

Address by H.E. President of Latvia Egils Levits at the Convention of the Peers of the Republic of Latvia (Centenarians) at the VEF Culture Palace on 24 August 2019

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Dear Peers of the Republic of Latvia (Centenarians), Dear Audience, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate you, seniors, on the third convention of the peers of Latvia sincerely! I am delighted that you continue this nice tradition of bringing together smart, wise, and active seniors from all over Latvia.

Thank you to everyone involved in organising this event, because it is a very beautiful holiday, it is a blessed holiday, and we celebrate together with you, all Latvia, dear peers of Latvia.

Every individual is important to the state of Latvia, and everyone has value with the years they have lived and worked, with what has been gained in this life, and what can be passed on to our people.

One has researched and analysed our history much, described it in books and depicted in documentaries, but true history lives in the hearts, memories, and experiences of our people. It is a living history that each of you can tell.

You have experienced much in your vibrant life. You were born and raised at the time the country was founded, you experienced prosperity of the country, you also witnessed the difficult twists and turns of history, and you participated in the reconstruction of the Republic of Latvia. Your personal experience, emotions, encounters, and feelings are the most valuable in the history book called life.

The destiny of Latvia has been harsh, and these events of shared destiny probably have reflected in painful ways in your life, but at the same time, you have had beautiful, nice, lovely days, and everything mentioned before forms this being, this life shared

with Latvia and with all of us.

You have endured a great deal, so you are joyful and satisfied about achievements, experiences, and happening. The main thing is that Latvia is free again and you can pass on your experience to children, grandchildren, and maybe even children of grandchildren.

Thanks to your personality, knowledge, deeds, and great gaiety, you also bring to life the keynote of this year's centennial program and event 'heroism'. Not only our soldiers and defenders of freedom are heroes, but also our fellow human beings are heroes like you, strong, selfless, and wise people who have shaped Latvia's destiny.

It is not easy for seniors in Latvia. We are still solving many challenges, and there is also a lack of solidarity and support for the elderly in the community. We must develop new skills together to prevent people from feeling forgotten and unnecessary; to encourage younger generation to respect and care for the elderly and to listen to their advice and folk wisdom.

Thank you, the peers of Latvia, for your contribution for Latvia! Thank you for sharing your memories and experiences and being among us today!

I wish you continued good health, gaiety, and satisfaction for the merits during lifetime! May you spend each day in love and harmony with your loved ones!

Thank you to the celebrators for their life in favour of Latvia, for the hardships they have endured, and for their beautifully lived years!

Māris Čaklais said, "I am rich. I own everything that has happened to me." You have experienced a lot and you are very rich!

Thank you!



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