



American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 For God and Country



Legionnaire

November & December 2010

Commander's Message

November and December will be filled with political, social and spiritual events.

We begin this time with a national election of great significance for the future of our country. Remember that an essential component of living as a Legionnaire and as a citizen is to exercise your right to vote in this national mid-term election. DON'T NEGLECT TO USE THIS PRECIOUS GIFT.

The Saturday after voting, November 6, we will take part in the Baltimore District 4 Frenchmen Service at St. Mary's Cemetery. The next day, Sunday, the Post will celebrate its annual Back to God Mass at Saint Alphonsus Church. Later in the month, on Veterans Day, we will pause to honor those men and women who have served in the Armed Forces, especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and those who are currently serving, our future veterans. On November 25, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day, a National Holiday, when we give thanks to our Creator for the bounteous blessings he has bestowed upon us. And then, of course, Christmas Day will come, the day on which we celebrate the birth of our Savior, a happy time enjoyed by young and old alike, "children" of all ages. Remember? As the holiday season draws to a close, so will 2010. I hope it has been a good year for you. And on behalf of the Officers of Lithuanian Post 154, I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy Holiday, and a blessed New Year.

And to Post members on active duty both here and abroad, we send to each of you our heartfelt prayers for a successful completion of your mission, and for your safe return home.

John Maskavich,
Commander

Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2010 - 2011

Commander	John Maskavich
Vice Commander	Joseph Astasauskas
Adjutant	Vincent Dulys
Finance Officer	Gintaras Buivys
Service Officer	Patrick Dohlus
Chaplain	Fred Kaminski
Judge Advocate	Joseph Jankevicius
Historian	Henry Gaidis
Sergeant At Arms	Toivo Tagamets
Executive Committee	Algis Paplonskis
	Joseph Saurusaitis
	Vito Siaurusaitis

Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers



Joe Jankevicius and Gintaras Buivys fold the Flag during the Memorial Service while Commander John Maskavich watches.

Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers for 2010 - 2011 took place on Sunday, September 19, 2010 at Lithuanian Hall. Department Third Vice Commander Gary B. Vogt installed our elected officers.

We recognized and presented awards to members of our community: Teacher Nijole Ona Kaltreider, Police Officer Robert Tice and Firefighter-Paramedic Steven A. Schokney. Quinn Meehan, who is attending Towson University, was awarded a \$1,000 Collegiate Scholarship. A Scholastic award was presented to Emilie Mosier who is attending Linthicum Elementary.

Many volunteers and Post members put forth that extra effort to make this special event a success.

A sincere "Thank You" to Aldona Buda and her helpers for catering a delicious meal. Vytas Dulys, Dave Gorrell and Birute Gorrell took care of the refreshment area. They donated their gratuities in the name of Lithuanian Post 154 to Team Viltis for Multiple Sclerosis. To the delight of our guests, the "Malunas" dance group performed several dances at the end of our program.

Thanks to all of you who took part in our POW / MIA and Memorial Services. Because the hall was rented on Saturday night for an affair, the usual setting up of the hall on Saturday was not possible. Thanks to the Post members who arrived Sunday morning to set up tables and chairs and decorate the hall before the Installation Ceremony. A special "Thank You" to Gintaras Buivys for lugging in and setting up his heavy sound equipment.

Vincent T. Dulys,
Installation Chairman

Membership

By now you should have received your FY 2011 renewal notices from National. Fiscal year 2011 started July 01, 2010 and goes through June 30, 2011. If your membership card shows 2010 as the fiscal year, you need to renew now. The 2010 membership card is valid through December 31, 2010 only.

As of October 22nd, we had 97 paid members and are keeping pace with Department membership goals. However, we still have 23 members who were in good standing for fiscal year 2010 but have not sent in their 2011 dues. Also, we have 10 members who have not renewed since fiscal year 2009, and will be dropped from Department and Post rosters on December 31, 2010. Seven of these members were transferred from Department Post 297. They have not responded to any of my correspondence requesting transfer eligibility documents.

If you have any questions about membership status, please contact me. Mycontact information is on page 4.

Vincent T. Dulys,
Membership Chairman

Welcome New Member

At the September Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting, 2nd Lieutenant Camilla Nusbaum was unanimously voted into Lithuanian Post 154. She is a 2009 graduate from West Point and is currently serving in Iraq. Lieutenant Nusbaum is a brigade medical supply officer.



Welcome Camilla!

