AN ACCORDION SO THAT HE COULD STUDY AT A MUSIC SCHOOL, AND AS SOON AS THE TEACHER ARRIVED AT THE INSTITUTION, ARTEM WOULD ALREADY BE KICKING HIS HEELS. SO WE HAD TO CATCH UP WITH HIM AND BRING HIM BACK,” SAYS ARTEM’S MOTHER, OLEKSANDRA GRIGORIEVNA.

After graduating from secondary school, Artem went to work at a cannery. At the age of 20, he got married, and the couple had two children. He moved to live in Nikopol, where his wife was finishing her studies at a local medical school. At first, Artem worked as a driver in various institutions, and for the last five years he has been working as a trucker abroad. Artem came home in early 2022 to visit his family and get another coronavirus vaccination, he was scheduled for February 27.

01/31/1981 — 02/14/2024

When the full-scale invasion began, Artem Zadnipyany stayed in Nikopol - he got a job as a driver at a poultry farm. He took his parents from Novovorontsovka to Nikopol, and sent his wife and children to Poland. And later, in September 2023, he joined the army - he was a detachment commander in an airborne assault brigade. Artem fought in the Pokrovsky direction, in the Donetsk region.

"HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE SERVICE. HE ONLY SAID: "MOM, YOU DON'T NEED IT." HE JUST CONSTANTLY WROTE "I'M FINE." WHEN HE WENT TO THE POSITION, HE ALSO WROTE "MOM, I'M GOING TO THE POSITION. THERE WILL BE TIME - I WILL CALL" "DON'T WORRY - EVERYTHING IS FINE." FOUR DAYS LATER, AT 6 AM, A CALL COMES FROM THE POSITION: "MOM, I'M FINE," SAYS OLEKSANDRA GRIGORIVNA.

When in February 2024 there was no news from her son for three days, the mother's heart felt bad. "On Friday, I was going to the market. Suddenly, a phone call, and the military commissar told me the terrible news. He said that his son died on February 14. He asked me to come to the military registration and enlistment office if I could...", recalls Oleksandra Grigorivna.

Artem Zadnipyany died on February 14, 2024 while performing a combat mission near the village of Novomykhailivka in the Donetsk region. The soldier was 43 years old. He was buried in Novovorontsovka in the Kherson region. He is survived by his mother, brother, wife and two children.

"HE WAS A VERY GOOD PERSON, A LOVING AND CARING SON. AND A VERY GOOD FAMILY MAN AND FATHER. HIS SON ARTEM OFTEN TELLS ME, "GRANDMA, I REALLY WANT TO TALK TO MY DAD, I REALLY WANT TO HEAR HIS ADVICE," SAYS OLEKSANDRA GRIGORIEVNA.



ZANUDA SERHIY SERHIYOVYCH



He was born on August 25, 2000 in Velyka Oleksandrivka, Kherson region. After graduating from school in Novodmytrivka, he continued his studies at a vocational school, where he received the specialty of a plasterer-tile worker. He served in the army, and then worked abroad with his brother. When the full-scale invasion began, he returned home. He volunteered to defend the country. He served in the First Presidential Operational Brigade named after Hetman Petro Doroshenko, was a gunner of the LNG. He died on April 19, 2024 while performing a combat mission near the village of Dibrova, Luhansk region. He was buried in his native village of Novodmytrivka. For his service, he was awarded the medal "For Valiant Service" and the Order "For Courage" of the III degree.

Serhiy Zanuda was born in Velikaya Oleksandrivka, and later the family moved to the village of Novodmytrivka, where he spent his childhood and youth. His parents worked from a young age: his father at a combine harvester plant in Kherson, his mother first at the same plant and then in the village, in particular as a technical worker at a school. The family was simple, hardworking, and the children were raised in ordinary but warm conditions. Serhiy grew up with his older brother Anatoly.

“HE WAS ALWAYS SMILING, FRIENDLY. TEACHERS LOVED HIM. HE WAS CALM, COMPLIANT, NEVER CAUSED PROBLEMS, AND EASILY MADE FRIENDS. AND THIS FRIENDSHIP TURNED OUT TO BE REAL - EVEN YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH, THE GUYS COME TO HIS GRAVE,” SAYS SERHIY’S MOTHER, PARASKOVIYA IVANOVNA.

From childhood, he loved movement and sports – horizontal bars, uneven bars, and street training were his element. After school, he joined the army, and later worked abroad with his brother. But when the full-scale war began, he could not stay away. Despite the danger, Serhiy returned from abroad to his

08/25/2000 — 04/19/2024

home, to the already occupied village. He saw what was happening around him and decided to go to war. Before that, he was detained by the Russian military, brutally beaten, but this did not break his resolve. Serhiy decided to escape the occupation at any cost.

“IN THE COLD APRIL, HE CROSSED THE INHULETS RIVER AND WALKED TO KRYVYI RIH. THERE HE BEGAN TO LOOK FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE ARMY. THEY DID NOT WANT TO TAKE HIM - HE WAS TOO YOUNG, BUT HE INSISTED. “IF YOU DO NOT TAKE HIM - I WILL GO ANYWAY,” HE SAID,” SAYS HIS BROTHER ANATOLIY.

In the end, he was accepted into the ranks of the National Guard of Ukraine. Serhiy served in the First Presidential Operational Brigade named after Hetman Petro Doroshenko, was a gunner of the SPG. His comrades gave him the call sign “Little” - he was the youngest in the unit. He served in the Donetsk-Luhansk direction. It was difficult, but he did not back down. On the day of his death, April 19, 2024, he still managed to congratulate his brother on his birthday. “He said: ‘We were heavily shelled, I will not be in touch for two days, don’t worry’,” his relatives recall.

On the same day, at 5:20 in the morning, Serhiy died in the Serebryansk forest. During the heavy shelling, he did not have time to reach the shelter – a direct hit ended his life. The soldier was 23 years old. He was buried in his native village of Novodmytrivka. He was survived by his mother and brother.

HIS LIFE WAS SHORT, BUT FULL OF DETERMINATION AND LOVE — FOR HIS FAMILY, FOR HIS FRIENDS AND FOR HIS COUNTRY. AND THAT IS EXACTLY HOW HE IS REMEMBERED - AS A SMILING, STUBBORN AND SINCERE GUY WHO REALLY WANTED TO LIVE, BUT EVEN MORE SO - TO PROTECT HIS PEOPLE.



ZINOVIEV VITALIY OLEKSANDROVYCH



He was born in the village of Maryanske, Apostolivskyi district, Dnipropetrovsk region. After 2002, he lived with his family in the village of Novovorontsovka in the Kherson region. After the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, he helped servicemen repair cars, and in November 2023 he himself joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He defended the eastern borders of the Motherland in the Donetsk region, was a gunner of the 1st mechanized division of the 2nd mechanized platoon of the mechanized company of the 9th separate motorized infantry battalion of the 59th separate motorized infantry brigade named after Yakov Handzyuk. On March 21, 2024, while performing a combat mission near the village of Nevelskoe Pokrovsky district of Donetsk region was seriously injured as a result of a grenade thrown from an enemy drone. He died on March 26, 2024 in the city of Dnipro. He was buried in the village of Maryanske, Dnipropetrovsk region.

Vitaly Zinoviev was born into a large family. His parents started a family already having children from previous marriages, so he grew up among a large number of brothers and sisters. “My mother had two sisters, my father had four children... And Vitaliy and his younger brother Kolya are their joint children,” says Vitaliy’s wife Galina Leonidovna. The family lived simply: my mother worked on a farm, my father was already retired. There were no special opportunities to give children an education, so after school Vitaliy worked more than he studied.

From his youth he was a man of work – he went to construction sites, later received a tractor and driver’s license, and was engaged in transportation. But his real passion was technology. “He loved to tinker with TVs, radios, motorcycles, mopeds... He’s had this since childhood,” his wife recalls. Over the years, it became not only a hobby, but also a way of earning money.

They met in Novovorontsovka in the Kherson region. They worked together in the field, in the same brigade. At first, they just talked, looked at each other, and later feelings arose between them. They lived together for 22 years, raised two

04/01/1976 — 03/26/2024

sons – Oleksiy and Leonid. Vitaliy also adopted and raised Galina from his first marriage as his own daughter.

HE WAS A PILLAR OF SUPPORT FOR HIS FAMILY – A CARING HUSBAND AND FATHER. “HE WAS VERY KIND TO ME. HE COULD GIVE THE LAST THING HE HAD. HE WOULD SAY: “I’LL STILL EARN MONEY, BUT SOMEONE MIGHT NEED IT MORE,” SAYS HIS WIFE.

He loved his children immensely: he spoiled them, supported them, and was proud of them. He inspired his eldest son with a love of technology, gave him tools, helped him develop. And he carried his daughter on his shoulders even when she was already a teenager.

WHEN THE FULL-SCALE INVASION BEGAN, VITALIY FIRST TOOK CARE OF HIS FAMILY - HE TOOK THEM OUT OF THE DANGER ZONE TO KRYVYI RIH. AND HE HIMSELF RETURNED. HE HELPED THE MILITARY AS BEST HE COULD: HE REPAIRED EQUIPMENT, WORKED NEXT TO THEM, SUPPORTED THEM. “HE KEPT SAYING: ‘HEY, I’LL JOIN THE ARMY... IF NOT ME, THEY’LL COME HERE’,” RECALLS GALINA LEONIDOVNA

Despite health problems after a serious operation in childhood, at the end of 2023 he still went to serve. A few days later he passed the medical examination and joined the army. He served as a rifleman in the Pokrovsky direction, in the Galitsynivka area. He almost never talked about the war, only occasionally mentioning shelling and injuries. In February 2024, he was home for the last time - he arrived after treatment, brought his son gifts for his birthday. And soon he returned to the front again. On March 26, 2024, during the fighting near Nevelske, Vitaliy died from an enemy strike. He was buried in the village of Maryanske in the Dnipropetrovsk region, next to his relatives. The soldier was 47 years old. He is survived by his wife, three children and two sisters.



IVANOV DMYTRO VOLODYMYROVYCH



Ivanov Dmytro Volodymyrovych, call sign “Dym”, was born on April 22, 1991 in the city of Kherson, Kherson region. He studied at the Kherson Tavriysky Lyceum of Arts, received his professional education at the Kherson Professional Shipbuilding Lyceum, majoring in car repair mechanic, and at the Odessa State University of Internal Affairs, majoring in law (in absentia, while working in the regional patrol police). He studied at Kherson State University for about 2 years at the Faculty of Biology, Geography and Ecology.

In July 2023, he joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He served first in military unit 4948, later in military unit A0284 (80th separate airborne assault brigade), where, with the rank of junior sergeant, he held the position of commander of the 3rd airborne assault detachment of the 1st airborne assault platoon of the 4th airborne assault company of the 1st airborne assault battalion.

Died on December 20, 2023 near the village of Klishchivka, Bakhmut district, Donetsk region. Posthumously awarded the Order "For Courage" II degree. Buried on the Alley of Glory of the cemetery near the village of Geologov in Kherson.

Dmitry was the only child in the Ivanov family. Father Volodymyr Vasilyevich and mother Yulia Aleksandrovna are entrepreneurs, but despite a lot of work, they always found time for their son and made every effort to provide him with a decent upbringing. The boy grew up a calm, kind and inquisitive child. He learned to read early, so they bought him a lot of books, in particular, encyclopedias, which he read with enthusiasm.

In 1998, Dmitry entered the Kherson Tavriysky Lyceum of Arts, where in the fine arts department, in addition to general education subjects, he studied the basics of painting, graphics and composition. But despite his creative nature, his favorite subject was geography. In addition to studying, Dmitry had a hobby - he was fond of philately, numismatics and tried playing a musical instrument. In

04/22/1991 — 12/20/2023

adolescence, the young man was engaged in bullet shooting, loved to play computer games, ride a bicycle, and later a motorcycle. Already in adulthood, he became interested in faleristy and collecting things related to the army (military hats, helmets, backpacks, bowlers, cartridges). For some time he went with a metal detector to the Oleshkiv forest in search of artifacts from the Second World War. He also loved nature and travel, trips to the sea, and in adulthood he had another hobby - growing indoor exotic plants. In addition, the guy was interested in the history of his hometown, which he loved very much.

While receiving a special education at the Kherson Professional Shipbuilding Lyceum, Dmytro received a driver's license with categories A, B, C. And after receiving a higher education, the guy went to work. So, until November 2015, his work continued at the enterprises of JSC "New Line" and FDI "McDonald's Ukraine LTD", where he was awarded a diploma of the best employee.

Later, Dmitry tried to engage in entrepreneurial activities related to the transportation of goods in Kherson, but already in November 2015, he began a new page in his professional activity - he joined the patrol police of the Main Directorate of the National Police in the Kherson region.

In parallel with his work, he also built a personal life. He had a first marriage, in which his daughter Kira was born in 2011. And in 2019, he married for the second time with his beloved Svetlana, in marriage with whom his son Kirill was born.

In September 2021, he resigned and went to work as a driver of motor vehicles at Kherson Oil Refinery LLC. At the same time as working, he completed courses and received a driver's category CE. Then Dmitry issued a driver's card for work abroad, where he planned to go to work in the spring of 2022. But the full-scale invasion adjusted these plans. The man resigned from LLC "Khersonskyi Maslozavod" in May 2022, because he decided to leave the then occupied Kherson for the territory controlled by Ukraine. Together with his family, he went to Vinnytsia, and later to Odessa. There, Dmytro got a job at one of the city's trade and retail enterprises. And later he was mobilized by the Suvorov RTCC and the Odessa SP to the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

From July 8 to October 10, 2023, Dmytro underwent training at the Military College of the Sergeants' Staff of the Military Institute of Telecommunications and Informatization in Poltava, specializing in the operation and repair of military communications equipment, after which he was first sent to serve in military unit 4948, and then transferred to military unit A0284. The man served in the Donetsk region. It was there on December 19, 2023 that he went on his last mission - to hold the defense at one of the observation posts near the village of Klishchivka, Bakhmut district (the closest point to the enemy positions). When the occupiers began to attack the defense line, many of his comrades were wounded, so Dmytro personally repelled the enemy's attacks with a machine gun and destroyed a number of enemy soldiers. But the enemy opened fire from artillery, and it was then that Dmytro was seriously injured by shell fragments and died. The defender's name is engraved on a granite slab in the All-Ukrainian temple-pantheon near the village of Lishnya, Ternopil region. Dmytro is survived by his parents, wife, daughter, and son.



IVANOV OLEKSANDR SERHIYOVYCH



Oleksandr Serhiyovych Ivanov was born on March 9, 1986, in the village of Darivka, Bilozerskyi District, Kherson Oblast. After graduating from high school, he enrolled at Kherson National Technical University, where he earned a specialist degree in brewing and winemaking technology; however, he did not work in his field, but instead worked in construction. Until the full-scale invasion, he lived with his family in Kherson. When the war began, he moved with his family to the village of Ingulets, where they found themselves under occupation; from there, they managed to flee to the Rivne Oblast. They eventually settled in the city of Rivne, where Oleksandr registered for military service. After mobilization and training, he served as a gunner on a combat vehicle in one of the military units of the Separate Presidential Brigade named after Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky in the Donetsk sector.

On January 4, 2024, he was killed near Avdiivka as a result of mortar and artillery shelling, sustaining fatal injuries.

Following Oleksandr Ivanov's death, he was posthumously nominated for the state award—the Order “For Courage,” 3rd Class.

From childhood, Oleksandr was active and athletic. He did well at school, played football and volleyball, and took part in competitions. He is remembered as a resilient, calm and composed person.

After school, Oleksandr enrolled at Kherson National Technical University, from which he graduated in 2008. He studied food technology and qualified as a specialist in brewing and winemaking technology.

He did not work in his chosen field, but during his studies he undertook a work placement at a company. He subsequently chose a different career path – construction.

Together with his father and a small team, he carried out construction work. He was well versed in electrical work – he could design and carry out electrical

installations in a house on his own. He was trusted as a responsible and reliable craftsman.

Before the full-scale invasion, he lived in Kherson with his wife Tetiana and son Makar.

After the full-scale invasion began, they packed their belongings and left for the village of Ingulets, where their relatives lived. They remained there throughout the occupation.

During this period, Oleksandr, along with other men, joined the community patrols – they took turns in the evenings and at night, trying to maintain order and safety.

The family planned to leave the occupied area, but it was difficult to do so. As it was impossible to organise an escape with others, Oleksandr decided to act on his own.

“IN THE END, HE TOOK ME AND MY SON OUT HIMSELF, AS WELL AS MY SISTER AND HER CHILDREN,” SAID THE SOLDIER’S WIFE, TETIANA.

On 6 April 2022, they managed to leave the occupied territory of the Kherson region via the Mykolaiv region. After a difficult journey, the family reached the Rivne region, where they initially stayed with relatives and later settled in Rivne as internally displaced persons.

Oleksandr immediately registered for military service in Rivne. In February 2023, he received his call-up, underwent a medical examination, and was subsequently sent for training in October. There, he took the oath and completed his training.

In December 2023, he was transferred to one of the military units – the separate presidential brigade named after Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky – and sent to the Donetsk sector. He served as a gunner on a combat vehicle.

His wife last spoke to him on 31 December. At around 9.00 pm, he was still in contact with his family, after which all communication ceased.

On 4 January 2024, Oleksandr was killed in the Avdiivka area as a result of mortar and artillery fire. He sustained fatal injuries.

His death was reported on 8 January.

The funeral took place on 12 January. Despite all the difficulties, the family insisted that he be brought home.

“I said – only home, to where his parents are,” says his wife.

Following Oleksandr Ivanov’s death, he was nominated for a state award – the Order “For Courage”, 3rd class (posthumously). The family is awaiting the official presentation of the award.

ALSO, ACCORDING TO HIS WIFE, THE DEFENDER WAS HONoured WITH A DEPARTMENTAL AWARD – THE CORRESPONDING BADGE HAS ALREADY BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE FAMILY.

Alexander is survived by his father, his 9-year-old son, his wife and his sister. His mother died in 2023.

His wife remembers him as a calm, kind and very family-oriented man:

“HE PROTECTED US ABOVE ALL ELSE. HE WAS CONSTANTLY THINKING ABOUT HOW TO KEEP THE FAMILY SAFE.”



He loved simple things – nature, fishing, trips to the river and the sea, and spending time with family and friends. He always found the strength to help others – his parents, relatives and loved ones.

The city of Rivne honoured Oleksandr’s memory by installing his portrait on the Alley of Remembrance. The soldier was also awarded the title of honorary citizen of the city.

Oleksandr Ivanov will remain in the memory of his family as a reliable, responsible and strong person. He did not speak in grand terms, but always did what he believed to be right and protected his family.

KVASHA GRIGORIY MYKOLAYOVYCH



Born on May 11, 1974 in Kherson. After graduating from 9 classes of Kherson comprehensive school of I-III levels, he continued his studies at vocational school No. 1, where he received a carpenter's degree. In 1994-1995, he studied at vocational school No. 8, specializing in "Driver of large-sized vehicles." He worked as a driver. On November 2, 2023, he received a summons and went to the army. He was a grenade launcher, fought in the Donetsk direction as part of the 59th brigade. He died on March 24, 2024 while performing a combat mission near Pervomaiske in the Donetsk region. Buried on the Alley of Glory of the Geologists' Cemetery in Kherson.

Has the distinction "For Service to the State."

His father was originally from Donetsk region, and his mother from Kirovohrad region. Kherson became the family's home, where they built their lives and raised their children – Grigory and his older sister Tatyana. His father worked at a furniture factory, and his mother was a kindergarten teacher. Grigory Kvashi's childhood was happy, he had many friends and hobbies, his special passion was cars. This hobby in adulthood became his profession. Grigory studied at two vocational schools, mastering the profession of a carpenter and a driver of large machines. After studying, he got married, and the couple had a daughter, Alina. For some time, he and his wife worked at the market, and most of his life he worked as a driver in various institutions.

"ALL HIS LIFE HE WAS FOND OF CARS. IN 1995, HE RECEIVED HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE, AND WORKED AS A DRIVER. HE WAS VERY HARDWORKING. HE WAS AT WORK ALL DAY, AND WHEN HE CAME HOME, HE DID ALL THE HOUSEWORK. HE HAD GOLDEN HANDS. WE HAVE A PRIVATE HOUSE. HE DID WOODWORK, AND REPAIRED CARS, AND WAS ENGAGED IN QUARRELS. EVERYTHING WORKED OUT FOR HIM," SAYS HRYHORIY KVASHA'S WIFE OLENA VASYLIVNA.

11.05.1974 — 24.03.2024

With the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Kherson was under occupation, the family was in the city all the time. After the de-occupation, in November 2023, Hryhoriy Kvasha received a summons, and despite health problems, Hryhoriy Kvasha joined the army and stood up to defend the country.

“HE TOLD ME: “YOU KNOW, I WON’T HIDE, I’LL GO TO FIGHT,” RECALLS OLENA VASYLIVNA. ON DECEMBER 4, HE WENT TO STUDY IN THE MYKOLAIV REGION, HE WAS APPOINTED A GRANOMETER, AND WAS SENT TO THE DONETSK DIRECTION.

Hryhoriy had the call sign “Grandfather.” “You know, he was small, thin. Height 1.52, weight 55 kg. He looked 35-40 years old. And when he sent me a photo from the front, I didn’t even recognize him. That’s right, grandfather. He aged so “at zero” in 31 days,” says Olena Vasylivna. She says that despite all the difficulties, he never complained, he always said: “Everything is fine with me.” Olena Vasylivna last spoke to her husband on March 21, he said that he was going to the positions, and then there was no contact with him. On March 29, she received a call from the military registration and enlistment office and was informed that on March 24, while performing a combat mission near Pervomaiske in the Donetsk region, Hryhoriy had died. He was buried on the Alley of Glory at the cemetery in Kherson. The soldier was 49 years old. He is survived by his sister, wife and daughter.

“HE WAS A GOOD MAN, A GOOD HUSBAND AND FATHER. ALINA IS HIS FATHER’S DAUGHTER, HE TOOK HER WITH HIM EVERYWHERE. WE DRIVE A CAR, HE ALWAYS SAT HER NEXT TO HIM, AND SHE HAS BEEN DRIVING SINCE CHILDHOOD. HE TAUGHT HER TO DRIVE BOTH BIG AND SMALL CARS. IN GENERAL, WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER EVERYWHERE, I EVEN WENT THROUGH THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION BEFORE THE SERVICE WITH HIM. NOW ONLY MEMORIES REMAIN, WE THINK ABOUT HIM EVERY DAY,” SAID OLENA VASYLIVNA.



KENTSALO YURIY YURIYOVYCH



Born on December 10, 1994 in the village of Inhulets in the Kherson region. He studied at a local school until the 9th grade, after which he entered the Kherson Cooperative School, where he received the profession of a pastry chef. Later, he continued his studies and received the qualification of a food industry technologist.

He worked as a cook in Kherson and on the Black Sea coast, in particular in the institutions of the Iron Port. He also had experience working in a security agency and as a freight forwarder.

