

President of Latvia presents the highest state awards of Latvia to 99 prominent members of society at the Riga Castle on 4 May

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[Egils Levits](#)



On 4 May, as Latvia celebrated the Restoration of Independence Day, Riga Castle hosts the ceremony of the presentation of the highest state awards – Order of the Three Stars, Order of Viesturs and Cross of Recognition



Order of the Three Stars was presented to 48 members of the public

Order of the Three Stars is presented for special service to homeland or significant contribution to development of public, local, social, cultural, educational, science, sports and economic sector. Such contribution may include individual outstanding achievements or continuous successful and exemplary accomplishments, or special role in restoring Latvia's independence and strengthening of national statehood.

Commanders of the Order of the Three Stars

Juris Poikāns, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to the Republic of Poland

For selfless service and outstanding contribution to the assistance to Ukraine

H. E. Ms Susana Margarita Cámara Angulo, Her Excellency the former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of Latvia

For significant contribution to strengthening relations between Latvia and Spain

Dr. chem. Aigars Jirgensons, Deputy Director of the Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis, professor at the Riga Technical University, academician

For merit in chemical science, Latvia's integration into the European and world scientific community and the education of the new generation of scientists

H. E. Mr Kevin Michael Ernest Rex, His Excellency the former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to the Republic of Latvia

For significant contribution to strengthening relations between Latvia and Canada

Dr. med. Pēteris Stradiņš, Head of the Cardiac Surgery Centre, Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital, professor, academician at the Riga Stradiņš University

For outstanding merit in medicine, significant contribution to the development of cardiac surgery and strengthening the cultural and historical identity of Sēlija

Ilgonis Upmalis, history researcher, former head of the Russian Armed Forces withdrawal monitoring bureau

For significant contribution to research on the history of the occupation of Latvia

Ilze Znotiņa, former Head of the Financial Intelligence Service

For significant contribution to the prevention of financial and economic crime, strengthening of the Latvian financial sector

Officers of the Order of the Three Stars

Elmārs Pļaviņš, International Religious Relations expert, National Armed Forces Command and Support Personnel Management Direct Support Group

For selfless service and outstanding contribution to the assistance to Ukraine

Dr. art. Elīta Ansona, curator of Exhibitions, Latvian National Museum of Art, art historian

For merits in culture and outstanding contribution to the study and promotion of Latvian visual arts

Dr. paed. Baiba Brigmane, founder of the College of Banking, former Rector of the College of Banking, Associate Professor

For significant contribution to the establishment and development of entrepreneurship and financial education in Latvia

Aldis Circenis, architect, designer, entrepreneur, Chairman of the Board of "Coppa Ltd", Chairman of the Board of "Rīgas Krēslu fabrika"

For merits in culture and significant contribution to the development and popularisation of design in the world

Dr. phil. Valda Čakare, professor at the Latvian Academy of Culture, theatre scholar and critic

For merits in culture and outstanding achievements in theatre criticism, research and cultural education

Daiga Dadzīte, president of the Latvian Paralympic committee

For significant contribution to the development of Paralympic sport in Latvia

Dr. arch. Ilmārs Dirveiks, architect at the SIA "Arhitektoniskās izpētes grupa", Lecturer at the Art Academy of Latvia, assistant professor at the Faculty of Architecture, Riga Technical University

For merits in culture and significant contribution to the preservation of cultural and historical heritage

Inta Dišlere, historical researcher, museum expert, Honorary Doctor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

For merits in culture and significant contribution to the research and preservation of cultural and historical heritage

Aivars Gribusts, founder and former head of the education company "Lielvārds"

For many years of significant contribution to the quality of education in Latvia

Juris Kalnciems, Head of the Piano department of Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music, professor, pianist

For merits in culture, contribution to the popularisation of Latvian piano music and education of young musicians

Justs Nikolajs Karlsons, attorney-at-law, preserver and maintainer of cultural heritage

