

Ross Nova Biography

Ross Nova is a survivor, veteran, businessman, builder, community leader, critical thinker, and Christian whose life story is rooted in hardship, resilience, faith, discipline, and deep gratitude for the United States of America. From surviving a Bulgarian orphanage to serving in the United States Army, building businesses with his own hands, helping neighbors, and stepping forward into public leadership, Ross's life has been shaped by struggle, perseverance, and a belief that real leadership begins with service.

Ross was born in Bulgaria and placed in an orphanage at birth. His earliest years were not defined by comfort, safety, or security. They were defined by survival. Life in the orphanage was harsh and uncertain. Food was limited, discipline was strict, and every day required toughness. As a young child, Ross often had to fight older kids simply to make it through the day. He still carries scars from that time, some of which he cannot even remember receiving.

Meals often consisted of rice porridge and bread. Ross remembers how precious every crumb of bread was. If a crumb fell to the floor, it was picked up and eaten. Nothing was wasted. Plates were always cleaned completely, licking every last bit so nothing was lost. When someone grows up in a place where every bite of food matters, it becomes impossible to take abundance for granted later in life. Those early experiences shaped Ross's understanding of gratitude, discipline, and survival.

Hunger forced him to become resourceful. He remembers climbing over the orphanage fence and walking nearly a quarter mile to nearby gardens where he would steal vegetables such as carrots, cabbages, onions, and tomatoes. He climbed trees to gather apples, pears, and cherries. One memory still makes him smile today. He once found a cherry pie cooling in the window of a nearby home. He says it was the best pie he has ever had in his life. Returning to the orphanage with cherry stains on his shirt meant punishment, but even then, he remembers thinking it was worth it.

At the age of eight, Ross's life changed forever when he was adopted and brought to Grand Forks, North Dakota. America was a completely new world. He had to learn a new language, adapt to a new culture, and rebuild his life from the ground up. Because English was not his first language, Ross struggled academically for many years. He participated in English as a Second Language programs from elementary school through high school. Flashcards, tutoring, and extra help were constant parts of his education. Spelling, scientific terminology, and memorizing historical names and dates were ongoing challenges.

But Ross did what he had always done in life: he adapted and kept moving forward. It also took time for his mind to trust that he was safe. For a while he continued hiding bread under his

pillow and eating quickly, fearing food might disappear again. Eventually he realized he did not have to fight for survival anymore. He could relax. He could simply be a kid.

But Ross also realized something deeper. America had given him an opportunity that millions of people around the world would dream of having, and he believed it was his responsibility to rise to meet that opportunity. Ross embraced the culture, language, and values of the country that had welcomed him. He did not expect America to change itself for him. Instead, he worked to become part of America.

This experience deeply shaped Ross's views on immigration and assimilation. He supports legal immigration and believes people should absolutely be free to bring their culture, religion, traditions, and ideas with them. America has always been strengthened by people from all over the world. However, Ross believes there is an important difference between bringing your culture with you and expecting America to transform into the country you left behind. To Ross, assimilation is about respect. It means learning the language, respecting the Constitution, understanding the nation's history, and participating in the civic culture of the country that gave you opportunity.

Ross believes immigrants should not expect America to become the country they left. Choosing America means choosing to become part of America. His own life reflects that belief. He learned the language. He served in the United States Army. He swore allegiance to the nation. He built businesses. He helped neighbors. To Ross, that is what assimilation looks like.

As he grew older, Ross chose to serve the country that gave him a second chance. He joined the United States Army as an infantry soldier and later became part of an elite Pathfinder unit. Pathfinder teams deploy ahead of the main force to mark landing zones and drop zones, guide aircraft, gather intelligence, and support air-ground operations. The role requires discipline, planning, advanced navigation, and the ability to think clearly under pressure. Serving in the Army reinforced Ross's belief that every successful mission requires a clear objective, a plan of action, and accountability for results. Those lessons stayed with him long after his military service ended.

His military service also led to one of the proudest moments of his life: becoming a United States citizen. When Ross raised his right hand and swore allegiance to the United States of America, it was a moment that meant everything to him. For Ross, citizenship is not simply a legal status. It is a commitment to the nation and the freedoms it represents. It is an honor and a duty.

After leaving the military, Ross carried his discipline and leadership into the business world. He helped open Japanese sushi hibachi restaurants and played a major role in daily operations. He handled licensing paperwork, budgeting, hiring employees, ordering supplies, maintaining

service standards, and ensuring profitability. Ross helped open two restaurants and was involved in another. He also understands the pressure of making payroll, managing people, solving problems in real time, and making sure a business survives.

His leadership philosophy is simple. Leaders should not hide in offices while others do the work. Leaders should stand beside their teams. Ross believes respect is earned when leaders work shoulder to shoulder with the people they lead. When employees struggled or made mistakes, Ross believed in slowing things down, breaking the work into understandable steps, and helping people improve. He believes strong leadership does not come from barking orders from a distance. It comes from being present, engaged, and willing to do the work yourself.

Ross also gained experience transporting products between warehouses and supporting supply chains that keep businesses running. Through that work he saw how the real economy functions. Behind every stocked shelf, restaurant kitchen, and small business storefront is a network of drivers, warehouse workers, and logistics crews who keep products moving. These experiences strengthened Ross's respect for working-class Americans.

He often speaks about supporting small "mom and pop" businesses — the family-owned shops that anchor local communities. These businesses represent the heart of American entrepreneurship. They are run by people who work long hours, take risks, and pour themselves into their communities. Ross believes government should support the people who build, produce, transport, and keep the country moving rather than burying them under endless bureaucracy.