100 Club

It is that annual fundraiser time of year again! The Post will once again sponsor the 100 Club raffle. Only 100 tickets numbered 00 through 99 will be sold. There will be two \$40 winners each Wednesday for ten weeks. The winning numbers will be the last 2 digits of Wednesday mid-day and evening Maryland Lotto drawings. The first drawing will be on Wednesday December 22 and the last drawing will be on Wednesday, February 23, 2011. As a 100 Club fundraiser finale, there will be a party on Sunday, February 27, 2011 from 1 to 4 PM at Cockeyed Cow Saloon located at 900 S. Carey St. Hot buffet, beer, wine, liquor and soda will be served for free to all ticket holders. Guests will be charged \$10 to attend the party. Additional prizes will be awarded at the party based on random drawings of participants ticket numbers. For the main prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100, the ticket holders do not need to be present to win. Ticket holders must be present to be eligible to win other various door prizes. The donation for the 100 Club ticket is \$25. If you are interested or have any questions please contact me.

Vincent T. Dulys,
Chairman

TAPS

Lithuanian Post 154 wishes to extend our sympathy to the family of Legionnaire Vincent Joseph Velzis, Jr., 84, who died in his sleep at the Miami VA Hospital on September 4, 2010.



Vince was born in Baltimore, Maryland and attended Lyndhurst Public School #88. In 1943 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a Radioman Second Class in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during World War II. When his tour of duty ended, he attended the University of Baltimore Law School where he graduated in 1951. He practiced law in Baltimore until he retired in 1963. He was an accomplished sailor and served aboard the schooner *Martha* during her voyage from California to Acapulco. In 1971 he began raising greyhounds in Maryland and racing greyhounds in Florida. By 1973, he had won the prestigious Juvenile Stakes. Vince relocated to Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 2000 where he enjoyed swimming and time spent in the library.

Vince was a proud member of American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 since 1966. Though he moved to Florida, he made it a point to annually attend the Post Installation of Officers and visit his friends in Baltimore. He was loved deeply by his family and friends and will be sorely missed.

A Memorial Mass was held at Saint Alphonsus Church in Baltimore on September 22, 2010. Lithuanian Post 154 had a Poppy Service before Mass.

Happy Birthday

November

Joseph Astasauskas
Algirdas Brasauskas
Edward Budelis
Robert Burr
Wayne Callahan
Edward Daniels
David Gorrell
Alfred Kyliavas
Anton Meisinger
Robert Mellendick
Walter Schmidbauer

December

John Antoniak
Baly Brasauskas
John Keydash
Vaclovas Laukaitis
John Maskavich
Paul Salvetti
Richard Seymour



Vacys Laukaitis recovering from broken femur.

Sick Call

Edmond Bartas
8 Robins Nest Court
Randallstown, MD 21133

Vacys Laukaitis
1120 Hollen Rd
Baltimore, MD 21239

Augustinas Uleckas
7733 Lee Drive
Pasedena, MD 21122



Honoring the Fallen



Navy SEAL Lt. Brendan Looney was laid to rest at the Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, October 4. Lt. Looney was buried beside his best friend, 1st Lt. Travis Manion, who was killed in Iraq in 2007. Lt. Manion's remains were reinterred at the Arlington National Cemetery recently. Lts. Manion and Looney were roommates at the Naval Academy.

Lithuanian Post 154 member seaman Joseph Cherneski had the privilege of serving in the Navy Honor Guard at this solemn occasion. Joe Cherneski is the sailor folding the Flag on the left in the photo.

Thanks to Lithuanian Post 154 member SFC William Cherneski, Joe Cherneski's dad, for sharing the above photo.

Senate Hearing on New Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions

Congress set up a system two decades ago authorizing the VA to automatically grant benefits to veterans who served in Vietnam during a 13-year period and later got one of the ailments linked to Agent Orange. Compensation has been approved for a variety of ailments with strong indications of an association to the defoliant, including Hodgkin's disease, soft-tissue cancers and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

On September 23, 2010, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing on three newly designated Agent Orange Service Connected conditions of Parkinson's disease, Ischemic Heart Disease and B-cell Leukemias. At the hearing, VA Secretary Shinseki said that existing research "more than satisfies the law's requirements" associating these ailments to Agent Orange.

Barring anything unforeseen, the VA will begin making payments for the three newly designated conditions on October 31, 2010.

Source: National Association for Uniformed Services, VA and Senate internet sites

Defense Authorization Bill - A Political Football

National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), a pro US military and veteran lobbying organization, expressed frustration that the Senate continues the practice of including unrelated amendments in key legislation. Remember the 2,500 page Health Care Bill that none of them read? Many of its pages have nothing to do with health care. Here is an excerpt from the NAUS Weekly Update dated September 24, 2010 regarding the Defense Authorization Bill and actions taken by the Senate concerning it.

"Senate efforts to jam a number of controversial social amendments into the National Defense Authorization bill (S. 3454) backfired this week, when Senators stopped proceeding on the bill until more time could be allotted for full debate. Senate lawmakers intend to return to the bill following November elections.

