

“On the birthday of our country, Estonia thanks all of those whose contribution and commitment helps us to survive and grow strong,” said the President, Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves today, when presenting the honorary decorations awarded in the hall of the Bank of Estonia on the eve of Independence Day.

“Every country is made into a state through the hopes of its people, great and small deeds, courage and confidence in ourselves, our next of kin and our state. The pattern that is woven from all of these individual stories is what is called Estonia,” the Head of State said.

“All of you have some features in common – a deep commitment and open soul and the will and power to go above and beyond the call of duty. There has been no neglect or nonchalance in your actions. In many respects, several of you are mentors who command respect and regard, and are called on for advice and assistance,” said President Ilves, when addressing the recipients of decorations.

“Every country is a creation of people, their contribution to their people, society and co-citizens. Our Estonia is good, solid and safe because you have contributed to making it that way. You have contributed to Estonia’s growth, development, improvement and strength,” said the Head of State.

Ms Jelena Skulskaja, writer and journalist, gave a speech on behalf of the recipients of decorations.

Full text of the address of President Ilves is available [here](#) .

Additional information:

On 2 February this year, to celebrate Independence Day and acknowledge service to the Republic of Estonia, the President of the Republic awarded honorary decorations to 99 citizens of Estonia and its supporters from abroad, whose activities have contributed to promoting, maintaining and securing Estonia's independence: <http://www.president.ee/et/ametitegevus/otsused/5584-820-riiklike-autasude-andmine/index.html>

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