



*American Legion Lithuanian Post 154  
For God and Country*



# *Legionnaire*

November & December 2009

## Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers



Standing from left in back are John Maskavich, Joe Astasauskas, Vito Siaurusaitis, Vincent Dulys, Fred Kaminski, Gintaras Buivys, Patrick Dohlus, Joe Jankevicius, Algis Paplonskis, Toivo Tagamets. Standing at podium is installing officer William Proctor. Seated from left are Melvin Smullen, Michael Mooney, Orlyn Osterreich, Reginald Jordan and Monsignor Arthur Bastress.

Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers for 2009 - 2010 took place on Sunday, September 20, 2009 at Lithuanian Hall. Past National Executive Committeeman William Proctor installed ten of our twelve elected officers for 2009-2010. Commander John Maskavich was installed for his sixth consecutive year and seventh overall as Commander of Lithuanian Post 154.

We recognized and presented awards to members of our community: Teacher Kenneth Bauer, Ph.D., Police Officer Bryan Pisani and Firefighters Darryl Robinson and Lieutenant Timothy Biermann. Collegiate Scholarships were awarded to Gabriela Buda who is attending University of Delaware and Nicholas Galinaitis who is attending McDaniel College. A Scholastic award was presented to Emilie Mosier who is currently attending Linthicum Elementary. Robert Burr was recognized with a plaque for 50 years continuous membership in Lithuanian Post 154. A wood carving of "The Blessed Virgin Mary of Dawn Gate" was presented to Monsignor Arthur Bastress in appreciation of his continuous support of Lithuanian Post 154 over the years. The carving was donated to Lithuanian Post 154 by the Buivys family. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Loy Vogel for her service to our Post. Post members Gintaras Buivys and Joe Jankevicius were presented plaques from Commander Maskavich for their outstanding support of Lithuanian Post 154.

We had an excellent turnout with guests from Department including Department of Maryland Commander Orlyn Osterreich. In order to have a successful installation program many volunteers and Post members put forth that extra effort to make this a special event. The "Malunas" dance group performed several dances at the end of our program to the delight of our guests. Also, Deanna Howes from the "Malunas" dance group sang the US and Lithuanian National Anthems. She also sang during the Memorial Service and led the singing of "God Bless America" at the end of our program.

A sincere "Thank You" to Aldona Buda, Rasa Meeks and their helpers for catering a delicious meal. Vytas Dulys, Dave Gorrell and Birute Gorrell took care of the refreshment area. They donated their gratuities in the name of Lithuanian Post 154 to Team Viltis for Multiple Sclerosis. Mark Zaruba, played TAPS during the Memorial Service making it a tearful experience remembering our departed Comrades. Thanks to all of you who took part in our POW / MIA and Memorial Services and helped set up and clean up the hall.



Ann Lockwich and Monsignor Arthur Bastress admiring the carving of "The Blessed Virgin Mary of Dawn Gate."

Vincent T. Dulys,  
Installation Chairman

### Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2009 - 2010

Commander	John Maskavich
Vice Commander	Joseph Astasauskas
Adjutant	Vincent 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 Jankevicius
	Algis Paplonskis
	Joseph Saurusaitis

### Commander's Message

And so once again we approach the busiest social season of the year. We hope all have had an enjoyable, restful and healthy summer. Post activities have resumed at a normal pace after the Installation of Officers. We are on a good pace in membership renewals. If you haven't sent in your renewal, please do it now.

During my comments at the Post's Installation of Officers, I referred to a case now before the Supreme Court, Salazar v. Buono. It involves a lawsuit that if successful could result in prohibiting the erection of any type of religious symbol on federal property. Some fear that such a decision might impact the use of the word "God" in the recitation of the Preamble to The Constitution of The American Legion. The Preamble is recited at all Post meeting and will be recited at the Memorial Day Service at the Baltimore National Cemetery. As of this writing, no verdict has been rendered. And one can only wonder how the newest Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor, will vote on this issue.

On the other hand, there are much happier, more enjoyable things we can wonder about. For example, we can look forward to Thanksgiving Day, the Children's Christmas Party at Lithuanian Hall followed by Christmas Day at home with the family. There are also other Post activities in which we can participate, like our annual Back to God Mass at Saint Alphonsus Church on November 1. And let's not forget ringing in the New Year with family and friends!

A reminder – if you know of any Post members who are ill or in distress, contact any of the officers listed on the last page of this newsletter. Let us not forget in these busy times those who are in need. Our Preamble states “ to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

The officers of Lithuanian Post 154 wish all members and their families a happy, healthy and prosperous holiday and New Year.

