



The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture  
requests the honor of your presence at the

**57th Anniversary  
Excellence Award Dinner**

Honoring physician, diplomat, businessman, professor,

**The Honorable John V. Prunskis, M.D., F.I.P.P.**

For his career merits and contributions  
to the United States and Lithuania

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**  
at six o'clock in the evening

**The Grand Salon**  
**Le Méridien Chicago - Oakbrook Center**  
2100 Spring Road, Oak Brook, Illinois, 60629

Cocktail Reception ~ Tribute & Award Presentation  
Gourmet Dinner ~ Dancing Black Tie Optional

**The Hon. John V. Prunskis, M.D., F.I.P.P.**  
**The Balzekas Museum's 2023 'Person of the Year'**

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture's Award of Excellence honors distinguished individuals in diverse fields for their achievements and contributions to the United States, Lithuania, and mankind. The award is the longest running and most prestigious of its kind. The Museum is proud to announce that this year's honoree is physician, diplomat, businessman, and professor Dr. John V. Prunskis.

Dr. Prunskis is a co-founder of Illinois Pain and Spine Institute and The Regenerative Stem Cell Institute and serves as the Chief Medical Officer of DxTx Pain and Spine. He is a Fellow in Interventional Pain Practice, the highest international designation, and has been voted by his peers an unprecedented 15 times as "Top Pain Doctor" in Chicago. With his wife, Dr. Terri Dallas-Prunskis, an accomplished physician and civic benefactor in her own right, Dr. Prunskis has fought against the tyranny of opioids in pain management for over two decades, insisting that the cause of pain should be identified before treatment. As a White House Presidential appointee, he co-authored the national guidelines for diagnosing and managing pain now adopted by every medical specialty society.

Born to immigrant physician parents, Dr. Prunskis has dedicated much of his personal and professional life to his ancestral homeland, Lithuania, a country dear to his heart. He was elected three times as a representative of Lithuanians living in the United States to the Lithuanian Parliament/World Lithuanian Community Commission, serving as chair in his second term. After the fall of the Soviet Union, he persistently lobbied the Lithuanian government to scrap fifty years of stifling Soviet industrial and workforce policy regarding labor and business practices. He successfully pressed the Lithuanian parliament to fund in full its NATO defense obligation of 2% GNP. Similarly, when the World Health Organization identified Lithuania as the third highest per capita consumer of alcohol, he introduced legislation and a three-year effort that led to a significant national decrease in alcohol consumption. For his professional and philanthropic contributions to the Lithuanian nation, he was bestowed the Knight of the Order of Merit by the President of Lithuania.

At the request of former Lithuanian Ambassador Ž. Pavilionis, Dr. Prunskis served for more than ten years as honorary consul of Lithuania in Aspen, the only U.S. State Department-approved diplomatic mission in that city. With the support of current Lithuanian Ambassador A. Plepytė, Dr. Prunskis's diplomatic mission has moved to South Florida, home to the third largest diplomatic corps behind Washington DC and New York City, where he continues to help facilitate investments in Lithuania and elevate the awareness of its geopolitical importance. A clinical professor at the Chicago Medical School, Dr. Prunskis has forged international educational alliances by forming an official academic relationship between Chicago Medical School and Vilnius University Medical School, creating collaborative opportunities for students and faculty at both institutions.

Drs. Terri Dallas and John Prunskis wed in 1991 and have two children who are following in their parents' footsteps. Daughter Kristin, who studied medicine in Vilnius, is a resident in pediatric medicine at the University of New Mexico Children's Hospital in Albuquerque. A Harvard math scholar, son Owen now manages DxTx Pain and Spine, the family business, overseeing 50 clinics across eight states. Both Kristin and Owen are fluent in Lithuanian.

## Honorary Committee

### *In Development*

Her Excellency Audronė Plepytė  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of the Republic of  
Lithuania to the United States of  
America and Mexico

His Excellency Marijus Gudynas  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of the Republic of  
Lithuania to Ireland

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Senate Majority Whip  
United States Senate

The Honorable Sigrda Mulevičienė  
Consul General of the Republic of  
Lithuania in Chicago, Illinois

The Honorable Siim Sööt  
Honorary Consul of the Republic of  
Estonia in Illinois

The Honorable Krista Butvydas Bard  
Honorary Consul for the Republic of  
Lithuania to the Commonwealth of  
Pennsylvania

The Honorable Ingrida Bublys  
Honorary Consul for the Republic of  
Lithuania in Cleveland

Ms. Regina Gailiešiūtė  
Co-Chair, Chicago-Vilnius Sister Cities  
Committee

Dr. Terri Dallas Prunskis  
Co-Chair, Chicago-Vilnius Sister Cities  
Committee

Mr. Arvydas Urbonačius  
President, Lithuanian American  
Community

Mr. Tauras Bublys  
Chairman, Lithuanian Foundation, Inc.