This year, a number of Senators have worked to push into the defense bill a series of highly controversial matters unrelated, or only peripherally connected, to the Nation's defense, such as amnesty legislation for illegal aliens, repeal of legislation that bans open homosexual conduct, and provisions to allow for the first-time abortion in military hospitals. Consequently, these matters have met with strong opposition against proceeding to completion without thorough debate.

In past years, passage of the annual defense bill has generally observed a long-standing tradition of fairness and bipartisanship. So it is troubling when we see manipulation of the legislative process in this manner. Our position on the matter is clear: the business of the defense bill is the nation's defense, not to provide a shield to pass controversial policy and program changes."

Source: National Association for Uniformed Services®
September 24, 2010

Children's Christmas Party and Christmas Bazaar

Lithuanian Post 154 will sponsor the Children's Christmas Party at Lithuanian Hall on December 12 at 1PM. Bring your small children and grandchildren. Chat with your friends while the children play and snack while waiting for Santa Claus to arrive with gifts.



Lithuanian Hall will also have their Christmas Bazaar on the same date starting at noon. There will be craft tables with Lithuanian Christmas decorations and gifts. Lithuanian food and drink will also be available.

Lithuanian Post 154 will be sending Christmas packages to our members serving in Iraq. The Post will be collecting magazines and home baked goods for the packages at the Bazaar. If you plan to contribute some goodies, please pack your home baked goods in Tupperware or similar plastic containers so that they don't get crushed during shipment and stay fresh.

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

ADJUTANT
Vincent T. Dulys
616 Cedarwood Lane
Crownsville, MD 21032
(410) 987-5275
410-960-7874 – cell
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 on the 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
JoeJankevicius@Gmail.com

Free Food at Applebee's
US veterans and active duty
personnel with proof of cur-
rent or former military ser-
vice can eat free at all Apple-
bee's restaurants on Veter-
ans Day, Thursday, Novem-
ber 11, 2010.

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

Calendar & Reminders

November

Tue	02	Election Day - GO VOTE!
Sat	06	Baltimore District 4 Frenchmen Service - St. Mary's Cemetery - 10 AM
Sun	07	Lithuanian Post 154 - Back to God Mass St. Alphonsus Church, Saratoga and Park Ave, Baltimore - 8:30 AM
Sun	07	Daylight Saving Time Ends - set clock back one hour.
Wed	10	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Wed	10	Marine Corps Established (1775)
Thu	11	Signing of WWI Armistice (1918)
Thu	11	Veterans Day - Baltimore District Service - 10:45 AM Northeastern Post 285 - 2324 McElderry Street, Baltimore
Thu	11	Free meals at Applebee's Restaurants to Veterans and US Military Personnel.
Fri	18	Baltimore District Meeting - 7 PM General Haller Post 95 - 1746 Fleet Street, Baltimore
Sun	21	Department Executive Committee Meeting - Ocean City Post 166 - 9 AM
Wed	24	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting rescheduled to Dec. 1.
Thu	25	Happy Thanksgiving Day
Sun	28	First Sunday of Advent

December

Wed	01	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM
Thu	02	First Day of Hanukkah
Tue	07	Pearl Harbor Remembrance - Baltimore District Service at War Memorial - 7 PM
Wed	08	War declared on Japan (1941)
Wed	08	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Sat	11	Germany & Italy declared war on U.S. (1941)
Sun	12	Lithuanian Hall Christmas Bazaar - 12 Noon
Sun	12	Lithuanian Post 154 Children's Christmas Party - Lithuanian Hall - 1 PM
Tue	21	First Day of Winter
Wed	22	No Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting
Wed	22	First drawing for 100 Club fundraiser
Fri	24	Christmas Eve / Lithuanian Kucios
Sat	25	Merry Christmas
Wed	29	Second drawing for 100 Club fundraiser
Fri	31	Official End of WWII (1946)
Fri	31	New Year's Eve

January, 2011

Sat	01	New Year's Day
Wed	05	Third drawing for 100 Club fundraiser
Wed	12	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Wed	12	Fourth drawing for 100 Club fundraiser
Mon	17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
Mon	17	Persian Gulf War Began (1991)
Wed	19	Fifth drawing for 100 Club fundraiser
Wed	26	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM
Wed	26	Sixth drawing for 100 Club fundraiser



In honor of Veterans Day, a national program, "Hugo Salutes Our Veterans," will provide at no charge state-of-the-art Hugo Folding Canes to any US Military Veteran in need of mobility assistance.

Sam's Club® locations nationwide will distribute 36,000 Hugo® canes free of charge on November 10th, 11th and 12th, 2010 to US military veterans.

Limited quantities available.

Available only while supplies last. Sam's Club® Membership is not required. Proof of military service may be required. Canes provided by Hugo®. Sam's Club® is a proud sponsor of this program.