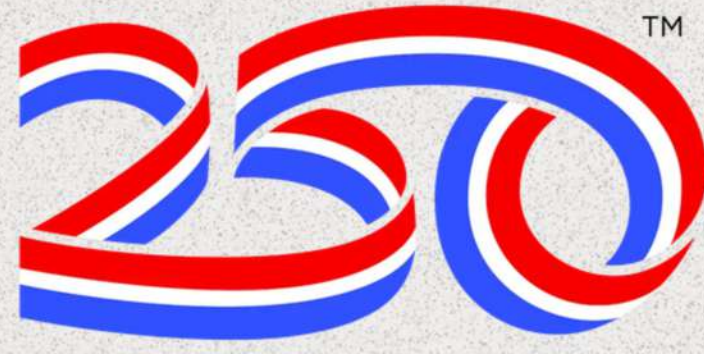


AMERICA



CELEBRATING AMERICA THROUGH STORIES THAT UNITE US



EMBASSY OF LITHUANIA
WASHINGTON DC

THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO (TADAS KOSCIUŠKA)

Freedom Fighter Across the Atlantic

Thaddeus Kosciuszko (Tadas Kosciuška) (1746–1817) – a hero of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the American Revolution.

Kosciuszko, born into a minor noble family in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and witnessing the increasing external threats to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, developed a deep and lasting commitment to the values of freedom, justice, and equality.

A highly skilled military engineer, he played a significant role in the American Revolutionary War, contributing to key victories—most notably Saratoga—and helping design and build the fortifications at West Point.

"He is as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known"

Thomas Jefferson



Returning to Europe, he led the 1794 Kosciuszko Uprising—the final large-scale attempt to preserve the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth before the Third Partition by Austria, Prussia, Russia in 1795—while advancing a bold political vision that sought to extend civic rights to all, including the oppressed peasantry.

His commitment to universal freedom extended beyond national boundaries: in his American will he called for the emancipation and education of enslaved people—a remarkable and forward-looking expression of equality for his time.

His life and actions left a lasting mark on both sides of the Atlantic, linking the struggle for independence with a broader pursuit of social justice.

Interesting Fact: A Gift of Friendship Kościuszko's Fur Coat

It is said, that during his visit to Monticello in the late 1790s, Thaddeus Kosciuszko presented Thomas Jefferson with a fur coat—likely among several furs he had received after his release from Russian captivity.

Though the original garment has not survived, it may be reflected in the fur-collared coat Jefferson wears in his well-known portraits. More than a personal gift, the coat symbolizes the close friendship between them.



TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO TO THOMAS JEFFERSON, [BEFORE 5 MAY 1798]

From Tadeusz Kosciuszko

SIR:

Give me leave to present you a Fur for experiment Sake to try whether the hops in this Country will have the same effect as it is in mine. you must spread with it the whole surface of the fur, and once or twice in the summer in Sun shine day bit out accumulated dust and pack up in the same maner again as i related before—when ever you will have a time in the daytime for a quarter of hour I beg you would grante me to finish what i have begone wyth Respect and Esteem your
Humble and Obedient
Servant

[before 5 May 1798]

Thomas Jefferson portrait by Rembrandt Peale.
Letter from National Archives page. Copyright © Princeton University Press.

Visuals on the left: Karl Gottlieb Schweikart, Portrait of Tadeusz Kosciuszko,
National Museum in Warsaw.

Map: Fort Billingsport Map, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division

