



American Legion Lithuanian Post 154
For God and Country



Legionnaire

September & October 2008

Commander's Message

The happy, lazy days of summer are fast coming to an end. The annual American Legion Department of Maryland Convention reminded us of this once again.

There was one activity during the convention that is worth special mentioning – the POW/MIA and Post Everlasting Service. This was so exceptionally well presented that the pending National Commander spent several minutes during the next meeting commenting on how well the theme “You are not forgotten” was presented. The Master of Ceremonies was our own Department Executive Committeeman, Vincent Dulys - kudos Vince. Your Commander was also a participant in the ceremony.

As our lives become busy with activities of the coming season, so too do Post activities. Remember the Post Installation on September 21, 2008 at 1:30 PM in Lithuanian Hall. At this event we will be awarding a \$500 scholarship to Katharina Slovikas. Congratulations and best wishes!

Check the Reminders section of this newsletter for other upcoming events. Speaking of our newsletter, a plaque was presented to our Editor from the Department for Best Newsletter in the less-than-150-member post division. Kudos to Joe Jankevicius.

Let us not forget that we associate ourselves for God and Country. So in this vein of thought:

"When wealth is lost, nothing is lost. When health is lost, something is lost. When character is lost, everything is lost." – Billy Graham

John Maskavich
Commander
Lithuanian Post 154

Newsletter Trophy

For the third consecutive year, Lithuanian Post 154 won The John Sloan Newsletter Trophy. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed articles, sent me photographs and e-mails, or directed me to interesting web sites.



This award would not have been possible without help from Richard Seymour. Richard worked in advertising and has a keen eye for publishing detail. I sincerely appreciate his willingness to proofread each issue.

Joe Jankevicius
Editor

2008 Maryland Department Convention



Lithuanian Post 154 members who attended the Convention. From left: Balys Brasauskas, John Maskavich, Joe Jankevicius, Vince Dulys and Vaclovas Laukaitis. Gintaras Buivys also attended but missed picture taking.

The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention provided an opportunity to meet old friends, exchange ideas and celebrate the significant accomplishments achieved last year. Lithuanian Post 154 was well represented. Our Adjutant, Vince Dulys, was the Master of Ceremonies for the POW/MIA and Post Everlasting Service. Our Commander, John Maskavich, was also a participant.

The committees reported raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for charities, veterans' homes and children's programs. Most of this money was raised by members through events, raffles and gaming. It was reported that the Maryland legislature is working on legislation to curtail or in other ways limit gaming in non-profit organizations. If they do, American Legion-supported charities will certainly suffer.

The Veterans Affairs Committee reported that next year's VA budget looks good. It is anticipated that there will be enough funds to allow Category 8 veterans to obtain



Vincent Dulys was the Master of Ceremonies at the POW/MIA and Post Everlasting Service.

medical service.

This year's winner of The American Legion National Oratorical Contest is Spencer Harjung from Elkton, Maryland who attends Rising Sun High School. Spencer repeated his winning speech for us. He described the turmoil our Founding Fathers went through to start a new country. Spencer won an \$18,000 scholarship from National. The second and third place finishers won \$16,000 and \$14,000 scholarships. These youths also received scholarships of lesser amounts as they competed at their District or Department level. If you know a talented youth in high school, encourage him/her to compete next year.

Membership

The new Fiscal Year 2009 started July 01, 2008 and renewals have been coming in steadily. We have voted-in several new members and transfers this year thanks to the excellent response at our booth at the Lithuanian Festival this past May. We have several transfers in the works waiting on paperwork for eligibility verification purposes.

During our August meeting Anton Meisinger transferred from Post 297 to our Post. He is married to Maryte Uleckas, daughter of Kazimieras Uleckas. It is a move in the right direction to get new members on our roster who have served during and after the Vietnam War and are younger than most of the current members.

At the August Department Executive Committee meeting Past National Commander Clarence Bacon asked for everyone to take special note of the September issue of "Legion" magazine that all of our members should be receiving and read the article that explains in full detail the 4 pillars of what the American Legion stands for. If for some reason you are not getting the "Legion" magazine, let me know.

By our September 21 Installation of Officers ceremony, I expect that over 80% of our members will have paid their dues and I am confident we will reach 3-star status before the year is out and give our Commander, John Maskavich, the recognition at Department he deserves. Commander John Maskavich will be serving his fifth consecutive year and sixth overall as Commander of Lithuanian Post 154.

I would like to thank everyone who has sent in their renewals for Fiscal Year 2009 to help take that one step closer on our way to reaching 3-star status. If your card does not have "2009" on top, then you have not paid your current Fiscal Year dues. Fiscal Year 2009 started July 01, 2008 and ends June 30, 2009; and your card is honored through December 31, 2009.

