



# American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 For God and Country



## Legionnaire

July & August 2007

### Commander's Message

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Do you remember having to memorize the above *Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America*? It was required – long ago – when beginning to study American History in elementary school – if you went to school in the USA.

To be able to recite the lofty ideals expressed by our founding fathers is no longer required let alone expected. Yet it is good to stop and reflect on these ideals and to see all that we as individuals have been able to accomplish. There will be as many positive or negative responses to these ideals as there are people reflecting on them. The purpose here is to remind us to be ever grateful that we live where these ideals are allowed to become reality and we can benefit from them as we wish.

We have a symbol of these ideals reflected in our flag. Unfortunately, all Americans do not share the respect that we Legionnaires have for our precious flag. When we fold the flag after a parade or presentation of Colors, we take

extreme care to insure that it does not touch the ground while being rolled up. Our legislators continue to allow the burning and desecration of our flag as an acceptable form of free speech. The Flag Protection Amendment has been stuck "In Committee" since January 11, 2007. No committee deliberations are required. Full deliberations and a vote took place last year. Unfortunately it was one Senator short of passage. I urge you to contact your Senator and ask for movement from committee and support of its passage.

The month of July begins our annual membership renewal. You will be getting your membership renewal forms soon. Please send in your renewal form with your \$21 annual dues as soon as you can. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks to all who participated in recent Post 154 activities. Many members attended the Lithuanian Festival. Thanks to the Color Guard for presenting the Colors and Fred Kaminski for setting up our booth.

The Commander and Adjutant participated in the Baltimore District Memorial Service at the Baltimore National Cemetery.

We wish you a healthy and enjoyable summer. Keep the Post informed of any pertinent needs or events.

### Lithuanian Festival



**Lithuanian Post 154 marching in with Colors during Lithuanian Festival opening ceremony.**  
From left; Vince Dulys, John Maskavich, Balys Brasauskas, Vaclovas Laukaitis and Fred Kaminski. Henry Gaidis is hidden behind Laukaitis.



**Fred Kaminski manning Post 154 table at festival.**

Even though the Lithuanian Festival was held over Mother's day weekend, it was well attended. Old friends had an opportunity to taste some delicious Lithuanian food, drink a Lithuanian

beer or sip on some Vyrta with their old buddies.

Lithuanian Post was well represented by the Color Guard and our popular display table with free goodies.

### Adjutant's Message

Lithuanian Post 154 closed out Fiscal Year 2007 with 97 members. We fell short of the 102 member goal set by Department. I am confident that we will meet our membership goals in F.Y. 2008. We gained two new members last year. However, since March of 2006, we lost eight members to Post Everlasting. Also we still have two members that have not met their F.Y. 2007 commitment. Fiscal Year 2008 starts July 1, 2007 and ends June 30, 2008 – current dues are now \$21.00. Everyone should be receiving their notices from National. Please make your checks payable to American Legion Post 154 and mail them to me at: Vincent T. Dulys  
616 Cedarwood Lane  
Crownsville, Md. 21032.

We currently have 96 members on our new roster that is comprised of - WW 2 (18); Korea (25); Viet Nam (46); Panama (1); Grenada (4); Persian Gulf (2). In that mix fourteen of our Post members are

PUFL's (Paid up for Life) and seven that have been Post members for over 50 continuous years.

- Algis Paplonskis – 50
- Balys Brasauskas - 54
- Adam Zurowski – 60
- Boniface Brazaitis – 61
- Richard Seymour – 61
- Olgard Rackus – 62
- Edward Daniels – 63

If you have any questions regarding membership, feel free to call or e-mail me. All paid up members should be receiving the monthly "Legion" magazine, the Department "Free State Warrior" every even month and this "Legionnaire" every other month. If not, please let me know, there may be an address discrepancy at National or Department.

The breakdown of the new dues rate is as follows: Department of Maryland - \$7.00; National Headquarters - \$ 13.50; Post 154 - \$.50 = \$21.00.

Membership Chairman  
*Vince Dulys*

### 2007-2008 Post Officers

Election of Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2007 - 2008 took place at the May General Meeting. The officers elected are:

- |                     |                                                            |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Commander           | John Maskavich                                             |
| Vice Commander      | Vaclovas Laukaitis                                         |
| Adjutant            | Vince Dulys                                                |
| Finance Officer     | Vince Dulys                                                |
| Service Officer     | Patrick Dohlus                                             |
| Chaplain            | Fred Kaminski                                              |
| Judge Advocate      | Gintaras Buivys                                            |
| Historian           | Henry Gaidys                                               |
| Executive Committee | Joe Astasauskas<br>Joseph Jankevicius<br>Vito Siaurusaitis |

### 2007 Convention Delegates

John Maskavich, Vince Dulys, Vaclovas Laukaitis and Joseph Jankevicius were elected Post 154 delegates and Vitas Siaurusaitis an alternate to the Maryland American Legion Conven-

tion in Ocean City. All members are welcome to stop by the Post 154 hospitality room. Schedule of events and address of hospitality room is listed in Calendar & Reminders.