For significant contribution to the preservation of cultural and historical heritage

Taiga Kokneviča, Deputy Director of the Museum of Occupation of Latvia, Chief Keeper of the Collection

For significant contribution to the research of Latvian history, the development of the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia and the creation of the museum's collection

Aija Kusmane, colorectal surgeon

For lifetime contribution to medicine, patient health care and the development of surgery in Latvia

Uldis Lukševics, head of the architectural firm "F.L. Tadao & Lukševics", architect

For merits in culture and outstanding creative achievement in architecture

Inese Lūsiņa, musicologist, music critic and journalist

For merits in culture and significant contributions to music criticism

Lelde Neimane, long-time keeper of the audiovisual collection of the Occupation Museum of Latvia, historian

For significant work and contribution to Latvian history research, creation of the exposition of the Museum of Occupation of Latvia

Andrejs Osokins, pianist, organizer of support actions for Ukraine

For outstanding achievements in culture and selflessness in organizing support actions for Ukraine

Dāvis Siksnāns, co-founder of the company "Printful", member of the board of the information technology company AS "Mapon"

For a significant contribution to the development of start-ups and the national economy

Varis Teivāns, Deputy Head of the Information Technology Security Incident Response Institution CERT.LV

For long-term significant investment in Latvian national security and cyber security capabilities

Aija Ventaskraste, Head of the Exhibition department of the Museum of Occupation of Latvia, historian

For many years of work and contribution to the development of the Museum of Occupation of Latvia and the creation of the main exhibition

Rauls Vēliņš, head of the health care company SIA "Roche Latvija", doctor

For long-term significant achievements in health care, public work and philanthropy

Dr. arch. Jānis Zilgalvis, architect, architectural history researcher, academician

For a lifetime contribution to the study, preservation and promotion of Latvia's cultural and historical heritage

Order of the Three Stars Class V

Dainis Aļeksējevs, SIA "Vaidens" Chairman of the Board, SIA "BioMix Balticum" Chairman of the Board, SIA "Saukas kūdra" member of the Board

For selfless work and assistance to Ukraine

Raina Boguža, Head of the Association "Mūsu ligzda", Ezeres Parish, Saldus Municipality

For significant civic initiative and selflessness in helping Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in Latvia

Vitālijs Čmihovs, SIA "Gaujas koks" member of the Board

For significant civic initiative and selflessness in helping Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in Latvia

Katrīna Gupalo, musician

For significant civic initiative and selflessness in organising actions in support of Ukraine

Artūrs Kristlībs, member of the Board of the association "Tev"

For significant civic initiative and selflessness in providing assistance to Ukraine, its soldiers and civilians

Aigars Loss, co-founder of "Tev"

For significant civic initiative and selflessness in providing assistance to Ukraine, its soldiers and civilians

Inga Ozoliņa, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in the Republic of Poland

For selfless work and significant contribution to the assistance to Ukraine

Jānis Palkavnieks, co-founder of the movement "Uzņēmēji mieram", spokesperson of the information technology company AS "Draugiem Group"

For significant civic initiative in organising aid to Ukraine, its soldiers and civilians

Viktorija Prituļaka, assistant to Oleksandr Miščenko, former Ambassador of Ukraine to Latvia, translator

For selfless work and contribution to the cooperation between Latvia and Ukraine

Māris Simanovičs, co-founder of the movement "Uzņēmēji mieram", Chairman of the Board of AS "Eco Baltia", national guard

For significant civic initiative in organising aid to Ukraine, its soldiers and civilians

Raimonds Simanovskis, SIA "EazyBI" member of the Board

For selfless work and assistance to Ukraine, its soldiers and civilians

Ģirts Slaviņš, SIA "Borščs" member of the board, SIA "Mobilly" Executive Director

For significant civic initiative and selflessness in providing assistance to Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in Latvia

Jānis Taukačs, co-founder of the movement "Uzņēmēji mieram", partner at the law firm "Sorainen", lawyer

