

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves attended the funeral today of former Lithuanian head of state Algirdas Brazauskas in Vilnius. This morning he visited the Lithuanian presidential palace to lay a wreath before President Brazauskas' casket. He expressed his sympathy to the president's family and made the following entry in the official book of condolence:

“President Brazauskas will remain in our memories and in our hearts as a Lithuanian patriot who helped guide his homeland back to freedom and democracy.

We will remember Algirdas Brazauskas as a person whose actions and whose personal and political choices during the restoration of the Republic of Lithuania saw him rise to become one of the country's leaders and one of its greatest citizens. He did everything within his power to secure his country's independence and its place in Europe.

We have lost a great champion Freedom and a great friend and ally to Estonia. I bow my head in memory of Algirdas Brazauskas. Estonia shares in Lithuania's mourning.”

The Estonian head of state instructed that the flags outside the Office of the President of the Republic be flown at half-mast during the former Lithuanian president's funeral.

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