



# American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 For God and Country



## Legionnaire

January & February 2011

### Commander's Message

Best wishes to you and your families for a safe, happy and healthy New Year. Since last year ended on a positive note with a successful Children's Christmas Party we will strive to continue our endeavors on that note in 2011.

Thanks to all who have sent in their membership dues. We are well ahead of the goal set by Department for renewals. There will be a culling of membership rolls for those who have not paid their dues for two consecutive years. This will give a true picture of our membership.

There has been a discussion of compiling and publishing a detailed history of the Post. The idea came about as a result of a Baltimore District request for a one page version of our Post history for the District compilation.

A reminder! If you have not enrolled in the VA health system, do so as soon as you can. It's easy to do so. Just go to the VA hospital in Baltimore or a nearby branch and ask them for help with the application.

As we have done in the past, our Post will cooperate with District and Department on Legion matters and support their affairs in 2011. The Post will continue to have representation at the Department Convention, National Commander's Banquet, District Four Chaplains Service, District Memorial Service as well as Executive Committee meetings.

The Post plans to take part in the Lithuanian Festival and will continue our participation in other Baltimore Lithuanian Community activities in 2011.

With your support, I am confident that Lithuanian Post 154 will have a successful 2011.

Happy New Year!

John F. Maskavich  
Commander

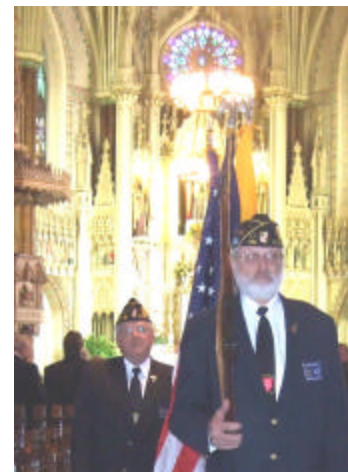
### The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 Profile

Excluding the Post 297 transfers by Department (none of whom have sent in their eligibility documents or have yet been voted into Lithuanian Post 154), Lithuanian Post 154 has 97 members. Though the Post meets at the Lithuanian Hall in Baltimore, only twenty members live in Baltimore. Twenty-seven members live out of state and the remainder are scattered throughout Maryland. Most Lithuanian Post 154 members are of Lithuanian descent or grew up near Lithuanian Hall.

### Back to God Mass

Members of Lithuanian Post 154 participated in the annual Back to God Mass at St Alphonus Church on November 7. The Back to God Mass was started by Father Dranginis when he was our Post Chaplain and has become an annual tradition. Our sincere "Thank you" to Monsignor Bastress for continuing it at St. Alphonus Church.

While browsing at the St. Alphonus religious store, Legionnaire Gintaras Buivys noticed a lapel pin with a US flag and cross (shown below in "Chaplain's Corner") that reminded him of The American Legion motto "For God and Country." At his suggestion, Lithuanian Post 154 purchased and



**Lithuanian Post 154 Color Guard retrieving Colors after Back to God Mass at St. Alphonus Church.**

gave the pins to everyone who attended the Back to God Mass.

### Chaplain's Corner

#### PEACE IN OUR WORLD

O God, our words cannot express  
The pain we feel this day.  
Enraged, uncertain, we confess  
Our need to bow and pray.

We grieve for all who lost their lives.  
And for each injured one,  
We pray for children, husbands, wives  
Whose grief has just begun.

O Lord, we're called to offer prayer  
For all our leaders, too.  
May they, amid such great despair,  
Be wise in all they do.

We trust Your mercy and Your grace;  
In You we will not fear!  
May peace and justice now embrace!  
Be with Your people here!

Author Unknown



### Membership

Department has set Lithuanian Post 154 membership goal for fiscal year 2011 at 120. Renewal reminder notices have been mailed to those who have not yet renewed. Please check your current membership card. Your membership is current if "2011" appears at the top, otherwise you are delinquent. Listed below are member identifications that our records show as not yet renewed. Please contact me if you notice any discrepancies.