For significant civic initiative in organising aid to Ukraine, its soldiers and civilians

Armands Alksnis, guitar teacher at Riga Secondary School 45, guitarist, composer

For merits in culture and significant contribution to music pedagogy

Māris Koristins, ballet dancer and director of the Latvian Puppet Theatre

For lifetime contribution to culture and creative achievement in the development of the Puppet Theatre

Palmira Lāce public servant, former politician, keeper of the memory of the defenders of Latvian independence

For significant public contribution to the preservation of the memory of the defenders of Latvian independence

Valdis Skujiņš, musician, founder and long-time leader of the band "Credo"

For merits in culture and active public work

Gilded Class I medals of the Order of the Three Stars

Simona Grundule, head of the Tukums animal shelter

For long-term selfless work in animal protection and welfare

Vilnis Grundulis, head of the Tukums animal shelter

For long-term selfless work in animal protection and welfare

Order of Viesturs was presented to 17 members of the public

Order of Viesturs is awarded for special military achievements and notable contributions to national resistance and defending of national independence, national security, for maintaining and boosting public order, national border protection, development of national armed forces, and patriotic education of citizens towards serving homeland and Latvian State, as well as defending of the Latvian land and state.

Grand Officers of the Order of Viesturs

General Rustamas Liubajevs, Commander of the State Border Guard Service, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania
For his significant contribution to the promotion of Latvian-Lithuanian cooperation in the field of border protection and to the strengthening of the security of the Latvian state border

Major General Paul D. Rogers, Commander of the Michigan National Guard
For significant contribution to the promotion of military cooperation between Latvia and the United States and to the strengthening of Latvia's national defence capabilities and security

Major General Flemming Mathiasen, Commander of the Multinational Division "Ziemeļi"
For significant contribution to the promotion of military cooperation between Latvia and Denmark and to the strengthening of Latvia's national defence capabilities and security

Commanders of the Order of Viesturs

Biruta Balande, member of the national resistance movement
For special merits in the national resistance movement

Sarmīte Cīrule, nurse, chief medic of the Ukrainian Army company
For courage and selfless work at the front line in Ukraine, providing medical assistance to Ukrainian soldiers

Colonel Jānis Leišavnieks, Head of the Special Facilities Security Division of the Main Public Order Police Department of the State Police
For significant contribution to the maintenance and strengthening of Latvian state security and public order

Marine Captain Māris Polencs, Commander of the National Naval Armed Forces
For significant contribution to the development of the National Armed Forces, the establishment and growth of the Navy

Colonel Reinis Znotiņš, Deputy Chief of the Main Criminal Police Department of the State Police
For significant contribution to ensuring the security of the Latvian state

Officers of the Order of Viesturs

Lieutenant Colonel Sandris Buliga, Head of the Pasiene Border Guarding Division of Ludza Department of the State Border Guard
For significant contribution to strengthening the security of the Latvian State border and the development of the State Border Guard

Lieutenant Colonel Sergejs Galilejevs, Riga Latgale Station of the Riga Regional Department of the State Police
For significant contribution to state security, public order and the development of the State Police

Lieutenant Colonel Roberts Innus, Chief of the Headquarters of the 2nd Vidzeme Brigade of the National Guard of the Republic of Latvia
For selfless service, contribution to the development of the National Armed Forces and participation in the international operation in Afghanistan

Lieutenant Colonel Olga Krūmiņa, Deputy Head of the Criminalistics Department of the Main Criminal Police Department of the State Police
For significant contribution to the maintenance and strengthening of Latvian state security and public order

Major Oļegs Smirnovs, Chief of the Special Operations Service "Sigma" of the Aviation Department of the State Border Guard
For significant contribution to strengthening the security of the Latvian State border and the development of the State Border