Ross also often speaks about American steel. To him, American steel represents the framework of the nation. The bridges, factories, railroads, and skyscrapers that built modern America were made possible by steelworkers and builders. Just as steel supports buildings and bridges, the labor of working people supports the American economy. Ross believes government should never forget the people who build the country with their hands.

In recent years Ross began working toward another goal — opening his own bar within five years. Rather than simply talking about the idea, Ross purchased a brick-and-mortar building and began transforming it. The renovation was extensive. Ross gutted the building down to its skeleton, removing sheetrock, insulation, ceilings, flooring, and walls. He removed old wiring, opened up the structure, and worked to turn it into something new.

Before making structural changes, Ross met with architects and structural specialists to follow detailed blueprints and make sure the project was done correctly. Every screw, every beam, every opening followed a plan. That process reinforced something Ross believes deeply: nothing solid can be built without a blueprint. Whether it is a building, a business, or a state, you need a clear plan, clear goals, and accountability.

Ross expanded the building from sixteen windows to twenty-two windows, installing many himself with the help of a friend. Licensed electricians and plumbers handled specialized systems while Ross completed insulation, sheetrock, painting, flooring, and construction of a new bathroom. Hiring contractors for everything could have cost well over one hundred thousand dollars. By carefully planning the project and doing much of the work himself, Ross completed major portions with roughly twenty thousand dollars in materials.

To make it happen, Ross pushed himself through 60 to 90 hour work weeks, sacrificing comfort, cutting wasteful spending, and saving relentlessly so he could build his future business without going over budget. Ross calls this philosophy precision spending for precision goals. Unlike government systems that can simply raise taxes when budgets fail, Ross knew every dollar came from his own labor. Every mistake had a cost. Every decision mattered.

That same mindset shapes how Ross thinks about leadership and government. He does not believe in vague slogans with no plan behind them. He believes goals require a blueprint. Big goals require smaller goals underneath them. Progress should be measurable. Plans should be carefully thought through, but flexible enough to adjust when problems arise. Some obstacles require going around the rock. Others require punching straight through it. Ross believes true leadership means knowing the difference.

Ross is also a critical thinker. He does not like shallow answers, emotional overreaction, or people repeating talking points without understanding the full picture. He believes in digging deeper, asking questions, and thinking through the consequences of actions. His political awakening began when he started paying closer attention to government, public policy, and how decisions affect ordinary people. He realized politics was far more complicated than most people think. That realization made him study harder, question more, and care more deeply about accountability.

Ross is also a Christian. His faith reminds him that leadership should come with humility, responsibility, and service to others. He has written prayers for soldiers and even wrote a song reflecting his faith titled "Fly Into Your Loving Arms." His faith shapes how he sees service, compassion, sacrifice, and moral responsibility. He believes strength and humility are not opposites. A good leader needs both.

Ross often says he lives by the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. These principles guide how he treats people and how he believes leaders should govern. To Ross, trust matters because once lost, it is difficult to earn back. Respect should be given freely because you never know someone's struggles or what they had to overcome to get where they are. Responsibility means stepping up, owning mistakes, and fixing them quickly. Fairness matters, but he also understands fairness is not always simple.

Caring begins locally. Citizenship means taking responsibility for your community and respecting the rule of law.

Ross believes real change begins locally. He regularly helps neighbors by shoveling driveways, fixing fences, mowing lawns, cutting trees, sharing homemade food, cleaning parks, and clearing bike paths so people can travel safely. He believes leadership begins by helping the people around you. While many people spend their energy arguing about the whole world online, Ross believes real change starts in neighborhoods and communities where action still means something.

Ross Nova decided to run for Governor of Minnesota because he believes leadership should come from people who understand the real world — people who have built things, served others, and experienced life outside political offices. Ross believes Minnesota deserves leadership that is accountable, transparent, and focused on uniting citizens rather than dividing them.

One of Ross's strongest beliefs is that Minnesota must move past political tribalism and rediscover unity among its citizens. Having worked alongside people from many backgrounds in the military, in business, and in his community, Ross understands that people can disagree without becoming enemies. This belief inspired ideas like the Unity Bill, which focuses on restoring cooperation, respect, and civic responsibility across communities.

Ross also believes education is one of the most important investments a society can make. Having arrived in the United States as a child who did not speak English, Ross experienced firsthand how difficult it can be for students who fall behind early in their education. Even with support through ESL programs, catching up academically was a challenge that followed him for years. That experience helped shape Ross's belief that the earliest years of education are some of the most important years in a child's life.

Ross believes when children receive strong educational foundations early, they are far more likely to succeed later in school and in life. This belief helped inspire his support for the BRIGHT Act, a proposal focused on strengthening early childhood education and ensuring young students have the tools and support they need to succeed. Ross believes education should focus on fundamentals — reading, writing, mathematics, critical thinking, and life skills — while keeping political ideology out of classrooms.

Ross Nova's campaign is built on several core principles: unity, transparency, working-class representation, fiscal responsibility, community strength, equal treatment under the law, protecting children, and supporting education. He also believes campaigns should be about ideas, not money, and has spoken strongly about wanting citizens to hear from all candidates rather than only the ones party structures choose to promote.

Ross often says, “Divided we fall, together we stand.” That phrase is more than a slogan to him. It reflects the life he has lived — surviving hardship, adapting to a new country, serving in uniform, building businesses, helping neighbors, and believing that people can still come together under one flag even when they disagree.

From surviving an orphanage in Bulgaria to becoming an American citizen, serving in the U.S. Army, building businesses, transporting goods, helping neighbors, writing from his faith, and stepping forward into leadership, Ross Nova’s life reflects resilience, faith, discipline, accountability, and action.

Ross Nova stands as someone who has fought through hardship, built with his own hands, served his country, and now seeks to help build a stronger Minnesota for future generations.