### Sick Call



Edmond Bartas  
8 Robins Nest Ct  
Randallstown, MD 21133

Vytautas Eringis  
403 Alview Ct.  
Catonsville, MD 21228

Algirdas Veliuona  
9012 Forest Oak Rd.  
Owings Mills, MD 21117

### Great News



Ed Budelis has asked to be removed from the sick list. He said his hip fracture is doing better and he can now get around and even drive.

### Good Guy with White Hat



**Vince Dulys**

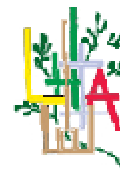
Congratulations to Vince Dulys for being reelected to be one of four members of the American Legion Baltimore District Executive Committee. The Executive Committee provides guidance to 17 Posts with over 2000 members. Being elected to this important position is no trivial matter. Congratulations Vince!

### Post Everlasting



We are sad to report that John Sciukas, Post 154 member for 31 years transferred to Post Everlasting. Commander John Maskavich noticed the listing in the paper and was able to stop by the funeral home to offer the family Lithuanian Post 154's condolences. Unfortunately, Commander Maskavich did not have enough notice to inform other members and organize a Poppy Service.

### Lithuanian Hall



Birute Cikotiene, the new Lithuanian Hall Manager has asked that we inform our members that the Hall will be open at 10 AM on Sunday mornings for breakfast. After Lithuanian Mass at St Alphonsus Church, head for Lithuanian Hall and enjoy some coffee and pancakes with your friends.

### Happy Birthday



#### July

- Raymond W. Beares Jr.
- Gintaras Buivys
- Joseph Gaila
- Edward P. Gillespie
- Anthony J. Kasulen
- Algirdas Skudzinskas

#### August

- Algimantas K. Grintelis
- Victor A. Kareiva
- Thomas Allen Keane Jr.
- Roy W. Kemmer
- Hughs H. Mills Jr.
- Mark Naujelis
- Algirdas M. Veliuona
- Rimantas S. Vitkauskas

## Origin of Taps

I recently received an E-mail with the following attachment explaining the origin of Taps. I hope you enjoy it.

“Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison’s Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Con-



**Post 154 Adjutant Vince Dulys and Commander John Maskavich participating in POW / MIA Remembrance at Baltimore National Cemetery.**

federate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his su-

periors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral.

The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as Taps .... used

at military funerals was born. The words are :

Day is done.  
Gone the sun.  
From the lakes.  
From the hills.  
From the sky.  
All is well.  
Safely rest.  
God is nigh.

Fading light.  
Dims the sight.  
And a star.  
Gems the sky.  
Gleaming bright.  
From afar.  
Drawing nigh.

Falls the night.  
Thanks and praise.  
For our days.  
Neath the sun.  
Neath the stars.  
Neath the sky.  
As we go.  
This we know.  
God is nigh.”

Anonymous

## Post 154 Supports Team Viltis in MS Challenge

Lithuanian Post 154 received the following letter and will be supporting this important cause. Birute’s goal is to raise at least \$1,500. She and the MS Society would appreciate your help.

Dear Family and Friends,

Every hour of every day, someone is diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). There are approximately 400,000 Americans with MS, and every week about 200 new people are diagnosed. It was devastating when Kristina, my sister’s youngest daughter, was diagnosed almost 3 years ago. At first, she was experiencing extreme fatigue, muscle weakness and visual distortion. Walking even short distances was exhausting. During this

past year, Kristina has deteriorated rapidly from leg brace to a cane, a walker, and now - exclusively a wheelchair. Every day brings new challenges and stresses to her and her immediate family.

And so, for the third year now, Team Viltis is accepting the challenge to participate in the Chesapeake Bay MS Challenge Walk to help raise funds that will be instrumental in helping and changing the future for all those living and struggling with MS. The Challenge Walk will take place September 15 and 16, 2007. Our team will join hundreds of others in a 50K walk from Baltimore to Annapolis. Monies raised during this event directly support the



**Team Viltis - 2006**

services and professional education programs of the MS Society’s Maryland, Blue Ridge, Hampton Roads, Central Pennsylvania, and Delaware Chapters. Additionally, the MS Society is committed to funding research that will help lead to the discoveries of a cause and a cure for MS.

