



American Legion Lithuanian Post 154
For God and Country



Legionnaire

March & April 2008

Commander's Message

Spring is sure to come! In fact, the first day of spring is March 20th. So we can hope to have consistent weather patterns – hope springs eternal. In the meantime, while awaiting the phenomenon, we can plan ahead for the pleasant things to come.

However, a glance at the past several months shows that two of our Post members – Edward J. Bistriski and Adam Zurovsky – have reported to the Commander of us all. The Post expresses sincere sympathy and condolences to their families.

For the 45th consecutive year the Post has commemorated the heroic selfless acts of the Four Chaplains who lived “No greater love has a man than to lay down his life for another.” The service was well attended by Legionnaires and members of the District Auxiliary. If you have not attended this service, it is well worth your while to do so. It will be held again on the first Sunday next February.

As you can see by events listed in the Calendar, March will be a busy month. Be aware that the Easter holiday and festivities will soon be upon us. Also, this is the time when Post members with children entering college should be looking for financial assistance. The Post will be offering two \$500 scholarships again this year. Eligibility requirements and application procedures are noted below. Student achievement of children in Kindergarten through 12th grade will also be honored.

Let us remember and give thanks for those who are actively guarding our freedom.

Commander John Maskavich

Scholarship



Lithuanian Post 154 will be awarding two \$500 scholarships to students graduating from high school in 2008 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. His address and phone number are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

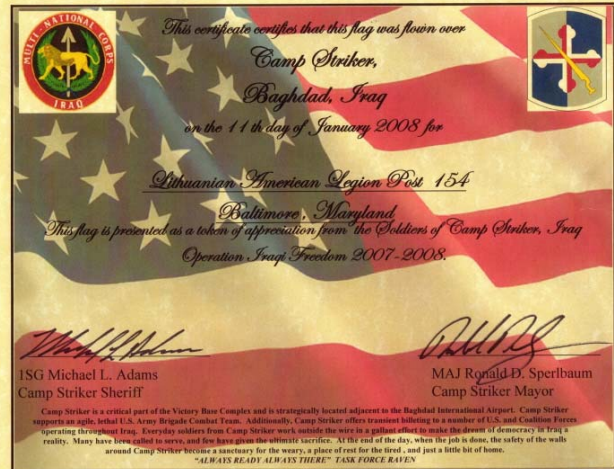
Scholarships are open to

children, grandchildren, step children, step grandchildren, nephews, nieces or adopted children of an active member in good standing or a deceased member who had paid dues within past year.

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

Commander John Maskavich must receive scholarship applications for 2008 by July 20, 2008. Applications will not be considered if they are incomplete or late.

Lithuanian Post 154 Received Flag Flown Over Iraq



“This certificate certifies that this flag was flown over Camp Striker, Baghdad, Iraq on the 11th day of January 2008 for Lithuanian American Legion Post 154 Baltimore, Maryland. This flag is presented as a token of appreciation from the Soldiers of Camp Striker, Iraq Operation, Iraq Freedom 2007-2008”.

*1SG Michael L. Adams, Camp Striker Sheriff
 MAJ Ronald D. Sperlbaum, Camp Striker Mayor*

14 Jan 08
 To all at Lithuanian American Legion Post.

Enclosed is a flag and certificate in appreciation and gratitude for the support that all of you have given to me and the service members here at Camp Striker, Iraq.

Being here is made easier knowing that there are those as yourself that stand behind the troops involved in this honorable crusade. I know not all of our fellow countrymen & women support what we are doing in this fight against terrorism throughout the world we live in.

It is an honor and privilege to have the opportunity to be counted in the rank and file of so many before me in preserving our freedom that we all enjoy in our great land. With this comes sacrifice, with even some giving their last full measure.

Again, I would like to thank you all for your past service and current support of all service members in our Armed Forces.

Respectfully
 SFC William Cherneski
 Force Protection NCOJC, Camp Striker, Iraq

Membership

I would like to thank all of our Post members who have sent in their fiscal year "2008" dues. Your card should have "2008" at the top and will be honored through December 31, 2008. Every year we try to expand our membership by at least one member to get 3 star recognition status at Department level, but we need to keep pace with those members who we lose to Post Everlasting. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining The American Legion or in transferring to Lithuanian Post 154, please let me know so I can send them the paperwork. Our dues are only \$21 per year whereas other Posts dues are \$28 or higher because they have other large mandatory expenditures such as a Post Home & lounge. Your Post 154 card is honored at all the other Posts if you care to visit socially. This year we added a few new members, and we lost a few. Our paid up membership is currently 92 and our goal is 98. In order to get recognized for 3 star status we need to reach our goal by mid March. Hopefully, the few unpaid members on our roster will keep their continuous years intact by submitting their annual dues prior to June 30th. After that, fiscal year "2009" starts on July 01, 2008 .