AN EMBASSY

That Never Closed

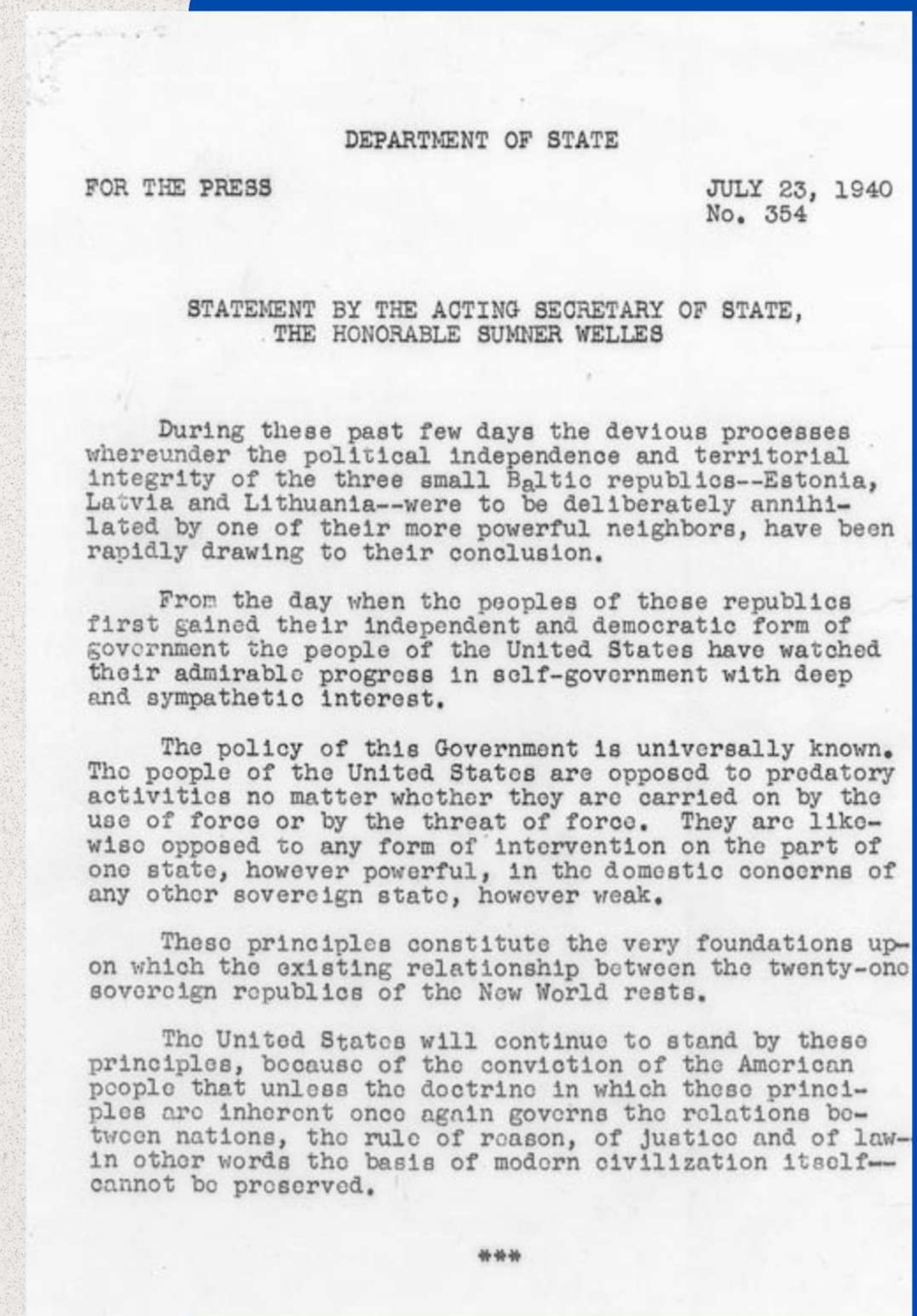
*Thank you,
America!*



Even after Lithuania was occupied by Soviet forces in 1940, its diplomatic service in the United States continued to operate without interruption. This continuity was anchored in the United States' refusal to recognize the Soviet annexation of the Baltic states.

At the heart of this policy stood the **Sumner Welles Declaration**, issued in July 1940, which affirmed that the United States would not accept the forcible incorporation of Lithuania, Latvia, or Estonia into the USSR.

Throughout decades of occupation, the Lithuanian flag continued to fly at the U.S. Department of State, symbolizing the enduring recognition of Lithuania's sovereignty and the legitimacy of its diplomatic service.



The Welles Declaration was a diplomatic statement issued on July 23, 1940, by Sumner Welles, the acting US Secretary of State



Photos: Lithuanian Embassy Throughout Years
1st photo: The original duplex of the Embassy of Lithuania, until the building at 2620 Sixteenth Street was torn down in 1965 and replaced with an apartment complex. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

The Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC, is the longest continuously operating Lithuanian diplomatic mission abroad. Built in 1909, 2622 16th Street was commissioned by Mary Foote Henderson as part of her vision for an Embassy Row on Meridian Hill. Lithuania purchased the building in 1924 and it became a hub of early 20th-century Lithuanian diplomacy. It is considered one of the oldest continuously used (over 100 years!) embassy buildings in Washington.

When the Hope for Freedom Became a Reality

During five decades of Soviet occupation, our diplomats remained dedicated to their mission despite pressure, uncertainty, and countless challenges, while the Lithuanian community in the United States offered unwavering support, all in the hope of witnessing the Restoration of Lithuania's independence. March 11, 1990, marked the fulfillment of that dream for everyone who had tirelessly worked for Lithuania's freedom.



