



American Legion Lithuanian Post 154
For God and Country



Jan & Feb 2007

Legionnaire

Commander's Message



Commander
John Maskavich

The holiday season—a time for relaxation and enjoyment—has come to an end and the reality of everyday living and Post activities resume. In that vein we wish all of our post members and their family: good health, wealth and prosperity.

Our past year was relatively successful even though we did not reach all of our goals.

Membership this year is off to a good start. Lets keep it up and reach 100% membership! It can be done! Attendance at post meetings has been acceptable. All are welcome to attend and are encouraged to have input on legion matters.

The Children's Christmas Party, supported by the Legion and headed by Vacys Laukaitis was a great success—again!

Activities in January consists of a post meeting on the 10th. The post's 100 Club begins on this date. February begins with the post hosting the Four Chaplains Service at 10 AM mass, at St. Alphonsus Church on February 4. If you have not attended this Baltimore District activity, you are missing a moving ceremony. We would like to see a good turn

out of Post 154 members. Then there is Valentine's Day. Don't forget the love of your heart! Should you forget we are reminding her of your love and friendship. President's Day combines the former holidays of Lincoln's and Washington's birthday. I had two days off when in "grammar" school. In addition the Baltimore District will be holding its Oratorical contest February 8 at Morrell Park Post 137.

As you opened your Legionnaire you saw a different format. Thanks to Joe Jankevicius. Read it! Enjoy it! You are asked for you input—do it! "Get 'er done" as Gail Murdock, Department 2nd Vice says.

While we are actively engaged in Post activities, let us not forget our post members in need or with health

conditions. We can't help if we don't know and you don't ask. Nor should we forget the members of our armed forces in our prayers. Do not let the worldwide terrorists threats keep us from living as a free people. We must be willing to do what is necessary to maintain these freedoms. So let us live abundantly for God and Country.



The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 expresses its deep sympathy to post members Vytautas and Rimas Vitkauskas on the loss of their mother Brone and sister Irene Galeckas, wife of deceased Past Commander Kestutis Galeckas.

Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain
Fred Kaminski

O Lord my God, I thank you that you have brought this day to a close.

I thank you that you have given me peace in body and in soul.

Your hand has been over me and has protected and preserved me.

Forgive my puny faith, the ill that I this day have done, and help me to forgive all who have wronged me.

Grant me a quiet nights

sleep beneath your tender care and defend me from all the temptations of darkness.

Into your hands I commend my loved ones, and all who dwell in this house.

I commend my body and soul.

O God, your holy name be praised.

Amen.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
From prison, killed by Nazi Government - 1945



Sick Call

Edmond Bartas
8 Robins Nest Ct
Randallstown, MD 21133

Joe Gaila
9770 Longview Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Paul Salvetti
867 Hollins St.
Baltimore, MD 2120

Algirdas Siaurusaitis
2526 Melba Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Adjutant's Message



Adjutant / Finance Officer
Vincent Dulys

Membership

I have sent out letters in October to those Post members that have not paid their Fiscal Year 2007 dues in

hopes to beat the deadline for the National Capita Dues Increase. If you do not agree or have any questions with any renewal notice from our Post, Department or National please contact me at 410-987-5275 or e-mail me: Vincentas@juno.com.

The National Convention on August 29th, 2006 passed a National per capita dues increase of \$4.50 per member. Our Post current dues of \$18 is one of the lowest in the Department of Maryland since we do not have the overhead expense of our own building and lounge. After January 1, 2007 all Fiscal year "2006" cards will have expired and any dues

paid after that date for Fiscal year 2007 will be \$21.00. Fiscal year "2007" started July 1, 2006 and extends through June 30, 2007, but the card is honored through December 31, 2007.

Upon payment of your dues you should be receiving the monthly Legion magazine and the Department "Warrior" newspaper published every even month. If not please let me know, there may be an address discrepancy. The breakdown of the new dues rate is as follows: Department of Maryland - \$7.00; National Headquarters - \$13.50; Post # 154 - \$.50 = \$21.00. Some

post members may benefit in purchasing a PUFL membership before the dues increase. This may save money over the long haul.

We have 2007 "Pocket Pal" appointment books compliments of Lithuanian Post #154. They are available at any of our Post meetings or I can mail a copy for P&H.