All members 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 at National or Department. Please let me know if you move so I can update your records at National and Department.

Membership Chairman
Vincent Dulys

100 Club



The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 annual fundraiser "100 Club" started on January 9th - weekly winning numbers so far were:

- Msgr. Arthur Bastress # 81
- Richard Seymour # 36
- Mae Brown # 22
- Vytas Brasauskas # 56
- Algis Paplonskis # 38
- Butch Matuszak # 96
- Bruce Steffe # 30
- Mae Brown # 22
- Cas Uleckas # 60
- Bernice Uleckas # 25
- Will Guizzardi # 41
- Mert Smith # 20

The party date is Sunday, March 16th at J-Ray's from 1 - 4 PM. Complimentary refreshments (Draft beer, mixed drinks, viryta, wine, soda) and

hot buffet will be served. There will be a drawing for \$300, \$200, and \$100. The first door prize is \$50. Ticket holders need not be present for the drawing but must be present to be eligible for door prizes. Ticket holder (name on master list) must be present for all door prizes . Guest fee is \$10 for those who have not purchased a 100 Club ticket.

The last 3 week's and main prize winners will be posted in the May - June newsletter.

If you need more information or have any questions please contact chairman Vince Dulys . (410-987-5275 or e-mail Vincentas@peoplepc.com

Taps



Lithuanian Post 154 had the sad duty of conducting a Poppy Service for two of our long time members. We offer the families of Adam Zurowsky and Edward J. Bistriski our deepest sympathy.

Adam Zurowsky -
September 09, 1918 - December 30, 2007
WW 2 - Post member for 61 years

Edward J. Bistriski -
November 05, 1926 - January 04, 2008 -
WW 2 - Post member for 36 years

Sick Call



Edmond Bartas
8 Robins Nest Ct
Randallstown, MD 21133

Richard Seymour
928 Rambling Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21228

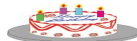
Epilepsy Fund Drive



The Post is supporting the Department's annual 2008 Epilepsy Fund Drive by selling pins for \$2.

Pins are available at all Post meetings and gatherings - just ask one of the officers.

Happy Birthday



March

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

April

- Edmond Bartas
- Michael Keiser
- Errol Markowitz
- John Maskovich Jr.
- Algirdas Paplonskis
- Robert Parks
- Vilius Ramunas
- Richard Raul
- Algirdas Siaurusaitis

American Legion National Convention,



The American Legion National Convention will be held from August 21st to 28th in Phoenix, Arizona. If you are interested in representing the Baltimore District at the National Convention, please contact adjutant Vince Dulys. The appropriate paperwork must be submitted to Baltimore District prior to the June caucus. Baltimore District will elect 2 delegates and 2 alternates.

Four Chaplains Service



The American Legion Department of Maryland Four Chaplains Service was started by Rev. Anthony Dranginis in 1963. Father Dranginis was a Lithuanian Post 154 member, Commander of our Post from 1949 - 1951 and American Legion Department of Maryland Chaplain for many years.

This remembrance was the 45th consecutive year that the Baltimore District has held this service. Rev. Anthony Dranginis initially held the service at The War Memorial in Baltimore. In 1978, when he was Pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, the services were transferred to St. Alphonsus Church and a Holy Mass was added.

Many people have contributed their time and talent over

the years to continue the tradition. The Balladiers from Parkville Post 183 have participated and supported this remembrance for 30 years by singing at the mass. Monsignor Arthur Bastress has enthusiastically supported The American Legion by continuing to keep the Four Chaplains remembrance at St. Alphonsus for the past 10 years. Joe Jankevicius has taken a video during the past two years and has made DVDs which are a great tool in documenting the history of our Post and the Baltimore District.

I was able to find some historical records about this service. In 1982 the chairman was Clifford Andrews who gave the history of the Four Chaplains and the Baltimore District Commander was John M. Stefura. In 1985 Lee Burlage of Parkville Post 183 gave the History of the Four Chaplains and has been part of the remembrance ever since for 23 years. John Stefura was chairman for many years and I worked with John as his understudy. I became chairman in the late 1990's. Gintaras Buivys has been a great asset helping out behind the scene with his computer skills. He has been making the program booklet since I started to help John Stefura in the early 1990's.

After the service, coffee and donuts were served in the rectory downstairs. This could not have been done without the help of St. Alphonsus Sodality. They stayed after the 8:30 mass to make coffee and set up for guests after the Four Chaplains Service. This year Loy Vogel and Maryte Patlaba served the guests and cleaned up afterwards.

Sincere thank you to everyone who gave a helping hand.

