



American Legion Lithuanian Post 154
For God and Country



Legionnaire

January & February 2010

Commander's Message

Greetings! Having survived the great Autumnal storm and the Holiday Season of 2009, it's now time to get on with Lithuanian Post 154's activities for 2010.

But first, give yourself a pat on the back! Thanks to the Post members who have paid their 2010 dues, Lithuanian Post 154 has achieved Three Star status for the second year in a row. This American Legion Three Star Award, which is presented at the Maryland Department Convention in Ocean City, is bestowed on those posts which exceed the prior year's membership count. And we - you - did it!

All things considered, I'd say that 2009 was a very good year for our Post. We provided support to a number of charities which in turn provided assistance to veterans, children's hospitals and various other organizations seeking cures to myriad medical afflictions.

Two scholarship awards were presented to students who were entering college.

We reinforced our commitment to the American values expressed in the Preamble to The Constitution of The American Legion by assisting veterans and the community, and by honoring God by starting each meeting with a prayer and in our Back to God Mass (a tradition started by Father Dranginis at St. Alphonsus Church in downtown Baltimore) and in our Four Chaplains Service. Note: The Four Chaplains Service will be held at St. Alphonsus Church at 10 AM on February 7, 2010.

And let's not forget that our newsletter - Legionnaire - once again won the John Sloan Newsletter Trophy.

At the Children's Christmas Party, Past Commander Bob Laukaitis urged younger Post members to get more involved in Post activities and traditions. Lithuanian Post 154 has sponsored the Children's Christmas Party for over 50 years. Its continued success depends on the willingness of younger Post members to keep this tradition alive.

And speaking of the Children's Christmas Party, I want to say a special "thank you" to these Santa's Helpers for their efforts in making the party such a success: Aldona Buda, Rasa Melingiene Meeks and Nomeda Silgalis.

Despite bad weather, several Post members also visited Estonia House in Baltimore during its annual Christmas Bazaar. Our Post's Sergeant at Arms, Taivo Tagamets, is quite active in the Estonian community.



Lithuanian Post 154 Honor Guard retrieving Colors after Back to God Mass at St. Alphonsus Church.



Santa at Lithuanian Post 154 Sponsored Children's Christmas Party.

I'd also like to thank Adjutant Vincent Dulys for taking the lead in sending a Post Christmas package to Post member Sergeant Steve Cherneski who is serving in a special operations unit in a remote area of Afghanistan.

For upcoming events, see the "Calendar and Reminders" section of this newsletter.

Happy New Year!

John F. Maskavich
Commander

Membership

I would like to thank our members for responding to the recent Fiscal Year 2010 membership renewal notices. Our American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 reached the goal set by Department and we attained Three Star status this membership year. We currently have 99 paid members on our roster. I have sent out renewal reminders to four Post members who have not yet paid their 2010 dues.

Anyone knowing of any veteran, active service member or a current Legion member who may want to transfer to Lithuanian Post 154 from another Post or is interested in joining our ranks, please contact me to verify eligibility.

Please notify me of address changes so I can get your records updated in National, Department and Post files.

If you have any questions about your membership, please e-mail me or leave me a phone message. My contact information is on last page of this newsletter..

Vincent Dulys
Membership Chairman

Final Dues

On May 7th, 2009, final dues were bestowed on our fellow Legionnaire Stanley F. Milunaitis. Unfortunately for Stanley, it came 25 years late. Stasys, as we knew him, died in 1984.



The University of Baltimore, during it's annual Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony, inducted the 1961 NCAA National Championship Soccer team and its members. Stanley was honored posthumously.

His trophy and medal are on display at Lithuanian Hall. To those who remember Stanley, a Vietnam veteran, this Award was very deserving because he was a real team player.

August Uleckas
Lithuanian Post 154 member since 1988.

Editor's Note

I went to the University of Baltimore web site looking for additional material and was pleased to find that Lithuanian Post 154 member August Uleckas was inducted into the University of Baltimore Hall of Fame for Soccer (1967) and also for Lacrosse (1967).

Congratulations Augie!

