



*American Legion Lithuanian Post 154
For God and Country*



Legionnaire

November & December 2008

Commander's Message

As I write this message, our country is in a financial crisis of gigantic proportions, pirates have seized a Ukrainian ship carrying Soviet era arms. Closer to home, Maryland is once again facing serious financial problems. Looks like slot machines may be coming to Maryland to raise revenue.

Our Installation of Post Officers was a great success. For those of you who were not present at the installation, you missed an innovative touch added to the affair by the Malunas dance group. Dressed in traditional Lithuanian costumes, they performed several uniquely Lithuanian folk dances in a dazzling finale. A right hand salute to all who participated in any way for another well done Installation ceremony.

Don't forget that an essential component of living as a legionnaire and as a citizen is exercising your right to vote in this presidential election. Also, I hope you have read carefully the article in our "Legion" magazine, "America's Next Commander in Chief."

We do not live in a perfect country. The Greek philosopher Aristotle, in his commentary on various forms of government, stated that democracy is the worst form of government. For all to be heard, there would have to be ongoing debate and

Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers



Standing from left are Joe Jankevicius, Joe Saurusaites, Toivo Tagamets, Patrick Dohlus, Gintaras Buivys, Orlyn Oestereich, Vito Siaurusaitis, John Maskavich, Joe Astasauskas, Vacys Laukaitis, Vince Dulys. Seated from left are Melvin Smullen, Gail Murdock and Monsignor Arthur Bastress.

Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers for 2009 took place on Sunday, September 21, 2008 at Lithuanian Hall. Department Second Vice Commander Orlyn Oestereich installed nine of our eleven elected officers for 2008 - 2009. Commander John Maskavich was installed for his fifth consecutive year and

therefore little chance of a conclusion being reached that would be final and satisfying to all concerned. Yet, for the general good of all, it is the best form of government. We should be grateful that we live in a republic with democratic ideals and principals. Now is not the time to be faint of heart.

Let us not forget those who are serving in our armed forces. Pray that they will come home safe after completing their mission.

May you and your family have a happy and blessed holiday season.

John Maskavich,
Commander

sixth overall as Commander of Lithuanian Post 154.

Every year we recognize and present awards to members of our community. Community awards were presented to Teacher Katherine Grintelis-Jandorf, Police Officer Samuel Thomas and Firefighter Lieutenant Shawn C Riddell. A \$500 Collegiate Scholarship was awarded to Katarina Slavikas who will be attending Stevens University and a Scholastic award was presented to Emilie Mosier who attends Linthicum Elementary. Vaclovas Laukaitis was recognized with a plaque for 50 years of continuous Lithuanian Post 154 membership. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Frank Vogel in recognition of his outstanding service and assistance to Lithuanian Post 154.

We had an excellent turnout. Several guests from Department including Department of Maryland Commander Gail Murdock attended. Thank you to the many volunteers and Legion members who put forth signifi-

cant effort to make this a successful event. The Malunas dance group performed several traditional folk dances at the end of our program. Joe Jankevicius played videos of past Lithuanian Post 154 events. Gintaras Buivys provided audio equipment and music. A delicious meal was prepared by Aldona Buda and her volunteers. Vytas Dulys, Dave Gorrell, Birute Gorrell and Nijole Kaltreider provided excellent bar service. The bartenders donated all of their gratuities to Multiple Sclerosis Society in American Legion Lithuanian Post 154's name. Mark Zaruba played TAPS during the Memorial Service. TAPS give that extra, eye watering touch to the solemn service remembering our departed Comrades.

Thanks to the Post members who took part in the POW / MIA Ceremony and Memorial Service. Also thanks to everyone who arrived early to help set up and stayed late to clean up.

Vincent T. Dulys,
Installation Chairman

Membership

Fiscal year 2009 is now upon us and our membership renewal is coming in stronger than last year. We have had a few transfers and we have a few more transfer prospects showing interest. The Department goal is to reach 65% paid membership by Veterans Day - November 11th. So far we have exceeded that goal with 93%. But we need everyone to renew to reach our goal of attaining 3-star status. We only have 7 members who have not sent in their renewals for 2009. Also, two of these members have not sent in their renewal for 2008 and will be taken off our roster if 2 years lapse. If by December 31, 2008 we can get the unpaid members to submit their 2009 dues we will reach Department level 3-star status and give a well deserved recognition salute to our Post and Commander John Maskavich who was recently elected to serve his fifth consecutive year and sixth overall as Commander of Lithuanian Post 154.