This is a very important and personal cause for me and Team Viltis, so I hope you can also accept the challenge and support us again. Any contribution you

can make would be greatly appreciated. All contributions are tax-deductible. You can mail a check to me, made out to the National MS Society, or, if you prefer to do-

nate online, visit [www.baychallengewalk.org](http://www.baychallengewalk.org) and use your credit card; just follow the prompts to make a donation in my name. You can also find out more information about the walk and the MS Society on the website.

Thank you,  
Birute

Birute Gorrell  
1179 Dicus Mill Rd.  
Millersville, Md 21108

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

**ADJUTANT /  
FINANCE OFFICER**  
Vince 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  
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  
J-Ray's Cafe  
900 S. Carey Street  
Baltimore, MD 21223 (Check  
with Commander)

Please send your  
comments, sugges-  
tions and articles to :



Joe Jankevicius  
624 Oak Tree Rd  
Westminster, MD 21157  
JJankevicius@Comcast.net

### Scholarship Applications

Time is running out. Remind  
your children, grandchildren,  
nieces and nephews graduat-  
ing from high school to apply  
for the \$500 Post Scholar-  
ship by July 16th.

Contact Commander John  
Maskavich to obtain an ap-  
plication. Have the High  
School graduate fill out the  
application and send it along  
with supporting documents  
to Commander Maskavich.

## Calendar & Reminders

### July – 2007

Sun 01 Fiscal Year 2008 Membership starts – send in your Post 154 dues.  
Wed 04 Independence Day Observed  
Tue 09-13 American Legion Department of Maryland Convention – Ocean City, Md.  
*Post 154 Hospitality - Bradley on the Bay – Bldg A - 304. Located on Ocean  
Highway next to South East corner of Convention Center parking lot.*

**There will be no General Meeting for Lithuanian Post 154 in July.**

#### Convention Itinerary

Mon 09 Afternoon Fish Fry behind Convention Hall- everyone welcome  
Tue 10 8 AM–Noon Legion College classes at Convention Center  
8 PM Official opening of Convention  
Wed 11 8 AM Department Convention meetings  
8 PM Memorial Service by  
Baltimore District Detail and Post 154 members  
Thu 12 8 AM Department Convention meetings  
(There will be no American Legion parade this year)  
Fri 13 8 AM Department Convention meetings  
Election of Department of Maryland Officers  
for Fiscal Year 2008  
Sat 21 Department of Veterans Affairs Established 1930  
Wed 25 Post 154 Executive meeting – J-Ray's 7:30 PM  
Thu 26 Armed Forces Officially Desegregated 1948

### August – 2007

Sat 04 United States Coast Guard Established 1790  
Tue 07 Department of War Established 1789  
Wed 08 Post 154 General meeting – Lithuanian Hall 8 PM  
Lite fare served prior to meeting 7:00 PM  
Fri 10 Department of Defense Created 1949  
Wed 22 Executive Meeting-J-Ray's 7:30 PM  
Fri 24 American Legion 89th National Convention in Reno, Nevada

### September – 2007

Sun 02 VJ Day (request churches to ring their bells symbolically)  
Mon 03 Labor Day  
Sun 09 Grandparents Day  
Tue 11 Patriot Day  
Wed 12 Rosh Hashanah  
Post 154 General Meeting Lithuanian Hall – 8 PM  
Lite fare served prior to meeting 7:00 PM  
Thu 13 First Baltimore District Meeting F.Y. 2008 at Northeastern Post 285  
Sat 15 POW / MIA Recognition Day  
Sun 16 Post 154 Installation of Officers – Lithuanian Main Hall 1:00 PM  
Mon 17 Constitution Day  
Tue 18 United States Air Force Established 1947  
Fri 21 Yom Kippur  
Sun 23 First day of autumn  
Wed 26 Post 154 Executive Meeting – J-Ray's 7:30 PM  
Sat 29 VFW Established 1899

**DUE TO  
CONVENTION,  
NO GENERAL  
MEETING OF  
POST 154  
IN JULY.**

### Great Quotes

#### Terrorism

"After seeing *Rambo* last  
night I know what to do next  
time this happens."

**Ronald Reagan**

#### War

"Of the four wars in my life-  
time, none came about be-  
cause the U.S. was too  
strong."

**Ronald Reagan**

#### Appeasement

"An appeaser is one who  
feeds a crocodile, hoping it  
will eat him last."

**Sir Winston Churchill**