



*American Legion Lithuanian Post 154*  
*For God and Country*



# *Legionnaire*

January & February 2009

## Commander's Message

As I write this, the seasons have not officially changed, but change they will. Just as the dark and sometimes dreary days of winter will change to the lighter days of spring and summer, so too will our lives change. Adjustments to our way of living must and will be made.

And yet as foreboding as the future seems to be, many members of our Post and their families have endured and survived in the past the physical and emotional strains of difficult and at times, seemingly hopeless circumstances. With the will to survive and cooperation they achieved their goals. Anyone who thinks life is easy is greatly mistaken!

Our Post has had another successful year. We achieved the unique distinction of being the first Department Post to achieve Three-Star recognition! This success is due to ALL officers and members. Again, a big right hand salute to Lithuanian Post 154.

There will be many significant events in January and February: the Inauguration of a new President; the Memorial Service to the Four Chaplains (the first Sunday in February); Valentine's Day; Ash Wednesday and George Washington's birthday.

Traditions must be remembered in the midst of today's ballyhoo about change. George Washington's commitment to upholding and defending the Constitution has no equal. His resolve was born in the crucible of command as he led his men in the Revolutionary War. We must hold on to the principles that he fought for; these principles must not be allowed to be changed.

Be mindful that we associate ourselves for God and Country and sanctify our comradeship by our mutual helpfulness. We may be called upon at any time in unexpected circumstances to put these words into action.

To all Post members and your families, may you enjoy a healthy and happy year.

P.S. Read the Calendar and Reminders section of our award winning newsletter.

Commander,  
John F. Maskavich



## Back to God Mass



**St. Alphonsus Church**

Fourteen members of Lithuanian Post 154 attended the annual "Back to God Mass" service at St. Alphonsus Church in downtown Baltimore on November 2nd. Though fourteen attendees out of a post with ninety-eight members does not seem like a good turnout, it is actually very good considering the unique membership profile of Lithuanian Post 154. Though the Post meets at the Lithuanian Hall in Baltimore, only twenty-one members live in Baltimore. Twenty nine members live out of state and the remainder are scattered throughout Maryland from Ocean City to Westminster. Most members are of Lithuanian descent or grew up close to Lithuanian Hall and choose to retain relationships with their old neighborhood by belonging to Lithuanian Post 154. Considering where our members live, 14 was a good showing.

The next American Legion event to be held at St. Alphonsus Church will be the Baltimore District's "Four Chaplains Commemoration Service" on February 1st. This will be the 46th consecutive year that the District has held this service. Rev. Anthony Dranginis started this remembrance in 1963 at the War Memorial in Baltimore. In 1978 it was transferred to St. Alphonsus Church. The Baltimore District Color Guard will post the Colors; Monsignor Basters will say Mass; there will be a touching POW/MIA service and a short description of the Four Chaplain's heroic acts on the USS Dorchester as it went down. For the 30th consecutive year, "The Balladiers" from Parkville Post 183 will be singing patriotic and religious songs during the service. Though the service is held at a Catholic Church, all are welcome. Come to see the beautiful St. Alphonsus Church on Saratoga and Park Avenues in downtown Baltimore on February 1st at 10 AM. You will enjoy the service.

## Membership



I would like to thank our members for responding to the recent Fiscal Year "2009" membership renewal notices. Because so many of you renewed your memberships so quickly, ours was the first Post to reach Three-Star status in the Department this year. We also surpassed the goal set by Department and now have 98 members.

Again in 2009, all members are scheduled to receive six issues of our newsletter "Legionnaire"; six issues of Department "Free State Warrior"; and twelve issues of "The American Legion" magazine. If you are not receiving all three, please let me know. Also, please send me your new address if you move so I can relay the changes to National and Department headquarters, and update Lithuanian Post 154 files. Let me know if you have any questions about your membership. Contact information is on last page of this newsletter.

