



American Legion Lithuanian Post 154
For God and Country



Legionnaire

July & August 2008

Commander's Message

Believe! Change! These are the general statements; no specifics as to who, what, where, when, how and why? These are two rather challenging words. Do we as Legionnaires concern ourselves with such matters or do we sit by passively and watch "the bus go by"?

Heel! Another interesting word seen on a billboard on Hollins Ferry Road. The billboard depicts three white dogs given the command to "HEEL" and Rising Sun Stripes on a white background.



It is wise to be aware as well as beware what is in sheep's clothing.

Believe! Change! Heel! Explain!

Post elections have been held and we have a full slate of officers. Mark your calendar to attend Post 154 Installation of Officers on Sunday, September 21st at Lithuanian Hall. I promise it will be an enjoyable afternoon. You will be provided with food, drink and the opportunity to socialize with your old buddies.

We are eagerly awaiting the Department Convention in Ocean City from July 14th to 18th. Stop by our hospitality room if you are in the area.

Have a relaxing and healthy summer.

John Maskavich
Commander
Lithuanian Post 154



Lithuanian Post 154 marching in with Colors during Lithuanian Festival opening ceremony.

From left; Vince Dulys, John Maskavich, Balys Brasauskas, Henry Gaidis, Fred Kaminski and Vaclovas Laukaitis.

Baltimore's Lithuanian community once again invited Lithuanian Post 154 to participate in the Lithuanian Festival. The Post Color Guard presented the Colors at the opening ceremony. For a bunch of "old soldiers," they look very sharp. Look at the above photo, they are marching in step.

A big thank you to Fred Kaminski and Toivo Tagamets for setting up and manning our information table. Visitors were given patriotic brochures and information on The American Legion. Three members of other American Legion posts filled out requests to transfer to Lithuanian Post 154. Children were given Frisbees, pencils and small toys that Fred scrounged from military recruiters.

Anthony B. Herbert, Lt. Col., Ret., author of the book "Soldier," donated another

shipment of books. Thank you! Over two hundred free books were distributed at the festival. If you wish to obtain a copy, pick up one at a Post meetings or contact Vincent Dulys.

Legionnaire Olgard Rackus, Post member for 64 years, presented his old Lithuanian Post 154

shirt to our Historian Henry Gaidis. You will most likely be able to see the shirt at Henry's display table during the Installation.



Everyone enjoyed the food, drink, Lithuanian folk dancing and good company. Plan to attend next year.

Lithuanian Festival



Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States Audrius Brūzga stopped by Post 154 table to chat with Legionnaires Toivo Tagamets, Fred Kaminski and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Membership

Lithuanian Post 154 closed out Fiscal year "2008" with 93 members. We fell short of the 98 member goal set by Department. Year 2009 looks a lot brighter with three new members and three transfers. One transfer has already been processed and we are waiting for supplemental paperwork for the other two.

Everyone should have received notices from National for their next year's dues. Fiscal Year "2009" starts July 01, 2008 and ends June 30, 2009. Post 154 dues for 2009 will continue to be \$21. Make your check payable to The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 and mail it to Vincent Dulys. His address is on the last page of this newsletter.

We currently have 15 Paid-Up-For-Life members who should have received their membership cards in the mail. If you haven't received your new membership card, please let me know.

I would like to recognize seven Post members who have been continuous members for over 50 years.

Balys Brasauskas	56
Edward Daniels	65
Frank Giannino	51
Vaclovas Laukaitis	50
Algis Paplonskis	52
Olgard Rackus	64
Richard Seymour	63

Membership Chairman
Adjutant Lithuanian Post 154
Vincent Dulys

2008-2009 Post Officers

Election of Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2008 - 2009 took place at the June General Meeting. The elected officers are:

Commander	John Maskavich
Vice Commander	Joe Astauskas
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

2008 Convention Delegates

John Maskavich, Vince Dulys, Balys Brasauskas and Joseph Jankevicius were elected Post 154 delegates and Vitas Siaurusaitis an alternate to the Maryland American Legion

Convention 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.

Children's Miracle Network

The Children's Miracle Network fundraiser is dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals. The 170 Children's Miracle Network hospitals provide the finest medical care, pediatric research, and preventative education to help millions of children overcome diseases and injuries of every kind. Your contribution goes to the Children's Miracle hospital in your community. Please send your donation check made out to Children's Miracle Network to Vincent Dulys or give it to him at a Post meeting.

New Member



Anthony F. Leketa (Antanas Leketas) was voted into Lithuanian Post 154 at the June meeting. Anthony has transferred from American Legion Post 262 in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Welcome!

Hopefully, we will be able to meet Anthony at a meeting or the Installation.

Epilepsy Fund Drive



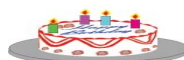
Our Post supports The American Legion Department of Maryland Epilepsy Drive by selling Chicken Pins for a donation of \$2. These pins are available at all Post meetings and gatherings.

Sick Call



Edmond Bartas
8 Robins Nest Ct
Randallstown, MD 21133

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
Hugh H. Mills Jr.
Mark Nauyelis
Algirdas M. Veluona
Rimantas S. Vitkauskas

Scholarship Applications



Time is running out. Remind your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews graduating from high school to apply for the \$500 Lithuanian Post 154 Scholarship by July 20th.

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

Holocaust Remembrance



Lithuanian Post 154 member Stasys Kligys lighting a candle at Victims of Holocaust Remembrance in Atlanta, Georgia.