Membership Chairman
Vincent Dulys

100 Club

The American Legion Lithuanian Post # 154 annual fundraiser "100 Club" will start on January 10th. Winning numbers will be drawn every Wednesday for ten weeks and will end with our customary party with food, refreshments and additional cash prizes. If you care to purchase a ticket or need more information please contact chairman Vince Dulys - (410-987-5275 or e-mail Vincentas@juno.com)

Calendar & Reminders

January

Mon	1	New Year's Day
Wed	10	First drawing of Post 100 Club fundraiser
Wed	10	Post monthly general meeting at Lithuanian Hall
Thu	11	Baltimore District meeting at Morrell Park Post # 137
Wed	24	Post monthly executive meeting at J-Ray's

February

Sun	4	Four Chaplains Service at St Alphonus Church 10 A.M.
Thu	8	Baltimore District Oratorical Contest at Morrell Park Post # 137
Sun	11	Department Executive meeting - Greenbelt Post # 136
Mon	12	Lincoln's Birthday
Wed	14	Post monthly meeting at Lithuanian Hall - 8 P.M.
Wed	14	Valentine's Day
Sun	18	Orthodox Lent Begins
Wed	21	Ash Wednesday
Thu	22	George Washington's Birthday
Wed	28	Post monthly executive meeting at J-Ray's 7:30 P.M.

March

Thu	8	Baltimore District meeting hosted by Post # 154 - Lithuanian Hall
Sat	10	National Commanders Banquet - at Post 206 - Chesapeake Beach
Sun	11	Lithuanian Independence remembrance - St Alphonus 8:30 A.M., Lithuanian Hall 2 P.M.
Wed	14	Post monthly meeting at Lithuanian Hall 8 P.M.
Sat	17	St. Patrick's Day
Sun	18	Post # 154 fundraiser - 100 Club Party at J-Ray's 1-4 P.M.
Sun	25	Baltimore District Reception honoring Commander Dave Schaaf
Wed	28	Post monthly executive meeting at J-Ray's 7:30 P.M.
Sat	31	Clocks spring forward after midnight for DST



Happy Birthday

January

Grant Dillon
Patrick Dohlus
Vytautas Eringis
Charles Gross
Edvins Kristapsons
Bernard Milosavich
Stephen Mueller
Ronald Price
Stanley Ruby
Kenneth Shillenn

February

Richard Jacobs

Installation of Officers for 2007

The installation of Post 154 officers took place on September 17th, 2006 at Lithuanian Hall. Nearly 150 attendees enjoyed an afternoon of camaraderie with old and new friends.

After an initial hour of socializing, Installation Chairman Vincent Dulys and Commander John Maskavich led the formal proceedings in their usual smooth fashion. Monsignor Arthur Bastress gave the invocation. Angela Miller sang the National Anthem. Vincent Dulys, Joseph Astasauskas, Gintaras Buivys and Fred Kaminski conducted a touching POW - MIA ceremony reminding us of our missing comrades.

Past National Executive Committeeman & Past Department Commander William Proctor installed Post 154's newly elected officers for 2006-2007.

Commander John Maskavich presented a Scholastic Medal to Emilie Mosier,



Emilie Mosier accepting Scholastic Award from Commander John Maskavich (left) and Adjutant Vincent Dulys

\$500 Scholarships to Christopher Leonavicius and Amanda Meehan. Teacher of the Year award was presented to Birute Gorrell. Policeman of the Year award was given to Officer Michael Hobson and the Fireman of the Year award was presented to Captain Francis Uhlhorn III.

Monsignor Arthur Bastress gave an emotional Memorial Service with post members Gintaras Buivys, Vacys Laukaitis, Joseph Astasauskas, Fred Kaminski and Henry Gaidis placing caps from each branch of service and poppies on white crosses representing each branch of service. Tenor Rick Miller sang "My Buddy"



Edward Buda's Family After Accepting Republic of Korean War Service Medal



Memorial Service with (from left) Vacys Laukaitis, Joe Astasauskas, Gintaras Buivys, Msgr. Bastress, Fred Kaminski and Henry Gaidis

as four of our fellow Legionnaires: Michael Mazz, John Rafi Sharif, Roland Miller and Kenneth Bauer were transferred to Post Everlasting. The Memorial Service ended by buglers Mark Zaruba and Melissa Wilgis playing Taps and bringing all to tears.

Another, most touching event at the installation was the presentation of the Republic of Korean War Service Medal to the family of Edward Buda. As many of you may remember, on June 7th, 1981 Ed Buda was the Sergeant-at-Arms for our parade from Saint Alphonse Church to the Lithuanian Festival held downtown at Charles Plaza. At nearly the end of

the parade, he collapsed with a massive heart attack. Though fellow legionnaire Dr. Urlock was able to provide immediate medical attention, Ed did not survive. The post was pleased to honor Ed by helping obtain the Republic of Korea War Service Medal for him and presenting it to his family.

A delicious dinner was prepared by Aldona Buda. Friends continued socializing during dinner, listening to music provided by Gintaras Buivys and watching a video of the Lithuanian Festival made by Joe Jankevicius.

See last page to purchase DVD Video of Installation.