Photo: (Right) Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States, Skaisis (Goraitis, L.), reading the telegram received on the restoration of the independence of Lithuania (March 11, 1990). (Left) Mrs. Lozoraitis during a celebration of Lithuania's independence. Photo: Vytis Ervikas Vengris

BASKETBALL BRIDGES

From Lithuania to American courts



Often called the **“Mother of Basketball,”** Senda Berenson Abbott played a crucial role in shaping the early development of the sport for women.

Born to a family of Lithuanian Jewish immigrants, her roots trace back to Lithuania, a heritage that formed part of her identity as she rose to prominence in the United States.

In the late 19th century, while teaching at Smith College, Berenson Abbott adapted original basketball rules for women, laying the foundation for women’s basketball as we know it today.

On March 22, 1893, she led the first official women’s game; within two years, hundreds of teams formed nationwide.

Senda created the official women’s basketball rulebook and founded its first guide. Senda Berenson Abbott became the first woman inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.



Photos: Senda Berenson Papers, Smith College Libraries; Wikimedia Commons

Recognize these names?

The Other Dream Team



Frank Lubin (1910–1999) — Born Pranas Lubinas, Lubin was a pioneering Lithuanian-American basketball center and a towering figure of the pre-NBA era. A star at UCLA and 10-time AAU All-American, he won Olympic gold with the United States in 1936, helping shape early American basketball.



Photo: NBA

Domantas Sabonis (born 1996) — Lithuanian-American NBA center and one of the most accomplished players in American basketball today. A three-time NBA All-Star, two-time All-NBA selection, and multiple-time rebounding leader.



Photo: NBA

Matas Buzelis (born 2004) — Lithuanian-American NBA forward for the Chicago Bulls. A rising young scorer known for his versatility and breakout 40+ point performance in 2026, representing Lithuania’s growing influence in modern American basketball.



Photo: Lou Capozzola

After decades under Soviet rule, Lithuania regained independence in 1990 and returned to the Olympics in 1992 as a free nation. Led by stars like Arvydas Sabonis and Šarūnas Marčiulionis, the team—known as the **“Other Dream Team”**—won bronze in Barcelona, defeating the Unified Team (a joint team of former Soviet republics) and turning basketball into a powerful symbol of national rebirth, pride, and freedom.

One of the most iconic details of Lithuania’s 1992 Olympic run was their tie-dye warm-up shirts. Struggling financially after regaining independence, the team nearly couldn’t afford to compete at the 1992 games. Support from fans in the U.S., including **the Grateful Dead**, helped fund their trip and the team received colorful skeleton-themed shirts to wear. Those shirts quickly became a symbol of unity, resilience, and Lithuania’s return to the world stage.

LITHUANIAN TALENT

in American Spotlight



George F. Maciunas

Photo: George Maciunas by rocor

George Maciunas (1931–1978) — Born Jurgis Mačiūnas, he was a Lithuanian-American artist and founder of Fluxus. A driving force behind international avant-garde art, he transformed performance, conceptual practice, and the cultural landscape of New York's SoHo.



Photo: Jonas Mekas by Furiodetti

Jonas Mekas (1922–2019) — Lithuanian American filmmaker, poet, and pioneer of American avant-garde cinema. Co-founder of Anthology Film Archives and the Film-Makers' Cooperative, editor of *Film Culture*, and creator of landmark diary films such as *Walden*.



Photo: Aleksandra Kašuba personal archive (LNDM); Antanas Lukšėnas

Aleksandra Kašuba (1923–2019) — Lithuanian-American artist and pioneer of earthworks and sculptural architecture, known for integrating art with nature, from *Rising Hill* to iconic architectural reliefs in NYC, including the optically animated façade of *Lincoln Hospital* in the Bronx and the sculptural wall of *7 World Trade Center*.



Photo: ArtTower (Pixabay)

Charles Bronson (1921–2003) — Born Karolis Bučinskis, Bronson rose from a harsh upbringing to become one of Hollywood's iconic tough-guy stars. He achieved international fame through films such as *The Magnificent Seven*, *The Great Escape*, and *Death Wish*, earning both a Golden Globe and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Photo: RutaLee by Angela George

Ruta Lee (born Rūta Kilmonytė, 1935) — Lithuanian-American actress, singer, and dancer whose career spans classic Hollywood film, television, and stage. Best known for *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, she is recognized with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Photo: Library of Congress/Bain News Service

Jascha Heifetz (1901–1987) — Born in Vilnius, Lithuania, Heifetz was one of the greatest violinists of the 20th century. A legendary child prodigy, his 1917 Carnegie Hall debut and unparalleled technique set enduring standards of virtuosity through performance, recording, and teaching.



