



# American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 For God and Country



## Legionnaire

March & April 2010

### Commander's Message

Spring is sure to come! It will, as it always has after severe winter storms and frigid temperatures. So we look forward to the warmer weather that will bring colorful flowers and sunshine again. Darn that groundhog and his shadow!

For the first time in 47 years, the Four Chaplains Memorial Service was canceled due to inclement weather. It has been rescheduled to March 7 at 10 AM at St Alphonsus Church.

The Post has been invited to participate in an Honor Guard at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY on May 1, 2010 for the 182nd honoring of Gen. Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Kosciuszko was a Polish-born engineer who came to America and was commissioned as Colonel of Engineers by the Continental Congress. He helped fortify battle sites for the Colonies. Among others, he helped fortify the Philadelphia waterfront at Fort Mercer and fortifications along the Hudson in New York. He also planned the defense for Saratoga. The Battle of Saratoga became known as one of military history's most famous struggles for independence and proved to be a turning point in the war. In 1778, Kosciuszko was made chief engineer of West Point, New York. This fortification became known as the American Gibraltar because it, too, had not been conquered by an enemy, including the British Army during the Revolutionary War. Eventually West Point became a military academy, as suggested by Kosciuszko to General George Washington. In his honor, a Kosciuszko Monument was erected at West Point. After the Colonies won their independence, Kosciuszko returned to Poland in 1784 to fight for his own country's independence from the surrounding European powers.

This West Point event commemorates the 600th anniversary of the battle of Grunwald-Tannenburg-Zalgiris. This battle played an important role in the evolution of Lithuania as a nation. On March 7, 2010 the Post will participate in the Independence Day celebration of modern Lithuania - a somewhat historically related event.

Several of us are planning to attend the West Point event. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us.

On the District level, there will be a study of the District's Constitution and Bylaws. Our Adjutant and I have been assigned to this committee.

The "100 Club" party was a great success. A big "Thank You" to Chairman Vince Dulys for a great job.

John Maskavich  
Commander

### Lithuanian General Visits Naval Academy

On February 9, Chief of Defense of Lithuania, Maj. Gen. Arvydas Pocius visited the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, to get acquainted with training programs and discuss cooperative agreements enabling Lithuania's naval officers to attend the United States Naval Academy. Later in the day Maj. Gen. A. Pocius met with three Lithuanian cadets studying at the Academy - future officers of the Lithuanian Naval Force.



**Past Lithuanian Post 154 Commander Vacys Laukaitis chatting with Lithuanian Maj. General Arvydas Pocius and Lithuania's Ambassador Andrius Bruzga in the Lithuanian Embassy.**

On February 10, Maj. Gen. A. Pocius and Maj. Gen. Jessica Wright, Adjutant General, Pennsylvania National Guard, discussed the cooperation between Lithuanian Armed Forces and Pennsylvania Army National Guard to date and prospects of further cooperation in the NATO-led operation in Afghanistan. The Lithuanian Chief of Defense also invited members of Pennsylvania Army National Guard to join the "Amber Hope" exercise that will be hosted in Lithuania in 2011.

Source - Lithuanian Embassy

### Scholarship

Lithuanian Post 154 will be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to students graduating from high school in 2010 and entering college this fall. Application forms may be picked up at Post meetings held every second Wednesday of the month except for July. Applications are also available by contacting Commander John Maskavich.



Scholarships are open to children, grandchildren, stepchildren, step grandchildren, nephews, nieces or adopted children of a Lithuanian Post 154 member in good standing or a deceased member who was in good standing at time of death.

Lithuanian Post 154 will consider other achievements from grades Kindergarten through 12 for recognition.

Commander John Maskavich must receive scholarship applications by July 20, 2010.

### Membership

Congratulations to everyone who sent in their 2010 dues. This year we again increased our membership and received 3-Star Status at Department. I will be sending reminder letters to the few who have not yet renewed.

If anyone knows any membership prospects or potential transfers to Lithuanian Post 154, please let me know. I will send them an application and verify their eligibility.

We have been assigned membership prospects by the Department from the "Holding Post." The "Holding Post" was an administrative entity where applicants seeking American Legion membership were held until they transferred to an active post. The "Holding Post" concept has been eliminated for 2010 and the applicants have been assigned to active posts for membership eligibility verification, followed by a vote to accept or reject a membership application.

