Janez Stanovnik was President of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia (from 1988 till May 1990) and has played an important role during Slovenia’s independence processes. He started his political activity in the partisan resistance during WW II and was soon afterwards appointed Chief of the Cabinet of the Vice-President of the Federal Government and Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, Mr. Edvard Kardelj (from 1945 to 1952). In 1952 Mr. Stanovnik became economic counsellor to the Permanent mission to the UN till 1957, from 1958 to 1963 he was director of the Institute for international relations in Belgrade. In 1968 Mr. Stanovnik was nominated Executive Secretary of Economic Commission of the United Nations for Europe and Deputy Secretary General – the second most important person in the United Nations. Mr. Stanovnik was also professor and dean of the Department of Economics at the University of Ljubljana. He is now President of the partisan/veterans’ association of Slovenia.

Mr. Janez Stanovnik was, already before becoming President of Slovenia, one of the most important political leaders and brought Slovenia on the map of the world. His knowledge in economics and international relations, a great network he built during his life and his great leadership in politics and today in Veterans Association of Slovenia are clear examples of leadership based on courage, wisdom, knowledge, honesty and respect for diversity.