If you have any questions about your membership status give me a call on my home phone, 410-987-5275.

Membership Chairman - Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys

Letter to the Editor

Because the upcoming Presidential election is so critical to the survival of our Nation, I encourage all of you, my fellow Legionnaires, to vote in November. But before you vote, I respectfully ask you to become fully aware of each candidate's positions regarding our anti-missile defense shield, our arsenal of nuclear weapons, and our research and development programs aimed at arming our military with the finest weaponry possible. And then, to ask yourself this question: "If I were called upon again to serve and preserve my Country as a Sovereign Nation, under whose command would I feel most confident?"

Richard Seymour
World War II / Pacific Theatre

Installation of Officers

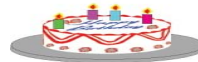
Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers for 2008-2009 will take place on Sunday, September 21 at Lithuanian Hall. Refreshments will be served from 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM and immediately after the program. The program normally lasts about an hour; there will be no drinks served during the program. After the program our guests are welcome to stay for a complimentary hot buffet catered by Aldona Buda. The Installation program is scheduled to start promptly at 2:00 PM with a remembrance of our POW / MIA's followed by recognition of our Police Officers, Firefighters & Teachers in our community and several other award presentations. Department First Vice-Commander Orlyn C. Oestereich will install our newly elected Officers.

There will be a short Memorial Service in remembrance of our departed comrades after the installation. Since our last Installation in September 2007, Adam Zurowsky and Edward Bistriski, both World War II veterans, have been called to report to the Commander of us all.

It is essential that Post members with guests RSVP no later than Wednesday, September 10 to Chairman Vincent Dulys or Commander John Maskavich. If you do not RSVP there might not be enough seats for everyone. I will have reserved tables for Department and special invited guests only. Any special requests for table reservations must go through the chairman, otherwise there will be open seating, first come first served.

Installation Chairman
Vincent T. Dulys

Happy Birthday



September

Vincentas Dulys
Robert Liupaeter
Gordon Matulonis
Dena Norton
Joseph Saurusaitis
Vitas Siaurusaitis
Carl Thomas
Adam Zurowsky

October

Charles Crovo
Valentinas Drazdys
Henry Gaidis
Michael Jackonis
James Laucht
Robert Leonavicius
Gerald Smith
Vincent Velzis
Frank Wojcicki

New Member



Anton Meisinger was voted into Lithuanian Post 154 at the August meeting. Anton has transferred from American Legion Post 297.

Sick Call



Edmond Bartas
8 Robins Nest Court
Randallstown, MD 21133

Lithuanians to Attend U.S. Military Academies

On June 5, the U.S. Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation hosted a ceremony to congratulate Lithuanians selected to attend military service academies in the United States. Ambassador John Cloud presented scholarships to each of the selectees at a ceremony held at the American Center in Vilnius. Cadet Vytenis Bucius, currently in his second year at the Lithuanian Military Academy, will attend the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. Cadet Tadas Goptaitis, also in his second year at the Lithuanian Military Academy, was given a scholarship to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mr. Justinas Zenkevicius, who will graduate from high school this year, was selected to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point in New York. The lucky young men will not only have the honor of attending these prestigious academies, but will have their tuitions paid for by the U.S. government. Upon graduating in 2012, they will begin serving in the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

Earlier this year, a native Lithuanian, along with two American-born third-generation Lithuanians graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Aurimas Metrikis was born in Kaunas and from his youth he wanted to be a soldier. He applied to Lithuania's Military Academy and to West Point. After attending Lithuania's Military Academy for two years, his admission to West Point was approved. He entered West Point as a "firstie" in 2004 forfeiting two years of education in Lithuania. While at West Point Aurimas was on the Rowing Team, studied Engineering and graduated with a 3.5 GPA. Since he was not a U.S. citizen, he received a diploma in lieu of a U.S. commission. Upon his return to Lithuania, Aurimas was commissioned a junior lieutenant in the Lithuanian Army.

Ryan Hodgson is a third-generation Lithuanian from Long Island. Ryan is a member of a basketball-loving family. His dad Bob played on the team from America that won the basketball tournament at the 2005 Vilnius Sports Festival. In keeping with family tradition, Ryan played basketball for West Point. In his senior year he was the team captain. Upon graduation, he was commissioned second lieutenant.

Andrius Mažeika is a third-generation Lithuanian from California. For four years he played football for West Point. Andrius majored in artillery and upon graduation received his commission as second lieutenant. He is currently attending officer training at Ft. Bliss, Texas after which he will start Ranger training.

Source: "Draugas" Lithuanian Newspaper and U.S. Embassy web site in Lithuania.