Membership Chairman  
Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys

## Happy Birthday

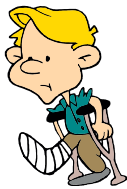
### January

Grant Dillon  
Patrick Dohlus  
Charles Gross  
Edvins Kristapsons  
Bernard Milosavich  
Stephen Mueller  
Ronald Price  
Stanley Ruby  
Kenneth Shillenn

### February

Richard Jacobs

## Sick Call



Edmond Bartas  
8 Robins Nest Ct  
Randallstown, MD 21133

## Christmas



**Corporal Dillon on USS Iwo Jima**

Corporal William Dillon III is a Lithuanian Post 154 member serving in Afghanistan. He is part of a Marine Expeditionary Unit that left the United States in August for Afghanistan as a member of the USS Iwo Jima Strike Force. During 2007 Corporal Dillon served a combat tour in Iraq.

After the December Post meeting, Lithuanian Post 154 sent Corporal Dillon a Christmas package. His dad, Grant A. Dillon, a paid up for life member of Lithuanian Post 154, informed us that his son received the package before Christmas.

We all remember the joy of "Mail Call." A letter or package from home was a pleasant distraction from the day to day chores. Here is Corporal Dillon's mailing address. I am certain he would appreciate a short story, a joke or note about what is going on in Baltimore. You could also thank him for keeping us safe.

Corporal William F. Dillon III  
Hm 264 ORD  
Unit 77071  
FPO AE 09502-7071



**Excited children greet Santa as he arrives at the Lithuanian Post 154 sponsored Children's Christmas Party at Lithuanian Hall.**



**Legionnaires Toivo Tagamets, Al Paplonskis, Balys Brasauskas, Vacys Laukaitis, John Maskavich, Vitas Siaurusaitis, Joe Saurusaitis, Gilbert Miller, Joe Jankevicius and Joe Astauskas inspect goodies in Christmas package being prepared for Corporal William Dillon after December Post meeting.**

## Our Tax System

During the recent election campaign we were flooded with various tax related claims and slogans such as “tax cut for the rich”, “tax rebates to people who don’t pay taxes”, “spread the wealth”, “socialism”, “corporations don’t pay taxes” etc. According to the U.S. Government Printing Office, the U.S. Tax Code contains over 16,000 pages, thus making sense of our tax laws difficult. Since the debate of who to tax and to whom to give the money will continue, perhaps the subsequent article from the Internet explaining the Tax Code in understandable terms would be helpful.

“Suppose that every day, ten men go out for beer and the bill for all ten comes to \$100. If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this:

The first four men (the poorest) would pay nothing.  
 The fifth would pay \$1.  
 The sixth would pay \$3.  
 The seventh would pay \$7.  
 The eighth would pay \$12.  
 The ninth would pay \$18.  
 The tenth man (the richest) would pay \$59.  
 So, that's what they decided to do.

The ten men drank in the bar every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement, until one day, the owner threw them a curve. ‘Since you are all such good customers,’ he said, ‘I’m going to reduce the cost of your daily beer by \$20.’ Drinks for the ten now cost just \$80.

The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes so the first four men were unaffected. They would still drink for free. But what about the other six men - the paying customers? How could they divide the \$20 windfall so that everyone would get his ‘fair share’? They realized that \$20 divided by six is \$3.33. But if they subtracted that from everybody's share, then the fifth man and the sixth man would each end up being paid to drink his beer. So, the bar owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each man's bill by roughly the same percent, and he proceeded to work out the amounts each should pay.

And so:  
 The fifth man, like the first four, now paid nothing (100% savings).  
 The sixth now paid \$2 instead of \$3 (33% savings).  
 The seventh now pay \$5 instead of \$7 (28% savings).  
 The eighth now paid \$9 instead of \$12 (25% savings).  
 The ninth now paid \$14 instead of \$18 (22% savings).  
 The tenth now paid \$49 instead of \$59 (16% savings).

Each of the six was better off than before. And the first four continued to drink for free. But once outside the restaurant, the men began to compare their savings.

‘I only got a dollar out of the \$20,’ declared the sixth man.

He pointed to the tenth man,’ but he got \$10!’

‘Yeah, that's right,’ exclaimed the fifth man. ‘I only saved a dollar, too. It's unfair that he got TEN times more than I!’