In December 2022, immediately after the deoccupation of the Kherson region, he volunteered to defend Ukraine. He served as part of the 81st separate airmobile brigade, performed combat missions in the Luhansk direction, in particular in the Belogorivka area. He had the rank of junior sergeant.

Died on January 19, 2024, while performing a combat mission near the settlement of Bilogorivka, Luhansk region. Buried on February 2, 2024 in his small homeland - in the village of Inhulets, Kherson region.

Awarded the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree (posthumously).

He grew up in a large family with two brothers and a sister. From childhood he was accustomed to work: he helped his parents with the household, worked on the land. "He was a very good child. Whatever you ask - he will always help. Both adults and friends," recalls his mother Natalia.

He loved to work with his hands, and also - to cook. From adolescence he stood at the stove with his mother, studied, tried, rejoiced when he succeeded. "He was with me since childhood, helped. He liked it," she says.

Father Yuriy talks about his son as always cheerful and smiling. "He was a cheerful boy in his childhood. He always laughed, joked," he says.

Yuriy easily found a common language with people. He had many friends, and everyone knew that they could rely on him. He never let him down. He was calm, balanced, and friendly.

12/10/1984 — 01/19/2024

Having grown up, he dreamed of a family, his own home, and a stable job. He had a girlfriend, they planned to get married. But the war changed everything.

During the occupation, Yuriy stayed in his native village with his father. Despite the danger, he helped fellow villagers solve household and economic problems on a voluntary basis. After de-occupation, in December 2022, Yuriy voluntarily stood up for the defense of Ukraine.

“On December 10, 2022, his birthday was, and on the 11th he left,” his father recalls how Yuriy went to the front.

After completing his training, he joined the 81st separate airmobile Slobzhansk brigade of the Airborne Assault Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He served in one of the most difficult areas of the front – Luhansk.

During 2023, he participated in complex assault operations, was in front-line positions. During his service, he underwent two complex operations, but after recovery, he returned to his comrades. Later, he completed courses and received the rank of junior sergeant. He had the call sign “7.62”.

Communication with him was infrequent. Sometimes we had to wait for weeks, not knowing where he was or what was happening to him. But each call was like a breath of air. During these short conversations, my son almost never talked about the war – he was saving his relatives from worries. “He just said: ‘I’m fine, don’t worry,’” says the mother.

The last meeting with Yuriy was special for the parents – brief, but one that remained in their hearts forever. They met on January 10, 2024 in the Kharkiv region in the city of Lozova. Mom finally saw her son after a long separation. “Before that, I hadn’t seen my son for a long time, because I was abroad with other children,” she recalls. “We really wanted to see him, and he asked us to come.”

Then they managed to spend only one day together. And the family didn’t even suspect that this was goodbye forever... They didn’t know that these hugs and the words they said to each other were the last...

After he stopped getting in touch, the family did not immediately receive official confirmation of his death. Because of this, he was initially listed as missing. The terrible news came with pain that was impossible to let go of...

Yuriy died on January 19, 2024, during an enemy assault on positions near the settlement of Bilogorivka, Luhansk region. He was buried on February 2, 2024, in his native village of Inhulets, Kherson region. They said goodbye to the defender who died under fire. That day, there were eleven “arrivals” in the village...

He found his final resting place where he was born and raised, where he was always expected and where, among his native streets and familiar faces, the memory of him will live forever...



KYRYLENKO OLEKSIY OLEKSIYOVYCH



Oleksiy Oleksiyovych Kyrylenko was born on November 18, 1977, in Kherson. He practiced boxing. After graduating from high school, he studied to become an electrician at a technical college. But his life's work became shoe repair, a craft in which he excelled, opening several repair shops. During the occupation of Kherson, his family remained in the city. After the city was liberated, he decided to enlist in the army. He completed his training and was deployed to the combat zone. His call sign was "Kytayets." In February 2024, his unit was redeployed to the Pokrovsk sector. He was killed on April 1, 2024, near the village of Semenivka in the Pokrovsk district of Donetsk Oblast. He was buried in Kherson, next to his father's grave.

From an early age, he stood out for his calmness and attention to detail. As his mother recalled, even as a child he loved order: he always arranged his toys neatly – by colour or size. This trait later became a defining feature of his work.

After school, he studied at a technical college, qualifying as an electrician. He was involved in sport – devoting around 15 years to boxing.

Shoe repair became his life's work. He did not come to this profession straight away – he became interested in it later in life, at around 37. His father, who had worked in this field all his life, taught him the basics. Over time, Oleksii not only mastered the craft but also achieved a high level of skill in it.

Many locals in Kherson were familiar with his workshops. They stood out for their neatness and attention to detail: everything was organised, clean and aesthetically pleasing. Oleksii worked with various materials, used high-quality components and treated every pair of shoes with care. People valued him for his honesty and professionalism.

He also worked alongside his wife Anna, who was a teacher, as well as a presenter and singer. Oleksiy assisted her in organising events as a technical specialist and sound engineer: he was responsible for connecting the equipment, sound, lighting and setting up the gear. Over time, he became not just an assistant, but a full partner. It was their shared passion, which they developed together.

The couple lived together for 13 years.

11/18/1977 — 04/01/2024

ANNA RECALLS: “WE WERE NOT JUST HUSBAND AND WIFE – BUT ALSO PARTNERS AND FRIENDS.”

During the occupation of Kherson, the family remained in the city. Oleksii refused on principle to work during this period.

“I’ve never done a single job for the Russians,” he told his wife and closed the workshop.

After closing the workshop, Oleksii was left with a heavy burden – he had to provide for his family and help his elderly parents. To earn a living, he started driving a taxi: he drove civilians, including those travelling from the left bank to sell vegetables at the Central Market.

Among his passengers were people searching for missing relatives. Oleksii did not stand idly by – together with others, he travelled to detention centres, trying to find those who had been taken by the occupiers.

“I heard people screaming in there – and it just made my hair stand on end,” his wife recalled his words about what he saw during such trips.

After the de-occupation of Kherson, he decided to join the army. This decision was not an easy one for him. As Anna recalls, before that he had been a peaceful man, not a military type by nature. However, his experiences during the occupation had a profound effect on him.

He served following mobilisation. Initially, he underwent training, and was later deployed to the combat zone. In February 2024, his unit was redeployed to the Pokrovsk direction.

HIS CALL SIGN WAS “THE CHINESE” – A NICKNAME HIS FRIENDS HAD GIVEN HIM SINCE CHILDHOOD DUE TO HIS DISTINCTIVE PHYSICAL FEATURES.

On the night of 31 March to 1 April 2024, a battle took place near the village of Semenivka in the Pokrovsk district of Donetsk region.

According to available information, during the shelling, the soldiers at their positions were buried under earth. Oleksii was wounded and lost his glasses, but

managed to crawl out from under the rubble. Wounded, without communication and disoriented, he attempted to reach the evacuation point on his own, making his way in that direction.

Contact with him was lost during a conversation with his commander.

After that, he was considered missing in action. The search lasted for about two years, but due to active hostilities, it was not possible to establish his whereabouts.

Oleksii’s body was later returned as part of the repatriation process. In December 2025, a DNA match was confirmed, and in January 2026, the family was officially informed of this.

The cause of death was determined to be blast trauma.

Oleksii was buried in Kherson, next to his father’s grave – his father had died shortly before his son’s body was returned.

Oleksii Kyrilenko died at the age of 47. He is survived by his wife Anna, his adult daughter and his mother.



KOVALYSHYN OLEKSANDR PETROVYCH



Kovalyshyn Oleksandr Petrovych, call sign “Mokhnatyy”, was born on October 10, 1984 in the village of Krupytsia, Bereslavsky district, Kherson region. He studied at the Chervonomayak comprehensive school of I-III grades. He graduated from the Chervonomayak vocational school (now the Bereslavsky professional agricultural lyceum), where he mastered the specialties of tractor driver and mechanic.

He joined the defense of the state in October 2023. As part of the 95th separate airborne assault Polissya brigade, he performed combat duty in the Donetsk direction.

He died on December 21, 2023 near the village of Terny, Lymansky district, Donetsk region. Buried in the local cemetery of the village of Vynohrad, Zvenigorod district, Cherkasy region.

Oleksandr Petrovych was born into a large, friendly family of the Kovalashins. His parents were employees of the local collective farm: his father Petro Andriyovych was a tractor driver, and his mother Maria Prokopivna was a milkmaid. He also had a brother Volodymyr, with whom he was born on the same day, and two sisters - the eldest Lydia and the middle - Larisa.

Oleksandr grew up as an open, friendly and very sociable boy, which is why he had many friends and acquaintances. At school he studied mediocre, but he loved history lessons, which he studied with great pleasure and interest. In addition, he was fond of technology. So, once with his brother Volodymyr he bought a motorcycle, which he repaired himself. He also loved fishing, so almost every day in his youth he fished with his brother. No less exciting for him was hunting, which he went on with his brother and an older neighbor.

Having received a professional education, the man went to one of his sisters in Novaya Kakhovka, where he got a job at the local clothing market as a loader. But after 5 and a half years, he decided to turn his passion for construction from an ordinary hobby into a permanent job and went to try his luck in the city of Kyiv. There, the man successfully realized himself as a skilled builder, because he learned to flawlessly lay tiles, plaster and putty walls, and much more.

10/10/1984 — 12/21/2023

Wherever he worked, he received rave reviews everywhere. Clients often called him a jack of all trades.

In addition to work, the man's life, of course, was personal. In 2003, he got married for the first time. In marriage with his wife Kateryna, he had his first daughter, Yulia. But later the marriage was dissolved. Later, Alexander met his second, but already common-law wife, Yulia, and soon became a father for the second and third time. After all, the couple first had a daughter, Olena, and then a son, Oleksandr. But happiness did not last long. Yulia suddenly learned about her serious illness, so the family struggled with the illness for a long time. Alexander took care of his wife, supported her, and did everything to alleviate her condition. But the disease did win and Yulia passed away. In order to provide for her children and take care of their future, the husband returned to work. And it was there, on the eve of the war, at one of the construction sites, he met his future wife, Oksana, who also worked in construction. It was a pleasant acquaintance that grew into a happy marriage, in which in 2021 their daughter, Ksenia, was born. Oksana remembers her husband with the warmest words: "He was a wonderful husband and father. Caring, loving and sincere. Every day of our relationship with him was special, and life was easy and pleasant. And it is valuable that he treated not only me and our common daughter so well, but also my older children. One of the daughters even named her firstborn in honor of Alexander."

But in the fall of 2023, the husband was mobilized, underwent training in Poland and Ukraine, and in December 2023, he went to defend the state in the Donetsk direction. There, Alexander quickly found a common language with his brothers and gained the respect of the military leadership, because he worthily performed his duties as a military man. On December 21, 2023, the defender went on his first combat mission, from which, unfortunately, he was not destined to return. He had a premonition about this, so the day before he called his brother and said goodbye, noting that he was going to a place from which almost no one returns. And so it happened, because the man received injuries incompatible with life.

The defender is survived by his brother and sister, wife and children.



KOLESNYK MYKOLA MYKOLAYOVYCH



Kolesnyk Mykola Mykolayovych was born on March 16, 1975 in the city of Kherson. He studied first at the Antonivska school, and later at school No. 1 in the city of Kherson, after which he obtained a carpenter's profession at the Kherson repair factory. He worked as a carpenter in a cinema, and then for more than 28 years at the Kherson Vodokanal. He was drafted into the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on September 14, 2023 as part of the 79th separate airborne assault brigade. He died on December 13, 2023 near the village of Novomykhailivka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region, while performing a combat mission. He was buried on December 21, 2023 on the Alley of Heroes in the city of Kherson.

The life of each person is a separate universe, but there are people whose world rests on the ability to create good and beauty with their own hands. Mykola was just like that. His childhood was spent in Kherson, where the family often spent time together on the river, where they rested or fished.

The river water seemed so serene back then, and the days—endless. It was there, amid the gentle lapping of the waves and the rustling of the reeds along the shore, that the inner light was kindled—the light he would carry with him throughout his life. Every fish he caught, every conversation they shared on the riverbank, remained a warm memory to which he so longed to return in his thoughts as an adult.

Although the parents later separated, and Mykola lived with his father in Kherson for some time, and his sister Viktoria with her mother and grandmother in Vinnytsia, the connection between them was never interrupted.

In 2006, fate brought the brother and sister under one roof in Antonivka again. Viktoria Nikolaevna remembers him with incredible warmth:

- He probably supported me more. Both financially and with advice. The children gravitated to him, he talked to them a lot. Mykola was a friendly and reliable person.

Mykola's professional path was always connected with wood. After the ninth grade, he went to work in a repair shop as a carpenter's apprentice. He made everything: from cinema chairs to elegant decorations. The wood seemed to come to life in his hands. It was not just a job, but a real passion that accompanied him all his life.

Кажуть, дерево пам'ятає тепло рук, які його торкалися. Микола відчував живу душу кожної деревини, її текстуру та запах. Під його пальцями звичайна дошка перетворювалася на витвір мистецтва, наповнюючи простір особливим затишком. Творити — означає залишати частинку власної душі у речах, які переживуть нас.

- HE DID EVERYTHING WITH HIS OWN HANDS. I DIDN'T BUY ANYTHING FOR THE FARM, - SAYS HIS SISTER. - I SAY: "KOLYA, I NEED IT FOR THE FARM." HE QUICKLY PICKS UP A TREE AND CUTS IT. HE MADE BIRDHOUSES FOR THE CHILDREN AT SCHOOL. WHEN HIS DAUGHTER WAS STUDYING TO BE A DESIGNER, HE HELPED WITH CRAFTS - HE EVEN MADE HATS OUT OF WOOD! HE EVEN MADE A BOAT FOR HIMSELF TO GO FISHING. HE WAS A JACK OF ALL TRADES."

For more than 28 years, Mykola devoted work to the Kherson Vodokanal. It was there that he was caught in a full-scale invasion. When Kherson was occupied, he did not leave the city and his enterprise.

Це була його відданість рідному місту і херсонцям — просто залишатися на своєму місці, забезпечувати Херсон життям, коли навколо панував страх і невідомість. Бути вірним своєму дому, своїм людям, своїй землі до кінця.

After the liberation of Kherson, in the fall of 2022, life began to get back on track, Victoria returned from abroad. Summons from the CCK came to Mykola several times. He was twice turned away from the assembly points due to his health. However, on the third attempt, on September 14, 2023, he was still mobilized. Mykola was sent to study in the UK. On October 1, 2023, he returned

and was sent to the Donetsk region. Mykola became part of the 79th separate airborne assault brigade. At first he was a soldier, then a gunner, and later a senior rifleman of the airmobile detachment.

His short service was full of exhausting tasks in the hottest spots: Kurakhove, Maryinka, Novomykhailivka. Communication was rare and difficult.

- DUE TO VERY POOR COMMUNICATION, I CALLED SIGNAL. I WAITED FOR THREE TO FIVE DAYS, BECAUSE THEY WERE ON A MISSION, AND THEN THEY WERE RETURNED FROM THERE. HE NEVER SAID WHERE EXACTLY HE WAS, HE SAID THAT THEY WERE FORBIDDEN, - RECALLS HIS SISTER.

Those days of waiting dragged on as if they were an eternity. Every minute of silence weighed heavily on my heart. How much unspoken love, how many prayers were contained in those brief rings of the phone, when, on the other end of the line, a familiar voice would finally say softly, "I'm fine."

The last time Victoria heard her brother's voice was on December 5, 2023. He warned that he was going on a mission and would not be around for much longer. On December 13, 2023, near the village of Novomykhailivka, Mykola Kolesnyk's life ended. The soldier's body could not be removed from the battlefield for three days. Only on December 16 did the family receive a call informing them of the need for identification.

That winter brought with it not just cold, but an indescribable, piercing pain. The earth grew numb when the master's heart — which had loved this world and its people so dearly — stopped beating under the Donetsk sky. Time seemed to stand still for those left behind to wait.

The relatives decided to bury the Hero at home. On December 21, 2023, Mykola found his final resting place on the Alley of Heroes in his native Kherson. For his personal courage, he was awarded the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree.

Today, his memory lives on in every wooden product left at home and in the hearts of his nephews, who miss their uncle immensely.

KOSHKA KOSTIANTYN OLEKSIIOVYCH



Koshka Kostiantyn Oleksiiiovych was born on May 18, 1998, in the village of Ivanivka (now in the Henichesk District) in the Kherson Oblast. He attended Ivanivka Lyceum No. 1. He was involved in sports, particularly karate, and was passionate about soccer. He also loved music very much. After high school, he enrolled at Kherson National Technical University. He later moved to Zaporizhzhia, where he continued his studies at the university. He worked in the service industry, specifically as a barista. With the start of the full-scale invasion, Kostyantyn could not sit idly by, and in February 2023, he voluntarily applied to join the Azov Brigade. In March of that year, he became a soldier. His call sign was “Kavun.” He served in the artillery—as a driver in the first crew of a gun in a howitzer artillery battery of the 12th Brigade. He was killed on January 22, 2024, in the village of Serebryanka, Bakhmut District, Donetsk Oblast. Konstantin was buried in Zaporizhzhia. He was posthumously awarded the “Combatant’s Cross” honorary badge and the Order “For Courage,” 3rd Class.

From childhood, Kostyantyn was inquisitive and intelligent. He loved reading and had a very good memory – he could grasp material quickly, even just before a lesson. His teachers noted his abilities. At the same time, as his mother Tetyana recalls, he remained an ordinary boy – active, restless, with a lively character.

He played sports, particularly karate, and loved football. Even whilst studying at university, he would get together with friends to play whenever he could.

After school, he enrolled at Kherson National Technical University. He later moved to Zaporizhzhia, where his girlfriend Anastasia was studying, but he didn’t give up his studies – he continued as an external student whilst working in the service sector. He worked in cafes and restaurants, and for a time as a barista.

It was this experience that became special to him – Kostyantyn knew his coffee well, understood its nuances and was able to convey this to others.

“Mum, give it a try – you can’t even taste it,” he would persuade his mum, teaching her to drink coffee without sugar and to distinguish its different flavours.

This passion stayed with him even at the front – his comrades recalled that

Kostya often told them about coffee, and this became one of their fondest memories of him.

When the full-scale invasion began, Kostyantyn found himself in Kyiv – on the night of 23–24 February 2022, he was travelling by train with friends, planning a trip to Poland. He spent the first few days in bomb shelters, after which he returned to Zaporizhzhia. He continued to work, but, according to his mother, he couldn't settle down.

He thought more and more about the need to join the defence of the country. In February 2023, together with two friends, he travelled to Kyiv to submit his application to join the Azov Brigade.

He told his mother about his decision only after he had been accepted.

"Mum, I have to be there. I can't walk around town and look at the lads who are fighting while I do nothing myself," he said.

He also explained it in very personal terms: his home village was under occupation.

"I've found the shortest way home," said Kostyantyn.

On 29 March 2023, he became a soldier in the Azov Brigade.

His call sign was "Watermelon".

He was assigned to the artillery – he was a driver in the first crew of a gun in a howitzer artillery battery of the 12th Brigade.

His comrades remember him as a responsible, reliable and cheerful soldier.

"We were honoured to carry out combat missions together. He was very intelligent, a quick learner and very cheerful. He couldn't go an hour without a joke – he always cheered us up," they said.

The command noted his ability to quickly assess a situation and make decisions. Over time, Kostyantyn became a platoon commander. His final deployment to the frontline was in this role. Upon his return, he was due to be sent on a sergeant's course, but this deployment proved to be his last.

On 22 January 2024, Kostyantyn Koshka was killed along with four comrades in an air strike – the enemy dropped three guided bombs on their position in the village of Serebryanka, Bakhmut District, Donetsk Oblast.

The soldier was posthumously awarded the Combatant's Cross and the Order of Courage, 3rd Class.

Kostyantyn was buried in Zaporizhzhia – the city where he lived with his wife Anastasia. They had officially married during his last leave.

Since Konstantin's death, he has been remembered not only by his comrades but also by his closest family. His wife Nastya, who is currently serving in the army herself, says that they had been together for almost seven and a half years.

"Konstantin was the one who always kept our relationship in balance. If I had a fiery temper, over time I picked up his ability to handle situations calmly," she says.

According to her, Konstantin's decision to join the army was a trial for her: "At first I was very afraid of this – I was scared of being left without his support. But I had a lot of time to reflect and realised just how important this decision was – not only for him, but for all of us."

Throughout his service, she tried to be a source of support for him.

Konstantin, Nastya recalls, was proud to serve in 'Azov' and saw it not just as a unit, but as a brotherhood. After Kostya's death, it was his comrades who helped the family get through those first, hardest days – they offered support, sent memories and photographs.

"When Kostya died, I was devastated for a long time. Time doesn't heal – you just get used to living with it," notes Anastasia.

Eventually, she joined the service herself. She took the call sign "Koshka" – after her married surname – thus preserving the memory of her beloved.

Konstantin loved music very much. His father played the guitar, and his son also dreamed of learning. Together they discussed music, listened to their favourite songs, and played football.

In the family, he was a pillar of support for his younger sisters.

"What is an older brother? He is everything. He is support, he is hope, he is advice," says his mother, Tetyana.

Konstantin is survived by his wife, parents and two sisters.

His mother Tetyana says she does not feel his absence as a final loss:

"He is here. It's just that now we don't communicate as we used to... But I know he can hear me."

She speaks of him as someone who remains close by – in her memories, in her conversations, in her daily feelings: "Love is immortal."

LYCHAK VALERIY BOGDANOVICH



Lychak Valeriy Bogdanovich was born on October 19, 1981 in the city of Kherson. He studied at the Antonivka school, later mastered the specialty of a refrigeration plant driver. He worked as a taxi driver, then at Ukrzaliznytsia. He joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on February 1, 2024 as part of the 79th separate airborne assault brigade. The soldier's life ended on April 6, 2024 while performing a combat mission near the village of Novomykhailivka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region. He was buried in the city of Odesa. Valeriy's childhood and youth were spent in Antonivka, a suburb of Kherson. He was the youngest in the family, growing up with his brother and sister. His parents worked at a boiler house in the village, later his father moved to the railway. The atmosphere in the house was full of warmth. After school and military service in the Odessa region, Valery began to look for his own path, mastering several professions during his life. The real passion that accompanied him through the years was pigeons.

- This was the biggest hobby of his life, - recalls his wife Olena Nikolaevna.
- He could sit for hours in the dovecote. He always took our children, Lera and Ilya, with him, showed them those little chicks. This was his personal world of peace.

Valery met his future wife Olena in 2003. It was an ordinary meeting in a cafe in Antonivka, which grew into the love of his life. In June 2006, they got married. In September 2007, their daughter Valerya was born, and nine years later, in September 2016, their son Ilya was born. Valery adored his children and spent almost all his free time with them.

When the enemy came to Kherson in February 2022, the Lychak family found themselves under occupation. For seven long months, they lived under the pressure of the Russians. Valery, who at that time had his own transportation business, could not simply watch. In September 2022, the family decided to leave their hometown. Valery, together with a colleague, took 42 more people out of the occupied city.

