

Baltic Bulletin

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Spring 2026

An afternoon discussion of BAFL's historic past, present, and future

The baton is poised to be handed over to the next generation

By Kristina Kazlauskas

SPOTLIGHT REPORTS

A social gathering took place on May 2, 2026, at the Latvian Community Center in Los Angeles. The event was attended by current and former members of the Baltic American Freedom League (BAFL) and special guests from Vilnius University in Lithuania. The discussions which ensued focused on the past, present, and future of BAFL, and notable advocacy achievements.

Initiating the discussion was Vilnius University master's student Urte Zekaite, who visited Los Angeles to learn firsthand of the extent of BAFL activities and to archive these primary sources of information. She highlighted the limited availability of this type of information in Lithuania, emphasizing that few individuals were even aware of BAFL's origins and efforts. Urte proposed initiatives for digital integration such as joint seminars and webinars for Baltic

university students and BAFL members, to help ensure the relevance of these achievements for future generations. Next, past board member Ausra Tallat-Kelpsa recollected her BAFL advocacy and updated us on Blue Yellow USA's efforts to provide life-saving equipment to Ukraine's frontline defenders.

... cont'd on 6



First row: Danute Mazeika, Angela Nelsas, Valdas Pavlovskis, Jaak Treiman, Tony Mazeika. Second row: Inguna Galvina, Lisa Edmonson. Third row: Lina Duseviciene, Urte Zekaite, Kristina Kazlauskas, Dace Pavlovskis, Atis Blakis, Conrad Mazeika. Photo: BAFL staff

Building tomorrow: Lithuania, United States, and the future of freedom

A dinner meeting sharing thoughts on leadership, engaging diaspora, trade, and investment

By Mike Andrulis

On Thursday, April 30, 2026, the Baltic American Freedom League (BAFL) and Consulate General of Lithuania in Los Angeles, Sandra Brikaite, hosted a dinner in Brentwood Village to discuss ensuring Lithuania's freedom and future. Evile Raupelyte Meshkin introduced the thought leaders,



From left: Hon. Dovydas Spokauskas, Greg Brown, Hon. Taurimas Valys, Hon. Gediminas Varvuolis, Naras Alksninis, Danute Mazeika, Hon. Regimantas Jablonskas, Evile Raupelyte Meshkin, Hon. Sandra Brikaite, Conrad Mazeika, Tony Mazeika, and Mike Andrulis. Photo: BAFL staff

who shared their perspectives on Lithuania's significance and the importance of the diaspora in understanding Lithuania's history. Conrad Mazeika, President of BAFL, underscored BAFL's role in educating Congress and Presidents Reagan and Bush to acknowledge and recognize the Baltic countries. Lithuanian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Taurimas Valys highlighted his efforts to engage Lithuanians abroad, advance trade and investment, and maintain Lithuania's status as a technology leader. We welcomed Lithuania's Ambassador to the U.S., Gediminas Varvuolis, and Consulate Generals Hon. Regimantas Jablonskas from Chicago and Hon. Dovydas Spokauskas from New York. Additionally, Greg Brown from the California Lithuanian Credit Union and Naras Alksninis from AEVEX Aerospace also participated in this unique gathering. Guests left energized about Lithuania's future and focused on ensuring its freedom and sovereignty. ▲

MIKE ANDRULIS is on BAFL's Board of Directors.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear friends and supporters,

During the past month, the Baltic American Freedom League (BAFL) has been honored to host two significant delegations in Los Angeles. The first by a high-ranking group from the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the second comprising researchers from Vilnius University who are chronicling the transformative impact of BAFL at pivotal moments in U.S. foreign policy.

I would like to thank BAFL's former Presidents, and past and present Board members who attended this captivating recollection of the advocacy that shaped the course of history. BAFL is firmly committed to victory for Ukraine. Current BAFL board member Lt. Col. (ret) Kestutis Eidukonis and past board member, Ausra Tallat-Kelpsa, serve with Blue Yellow USA, a nonprofit providing critically needed humanitarian aid and medical supplies to Ukraine (follow on Facebook as Blue/Yellow USA). Former Board member Rima Ziuraitis is currently a proud enlisted member of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and Stabpoint/Medevac medic (follow Rima on Facebook as Rima TK). We appreciate their strength and our continued collaboration. I also want to thank our Board members who often work late nights and countless hours preparing for BAFL events, both past and future.

