

Robertas Savickas, Ph. D.

Vado pavaduotojas Šiaurės ir Pietų Amerikoje  
LIETUVOS BAJORŲ KARALIŠKOJI SAJUNGA



VERITAS \* HONESTAS \* DIGNITAS

Robert Savickas, Ph. D.

Vice-Headman for North and South America  
LIHUVANIAN ROYAL UNION OF NOBILITY

## Segment 1 by R. Savickas—History and Role of Nobility and LRUN

Approximate time: 20:25–20:33

*at the event by the Lithuanian Royal Union of Nobility  
at the Balzekas Museum's Annual Banquet  
Chicago, IL, October 11, 2019*

Dear Mr. Stanley Balzekas, Jr., Mr. Stanley Bazekas, III, all members of the family, dear Mr. Ambassador, representatives of the Lithuanian American Community, dear guests, all lovers of Lithuania and all things Lithuanian, and dear press, thank you all for gathering here for this solemn evening, and thank you very much for your patience in staying here this late in order to give honor to our dear friend Mr. Stanley Balzekas, Jr., as we witness the conferring of not one, but two titles of nobility to him.

This is also a somewhat sentimental “reunion” for me, as I still remember meeting Mr. Balzekas at his office at the Museum in spring of 1994, when I was just a very young graduate student at Western Illinois University, earning one of my master’s degrees. I am both honored and humbled to have received this assignment, as part of my duties, from the Leadership and the Senate of the Lithuanian Royal Union of Nobility.

In the XXI Century, some may question the meaning and relevance of such awards, or—for that matter—the entire concept of nobility, as societies all around the world have been homogenized and roles, skills, duties, privileges, and behaviors often misaligned. Ladies and gentlemen, I would say this is a bit unfortunate: if we ourselves erase the concept of nobility from the society’s moral fabric, it seems illogical of us to still expect our politicians and governments to somehow be noble in their characters, actions, behaviors, and words. If a society eliminates its nobles, who are to serve as examples, how can it hope to be a noble, true, honest, and dignifying society?

To offer relevant historical perspective, I will refer to the oldest history book, which is also the most published book in the world, and it is also the book on which Mr. Balzekas will say his Nobleman’s Oath just a few minutes from now—The Holy Bible. One of the most successful kingdoms in human history, economically, politically, and militarily, had been that of King David and King Solomon. We read that although they did make some severe mistakes, these two kings bore the highest level of responsibility, accountability, and obedience to their Divine Commander. And, with their God’s direction, they also selected and appointed to leadership roles honest, dependable, and valiant men who helped the kings to both govern the kingdom and to conduct war. These Nobles shared with the kings the responsibility for the moral and economic wellbeing of the entire country and of the people, as well as for showing the example of faithful, orderly and virtuous living to the rest of the population.

This tremendous responsibility placed much pressure on the nobles to remain true, honest, and to maintain dignity of all the people. Additionally, it was—and still is—essential that these values be nurtured within the noble families from the early childhood. Needless to say, very often throughout the history, the monarchs and their nobles failed to do so. And, when the country and the population went the wrong way and began to disintegrate, we can read in the Scriptures that—consistent with the principle: “To whom much is given, of him also much is required”—the kings and the nobles received the most severe judgment for failing to obey the Divine will and to fulfill their roles in life.

To help them cope with the sometimes overbearing responsibility and with the great challenge of remaining true, honest, and dignifying, in many countries of Europe nobles would form societies and unions that allowed them to share experience and support, as well as to keep the monarch in check, to make sure he/she does not deviate from his/her Divine mandate. Lithuania, of course, is no exception.

The modern-day Lithuanian Royal Union of Nobility is a legitimate successor to similar organizations that existed over the centuries under the rule of the the grand dukes of Lithuania, as well as the kings of the Lithuanian-Polish Commonwealth. Our Union of Nobility existed prior to the Soviet Occupation, but its activities had been suspended under the decades of Red Terror. Fortunately, nowadays, the organization is very much alive and active. Its main goals include the restoration of glorious Lithuanian history, the nurturing of pride for and love to our Fatherland, the stimulation within each Lithuanian of the desire to work, contribute, and create for Lithuania, as well as the restoration of the honorable, respectful, and dignified culture that the country largely possessed prior to World War II. Please be sure to read the LRUN Leaderships address to all Lithuanians around the world.

On that last point about believing in Lithuania and helping her become the best she can be, our honorable guest, the Ambassador of Lithuania, Mr. Rolandas Kriščiūnas, has insightful and encouraging words to share.