10/19/1981 — 04/06/2024

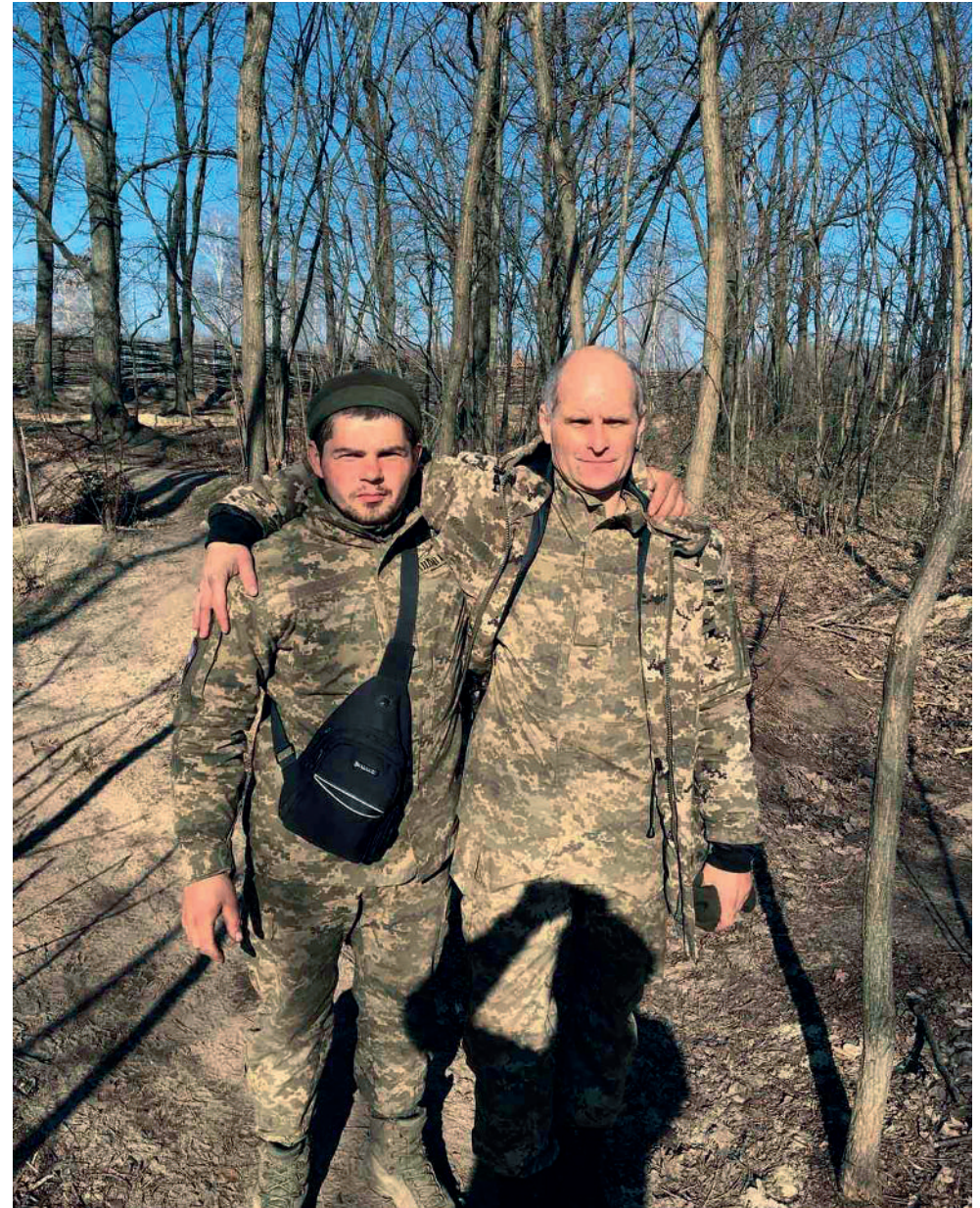
- WE SIMPLY POSTED AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON TELEGRAM ABOUT FREE EVACUATION. IT WAS VERY DANGEROUS, BUT HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE,
- RECALLS THE WIFE.

The family ended up in Lviv, a year later they moved closer to home - to Odessa. In the winter of 2024, Valery received a summons and went to the Central Military District, while her husband joined the 79th separate airborne assault brigade. After training in Zhytomyr and a short coordination, Valery's unit found itself in one of the most difficult areas - near Kurakhov. He served as a sniper. He saw the horrors of war with his own eyes, but tried to protect his wife from these details.

VALERY HAD FIVE COMBAT MISSIONS. THE LAST DAYS WERE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT. AFTER ANOTHER "ARRIVAL" TO THE POSITION WHERE HIS COMRADE DIED, WHOM VALERY HIMSELF CARRIED ON HIMSELF, HE BEGAN TO HAVE SEVERE HEADACHES - SIGNS OF A SEVERE CONCUSSION. HE MADE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A DOCTOR. ON FRIDAY, BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE POSITION, OLENA BEGGED HIM TO STAY, TO TRY TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL EARLIER.

- He replied: "There is no one to go out. I will return on Monday and then I will go to the hospital." This was our last conversation, - shares the wife.

On April 6, 2024, near the village of Novomykhailivka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region, the soldier's heart stopped. On April 14, 2024, a farewell ceremony took place in Odessa. Olena decided to cremate her husband's body. This decision was dictated by the hope that she would someday be able to return his ashes to her native Antonivka after its liberation. For his courage and loyalty to the oath, Valery Lychak was awarded the Order of Courage, III degree (posthumously).



MALYAKA SERHIY ANATOLIYOVYCH



Born on May 16, 1982 in the village of Kizomys, Belozersky district, Kherson region. He studied at Kizomys secondary school. After the 9th grade, he entered vocational school No. 6, where he obtained the profession of a car repair mechanic. From May 18, 2000 to November 9, 2001, he served in the military. Then he continued his education in the field of water transport management. Since 2010, he has worked at the Kherson district of the State Hydrographic Service - first as a skipper of a small vessel, later as a sailor.

On May 25, 2023, he stood up for the defense of the Motherland. He defended the territorial integrity and independence of the state in the ranks of the 15th operational brigade "Kara-Dag" of the National Guard of Ukraine. He was the chief sergeant of the 1st platoon of the 2nd company of the 4th battalion. He participated in hostilities in the Zaporizhia direction.

He died on December 12, 2023 while performing a combat mission near the village of Verbove, Polohivskyi district, Zaporizhia region. On July 26, 2025, the Hero was buried on the Alley of Glory of the Western cemetery in Odessa.

Serhiy comes from the picturesque Kizomys, where the silence of the river and the smell of the steppe are intertwined with childhood. His father was a fisherman in a local fish farm, his mother was a saleswoman. Serhiy has a younger sister with whom he maintained warm, friendly relations.

From childhood, he absorbed a love for nature, for water, for his native land. From his father, he took over not only the pseudonym "Karpo", but also a love for nature, for fishing, for the Kherson expanses. And from his mother - sincerity and the ability to be there when it was needed most.

"HE WAS VERY CALM, BALANCED. IF HE PROMISED SOMETHING - IT MEANS IT WILL HAPPEN, HE WAS A MAN OF HIS WORD. YOU COULD RELY ON HIM IN EVERYTHING," RECALLS HIS WIFE OLENA.

05/16/1982 — 12/12/2023

At the age of 20, Serhiy started a family. Later, they had two daughters. He lived a simple but full life: family, work, dreams. He knew how to find joy in ordinary things.

“He loved children very much. Even when he was tired after work, he still found time for them. He could just sit next to him, talk, joke - and that was enough to feel that everything was fine. He was calm,” says his wife.

When a full-scale war began, he made his choice - to go defend the country. He was mobilized on May 25, 2023.

“SERHIY HAD NO DOUBTS. HE SAID THAT IT COULDN'T BE OTHERWISE. THAT IT HAD TO BE WHERE IT WAS MOST DIFFICULT NOW. I ASKED HIM TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF, AND HE ONLY REPLIED: “EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.” HE ALWAYS SAID THAT, EVEN WHEN IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR HIM,” SAYS OLENA.

He fought in the Zaporizhzhia direction. Among his comrades, he had unquestionable authority: they respected him not for his words, but for his actions.

“They knew that his word weighed more than any statutes, because he never demanded from others what he would not do himself. He had a rare gift for combining iron discipline with sincere humanity, so his comrades saw in him a real older

brother. His leadership was based not on orders, but on the ability to listen to everyone and make the most difficult decision, taking all responsibility upon himself,” says the woman. – People gravitated towards him. They trusted him. He knew how to calm down, even when the situation was very difficult. And at the same time he remained as simple as in civilian life. ”

Until his last breath, he remained faithful to his oath and kept his ranks. He died while performing a combat mission as a result of enemy mortar shelling on December 12, 2023 near the village of Verbove, Polohivskyi district, Zaporizhzhia region. He will forever be 41 years old...

“WE SPOKE SHORTLY BEFORE THAT... HE SAID THAT EVERYTHING WAS FINE SO THAT I WOULDN'T WORRY. AND I JUST WANTED TO HEAR HIS VOICE A LITTLE LONGER... HE WAS MY SUPPORT, MY PERSON. WITH HIM, IT FELT LIKE NOTHING WAS SCARY. IT'S VERY DIFFICULT NOW... BUT I'M HOLDING ON FOR HIM AND FOR OUR CHILDREN,” SAYS OLENA VIKTORIVNA.

Serhiy is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a sister. In the memory of his family, he will forever be not just a Hero who gave his life for Ukraine, but a dearest person whose care and love continue to warm hearts.



MITIN YEVHENII IHOROVYCH



He was born on 11 May 2002 in the village of Llove, Beryslav District, Kherson Region. There, he completed Year 9 at the local school and enrolled at the Novokakhovka Vocational Electrotechnical Lyceum, where he qualified as a 'Bodywork Repairer and Electric and Gas Welder'. In 2020, he completed his compulsory military service in military unit A1536. In March 2023, he joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine as a volunteer and served as a soldier in military unit A4698. On 15 August 2023, he was seriously wounded near the village of Vilshana in the Kupianskyi district of the Kharkiv region. On 17 August 2023, he died at the Military Medical Clinical Centre of the Northern Region. He was buried in the cemetery in the village of Llove.

He was awarded the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine's distinction – the 'Combatant's Cross' badge (posthumously).

Yevhenii Mitin grew up in a loving family. His mother worked as a primary school teacher and educational organiser, and his father as a handyman.

“HE WAS A CHILD WITH A BIG HEART... ZHENYA WAS SOCIABLE, LIVELY AND CHEERFUL, HAD AUTHORITY AMONG HIS PEERS AND WAS CONSTANTLY INVOLVED IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES. HE TOOK PART IN SPORTS COMPETITIONS, AMATEUR ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS – FIRST AT SCHOOL, AND THEN AT THE LYCEUM. OUR SON WAS TRULY A CREATIVE PERSON: AT ONE TIME HE WAS IN A DANCE GROUP, PERFORMING AS A PAIR WITH A GIRL. “HE ALSO LOVED MUSIC VERY MUCH – HE WROTE SONGS IN THE RAP STYLE,” RECALLS HIS MOTHER, NATALIA VALERIIVNA.

She adds that her son was also extremely sensitive and compassionate. He had a special affection for animals – he couldn't walk past them without helping.

05/11/2002 — 08/17/2023

Yevhen Mitin was an only child and had a particularly close bond with his parents. His father's death had a profound effect on him: he began to take life more seriously, assumed the responsibilities of the eldest in the family, and took even greater care of his mother, being deeply concerned for her well-being. Responsibility and hard work were traits that always set Yevhen apart. His conscientious approach to his duties was also noted during his military service.

Upon returning from the army in December 2021, Yevhen began to find his feet, trying his hand at various fields. But within a few months, a full-scale war broke out, shattering his plans and dreams.

Yevhen's home village came under temporary Russian occupation. The young man decided not to evacuate to territory controlled by Ukraine because of his mother – he stayed behind to help and support her. He only agreed to leave after the liberation of the right bank of the Kherson region. Whilst in Kryvyi Rih, he told Nataliia Valeriivna that he was returning to the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

“TO ALL MY PLEAS, HE REPLIED CLEARLY: ‘MUM, I’M AN ADULT AND I’VE MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION. IT’S MY DUTY – I’M GOING.’ THAT’S HOW HE WAS IN LIFE: DETERMINED AND STUBBORN. IF HE SET HIMSELF A GOAL, HE WOULD PURSUE IT WITHOUT WAVERING. OF COURSE, MY HEART ACHED, BUT I COULDN’T DISSUADE HIM. SO I WAITED AT HOME AND SUPPORTED HIM AS MUCH AS I COULD...”, HIS MOTHER SHARES.

From 9 March 2023, Yevhen Mitin served with the 43rd Separate Mechanised Brigade, serving as a gunner-operator in the 9th Mechanised Company of the 3rd

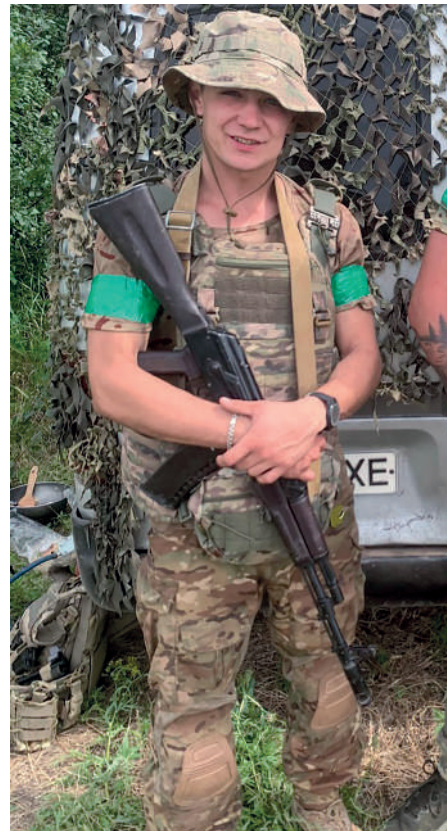
Mechanised Battalion. He was stationed in the Kharkiv sector. According to Natalya Valeriivna, his comrades spoke of Yevhen only in warm terms. He was a loyal and reliable friend who could hold his own in any conversation. Brave and courageous, he would never have left a comrade in trouble.

On 15 August 2023, whilst carrying out a combat mission, Yevhenii Mitin and a fellow soldier came under artillery fire from the Russian Federation's army near the village of Vilshana in the Kharkiv region. Yevhenii sustained shrapnel wounds to the head and chest, was admitted to a military hospital in Kharkiv, and underwent surgery. He remained in a coma for some time, and the doctors hoped that his young body would be able to cope with the severe injuries. But on 17 August 2023, his heart stopped. He was 21 years old. He is survived by his mother.

‘I DIDN’T EVEN HAVE TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO HIM... THE JOURNEY FROM KHERSON TOOK SEVERAL DAYS: I ONLY ARRIVED LATE ON THE 17TH, AND BY THE MORNING OF THE 18TH I WAS AT THE HOSPITAL. I WENT THERE FULL OF HOPE, BUT INSTEAD I HEARD THE WORST POSSIBLE NEWS... WE’D SPOKEN ON THE PHONE THE DAY BEFORE; HE WAS DUE TO BE GRANTED LEAVE IN TWO WEEKS’ TIME. THAT WAS OUR LAST CONVERSATION,’ SAYS NATALIA VALERIIVNA.

In the village of Vysoke in the Beryslav district of the Kherson region, an information banner featuring a portrait of Yevhen Mitin has been erected.

“ZHENYA DIDN’T MANAGE TO ACHIEVE MUCH OF WHAT HE HAD PLANNED AND DREAMED OF... HIS STUDIES, HIS SERVICE – AND THAT WAS IT. HE LEFT NOTHING BEHIND, MY SON, EXCEPT MEMORIES,” NOTES HIS MOTHER.



OVSYANNIKOV SERHIY SERHIYOVYCH



He was born on 30 July 1987 in the city of Kherson, Kherson Oblast. He initially studied at Kherson Specialised School No. 4 . He then attended Kherson Specialised School No. 33 . He subsequently completed his compulsory military service in Feodosia, Crimea, serving as a marine. In the early months of the full-scale war, he volunteered to join the Armed Forces of Ukraine, serving in the 22nd Separate Mechanised Brigade as part of a reconnaissance company. He was killed on 3 July 2023 in the village of Klishchiivka, Bakhmut District, Donetsk Oblast. He was buried in the village of Shyroka Balka, Kherson District, Kherson Region. He was posthumously awarded the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine's 'Combatant's Cross' (posthumously).

Serhiy Ovsyannikov was the only child in the family. His mother, Iryna Volodymyrivna, raised him on her own, balancing caring for her son with a job in the retail sector. She was always an example of hard work and resilience to him. That is why Serhiy followed in her footsteps and also worked in retail, as he had seen from childhood how important it is to be responsible and independent.

“SERHIY WAS LIKE ANY OTHER CHILD: HE LOVED TO PLAY AND WAS FASCINATED BY ALL SORTS OF THINGS – FOOTBALL ONE DAY, HOCKEY THE NEXT, THEN BASKETBALL. HE ALSO ENJOYED DRAWING. MY SON WAS VERY FOND OF ANIMALS TOO. WE USED TO HAVE A SHEEPDOG AND A TABBY CAT. SERHIY SPOILED THEM ROTTEN AND LOOKED AFTER THEM WITH GENUINE CARE,” SAYS IRYNA VOLODYMYRIVNA.

His mother adds: her son always treated people with kindness and respect. He helped neighbours with their daily chores, would carry a bag for an elderly woman or simply sit down and chat with a granny to cheer her up. Everyone around him could sense his thoughtfulness and sincerity. Those who knew him still speak of Serhiy only in warm terms, for he left behind the image of a friendly, sensitive, attentive and non-confrontational young man.

07/30/1987 — 07/03/2023

“And from a young age, Serhiy was very tidy. He never broke his toys; on the contrary, he would carefully and neatly arrange them in order: cars with cars, dolls and baby dolls separately. I loved toys too, so I often bought them for him and for myself. The house was never in a mess – he had a particular penchant for order and tidiness,” shares Iryna Volodymyrivna.

AS AN ADULT, SERHIY LOVED TRAVELLING AROUND UKRAINE. HE VISITED LVIV, KYIV, KHMELNYTSKYI, KAMIANETS-PODILSKYI AND OTHER CITIES. FROM EVERY TRIP, HE WOULD INVARIABLY BRING HIS MOTHER A GIFT – A SCARF, A BLOUSE OR SOME PERFUME. HE WOULD ALSO SHOW HER PHOTOGRAPHS, SHARE HIS IMPRESSIONS AND TELL HER ABOUT THE NEW PLACES HE HAD DISCOVERED.

After the full-scale invasion began, Serhiy Ovsyannikov volunteered for the reconnaissance company of the 22nd Separate Mechanised Brigade. He held the rank of private and went by the call sign ‘Blondin’ – a nickname he’d been given back at school because of his fair hair. His mother only found out about her son’s decision to join the army after the fact: Serhiy did not tell her about it straight away. Similarly, so as not to worry his mother, he told her almost nothing about his service.

On 3 July 2023, Serhiy Ovsyannikov was fatally wounded whilst carrying out a combat mission near the village of Klishchiivka in the Donetsk region. Their group of four soldiers came under fire from

the Russian army, which used phosphorus munitions. The bodies of the fallen were only recovered from the battlefield 40 days later, and Serhiy was subsequently identified through DNA testing.

“Mum, I’m off to Bakhmut,” were his last words to me... He rang me just before heading to the front line. After that, I couldn’t get in touch with him

anymore. On the night he died, my son appeared in my dream: he begged me to help, to save him...”, recalls Irina Vladimirovna.

Serhiy was 35 years old. He is survived by his mother.



“I REMEMBER HIM MOST AS A LITTLE BOY. JUST A LITTLE LAD, WHEN HE’D ONLY JUST STARTED WALKING... YOU KNOW, WE HAD AN ORDINARY FAMILY LIFE, IN WHICH HE ALWAYS FOUND TIME FOR ME. FOR EXAMPLE, ON 8 MARCH, HE’D COME ROUND BEFORE DAWN, AT FIVE OR SIX IN THE MORNING, WITH FLOWERS, TO WISH ME A HAPPY WOMEN’S DAY BEFORE WORK. HE WAS ALWAYS MAKING ME LAUGH; WE LAUGHED A LOT TOGETHER. AND HE LOVED COOKING. THAT SURPRISED ME IN PARTICULAR. I’D COME HOME FROM WORK, AND HE’D ALREADY STEWED THE POTATOES, COOKED THE MEAT, AND MADE ALL SORTS OF TASTY TREATS. HE COOKED DELICIOUSLY, WITH HEART AND SOUL. WE NEVER ARGUED. IF I MADE A COMMENT TO HIM, HE WOULD REPLY: ‘ALL RIGHT, MUM, I WON’T DO IT AGAIN.’ TO ME, HE ALWAYS REMAINED A GOOD SON. I THINK ANY MOTHER WOULD UNDERSTAND ME,” SAYS IRINA VLADIMIROVNA.

OVSYANNIKOV DENIS OLEGOVICH



He was born on April 19, 1999 in the village of Novokiivka, Snigurivskiy district, Mykolaiv region. He studied at Chornobayevsk secondary school, received the profession of a car repair mechanic at the state educational institution Belozersk vocational school No. 6. From 2019 to 2020 he served in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. On February 1, 2024, he voluntarily joined the defense of his native land, served in the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Donetsk direction. On March 23, 2024, contact with him was lost. On December 23, 2025, it became known that a soldier, an assistant grenade launcher rifleman of an airmobile battalion, died on March 23, 2024 while performing a combat mission near the village of Novomykhailivka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region. Buried in the village of Kyselivka, Chornobayvsk community, Kherson region.

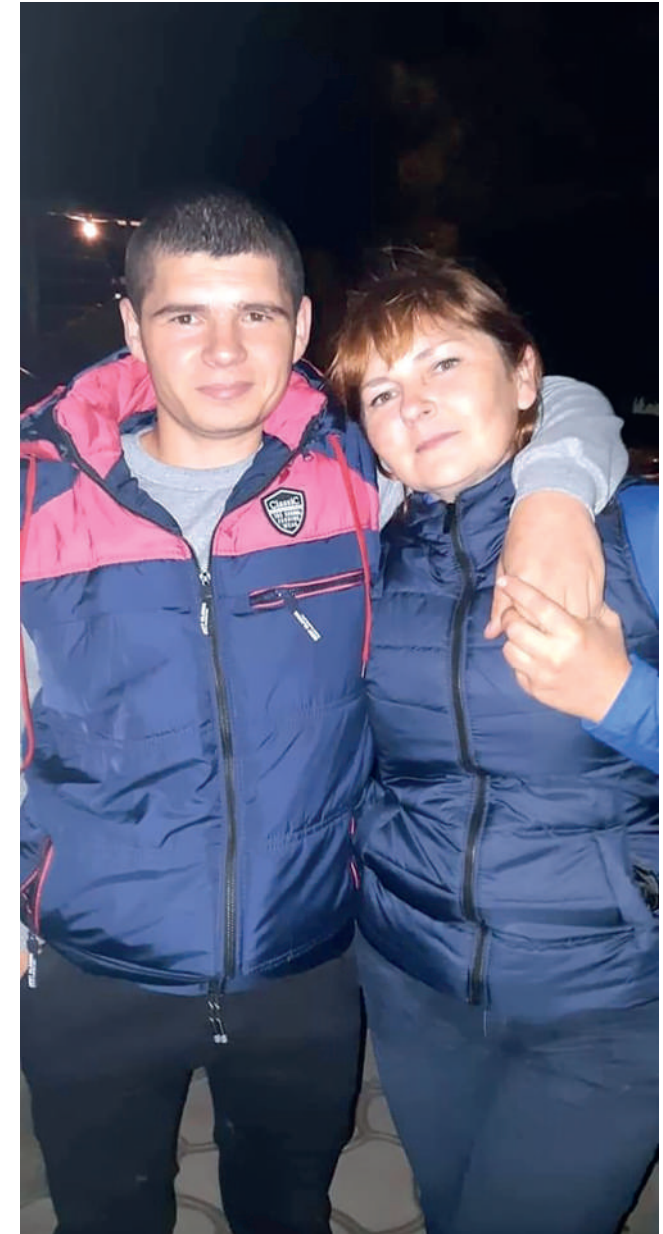
Denis Ovsyannikov was born in the village of Novokyivka, Mykolaiv region. When he was three years old, his family moved to Kherson region. He spent his childhood and youth in the village of Kruty Yar. He studied at Chornobayvsk comprehensive school, and received the profession of a car repair mechanic at the state educational institution Bilozersk vocational school No. 6. Since childhood, Denis was fond of technology, loved cars and motorcycles, so he chose his profession not by chance.