Our grassroots activism must persist and expand to future generations who proudly call America home. In the 1980s, history could have taken a detrimental turn had U.S. policymakers not been driven by U.S. grassroots advocacy, public opinion, and the brave people of the Baltics, who risked all to restore freedom.

Additionally, I must also add that one of the highlights of our annual banquet/conference is the presentation of an award to a member of Congress who has demonstrated a strong commitment to Baltic defense. The 2025 award was presented to Rep. Don Bacon by BAFL Advocacy Advisor, Anne Smith, at the "Baltic Caucus Happy Hour" this past November. This event was attended by roughly a dozen bipartisan members of Congress and countless Congressional staff. We thank the strong House Baltic Caucus and the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus co-chairs for hosting this event along with the three Baltic embassies and our friends at JBANC.

I am also excited to announce that the BAFL annual awards banquet will be held this fall. A date will be announced shortly so that you can mark your calendars accordingly.

Please remember that BAFL's cultural, educational, and advocacy work is contingent upon the continued support of our donors. Your donations allow us to sustain our state-of-the-art grassroots advocacy tool, facilitating direct communication to Congress and our grassroots community. Please follow us on social media and sign up on our website homepage under "Subscribe to important Baltic news updates" (at the bottom of the page) to receive our periodic communications.

Conrad Mazeika
President
Baltic American Freedom League



2026 EVENTS

Mass Deportations Commemoration

Southern California Latvian
Evangelical Church,
Los Angeles, CA, USA
June 14

West Coast Estonian Days

San Francisco, CA, USA
June 26-28

Ollesummer (Beer Summer) Festival

Tallinn, Estonia
July 1-7

Latvian Song and Dance Festival

Riga, Latvia
July 5-12

NATO Summit

Ankara, Turkey
July 7-8

XVII Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival of North America

Chicago, IL, USA
July 10-12

International Conference on War, Conflict, and Peacebuilding in Europe

Vilnius, Lithuania
July 14

Lithuanian Days

St. Casimir Lithuanian Parish,
Los Angeles, CA, USA
October 10-11

Black Nights Film Festival

Tallinn, Estonia
November 6-22

Latvian Independence Day

November 18

Reagan National Defense Forum

Ronald Reagan Presidential
Library, Simi Valley, CA, USA
December 4-5

Model allies set the tone for renewed transatlantic partnerships

Reagan National Defense Forum

By Gintas Kazlauskas

SPOTLIGHT
REPORT

Hosted by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, the 2025 Reagan National Defense Forum (RNDF) underscored the need to strengthen American innovation and entrepreneurial leadership to bolster national security. Simply put, the United States must prepare to decisively win the next conflict with a peer adversary, to decrease the chances of it ever happening again. This, of course, refers to both the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

The appearance of figures such as Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, in addition to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Dan Caine, stresses the need to innovate and prepare at the highest levels. In attendance were bipartisan members of Congress, in addition to senior military officials and leading private sector leaders.

Notably, Sec. Hegseth stated, "Model allies that step up, like Israel, South Korea, Poland, increasingly Germany, the Baltics, and others, will receive our special favor." Such an attitude reflects a new forward-thinking, proactive stance in the NATO alliance, rather than member countries remaining lethargic and reactive to

threats. Western resolve requires modern arsenals to go with it, with allies willing and able to show their teeth. Defense Minister Robertas Kaunas represented the Lithuanian government, which procures 20% of its military equipment from U.S. companies.

Declarations by the CCP that Taiwan will "return to China" one way or another, matter-of-fact commentary

by Russian officials that "there is no Ukraine," continue to loom heavily. Former Rep. Mike Gallagher (WI-8), now Head of Defense at Palantir Technologies stated the following: "I would merely suggest that recent conflicts remind us that when dictators tell you they're gonna do a thing, even if it seems outlandish from a Western perspective, we should take it very seriously."

We expect that RNDF 2026 will stress the need for expanded partnerships between all branches of the military and the private sector, not only to catch up to existing realities on battlefields around the world, but to surpass and anticipate the needs and capabilities of next-generation warfare. After all, to quote President Ronald Reagan, "In the real world, peace through strength must be our motto." ▲



GINTAS KAZLAUSKAS is on BAFL's Board of Directors.