I would like to thank everyone who sent in their renewals for fiscal year 2009. If your card does not have "2009" on top you have not paid your 2009 dues. Fiscal year 2009 started July 01, 2008 and ends June 30, 2009, but your card is honored through December 31, 2009. If your card has "2008" at the top, your membership is current only through December 31, 2008.

Listed below is the membership number and city of residence of members who, according to our records, have not renewed. Membership numbers with an "*" indicate that dues for 2008 have not yet been paid.

Membership #	City, State
200594600 *	Redmond, Washington
101767026	Ormond Beach, Florida
101689688	Waldorf, Maryland
101741168	Baltimore, Maryland
101722759	Monkton, Maryland
100086313 *	Mililani, Hawaii
202742882	Jacksonville, N. Carolina

If your membership number is listed and you have renewed, please contact me to update my records.

If you have any questions about your membership, please e-mail or call. My contact information is on last page of this Newsletter.

Vincent T. Dulys,
Membership Chairman

Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2008–2009

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

100 Club

Every year we have a fundraiser called "100 Club" that was started in 1985 when Pete Okas was Commander and I was Vice-Commander and chairman of this fundraiser. Other fundraisers have fizzled out while this one is still thriving due to the enthusiastic support of Lithuanian Post 154 members and friends. There are three 100 Club fundraisers during the course of the year; Lithuanian Post 154, Lithuanian Hall and the Baltimore Lithuanian Athletic Club each take turns sponsoring this fundraiser.

This is the way the fundraiser works:

- There are only 100 tickets sold.
- Available #'s are 00 through 99.
- Cost of a 100 Club ticket is \$25.
- The winning numbers are the last 2 digits of Wednesday mid-day and evening Maryland Lottery drawings.
- There are two \$40 winners each Wednesday for ten weeks.
- First drawing will be Wednesday, January 14, 2009.
- Last drawing will be Wednesday, March 18, 2009.
- The 100 Club will end with a party on Sunday, March 22, 2009 from 1PM to 4PM at J-Ray's Café- 900 S. Carey St. Hot buffet, beer, wine, liquor, soda will be free to all ticket holders. There will be a \$10 fee for guests to attend the party. Main prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 will be selected by random - you need not be present to win. Various door prizes will be given out including a first prize of \$50. You must be present to win the door prizes.

If you are interested or have any questions please e-mail or call me. I normally have all 100 numbers sold by mid December. My phone number and e-mail address is listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Vincent T. Dulys,
Chairman

Happy Birthday

November

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

December

John Antoniak
Balys Brasauskas
Boniface Brazaitis
John Keydash
Vaclovas Laukaitis
John Maskavich
Paul Salvetti
Richard Seymour

Sick Call



Edmond Bartas
8 Robins Nest Court
Randallstown, MD 21133

Vaclovas Laukaitis
1120 Hollen Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21239

Paul Salvetti
867 Hollins St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

England-based U. S. fighter pilots deployed to Lithuania to police the skies on behalf of NATO.

"Four F-15s from the 493rd Fighter Squadron at RAF Lakenheath along with 130 airmen took over from the German air force for a three-month rotation in the Baltic States. The U.S. is one of 13 NATO countries committed to the air policing mission in the region, which also includes Latvia and Estonia."



"The fighter jets will provide air defense for the region, once governed by the former Soviet Union."

"This is only the second time the U.S. has taken part in the Baltics mission since its inception in 2004, the year the countries joined NATO and the European Union."

"The U.S. troops are operating out of Lithuania's Siauliai International Airport near the northern city of Siauliai. Lithuania was the first Soviet republic to declare its independence in 1990 though Russian troops did not withdraw until 1993, according to the CIA World Factbook."

Source:

"Stars and Stripes" October 4, 2008 by Charles Reed

Chaplain's Corner

It is always the proper time to praise our honored dead. The proud men and women who gave their last full measure to the American cause. I would like to reprint the famous letter from President Abraham Lincoln to Mrs. Lydia Bixby who was believed to have lost five sons in battle.

Fred Kaminski - Chaplain

"Executive Mansion,
Washington, Nov. 21, 1864.

Dear Madam,

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle.

I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save.

I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours, very sincerely and respectfully,

A. Lincoln"

Military Funeral Honors

Jari Villanueva, Director of the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard sent our Post a letter reminding us that his unit is ready to perform Military Funeral Honors for honorably discharged Maryland veterans.



Military Funeral Honors are one of the benefits offered to those who served our nation in time of war and peace. This benefit is free and made available, by law, to Military members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve; Retired Military members; Military veterans who served on active duty and departed under conditions other than dishonorable; Military veterans who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable; Military veterans discharged from the Selected Reserve due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

At the minimum, Military Funeral Honors consist of flag folding and presentation to the next of kin and bugler to sound TAPS. These honors are performed by at least 2 members of the armed forces with one member being a member of the deceased's service.