“MY LITTLE SON WAS VERY BRIGHT AND POSITIVE, ALWAYS SMILING, LOVED TO WORK. ONCE, WHEN DENIS WAS AT SCHOOL, I GAVE HIM MONEY TO BUY HIMSELF FOOD, AND HE SAVED IT TO BUY ME A GIFT. I YELLED AT HIM THEN, AND THEN CRIED, BECAUSE HE WANTED TO PLEASE ME, AND I DID IT LIKE THAT, I WAS JUST WORRIED THAT HE WAS HUNGRY. HE CONSTANTLY BOUGHT ME SOMETHING, ALWAYS REMEMBERED WHEN SOMEONE HAD A BIRTHDAY, IF THERE WAS NO GIFT - HE TOLD POEMS, ALWAYS MADE TIME FOR EVERYONE,” SAYS DENIS’S MOTHER, SVETLANA BURLOVA.

04/19/1999 — 03/23/2024

Denis Ovsyannikov voluntarily joined the army on February 1, 2024, stood up to defend his Motherland. "I told myself, 'Mom, I have to go.' And that's it, he went. Despite the fact that he had poor eyesight, he had three eye surgeries in childhood, he could hardly see in one eye," says Denis's mother. He served in the Donetsk direction of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. His call sign was "Kherson." "He didn't choose him. He was just the only one from Kherson in the unit, that's why he had that call sign." And he still calls me, says: "Mom, you represent me, I was given the call sign 'Kherson'", - recalls Svetlana Volodymyrivna. When in March 2024 the connection with him was lost, the family lived in hope for many months, but then came the sad news. Denis Ovsyannikov died on March 23, 2024 while performing a combat mission near the village of Novomykhailivka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region. The soldier was 24 years old. He is survived by his mother, brother and sister.

"MY DENIS LOVED LIFE. HE LOVED DOGS, NOW I TAKE CARE OF HIS LITTLE DOG. WHEN DENIS DIED, HIS DOG CRIED A LOT, FOR THREE DAYS I DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS WRONG WITH CAESAR, ONLY NOW I REALIZED THAT HE FELT THAT SOMETHING BAD HAD HAPPENED. I WAS A HAPPY MOTHER. I AM PROUD OF MY SON, HE IS THE BEST SON IN THE WORLD FOR ME," SAYS SVETLANA BURLOVA.



PETYAK MYKOLA VASYLOVYCH



Petyak Mykola Vasylovych, call sign Mudryi, was born on September 10, 1967 in the village of Zolota Balka, Novovorontsov district, Kherson region. He studied at Zolotobalkiv secondary school. He graduated from Kherson vocational school No. 5, having received a degree in ship welder, and vocational school No. 26, village of Gavrylivka, specialty - tractor driver. At the beginning of the full-scale invasion, he voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. As a senior soldier, he served in the 100th separate territorial defense battalion (military unit A7223), the 108th separate territorial defense brigade of the Regional Directorate "East" of the Territorial Defense Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He defended the country in the Zaporizhia direction. Died on December 25, 2023 in the village of Luhivske, Polohivskyi district, Zaporizhzhia region, as a result of injuries received during enemy shelling of a position. Buried according to his will at the local cemetery in the village of Zolota Balka, Kherson region.

A fair, reliable, benevolent, a man of a big soul, a patriot of his country not in words but in deeds, a good family man and a cheerful man who charged everyone around with his energy. This is how Mykola Vasylovych is remembered by his relatives, friends and fellow villagers. He was born into the family of Vasyl Fedorovych and Olga Vasylivna Petyak, who came to live and work in the Kherson steppes from the Lviv region. Therefore, from an early age he was raised in an atmosphere that combined southern and western customs and traditions. He was the youngest child, because he had an older sister, Lydia, and a brother, Mikhail.

In his childhood, he was a cheerful and very intelligent boy who diligently helped his elders, studied and loved everything Ukrainian, and was interested in technology. Once he even tried himself as a design engineer. Mykola brought home a bag with a bunch of what seemed to be scrap metal, but later he collected everything and got a motorcycle, which he and his children rode for many years.

After graduating from school and receiving a professional education, in 1985 Mykola Vasilyevich went to military service. And as soon as he returned home in

09/10/1967 — 12/25/2023

1987, he again enrolled in training to become a tractor driver, after which he got a job as a driver at the local collective farm “Zorya”. The man worked there until 2003. Then, together with his wife, he took the land into his own cultivation and was engaged in farming for a long time.

The man married his beloved Maria Ilkivna in 1991. Later, the couple had a son, Andriy, but the boy died at the beginning of the following year. But at the end of 1992, their son Mykola was born, and in 1999, their youngest son Serhiy. The husband's wife notes: “My Mykolka was a wonderful husband, a caring father and a true master, a jack of all trades. Whatever he took on, he did everything right, he knew how to do everything. He even knew how to build, he was one of those who built our local church. On holidays, he preserved our folk traditions, and taught us all to follow them. He even went to sing carols. And on holidays, he performed in the local house of culture, and went to other villages, because he sang Ukrainian songs beautifully, which he always listened to, told various humorous stories and jokes, which he wrote from his own life and the lives of his fellow villagers. He was very artistic and patriotic. He spoke Ukrainian and promoted everything Ukrainian. He was, you know, the soul of the company.”

In the very first days of the full-scale invasion, Mykola Vasylyovych firmly decided that he had to take up arms and personally drive out the enemy, so on February 26 he joined the ranks of the defenders. His wife had to stay in the occupation, because she had an elderly mother. However, here too, the couple did everything together: the husband did not let the enemy advance, and the wife helped to find out the necessary information about the occupiers at home. In the army, the husband quickly gained the favor of his comrades. The guys treated him very respectfully and even gave him the call sign “Mudryy”. After all, he always protected everyone, stood up for justice, knew how and what to fix, how to have time to cook delicious food for 34 people in the field and more. But at the end of 2023, the positions of Mykola Vasylyovych's brigade were shelled by the enemy. It was at that moment that the man received a severe shrapnel wound and was able to live with it for only 6 hours.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, and granddaughter Milana.



PYLIPENKO SERHIY DMYTROVYCH



Pylypenko Serhiy Dmytrovych, call sign “Pylyp”, was born on January 5, 1984 in the village of Shevchenkivka, Novovorontsov district, Kherson region. He studied at Khreschenivka secondary school, after which he entered vocational school No. 26 in the village of Gavrylivka, majoring in tractor driver.

At the beginning of the full-scale invasion, he voluntarily joined the defense of the country. As part of the 37th separate motorized infantry battalion “Zaporizhzhia” (military unit A3137), he defended the country in the Donetsk direction with the rank of junior sergeant.

Died on December 24, 2023 near the village of Bohdanivka, Bakhmut district, Donetsk region, as a result of injuries received as a result of the explosion of an enemy UAV (kamikaze) during the performance of a combat mission.

Buried in the city of Kryvyi Rih at the local cemetery “Vsebratske”. Awarded the distinction of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine - the medal “For Wounds” (heavy type) and the posthumous breastplate “For Services to the City” of the 3rd degree.

Serhiy Dmytrovych was born and raised in a friendly Pylypenk family. His parents - Dmytro Ivanovich and Galina Ilyivna were employees of the collective farm “Chervony Mayak”. His father worked as a driver, and his mother - as an accountant. Remembering their son, they note: “He was a kind and quiet child, but at the same time he often found “interesting” adventures, because he was very curious.

Since his parents constantly had a lot to do, the boy, together with his sisters Olena and Svetlana, diligently helped them with the household. From a young age, he treated the elderly with respect, so he was also happy to come to their aid, which did not change in his adult life. And when he had free time from lessons and work, he took everything he needed and went fishing on the canals that were not far from home or spent his leisure time studying the mechanisms of cars and motorcycles,

01/05/1984 — 12/24/2023

which he adored. At school, he was interested in mathematics and anything related to the army. Even as a young man, he dreamed of serving. And his dream did come true.

When Serhiy finished 9 grades of school and vocational education, he was called up for military service, which he served at the Desna training center (military unit A0665) in Chernihiv region. Military affairs fascinated him, so he later decided to connect his future life with it and became a signalman. Thus began his military career, which was briefly interrupted by returning home to the Kherson region. At home, he tried to work in a tractor brigade, but soon, in 2006, he went to the city of Kryvyi Rih and signed a contract for military service with the 17th separate tank brigade.

It was there, in Kryvyi Rih, that the man met his love - his future wife Anna, in marriage with whom on August 28, 2008, their daughter Anastasia was born. The wife recalls:

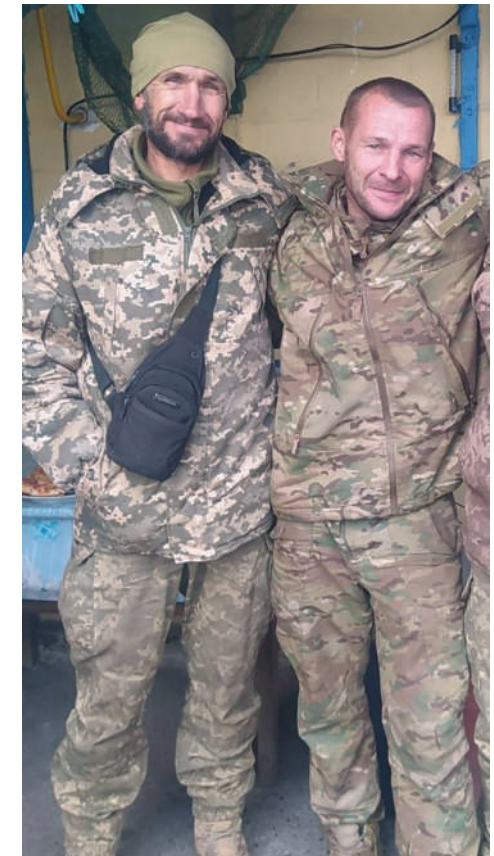
“SERGIY WAS A GOOD HUSBAND AND A WONDERFUL FATHER. HIS DAUGHTER ADORED HIM, BECAUSE HE LOVED TO SPEND HIS LEISURE TIME WITH HER IN AN INTERESTING WAY, CONSTANTLY TAUGHT HER SOMETHING NEW AND REALLY MADE HER A HAPPY CHILD. SHE STILL MISSES SERHIY VERY MUCH.”

After some time, the man was transferred to another military unit in the city of Dnipro, where he served until the end of his contract. Then the defender returned to ordinary civilian life, but as it turned out, not for long. After all, in 2022, a full-scale invasion began in Ukraine, the man's home was occupied, so he, as a military man, firmly decided that he had to return to the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. So he went to the military enlistment office and joined the ranks of the defenders, first as part of the 128th separate heavy mechanized brigade “Dyke Pole” (military unit A7384), and then the 37th separate motorized infantry battalion “Zaporizhzhia” (military unit A3137). During his service, the man was seriously wounded, after which he still returned to the ranks. His comrades and the military

leadership respected the man for his responsibility and courage. In addition, he repeatedly saved his brothers from situations in which it seemed there was no way out. But on December 24, 2023, Serhiy, unfortunately, could not save himself and died.

In memory of the defender, commemorative banners with the image of Serhiy were installed in the Novovorontsivska community in the Kherson region and on the Alley of Glory in the “Teatralny” park of the city of Kryvyi Rih. He can also be seen on one of the roadside banners of the city.

The man is survived by his parents, grandmother, sisters, wife and daughter.



PIDDUBNY IGOR IGOROVICH



Born in the city of Beryslav, Kherson region. Studied at a local school, later at the Novokakhov Higher Vocational School. Worked in the construction industry.

With the beginning of the full-scale invasion, he voluntarily joined the defense of Ukraine. He served in various units, in particular as part of brigades that performed tasks in the Kyiv region and the Donetsk direction. His last place of service was the 116th separate mechanized brigade of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (military unit A4722). Died on December 13, 2023 while performing a combat mission near the city of Avdiivka, Donetsk region. Buried on November 10, 2024 in Vinnytsia.

Awarded the honorary badge of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine "Steel Cross" (during his lifetime) and the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree (posthumously).

Igor had a brother and sister, a large family that always stuck together. He matured early, got used to relying on himself and not being afraid of work. He met his future wife Natalia when he was still very young.

"I was 16 years old. We met at a disco at school... And two weeks later we started dating," she recalls.

They were together for a long time, grew up together, made plans. In 2017, they got married, and a few months later their son Nikita was born. "We just decided that it was time. We knew that we wanted to be together," says Natalia.

Igor was a loving father. Even when life forced him to be far away, and he worked mostly outside of Beryslav, he stayed close by – he called, came whenever he could. When he was at home, he spent a lot of time with his son. "They loved each other very much. Carousels, the river, barbecues... He always found time for his son. Even if he was very small," his wife recalls.

Family life was not easy. Work, constant trips, service – all this broke their time together into short segments. "We were together for a month or two – and he left again. Then he returned for a short time... We lived very little together," says Natalia.

02/12/2000 — 12/13/2023

When the full-scale invasion began, Igor did not hesitate. He did not wait for a summons – he went himself. First to the Kyiv region, then to the east. During his service, the woman recalls, they saw each other four times – he came on a short vacation, then the family went to visit dad. “But we tried to talk on the phone every day. Even for a few minutes...”.

IN THE ARMY, HE RECEIVED THE CALL SIGN “KIPISH” FOR HIS ARDENT CHARACTER, RELENTLESS ENERGY, AND INNER TENSION THAT DID NOT ALLOW HIM TO STAND ASIDE. BUT FOR HIS FAMILY, HE REMAINED A RELIABLE HUSBAND AND FATHER.

Natalia recalls that the last conversation was short. “He said that they were being summoned... that there might be an assault. And I answered: “Everything will be fine”... I wanted to support and calm him down.”

She did not even suspect then that this conversation would be the last... Then there was silence. Unanswered calls. The expectation that squeezes everything inside. Igor died on December 13, 2023 while performing a combat mission near the city of Avdiivka in the Donetsk region.

Only a few months later did it manage to find the body. The examinations, confirmations, and waiting for official news lasted even longer.

“We recognized him by his tattoos... These were the dates of our acquaintance, the wedding, and the birth of his son...”, recalls Natalia.

He was only 23. The age at which people usually just start building their future. He dreamed of his own home. He worked, saved money, and had plans for the future. But the war cut them short...

When Igor passed away, Nikita was only 5 years old...

“It’s very difficult now... But we have to live on. For the sake of our son. For his sake...”.

And, perhaps, the most painful thing is not only the loss, but all the words that were not said. Those conversations that were still to be had. Those days that they were to spend together...



PRONENKO ANDRIY VIKTOROVYCH



Born on August 11, 1988 in the city of Kakhovka, Kherson region. He studied at a local school, later at a gymnasium. After graduating from school, he studied to be an engineer in Sevastopol. Returning to Kakhovka, he worked at the Chumak enterprise, where he went from assistant to repair engineer.

After the start of the full-scale invasion, he and his family left the occupation and settled in the Odessa region. In March 2023, he joined the defense of Ukraine. He served as part of the 79th separate airborne assault brigade. Soldier of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, operator of the 1st airborne assault platoon of the 11th airborne assault company of the 3rd airborne assault battalion of military unit A0224. Participated in hostilities in the Donetsk direction, in particular in the area of the village of Novomykhailivka, Pokrovsky district.

Died on December 11, 2023 in the area of the village of Novomykhailivka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region, while performing a combat mission. Buried on October 28, 2024 in the Odessa region.

Awarded the Order of the President of Ukraine "For the Defense of Ukraine" (lifetime), the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree and the honorary award "For Services to the Yuzhnensky Community" (posthumously).

Andriy grew up in a family where work, honesty and responsibility were valued. His parents were geologists - dad Viktor and mom Anna worked as drillers all their lives, and this profession taught him from childhood endurance and respect for the work you do. He had a brother Anton, with whom they were united by warm family relations and common interests.

Andriy was calm, balanced, but at the same time stubborn – if he set a goal for himself, he would definitely go for it. From a young age, he was fond of photography, was interested in space, loved history. He liked conversations in which you could seek the truth, argue, prove your point. He knew how to think deeply and never tolerated lies.

08/11/1988 — 12/11/2023

In 2013, he met Yana. Their story began with a chance meeting, but quickly grew into real feelings. In 2015, the lovers got married. Later, the firstborn Yaroslav was born in the family. “He was completely involved in parenting. Absolutely in everything: treatment, upbringing, everyday life. He was always there for his son,” says his wife.

FAMILY WAS HIS MAIN MEANING IN LIFE. HE KNEW HOW TO FIND AN APPROACH TO CHILDREN, EXPLAIN, SUPPORT, BE THERE. HE HAD A SPECIAL CONNECTION WITH HIS ELDEST SON: “FOR YAROSLAV, DAD WAS AN AUTHORITY. HE WAS VERY WORRIED THAT HIS FATHER WOULD THINK BADLY OF HIM.”

After the start of the full-scale war, the family found themselves under occupation. Yana was pregnant with her second child at the time, and every day became a test. “We were waiting for something to become clear, for the situation to change somehow. But the moment came when I could no longer leave – it was a very long time, it was physically difficult,” she recalls.

The youngest son, Demyan, was born during the occupation. And within a few weeks, in September 2022, the family left for the territory controlled by Ukraine – first to Odessa, and then to Yuzhne.

“We arrived in a foreign city, we have a small child. We had to somehow get back on our feet. Andriy immediately returned to work in his specialty, the company helped with housing,” says his wife.

For a long time, the husband did not speak directly about the decision to go to the front, but he understood that it was a matter of time. “He said that if he received a summons, he would not hide. But I asked: we have a small child, I'm here alone, I don't know anyone... We need some time,” Yana recalls.

In March 2023, he joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine. After training, he immediately went to the front line. He performed combat missions as an operator of an anti-tank missile system. “They just came in and sat there, at zero. Without rotations. A lot of guys died then,” says his wife.

Later, Andriy moved into reconnaissance, serving as a drone operator. This required endurance, accuracy, and a cold mind – qualities that were inherent in him. At the same time, even at the front, he remained a caring husband and father. “We were in touch every day. He called whenever he could. He talked to me, he could talk to his son for hours,” says Yana.

HE WENT OUT TO PICK UP THE DRONE AND RECEIVED A SHRAPNEL WOUND IN HIS LEG. HE WAS IN REHABILITATION AND WAS ABLE TO SPEND A WHOLE MONTH WITH HIS FAMILY. “IT WAS A PRICELESS TIME. I DIDN'T WANT TO LET HIM GO, BUT HE REPLIED: “I HAVE SONS GROWING UP. THEY WILL ASK WHERE I WAS DURING THE WAR. AND WHAT WILL I TELL THEM?” ANDRIY WAS A VERY PRINCIPLED PERSON.”

On the day of his death, the soldier sent flowers to his wife. “The note said: ‘Although the service separated us, only God can separate us forever.’ I thanked him, wrote that the flowers were very beautiful. And he replied: ‘You are the most beautiful.’”

Half an hour later, the defender was gone... He died together with his comrades while performing a combat mission. He was at the position until the last moment, when the Russian military hit it with a guided bomb.

ANDRIY WAS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, TWO SONS, PARENTS, AND BROTHER. “HE WAS EVERYTHING TO ME. WE HAD SO MANY PLANS... AND IN ONE MOMENT, EVERYTHING JUST COLLAPSED...”, SAYS YANA.

They dreamed of their own home, of peace and quiet, of a future for their children, of grandchildren... But the war crossed everything out...

They were able to say goodbye to Andriy only after 10 months. He found his final resting place in the Odessa region - next to his family, who continue to live with the memory of a loving husband, father, and true patriot of his country...

RAILYANU SERHIY KONSTANTINOVICH



Railyanu Serhiy Konstantinovich was born on April 11, 1989 in the village of Novoberyslav, Beryslav district, Kherson region. He studied at Beryslav secondary school No. 3 and Novokakhov instrument-making technical school, where he received the qualification of a radio technician. He worked as a turner at the Beryslav machine-building plant, and since 2016 - at a construction site in Poland. In May 2023, he voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, served in the 58th separate motorized infantry brigade (military unit A1376) as a sniper. He died on October 22, 2023 in a hospital in the city of Dnipro. He was buried on October 27, 2023 in the village of Novokayry, Kherson region.

Serhiy grew up with his older brother in a hard-working rural family, where everyone knew the price of bread. His parents were engaged in agriculture. Since childhood, he was fond of sports. His passion was running. Two kilometers at high speed was not just physical education, but a way to feel his own strength and will.

- The man also played volleyball a little when he became a student, sports were his main hobby at that time, - recalls his wife Olena.

After school, he chose the path of a radio technician at the Novokakhov Instrument-Building College. However, life made its adjustments: Sergey chose hard men's work. He spent four years at the Berislavsky Machine-Building Plant, working as a turner, and later worked in a local garden.

A real turning point in his fate occurred in 2010. It was then, during his studies, through mutual acquaintances, that he met Olena. What began as a friendship quickly grew into a strong love. In 2011, they got married, settled in their native Novoberyslav, and on June 25, 2013, their son Konstantin was born.

- HE WAS A VERY CARING FATHER. EVERYTHING WAS FOR THE CHILD, EVERYTHING WAS FOR THE FAMILY. WE HAD A TRADITION: EVERY SUNDAY WE WOULD GO SOMEWHERE - FOR WALKS OR TO THE CITY TO THE PLAYGROUNDS, - SAYS THE WIFE.

04/11/1989 — 10/22/2023

In 2016, Serhiy went to Poland to work, worked in construction to provide a better future for the family. Later, in 2019, Olena and her son moved in with him. It seemed that many years of a quiet life were ahead. But Serhiy was a true patriot. He met the full-scale invasion of 2022 abroad, but his heart was at home, in the shelled Kherson region. In May 2023, he made the final decision - the husband returned to Ukraine and volunteered.