LEGISLATIVE
UPDATE

U.S.-Baltic security cooperation must remain a consistent priority for Congress and the Administration

Advocacy must continue

By Anne Smith

The next few years are vital to ensure adequate NATO response to growing Russian hybrid warfare and prepare for a growing Russian troop threat. Recent Congressional hearings and the introduction of legislation indicate continued strong support for U.S.-Baltic security cooperation in Congress. Yet, the Administration has sent conflicting signals on U.S. force deployments to Europe, been slow to commit funds through the Baltic Security Initiative (BSI), and has reduced the amount of U.S. forces that could be activated in the event of an attack on a NATO member.

BAFL Advocacy priorities

- * Robust funding by Congress of the BSI and provision of funding through the foreign military finance and foreign military security in the FY 2027 Defense Appropriations bill to ensure integration with U.S. military platforms and fulfillment of U.S. defense plans with the Baltic militaries.
- * A firm U.S. commitment to a strong U.S. force posture in Europe and NATO. We welcome the commitment to 5,000 troops in Poland by President Trump. The NATO Poland brigade is linked to U.S.-Baltic rotational deployments, with Americans now numbering around 2,000. A permanent U.S. presence on the frontline is the best way to maintain peace in the region for our allies, with the three states spending over 5% of their GDP towards defense and maintaining state-of-the-art training facilities.

The House Armed Services Committee will be marking up its annual National Defense Authorization Act next week. Strong language to support funding for the Baltic Security Initiative and report language to support key pillars of the BSI program, including in air defense and training on Baltic defense ranges, are included in the draft bill. House legislation to support Baltic cross-border transfers for U.S.-purchased HIMARS has been introduced (H.R. 8817).

A House Foreign Affairs Committee, European Subcommittee hearing, "Securing NATO's Eastern Frontier: Assessing the Strategic Landscape in the Baltic Region," began with the Chairman stating hybrid "threats on the Baltic States are not theoretical" but a daily reality. State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe, Christopher Smith, made it clear that U.S. military cooperation with the Baltics must remain strong.

... cont'd on 6



Why you need to get involved in BAFL's congressional call to action

OPINION

Citizen advocacy can influence political positions

By Ambassador Ginte Damusis

The one thing I learned from working in both the non-governmental and governmental sectors is that public opinion matters. Citizen advocacy can influence political positions.

During my pre-diplomacy days as a non-governmental activist, I drew the attention of democratic governments to human rights violations in then Soviet-occupied Lithuania. The information Baltic NGOs provided kept the international community informed, was cited, and often raised at intergovernmental conferences.

Later as a diplomat, I witnessed the impact effective NGO lobbying could have on public policy. Case in point: Baltic-Americans were vocal in their support of Baltic membership in NATO, which came largely as a result of the reforms and efforts by the Baltic States themselves. But when geopolitical circumstances were just right, the lobbying efforts of Baltic-Americans helped to finally open the Alliance door to Baltic membership.

We are living in an era of political uncertainty and rapid change, thus the need for effective lobbying and advocacy has never been greater.

The Baltic Sea region has become a testing ground for Russian hybrid attacks against NATO countries. There is a pattern of GPS jamming, aviation disruption, Russian air incursions, pressure on maritime traffic, severed pipelines and undersea cables, and other hostile activity, which is part of a broader Russian strategy to test the waters. The Kremlin's objective is to stay below the threshold of NATO's Article 5 collective defense clause while watching how allied states react, how radar and communications systems function, and how disruption affects both military and civilian infrastructure.

We now face a changing geopolitical landscape where U.S. commitments to NATO and European security are increasingly uncertain, where U.S. engagement in Europe is openly questioned, and U.S. commitment to Ukraine keeps waning.

Despite the uncertainties and challenges, the Baltic States remain determined to maintain robust partnerships with Washington while supporting Ukraine, strengthening regional security, and promoting European defense and greater self-reliance.

For a long time, the Baltic States have been loyal and steadfast supporters of the U.S. and NATO. They have contributed troops and expertise to military missions worldwide. U.S.-Baltic military-to-military cooperation has been stellar. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are among the top 5 NATO countries making good on their commitment to invest 5% of GDP annually on defense expenditures by 2035.

