

I am speaking to you, my good friend, to whom the monument to the War of Independence has been erected in Rakvere. You went to fight for the freedom of Estonia, because it was the only thing to do. You left your young wife home, and maybe also children. Or maybe you went straight from school. You had to go in the name of those at home, and the future – in the name of free Estonia, our own state, and independence. You went to fight for freedom, to the fight our parents and grandparents had dreamt of for centuries.

I would like to tell you here today in 2017, that, thanks to you, the Republic of Estonia will be 100 years old next year. Our language and culture live and develop. Our children are the cleverest in the world. Our soldiers are the bravest. Our women are the most beautiful. This is the Estonia you went to the war and fought for. Just one hundred years older, but still our own Estonia, the free homeland of the people who live here.

Naturally both Estonia and the world have changed in the meantime. Unfortunately, those who are not happy with our being free are still the same. The world that appreciates freedom became wiser through a sad experience. We, too, had hard times because we were left alone and could not defend our freedom. But we struggled free of those chains, and today Estonia is stronger than ever before.

We became strong thanks to having friends who understand the things of the world in the same way we do, and respect the freedom of people. We have allies, and we ourselves are allies to other nations. Together we are strong, together we are free. I want you to know that our allies are the same we had during the War of Independence. Freedom in today's world also needs to be protected and kept. It needs cooperation and brotherhood in arms. Because evil has not disappeared from the world.

Dear friend! Thanks to you, the Republic of Estonia will soon be one hundred years old, and thanks to you, the whole free world is also better protected today. It is hard to believe that you could have thought of all that when you went to the war, but that is how it is.

On the Victory Day today, we lay the wreaths to thank you, and then go to the parade. We are all together proud of our country. We smile to each other, and according to our tradition, celebrate the shortest night for us by lighting a bonfire.

Thank you! Everything is well in Estonia, do not worry.