Photo: Arnold Newman, MoMA

Jacques Lipchitz (1891–1973) — Lithuanian-born sculptor and pioneering figure of Cubist sculpture. His bold translation of Cubism into three-dimensional form reshaped modern sculpture, with landmark works including *The Song of the Vowels* and *Birth of the Muses*.



Photo: Ann Jillian by A.Light

Ann Jillian (born Ann Jura Nauseda, 1950) — Lithuanian-American actress and singer who transitioned from child stardom to acclaimed adult roles. She earned a Golden Globe for *The Ann Jillian Story* and remains widely known for performances in *Babes in Toyland* and *Mr. Mom*.



Photo: Dick Thomas Johnson

Robert Zemeckis (born 1952) — Acclaimed American filmmaker of Lithuanian descent who transformed popular cinema by fusing technical innovation with storytelling. His landmark films—including *Back to the Future*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *Forrest Gump*, and *Cast Away*—earned him two Academy Awards and enduring global influence.



Photo: Allan Warren

Laurence Harvey (1928–1973) — Lithuanian-born actor and director who rose to international prominence with his Oscar-nominated performance in *Room at the Top (1959)*. Renowned for his cool, refined screen presence, he became a defining figure of postwar British and American cinema.



Photo: Vytautas Maželis

Vytautas Kazimieras Jonynas (1907–1997), a Lithuanian émigré artist who worked across graphic art, sculpture, and stained glass, bridging European modernism and American public art. He created major church and civic commissions in the United States, including works for the 1964 New York World's Fair, with pieces held in institutions such as The Met and the Brooklyn Museum.



Photo: Wikipedia Commons

Anthony Kiedis (born 1962) — Lead vocalist and lyricist of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, whose genre-blending sound and electrifying performances helped define one of America's most influential rock bands. His family heritage connects him to Lithuania through his father.



Photo: Raph,PH (Creative Commons)

P!nk (born 1979) — Award-winning American singer known for her powerhouse vocals, fearless stage presence, and acrobatic performances. With global chart success across decades, she traces her roots to Lithuania through her mother's Lithuanian heritage.



Photo: Eva Rinaldi (Creative Commons)

Jason Sudeikis (born 1975) — Award-winning American actor, comedian, and writer best known for *Saturday Night Live* and his acclaimed lead role in *Ted Lasso*. He traces his Lithuanian heritage through his father's family.

UNITED IN INNOVATION

Discoveries and Ideas That Shape the World



Photo: Monica Bojar

Marija Gimbutienė (1921–1994) — Lithuanian-American archaeologist whose influential Kurgan hypothesis and theory of Old Europe reshaped understanding of Indo-European origins, prehistoric religion, and gender in ancient Europe, earning her international recognition and a long professorship at UCLA. She overcame the obstacles the women faced at that time in the academy through a combination of exceptional scholarly rigor, strategic persistence, and interdisciplinary innovation.



Photo: Vladas Brazūnas

Kazys Almenas (1935–2017) — Lithuanian-American nuclear engineer, physicist, and writer whose work made important contributions to reactor safety and the understanding of RBMK-type nuclear systems. He combined scientific research with practical expertise, focusing on risk assessment and safety improvements in nuclear energy, particularly in the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster. His multifaceted legacy reflects both significant technical contributions to nuclear engineering and a commitment to advancing safe and responsible use of nuclear power.



Photo: Simon Fraser University

Birutė Galdikas (1946–2026) — renowned Lithuanian-American primatologist, anthropologist, and conservationist, best known for her groundbreaking, lifelong study of wild orangutans in Borneo. She founded Orangutan Foundation International and became a global leader in rainforest protection. Her pioneering research transformed scientific understanding of great apes and earned her international recognition.



Photo: Nobel Prize

Andrew Victor Schally (1926–2024) — Lithuania-born American endocrinologist, whose Nobel Prize-winning discoveries of hypothalamic hormones transformed understanding of hormonal regulation and led to the development of widely used hormone-based therapies for prostate and breast cancer, securing his place as one of the most influential endocrinologists of the twentieth century.



Photo: UCLA

Algirdas Avizienis (1932–2024) — Lithuanian-American computer scientist and pioneer of fault-tolerant and dependable computing. A long-time professor at UCLA, his work helped shape reliable computer systems used in aerospace, defense, and critical infrastructure, earning him major U.S. recognition, including IEEE Fellowship and international scientific honors.



Photo: University of Maine

Bernard Lown (1921–2021) — Lithuanian-born American cardiologist who invented the modern direct-current defibrillator, transforming the treatment of cardiac arrest, and later co-founded International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, accepting the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize for mobilizing doctors worldwide against the threat of nuclear weapons.



