

In connection with Independence Day, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves signed a resolution, yesterday whereby, he bestowed national decorations on 268 Estonian citizens and foreigners to recognize their services to the Republic of Estonia.

“On the eve of the 90th anniversary of our state, we are bestowing Estonian state decorations on people who have helped to protect, preserve, and promote the Republic of Estonia in order to thank and honor them,” President Ilves wrote in the preface to the resolution.

“The Republic of Estonia endures based on the courage and volition of our citizens. The Republic of Estonia endures based on people who are dedicated to their vocations, community activities, and their families,” the Head of State stressed. “Estonia thanks its doctors, teachers, scientists, leaders of local life, cultural figures, freedom fighters, police, members of the Defense League, and state officials, as well as people whose activities have helped to make our country stronger as fast as possible after the restoration of our independence.”

President Ilves also addressed Estonia’s friends abroad, “The Republic of Estonia thanks our friends and supporters throughout the world who have helped clarify and support our aspirations; and who have helped to make Estonia’s voice heard and our dreams come true.”

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