All paid up members should be receiving the "The American Legion" magazine each month, and the quarterly "Free State Warrior," the official publication of The American Legion, Department of Maryland. If you aren't receiving these publications, please let me know. I will contact National and/or Department to arrange for their delivery to you.

Our bimonthly newsletter is published by Joe Jankevicius. If you have a prospect who would like to receive our newsletter, please contact Joe Jankevicius or me.

Vincent Dulys  
Membership Chairman

### Sick Call



Edmond Bartas  
8 Robins Nest Ct  
Randallstown, MD 21133

### Happy Birthday



#### March

George Adams  
Joseph Antoniak  
Stephen Cherneski  
Fred Kaminski  
Joseph Mueller  
Gediminas Naujokaitis  
Olgard Rackus  
Augustinas Uleckas

#### April

Edmond Bartas  
Gregory Garliss  
Michael Keiser  
Errol Markowitz  
John Maskavich Jr.  
Algirdas Paplonskis  
Robert Parks  
Vilius Ramunas  
Algirdas Siaurusaitis

### Mobilized Reserve

The Department of Defense announced that the number of reservists on active duty as of February 9, 2010 was 142,517. The total number on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve was 111,478; Navy Reserve, 6,978; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 16,846; Marine Corps Reserve, 6,435; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 780.

Source - DoD News Release

### 100 Club



The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 annual fundraiser "100 Club" started December 16, 2009. Winning numbers were drawn every Wednesday for ten weeks. A party with food, refreshments and additional cash prizes was held on February 21 at the Cockeyed Cow Saloon.

Winners were:

- 00 - Rick Boeckman
- 05 - Bernice Uleckas
- 09 - Toivo Tagamets
- 94 - Carol Mueller;
- 32 - Joana Buivys
- 77 - Al Paplonskis
- 87 - John Maskavich
- 45 - Gloria Bartas
- 34 - Ed Bartas
- 20 - Evelyn Smith
- 88 - Sharon McCreary
- 27 - Rich Cole
- 71 - Vincas Dulys
- 20 - Evelyn Smith
- 49 - Donna Catterton
- 38 - Maryte Patlaba
- 35 - Jane Brasauskas
- 77 - Algis Paplonskis
- 20 - Evelyn Smith
- 32 - Joana Buivys

Three main prize winners were selected by random drawing at the party. They were:

- \$300 - Nomedas Silgalis
- \$200 - Mike Valeika
- \$100 - Toivo Tagaments

Many door prizes were awarded to party attendees. Walt Cooper won the cash prize of \$50 and others won useful household items.

I would like to thank everyone who supported this annual fundraiser.

Vincent Dulys  
Chairman

### Thank You



Lithuanian Post 154 received a "thank you" note from Legionnaire SGT William Cherneski thanking the Post for sending his son SGT Stephen Cherneski a Christmas package. Stephen was in a special operations unit deployed in a remote area of Afghanistan. Thankfully, Stephen returned home on February 4th without any physical injuries.

### Children's Miracle Network

Department of Maryland supports Johns Hopkins Hospital Children's Center annually. Districts and Posts host different fundraisers to support this worthy cause. American Legion Pasadena Post 277 is sponsoring a Motorcycle Poker Run to benefit the Children's Center on May 8th, 2010. Riders will start at 11 AM on one of two routes beginning at Harley Davidson in Baltimore or Annapolis. Both routes end at Post 277. Along their routes, they will be making stops at designated points to pick up poker chips which will be exchanged for cards at Post 277. Riders with the best 5 poker hands will be awarded prizes.

Registration fee for riders is \$25. At the finish, Post 277 will have Live Entertainment, Tikki Bar, Door Prizes, Raffles and Motorcycle games. If you wish to participate as a rider or volunteer at a stopping point, contact adjutant Vincent Dulys or call Pasadena Post 277 direct. Their phone number is (410) 360-0880.

## Congratulations



Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaire Joseph Saurusaitis and his wife Zita celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 29, 2009. Their special day started with Holy Mass at Saint Alphonsus Church, where they were married 50 years before by Lithuanian Post 154 Chaplain Father Anthony Dranginis. After their special Mass, they continued their celebration at brunch with family and friends at Nick's Fish House. Joe and Zita have three children: Loretta, Ed and Linas. Congratulations!



## "DETSEMBRIKUMUS" - December Heat

Lithuanian Post 154 Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets is also active in Baltimore's Estonian community. Estonia's struggle against Communism parallels that of Lithuania, thus this Estonian film should be of interest to Lithuanians also.