Photo: A. Mahmoud, Nobel Prize Outreach

Robert J. Shiller (born 1946) — American economist and Nobel Prize laureate of Lithuanian descent, renowned for transforming the understanding of financial markets through behavioral economics. He is best known for identifying asset bubbles and for co-creating the Case-Shiller Home Price Index, a key measure widely used in the United States. Awarded the 2013 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, Shiller has shaped policy, finance, and public debate.



Photo: GlaxoSmithKline plc - GSK Heritage Archives

Gertrude Belle Elion (1918–1999) — was an American biochemist and pharmacologist of Lithuanian descent who transformed modern medicine through pioneering, targeted drug design. Design facing significant discrimination as a woman and lacking formal doctoral training, overcame barriers to pioneer targeted drug design, develop lifesaving therapies for cancer and infectious diseases, and earn the 1988 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.



Photo: mc3institute.uw.edu

Rima M. Kulikauskas is a American molecular biologist of Lithuanian descent whose research on Wnt/ β -catenin signaling has contributed to a deeper understanding of cancer biology, particularly melanoma and tumor resistance mechanisms. Working within leading U.S. research institutions, she has helped bridge fundamental molecular insights with clinical applications, including biomarker development and immunotherapy research. Her work exemplifies the contemporary generation of Lithuanian-origin scientists advancing biomedical innovation in the United States.



Photo: Bogaerts, Rob / Anefo

Jonas Žmuidzinas (born 1960) — Jonas Žmuidzinas' research focuses on astrophysics at submillimeter and far-infrared wavelengths, including the development of superconducting detectors and multiplexing techniques as well as instruments for ground-based, airborne and space telescopes, in 2026 was awarded with 2026 James Craig Watson Medal, a National Academy of Sciences honor presented every two years for outstanding contributions to astronomy.



Photo: Library of Congress/Bain News Service

Pranas Zunde (1923–2004) — Lithuanian-American information scientist and computer science educator who helped shape the empirical foundations of information and software science in the United States. A long-time professor at Georgia Tech, he was recognized for pioneering research on information systems, human-machine interaction, and software modeling. Born in Lithuania, Zunde maintained strong ties to his homeland, later contributing to the academic renewal of Vytautas Magnus University while building an influential scientific career in the U.S.



Photo: Kevin Quinlan and courtesy of University of Delaware Archives

Vytautas Klemas (1930–2018) was a Lithuanian-American oceanographer and a pioneering figure in the application of remote sensing to marine science. He is best known for his long career at the University of Delaware, where he helped establish and expand research in coastal and ocean observation using satellite and airborne sensor data. Klemas played a key role in demonstrating how remote sensing technologies—such as satellite imagery, radar, and aerial photography—could be used to study coastal processes, including shoreline change, estuarine dynamics, wetlands health, and marine pollution.

LITHUANIAN TRACES

In Your House and In Your Pocket



Lithuanian influence can even be found in everyday American life. Victor David Brenner, born in Lithuania, designed the iconic Lincoln cent—first issued in 1909 and still in circulation today. His work made Abraham Lincoln the first real person depicted on a widely circulating U.S. coin.



The humble crockpot traces back to Irving Naxon, an American inventor of Lithuanian-Jewish descent. Inspired by his grandmother's traditional Sabbath stew (cholent), which cooked slowly over many hours, Naxon developed an electric slow cooker in the 1930s. Decades later, it was marketed as the Crock-Pot and became a staple in American kitchens.



VYTIS—the national coat of arms of Lithuania—is featured on Health-Ade Kombucha bottles

Modern kombucha culture in the United States didn't just happen—it was built by innovators like Daina Trout, a Lithuanian-American entrepreneur who helped transform an ancient fermented tea into a modern wellness staple. As co-founder of Health-Ade Kombucha, she brought small-batch craftsmanship and a fresh, accessible image to store shelves across the country, turning kombucha from a niche drink into a mainstream favorite.

Did you know?



A Lithuanian oak was named the 2026 European Tree of the Year | Photo by Vytautas Želnys

Lithuania and the United States share a quiet but meaningful bond through their reverence for the oak tree. In Lithuania, the oak—known as *Ažuolas*—has long symbolized strength, endurance, and spiritual resilience, deeply rooted in folklore and national identity.

In the United States, the oak also stands as a powerful emblem of stability and courage, even designated as the national tree in 2004. Across both cultures, this enduring symbol reflects a shared respect for heritage and nature, and a common belief in strength that withstands time—standing firm through generations like the roots of the oak itself.

