

VICTOR GURNIAK
1987-†2014

THE ROAD FROM MAIDAN

REMEMBERING UKRAINE'S HEROES OF THE EUROMAIDAN
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM PRESENTS THE ONLINE
EXHIBITION OF 2021

A Hero Never Dies!



Elder Plast Member Viktor Gurniak was born in 1987.

He comes from the village of Horodnytsya (Husyatyn region, Ternopil region). Viktor first studied in Ternopil Secondary School #27 and then in Technical College of State Technical University in Ternopil (now it is known as Ternopil National Technical University). Having received an education he worked in the publishing house of the daily newspaper "20 Minutes" and was an editor of Plast periodical "Blossom of Ukraine". In addition, he took part in projects of the Institute of Political Education and International Republican Institute.

Viktor headed Ternopil Youth Public Organization "The Foundation of Regional Initiatives" and was a spokesperson of political party "PORA" in Ternopil region.



Viktor Gurniak joined Plast at the age of 14. He was a member of Grey Wolves circle, a part of Kurin (scouting fraternity) #29 named after Yurii Starosolskyi. In 2004, Viktor co-established the Kurin #77 named after Ivan Havdyd and was the first leader of it. Soon he became the member of Kurin #15 Zalizna Ostroga Order (Order of the Iron Spur) named after Svyatoslav Zavoyovnyk. In addition, he guided youth circle "Eagles". Viktor was deputy executive for educational work at city and regional level of Ternopil Plast. He managed informational activity in Ternopil Plast, organized many events, and was a commandant of regional camp "Legion-11".

The Ukrainian National Museum is honored to host an online exhibit “Viktor Gurniak: The Road from Maidan” Exhibit of Original Photos from Maidan.

Viktor Gurniak, a 27-year-old photojournalist, was killed during an attack in the anti-terrorist operation zone of the Lugansk Region while transporting the wounded. An excellent newspaper photographer with a sharp mind and brilliant pictures, he was among the best representatives of photojournalism.

The exhibit offers the rare opportunity to examine Viktor Gurniak’s photos focusing on areas of Ukraine’s recent fight against its eastern foreign aggressor. Photographs of the Maidan – Independence Square in Kyiv and the Anti-Terrorist Operation in eastern Ukraine exemplify the dignity and honor of those who sacrificed in the defense of their homeland.

Viktor was a co-founder of LUFA photo agency and a frequent contributor to UNIAN, Reuters, and online version of INSIDER. He devoted many years of his life to Plast - Ukrainian National Scout Organization of Ukraine. Viktor Gurniak is survived by his wife and a toddler daughter.

« A la guerre comme à la guerre »



In the last few months, Viktor was supplying the fighters of Aidar battalion and other battalions with necessary equipment, collecting money and buying all necessary for the soldiers. He personally delivered everything to the area of Antiterrorist operation and helped with transportation of goods.

He was born to be free!



He worked as a press photographer of **UNIAN** information agency and **REUTERS** international information agency. In cooperation with friends, Viktor established **LUFA** information photo agency. In 2014, he joined the team of **INSIDER** web-project

Never Forget



**VIKTOR WITH HIS BELOVED WIFE IRYNA AND
HIS "LITTLE SUN" - DAUGHTER JUSTYNA (YEAR OF BIRTH 2012)**

Please take the time to listen to the presentation by Opening night Guest Speaker – Nolan Peterson

01.16.2015 – at the Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago



Nolan Peterson, Freelance Journalist/ Writer, at Blue Force Tracker. Nolan is a special operations pilot and a combat veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan. He holds multiple degrees in political science, French and journalism. Nolan has been published by several national and international publications and has covered a diverse range of topics including: A profile on Syrian Freedom Fighters, analysis of the North Korean WMD Threat and in 2014 traveled to Ukraine to witness and account what started out as the Euromaidan Revolution and continues as the Revolution of Dignity.

Nolan's master's degree is from Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, concentrating on national security and long form writing, reporting both international affairs and national security.



“My datelines from 2015 included 10 countries, covering wars, refugee crises, natural disasters and terrorist attacks. From a remote Himalayan lake to a dusty desert in Iraq to the battle-scarred sunflower fields and trenches of eastern Ukraine, I’ve met men and women, young and old, rich and poor, of different faiths and ethnicities, who share one key trait: A willingness to risk everything to protect those who can’t, or won’t, protect themselves. They see injustice and they fight back, without asking for thanks or pitying themselves as victims” – Nolan Peterson

01.22.2014 | Activist near the barricades on Hrushevskyj Street.

On January 22, around 8 am, Berkut started launching an attack on Hrushevskyj Street, began to dismantle barricades and detain people. An hour later, protestors lead a counter attack and regained their initial position while security forces retreated behind a row of burning buses. Five people were killed as a result of the battle.