Guard

Gilded Class I medals of the Order of Viesturs

Senior Deputy Ingus Langrats, junior inspector of the protection of diplomatic missions' service, Special Facilities Security Division of the Main Public Order Police Department of the State Police

For a particularly significant contribution to the Latvian state security, for courage and self-sacrifice while performing official duties during hostilities in Ukraine

Silver Class II medals of the Order of Viesturs

Sergeant Raimonds Andžāns, officer of the protection of diplomatic missions' service, Special Facilities Security Division of the Main Public Order Police Department of the State Police

For a particularly significant contribution to the Latvian state security, for courage and self-sacrifice while performing official duties during hostilities in Ukraine

Senior Sergeant Mārtiņš Karlshofs, officer of the protection of diplomatic missions' service, Special Facilities Security Division of the Main Public Order Police Department of the State Police

For a particularly significant contribution to the Latvian state security, for courage and self-sacrifice while performing official duties during hostilities in Ukraine

Senior Sergeant Andris Osis, Chief Specialist of the Management Group of the Motor transport platoon of the Motor transport Support Centre, Procurement Command of the National Armed Forces

For significant contribution to the development of the National Armed Forces, participation in the international operation in Afghanistan and self-sacrifice in providing assistance to Ukraine

Cross of Recognition was presented to 34 members of society

Cross of Recognition is awarded for special loyalty to Latvia and meritorious achievements in the field of public administration, social activism, culture, science, sports or education. Such accomplishments include continued loyal service to Latvia at central or local level, high professional and ethical standards, service to society, strengthening of national spirit, grassroots activism or economic potential.

Grand Officers of the Cross of Recognition

Mr Jakub Kumoch, former Head of the International Policy Office of the Office of the President of the Republic of Poland

For significant contribution to strengthening bilateral relations between Latvia and Poland and outstanding cooperation in support of Ukraine

Mr Paweł Solocho, former Head of the National Security Office of the Republic of Poland, State Secretary, Office of the President of the Republic of Poland

For significant contribution to strengthening bilateral relations between Latvia and Poland and outstanding cooperation in support of Ukraine

Commanders of the Cross of Recognition

Kristaps Amsils, Chairman of the Board of AS "Dobeles dzirnavnieks

For significant contribution to the national economy, as well as support to the Ukrainian army, civilians and Ukrainian refugees in Latvia

Arnīs Apsītis, Member of the Board of SIA "Kurekss", philanthropist

For significant contribution to the national economy, philanthropy activities and support to the Ukrainian army and civilian population

Juris Dzenis, Member of the Board of SIA "Rīgas Dīzelis DG"

For significant contribution to the national economy and support to the Ukrainian army and civilian population

Pēteris Elsts, Chairman of the Board of SIA "Niedrāji MR"

For significant contribution to the national economy and forestry development

Andris Felss, farmer, owner of the farm "Vīnkalni" in Jēkabpils Region

For many years of significant work in agriculture and for contribution to the care of the rural environment

Artūrs Freibergs, Senator of the Criminal Cases Department of the Senate of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Latvia

For selfless work and contribution to the development of the justice system, strengthening democracy and the rule of law

Mr Paweł Jabłoński, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

For significant contribution to strengthening bilateral relations between Latvia and Poland and outstanding cooperation in support of Ukraine

Uldis Misiņš, Chairman of the Board of SIA "Avoti"

For significant contribution to the national economy and the development of the woodworking industry

Juris Paulovičs, owner of the farm "Kelmēni" in Gulbene

For lifetime contribution to the national economy and selfless support to Ukraine

Ineta Piļāne, Deputy Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia, Head of the Civil and Political Rights Division of the Ombudsman's Office

For selfless work and contribution to the protection of human rights, strengthening democracy and the rule of law

Raivis Ragainis, Chairman of the Jēkabpils Municipality

For significant contribution to the work of the municipality and selfless, purposeful crisis management

Stefans Rāzna, Member of the Board of "Sēlijas asociācija", former Head of Ilūkste Municipality

