

## The Funeral Speech by the Mayor of Sękowa

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Professor Aleksander Guterch was a well-known, highly respected scientist dealing with the structure of the Earth's crust and upper mantle, the father of seismic surveying of the lithosphere. He was a pioneer of this type of research in polar regions and in many European countries, as well as an initiator of large-scale seismic programs. Professor Guterch was a mentor and guide to many generations of geophysicists. The results of his research have been presented in more than 250 publications. This outstanding geophysicist was employed at the Institute of Geophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences.



Fig. 1. Funeral Mass for Aleksander Guterch at the Church of St. Joseph at Sękowa, January 3, 2024 (photo by Edward Gaczyński).



Fig. 2. The act of granting the title of Honorary Citizen of the Sękowa Municipality to Prof. Aleksander Guterch.

He was a member of many prestigious national and international Scientific Committees, Societies and Expert Panels. He was also the winner of many awards and honors, just to name a few: Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, and the Bene Merito Badge of Honor.

In addition to his successes in science, Aleksander Guterch made significant achievements in promoting and enhancing the tradition of Polish arms and uniforms.

As a tribute to his outstanding scientific achievements, his great contributions to Polish and world geophysics (notably seismology), but also for his great interest in the local problems of Sękowa and support for its initiatives, the Municipality Council, on the occasion of the 650th anniversary of the location of the village of Sękowa, granted Professor Guterch, in the year 2013, the title of **Honorary Citizen of the Sękowa Municipality**. He was a true ambassador of our municipality and the village of Sękowa; he was proud of his birthplace, maintained close contact with the residents and was interested in local issues.

With his life and activities, he was making his homeland famous, bringing us honor and satisfaction. We are proud of him!

I will remember Professor Aleksander Guterch as a very charming and modest man. The contact with him was always very special; he demonstrated great class and a natural personal culture. He was friendly, open to others, and full of kindness and warmth.

He will forever be part of the history of the Sękowa Commune, to which he has returned after many years.

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