With Russia's military threat increasing, a strong American presence in Europe, especially in the Baltic region, has become more crucial than ever.

Your phone call or e-mail to your elected representative in Washington is important. Express your support now for the programs solidifying U.S.-Baltic ties and security-defense cooperation. The details on what to do are provided in BAFL's congressional call to action. Do not delay! ▲



AMBASSADOR GINTE DAMUSIS served as Lithuania's ambassador to NATO, Austria, Canada, and Denmark. She also was Director of the MFA's Global Lithuania Department and coordinated LT's civilian assistance to Afghanistan.

BAFL'S CONGRESSIONAL CALL TO ACTION (CTA)

Provides an easy method to contact your Senator or Representative to ask for their support.

STEP 1

Access the website by scanning the QR code provided on the right, or press this link: <https://bafl.com/call-to-action/#/>. (This can also be found on the dropdown menu on the BAFL home page under "Call to Action").



Call to Action

Our Issues

Once accessed, the "Our Issues" tab pops up with a description of the current issue(s) that BAFL is advocating for and needs your support.

STEP 2

TAKE ACTION

Next, press the "Take Action" tab, which will ask you for your street address and zip code. This will ensure that the CTA goes to your district's current Senator and Representative. You will find a completed letter ready for you to send, or you can compose your own. Your participation will not result in communication other than a likely response to your email.

Find Your Elected Officials

If you wish to know who the elected officials are in any area, you can input an address and zip code under the "Find Your Elected Officials" tab, or press on "Browse by state or last name" to see the full listing of all state elected officials.

Why Ukraine must be invited to join NATO

U.S. military assistance to the Baltic States is vital
By Darius Furmonavicius

Zbigniew Brzezinski stated that there is no Russian Empire without Ukraine. The Ukrainian and Finnish armies, each 1 million strong, are valuable assets to the United States in Europe. Modern drones, robots, and unmanned AI-based vehicles that Ukraine is using to defeat Putin's terrorist regime set a precedent for NATO's future defense capabilities.

[Ukraine Must Win the War](#)

The Kremlin must lose this war. An ambivalent outcome will not bring security to Europe. If Putin achieves territorial gains, Russia will renew its war in Ukraine and elsewhere. The Kremlin's threats are unacceptable. The deployment of Putin's drones to Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Romania poses a serious security threat to NATO's Eastern flank. Canada, the U.K., France, Spain, and Italy have failed to increase their NATO spending and to agree to spend 0.25% of GDP on the defense of Ukraine, as requested by NATO.

[Strategic Goals: NATO membership for Ukraine](#)

Liberating all of Ukraine from Russian occupation and inviting Ukraine to join NATO must be key foreign policy priorities for the United States at the NATO summit in Ankara in July 2026. This is the only way to deter a Russian attack on NATO, including the United States, in the future.

In addition to cutting funding for Putin's war, the United States must impose an international embargo on all Kremlin oil exports. If the Kremlin is not stopped in Ukraine, the likelihood of a war between Russia and NATO will increase significantly. It is therefore vitally important that the United States secure a strategic victory over Russia by helping Ukraine achieve the full liberation of its territory as soon as possible.



Image by: WiR_Pixs

Only the United States can provide Ukraine with all the required weapons, including long-range missiles, tanks, and planes. According to Senator Jim Risch, the U.S. administration should provide Ukraine with everything possible to protect against Russian aggression. Additionally, only the United States can adequately mobilize production.

In short, U.S. military assistance to the Baltic States is vital for the stability and security of Europe and the entire transatlantic alliance, and it will be cheaper to deter Russia from potential aggression than to engage it in direct military conflict. ▲

The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine

Key points regarding misinformation, disinformation, and myths

By Kestutis Eidukonis

The information that we encounter through traditional and social media is often inaccurate or factually incorrect.

Some examples:

Terminology Preference. The Ukrainian diaspora prefers "Ruzzia" or "Ruzsian" over "Russia." The letter "z" is viewed as a symbol of Russian fascism.

Origin of the Name "Russia". Tsar Peter the Great appropriated the name from Kievan Rus, a political entity now recognized as Ukraine, which the Duchy of Muscovy had conquered and absorbed. The term "Rus" comes from the Scandinavian meaning "Rower". In addition, the original rulers of Kievan Rus were Vikings.