Ms. Audronė Pavilčius Karalius  
President, Lithuanian Foundation, Inc.

Ms. Juratė Kazickas  
President, Kazickas Family  
Foundation

Dr. Rima Binder  
President, Lithuanian University  
Women Association North American  
Chapter

Ms. Kathleen Guzauskas  
President, Women's Guild of the  
Balzekas Museum

*The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit institution.  
EIN: 36-6140176. Reservations exceeding \$175 are tax deductible to the fullest extent allow-  
able by law.*

## Past Honorees

Saulutė Lithuanian Children's Aid &  
Founder Indrė Tijūnėlis, 2022  
Archbishop Gintaras Grušas, 2021  
Timothy Snyder, 2020  
Stanley Balzekas, Jr., 2019  
Ambassador Marijus Gudynas, 2018  
Darius Polikaitis, 2017  
President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 2016  
Irena Brokas Chambers, 2015  
Ambassador Anne E. Derse, 2014  
Rūta Šepetytė, 2013  
Jūratė Kazickas, 2012  
Dr. Audrius Plioplys, 2011  
Senator Richard Durbin, 2010  
Dr. Linas Sidrys, 2009  
Ambassador Gintė Damušytė, 2008  
Eileen Mackevich, 2007  
Alexander Rimas Domanskis, 2006  
Mary Krauchunas, 2005  
Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas, 2004  
Artūras Zuokas, 2003  
Birutė Jasaitis, 2002  
Danutė Bindokienė, 2001  
Dr. Antanas Razma, 2000  
Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas, 1999  
Rev. Antanas Saulaitis, S.J., 1998  
Dr. Rimgaudas Nemickas, 1997

David Mackiewicz, 1996  
Ambassador Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas, 1995  
Donald A. Petkus, 1994  
Dr. John P. Lubicky, 1993  
Norman Ross, 1992  
Stanley Balzekas, Jr., 1991  
Stasys Baras, 1990  
Arnold Voketaitis, 1989  
Margutis Radio (Petras Petrutis), 1988  
Anton J. and Anton R. Valukas, 1987  
Algerd Brazis, 1986  
Monsignor Dr. Juozas Prunskis, 1985  
President Valdas Adamkus, 1984  
Faustas Strolia, 1983  
Howard Tyner, 1982  
Stanley P. Balzekas, 1981  
Dr. Victor Danilov, 1980  
Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis, 1979  
Patrick L. O'Malley, 1978  
W. Clement Stone, 1977  
Daniel MacMaster, 1976  
Simas Kudirka, 1975  
George W. Dunne, 1974  
Josephine J. Daužvardis, 1973  
Dr. Preston Bradley, 1972  
Ralph G. Newman, 1971  
Dr. Clement Silvestro, 1970

### Hotel Accommodations

A limited number of hotel rooms are available for Dec. 2 at a special rate by calling the Le Méridien Hotel in Oak Brook at 630-368-9900 by Nov. 11 and referencing the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture's event.

### R.S.V.P. by Nov. 18

By Phone: 773-582-6500  
Online through Eventbrite:



# RSVP

by

Friday, Nov. 17

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture  
57th Anniversary Excellence Award Dinner  
**Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 6 PM** at the  
Grand Salon, Le Méridien Chicago - Oakbrook Center  
2100 Spring Road, Oak Brook, Illinois, 60523

*Please print and include your honorific (i.e., Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr.)  
as well as your first and last name(s):*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Please list your guest(s) and seating preferences on the back of card.*

☐ I / We will attend. # \_\_\_\_\_ reservations at **\$175** per ticket: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PATRON LEVEL # \_\_\_\_\_ reservations at **\$250** per ticket: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to make a donation to the Balzekas Museum for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed is my check, payable to the "Balzekas Museum of Lith. Culture"

☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ AmericanExp. ☐ Mastercard

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Online reservations through Eventbrite.com using the QR code (left)  
or URL: **[https://2023\\_balzekas\\_award\\_dinner.eventbrite.com](https://2023_balzekas_award_dinner.eventbrite.com)**

To reserve by phone, call the Balzekas Museum: 773-582-6500

*Paid reservations will be held at the door the evening of the event.*

## My/Our Guests:

*Please print and include honorifics (i.e., Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr.) as well as guests' first and last names.*

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I / We would like to be seated with:

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***R.S.V.P. by mail before Friday, November 17, 2023. Send to:***

**Ms. Rita Janz**

**Balzekas Museum Award Dinner Reservations Chair**

**c/o Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture**

**6500 South Pulaski Road**

**Chicago IL 60629**

**Telephone: 773.582.6500**

**Email: [info@balzekasmuseum.org](mailto:info@balzekasmuseum.org)**