CHAMPIONS OF TWO WORLDS

Lithuanian-American Sport Legends



Photo: International Swimming Hall of Fame

Albina Osipowich (1911–1964) — American swimmer of Lithuanian descent and one of the most accomplished female athletes of her era. At just 17, she made Olympic history at the 1928 Amsterdam Games, winning two gold medals and setting world records.

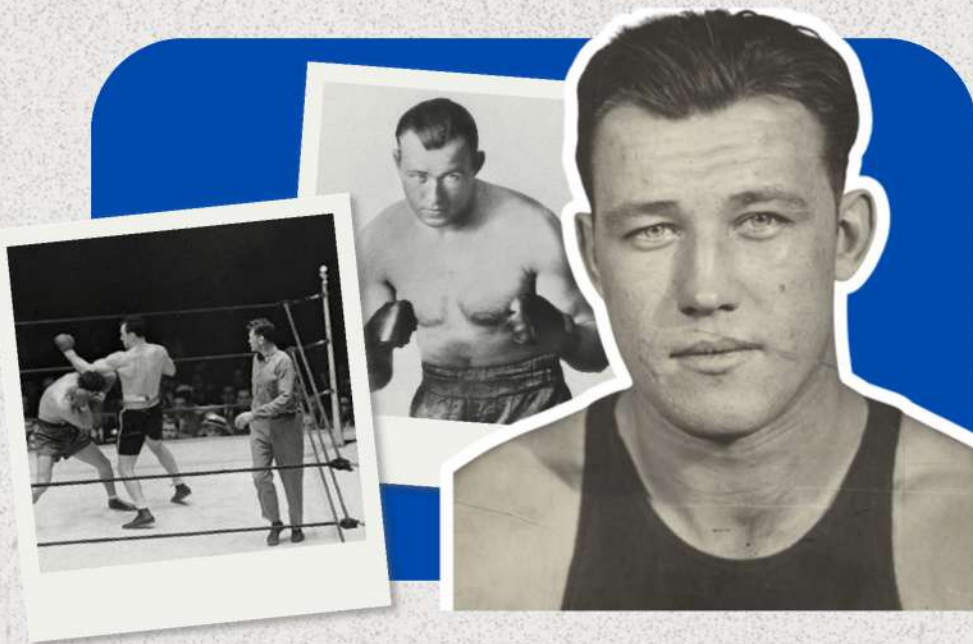


Photo: Boston Public Library

Jack Sharkey (1902–1994) — Born Juozas Žukauskas, Sharkey was a leading Lithuanian-American heavyweight boxer who reached the sport's summit as World Heavyweight Champion in 1932. Renowned for speed, technical skill, and ring intelligence, he remains a landmark figure in boxing history.

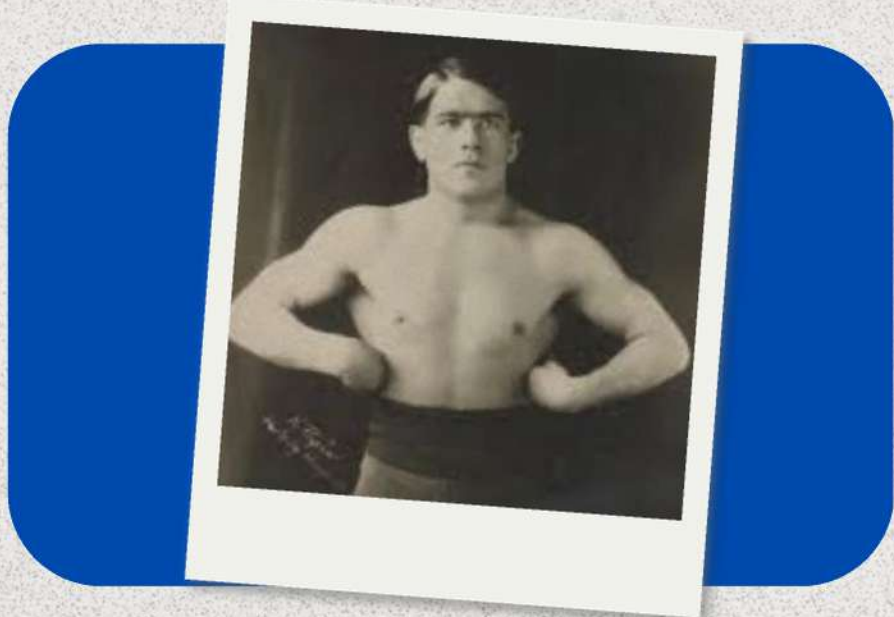


Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Karl Pojello (1893–1952) — Born Karolis Požėla in Lithuania, Pojello was a world-famous professional wrestler and strongman. A multiple-time world heavyweight champion of the 1910s, he helped popularize professional wrestling in the United States through international touring and a power-driven style.