Russian Disinformation Tactics. Part of Russia's hybrid warfare doctrine is to employ disinformation, misinformation, and propaganda to undermine Ukraine's will to fight and to erode Western support.

Some myths can also be debunked:

Myth 1: Ukraine is losing. Not true. Ukraine is holding tactically and winning strategically by destroying Russia's logistics and war-making capacity. Also, sanctions are crippling Russia's economy.

Myth 2: Ukraine cannot win. Not true. Ukraine cannot only win, but is winning!

Myth 3: Russia can hold out longer than Ukraine. Not true. If Ukraine had received everything that it needed from the beginning, then the war probably would have already been won by Ukraine.

Myth 4: We can't give Ukraine all that it needs to win right now. Not true. We do not need to hold on to our weapons and ammo just in case we need them. It's like not giving a neighbor your hose to put out his fire in case it jumps to your house.

Russia is weakened both economically and militarily. There will be no peace until Putin is defeated or removed from power. ▲



...**afternoon** cont'd from 1

Two original founding members, Tony and Danute Mazeika, along with co-founder Valdis Pavlovskis, were present at the event, accompanied by other current or former Board members. Danute Mazeika recounted the origins of BAFL, reiterating a quote: "We will see freedom in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia when we see electronic dishes on every large building. Then the Soviets will no longer be able to silence freedom and aspirations of the Baltics!"

BAFL beginnings included holding human rights conferences, demonstrations, working to educate and influence Congress, and teaching journalists and the public of the U.S.'s Baltic non-recognition policy. Some of the many successes mentioned included BAFL's efforts to initiate a congressional resolution asking President Reagan to designate June 14th as Baltic Freedom Day. Also, the efforts to ban the Soviets from participating in the 1984 Olympics were detailed by attorney and diplomat Jaak Treiman. A suggestion was made that a similar effort should be considered for the upcoming 2028 Olympics, to be held in Los Angeles.

A world-wide news conference video (www.news-conference) was shown of Baltic-American leaders discussing their meeting with President George H.W. Bush in Washington D.C. on April 11, 1990. Resulting from this meeting, all three Baltic country leaders united



Conrad Mazeika, President BAFL, and Urte Zekaite, Vilnius University. Photo: BAFL staff

as a group to push for the U.S. to officially recognize the sovereignty of Lithuania's government. Further discussion included Angela Nelsas' meeting with both the President and Secretary of State, as well as other BAFL television and radio opportunities to promote the Baltic cause. After the video, Lina Duseviciene, Diaspora Relations, from Vilnius University, spoke about her participation post-1991 with the Central European Initiative and the Baltic American Enterprise Fund (later known as the Baltic-American Freedom Foundation).

The House Baltic Caucus and the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus of the United States are experiencing significant growth, garnering bipartisan membership (see pg.7). The House caucus currently boasts 140 members, while the Senate caucus has 35 members. The substantial size of these caucuses is noteworthy.

Numerous efforts and sacrifices were made to continuously voluntarily advocate for freedom not only for the Baltic countries but also for the entire geographical region. This afternoon's conversation demonstrates that the baton is poised to be handed over to the next generation after nearly half a century of arduous work and challenges by the numerous dedicated members of BAFL. Their time and efforts are noted and are highly valued. ▲

KRISTINA KAZLAUSKAS, PhD is on BAFL's Board of Directors and *Baltic Bulletin* Editor.

...**Baltic security** cont'd from 3

At a Senate Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee hearing, Secretary Pete Hegseth and Pentagon officials were asked why \$200 million for the BSI and \$400 million for Ukraine approved in January had not yet been obligated. We must continue to advocate that these funds appropriated by Congress be spent as intended.

Over the next few months, the House and Senate will continue to debate annual Defense Appropriations bills. The BSI is currently authorized by Congress to continue until Fiscal Year 2028, and at least \$300 million should be allocated for the BSI given current threats.

With 218 votes now on a long-pending House discharge petition on legislation to require a House floor vote, H.R. 2913, the "Ukraine Support Act," is a comprehensive bill to strengthen sanctions on Russia, bring back kidnapped Ukrainian children, and advance programming for the Baltic States. It is important for any scheduled vote to be on the substance of the bill.