- HE WAS A PATRIOT EVEN BEFORE THE START OF THE GREAT WAR. I ACCEPTED HIS DECISION WITH UNDERSTANDING, BECAUSE HE WAS NOT USED TO CHANGING HIS DECISIONS. SO I SUPPORTED HIM EMOTIONALLY AS BEST I COULD, - OLENA SHARES.

He underwent training as a recruit of the 3rd separate assault brigade. In June 2023, he took the oath. From June to the end of August, he underwent training in France. After that, he was assigned to the 58th separate motorized infantry brigade (military unit A1376), where he became a sniper. All this time, he tried to transfer to his fellow assault soldiers - the order for his transfer would come only a week after his death.

At the end of August 2023, he was sent to the Volnovakha direction. There was infrequent communication, and he managed to communicate with his wife via short text or audio messages. Serhiy did not say anything about the service, because it was a secret, only sometimes he threw out a phrase with pain: "Those with whom I studied are no longer there..."



On October 18, he wrote for the last time that he was taking up positions. He mentioned that he felt a little unwell due to angina. The next day, October 19, during mortar shelling, Serhiy received a severe shrapnel wound to his legs. Due to the difficult situation, the evacuation was delayed. The paramedics who took him out said that he was conscious, talking.

He was taken to the hospital in Dnipro. Olena was not informed that her husband was wounded. She continued to write messages into the void while Serhiy fought for his life. On October 22, 2023, Serhiy Raileanu's heart stopped.

Olena found out about everything only on October 24. The funeral took place on October 27, 2023. Due to the constant shelling of Novoboryslav, Serhiy could not be buried in his native village. His final resting place is in the village of Novokayry, where Olena's parents lived.

- I arrived from Poland in a fog. Transfers, no tickets. The military registration and enlistment office said that the body was not there yet, and then an hour later they called: "We'll take it." Everything happened very quickly, - the woman recalls.

Posthumously, Serhiy Raileanu was awarded the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree. Today, his grave in Novokayry is actually in the line of fire. Olena was able to visit it only once.

Serhiy was a man of his word and a man of action. He ran his life's marathon honestly, defending his home, his family and his Ukraine until his last breath. Now his name is engraved on a ceiling in Velyka Oleksandrivka - as a symbol of courage that no shelling can erase.

ROSLYAKOV MAKSYM IGOROVICH



Roslyakov Maksym Igorovich was born on February 28, 1994 in the village of Semenivka, Melitopol district, Zaporizhia region. He was educated at Kherson school No. 16. He also studied at the Higher School of Physical Culture, where he received the title of Master of Sports in artistic gymnastics. He worked as an acrobat in circuses in Ukraine and the world (in particular in Georgia, Romania, Moldova, Thailand, Italy and Taiwan), was a finalist in the show "Italy has talent". He joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on January 13, 2023, served in the 22nd separate mechanized brigade as a driver-radiotelephone operator of the unmanned aircraft complexes department of the reconnaissance platoon and a UAV operator with the call sign "Artist". Died on November 11, 2023 near the village of Klishchiivka, Bakhmut district, Donetsk region, as a result of a direct hit by an enemy drone in a dugout. Buried on February 7, 2024 in the city of Kherson on the Alley of Glory.

Maxim grew up with his older brother Yevgeny. Together they were interested in cars, together they went to sports school. Maxim began to do gymnastics at the age of four, and even then it was clear that the boy had a will stronger than steel.

In 2003, the family moved to Kherson so that Maxim could study at the KhVUFK of the Olympic reserve. For this, he had to complete a two-class program in one year. The efforts made brought the desired result - the guy received the title of master of sports in artistic gymnastics and a large number of medals.

After completing his studies, Maxim's sports career transformed into art. He became an acrobat and began performing in circuses in Ukraine and the world. Kryvyi Rih, Georgia, Thailand, Italy, Taiwan – his life turned into endless tours. He reached the final of the show "Italy has talent", conquered the audience in large circuses abroad.

Maxim always remained sincere. His mother, Iryna Anatoliyevna, remembers him as a straightforward and honest person:

- If he didn't like something, he could say it straight to his face. He was not afraid of responsibility for his actions, - says the mother.

02/28/1994 — 11/11/2023

In 2013, Maxim got married, and later his son Dmitry was born. Despite the fact that over time the couple broke up, he remained a caring father, always finding time for his son, bringing gifts and maintaining contact.

A full-scale invasion caught the whole family in Kherson. Maxim at that time was recovering from an injury received at work. When Kherson was liberated, the man was among those who first ran to Freedom Square to meet the Armed Forces of Ukraine. However, later the city became too dangerous due to the constant shelling of Kherson by the Russian army. The family decided to move to Mykolaiv, and it was there, in January 2023, that Maksym received a summons.

The mother recalls that her son quickly decided to defend his native land. His military career began on January 13, 2023.

Maksym ended up in the 22nd separate mechanized brigade (military unit A4718). In memory of his circus past, he received the call sign "Artist". At first, he served as a driver-radio operator, taking the wounded out of the very hell in the Donetsk direction. He brought ammunition and evacuated his comrades under heavy fire in the area of \u200b\u200b Konstantynivka and Klishchiivka.

The mother remembers how he told about terrible battles, where only three of the entire group remained alive, and they dragged the wounded across the fields. Later, Maxim studied to be a drone operator, mastering all types of UAVs. He became part of a combat group that worked at "zero". Three weeks before the tragedy, he was last home, on a short three-day vacation.



- I TOLD HIM: "MAXIM, STAY, DON'T GO." AND HE WAS VERY RESPONSIBLE. HE SAID: "SO WHAT? SO, THIS IS HOW I WAS DESTINED." HE TOLD ME: "I WILL KILL THEM HERE UNTIL THE LAST," - THE MOTHER RECALLS THE LAST MEETING.

Maxim died on the first anniversary of the liberation of Kherson - November 11, 2023. This happened in the afternoon near the village of Klishchiivka, Bakhmut district. An enemy drone hit the dugout where their group was located. A direct hit left no chance. Maxim's body was taken away immediately, but due to severe injuries, a DNA examination was required, which lasted three long months. All this time, the mother lived in anticipation, which is difficult to describe in words.

The hero was buried on February 7, 2024 in Kherson, on the Alley of Glory. It was his will - to rest in the city that he considered his own and which he loved so much.

Maksym Roslyakov was awarded the "Combatant's Cross". The family collected more than 25,000 votes under the petition to award him the title of Hero of Ukraine and is waiting for a fair recognition of his courage.

His son Dmytro is now safe, but he knows - his father was a real Hero, who fulfilled his most important role in life: he became a shield for his country. In a peaceful life, Maksym was used to conquering heights under the dome of the circus, but in the end he chose the most difficult height - the defense of his own land.

SAGANOV ROMAN VOLODYMYROVYCH



He was born on 18 April 1983 in the city of Kherson, Kherson Oblast. There, he graduated from Kherson Secondary School No. 31 and enrolled at the Simferopol Medical College. For personal reasons, he suspended his studies without obtaining a qualification. In April 2023, he volunteered for the Ukrainian Armed Forces and served as a soldier in the 1st Separate Assault Regiment named after Hero of Ukraine Dmytro Kotsyubailo, 'Da Vinci'. He was fatally wounded on 16 August 2023 near the village of Vilshana in the Kupianskyi district of the Kharkiv region. He is buried in the Walk of Fame at the Geologists' Cemetery in Kherson.

Roman Saganov grew up in a warm family environment. He was the eldest child and had a younger brother, Timur, who was born a year and three months after him. The boys got on very well and were extremely close to one another.

"They were like one and the same, always together," recalls his mother, Svitlana Anatoliivna.

She adds that Roman was a surprisingly kind and sensitive child, and was particularly fond of his grandparents. He retained this attitude into adulthood: he always looked after them and helped out whenever needed. He would even put his own affairs on hold to come to the dacha when they needed support.

"ROMA WAS A GOOD STUDENT, GETTING BOTH 'B'S AND 'A'S. HE WAS FASCINATED BY TECHNOLOGY - THAT WAS JUST WHEN THE FIRST COMPUTERS AND MOBILE PHONES WERE APPEARING. AND HE ALSO ENJOYED PLAYING FOOTBALL WITH HIS FRIENDS IN THE YARD," SAYS SVITLANA ANATOLIIVNA.

The boy's mother initially worked as a merchandiser, and later as an administrator, manager and director of various catering establishments in the city. His father was a dental technician and tried to instil in Roman a passion for medicine. However, the boy himself was more drawn to the legal field. So, despite

04/18/1983 — 08/16/2023

his father's advice, he dropped out of medical college and planned to enrol in the law faculty of a university.

Roman put this dream on hold and went to Poland to work, taking a job in the construction industry. Over time, he grew to like life abroad, so he decided to stay there.

The full-scale invasion caught Roman Saganov in his hometown. He had come home the day before for the New Year holidays. He didn't want to leave his loved ones, so he decided to stay in Kherson.

"HE AND HIS BROTHER DIDN'T SO MUCH PROTECT US AS LOOK AFTER US. LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION WAS DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS. ROMAN MOSTLY LIVED WITH HIS GRANDPARENTS AT THEIR DACHA: THE RUSSIAN MILITARY CARRIED OUT SEARCHES THERE TWICE, AND EACH TIME HE WAS FORCED TO HIDE. MIRACULOUSLY, THEY DIDN'T FIND HIM," SAYS HIS MOTHER.

It was only after the liberation of the right bank of the Kherson region that Svitlana Anatoliivna found out: her sons had enlisted in the local territorial defence forces in the very first days of the full-scale war. That was the only thing they had told her. So she still doesn't know the details. Nor does she know about Roman joining the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He enlisted as a volunteer, as he had been deemed unfit for service due to a kidney condition.

From 13 April 2023, Roman Saganov served as an assistant grenadier in the 4th assault section of the 1st assault platoon, 3rd assault company, of military unit A4848. He held the rank of private and went by the call sign Pirate.

Roman told his mother almost nothing about his service, always assuring her: "Everything's fine, everything's alright."



He only occasionally sent photographs, adding optimistic captions such as: "Tired, but unbroken."

'My son always let his actions speak louder than his words. That's why I only found out about the fiercest battles afterwards. But on that occasion, he rang me at one o'clock in the morning and told me he was going "to work" with the lads and would be out of contact for a long time, so I shouldn't worry. But how could I... According to him, they were under heavy fire at those positions.

HE SAID: 'WE'RE MOVING, AND THE GROUND IS SHAKING BENEATH OUR FEET,' SHARES SVITLANA ANATOLIIVNA.

That was the mother's last conversation with her son. On 16 August 2023, Roman Saganov fought his final battle. The soldier was killed whilst carrying out a combat mission near the village of Vilshana in the Kharkiv region as a result of an air raid by the Russian army. He was 40 years old. He is survived by his grandfather, grandmother, mother and brother.

"Once, after a battle, Roman called me and said: 'Mum, say hello to me. If anything happens, it won't be in vain, because I've already sent five or six enemies to the other world. We were fighting, and I saw them fall. If I'm destined to die, I won't go alone – I'll take one of them with me,'" his mother adds.

SVENTUKH OLEKSANDR MYKOLAYOVYCH



Born on June 25, 1984 in Kherson. After graduating from 9 grades of Kherson comprehensive school No. 7, he entered vocational school No. 4 with a degree in welder. After graduation, he worked mainly as a loader in various organizations. On August 1, 2023, he was mobilized into the army, served as a rifleman in the first infantry company of the 144th separate infantry brigade (military unit A4993). He died while performing a combat mission on April 12, 2024 in the village of Georgiyevka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region. Buried in Kherson.

Oleksandr Sventukh was born in Kherson, the city where he spent his entire life. For his mother, Olga Grigorievna, he will forever remain Sashuley - a caring son who was always there and never left her alone with difficulties.

The family lived an ordinary working life, raised two children, Alexander had a younger sister, Tatyana. His parents worked at the Petrovsky plant. When Alexander was still a teenager, his father died, and this was a heavy blow to the family. Since then, Sashko has grown up quickly - he felt responsible for his mother and became her support.

After studying at a vocational school, he worked at the same plant for some time, but quickly realized that this was not his business. "Mom, this is not mine," he said and began to look for himself elsewhere. He worked in a warehouse, was a loader, but quickly got used to it, understood the work and found pleasure in it. After serving in the army, he returned to this business. In the army, he went through a serious selection: he served in Mykolaiv, Odessa, and later in Kyiv, where he ended up in a unit that took part in parades. Tall, stately - almost one meter ninety - he kept his rank well and inspired pride in his family. Later, Oleksandr worked in the plumbing sector - also as a loader, but over time he became the right hand of the manager, in fact a foreman. He was valued for his responsibility, hard work and humanity. "He was very good to me. Everyone loved him: both neighbors and acquaintances," says Olga Grigorivna.

Despite the fact that he did not create his own family, he was very close to his family - his mother, sister Tatyana and nephew. A special place in his life was occupied

06/25/1984 — 04/12/2024



by a white cat with different eyes, which he loved very much. After his death, she stayed with her mother and became a living reminder of her son for her.

OLEKSANDR MET THE FULL-SCALE INVASION IN KHERSON WITH HIS MOTHER. THEY SURVIVED THE OCCUPATION TOGETHER. HE WORKED, HELPED, SUPPORTED HER AND CONSTANTLY WARNED HER: "MOM, STAY HOME, I'LL DO EVERYTHING." THE DAY KHERSON WAS LIBERATED BECAME A MOMENT OF TEARS AND HUGS FOR THEM. "HE CAME RUNNING AND SHOUTED: "MOM, OURS!" WE CRIED TOGETHER, HUGGED...", SHE RECALLS.

Shortly after that, Oleksandr received a summons. He did not tell his mother right away – he did not want to worry her. He joined the army on August 1, 2023. He served as a rifleman in the first infantry company, part of the 144th brigade (military unit A4993). He underwent training abroad – in Poland and France, and was later sent to the Donetsk direction. He almost never talked about the war. Only once did he say: "Mom, don't watch the news. It's hell there."

Oleksandr died on April 12, 2024 while performing a combat mission in the Donetsk region. Together with his comrades, they were going to the position, but came under attack and could not reach it. Due to shelling, the body was only able to be taken away a few days later.

He was buried in his native Kherson. The soldier was 39 years old. He is survived by his mother, sister and nephew.

"HE WAS THE BEST SON. THE MOST EXPENSIVE IN THE WORLD. FOR ME, HE IS ALWAYS ALIVE," SAYS OLGA HRYHORIVNA.



SERENKO DENIS OLEKSIYOVYCH



Serenko Denys Oleksiyovych was born on August 4, 1988 in the city of Kherson, Kherson district, Kherson region. He graduated from 7 classes of Kherson comprehensive school of I-III degrees No. 11 and completed his studies at Kherson comprehensive school of I-III degrees No. 39 "School-Family". He received his basic higher education at the Kherson Economic and Law Institute in the field of training "Economics and Entrepreneurship", specialty - Bachelor in Economic Cybernetics. He studied at the Kherson branch of the "Institute of Postgraduate Education" of the Odessa Marine Training Center, where he received a working qualification - 2nd class motorman.

In the fall of 2023, he joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He defended the state as part of the 95th separate airborne assault brigade of Polissya (military unit A0281), where he held the position of a rifleman. He participated in hostilities in the Kharkiv direction.

Died on December 4, 2023 near the village of Synkivka, Kupyansky district, Kharkiv region, as a result of being hit by an artillery shell. Buried on the Alley of Glory of the Geologists' Cemetery in Kherson. Posthumously awarded the Order "For Courage" 3rd degree.

Denis is the firstborn of the Serenkos. His father, Oleksiy Volodymyrovych, was a foreman at the Khersongorgaz enterprise, and his mother, Svitlana Valentynivna, worked in the trade sector. Despite their busy schedules, they always gladly found time to raise their son, who grew up kind, sincere and intelligent. He had a good character, easily found a common language with others and never let his parents down. And neither in behavior, nor in studies. Denis had many friends, and even a younger sister, Kateryna, whom he loved, supported and protected very much. Svitlana Valentynivna, remembering her son, notes:

"He was a golden child, as they say. They had no problems with him and were only proud of him. He had an angelic nature, in every sense. And now I

08/04/1988 — 12/04/2023



realize and understand this even more. There are few such people in this world - pure in soul, kind, sincere, responsible.”

During his school years, the young man adored English lessons and volleyball, which became a lifelong passion for him. Denis trained diligently, so he soon became a player on the volleyball team of Kherson Comprehensive School No. 53. As part of the team, he repeatedly received sports awards and medals, which his parents still cherish.

After graduating from school, the guy received a higher professional education and, in addition, he mastered many skills and abilities on his own, which later came in handy. In particular, he was interested in construction, so he built not only at home, helped with repairs for relatives and friends, but also tried to work in the construction sector. And later he tried his hand at a new field - SPA. Together with his friend, he mastered the base and secrets of successful SPA procedures and began working first in one of the Kherson institutions, then in Bukovel, Kyiv, Odessa. It was in the latter city that Denis was at the beginning of the full-scale invasion, so he decided not to go to Kherson, since it was risky, but to work and act based on the situation.

In the fall of 2023, the man joined the defense of the state. At first, he was part of the military unit - A2900, because as a cadet he had to undergo basic training. After that, at the end of November 2023, he was transferred as a reserve soldier to military unit A1910, and soon to military unit A0281, where he took up the position of a rifleman. On the eve of this, Denys met his true love, so he planned to get married and create the same friendly and strong family in which he grew up. But it was not destined to happen. After all, the defender died while performing his duty in the Kharkiv direction.

The serviceman was buried in his native Kherson. Not only relatives and friends came to say goodbye to Denys, but also many players from his volleyball teams from school and university. Each of them, still remembering their husband, notes that he was a worthy person and a reliable comrade who always came to the rescue.

The hero is survived by his parents, sister and other relatives.



SOBOLEV OLEKSANDR ANDRIYOVYCH



He was born on August 2, 1994 in Kherson. After graduating from Kherson Secondary School No. 27, he studied at Kherson Higher Professional Commercial School No. 15. He served in the army. He worked in construction, as an administrator in private structures, and served in the National Guard. On January 5, 2023, he voluntarily joined the army, served in the 24th Separate Mechanized Brigade named after King Danylo, was a senior gunner of the grenade launcher platoon of the 2nd mechanized battalion. He died on March 21, 2024 near the settlement of Bohdanivka, Donetsk region. Buried on the Alley of Heroes in Kherson. Awarded the honorary badge of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine "Golden Cross", the badge "War Veteran", the distinction "Golden Lion", the order "Hero's Cross" (posthumously).

Oleksandr Sobolev grew up without a father - he died when the boy was about ten years old. He was raised by his mother, Galina Vasylivna, who worked as a kindergarten teacher. She remembers her son as an active, kind and very athletic boy. Since childhood, Oleksandr was fond of football. At school, physical education was given to him the most: he ran well, played sports, received diplomas and medals. After school, he entered a vocational school, but for a long time did not work in his specialty - he was looking for himself, tried various jobs.

At the age of 18, he was drafted into the army - he served in the railway troops, underwent training in Chernihiv. After returning, he worked in construction, and later - in private structures. Over time, he chose the police service: he worked in a unit of the National Guard.

He met his future wife Svitlana in 2019, she had two sons from a previous marriage. Oleksandr quickly became a close person for them. "At first, he was a friend, and then the son himself asked if he could call him dad," the woman recalls. Later, their daughter Daria was born. According to his wife, Oleksandr was an extremely caring father: "He carried her in his arms, looked after her like a mother. He loved her very much."

08/02/1994 — 03/21/2024

Football remained his passion in adult life. He played with children, went fishing, and loved spending time with his family. Mom remembers that since childhood he was the one who helped others: he read books to grandmothers at the entrance, did not refuse support.

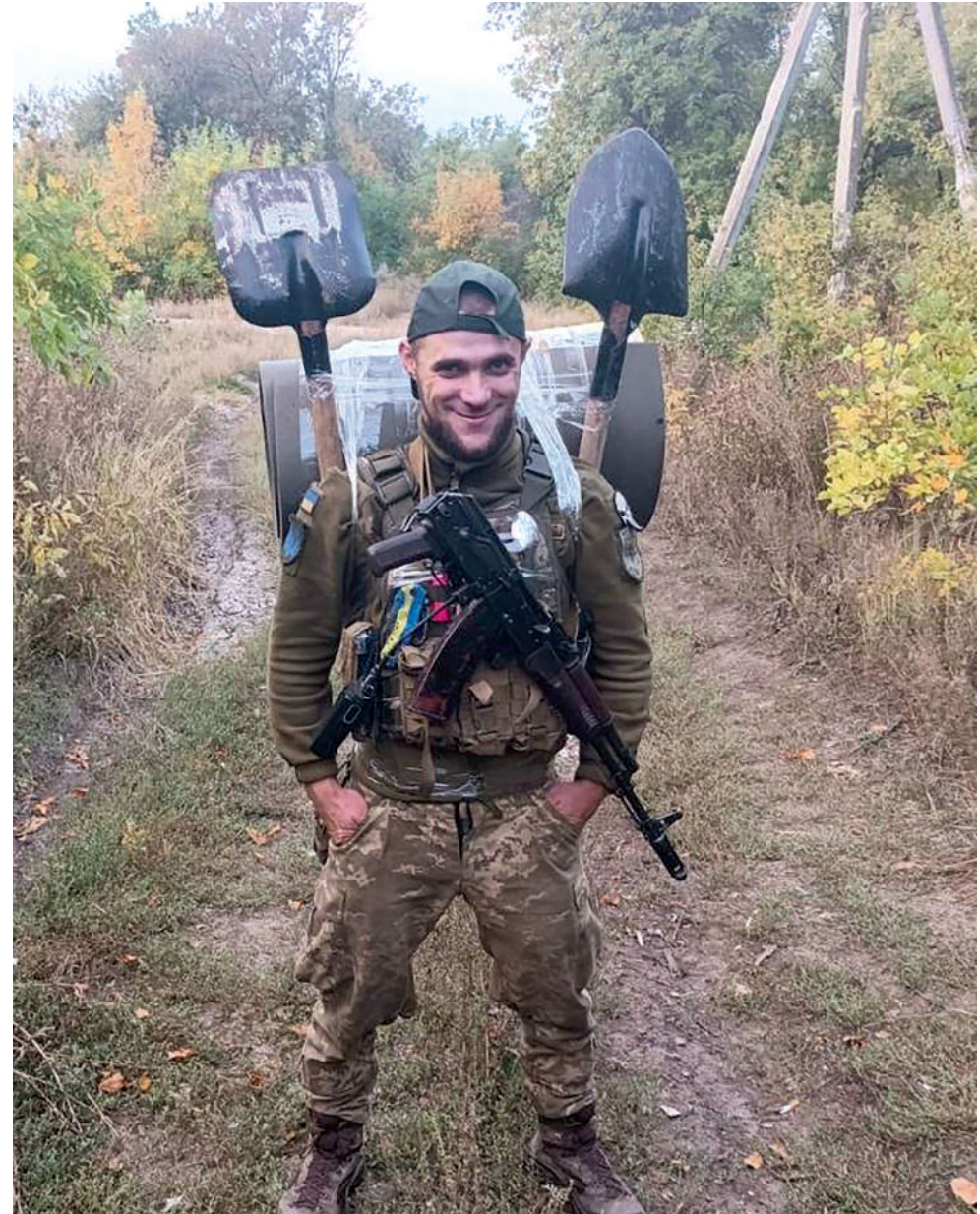
The family met the full-scale invasion in occupied Kherson. They lived there for the entire period of occupation. According to Svitlana, it was a time of fear, uncertainty and constant expectation of liberation. When the Ukrainian military entered the city, joy was mixed with distrust and anxiety for the future.