Honors are not performed automatically; they must be requested. Families of eligible veterans must request Military Funeral Honors through their funeral director. The funeral director will contact the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard to arrange for the Military Funeral Honors detail.

You must provide proof of military service to your funeral director. This proof is usually in the form of documents issued at the end of military service. The most common include DD Form 214 and NGB Form 22.

Free Burial Plots Available to Maryland Veterans

Veterans who are residents of the State of Maryland and have received an honorable discharge and their eligible dependents are eligible for burial at one of Maryland's five veterans cemeteries. Plots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to the veteran for burial plot, opening/closing, headstone and state liner (if used). Eligible dependents have a minimal opening/closing cost and a direct cost for state liner (if used). There is a pre-interment program where veterans can indicate their desire to be buried in one of the five state veterans cemeteries and verify their eligibility for burial by filling out a pre-interment application. You can contact Mr. Robert L. Hooper III, Director of Maryland Veteran Cemetery Program at (410) 923-6981 for more information.

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

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

Calendar & Reminders

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 on the 4th
Wednesday of the month at
J-Ray's Café
900 S. Carey Street
Baltimore, MD 21223

Please send your comments,
suggestions and articles to :

Joe Jankevicius
624 Oak Tree Rd
Westminster, MD 21157

Veterans Day Special

McCormick & Schmick's Sea-
food Restaurant will pay trib-
ute to all veterans with a
complimentary entrée for
Veterans Day, on Sunday,
November 9th (not the actual
Veterans Day on 11th). Just
show your American Legion
card or other document iden-
tifying you as a veteran. They
have restaurants in many U.
S. cities. The four restau-
rants located in Maryland
are:

Annapolis, 410-266-8866
Baltimore, 410-234-1300
Bethesda, 301-961-2626
National Harbor,
301-567-6224

Call your local restaurant to
make reservations.

November

Birthstone: Topaz Flower: Chrysanthemum

Sat	01	Baltimore District 4 Frenchmen Service — St. Mary's Cemetery — 10 AM
Sun	02	Lithuanian Post 154 — Back to God Mass St. Alphonsus Church, Saratoga and Park Ave, Baltimore — 8:30 AM Daylight savings time ends / set clocks back an hour
Tue	04	Election Day — Get out and VOTE
Sun	09	100 Club Party hosted by Baltimore Lithuanian Athletic Club Ticket sales for Lithuanian Post 154 fundraiser 100 Club start.
Tue	11	Veterans Day — Baltimore District Service at Morrell Park Post 137 — 10:45 AM.
Wed	12	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting — Lithuanian Hall — 8 PM
Thu	13	Baltimore District Meeting — 7:30 PM General Haller Post 95 located at 1746 Fleet Street, Baltimore
Sun	16	3rd Department Executive Committee Meeting Charlotte Hall Veterans Home — St. Mary's County
Wed	19	No Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting
Thu	27	Happy Thanksgiving

December

Birthstone: Turquoise; Flower: Narcissus

Sun	07	Pearl Harbor Remembrance — Baltimore District Service at War Memorial — Time-TBA
Mon	08	War declared on Japan (1941)
Wed	10	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting — Lithuanian Hall — 8 PM
Thu	11	Germany & Italy declared war on U.S.
Sun	14	Lithuanian Hall Christmas Bazaar — 12 Noon Lithuanian Post 154 Children's Christmas Party — Lithuanian Hall — 1 PM
Mon	15	Bill of Rights Day
Sun	21	First Day of Winter
Mon	22	First Day of Hanukkah
Wed	24	Christmas Eve / Lithuanian Kūčios No Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting
Thu	25	Merry Christmas
Wed	31	Official End of WW II (1946) Getting ready to welcome "2009"

January

Birthstone: Garnet; Flower: Carnation

Thu	01	New Year's Day
Thu	08	Baltimore District Meeting — 7:30 PM — Post Location TBA
Wed	14	Lithuanian Post General Meeting — Lithuanian Hall — 8 PM First drawing for 100 Club fundraiser
Sat	17	Persian Gulf War Began (1991)
Mon	19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed)
Tue	20	Presidential Inauguration Day
Wed	21	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting — J-Ray's Café — 7:30 PM Second drawing for 100 Club fundraiser
Tue	27	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)
Wed	28	Third drawing for 100 Club fundraiser

"In a world of greed, where materialistic values often take first place, pleasure becomes a
god - and a great premium is placed on cleverness - our greatest need is moral integrity."

- Billy Graham