

Dear friends!

Honourable recipients of Estonian State Decorations!

On the eve of its anniversary Estonia thanks those whose commitment and contribution have helped us to last and become better.

Therefore – it is a great honour for me to bestow upon you the highest recognition of our state - Estonian State Decorations.

A country is turned into a State by the hopes of its people, their actions big and small. This often requires bravery and faith in oneself, in people around us, in our State.

A pattern evolving from all these stories is called Estonia.

Today we have very different life stories and professions gathered here. Our compatriots, our friends and supporters from other countries.

You all share a deep sense of commitment and an open soul. A will and an ability to give more than your job description demands, or your boss tells you to.

There has been no place for indifference or resignation in your actions. Many of you are like mentors people turn to with respect and admiration for help and advice.

Every state is a creation by people, their contribution to the people, society and fellow citizens.

Our Estonia is good, solid and secure because you have helped her to become that. Helped her to grow, develop, become better and greater.

You have managed to achieve that by doing your job in the best possible way, true to your heart and soul, and thereby becoming an example for all of us.

I congratulate you all, dear compatriots and guests, on behalf of the Republic of Estonia. You have the gratitude and respect of the Estonian people!

Thank you all!