The official State of Georgia observance of Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust took place on May 2, 2008 at the Georgia State Capital in Atlanta, Georgia. Stasys Kligys was approached by the Holocaust Federation to participate in the Candle Lighting Ceremony. He represented Lithuanians, Christians and all who were victims of this atrocity. Candles were lit for those who continue to live under the yoke of oppression in places where the threat of genocide is real and ever present.

Patricia Kligys

Memorial Day Remembrance

At the 2008 Department's Memorial Day service, the Killed In Action flag was introduced. Lithuanian Post 154 Adjutant Vincent Dulys described the KIA flag at the service.

"Killed In Action Flag"

The red color of the flag represents the blood of our fallen heroes.

The circle is for the circle of brotherhood our military men and women share.

The soldier running over the line toward the rifle and helmet represents the line that our brave soldiers, without hesitation, knowingly cross every day, the line where brothers and sisters have fallen before them and yet our soldier goes on.

The helmet, atop a rifle, symbolizes those who have fallen in the field.

The Killed In Action flag is a



reminder for all Americans to recognize on a daily basis those of us who have fallen heroes in our family:

ALL GAVE SOME,
BUT SOME GAVE ALL.

Let us remember – and never forget their sacrifice.

May God forever watch over them and protect them and their families."

AMERICAN-MADE OIL AND GAS: A HISTORY OF SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION

Legionnaire Ed Budelis forwarded an unbelievable E-mail pointing out why we are now paying over \$4 per gallon for gas. Since it was an E-mail, I went to Congressman Roy Blunt's (R – Missouri) web site to make certain the information in the E-mail stated Congressman Roy Blunt's claim accurately. The following is a direct copy of the press release on Congressman Blunt's web site.

"(PERCENTAGES ARE FOR EVERY SUPPLY VOTE IN THE HOUSE)

Washington, Jun 5 -

WHEN IT COMES TO TAKING MEANINGFUL STEPS TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE ENERGY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, CONGRESS HAS BOTH THE ABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT. UNFORTUNATELY, A CLEAR PATTERN HAS EMERGED OVER THE YEARS AS ONE PARTY CONSISTENTLY HAS FOUGHT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HOME-GROWN ENERGY RESERVES, WHILE THE OTHER HAS CONSISTENTLY VOTED TO EXPAND AMERICA'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN, UNSTABLE ENERGY INSTEAD.

BY THE ISSUE

ANWR Exploration

House Republicans: 91% Supported
House Democrats: 86% Opposed

Coal-to-Liquid

House Republicans: 97% Supported
House Democrats: 78% Opposed

Oil Shale Exploration

House Republicans: 90% Supported
House Democrats: 86% Opposed

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Exploration

House Republicans: 81% Supported
House Democrats: 83% Opposed

Refinery Increased Capacity

House Republicans: 97% Supported
House Democrats: 96% Opposed

SUMMARY

91% of House Republicans have historically voted to increase the production of American-made oil and gas

86% of House Democrats have historically voted against increasing the production of American-made oil and gas"

Source:

<http://republicanwhip.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=92903>

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
Vincentas@peoplepc.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

U.S. Visa Waiver Program

On March 17th, Lithuania and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the implementation of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. This Memorandum starts the process for establishing procedures, security criteria and information exchanges so that Lithuania could join the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. Though no date for Visa - free travel for Lithuania was announced, hopefully it won't be too long before Lithuanians will be able to travel to the U.S. using just their passport.

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

Calendar & Reminders

July

Tue	01	Fiscal Year "2009" Membership starts - send in your Post 154 dues.
Wed	02	U.S. Army Air Corps established (1926)
Fri	04	Independence Day Observed
Wed	09	No Lithuanian Post 154 general meeting in July
Mon-Fri	14-18	American Legion Department of Maryland Convention - Ocean City, Md. <i>Post 154 Hospitality Room at Bradley on the Bay - Bldg A - 304. Located on Ocean Highway next to South East corner of Convention Center parking lot. All members are welcome to stop by. Convention Itinerary</i>
Mon	14	Fish Fry behind Convention Hall - everyone welcome 4 to 6 PM
Tue	15	Legion College classes at Convention Center 8 AM to noon Official opening of Convention 8 PM
Wed	16	Convention meetings 8 AM Memorial Service 8 PM
Thu	17	Convention meetings 8 AM
Fri	18	Convention meetings 8 AM Election of Department Officers for "2008 - 2009"
Mon	21	Department of Veterans Affairs Established 1930
Wed	23	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive meeting - J-Ray's 7:30 PM
Sun	27	National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
Mon	28	World War I began (1914)

August

Fri	01	Air Force Day
Mon	04	United States Coast Guard Established 1790
Thu	07	Department of War Established 1789
Wed	13	Post 154 General meeting - Lithuanian Hall 8 PM
Thu	14	Japan surrendered ending WW II (1945)
Sat	16	National Airborne Day
Tue	19	National Aviation Day
Fri - Thu	22-28	American Legion 90 th National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona
Wed	27	Executive Meeting - J-Ray's 7:30 PM

September

Mon	01	Labor Day
Tue	02	VJ Day, churches are requested to ring their bells
Sun	07	Grandparents Day
Wed	10	Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	11	Patriot Day First Baltimore District Meeting F.Y. 2009 - host - Northeastern Post 285
Sun	14	Star Spangled Banner written by Francis Scott Key (1814)
Wed	17	Constitution Day (approved 1787)
Thu	18	U.S. Air Force established (1947)
Fri	19	POW/MIA Recognition Day
Sun	21	Post 154 Installation of Officers - Lithuanian Main Hall 1:00 PM
Mon	22	First day of autumn
Wed	24	Post 154 Executive Meeting - J-Ray's 7:30 PM
Mon	29	VFW Established 1899
Tue	30	Rosh Hashanah

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