U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania John Cloud and Defense Cooperation Officer LTC Richard T. Gibbons (right) congratulates Lithuanian youths on their acceptance to U.S. Military academies.

United States Commends Lithuanian Soldiers

On July 24, in Iraq, First Lieutenant Gediminas Alisauskas, Senior Warrant Officer Arunas Zajanckauskas, Master Sergeant Danius Vilkaitis, and Staff Sergeant Arturas Dargevicius received



the United States Army's Commendation Medal for exceptionally meritorious service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. These four individuals were instrumental in the success of the mission of the Lithuanian Contingent Ten (LITCON-10) from December 13, 2007 to June 1, 2008. LITCON-10 served alongside United States forces at Camp Delta in Al Kut, Iraq and received many compliments for their professionalism and performance from their commanders and fellow coalition soldiers. The commander of the 41st Fires Brigade, the American unit that LITCON-10 has been serving with, presented the awards to the Lithuanian soldiers.

Source: U.S Embassy web site in Lithuania

Three MIAs Honored in Lithuania

There are still 78,000 Americans missing in action from World War II, far more than from any later conflict. By contrast, there are 8,100 U.S. troops missing in action from the Korean War, and 1,757 from the Vietnam War, according to figures provided by the Pentagon.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe has become accessible for MIA searches by American forces.

Since World War II eyewitnesses are getting old, a concentrated effort is being made to interview as many of them as possible with the hope of getting clues of where MIAs were held and where they are buried.



On May 30 U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania John Cloud and Lithuanian dignitaries paid their respects to three American B17 bomber pilots buried in Macikų cemetery in Šilutės region of Klaipėd, Lithuania. Sergeants George B. Walker, Walter Nies and William F. Teaff died while in the Nazi prison camp near the village of Macikų. Their exact graves in the cemetery are not marked. A monument in their honor has been erected. Prisoners from Belgium, Canada, Poland and other countries are buried in the same cemetery.

Source: "Draugas" Lithuanian Newspaper and U.S. Military web sites.

COMMANDER
John F. Maskavich
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(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. Dulys
616 Cedarwood Lane
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(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
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Westminster, MD 21157
JJankevicius@Comcast.net

The Glass Is Half Full



Don't listen to our legislative leaders who claim, "this war is lost." Don't pay attention to the doom saying media. These comments are demoralizing to our troops and to our population. If you constantly tell a person that he is sick, eventually he will believe you. We live in the freest, most prosperous nation that ever existed. Why have millions of illegal immigrants risked their lives to sneak in? Why are other millions all over the world waiting for a green card? They know something our elected representatives do not.

Joe Jankevicius

September

Birthstone: Sapphire Flower: Aster

Mon	01	Labor Day
Tue	02	VJ Day (churches requested to ring their bells symbolically)
Wed	03	100 Club sponsored by Baltimore Lithuanian Athletic Club starts drawings every Wednesday for 10 weeks
Sun	07	Grandparents Day
Mon	08	Commanders' meeting for all Baltimore District Commanders & Adjutants at Morrell Park Post 137 - 7:30 PM. At this meeting the Baltimore District will post goals and objectives for 2008 - 2009.
Wed	10	Post 154 General Meeting at Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	11	Patriot Day
Sat	13	Baltimore District Meeting - host - Northeastern Post 285 - 7:30 PM
Sun	14	"The 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 Hall - 1:00 PM Please inform Vincent Dulys or John Maskavich if you plan to attend.
Mon	22	First day of autumn
Wed	24	Post 154 Executive Meeting - J-Ray's Café - 7:30 PM
Mon	29	VFW Established 1899
Tue	30	Rosh Hashanah

October

Birthstone: Opal Flower: Calendula

Wed	08	Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	09	Yom Kippur
Sun	12	Traditional - Columbus Day
Sun	12	National Children's Day
Mon	13	Columbus Day Observed
Mon	13	U.S. Navy Established - 1775
Wed	22	Post 154 Executive Meeting - J-Ray's Café - 7:30PM
Fri	24	United Nations Day
Mon	27	Navy Day
Fri	31	Happy Halloween

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 - 8:30 AM
Sun	02	Daylight savings time ends / set clocks back an hour
Tue	04	Election Day - Get out and VOTE
Sun	09	100 Club Party - J-Ray's Café - hosted by Baltimore Lithuanian Athletic Club Start sale of tickets for Post 100 club.
Tue	11	Veterans Day - Baltimore District Service at War Memorial - 7:30 PM
Wed	12	Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	13	Baltimore District Meeting - General Haller Post 95 1746 Fleet Street - 7:30 PM
Sun	16	3 rd DEC Meeting - Charlotte Hall Veterans Home - St. Mary's County
Wed	26	Post 154 Executive Meeting - to be verified at October General Meeting
Thu	27	Happy Thanksgiving