*Detsembrikuumus* is Estonia's official submission to the 82nd Academy Award's Foreign Language Film category for 2010. This epic, historical action-drama was produced for the 90th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia, and tells the story of the attempted Communist coup that occurred in the capital city Tallinn on December 1, 1924.

The film will be shown at the following locations at 7 PM:

- Monday, March 1, 2010  
Caruthers Auditorium, 1101 Camden Ave, Salisbury, MD
- Tuesday, March 2, 2010  
Tawes Hall, Rm. 153, Frostburg University, MD
- Wednesday, March 3, 2010  
Center for Higher Education Center Hall, California, MD
- Thursday, March 4, 2010  
Maryland Hall for the Arts, 801 Chase St., Annapolis, MD
- Friday, March 5, 2010  
Van Bokkelen Hall, York Rd, Towson University, MD

## Deep Sympathy

Lithuanian Post 154 offers its condolences to the family of Lithuanian Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis on the passing of his Mother and to the Keydash family on the passing of Tony Keydash. Tony and his three brothers were in military service at the same time during World War II.



## Prayer Seeking Direction and Guidance

On January 23, 1996, Rev. Joe Wright, the pastor of Central Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas was asked to open the new Kansas House session. Everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but his prayer asking God to lead America back to its founding values caused considerable uproar and praise. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest whereas Rev. Wright received thousands of supportive letters and phone calls. This is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, We come before You today to ask Your forgiveness and seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that's exactly what we have done. We have lost our Spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values. We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your word and called it pluralism;  
We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism;  
We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle;  
We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery;  
We have neglected the needy and called it self preservation;  
We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare;  
We have killed our unborn and called it choice;  
We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable;  
We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem;  
We have abused power and called it political savvy;  
We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition;  
We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression;  
We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.  
Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of this state and who have been ordained by You, to govern this great state of Kansas. Grant them Your wisdom to rule and may their decisions direct us to the center of Your will.

I ask in the name of your Son, The Living Savior, Jesus Christ".

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on "The Rest of the Story" on the radio and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.

Source: Internet

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Post General 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 :

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

## Calendar & Reminders

### March

Tue	02	Vietnam War began (1965)
Sun	07	Four Chaplains Service - St Alphonsus Church - 10 AM
Sun	07	Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration - Lithuanian Hall - 2 PM
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
Mon	15	American Legion Birthday
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

### April

Thu	01	April Fool's Day
Fri	02	Good Friday
Sun	04	Easter
Sun	11	Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire (1991)
Wed	14	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	15	Income Tax Day
Sat	17	Baltic Folk Festival - Lithuanian Hall
Wed	28	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM

### May

Thu	06	National Day of Prayer
Fri	07	Unconditional surrender of all German forces signed (1945)
Sat	08	V-E Day declared (1945)
Sun	09	Mother's Day
Wed	12	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Sat	15	Armed Forces Day
Sat	22	National Maritime Day
Sat	22	Lithuanian Festival at Catonsville Armory - 11 AM to 6 PM
Sun	23	Lithuanian Festival at Catonsville Armory - 11 AM to 6 PM Official Opening Ceremony at 1 PM with Lithuanian Post 154 Color Guard
Wed	26	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM
Sun	30	Memorial Day - American Legion Baltimore District Service at National Cemetery - Frederick Ave. - Catonsville, MD - 10:30 AM
Mon	31	Memorial Day (Observed)

## Boys State Program

The American Legion believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American government. American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective citizenship educational programs for boys. Boys State is a unique summertime educational program that focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state,

complete with governing bodies and elected public officials. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of its respective state government.

Only males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school and have not yet entered their senior year of high school are eligible to attend. Any boy who has previously attended Boys State is not eligible.

The Maryland Boys State will

be held from Sunday, June 20 to Saturday, June 26 at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. Graduation exercises will be Saturday, June 26th at 9 AM in Gill Gymnasium.

If you know of a boy who would be interested in attending Boys State, contact Vincent Dulys for more information and an application. Applications must be submitted by May 1, 2010. Lithuanian Post 154 will sponsor one applicant.

## Home Depot Discount

A retired Marine, now working as a cashier in Home Depot, told me that the company gives veterans a 10 % discount on anything purchased. All you need to do is tell the cashier that you are a veteran and show your American Legion card. I made purchases at 3 different Home Depot stores and obtained a 10% veteran's discount at each.

Joe Jankevicius