‘That's true!!’ shouted the seventh man. ‘Why should he get \$10 back when I got only two? The wealthy get all the breaks!’

‘Wait a minute,’ yelled the first four men in unison. ‘We didn't get anything at all. The system exploits the poor!’

The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up.

The next night the tenth man didn't show up for drinks, so the nine sat down and had beers without him. But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered something important. They didn't have enough money between all of them for even half of the bill!

And that, boys and girls, journalists and college professors, is how our tax system works. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy, and they just may not show up anymore. In fact, they might start drinking overseas where the atmosphere is somewhat friendlier.”

Author Unknown

### Salute During National Anthem

Changes in federal law that took effect with the Defense Authorization Act of 2009 permit Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform to render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem. “The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag.”

### What is going on?

If you want to know what is going on in Baltimore’s Lithuanian Community, go to “Lietuvis.net” on the Internet. Past Lithuanian Post 154 Commander Gintaras Buivys hosts a web site where Lithuanian associations and clubs can post their news and upcoming events. Lithuanian Post 154’s web page can be accessed with just a click on the “Lietuvis.net” web site. Copies of “Legionnaire” newsletters from 2007 forward can be found there.

Past Commander Buivys also maintains a Lithuanian Community Calendar with dates and times of most major Lithuanian Community events in Baltimore and Washington. He also records a weekly Lithuanian “radio” program and archives it on the “Lietuvis.net” web site. Due to high radio station cost, the Baltimore Community's Lithuanian radio program was moved to the Internet a couple of years ago. Now you can download and listen to the current or past programs at any time.

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

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 every 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

### 100 Club



The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 annual fundraiser 100 Club will start on January 14th. Winning numbers will be drawn every Wednesday for ten weeks. The fundraiser will end with our customary party with food, refreshments and additional cash prizes on March 22nd at J - Ray's Cafe. I would like to thank everyone who supported this annual fundraiser by purchasing a ticket. Please contact me at (410) 987-5275 if you have any questions.

Vincent Dulys,  
Adjutant

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

## Calendar & Reminders

### January

#### January

Birthstone: Garnet;

Flower: Carnation

Thu	01	New Year's Day
Thu	08	Baltimore District Meeting - Morrell Park Post 137 - 7:30 PM
Wed	14	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Wed	14	First week drawing of 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 Cafe - 7:30 PM
Wed	21	Second week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Tue	27	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)
Wed	28	Third week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser

### February

Birthstone: Amethyst;

Flower: Violet

Sun	01	Baltimore District Four Chaplains Service - St. Alphonsus Church - 10 AM
Sun	01	National Freedom Day
Mon	02	Ground Hog Day
Wed	04	Fourth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Sun	08	Department Executive Committee Meeting - Dorchester Post 91 in Cambridge
Wed	11	Fifth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Wed	11	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	12	Lincoln's Birthday
Sat	14	Valentine's Day
Mon	16	Presidents' Day
Wed	18	Sixth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Sun	22	George Washington's Birthday
Tue	24	Shrove Tue
Wed	25	Ash Wednesday
Wed	25	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive meeting - J-Ray's Cafe - 7:30 PM
Wed	25	Seventh week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser

### March

Birthstone: Aquamarine;

Flower: Jonquil

Mon	02	Vietnam War Began - 1965
Wed	04	Eighth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Sun	08	Daylight Savings Time begins
Wed	11	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Wed	11	Ninth week drawing of 100 Club fundraiser
Thu	12	Baltimore District Meeting hosted by Post 154 - Lithuanian Hall
Sat	14	National Commander's Banquet - Francis Scott Key Post 11 - Frederick
Tue	17	St. Patrick's Day
Thu	19	Operation Iraqi Freedom Began - 2003
Fri	20	Spring Begins
Sun	22	100 Club fundraiser Party - J-Ray's Cafe -1 PM
Wed	25	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive meeting - J-Ray's Cafe - 7:30 PM
Sun	29	Baltimore District Reception honoring Department Commander Gail Murdock