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Gintaras D. - 200594600    | George B. - 101737194  |
| Gregory G. - 201026589     | Rudolf H. - 201772031  |
| Algimantas G. - 1017670026 | Charles H. - 202966464 |
| Algimantas S. - 203595231  | Anthony H. - 203541034 |
| Richard J. - 101744008     | Peter S. - 201457856   |
| John K. - 1017440097       | Wayne W. - 201921928   |

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 contact me. My contact information is on last page of this newsletter.

Vincent Dulys  
Membership Chairman

### 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

As Chairman of the Post's annual 100 Club fundraiser which started on Dec. 22, I want to thank everyone who purchased a ticket. Two winning numbers will be drawn every Wednesday for a total of ten weeks. Winning numbers to date are:

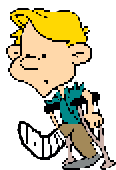
- 12 - Midge Dettler
- 02 - Cathy Goff
- 81 - Aldona Buda
- 00 - Rick Boeckman

The final drawings will be held on Feb. 23, 2011. Our annual fundraiser party will follow on Feb. 27, 1 PM to 4 PM, at the Cockeyed Cow Saloon, 900 S. Carey St. The party is free to 100 Club ticket holders and \$10 for others. Great food. Hot & Cold refreshments. PLUS – additional prizes!

Got questions? Call me, at (410) 987-5275.

Vincent Dulys  
Chairman

### Sick Call



Edmond Bartas  
8 Robins Nest Ct  
Randallstown, MD 21133

### Children's Christmas Party

The annual Lithuanian Post 154 Children's Christmas Party was held at Lithuanian Hall on Sunday, December 12th. This event has been a Post tradition for over 50 years.



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

Lithuanian Hall combined the Children's Christmas Party with the Christmas Bazaar. While children played waiting for Santa to arrive, their parents browsed through the Bazaar in the adjacent room and purchased unique gifts – crafts, jewelry,

tablecloths, books – highlighting their Lithuanian heritage. Lithuanian food was served by the Lithuanian Hall Kitchen.



**Some of the Legionnaires at the Children's Christmas Party posed for a picture with the Ambassador from Lithuania. From left are Joe Jankevicius, Vincent Dulys, John Maskavich, Joe Astauskas, Gintaras Buivys, Žygmantas Pavilonis the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the US, Vacys Laukaitis and Toivo Tagamets.**

### Sears Supports Reservists and National Guard

Though your Christmas shopping may be over, consider adding Sears to your list of stores to visit when your water heater starts to leak, you need a new stove or other item.

Sears is one company that truly support its employees who are called up for military service. By law, they are required to make the jobs of Sears employees serving in the military forces available to them upon their return to civilian life. Usually, people take a big pay cut and lose benefits as a result of being called up for active duty. Sears is voluntarily paying the difference in salaries and maintaining all benefits, including medical insurance and bonus programs for up to 5 years for all Sears employees called up by the Reserves and National Guard.

Sears is an exemplary corporate citizen.

Source:  
<http://www.searsholdings.com/ommunityrelations/hero/military.htm>

## Christmas at Arlington Cemetery



**Rest easy, sleep well my brothers.  
Know the line has held, your job is done.  
Rest easy, sleep well.  
Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held.  
Peace, peace, and farewell...**

### Author Unknown

Every year since 1992, the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine has been donating some 5,000 wreaths to decorate gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. The owner, Merrill Worcester, not only provides the wreaths, but covers the trucking expense as well. Most years, groups of Maine school kids combine an educational trip to DC with this event to help out.

## Marine Evening Parade

Everyone loves a parade, and according to my grandson, the Marine Evening Parade at the courtyard of Washington Marine Barracks, corner 8th and I St. SE, Washington DC is the place to be on a summer Friday evening. His parents took him to see it last summer and he talked about it for weeks. The Evening Parade displays an amazing amount of control and precision throughout its entire 75 minutes. It features performances by the United States Marine Band, known as the "President's Own," the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, known as the "Commandant's Own," and the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.



