

Bohdan “Danny” Zenowij Malaniak

June 12, 1930 - July 15, 2013



A tribute to his life



It's no secret Bohdan Zenowij Malaniak was one of the most energetic individuals you'd ever come across on the planet. He had an intensely full life and wholeheartedly gave himself to care for his late wife Eleanor and their family, his job, his community, and his nation – both home and abroad. Although energetic may be the first word that comes to mind to describe Bohdan, it is only a shallow representation. If you were to peel back this outer shell and see the drive beneath his energy, you would find great depth of courage, strength, loyalty and passion which gave way to his unyielding, undying love and generosity for those around him.

Bohdan's life began June 12, 1930 in Boryshkivtsi, Ukraine. His parents Anton and Olha Malaniak raised him and his beloved sister Nadia in the cities of Radechiw and Lviv. However, in the last year of WWII, Bohdan's immediate family and his grandmother fled Soviet Occupation and, after spending one year in Slovakia, relocated to a displaced persons camp in Regensburg, Germany a few weeks after Germany's surrender. Despite the day to day uncertainty of what would happen next coupled with a multitude of other immense challenges and struggles they faced, this was an especially enriching period in Bohdan's life as he and his family banded together with their fellow refugees to form their own strong community where he attended the Ukrainian Gymnasium. Boy scouting (Plast) and soccer were some of the activities Bohdan thrived in that became a part of everyday life. Here at Regensburg, he made many lifelong friendships and even continued to attend Regensburg Gymnasium Reunions into his later years. In 1948, Bohdan and his family immigrated to the U.S. and settled in Glendale, California – the place he would come to call home for nearly the rest of his life.

Not long after arriving on American shores, Bohdan joined the U.S. Army and proudly served six years on active duty during the Korean conflict in Japan where he served as First Sergeant with the Armed Forces Radio Service, the Far East Network. By the end of his military career, Bohdan had risen to the rank of Command Sergeant Major. Before retiring in 1990, he had served a total of seventeen years in the U.S. Army Reserve Force holding various positions, including Commandant of the Sixth US Army Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) Academy, and was selected to serve as the first Command Sergeant Major of the 168th Aviation Group (Combat). He came to be decorated with numerous awards including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Achievement Medal and Army Achievement Medal, both with Oak Leaf Cluster.

When Bohdan's active military service came to an end in 1954, he attended Los Angeles State College and received a degree in business administration. In 1955, he married Eleanor Croft Garvin whom he spent the next fifty-six years of his life with. Together, they raised all three children – Lori, Dina, and Joey – in Glendale. Here in their home, Bohdan loved to cook and entertain family and friends. As well, he found great joy in spending time with his family at the beach, the neighborhood pool and camping; while he had many hobbies such as golfing, collecting stamps, and listening to classical music, his greatest enjoyment was spending endless time with his grandchildren.

Bohdan spent thirty-seven years at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center as Associate Vice President for Academic and Research Affairs. Upon retirement in 1994, he continued to consult in the area of health care and technology transfer up until nearly the end of his life. Among the many awards he received from CSMC over the years, the one that meant a great deal to him was when the Medical Center honored him by establishing an endowment in his name, the "Malaniak Award for Excellence in Postdoctoral Research" for promising young medical researchers.

When it came to serving the community, Bohdan stayed heavily involved with his homeland in several ways for nearly his entire life. For thirty years, he served as manager, member, and president of the Los Angeles-based Ukrainian National Choir "Kobzar" and organized many major fundraising events and even produced a recording. Additionally, he gave many years of leadership serving on the Board of Directors as president, secretary, and member of the advisory board for the California Association to Aid Ukraine which provided humanitarian support for the people of Ukraine. Bohdan successfully engaged the interest of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in international collaboration and technology transfer with several projects for Ukrainian scientists and medical professionals, combined with support from CAAU. Following the 2006 visit of then First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko, Head of the Supervisory Board of Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation, he spearheaded the launch of the International Healthcare Fellowship program, a partnership of Cedars-Sinai, Ukraine 3000 and CAAU that continues provide training for medical professionals that will improve outcomes for critically ill children in Ukraine. Alongside these projects, he was deeply involved giving administrative support with the "Wheels for Ukraine" program. As well, his passion to preserve history led him to become editor-in-chief of a book documenting the lives of those who, like him, spent many years in the displaced persons camp in Regensburg. He also produced a short film entitled "Striving for Dignity" which is an account of life in Regensburg.



While Bohdan achieved many other unmentioned awards, honors, and recognitions throughout his life that would be worthy of praise, the real legacy he left behind reached far beyond tangible papers and medals. Bohdan lived each day with audacity, generosity, and energy. Instead of using his successes to make a more lavish, comfortable life for himself, he gave what he had to those around him and found great happiness in the act of doing so. He never made excuses and rarely looked at the negative side of anything. Instead of focusing on things that could be viewed as difficulties, hardships, and drawbacks, he fought his way through every part of his life fueled by his love for his wife, his family, his friends, and his country. Ultimately, for those who knew him well and for those who did not know him well, he was a person who saw the beauty in life. In his death, we should remember this. May each one of us honor him and one another by trying to carry on his best attributes with all our strength.

Bohdan's life seems to echo the lyrics of a song he used to sing, "If you are with me, the whole world is mine. I need no money, no wealth; all my joy is being with you!"

Bohdan leaves behind daughters Lori Britten (husband Mark) and Dina Malaniak; son Bohdan Joseph Malaniak; granddaughters Hilary Pratt (husband Andrew), Larissa McClure (husband John), Isabella Malaniak; grandsons Benjamin Britten and Cooper Malaniak; and great-granddaughter Katelyn McClure, as well as his sister Nadia Oransky, and the Petyk, Shust, and Baley families. He is preceded in death by his late wife Eleanor Garvin Malaniak.



A private family funeral service will be held at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California on Monday, July 22, 2013

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to one of the following:

“General Clinical Research Center: Malaniak Award for Excellence in Postdoctoral Research”

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
8700 Beverly Blvd., Suite 2416
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Online donations at:
<https://www.discoveringforlife.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1065>

Or

“Aid to Needy Children in Ukraine”

California Association to Aid Ukraine
c/o Anne Prokopovych
23232 Park Ensenada
Calabasas, CA 91302

Online donations at:
www.CAAUkraine.org