At the end of 2022, the family evacuated. They settled in the Khmelnytskyi region. There, Oleksandr made a decision that he did not even immediately tell his wife: he went to the military registration and enlistment office himself and signed up as a volunteer. This happened on January 5, 2023.

He served in the 24th separate mechanized brigade named after King Danylo, was a senior soldier-grenade launcher. His comrades remember him as a responsible, reliable and courageous soldier.

“AS SOON AS THERE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY, HE WENT FIRST,” SAYS SVITLANA. OLEKSANDR TRIED TO WRITE FROM THE FRONT EVERY DAY - SHORT MESSAGES: “I AM FINE.”

He last made contact on March 20, and on March 22, 2024, his family received terrible news: he died while performing a combat mission near Bohdanivka in the Donetsk region. Oleksandr was buried in Kherson, on the Alley of Heroes. The soldier was 29 years old. He is survived by his mother, wife, and children. For his mother, he will forever remain a son who “helped everyone and never refused,” for his wife, a husband who knew how to love and be there for them, and for his daughter, a father who has now “become an angel and looks down from heaven.” His life was short, but filled with caring for others. And that is exactly how he is remembered – kind, cheerful, and always the first to lend a helping hand.



TYMOSHENKO ANDRIY VALERIYOVYCH



Born on January 7, 1977 in Kherson. After graduating from Kherson Secondary School of I-III levels, he served in the army, was a border guard. After returning from the army, he received the profession of a mechanic-mechanic at a vocational school. He worked as a driver and taxi driver. In April 2023, he was drafted into the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine by the Tulchyn RTCC. He was a gunner of the 1st mechanized detachment of the 3rd mechanized platoon of the mechanized company of the A2980 military unit, served in the 59th separate mechanized brigade named after Yakov Handzyuk. He died on February 4, 2024 while performing a combat mission near the settlement of Karlivka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region. Buried in Kherson.

Andriy Tymoshenko was born into an ordinary Kherson family. His mother worked at a wholesale base, and his father was a security guard at a service station. He has a brother, Vadim, who now works as a driver in a volunteer organization.

Since childhood, Andriy was fond of cars and motorcycles, which he rode since the age of 13. In adulthood, this hobby grew into a profession. His childhood was calm and happy, he had many friends. After serving in the army and studying at a vocational school, he worked for a short time after his education, but mostly worked as a driver and taxi driver.

WHEN THE FULL-SCALE INVASION BEGAN AND KHERSON WAS OCCUPIED, ANDRIY TYMOSHENKO WAS VERY EMBARRASSED THAT HE COULD NOT HELP. "HE WAS VERY WORRIED, AMONG THE DEAD IN LILAC PARK WERE HIS ACQUAINTANCES. HE KEPT SAYING: "WHY AM I SITTING HERE, DOING NOTHING AND I CAN'T HELP IN ANY WAY", SAYS HIS WIFE, ANNA VALERIYEVNA.

The couple, together with their son Ivan, survived the entire occupation of Kherson, and left after the city was de-occupied, when heavy shelling began.

01/07/1977 — 02/04/2024

Although it was difficult to leave their home, they wanted their son to live in safety. And in April 2023, Andriy Tymoshenko was mobilized into the army. After training in Vinnytsia and Mykolaiv regions, as part of the 59th separate mechanized brigade named after Yakov Handziuk, senior soldier Andriy Tymoshenko served in the Donetsk direction. He was a gunner mechanic. His call sign was "Rast". His wife says that her husband was very hard-pressed by what he had to see in the war. In general, he did not talk much about his service, he did not want to worry his relatives.

Andriy Tymoshenko died on February 4, 2024, while performing a combat mission as a result of the enemy using a suicide drone near the settlement of Karlivka, Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region. He was buried in the Kherson cemetery. The soldier was 47 years old. He is survived by his parents, brother, wife and son.

"WE LIVED TOGETHER FOR 12 YEARS. WE MET WHEN I WAS 26, AND HE WAS 36. HE WAS VERY KIND, ESPECIALLY TO HIS SON. HE WAS VERY PROTECTIVE OF HIM. HE WAS VERY PROUD OF HIM. THIS IS HIS ONLY CHILD, AND HIS SON WAS BORN WHEN HE WAS ALREADY AN ADULT. AND MY SON AND I ARE VERY PROUD OF HIM, FOR US HE IS A HERO WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US, FOR HIS COUNTRY," SAYS HIS WIFE ANNA VALERIYEVNA.



FEDORENKO ILYA SERHIYOVYCH



He was born on 15 January 1989 in Szeged, in southern Hungary, where his father was stationed. He subsequently grew up in the city of Kherson, in the Kherson region. There, he studied at Kherson Specialised School No. 54 and the Kherson Lyceum of Journalism, Business and Law of the Kherson City Council. He then enrolled at the Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics, specialising in 'Antitrust Management'. He was a participant in the Revolution of Dignity on Maidan in Kyiv. In July 2022, he volunteered to join the 46th Separate Podil Airborne Brigade. He was fatally wounded on 8 August 2023 near the village of Robotyne in the Polohivsky District of the Zaporizhzhia Region. He is buried in the Walk of Fame at the cemetery in the village of Petropavlivska Borshchahivka, Bucha District, Kyiv Region.

He was awarded the Order 'For Courage' the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine's 'Steel Cross' distinction, the 'Honour. Glory. State' (awarded during his lifetime), the Order of Bohdan Khmelnytsky, 3rd class, and the Order of the Hero's Cross (posthumously).

Ilya Fedorenko grew up in a close-knit and loving family. He had an older brother, Vyacheslav, and a younger sister, Irina. His parents ran their own business – making furniture. The family was large, with many relatives who often gathered around a long festive table. Their home was steeped in many customs, and one of the most cherished traditions was his grandfather's winemaking: every year he would make wine and dedicate a separate batch to the birth of each child.

"A bottle of wine was set aside for Ilya too. It was opened when he turned 30 – at our wedding. This family tradition has continued for subsequent generations: our daughter has her own wine, made before the war," says Ilya's wife, Yulia.

Ilya met his future wife in 2016, after moving from Kyiv to Kherson. He lived and worked there after completing his higher education. He found his niche in the restaurant business: he worked as both a manager and a restaurant director.

In his spare time, Ilya enjoyed sport – he went for a run in the mornings and visited the gym. He also had another passion – he was very tech-savvy and loved fixing gadgets. It was actually by helping her set up her phone that Yulia's

01/15/1989 — 08/08/2023

communication with Ilya began, which later developed into a relationship. He proposed in Egypt. It happened during a scuba dive.

‘Usually practical and reserved, he mustered all his romantic side and made an incredible gesture. At first, I didn’t even realise what was happening. We went underwater. Ilya showed me the ring, and I thought he’d just found it. It was only when the divers signalled that it was a proposal that I realised what was going on. It was so unexpected and very romantic,’ recalls his wife.

In 2019, the couple got married. Their wedding was in Ukrainian style – in embroidered shirts. This was particularly important to Ilya, as he was a patriot, held strong civic views and took part in the Revolution of Dignity on Maidan in Kyiv.

In 2020, the couple welcomed their daughter Solomiya.

“ILYA HAD ALWAYS DREAMED OF HAVING THREE CHILDREN, BUT HE DIDN’T GET THE CHANCE... HE WAS A WONDERFUL FATHER; HE LOVED, OR RATHER ADORED, SOLOMIYA DEEPLY. THERE WAS AN INCREDIBLY STRONG BOND BETWEEN THEM. HER VERY FIRST WORD AT NINE MONTHS WAS ‘DADDY’, WHEREAS SHE DIDN’T SAY ‘MUMMY’ UNTIL SHE WAS TWO. AND OUR DAUGHTER LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE HER FATHER. YOU KNOW, WHEN SHE WAS BORN, I WAS SAD THAT SHE ONLY HAD ILYA’S FEATURES, AND IT SEEMED AS THOUGH SHE HAD NOTHING OF ME. BUT NOW, LOOKING AT HER, I REALISE: A PART OF HIM LIVES ON IN HER; SHE IS HIS CONTINUATION. “AND ALTHOUGH SOLOMIYA WAS VERY YOUNG WHEN ILYA PASSED AWAY, SHE REMEMBERS HIM AND MISSES HIM,” SAYS YULIA.



Following the full-scale invasion in April 2022, the family left the temporarily occupied city of Kherson for Odesa. Having settled the family in their new home, Illia Fedorenko decided to volunteer for the Armed Forces of Ukraine. From July 2022, he served with the 46th Podillia Airborne Brigade.

Illia received specialist training abroad in the UK. Upon returning to Ukraine, he also underwent training in Odesa and was awarded the initial officer rank of second lieutenant. Initially, the soldier was deployed in the Kherson sector, helping to liberate Kherson, and later in the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia sectors.

“HIS COMRADES HELD HIM IN THE HIGHEST REGARD AND HEHEDED HIS WORDS. AFTER SUSTAINING A BACK INJURY IN THE DONETSK SECTOR, WHEN THEY WERE LITERALLY CARRYING THE LADS ON THEIR BACKS, ILYA COULD HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED ON MEDICAL GROUNDS. BUT HE REFUSED. HE SAID: ‘I HAVE CHILDREN HERE – YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED. I NEED TO TRAIN THEM,’ AND HE STAYED,” HIS WIFE NOTES.

Ilya Fedorenko was killed on 8 August 2023 whilst carrying out a combat mission near the village of Robotine in the Zaporizhzhia region. The day before, on 7 August, Yulia had spoken to her husband until late in the evening – they were planning his leave.

A portrait of the soldier has been erected at the village council of Petropavlivska Borshchahivka. He was 34 years old. He is survived by his father, mother, brother, sister, wife and daughter.

“Ilya was the epitome of masculine character. He was determined and stubborn, had his own opinion on everything, and it was impossible to convince him otherwise. He also stood out for his bravery and courage. He had a ‘white ticket’ and could have avoided service, but he made a conscious choice: to join the army, to defend his homeland and to protect his family,” says Yulia.

FILOV YEVGENY SERHIYOVYCH



He was born on July 28, 2000 in the village of Velyka Lepetykha, Kakhovka district, Kherson region. He studied at school No. 2, then entered Kherson State University at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, where he chose the specialty "Methodology of tourist and sports and mass work". He worked in the park "Kherson Fortress", where he was the head of the amusement park. From the first days of the full-scale invasion, he voluntarily joined the defense of the country. At first, as part of the 98th battalion of the Azov-Dnipro Military District, he performed combat missions in the Zaporizhia region. Later, as part of the 1st mechanized battalion of the 3rd OShBr, he participated in the defense of Bakhmut, fierce battles in Klischiivka in the Donetsk region, after which he was transferred to the MANPADS platoon. Junior sergeant with the call sign "Filya" died on March 8, 2024 as a result of enemy shelling near the city of Avdiivka, Donetsk region. Buried in Odessa at the Western cemetery.

Awarded the badges "Steel Cross" and "War Veteran", as well as the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree (posthumously).

Yevgeny Filyev was born into a large family. His mother worked in a store and after divorcing his father, she raised four children alone. Yevgeny has two sisters, Elizaveta and Anastasia, and a brother, Yaroslav. Yevgeny grew up in a family where they learned to support each other and help without unnecessary words.

"Since his school years, he was active and persistent: he played football, went on hiking trips, dreamed of mountains. His big dream was to conquer Hoverla - and he did it together with the school group. This trait of seeing things through to the end stayed with him for the rest of his life," says Yevgeny's mother, Tatyana Mykolaivna.

After school, Yevgeny entered Kherson State University, majoring in physical education and tourism. He combined his studies with work: he understood that it was difficult for his mother, so he tried to help. He worked with children — he led groups, and was involved in tourism. According to his mother, he was "unfailing":

07/28/2000 — 03/08/2024

if necessary, he worked, if necessary, he helped at home or in the garden, he never divided matters into “I want” and “I don’t want.”

The full-scale invasion changed everything. From the first days of the war, Yevgeny voluntarily went to defend the country. He didn’t even tell his mother about it — he only confessed to his sister, because he didn’t know how to tell the person closest to him. Together with his friends, he left Kherson to study and joined the army.

HE SERVED IN THE 3RD SEPARATE ASSAULT BRIGADE. HE WAS A JUNIOR SERGEANT, A DRONE OPERATOR, AND DEPUTY COMMANDER OF A COMBAT VEHICLE. HIS COMRADES CALLED HIM BY HIS CALL SIGN — “FILYA,” DERIVED FROM HIS LAST NAME. IN THE WAR, HE REMAINED THE SAME AS IN LIFE: RESPONSIBLE, OPEN, READY TO SUPPORT OTHERS.

On March 8, 2024, Yevhen Filov died near Avdiivka in the Donetsk region. He was only 23 years old. His mother learned about his death from her daughter — the news came in the morning, like a blow that could not be prepared for. He was buried in Odessa, at the Western Cemetery. The soldier was 23 years old.

FOR HIS MOTHER, HE FOREVER REMAINED THE BEST SON. SHE REMEMBERS HIS LAUGHTER - SINCERE, LOUD, SUCH THAT “IT STILL SEEMS TO RESONATE.” “HE WAS ALWAYS POSITIVE, DID NOT LOSE FAITH, EVEN IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS. HE WAS A CARING BROTHER - HE PLAYED WITH THE YOUNGER ONES, HELPED, SUPPORTED THEM. HE MANAGED TO BECOME A LOVING UNCLE: HE WAS HAPPY ABOUT THE BIRTH OF HIS NIECE, ALTHOUGH HE SAW HER ONLY THROUGH THE SCREEN,” SAYS TETYANA NIKOLAEVNA.

After his death, his mother, brother and two sisters remained. And the memory – of a boy who knew how to enjoy life, loved his family and without hesitation stood up for the defense of the country.



KHABLOV ANDRIY IVANOVICH



Andriy Ivanovich Khablov, call sign “Dnepr”, was born on November 10, 1985 in the city of Kherson, Kherson region. He studied at Kherson secondary school No. 45. He graduated from the Kherson Professional Machine-Building Lyceum and the Kherson National Technical University, majoring in mechanical engineering.

He joined the ranks of the defenders in March 2023 and defended the state as part of the 22nd separate mechanized brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He had the rank of junior lieutenant and held the position of commander of the 2nd mechanized platoon of the 2nd mechanized company of the 1st mechanized battalion of military unit A4718.

Died on December 19, 2023 as a result of an FPV drone attack while performing a combat mission near the village of Klishchiivka, Bakhmut district, Donetsk region. Posthumously awarded the Order “For Courage” of the 3rd degree, the “Combatant's Cross” award, and the “Honor and Memory” breastplate.

Andriy is a person who is remembered with sadness and at the same time with a warm smile. After all, his family and friends remember him as a man with a big and sincere heart, cheerful, kind, reliable. All these qualities were carefully raised in him by his father Ivan Grigorovich and mother Valentina Vasylivna. The guy always treated them with respect and appreciated every moment together. He also had an older sister Svetlana, with whom, despite the age difference, he easily found a common language.

In childhood, he was very active, loved playing football, loved outdoor recreation and tourism, which remained in his adult life. And at school and lyceum he studied diligently and showed interest in exact sciences, although he had a creative nature and drew well. He chose a technical profession for his future - a mechanical engineer, and having mastered it, he went to gain experience first at LLC “ALPLA UKR”. Later he got a job at the Odessa Polymer Products Plant, where he became a production manager. Since the husband was from Kherson, who loved his city very much, he did not move to Odessa completely. He built a

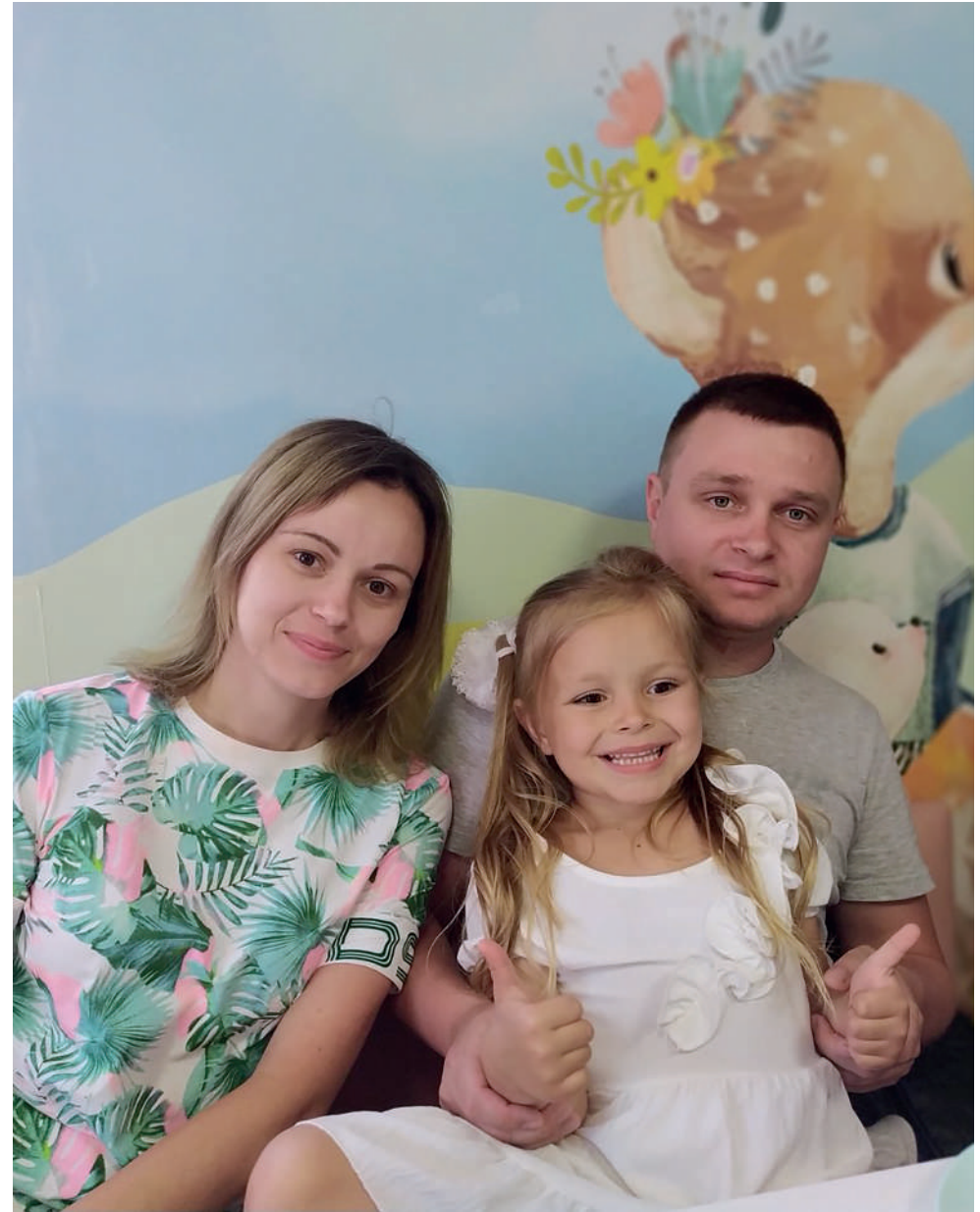
11/10/1985 — 12/19/2023

work schedule in such a way that he would work one week and be at home with his family the next week.

Andriy got married in 2015. In marriage with his beloved Anna, a year later his daughter Milana was born. He loved to spend his leisure time with her at his parents' dacha, where the husband built a lot with his own hands. There they fished, played and enjoyed the nature of the Dnieper, in whose honor the call sign Andriy was later chosen. The wife recalls: "He was a wonderful husband and father. So kind and caring. Also very responsible and balanced, because he weighed every decision before doing something."

When the full-scale invasion began, the man and his family participated in pro-Ukrainian rallies and boldly proved to uninvited guests that they were not expected in Kherson. Later, with his wife and daughter, he left for Odessa, where he waited for the liberation of his city, because he was worried about his parents and his wife and daughter. And since he had dreamed of becoming a military man since childhood, like his father, but could not due to health, he decided to do it at a time when the country needed protection. Soon he volunteered to join the ranks of the Armed Forces. Andriy did not have the appropriate experience, so he first studied for two months at the Lviv Academy, after which he independently chose the Mykolaiv brigade, which would be in his native South, but everything turned out differently and he was sent to the Donetsk direction. There he became a commander who was respected for his humane attitude towards his comrades and his ability to rally the team, protect its interests and support it. Even in his last mission, Andriy could not go due to his health, because he had an official sick leave. However, he said that it was wrong for his guys, among whom there were many new soldiers, to take risks and go on a mission without an officer. So he also went with them and, unfortunately, could not return. After completing the combat mission, the guys loaded onto an infantry fighting vehicle and were supposed to leave, but at that moment their car was hit by an enemy fire. The defender was buried in the city of Odesa on the Alley of Heroes of the Western Cemetery. A banner with information about Andriy can also be found in Shevchenko Park in Odessa.

He is survived by his parents, sister, wife, and daughter.



CHEBOTARYOV VLADISLAV OLEGOVICH



Born on March 19, 1997 in the city of Dzhankoy, in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. He lived in the village of Syvash, Genichesk district, Kherson region, where he studied at Syvash secondary school of grades I-III. He continued his studies at Higher Vocational School No. 17 in Genichesk, specializing in "Construction and operation of buildings and structures". Having received a construction education, he moved to work in Kherson. In 2021, he signed a contract for military service, the military unit in which he served was located in the city of Pervomaisk, Mykolaiv region. With the beginning of the full-scale invasion in 2022, he joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. As part of the 2nd rifle division of the 3rd rifle platoon of the 1st rifle company of the 2nd rifle battalion of the military unit A0989, he fought in the Kharkiv and Donetsk directions. Rifleman, junior sergeant Vladislav Chebotaryov died on February 28, 2024 while performing a combat mission near the settlement of Hryhorivka, Bakhmut district, Donetsk region. He is buried at the Balabaniv cemetery in the city of Mykolaiv.

Vladislav Chebotaryov's life as a child was not easy. His father left the family when he was 5 years old, and his mother died when the boy was 14. Vladislav was raised by his grandmother Nina, while his sister Dasha was taken under the care of his grandfather. They lived nearby, in neighboring houses. He spent his childhood on the shores of the Sea of Azov - in the village of Syvash, Genichesk district, Kherson region. The family was engaged in fishing, and the children helped adults from an early age. After receiving professional education in Genichesk, Vladislav moved to Kherson and went to work to be able to help his grandmother and sister financially. He did not shy away from any work - he worked on the sand alluvium. And at this time he met his future wife - Liliya, later they got married, they had a son, Timofey, who is now 8 years old.

