



February 24, 2026

LTG Merilo,

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Estonia as you commemorate your Independence Day. This day stands as a testament to the vision and unity of the Estonian people, who on February 24, 1918, published their Declaration of Independence, the "Manifesto to the Peoples of Estonia". Published in Tallinn, declaring an independent and democratic Republic of Estonia and laying the foundation for the modern state.

Estonia's steadfast commitment to NATO continues to play a critical in ensuring regional and global security. The professionalism and dedication of your Defence Forces strengthen our Alliance and server as a powerful deterrent to aggression. I look forward to our continued partnership and collaboration

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Costanza". The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line underneath.

Charles D. Costanza  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Commanding General