Advocacy by our communities must persist. BAFL will continue direct meetings and communication with Congress, and we encourage participation in the BAFL Congressional Call to Action. ▲

ANNE SMITH is BAFL's advocacy advisor



Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) receiving BAFL's Defender Award, presented by Anne Smith in Washington D.C., Nov. 19, 2025. Photo: BAFL staff

**Baltic Caucus Members****House Baltic
Caucus Members***As of June 2, 2026 (N=140)*

Rep. Donald Bacon (R-NE),
Co-chair
Rep. Salud O. Carbajal (D-CA),
Co-chair
Rep. Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL)
Rep. Gabe Amo (D-RI)
Rep. Yassamin Ansari (D-AZ)
Rep. Becca Balint (D-VT)
Rep. Garland Barr (R-KY)
Rep. Tom Barrett (R-MI)
Rep. Wesley Bell (D-MO)
Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI)
Rep. Donald Beyer, Jr. (D-VA)
Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)
Rep. Brendan F. Boyle (D-PA)
Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA)
Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL)
Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL)
Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)
Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL)
Rep. Earl Carter (R-GA)
Rep. Ed Case (D-HI)
Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL)
Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)
Rep. Gil Cisneros (D-CA)
Rep. Stephen I. Cohen (D-TN)
Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
Rep. Herb Conaway (D-NJ)
Rep. J. Luis Correa (D-CA)
Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)
Rep. Joseph Courtney (D-CT)
Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO)
Rep. Don Davis (D-NC)
Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA)
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL)
Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX)
Rep. Pat Fallon (R-TX)
Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)
Rep. Scott Fitzgerald (R-WI)
Rep. Brian K. Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
Rep. Russell Fry (R-SC)
Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)
Rep. Carlos Gimenez (R-FL)
Rep. Daniel Goldman (D-NY)
Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX)
Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)
Rep. Joshua Gottheimer (D-NJ)
Rep. Maggie Goodlander (D-NH)
Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI)
Rep. Pat Harrigan (R-NC)
Rep. Andrew P. Harris (R-MD)
Rep. James A. Himes (D-CT)
Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)
Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC)
Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI)
Rep. Jeff Hurd (R-CO)
Rep. John James (R-MI)

Rep. Julie Johnson (D-TX)
Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
Rep. Tom Kean (R-NJ)
Rep. William Keating (D-MA)
Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS)
Rep. Tim Kennedy (D-NY)
Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA)
Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-CA)
Rep. Greg Landsman (D-OH)
Rep. Nick Langworthy (R-NY)
Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)
Rep. John B. Larson (D-CT)
Rep. Robert E. Latta (R-OH)
Rep. Michael Lawler (R-NY)
Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)
Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-RI)
Rep. Malliotakis (R-NY)
Rep. Brian J. Mast (R-FL)
Rep. Sarah McBride (D-DE)
Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)
Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)
Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
Rep. Addison McDowell (R-NC)
Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA)
Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (D-NY)
Rep. Mark Messmer (R-IN)
Rep. Carol D. Miller (R-WV)
Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)
Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI)
Rep. Tim Moore (R-NC)
Rep. Kelly Morrison (D-MN)
Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D-FL)
Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)
Rep. James Moylan (R-GU)
Rep. Greg Murphy (R-NC)
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
Rep. Burgess Owens (D-UT)
Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ)
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)
Rep. Christopher Pappas (D-NH)
Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)
Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX)
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)
Rep. Michael Quigley (D-IL)
Rep. Jamie B. Raskin (D-MD)
Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA)
Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)
Rep. Deborah Ross (D-NC)
Rep. Pat Ryan (D-NY)
Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL)
Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA)
Rep. Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL)
Rep. Bradley Scott Schneider (D-IL)
Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA)
Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-IN)
Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ)
Rep. Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA)
Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY)
Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA)
Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)

Rep. Jill Tokuda (D-HI)
Rep. Paul Tondo (D-NY)
Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY)
Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA)
Rep. Derek Tran (D-CA)
Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH)
Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-WI)
Rep. Marc A. Veasey (D-TX)
Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY)
Rep. Eugene Vindman (D-VA)
Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO)
Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)
Rep. James Walkinshaw (D-VA)
Rep. Randy Weber, Sr. (R-TX)
Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA)
Rep. Roger Williams (R-TX)
Rep. Addison Graves Wilson (R-SC)
Rep. Robert J. Wittman (R-VA)
Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR)
Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)