02.26.2014 | A man holding a flag with a mourning ribbon during a funeral at the Euromaidan. The Council of the Maidan introduced the future Cabinet ministers of Ukraine. In return, Maidan activists replied to the deputies with slogans such as “we demand change and will not disband”. That day, demonstrators cut the fence near the Parliament building and renamed Instytutska Street to “Heavenly Hundred” Street, in honor of those heroes.



01.22.2014 | Columns of police on Hrushevskyj Street.



During the "Peaceful march" on February 18, 2014 thousands made their way to Parliament with the intent to force the government to reinstate the 2004 Constitution. Police used gas and flash grenades to control the crowd. Clashes resulted in the deaths of nine activists. Secret Service and the Department of Internal Affairs gave the opposition leaders an ultimatum - stop the riots or the administration will utilize "all measures provided by law".



02.19.2014 | Activist with a typical Euromaidan wooden shield on Independence Square - Maidan Nezalezhnosti.

February 19, 2014 “both sides” announced a so-called truce. But police continued to throw firecrackers and gas grenades, pour water on the barricades and on people who were behind them.



02.14.2014 | Bride and groom in bullet-proof vests on Hrushevskij Street.

Halyna Eremitsa and Alexander Cheban married at the Euromaidan chapel on Valentine's Day, February 14. The couple met on the barricades. Halyna, originally from Chernivtsi, arrived on the Maidan in December; Alexander proposed after the New Year.



01.22.2014 | Fighters of the 15th Self-Defense Battalion (Sotnia) of the Maidan on Hrushevskij Street.



01.22.2014 | Activist near the barricades on Hrushevskij Street.



01.23.2014 | Activist wearing a gas mask near burning barricades on Hrushevskyj Street.
Around midnight, Building №4 on Hrushevskyj Street was engulfed in flames. The building housed several research organizations including The Ukrainian Language Institute, The Institute of Oriental Studies in Honor of A.U. Krymsky, as well as offices of publishers, and journals. All night, black smoke filled the center of Kyiv as police continuously hosed down the pluming flames.



02.18.2014 | Maidan Nezhalozhnosti ablaze.

When the Trade Union Building was in flames the police did not attempt to put the fire out. Rows of security forces launched an offensive on the Maidan activists near Instytutska Street. Security forces set fire to a tent near the monument to Independence on Maidan Nezhalozhnosti and at Instytutska Street sprayed activists with water cannons. The Trade Unions Building caught fire during a subsequent attempt by security forces to assault the Maidan square. Firefighters rescued dozens of activists who found themselves in the fiery trap. Some saved themselves and others were rescued by volunteer firefighters. But not all were rescued - doctors encountered charred bodies in the ashes.



02.18.2014 | Battered activists during "Peaceful march" near Parliament.

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02.20.2014 | Body of a shot Euromaidan supporter on Independence Square – Maidan Nezalezhnosti.

On February 18-20, nearly a hundred people were killed on Instytutska and Hrushevskij streets, in Mariinsky Park, European Square, and Independence Square, as a result of clashes. Eleven of them were policemen.



01.22.2014 | Columns of police on Hrushevskyj Street.

First victims of the Unity Day battle. On January 22, around 8 am, Berkut launched an attack on Hrushevskyj Street, began to dismantle barricades and detain people.



02.24.2014 | Man kneels near barricades where demonstrators were killed on Instytutska Street.

Thousands of people brought flowers to Instytutska Street in Kyiv to commemorate the victims of the violent confrontation between protesters and security forces. On February 20th, a violent confrontation took place on Instytutska Street during which the "Heavenly Hundred" were killed.



01.22.2014 | Man kneels in prayer on Hrushevskyj Street.

First victims of the Unity Day battle. On January 22, around 8 am, Berkut launched an attack on Hrushevskyj Street, began to dismantle barricades and detain people.



01.24.2014 | People standing on barricades of Hrushevskij Street.

Confrontation between the activists and the special forces resumed after 9 pm when police began firing rubber bullets. The violence escalated when a rubber bullet hit an activist resulting in retaliation by the activists with stones, firecrackers, and Molotov cocktails. Activists reignited the tire barricade. Police threw live grenades and fired rubber bullets. Representatives of the Department of Internal Affairs denied use of weapons and blamed the activists for the violation of the truce.



02.22.2014 | People hold candles during a funeral at Independence Square.

The main joint prayer for the heroes took place on the Maidan stage. Joining the multitude of people were members of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patriarchate, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant communities united in prayer for the fallen heroes. This time the Archpriest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate was also present.