Happy Birthday

January

- Heath Cherneski
- Grant Dillon
- Patrick Dohlus
- Charles Gross
- Edvins Kristapsons
- Bernard Milosavich
- Stephen Mueller
- Ronald Price
- Stanley Ruby
- Kenneth Shillenn

February

- Joseph Cherneski
- Richard Jacobs

100 Club

The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 annual fundraiser "100 Club" started December 16. Winning numbers are drawn every Wednesday for ten weeks and will end with our customary party with food, refreshments and additional cash prizes on February 21 at the Cockeyed Cow Saloon, formerly J- Ray's, located at 900 S. Carey Street from 1 to 4 PM. I would like to thank everyone who supported this annual fundraiser by purchasing a ticket. Winners so far were:

- 00 - Rick Boeckman
- 05 - Bernice Uleckas
- 94 - Carol Mueller;
- 09 - Toivo Tagamets
- 32 - Vincent Dulys
- 77 - Al Paplonskis

For inquiries regarding the 100 Club, please contact me.

Vincent Dulys
Chairman

Sick Call



Edmond Bartas
8 Robins Nest Ct
Randallstown, MD 21133

Veterans Honored



Community College of Baltimore County, more commonly known as Catonsville Community College, has erected a bulletin board on which are displayed names and photos of CCBC students and staff who have served in our military forces. Lithuanian Post 154 Past Commander Balys Brasauskas, who participates in the CCBC Catonsville Fitness Center swimming program, is shown standing in front of the bulletin board.

We are like tea bags - we don't know how strong we are until we're in hot water.

Sister Busche

The Final Inspection

The soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

'Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other
cheek ?
To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders and
said,
'No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,

Except to calm their fears.
If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.'

There was a silence all around the
throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

'Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell.'

Author Unknown

Security Suggestions

The economy has pushed thieves into getting creative in applying their trade. I recently received several e-mail messages with suggestions as to how to protect ourselves.

Check Fraud - If you pay your bills by check and use a regular pen like most people, your checks are subject to easy modification by crooks. Using acetone, a commonly available solvent used in paint shops, thieves have been known to wash ink off checks. They dip the top portion of the check in acetone for several minutes washing the ink out of the top portion of the check while retaining your signature on the bottom. Then they rewrite the top portion of the check paying some temporary front organization any amount they like. By the time your check clears the bank, the front organization has moved on. You can minimize this exposure by using a security pen designed for check writing. Though other brands may be available, I purchased a "uni-ball 207" pen. They are available at most stores selling stationery (Staples, Office Depot, Walmart, etc.) for around a dollar. The manufacturer claims its pen impregnates the check paper with ink particles that will not wash out.

Unmarked Police Car - Predators and carjackers have been known to place flashing red lights on their vehicles to make them appear to be police cars. Police departments recommend using caution if you're pulled over by an unmarked vehicle in a secluded area after dark. You should communicate your intention to stop by slowing down and turning on emergency flashers or a turn signal; then drive to the nearest well-lit, populated area before stopping. If you're still suspicious, keep your doors locked and only partially roll down your window when the alleged officer approaches. Ask to see a badge and photo I.D. Using your cell phone to contact a police dispatcher is also an option, especially if you were stopped for no apparent reason. Be aware that the "dial #77" or "dial *77" option does not work in every state. If you aren't sure, dial 911 instead.

Joe Jankevicius

Letter to the Editor

If such a thing is possible, I'd like to see Commander-in-Chief Obama court-martialed.

Why? Because of the new "Rules of Engagement" he has imposed on our troops in Afghanistan.

- No night or surprise searches.
- Villagers have to be warned prior to searches.
- U.S. soldiers may not fire at the enemy unless the enemy is preparing to fire first.
- U.S. forces cannot engage the enemy if civilians are present.
- U.S. troops can fire at insurgents if they catch them in the act of placing IEDs, but not if the insurgents are walking away from an area where the explosives have been laid.

Want more reasons? Obama gave tacit approval to placing charges against four U.S. Navy Seals because a notorious terrorist they captured (Ahmed Hashim Abed) complained that he had been punched in the stomach and face by the Seals which caused him to suffer a bloody lip.