Photo: NFL

Dick Butkus (1942–2023) — One of the most dominant defensive players in NFL history, Butkus was a ferocious Chicago Bears middle linebacker whose intensity redefined defense. Of Lithuanian-American heritage, he earned eight Pro Bowl selections, won the NFL Defensive Player of the Year, and was inducted into both the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame.



Photo: UFC

Rose Namajunas (born 1992) — Lithuanian-American mixed martial artist and two-time UFC Strawweight Champion. Celebrated for technical precision, composure, and resilience, she holds one of the most iconic championship victories in women's MMA history.



Photo: Koen Suvik / Anefo; Lietuvos sporto muziejus

Vitas Gerulaitis (1954–1994) — Lithuanian-American professional tennis player and 1977 Australian Open champion. Known for his charisma, flair, and aggressive all-court style, he was one of the sport's most popular figures and a key presence in tennis during the late 1970s and early 1980s.



Photo: NFL Photos

Johnny Unitas (1933–2002) — One of the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history, Unitas was the legendary Baltimore Colts passer whose toughness and precision helped redefine the modern passing game. Of Lithuanian-American heritage, he earned 10 Pro Bowl selections, won three NFL MVP awards, and was inducted into both the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame.

PROUD TO SERVE:

Lithuanian Heritage in American Military Service



Photo: US Navy via National Personnel Records Center

Ann Agnes Bernatitus (Bernotaitis) (1912–2003) was a distinguished United States Navy nurse and a pioneering figure in military medical service during World War II. Her legacy reshaped perceptions of women's roles in combat zones and military medicine.

Born in Exeter, Pennsylvania, to Lithuanian immigrant parents, she carried her Lithuanian heritage with pride throughout a career marked by extraordinary courage and professionalism. Serving under combat conditions in the Philippines at Bataan and Corregidor, she treated hundreds of wounded soldiers amid bombardment, extreme shortages, and constant danger, and was famously evacuated aboard the submarine USS Spearfish just before Corregidor fell.

For her extraordinary service, she became the first woman and the first member of the U.S. Armed Forces to receive the Legion of Merit, authorized to wear it with a Combat "V" device. Bernatitus is remembered both in the United States and among Lithuanian communities as a symbol of bravery, professional excellence, and the lasting contribution of Lithuanian-Americans to history.

*We honor
their service*

Photo: msichicago.org



Zenon Benedict Lukosius (1918–2006) was a distinguished U.S. Navy World War II veteran of Lithuanian descent, best known for his pivotal role in the capture of the German submarine U-505 in 1944—the first enemy warship seized by the U.S. Navy on the high seas since 1815. Lukosius was instrumental in keeping the damaged submarine afloat during the daring boarding operation, which led to the recovery of critical German naval codebooks. That operation is considered one of the most important U.S. naval intelligence coups of WWII. For his extraordinary bravery and technical skill, he was awarded the Silver Star.

Photo: United States Navy



R. Adm. Frederick Edward Bakutis (1912–2009) was a highly decorated U.S. Navy rear admiral and naval aviator of Lithuanian heritage who became a World War II flying ace—credited with destroying 7.5 enemy aircraft—survived being shot down at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, earned honors including the Navy Cross, Legion of Merit, and multiple Distinguished Flying Crosses, and later commanded major U.S. naval forces in both the Arctic and Antarctica. His influence extended beyond combat into strategic naval presence in polar regions.

Photo: Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Donald W. Lewis, U.S. Navy



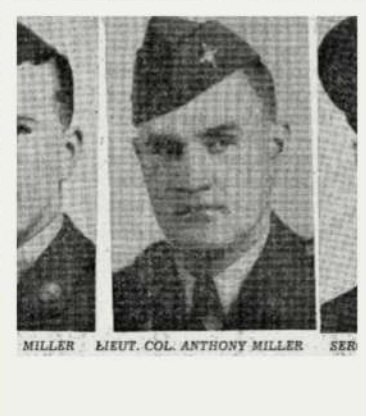
Adm. Mary Joan Nielubowicz (1929–2008) was a pioneering U.S. Navy leader who rose to rear admiral. She became Director of the Navy Nurse Corps in 1983 and the first non-physician Deputy Commander for Health Care Operations in 1984. The only woman in the Nurse Corps to reach commodore, she advanced opportunities for women and earned recognition for her leadership, leaving a legacy shaped in part by her Lithuanian-Polish heritage.