"Vlad was a very interesting person. And he had a pro-Ukrainian position, he was a patriot. In 2013, he really wanted to go to the capital to the Maidan. But we

03/19/1997 — 02/28/2024

had just started dating then, I was very worried about him, I talked him out of it. Since 2013-2014, he had a position to give his life for Ukraine,” says Vladislav’s wife Liliya Shuruba.

When the Great War began, Vladislav served under contract in a military unit in the Mykolaiv region, together with his comrades they were sent first to the Kharkiv direction, and then to the Donetsk direction. He had the call sign "Itadori" because he was fond of anime.

"THE SERVICE WAS VERY DIFFICULT, HE WAS CONSTANTLY AT POSITIONS "AT ZERO". HIS COMRADES SAID THAT HE WAS SUCH A RELIABLE PERSON, HE WAS ALWAYS READY FOR ANY TASKS, HE NEVER REFUSED A REQUEST. IF THEY ASK: "WHO CAN TAKE THE WOUNDED?", HE ANSWERS: "ME", IF SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE REPLACED, THEN ALSO - "ME", AND SO ON IN EVERYTHING. ALWAYS READY TO COME, HELP, SUPPORT. HE WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO GO TO THAT POSITION, HE WAS ASKED TO BE REPLACED, AND THERE HE DIED. THE GUYS HANDED OVER THE FLAG OF THEIR BRIGADE TO THEIR SON - AND IT IS VERY SIGNIFICANT FOR US", - SAID LILIYA SHURUBA.

Vladislav Chebotaryov was mortally wounded on February 28, 2024, while performing a combat mission near the settlement of Hryhorivka in the Donetsk region. The soldier was 26 years old. He is survived by his wife, son Timofey, and sister Darya.

"WHEN VLAD DIED, TIMOFEY SAID: 'WHEN I GROW UP, I WILL BECOME A SOLDIER AND AVENGE MY FATHER,'" SAYS LILIYA SHUBINA.

She wants Vladislav’s portrait to be installed on the Walk of Fame in Velyka Oleksandrivka, Beryslasky district, Kherson region, so that his son can visit his father, remembering that he is a hero who gave his life for his homeland.



CHORNYI SERHIY MYKOLAYOVYCH



Born on October 28, 1983 in the village of Khrestivka, Chaplyn district, Kherson region. He studied at Khrestiv secondary school, which he graduated in 2001. After that, he took courses from the employment center and worked in various fields, including as a builder, and for some time as a sports instructor in the village council.

In February 2023, he joined the defense of the Motherland. He served in the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as part of the 21st separate mechanized brigade (military unit A4689). He was a scout of the reconnaissance department of the reconnaissance platoon of the 3rd mechanized battalion. He participated in hostilities in the Odessa and Mykolaiv regions, and later in the Donetsk direction.

Died on December 7, 2023 while performing a combat mission near the settlement of Terny, Donetsk region, as a result of enemy mortar shelling. Buried on December 22, 2023 in the city of Pavlohrad, Dnipropetrovsk region.

Serhiy grew up in a rural family. His father Mykola worked as a driver, his mother Nataliya was a commodity analyst. He has an older sister Lyudmila, with whom they were very close, shared secrets and supported each other throughout their lives.

“We shared everything with him. I knew all his secrets, and he knew mine,” recalls his sister.

Since childhood, Serhiy was kind, sincere and open to people. He is remembered as a person who always strived for independence. Even as a child, he asked not to accompany him to kindergarten - he wanted to do everything himself. At the same time, he remained very sensitive: if he felt that he had offended someone, he would definitely apologize.

“If he did something wrong, he would definitely come in the morning and say: ‘Mommy, I’m sorry,’” says Natalia.

He easily found a common language with people – regardless of age or origin. He had many friends, was sociable and at the same time modest. Sports occupied

28.10.1983 — 07.12.2023

a special place in his life. He loved football the most – he played for village teams, trained, lived this game. He even worked as a sports instructor, because he wanted to convey his love for an active lifestyle to others. “Football was everything to him. Even when his legs hurt, he still went to play,” says his mother.

Serhiy read a lot, was especially fond of history. He had a good memory, was interested in the events of the past, tried to understand the world more deeply.

A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS LIFE WAS OCCUPIED BY LOVE FOR ANIMALS. HE COULD NOT PASS BY ABANDONED CATS OR DOGS – HE BROUGHT THEM HOME, LOOKED AFTER THEM, SAVED THEM FROM BAD WEATHER. “HE DRAGGED ALL THE CATS HOME. WE JOKED THAT HE WAS OUR “CAT’S FATHER,” - THE RELATIVES RECALL WITH A SMILE.

Serhiy's life was filled with work and care for his loved ones. He went to work as much as he could, helping his parents. His support during the occupation of the Kherson region was especially important. “If it weren't for him, we wouldn't have survived that time,” - says his mother about the period of occupation.

On the eve of the full-scale invasion, Serhiy went to work in the Odessa region. When the war began, he remained in the territory controlled by Ukraine. In December 2022, he received a summons and, despite hearing problems, which had previously caused his unfitness for service, he consciously decided to join the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Initially, he underwent training in the sniper field. He passed a difficult selection, overcame several stages of training that required significant physical endurance. However, at the final stage, due to a knee injury, he was not allowed to continue his training. After that, Serhiy was transferred to a reconnaissance

unit. At first, he served in the south of Ukraine - in the Odessa and Mykolaiv regions, and later, in the summer of 2023, his unit was transferred to the east, where he performed combat missions in the Donetsk direction.

The service of a reconnaissance unit required endurance, silent concentration and inner strength. He rarely got in touch, but always let his family know that he was alive. “He called when we went to the positions and when we left. Even at five in the morning he could call so that I knew he was back,” says his sister.

HIS COMRADES REMEMBER HIM AS A RELIABLE, BALANCED AND RESPONSIBLE FIGHTER. HE NEVER COMPLAINED ABOUT DIFFICULTIES, ALWAYS SUPPORTED OTHERS. HE KNEW HOW TO CALM AND ENCOURAGE. SERHIY SINCERELY LOVED PEOPLE. “HE EVEN BOUGHT AND DISTRIBUTED SWEETS TO CHILDREN THERE, AT THE FRONT. PEOPLE LOVED HIM,” SAYS LYUDMILA.

On December 7, 2023, Serhiy died while performing a combat mission as a result of mortar shelling. He was 40 years old. “I had a dream before that that he was calling me... I realized then that something had happened,” says his mother through tears.

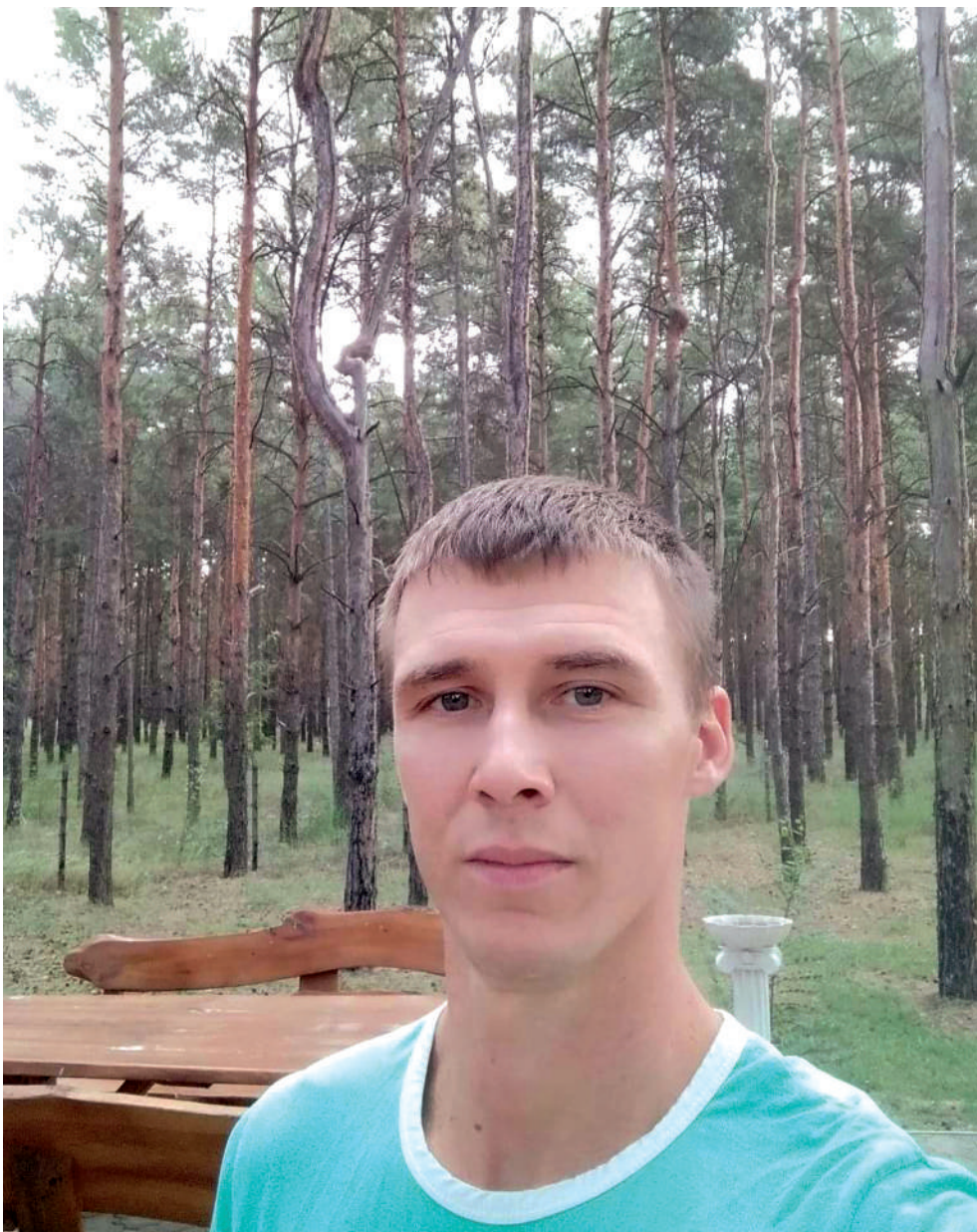
The farewell to the Hero took place on December 22 in Pavlohrad. Due to the occupation of his native village, his parents were not able to be with their son right away – this loss was especially painful for them...

THE DEFENDER IS SURVIVED BY HIS MOTHER, FATHER, SISTER AND HER FAMILY. “MY BROTHER WAS OPEN AND LOVED LIFE VERY MUCH. I STILL CAN’T BELIEVE THAT I WILL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN...”, SAYS LYUDMILA.

Serhiy never returned to the house where his parents were waiting... Now his home is in the hearts and memories of his relatives...



SHAROV OLEKSIY SERHIYOVYCH



He was born on April 9, 1990 in Oleshki, Kherson region. After graduating from Kostogryziv secondary school, he continued his studies at the Kherson Maritime Vocational College of the Fishing Industry. He received his higher education at the Kherson State Maritime Academy. After studying, he worked for some time by profession - he went to sea, later - he worked as a designer in an advertising agency. At the beginning of the full-scale invasion, he was abroad - he worked in Poland. He returned to Ukraine and in the first days of the war voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He was a soldier of the 24th separate mechanized brigade, fought in the Luhansk direction. In 2022, he was captured, where he was for almost two years. He died on January 24, 2024 in the Belgorod region of the Russian Federation. The plane carrying prisoners of war for the planned exchange was shot down. He was supposed to be exchanged, but instead his body was brought home. He was buried in Kherson.

Alexey Sharov's childhood was spent in a simple, hardworking family. His mother worked on a collective farm, his father was a tractor driver. The family had three children: two daughters, Valentina and Yevgenia, and the youngest, Alexey.

He grew up in love and harmony. He adored his older sister, who was ten years older, and he had friendly, almost friendly relations with his middle sister – the age difference between them was small. “We had a very friendly family, the children never quarreled,” recalls his mother, Tatyana Nikolaevna.

Since childhood, Alexey had a calm character and “golden hands”. He loved working with wood – he carved various things, finding in this both a hobby and a way of self-expression. He studied at a school in the village of Kostogryzove, and after graduating from it he entered a vocational school in Kherson. Later he continued his studies at the Kherson Maritime Academy.

After studying, Oleksiy went sailing. But due to health problems he was forced to change his profession. Returning to the shore, he found himself in the advertising business: he worked at an agency where he was engaged in the

04/09/1990 — 01/24/2024

manufacture of signs - he cut out letters, numbers, created designs. He did well, the work brought a stable income.

For some time, Oleksiy worked abroad - in Poland. But when the full-scale invasion began, he did not stay away. After February 25, 2022, he returned to Ukraine - first to Lviv, and from there he went to Yavoriv, where he voluntarily joined the army. "On February 26, he resigned from his job in Poland and voluntarily went to Ukraine. I arrived at the Yavoriv military registration and enlistment office, gave my car to the anti-terrorist forces and went to study myself," says Tetyana Mykolayivna.

He served in the missile forces, was a driver - he delivered ammunition. He carried out combat missions in the Luhansk region. It was there that he was captured. He spent two years in captivity.

MOM REMEMBERS TALKING TO HER SON'S BROTHER, WHO WAS IN CAPTIVITY WITH HIM: "HE SAID THAT OLEKSIY WAS A GOOD GUY, HE HELD HIS OWN, TALKED ABOUT HIS FAMILY, SAID THAT HE LOVED US ALL VERY MUCH."

On January 24, 2024, it became known about the tragedy - a plane carrying Ukrainian prisoners of war for exchange was shot down in the Belgorod region. Oleksiy Sharov was also on board. At the time of his death, the soldier was only 33 years old. He is survived by his parents and sisters.

FOR TETYANA MYKOLAYIVNA, HE WILL FOREVER REMAIN A CARING SON. "HE NEVER OFFENDED ANYONE. HE LOVED ME VERY MUCH, HE ALWAYS HELPED ME. EVEN WHEN HE WENT TO POLAND, HE CONSTANTLY SENT MONEY, HE WANTED ME TO MOVE TO HIM," SHE SAYS.

He did not have his own family, but the most precious ones remained - his parents and sisters. And the memory of a person who knew how to love, work and without hesitation returned home to protect him.



SHATILO MYKOLA ANATOLIYOVYCH



Mykola Anatoliyovych Shatilo was born on December 2, 1982, in the village of Muzykovka, Bilozerskyi District, Kherson Oblast. After finishing school, he chose a trade—he worked as a lathe operator and later became a welder. He was very skilled with his hands and was the backbone of his family. In March 2023, he voluntarily enlisted in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He served on the Zaporizhzhia front. On January 22, 2024, he sustained a fatal wound near the village of Mala Tokmachka in the Polohivsky District of the Zaporizhzhia Oblast. Mykola Shatilo was buried in his homeland. He was posthumously awarded a state honor for his bravery while performing his military duty. Translated with DeepL.com (free version)

From childhood, Mykola was calm, obedient and well-balanced. His mother, Raisa Ivanivna, remembers him as a quiet, unassuming lad: “Well, he was so obedient, well-mannered – he led a very steady life.”

After school, Mykola chose a trade. In 2004, he started working at an electric locomotive factory, where he trained as a lathe operator. He initially achieved a second-class qualification, and later a third. He worked as a lathe operator until 2008. Work became the main focus of his life.

Later, he took up welding. He had “golden hands” – he could make anything needed around the house: gates, doors, a gazebo, various household items. He did everything himself, without any outside help.

He was the pillar of the family. After his father’s untimely death in 2016, he supported his loved ones even more, helping his mother and sister, and never turning down his neighbours. He is remembered as a man who always responded to requests for help.

“HE HELPED AS BEST HE COULD – HIS SISTER, US, AND THE NEIGHBOURS. HE NEVER TURNED ANYONE DOWN,” RECALLS MYKOLA’S MOTHER. HE HAD A FAMILY OF HIS OWN – THOUGH THE MARRIAGE WAS SHORT-LIVED AND EVENTUALLY ENDED IN DIVORCE.

12/02/1982 — 01/22/2024

Mykola was not outspoken or vocal about his beliefs, nor did he take part in political events. But when full-scale war broke out, he made his choice.

On 29 March 2023, Mykola Shatilo voluntarily enlisted in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He served in the Zaporizhzhia sector, carrying out combat missions alongside his comrades. According to his family, he spent around eight months of service in the ranks.

For his bravery and fulfilment of his military duty, Mykola Shatilo was posthumously awarded a state honour. The award was received by his mother.

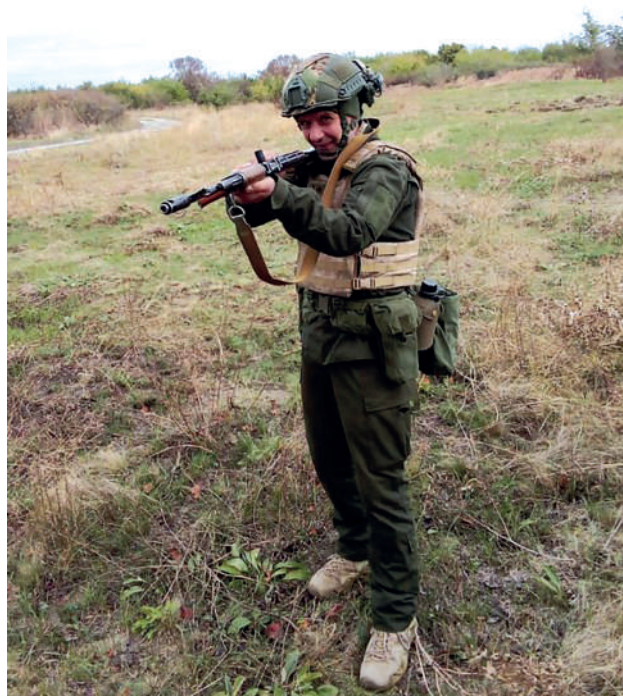
“THEY PRESENTED HIM WITH THE AWARD AFTER HIS DEATH - WE RECEIVED IT AS A MEMENTO OF HIM,” SAYS HIS MOTHER, RAISA IVANIVNA.

On 22 January 2024, near the village of Mala Tokmachka in the Polohivsky district of the Zaporizhzhia region, Mykola sustained a fatal wound. Four days later, his family were informed of his death. His body was brought home and buried in his native land.

Mykola Shatilo was 41 years old.

He is survived by his mother, brother and sister. To them, he will forever remain someone they could rely on, a quiet pillar of support and a part of the family.

He did not seek fame nor did he speak in grand terms. He simply took up arms at the right moment and stood up to defend. That is how they remember him – calm, hard-working and dependable.



SHEVCHUK VIKTOR VOLODYMYROVYCH



Viktor Volodymyrovych Shevchuk was born on April 12, 1971, in the village of Posad-Pokrovske, Bilozerskyi District, Kherson Oblast. He attended a boarding school in the Beryslav District, after which he trained as a machine operator at the Velyka Lepetykha Technical School in Kherson Oblast. After completing his studies, he served in the military. He spent nearly five years in military service in Murmansk, and then returned to his native village. Unable to find work in military units, he worked in telecommunications and was involved in gardening. When the war began, the family remained in Posad-Pokrovske for a while, and then moved to the Khmelnytskyi region. Viktor voluntarily enlisted in the army. He served in Khmelnytskyi, in a missile unit (air defense), and then decided to join combat units. On January 23, 2024, he was at a position near the village of Ivanivske in the Bakhmut District of Donetsk Oblast, where contact with him was lost. The body of Viktor Shevchuk remains buried under the rubble in the occupied territory. However, it is important to his wife that, once the occupation ends, she will be able to bring her husband's body home and bury him in his native land, alongside his family.

He grew up in a large family with ten children. He was the eighth child. He studied at a boarding school in the Beryslav district, after which he trained as a machine operator at the Velyka Lepetykha College in the Kherson region.

After completing his studies, he did his compulsory military service. Subsequently, Viktor served in Murmansk for about five years. His wife, Lidiya, worked for a time as an accountant at this military unit. However, the climatic conditions there made life difficult. She eventually returned to her home village of Posad-Pokrovske. After some time, Viktor also left his post in Murmansk and returned home. Following cutbacks in the military units, he was unable to secure a post in the Ukrainian armed forces, so he moved into civilian work.

He worked in various fields: in the communications service, maintaining telephone networks, and later spent over 11 years working in horticulture in the village of Myrne in the Mykolaiv region.

“Trees and the earth – that’s what he loved,” recalls his wife Lydia.

In 2014, Viktor wanted to go to Maidan, but he injured his leg and didn't go.

Over the years, he went abroad to work, notably to Russia. Together with his eldest son Serhiy, he worked to earn money for a home for his son.

After the full-scale war began, the family remained in Posad-Pokrovskiy.

"The village was heavily shelled; it was in the line of fire. A shell also hit our house. We lived in the cellar for three weeks. Me, my mum, my 11-year-old niece and my husband. Then he sent the family with soldiers to Mykolaiv; they were evacuated. And he sent me off the next day because I was looking for my documents. He stayed behind in the village for a while, then left too and came to collect us," says Lidiya.

After the forced move to the Khmelnytskyi region, Viktor voluntarily joined the army. He served in Khmelnytskyi, in an air defence missile unit, and spent about a year at training grounds and on exercises.

He later decided to join the combat units. The reasons for this decision were personal events – the death of his second son, a relative being wounded in the army, and his home in Posad-Pokrovskiy being destroyed.

Viktor served near Bakhmut, about a kilometre from the town. He was the commander of a grenade launcher squad.

His call sign was Batya. His comrades remember him as a very resilient and strong fighter.

"There were air strikes – the lads scattered, leaving their ammunition behind. He gathered it all up and carried it; he could haul 30–50 kg at a time," his comrades told Viktor's wife.

Viktor supported his men and nominated his comrades for awards, but he himself never received any. He applied three times for combatant status, but confirmation never came.

Before setting out on his final combat mission, Viktor could have gone for treatment due to a flare-up of his stomach ulcer, but he refused.

"I'LL GO OUT ONE MORE TIME - I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE LADS ON THEIR OWN," HE EXPLAINED TO HIS WIFE AT THE TIME.

On 23 January 2024, he was at his post near the village of Ivanivske in the Bakhmut district of Donetsk region. Drone operators warned of an impending shelling, but the unit remained in position.

During the battle, heavy shelling began. Contact with Viktor was lost.

Lydia contacted the unit's command to enquire about the possibility of evacuation. She was told that his comrades had only managed to retrieve his rucksack and phone. His body remained under the rubble and it was impossible to recover it without heavy machinery.

Later, Lydia went through the legal process of having his death officially recognised and received a death certificate.

At the military unit, she was advised to be prepared for the likelihood that her husband's body might never be recovered from the position due to the occupation of the region. Despite this, it was important to Lydia that, once the region was liberated, she would be able to bring him home and bury him in his native soil, alongside his family. She says that for her, this is not just a matter of saying goodbye, but of bringing Viktor back to where his life began.