Evening Parades will be conducted every Friday at 8:45 PM beginning in early May and continuing through the end of August. Tickets to the Parade are free and can be requested online by accessing <http://www.mbw.usmc.mil/RequestReservation.aspx> starting in March. Tickets are in high demand and if you wish to attend, I suggest you get the tickets in March as soon as they become available. Additional information about the Evening Parade, times, dates, or schedules may be obtained by calling the parade information line at 202-433-6060.

Joe Jankevicius

## House of Representatives Concurrent Resolution 267 Congratulating the Baltic Nations.

Mr. John Shimkus, R-IL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which obtained 38 cosponsors on April 26, 2010. This resolution passed in the House on December 7, 2010. The resolution is now to be voted on in the Senate.

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the 20th anniversary of the reestablishment of their full independence.

Whereas the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were forcibly and illegally incorporated into the Soviet Union from 1940 until 1991;

Whereas their forcible and illegal incorporation into the Soviet Union was never recognized by the United States;

Whereas from 1940 to 1991, thousands of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians were executed, imprisoned, or exiled by Soviet authorities through a regime of brutal repression, Sovietization, and Russification in their respective nations;

Whereas despite the efforts of the Soviet Union to eradicate the memory of independence, the Baltic people never lost their hope for freedom and their long-held dream of full independence;

Whereas during the period of 'glasnost' and 'perestroika' in the Soviet Union, the Baltic people led the struggle for democratic reform and national independence; and

Whereas in the years following the restoration of full independence, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have demonstrated their commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and have actively participated in a wide range of international structures, pursuing further integration with European political, economic, and security organizations;

Now, therefore, be it *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That Congress—  
(1) congratulates Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the 20th anniversary of the end of their illegal incorporation into the Soviet Union; and  
(2) calls on the President to continue to build the close and mutually beneficial relations the United States has enjoyed with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania since the restoration of the full independence of those nations.

Source:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=hc111-267>

## Defense Budget

On Wednesday, December 22, Congress passed H.R. 6523, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. It authorizes \$138.5 billion for military personnel and includes a 1.4% across-the-board pay raise for members of the uniformed services. In addition, the Bill prohibits the use of DOD funding to transfer, release or assist in the transfer or release of Guantanamo detainees to or within the United States. It also prohibits the use of DOD funding to construct or modify a facility within the United States to house detainees transferred from the Guantanamo detention facility..

Source: NAUS Special Update for December 22, 2010

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  
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 \$1,000 scholarships to students graduating from high school in 2011 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 a Lithuanian Post 154 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

Sat	01	New Year's Day
Wed	05	Third week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Wed	12	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Wed	12	Fourth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Thu	13	Baltimore District Meeting - Brooklyn - Curtis Bay Post 187 - 7 PM
Mon	17	Persian Gulf War Began (1991)
Mon	17	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday (Observed)
Wed	19	Fifth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Wed	26	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM
Wed	26	Sixth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Thu	27	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)

### February

Wed	02	Ground Hog Day
Wed	02	Seventh week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Sun	06	Baltimore District Four Chaplains Service - St. Alphonsus Church - 10 AM
Wed	09	Eighth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Wed	09	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Sat	12	Lincoln's Birthday
Mon	14	Valentine's Day
Wed	16	Ninth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Sun	20	Department Executive Committee Meeting - Greenbelt Post 136 - 1 PM
Mon	21	Presidents' Day
Tue	22	George Washington's Birthday
Wed	23	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM
Wed	23	Tenth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Sun	27	100 Club fundraiser Party - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 1 PM

### March

Wed	02	Vietnam War began (1965)
Wed	09	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Wed	09	Ash Wednesday
Thu	10	Baltimore District Meeting - location TBA
Sun	13	Daylight Saving Time begins
Thu	17	St. Patrick's Day
Sat	19	Operation Iraqi Freedom began (2003)
Sun	20	Spring begins
Wed	23	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM
Sat	26	National Commander's Banquet - Kent Island Post - 5:30 PM

### Four Chaplains Service

The Baltimore District Four Chaplains Service will take place at St. Alphonsus Church on Sunday, February 6, 2011 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 48th 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