Photo: arlingtoncemetery.net



Walter James Sabalauski (1910–1993), a Lithuanian-born U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major, played a significant role in shaping modern U.S. Army air assault training culture. Over more than 30 years of service—spanning World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War—he distinguished himself through exceptional valor and leadership. His decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, eight Bronze Stars, four Purple Hearts, and the Legion of Merit, among others. In recognition of his enduring impact, the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, home of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), bears his name.

Photo: The Miller brothers in a 1951 newspaper clipping.



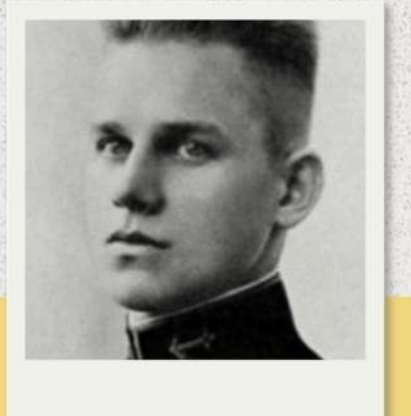
Mjr. Anthony J. Miller, a U.S. Army battalion commander with the 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division, led troops in Normandy and France after D-Day and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service near Kergonant on September 8, 1944, while notably all five of his brothers also served during World War II.

Photo: Wikipedia



Lt. Gen. Richard P. ("Rick") Natonski is a retired United States Marine Corps officer recognized for his distinguished service and senior wartime leadership. A career infantry Marine, he rose through every level of command to serve as Commanding General of II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF), one of the Corps' principal operational commands. During the Iraq War, he led major formations including Task Force Leatherneck and II MEF, earning respect for his effective coordination of complex combat and stabilization operations. His service was honored with awards such as the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star. Natonski's Lithuanian and Polish heritage also reflects the long tradition of Central and Eastern European immigrants contributing to U.S. military service.

Photo: Military Times



R. Adm. Peter Michael Moncy (Moncevičius) (1898–1978) graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1921. During World War II, he is best remembered for his leadership as commanding officer of the fleet oiler USS Laramie, for which he was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism during a German submarine attack in 1942. His decisive actions in bringing the heavily damaged ship safely to port while safeguarding his crew exemplified exceptional courage, composure, and seamanship.

Photo: msichicago.org



Edward Frank Slapikas (1915–1941), a U.S. Navy Seaman First Class of Lithuanian-American descent, was killed aboard the USS Oklahoma during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, later identified decades after being initially listed missing and honored with the Purple Heart.

Col. Joseph Anthony "Joe" Remus (1908–1979), a Lithuanian-American West Point graduate, served as a battalion commander in the Pacific during World War II and later held senior posts in the U.S., Europe, and Korea, earning major decorations including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

PARTNERSHIP TODAY:

A Modern & Energized Partnership



Photo: Lithuanian MoD, Sgt. Vail Forbeck

Lithuanians view the United States as a key ally. 89% of Lithuanians support allied troop presence in Lithuania.

The Pennsylvania-Lithuania National Guard Partnership, established in 1993 under the Department of Defense State Partnership Program, is a long-standing military-to-military collaboration focused on security cooperation, defense readiness, and training. The Pennsylvania-Lithuania partnership is one of the earliest, most active, and most enduring collaborations in Europe.

Lithuania proudly shares the U.S. vision of a stronger Alliance and is allocating over 5% of GDP to defense.

Lithuania has invested over \$2 billion (2% of its GDP) in defense procurement from the United States. Ranging from Javelin anti-tank missiles and Joint Light Tactical Vehicles to Black Hawk helicopters, HIMARS, and AMRAAM missiles used with the NASAMS medium-range air defense system.

This accounts for 20% of Lithuania's total defense purchases.



HIMARS, JETVs, UH-60s, AMRAAM, Javelins & Switchblades (Photos: Lithuanian MoD)



Photo: The Klaipeda LNG terminal – a cornerstone of energy security
KN Energies

United States is one of the top Lithuania's LNG suppliers. Lithuania was among the first European countries to import American LNG, which now accounts for around 70 percent of total LNG imports by Lithuania. Thank you, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland for aiding Lithuania's energy independence!



Photo: Town of Mocksville

United States is the no. 1 destination of Lithuania's investments. In 2025, Lithuanian furniture producer SBA Group made a 70 million USD investment in a new furniture facility in the United States, creating over 250 jobs in Mocksville, North Carolina. The furniture produced will reach millions of homes across the United States.