Abed was the leader of insurgents who attacked a convoy guarded by civilian contractors, killed four of the guards, burned and hacked their bodies, hung two of them from a bridge, and pulled another hooked to the back of a truck around the streets "while onlookers cheered."

And our new Commander-in-Chief apparently believes that bringing charges against the Seals is the right thing to do. God help us.

Richard Seymour
Lithuanian Post 154 member since 1946.

COMMANDER
John F. Maskavich
19 Locust Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
(410) 747-9628

ADJUTANT
Vincent T. Dulys
616 Cedarwood Lane
Crownsville, MD 21032
(410) 987-5275
Vincentas@verizon.net

SERVICE OFFICER
Patrick M. Dohlus
1920 Nipmuck Path
Hanover, MD 21076
(410) 551-2369

Post Meeting
8 PM every 2nd Wednesday
of the month at
Lithuanian Hall
851 Hollins Street.
Baltimore, MD 21201

Executive Comm. Meeting,
7:30 PM every 4th
Wednesday of the month at
Cockeyed Cow Saloon
900 S. Carey Street
Baltimore, MD 21223

Please send your comments,
suggestions and articles to :
Joe Jankevicius
624 Oak Tree Rd
Westminster, MD 21157
JJankevicius@Comcast.net

Scholarship



Lithuanian Post 154 will be awarding two \$500 scholarships to students graduating from high school in 2010 and entering college this fall. Application forms are available by contacting Commander John Maskavich.

Scholarships are open to children, grandchildren, step children, step grandchildren, nephews, nieces or adopted children of an active member in good standing or a deceased member who was in good standing at time of death.

Lithuanian Post 154 web page is on: <http://www.lietuvis.net> - click on Lithuanian Post 154.

Calendar & Reminders

January

Fri	01	New Year's Day
Wed	06	Fourth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Wed	13	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Wed	13	Fifth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Thu	14	Baltimore District Meeting - Morrell Park Post 137 - 7 PM
Sun	17	Persian Gulf War Began (1991)
Mon	18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Wed	20	Sixth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Wed	27	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM
Wed	27	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)
Wed	27	Seventh week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser

February

Tue	02	Ground Hog Day
Wed	03	Eighth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Sun	07	Baltimore District Four Chaplains Service - St. Alphonsus Church - 10 AM
Wed	10	Ninth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Wed	10	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Fri	12	Lincoln's Birthday
Sun	14	Valentine's Day
Sun	14	Department Executive Committee Meeting - Edwin Greeger Post 168 - Thurmont - 1 PM
Mon	15	Presidents' Day
Wed	17	Ash Wednesday
Wed	17	Tenth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Sun	21	100 Club fundraiser Party - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 1 PM
Mon	22	George Washington's Birthday
Wed	24	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM

March

Tue	02	Vietnam War began (1965)
Wed	10	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	11	Baltimore District Meeting hosted by Post 187 - Curtis Bay
Sat	13	National Commander's Banquet - Greenbelt Post 136 - Greenbelt
Sun	14	Daylight Saving Time begins
Wed	17	St. Patrick's Day
Fri	19	Operation Iraqi Freedom began (2003)
Sat	20	Spring begins
Wed	24	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM
Sun	28	Palm Sunday
Tue	30	Passover

Four Chaplains Service

The Baltimore District Four Chaplains Service will take place at St. Alphonsus Church on Sunday, February 7, 2010 at 10 AM mass. Legionnaires, Sons of American Legion and Auxiliary from other Posts in the Baltimore District and their guests will be attending. I urge Lithuanian Post 154 members to join them in this solemn remembrance service honoring the four brave Chaplains who sacrificed their lives for others when the USS Dorchester was torpedoed on February 3, 1943. This will be the 47th consecutive year that The Baltimore District has hosted this service. The Balladiers from Parkville Post 183, who have participated in this service at St. Alphonsus Church since 1978, will sing during the mass.

Vincent Dulys
Chairman