For lifetime contribution to the work of the state and municipality, merits in strengthening the cultural and historical identity of Sēlija

Juris Sprukulis, farmer, Member of the Board of SIA "Vecsiljāņi", Aizkraukle Municipality

For significant work and contribution to agriculture and the development of agricultural production

Officers of the Cross of Recognition

Anita Ciša, Production Director AS "Preiļu siers"

For long-standing significant contribution to the national economy

Jūlija Čerešņeva, Head of Department 2 of the National Rehabilitation Centre "Vaivari", doctor of physical and rehabilitation medicine

For selfless work and professional contribution to the health care of Latvian citizens and Ukrainian soldiers

Edmars Grimms-Bergs, long-time Latvian public worker in Brazil

For lifetime contribution to the organisation of Latvian diaspora life in Brazil, keeping of Latvian traditions

Dr. paed. Ilze Kalniņa-Dauga, founder of the Riga Distance Learning School

For significant contribution to the establishment and development of distance education

Maija Katkovska, Head of the Latvian Safer Internet Centre

For significant contribution to educating the public on Internet content security issues

Dr. arch. Aija Ziemeļniece, Professor, Faculty of Environmental and Building Sciences, Latvian University of Biosciences and Technologies, leading researcher

For many years of creative work and contribution to culture and higher education

Cross of Recognition Class V

Lāsma Gabdullīna, Youth Guard Centre Lejasciems youth guard instructor, cross-country ski coach at Gulbene County Children and Youth Sports School

For significant contribution to the youth guard movement and patriotic education of school youth

Dzirkstīte Grotupe, Diagnostic Radiologist, Diagnostic Radiology Clinic, Riga 1st Hospital

For many years of selfless work in medicine and contribution to patient health care

Natalja Gudina-Salkova, Chief Nurse, Clinic of Cardiology and Internal Medicine, Riga 1st Hospital

For many years of selfless work in medicine and contribution to patient health care

Valentīna Kaša, teacher of Latvian language and literature at Baltinava Secondary School, Balvi Municipality, local history researcher

For long-standing contribution to education and local history research, patriotic education of school youth

Gundega Kristone, pharmacist at Riga 1st Hospital

For selfless lifetime work in medicine and contribution to patient health care

Aivars Opincāns, education and culture worker, choir conductor

For his work in education and culture, significant contribution to the tradition of men's choirs

Signe Pucena, founder of the interdisciplinary art group "SERDE", researcher of traditional culture

For significant achievements in art and development of regional cultural environment

Uģis Pucens, founder of the interdisciplinary art group "SERDE", artist and restorer

For significant achievements in art and development of regional cultural environment

Eldars Rzaževs, physiotherapist, Department 2, National Rehabilitation Centre "Vaivari"

For selfless work and professional contribution to the health care of Latvian citizens and Ukrainian soldiers

Dzintra Sprudzāne, Chair of the Board of SIA "Senda Dz"

For long service and significant contribution to the development of entrepreneurship

Zane Tīcmane, Head of the Surgery Unit, Riga 1st Hospital

For many years of selfless work in medicine and contribution to patient health care

Inga Ulmane, Head of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia in the United Arab Emirates

For significant contribution to the Latvian economy

Gilded Class I medals of the Cross of Recognition

Ārija Spunģe, public worker, Head of the Olaine Municipality Senior Citizens' Association "Liepas"

For active public work and contribution to strengthening civil society



Address of the President of Latvia, Egils Levits, at the ceremony for presentation of the highest state awards

Dear members of the Chapter of Orders, Dear recipients of highest state awards, Dear viewers of Latvian Television, Ladies and gentlemen, Latvia can only be democratic, legal and national...

04.05.2023. [Egils Levits](#)

<https://www.president.lv/en/article/president-latvia-presents-highest-state-awards-latvia-99-prominent-members-society-riga-castle-4-may>