Lydia recalls that even before his death, they had conversations that she did not fully grasp at the time. Victor spoke of the cemetery near his parents' home and pointed out the spot:

"WHEN THEY BRING ME BACK, YOU'LL BURY ME THERE," HE SAID, "AND YOU'LL TELL THE CHILDREN TO BURY YOU NEXT TO ME AFTER YOU DIE."

He also asked: "Will you look for me when I'm gone?"

After these conversations, Lydia recalls that she began to perceive his words differently and understand their depth.

In their conversations, he spoke of a person's purpose. Lydia replied that his purpose was his family, his work, and the land on which he had always worked.

To this, Viktor replied: "I think my purpose is to be here."

Viktor Shevchuk died at the age of 52. He is survived by his wife, Lydia Mykolaivna, and his sons, Serhiy (32) and Oleg (26). His mother died in 2021, and his father had passed away much earlier.

SHKOLA PETRO OLEKSANDROVYCH



Shkola Petro Oleksandrovych was born on July 24, 1986 in the village of Pryhiria, Vysokopil district, Kherson region, studied at the Pryhiria school, continued his education at the State Educational Institution "Inhulets Professional Lyceum" in the city of Kryvyi Rih, where he obtained the profession of a welder. Since 2007, he has worked as an electric and gas welder at the "Inhulets" technical service point at Ukrzaliznytsia. He was drafted into the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine upon mobilization on August 29, 2023, served as a rifleman in the 46th separate airborne assault brigade. He died on November 25, 2023 as a result of enemy shelling near the village of Verbove, Polohiv district, Zaporizhzhia region. Buried on December 1, 2023 in his native village of Pryhiria, Kherson region.

Oleksandr spent his childhood in the village of Prygiryia in the Kherson region. He was the middle son in the family: when Petro was born, his older brother was already growing up, and in 1989, the younger one, Ivan, appeared.

His father worked on a collective farm, his mother first worked in a bakery, and later on a farm. As in most rural families, the children were accustomed to work from an early age.

- As always in the village - everyone helped their parents together. Both on the farm and in the garden. In his teens, he had a horse, his favorite. He almost took care of it himself, - says his wife Marina.

Petro had a good relationship with his brothers. With the youngest, Ivan, they were united by a love of technology. Motorcycles, mopeds, and repairs became a real hobby.

- They didn't just ride. They disassembled, assembled, and repaired equipment themselves, and they also helped their friends, - says Marina.

Later, Petro moved to Kryvyi Rih, where he obtained a welder's specialty. After several first jobs, in 2007 he began working for Ukrzaliznytsia - at the Inhulets PTO, where they repaired wagons. He worked as an electric-gas welder for manual welding.

07/24/1986 — 11/25/2023

They had known each other almost their entire lives with Marina - they were from neighboring villages, a common company, mutual friends.

- THERE WAS NO ACTIVE COURTSHIP. WE JUST TALKED, WERE IN THE SAME COMPANY. HE WAS ALWAYS KIND, POLITE, ALWAYS RESPONDED IF SOMEONE NEEDED HELP. A GOOD FRIEND. I JUST FELT THAT THIS WAS MY PERSON, - RECALLS MARINA.

On December 15, 2013, the couple officially got married. Before the Great War, the couple purchased their own home in the Inhulets district of Kryvyi Rih - a dream they had been pursuing for a long time. On October 19, 2018, their son Vladislav was born.

- HE WAS A WONDERFUL FATHER. OUR SON WAS VERY LONG-AWAITED. FROM THE TIME HE WAS A LITTLE BOY, HE WOULD PUT HIM TO BED, PLAY, AND GO FOR A WALK TOGETHER IN THE PARK. THEY OFTEN WENT TO THE VILLAGE TO VISIT THEIR PARENTS. THERE HE AND HIS SON WOULD PLANT TREES, - RECALLS HIS WIFE.

Before going to war, Petro managed to build a small wooden house for his son in the village where Marina's parents lived. On August 29, 2023, Petro received a summons.

- MY HUSBAND IMMEDIATELY TOLD ME: "IF THERE IS A SUMMONS, I WILL GO." HE WAS AN HONEST MAN. THERE WAS NO SUCH THING IN HIS LIFE AS HIDING SOMEWHERE, GETTING OUT OF THE WAY, - SAYS MARINA ABOUT PETRO'S DECISION TO JOIN THE ARMY.

He underwent training in the Zhytomyr region, then he was sent to Great Britain with his unit for training. After returning, he ended up in the 46th separate airborne assault brigade. Petro became a rifleman.

Marina recalls that even during the war he remained himself – a good person who found it difficult to accept the very thought of murder. On November 22, 2023, he told his wife that he was going on a combat mission the next day. On the morning of November 23, he wrote her a message: "Don't worry. From three to ten days." Marina replied that she loved him and was worried. He wrote: "Don't worry, everything will be fine." But on the night of November 24-25, near the village of Verbove in the Polohivskyi district of the Zaporizhia region, their unit came under heavy fire. At about four in the morning, Petro received a serious leg wound and severe burns.

- They were able to take him from the battlefield only around seven or nine in the morning. He was still alive, but very seriously. Unfortunately, they couldn't help him anymore, - the wife shares what she knows about the last hours of her husband's life.

Petro Shkola died on November 25, 2023. On November 27, Maryna received a phone call and was told the terrible news. They were able to bury the Hero on December 1, it happened at home - in his native village of Pryhorja. The whole village came to say goodbye to him. Friends, colleagues from Ukrzaliznytsia, fellow comrades who also served, classmates, relatives came.

Petro Oleksandrovych Shkola was awarded the Order "For Courage" III degree posthumously and the breastplate "For Services to the City" III degree in Kryvyi Rih.

HIS SON, WHO WAS FIVE YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF HIS FATHER'S DEATH, TOOK THE NEWS COURAGEOUSLY, SAYS MARYNA. DESPITE HIS YOUNG AGE, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE COUNTRY WAS AT WAR. HE AND HIS MOTHER HAD TO GO DOWN TO SHELTERS MORE THAN ONCE TO WAIT OUT RUSSIAN SHELLING OF CIVILIANS.

Petro gave his life for his son, for his family, hoping that peace would still come to Ukrainian soil. Family and friends will remember the contribution he made to stopping the enemy.

SHUSHKOVSKY SERGEY OLEKSANDROVYCH



Born on May 1, 1983 in the Holoprystan district of the Kherson region. Lived in the village of Komyshany. After school, he became a tractor driver, worked in the field of road management, and was engaged in the repair and maintenance of equipment. In 2022, he was mobilized into the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He served as part of the 79th separate airborne assault brigade, was a senior driver-mechanic. He participated in hostilities in the Donetsk direction. On January 1, 2024, he was seriously injured as a result of a road accident in the Kurakhovo area. He went to the light on January 3, 2024 in the city of Dnipro. Buried on the Alley of Glory of the Geologists' Cemetery in the city of Kherson. Awarded the Order "For Courage" of the 3rd degree (lifetime).

Serhiy grew up in a large family – he had three sisters and a brother, he was the middle child. His parents, Tatyana and Oleksandr, raised their children to respect work, honesty and responsibility. From childhood he was used to relying only on himself.

“They somehow achieved everything themselves, never asked anyone for anything,” recalls his wife Valentina.

His childhood and youth were spent in Komyshany. He studied first at a local school, and later in Kherson. Even then he showed a practical nature, gravitated to working with his hands. After school he chose a technical direction – he studied to be a tractor driver, later mastered the repair and maintenance of equipment. Love for machines became a part of his life. He didn't just work with equipment, he felt it.

“He spent all his free time near machines. He needed to twist something, repair it, put it in order,” says his wife.

At a young age, Serhiy started a family. He and his wife lived together for 24 years, raising two sons - Vadim and Kyrylo. He was a caring father, an attentive husband and a reliable support for the family.

“Kind, honest, fair... He always helped others. You could rely on him,” says Valentina.

05/01/1983 — 01/03/2024

When the full-scale invasion began, the family found themselves under occupation. At this time, Serhiy did not stay away: he passed on information to the Ukrainian military, helped in any way he could.

After leaving for the territory controlled by Ukraine, he immediately went to the military enlistment office. In April 2022, he joined the defense of the state. He was enrolled in the airborne assault troops. He quickly gained authority in the unit. His comrades respected him for his experience, endurance and humanity. He had two call signs: in the training center - “Batya”, in the brigade - “Lysy Kherson”.

“‘FATHER’ – BECAUSE HE TOOK CARE OF THE YOUNGER ONES, SUPPORTED THEM, AND GAVE THEM ADVICE. FOR THEM, HE WAS LIKE AN ELDER,” SAYS VALENTYNA. “LATER, ALREADY IN THE BRIGADE, ANOTHER CALL SIGN WAS FIXED FOR HIM – ‘BALD KHERSON.’ HE CONSTANTLY SHAVED HIS HEAD, HENCE ‘BALD’. AND ‘KHERSON’, BECAUSE THERE WERE MANY SUCH BALD PEOPLE THERE, AND HE WAS ONE FROM KHERSON.”

He served in the Donetsk direction – near Selydove and Kurakhovo. During his service, he had two vacations. And even while at home, he did not stay away from other people’s troubles – he helped people and animals, and joined volunteer work, in particular, after the Russian military blew up the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station.

The last time, Valentyna recalls, she spoke to her husband was on January 1, 2024. “He said he would go help the guys and then call back. I waited... but he never called again...”, recalls his wife.

On the same day, the soldier was seriously injured in a road accident in the combat zone. For several days, doctors fought for his life in the Dnipro city hospital. On January 3, 2024, Serhiy’s heart stopped...

“I looked for him in medical institutions, called everywhere... I thought I would go crazy until I found out where my husband was,” says Valentina. “When

they reported that his condition was critical, I immediately went to Dnipro. I arrived at the hospital, and there they announced the most terrible thing: Serhiy is gone...”.

The Hero was buried in his native land, in Kherson. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

“IT’S HARD WITHOUT HIM... VERY HARD... BUT WE ARE HOLDING ON...”.



YURIK DMYTRO STEPANOVYCH



Born on August 7, 1990 in the urban-type settlement of Ryshkan (Republic of Moldova). Later, the family moved to the village of Rubanivka, Kherson region, where he spent his childhood and youth. He studied at a rural school, which he graduated with a gold medal. After that, he entered the Luhansk State Medical University, where he received the specialty of a dentist. He worked in Kherson, at the Shcherbakov Dental Clinic, where he became a well-known and respected specialist.

After the start of the full-scale invasion, he voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He served as a combat medic in a military unit in Odessa, saving lives, and providing assistance to the wounded.

On April 30, 2024, Dmytro died as a result of rocket fire while on duty. Buried on May 7 in Kherson next to his father.

Dmytro grew up in a family of doctors. His father was a doctor, his mother was a nurse, his older brother also chose medicine. He absorbed love for the profession, for people and for life from childhood. "He was very gentle, very affectionate... So obedient, kind... They always told me: 'We have never seen such a boy before,'" recalls his mother Natalia.

He studied well, read a lot, was interested in history, loved to travel and spend time with loved ones. A special place in his life was occupied by his family. His care was manifested even in the smallest things.

"He was never indifferent. He always thought about others. Even in childhood," says his mother. "Once they were taken on an excursion to Askania-Nova. The journey was long – two and a half hours. All the children were given money, and each bought himself sweets. And he... he knew that I loved cotton candy. He bought it and carried it all the way to me. He brings it home and says: 'Mommy, this is for you...' Can you imagine? The child looked after that cotton candy for two and a half hours..."

After university, Dmytro returned to Kherson and started working as a dentist. He quickly gained the trust of patients and colleagues. "He was a very talented

08/07/1990 — 04/30/2024

doctor. He constantly studied, went to courses, was interested in new techniques. Patients adored him – even from abroad they came to see Dr. Yurik," says his colleague, assistant doctor Larisa Syrota.

THE TEAM REMEMBERS HIM AS A BRIGHT, SINCERE AND OPEN PERSON. "HE ALWAYS SMILED. HE NEVER CONFLICTED, HE ALWAYS HELPED. HE WAS LIKE THAT... VERY HUMAN. WE HAVE A MOSTLY FEMALE TEAM, BUT HE WAS THE SOUL OF THE COMPANY THERE - HE JOKED AND UNITED EVERYONE," ADDS LARISA.

In November 2022, the family left occupied Kherson for Odessa. And within a few days, Dmytro and his older brother Stepan voluntarily went to the military registration and enlistment office. "No one forced them. They decided on their own. They said: "We have to." The eldest son is still at the front..." says Natalia.

In the army, Dmytro served as a combat medic. He was not on the front line, but he saved lives every day – he was on duty, helped the wounded, replaced others when necessary. "He almost never rested. If someone was sick or couldn't go out – he went. He put IVs in, helped everyone. He was already like that – he couldn't refuse," recalls his mother.

On April 30, 2024, a missile strike occurred while he was on duty in Odessa. "I never thought he would die there... I believed he was safe... But the rocket flew exactly where my son is..." – says Natalia, barely holding back tears.

Dmitry's funeral was a day of great loss for everyone who knew him.

"THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE. AND NO ONE COULD BELIEVE THAT SUCH A BRIGHT GUY WAS LYING IN A COFFIN..." – SAYS NATALIA.

TODAY, THE WOMAN LIVES WITH THE MEMORY OF HER SON AND WITH PAIN THAT DOES NOT SUBSIDE.

"We buried him next to his father. They have not yet erected a monument. On it I want to write: "Thank you, my dear son, for being in my life..." I am happy that I had such a son... And I cannot accept that he is no longer..."

Colleagues, friends, patients – everyone remembers Dmitry as a person with a big heart. And even now, after his death, his office in the clinic where he worked is still not occupied. People call and ask for Dr. Yurik. Because there are people who cannot be replaced. And there are losses that cannot be accepted...



YAKOVYUK OLEKSANDR MYKOLAYOVYCH



Yakovyuk Oleksandr Mykolayovych was born on November 17, 1981 in the village of Shyroke, Snigurivskiyi district, Mykolaiv region. He studied at the school of the village of Blagodatne, Mykolaiv region, after graduating from which he immediately began his career. He worked as a tractor driver in the village of Blagodatne, and later in Mykolaiv. He was drafted into the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on February 15, 2023, served as a sapper in the 60th separate mechanized brigade. He died on November 29, 2023 while performing a combat mission near the settlement of Terny, Kramatorsk district, Donetsk region. He was buried on September 7, 2024 in the village of Khmelove, Kirovohrad region.

The land where a person is born often determines their fate. For Oleksandr, it became more than just a place on a map—it was the meaning of his entire existence. The steppes of Mykolaiv Oblast, where the sky meets the horizon in an endless haze, taught him silence, hard work, and a special, reverent connection to his native land.

Oleksandr's childhood was spent in the village of Blagodatne. After school, he went to work as a tractor driver.

- He did not change his profession in his life, he started working in the field and did so all the time. He was a kind, good person, - recalls his wife Alena.

They say that people who work the land possess a special purity of soul. They know the value of every grain, every drop of sweat they shed. Oleksandr sowed the fields, giving them life, and the earth reciprocated, fostering in his heart a sincerity that is so difficult to preserve in our turbulent world.

Oleksandr almost never told his wife about his childhood. His parents and sister moved to the Kirovohrad region due to a full-scale invasion. Their native village was destroyed due to military operations. Oleksandr and Alena met in the summer of 2021. Already in the fall they realized that they wanted to be together, and in December 2021 Oleksandr moved to Alena in the village of Zasilya in the Mykolaiv region.

The summer of 2021 was the last breath of calm before the storm. Alexander and Aliona's meeting was like a quiet dawn after a long night. The two souls found

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refuge by building a fragile bridge of love, which was destined to become their greatest source of protection in the future. The time they managed to live together became a time of hope for him. Oleksandr, who devoted his whole life to other people's fields, wanted above all to have something of his own.

- HE WANTED TO BUILD, SO THAT HE WOULD HAVE HIS OWN HOUSE, SO THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE HIS OWN. BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THE WAR PREVENTED OUR PLANS FROM COMING TRUE, - SAYS HIS WIFE.

When the great war began, Oleksandr worked on construction in Mykolaiv. He received a summons three times, twice the VLK declared him unfit for the army, and the third time he was already sent to serve. On February 15, 2023, he was enrolled in military unit A0414, 60th separate mechanized Ingulets brigade. After two months of training in Kamianets-Podilskyi, where he mastered the difficult profession of a sapper, Oleksandr was sent to one of the most difficult directions - to the Donetsk region.

Fate tested his resilience time and time again. The job of a sapper is a daily duel with death, where every step demands absolute concentration and where there is no room for error. The man who had once given life to the land now had to clear it of deadly metal, saving others at the cost of his own peace of mind.

- He called as soon as he could. And once he called and was very upset, because he said that it was very difficult, - his wife shares.

He saw terrible things at the front. He remembered one comrade from Sumy region, who lost everything and said: "I have nothing left to lose." Oleksandr had Alena, he had a dream of a home to which he so wanted to return.

When the world around him is falling apart, it is love that becomes the last anchor keeping a person from falling off the edge. In the darkest moments, amid the mud of the trenches and the cold winds of Donetsk, the image of Alona and the dream of their future home shone for Oleksandr like a distant yet brilliant lighthouse.

The last conversation with his wife took place on November 28, 2023. Oleksandr said that he was going on a mission, "to zero." Short words that hid the

unknown. On November 29, 2023, in the area of the settlement of Terny, contact with him was lost forever. After that, there was a long year of uncertainty. Only in August 2024 did DNA testing confirm what the heart refused to believe: Oleksandr died. Probably, after a heavy battle, he fell into the hands of the enemy, where his life was cut short after torture.

A YEAR OF WAITING IS THE MOST AGONIZING CIRCLE OF HELL FOR THOSE WHO LOVE. EVERY PHONE CALL, EVERY RUSTLE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW MADE THE HEART CLENCH WITH HOPE—A HOPE THAT MELTED AWAY DAY BY DAY BUT REFUSED TO DIE. YET THE TERRIBLE TRUTH MERCILESSLY SHATTERED THAT SILENCE, LEAVING IN ITS PLACE ONLY THE BLACK PAIN OF EXTINGUISHED HOPE.

The family was able to bury their Hero only on September 7, 2024. His final resting place is in the village of Khmelyovo, Kirovograd region, where the war forced his relatives to move.

HE RETURNED TO HIS HOMETOWN, BUT NO LONGER AS A SOWER, BUT AS ITS ETERNAL GUARDIAN. THE KIROVOHRAD REGION, THOUGH FOREIGN TO HIM, WELCOMED HIS BODY, BECOMING A NEW REFUGE FOR THE FAMILY THAT HAD BEEN SCATTERED BY THE WINDS OF WAR. THE REST HE HAD SOUGHT FOR SO LONG FOUND HIM AMID THE SILENCE OF THE RURAL CEMETERY.

Today, flowers bloom on the grave of Oleksandr Yakovyuk, and in Kyiv, on the Alley of Memory, his portrait stands. Alena travels a long way twice a year to visit her beloved - in the spring and in the fall. She cherishes the memory of a man who loved the land and his family above all else, and who gave his life defending the right of every Ukrainian to have their own home.

Twice a year, Alona's journey becomes a pilgrimage of love that has proven stronger than death. Alexander did not have time to build his earthly home, but he has left behind an eternal dwelling in the hearts of those who remember him.

YAKUBENKO SERHIY LEONIDOVICH



Yakubenko Serhiy Leonidovich was born on July 27, 2000 in the village of Stepne, Berislavsky district, Kherson region. After school, he graduated from the Berislavsky Professional Agrarian Lyceum with a degree in tractor driver. Before the start of the full-scale invasion, he served in military service and worked part-time on local farms, and in May 2023, he voluntarily joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine (46th Separate Airmobile Brigade). He died on October 28, 2023 near the village of Novoprokopivka, Polohivsky district, Zaporizhia region, as a result of mortar shelling. He was buried on December 19, 2024 in his native village of Stepne next to his father.

Serhiy's childhood was not similar to modern digital realities - he grew up in a large, bustling family, where in addition to him there were four sisters and four brothers. Olga Ivanovna, Serhiy's mother, recalls that time with warmth:

- Although it was not easy, they tried to give the children everything they needed - they were always dressed, fed, and never had problems. In general, the children were calm, homely, and did everything together.

Serhiy was the "golden mean" of a large family. Four sisters and a brother were born before him, so he learned from an early age to help the elders and take care of the younger ones. While his father worked as a tractor driver in Stepne, Serhiy became his right hand. The boy either worked or devoted time to his hobby - machinery. He did not look for adventures on the street, says his mother.

- He really liked to tinker with machinery: he repaired motorcycles and cars, he was always hanging around the tractor. It was his outlet, - says his mother.

He graduated from 11 grades of a local school, and later - the Berislavsky Professional Agrarian Lyceum, where he acquired the profession of a tractor driver, like his father. He completed his military service, but did not have time to work in his specialty, because a full-scale invasion began. In February 2024, Serhiy was at home. Together with his mother, he spent 9 months in the occupation. At that time, one of his brothers was already fighting at the front. After waiting for the liberation of his native Stepny, the guy made his choice - to

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liberate his native Ukraine from the enemy. He informed his mother about his decision after he went to the CCK.

- I didn't even know about it. Serhiy went himself, passed the VLK commission, then he told me, in fact, put me in front of the fact. I didn't want to, but he told me: "Mom, don't worry, everything will be fine," recalls his mother.

In May 2023, Serhiy Yakubenko officially joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. After training in the Mykolaiv region, he ended up in the 46th separate airmobile brigade, as a rifleman. He fought in one of the hottest sections of the front in the Zaporizhia direction.

The mother recalls that his son never complained. Even after heavy fighting, he tried to calm her down. He said: "Mom, everything will be fine, don't worry."

The last conversation took place on October 26, 2023. Serhiy again repeated his usual "everything will be fine." And two days later, on October 28, 2023, contact with him was lost forever. This happened near the village of Novoprokopivka, Polohivskyi district, Zaporizhia region. While performing a combat mission, the group came under heavy mortar fire. Everyone died. In early November, a notification came: "missing." Serhiy's father could not bear this news. Three strokes, one after the other, undermined the health of the man who had been waiting for his son so long.

Serhiy's body was returned only during a major exchange. Then there was a long process of identification by DNA. Only a year and two months after the disappearance, in December 2024, did Olga Ivanovna receive a call saying that there was a match.

- In December 2024, I found out... and on December 19, we buried him. Here in our village. Where my father is, - says the mother.

Today, Sergei's photo stands on the Alley of Glory in Novoraisk. Olga Ivanovna still talks about her son in the present tense. The coffin was closed, and her mother's heart refuses to accept the inevitability of this loss.

- I still have a feeling that this is not true... because I did not see him there in the coffin. Now they are putting up photos of prisoners and lists - and I am looking for them, as I was looking for them then, - shares Olga Ivanovna.

He did not have time to get married, did not have time to raise children or take care of his parents' house. Serhiy remained a 23-year-old soldier who sought to build a happy life in peaceful Ukraine. He was awarded the Order of Courage, 3rd degree (posthumously). Serhiy's brothers come to the grave, his sister comes from afar. The large family sticks together, united by common pain and common pride in their Serhiy.



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