Vincent Dulys
Four Chaplains
Baltimore District Chairman

Department Convention

The American Legion Department Convention will once again be held in Ocean City. The dates are July 14th to July 18th. Lithuanian Post 154 is authorized 2 delegates and 2 alternates to the Convention. We will have delegate nominations at the April and May general meetings. Election of delegates will be at the May meeting.

Stop by the Convention Center if you will be visiting Ocean City during that week. There will be a fish fry behind the Convention Center on Monday July 14th from 4 to 6 PM. Admission is free of charge to Legion members and friends. There will be a Legion College on Tuesday from 8 - 12 AM explaining the various elected Legion Officer job functions and responsibilities.

The convention shirts will be orange (Baltimore Orioles color) this year. It is short sleeve with pocket and Legion logo. Cost is \$25. Your name and Lithuanian Post 154 can be embroidered on shirt for an additional charge.

The Post will be accepting Convention Program Book boosters. A one line name entry on our page will cost \$1. Personal or business advertisements in the program book also available. Rates are: Full Page - \$150; Half Page - \$100; Quarter Page - \$60; Card Size - \$30.

Please contact Vince Dulys if you are interested in purchasing a shirt, a booster line or advertising in the Program Book.

American Legion 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 in high school and have not yet entered their senior year of high school are eligible to attend. Any boy who has previously attended a Boys State is not eligible.

The Maryland Boys State typically begins on Father's Day and runs through the following Friday.

If you know of a boy who would be interested in attending Boys State, contact Vince Dulys for more information and an application.

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 / FINANCE OFFICER
Vincent T. Dulyš
616 Cedarwood Lane
Crownsville, MD 21032
(410) 987-5275
Vincentas@juno.com

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
JJankevicius@Comcast.net

Military One Liners

"If the enemy is in range, so
are you."

"Any ship can be a mine-
sweeper. Once."

"What is the similarity be-
tween air traffic controllers
and pilots? If a pilot screws
up, the pilot dies; If ATC
screws up, The pilot dies."

"The only time you have too
much fuel is when you're on
fire."

"If you see a bomb technician
running, follow him."

March

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| Sun | 09 | Lithuanian Independence Remembrance Post presents colors at St Alphonsus 8:30 AM mass and Remembrance at Lithuanian Hall 2 PM |
| Sun | 09 | Clocks spring forward for DST |
| Wed | 12 | Post monthly meeting at Lithuanian Hall 8 PM |
| Thu | 13 | Baltimore District meeting hosted by Post 154 Lithuanian Hall - 7:30 PM |
| Sat | 15 | National Commanders Banquet at Dixon-Troxell Post 211 in Funkstown, MD |
| Sat | 15 | American Legion Birthday |
| Sun | 16 | Post 154 fundraiser - 100 Club Party at J-Ray's 1-4 PM |
| Mon | 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| Thu | 20 | First Day of Spring |
| Sun | 23 | Easter Sunday |
| Wed | 26 | Post 154 executive meeting at J-Ray's 7:30 PM |
| Sun | 30 | Baltimore District Reception honoring Commander Butch Haggard at Morrell Park Post 137 - 2:00 PM |

April

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| Tue | 01 | April Fool's Day |
| Sun | 06 | Army Day |
| Wed | 09 | National former POW recognition day |
| Wed | 09 | Post 154 general meeting - Lithuanian Hall 8:00 PM |
| Fri | 11 | Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire (1991) formally acknowledged by UN |
| Tue | 15 | Income Tax Day |
| Sun | 20 | Passover |
| Tue | 22 | Earth Day |
| Wed | 23 | Post 154 executive meeting at J-Ray's 7:30 PM |
| Fri | 25 | Arbor Day |

May

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| Thu | 01 | Law Day; National Day of Prayer |
| Wed | 07 | Unconditional surrender of all German forces signed 1945 |
| Thu | 08 | V-E Day Declared 1945 |
| Thu | 08 | Baltimore District meeting hosted by Federal Post 19 - 7:30 PM |
| Fri | 09 | Military spouse's day |
| Sun | 11 | Mother's Day |
| Mon | 12 | First class postage rate increase \$.01 to \$.42 |
| Wed | 14 | Post 154 general meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8:00 PM |
| Sat | 17 | Armed Forces Day |
| Sat | 17 | Lithuanian Festival - Catonsville Armory - 11 AM - 6 PM |
| Sun | 18 | Lithuanian Festival - Catonsville Armory - 11 AM - 6 PM Opening ceremony at 1:00 PM with Post 154 Color Guard. |
| Sun | 18 | Department executive meeting hosted by Proctor Kildow Post 71 - Oakland, MD |
| Mon | 26 | Memorial Day Observed by Federal Government |
| Wed | 28 | Post 154 executive meeting - J-Ray's 7:30 PM |
| Fri | 30 | Memorial Day American Legion Baltimore District Service at National Cemetery - Frederick Ave. - Catonsville: - 10:45 AM |