2007 Lithuanian Post 154 Officers



From left: Vincent Dulys (Adjutant/Finance Officer), Gintaras Buivys (Judge Advocate), Joseph Jankevicius (Executive Committee), Vitas Siaurusaitis (Executive Committee), Henry Gaidis (Historian), Joseph Astasauskas (Executive Committee), Fred Kaminski (Chaplin),

Not in Photo:

John Maskavich (Commander), Vacys Laukaitis (Vice Commander), Patrick M. Dohlus (Service Officer), Walter Cooper (Sergeant-at-Arms)

Photo by John Fink, Post 20

COMMANDER

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

**ADJUTANT /
FINANCE OFFICER**

Vincent T. Dulys
616 Cedarwood Lane
Crownsville, MD 21032
(410) 987-5275

SERVICE OFFICER

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

Post Meeting
8PM every 2nd Wednesday
of the month at
American Legion
Lithuanian Post 154
851 Hollins Street.
Baltimore, MD 21201

Executive Comm. Meeting,
Usually 7:30 PM on the 4th
Wednesday of the month at
J Ray's Cafe
900 S. Carey Street
Baltimore, MD 21223
(Check with Commander)

We Need Your Input

This is your newsletter. Use it to communicate with each other. Please send in stories that you feel would be of interest to others.

If you have a question regarding the American Legion or Veteran issues, please ask them, we will try to get you an answer. If the question is of general interest, we will publish the answer.

A special *THANK YOU* to Richard Seymour, a 60 year member of our Post, for his suggestions on how to improve this newsletter. He took the time to compose two pages of recommendations. We will be using many of Richard's suggestions.

Please send your stories and suggestions to:

Joe Jankevicius
624 Oak Tree Rd
Westminster, Md 21157

JJankevicius@adelphia.net

Some Senators Say Burning Flag OK !



For years, the American Legion has been trying to get an amendment passed to protect the American flag from desecration. Unfortunately we have too many Senators who felt that burning the flag is an OK form of free speech. The votes last June came close, but Joint Sen. Resolution 12 did not pass.

The fathers of our country were brilliant. They realized that they could not anticipate all future situations when they wrote the Constitution, thus they made provisions for it to be amended. Certainly, they did not anticipate that anyone would ever consider burning Old Glory. The process they established to amend the Constitution requires passage of the proposed amendment by the house and senate, then it has to be ratified by the states. The senate was in the loop as a "speed bump" to keep frivolous proposals from going to the states for ratification. The senate was not intended to be a barrier in fixing unforeseen abuses of "free

speech" that allow the desecration of our flag.

Listed below is the Flag Protection Amendment voting record of senators in states where our post has members. If your senator did not support the passage of the amendment, ask him/her to reconsider. Tell your senator that the people deserve an opportunity to exercise "free speech" and have a vote to select their delegates for ratification of the amendment. If your senators voted for the amendment, thank them and ask them to support it again.

**Senators who Voted Against
Flag Protection
Amendment**

- Biden (DE-D)
- Carper (DE-D)
- Inouye (HI-D)
- Akaka (HI -D)
- Mikulski (MD-D)
- Sarbanes (MD-D)
- Cantwell (WA-D)
- Murray (WA-D)

**Senators who Voted For
Flag Protection
Amendment**

- Nelson, Bill (FL-D)
- Martinez (FL -R)
- Landrieu (LA -D)
- Vitter (LA -R)
- Burr (NC -R)
- Dole (NC -R)
- DeWine (OH -R)
- Voinovich (OH -R)
- Santorum (PA -R)
- Specter (PA -R)
- Allen (VA -R)
- Warner (VA -R)

I beseech you to treasure up in your hearts these parting words:

*"Be ashamed to die
'til you have won some
victory for mankind."*
Horace Mann 1796 -1859

A Mother Asked.....

- A mother asked President Bush,
"Why did my son have to die in Iraq?"*
- Another mother asked President Kennedy,
"Why did my son have to die in Viet Nam?"*
- Another mother asked President Truman,
"Why did my son have to die in Korea?"*
- Another mother asked President F.D. Roosevelt,
"Why did my son have to die at Iwo Jima?"*
- Another mother asked President W. Wilson,
"Why did my son have to die on the battlefield of France?"*
- Yet another mother asked President Lincoln ,
"Why did my son have to die at Gettysburg?"*
- And yet another mother asked President G. Washington,
"Why did my son have to die near Valley Forge?"*
- Then long, long ago, a mother asked...
"Heavenly Father, why did my Son have to die
on a cross outside of Jerusalem?"*

*The answers to all these are similar --
"So that others may have life and dwell in peace,
happiness and freedom."
Anonymus*

The following 3 DVD videos are available for \$5 each:
- 2006 Post 154 Installation
- 2006 Lithuanian Festival
- 2006 Maryland American Legion Convention Memorial Service

Mail check payable to:
American Legion Post 154
c/o Joe Jankevicius
624 Oak Tree Rd
Westminster, Md 21157