



Knights of Lithuania 106th National Convention

July 25-28, 2019

Host: Council 157 - Lemont, IL

Convention Site: Embassy Suites Lombard

About this year's convention presentations!

Each year we strive to bring interesting and relevant presentations to the convention to give our membership more than just business meetings. This year is going to be no exception. We are pleased to announce that at this time two keynote addresses are planned. The first will be by Dr. Robertas Vitas, Chairman of the Board of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago. The second will be by Theresa Balčunas-DiCello, a well know instructor of Lithuanian Folk Art and longtime member of Knights of Lithuania Council 38, Kenosha, WI. Both promise to be of great interest, learning and information. Below is a short biography about Dr. Vitas.



Dr. Robertas Vitas
Chairman of the Board of the
Lithuanian Research and Studies
Center, Chicago, IL.

Dr. Robertas Vitas serves as Chairman of the Board of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago, and participated in its founding. The Center is the largest scholarly-level archive and publisher on all aspects of Lithuanian studies outside Lithuania. It regularly hosts students and researchers from around the world who are conducting their studies and preparing publications. It collaborates with academic institutions in Lithuania and elsewhere, along with the Lithuanian Government.

Dr. Vitas has published *The United States and Lithuania: The Stimson Doctrine of Nonrecognition*; *Civil-Military Relations in Lithuania Under President Antanas Smetona 1926-1940*; and two volumes of *U.S. National Security Policy and Strategy: Documents and Policy Proposals*, co-edited with Sam C. Sarkesian and John Allen Williams. His other publications include over two dozen scholarly reports, articles, book chapters and book reviews. One of his articles published by the US Army Command and General Staff College was translated into Chinese by the Taiwanese Ministry of Defense for use in officer education. He has served on the editorial boards of *Armed Forces & Society*, *Journal of Baltic Studies*, *Lituanus*, and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

Dr. Vitas also serves as Executive Director of the Inter-University Seminar on *Armed Forces and Society*, an international association of scholars and military officers, and previously served as Vice President of the Association for the Advancement of *Baltic Studies*. He is a member of the Lithuanian Catholic

Academy of Sciences.

A summa cum laude graduate of Loyola University of Chicago, he went on to earn a master's degree and Ph.D. there in political science, specializing in national security, international law, and normative political philosophy. While at Loyola, he earned an Arthur J. Schmitt Fellowship for dissertation research. Dr. Vitas served as a Visiting Scholar at Northwestern University from 1995 until 2009. He served as an enlisted man and commissioned officer in the United States Army Reserve where, among other assignments, he was a liaison to troops from the Lithuanian Army during early NATO Partnership for Peace exercises.



LITHUANIAN RESEARCH AND STUDIES CENTER

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