**Senate Baltic Freedom
Caucus Members***As of June 2, 2026 (N=35)*

Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL),
Co-chair
Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-IA),
Co-chair

Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)
Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
Sen. John N. Boozman (R-AR)
Sen. Theodore Budd (R-NC)
Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)
Sen. Susan M. Collins (R-ME)
Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)
Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)
Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)
Sen. John Curtis (R-UT)
Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)
Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)
Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC)
Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)
Sen. Jim Justice (R-WV)
Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ)
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
Sen. Dave McCormick (R-PA)
Sen. Jeffrey Merkley (D-OR)
Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)
Sen. Christopher S. Murphy (D-CT)
Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)
Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-NE)
Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV)
Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD)
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-MT)
Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
Sen. Roger F. Wicker (R-MS)



SHORT TAKES

- ▲ At noon on May 19, 2026, NATO airspace was violated in Estonia by a drone, flying from Russia. It was shot down by NATO air police: <https://mil.ee/en/news/romanian-fighter-jet-downed-a-uav-in-estonian-airspace/>
- ▲ At early hours of May 7, two drones entered the NATO airspace in Latvia from Russia, and one of them crashed into an empty oil storage facility. No injuries occurred, but it caused the resignations of the defense minister, Andris Spruds, and eventually Prime Minister Evika Silina on May 14, 2026, over the strengthening of the country's air defense: <https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/defence/07.05.2026-more-drones-crash-in-latvia.a645976/>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy21k5917jo>
- ▲ A Russian drone entered NATO airspace in Lithuania from Latvia, and it was flying close to Vilnius on May 20, 2026. Lithuanians were forced to shelter underground, and air traffic at Vilnius airport was suspended: <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/lithuanias-vilnius-airport-suspends-flights-due-drone-warning-2026-05-20/>
- ▲ The Kremlin directs Ukrainian drones against Europe by GPS jamming and spoofing: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gift/0e857f2433d3a169>
- ▲ NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Alexus Grynkewich, co-chaired the 2026 Northern Europe Chiefs of Defense Conference together with General Raimundas Vaikšnoras in Vilnius on May 11-12, 2026: <https://www.eucom.mil/pressrelease/44280/northern-europe-defense-conference-builds-on-longstanding-partnerships-for-security-and-mo>
- ▲ POTUS announced that the United States will send 5,000 troops to Poland. Over 1,000 of them are hosted by Lithuania. The Baltic States and Poland seek permanent deployment of the rotating US troops: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/trump-says-us-will-send-additional-5000-troops-poland-2026-05-21/>, <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DYpV87pkcdL/?igsh=NzQxYTR4NnJibDk1>
- ▲ President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen assured the Baltic NATO allies with financial EU support to strengthen the defense of the Eastern flank: <https://www.youtube.com/live/6iFrDkAXUgU?si=D2EHbaYg-JG1Mcnl>
- ▲ Lithuania has experienced a cyber attack aimed at the extraction of data from the land's registry, including ownership and personal addresses: <https://www.euronews.com/2026/05/25/lithuania-warns-mass-data-leak-was-work-of-foreign-country>
- ▲ Lithuanian Foreign Minister Kęstutis Budrys, we must increase pressure on Russia: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1HvnX4a8Mo/?mibextid=wwXlfr>
- ▲ Europe should not negotiate Ukraine's peace, says Norway: http://youtube.com/post/Ugkx4G7y4jNoCfu9vjuwUsn9D5p5oL4X2pVE?si=uyJcRJ_ZVh7_xCAH
- ▲ Russia has launched a hybrid war against Europe, including the UK. The head of the UK's intelligence warns that the West is facing a narrowing window to counter cyber threats from Russia and China: <https://www.cnn.com/amp/2026/05/27/uk-spy-chief-gchq-russia-china-us-cyber-attack-security.html>

ABOUT US

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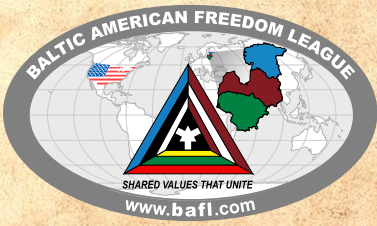


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