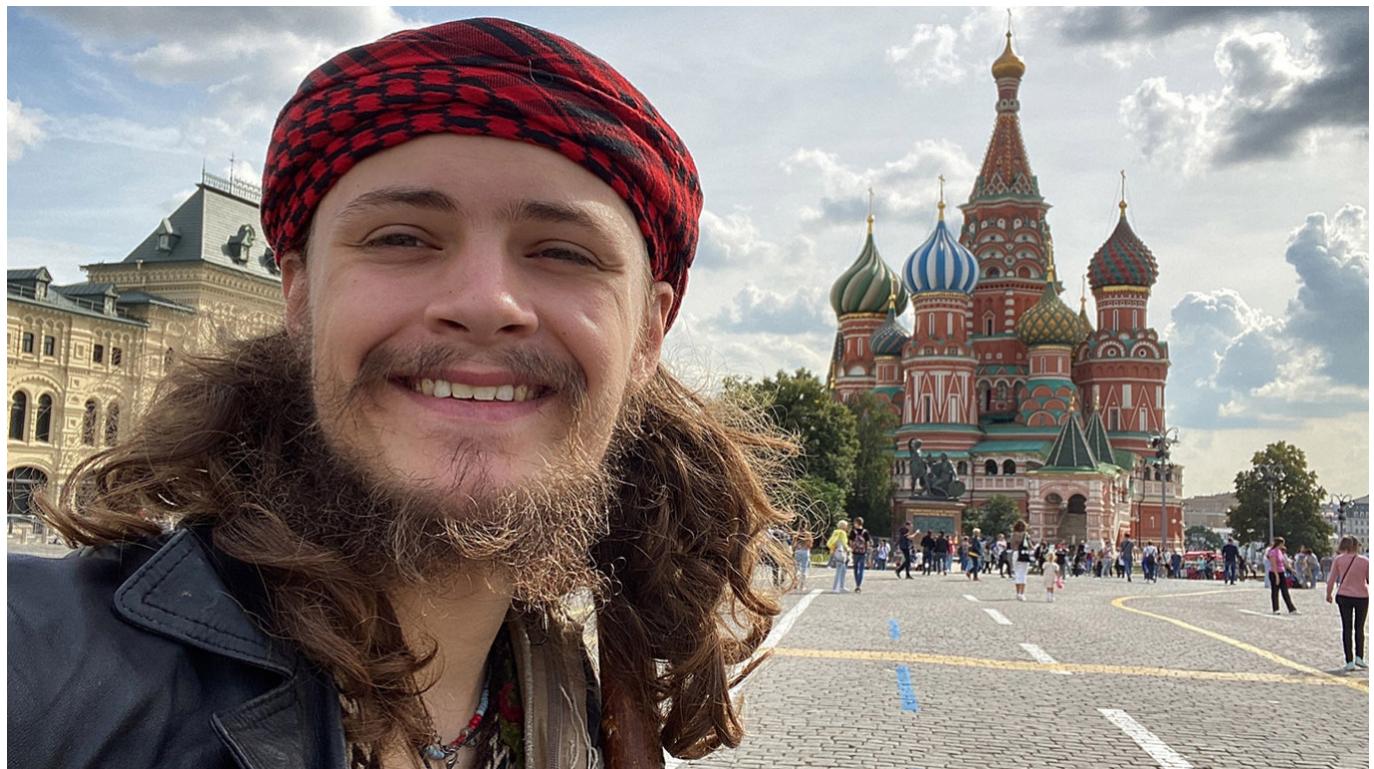


# CIA Deputy Director's Son Killed Fighting for Russia in Ukraine – IStories

April 25, 2025



Michael Alexander Gloss. **Social media**

The son of CIA Deputy Director Julianne Gallina was killed while fighting alongside Russian forces in Ukraine last year, the investigative news outlet [IStories](#) [reported](#) Friday, citing a leaked database from a Moscow military recruitment center.

Michael Alexander Gloss, 21, died on April 4, 2024, according to an [obituary](#) posted by a funeral home in Fairfax, Virginia. IStories reported that Russian authorities informed his family of his death in October, and he was buried in his hometown in December.

The obituary does not mention his military service, [stating](#) only that he was “tragically killed in Eastern Europe.”

Gallina was [appointed](#) the CIA’s deputy director for digital innovation in February 2024. Gloss’ father, Larry Gloss, a U.S. Navy veteran, [became](#) president of a security-focused software firm in May 2024.

**Related article: [Russian Army General Killed in Moscow Car Explosion, Investigators Say](#)**

According to IStories, Gloss had previously been a climate activist who left school to travel, eventually joining the counter-culture group Rainbow Family in Turkey and Italy and supporting the pro-Palestinian cause. He arrived in Russia in August 2023 after obtaining a visa in Turkey and [enlisted](#) with a military contract recruitment center in Moscow the following month.

Gloss underwent brief training alongside Nepalese mercenaries before being deployed to a paratrooper base in Ryazan. He was reportedly [assigned](#) to an assault unit sent to eastern Ukraine in December 2023 and [last appeared](#) online in mid-March, weeks before he was killed during offensive operations near Soledar in the Donetsk region.

Gloss was one of more than 1,500 foreign nationals from 48 countries listed in the leaked recruitment database since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Friends told IStories he had hoped to obtain Russian citizenship and attract investors for environmental projects, though some said he never intended to fight, while others believed he may have been influenced by conspiracy theories.

"He wanted the world to be a better place with more fairness, peace and harmony with nature," his obituary read.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/04/25/cia-deputy-directors-son-killed-fighting-for-russia-in-ukraine-istories-a88874>