John Maskavich,  
Commander

### Membership

The new Fiscal Year 2010 is getting started and our renewal membership is keeping pace with last year. Several Post members signed up for the Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) membership before the rates increased.

At current rate of renewal, we will be well over 90% of our Department goal by Veterans Day. A big "Thanks!" to each and every one who has sent in their 2010 dues.

Our newest member is Edward L. Yungaitis who resides in North Easton, Massachusetts.

If you have any questions about your membership status, please E-mail me or leave me a message. My contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Also, if you need any information about The American Legion, go to the [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) web site or contact one of the officers listed on the last page of this newsletter.

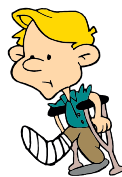
Vincent T. Dulys,  
Membership Chairman

### 100 Club

It is that annual fundraiser time of year again! The Post will once again sponsor the 100 Club raffle. Only 100 tickets numbered 00 through 99 will be sold. There will be two \$40 winners each Wednesday for ten weeks. The winning numbers will be the last 2 digits of Wednesday mid-day and evening Lotto drawings. The first drawing will be Wednesday December 16, 2009 and the last drawing will be Wednesday February 17, 2010. At the end, there will be a party on Sunday, February 21, 2010 from 1 to 4 PM at Cockeyed Cow Saloon (formerly known as J-Ray's Café) located at 900 S. Carey St. Hot buffet, beer, wine, liquor, soda will be served for free to all ticket holders. Guests will be charged \$10 to attend the party. At the party additional prizes will be awarded based on random drawings of participants ticket numbers. For the main prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 the ticket holders do not need to be present to win. For various door prizes – the ticket holder must be present to win. The donation for the 100 Club ticket is \$25. If you are interested or have any questions please e-mail me or give me a call.

Vincent T. Dulys,  
Chairman

### Sick Call



Edmond Bartas  
8 Robins Nest Court  
Randallstown, MD 21133

### Happy Birthday

#### November

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

#### December

John Antoniak  
Ballys Brasauskas  
John Keydash  
Vaclovas Laukaitis  
John Maskavich  
Paul Salvetti  
Richard Seymour

### Free Food for Veterans

Several restaurant chains will be offering active duty, retired military and all veterans a chance at some good free food during the Veterans Day period. All you need is proof of military service such as your American Legion membership card.

McCormick and Schmicks Seafood Restaurants kicks things off on Sunday November 8 with their tribute to veterans.

Applebees Restaurants will be honoring veterans on Veterans Day, November 11 at all of their participating restaurants. They have a nice selection from six different entrees.

Finally, Golden Corral Restaurants will be having their 9th Annual "Appreciation Dinner" on Monday, November 16 from 5-9 PM.

Some of the restaurants are independently owned and may not be participating in the program. It is suggested you call the restaurant for reservations and make certain they are participating.

## Reenactment of Baltic Way draws 250 in Washington, DC in "celebration of freedom"

The Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc., (JBANC) issued a press release dated Aug. 25, 2009 describing the events in Washington DC celebrating Baltic freedom. Here are portions of that press release.



"An August 23, 2009 commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and the 20th anniversary of the "Baltic Way" brought close to 250 participants from around the United States together in Washington, DC.

The highlight of the day's activities was the creation of a human chain formed along the heart of Washington's Embassy Row, symbolically linking the nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The chain stretched from the Embassy of Estonia to the Embassy of Latvia along Massachusetts Avenue and briefly crossed the busy street to be fully connected. Passersby and motorists, including a couple of tour buses, slowed down to witness the chain, some honking their horns in encouragement.

According to one participant, a bystander asked what the protest was about. The response was that it wasn't a protest but a "celebration of freedom."

This year marked the 70th year since the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (MRP) between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany on August 23, 1939. That agreement between Stalin and Hitler divided half of Europe between the two totalitarian states, and condemned Central and Eastern Europe to decades of misery and suffering under foreign tyranny.

With the possibility of renewed independence becoming more real, Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians showed a united front against Soviet oppression and occupation on August 23, 1989 by coming together in the Baltic Way. Over a quarter of the populations of the three Baltic countries joined hands on that day for nearly 400 miles to demonstrate their desire for freedom. A little over two months later, the Berlin Wall also fell.

Resistance to the long Soviet rule in the Baltics also took other forms. Partisan warfare by Baltic "forest brothers" lasted for a decade after the end of World War II. On August 23, 1979, a Baltic Appeal was smuggled to the West, signed by 45 persons from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. They demanded public disclosure and annulment of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact together with its secret protocols, and the restoration of the independence of the Baltic countries. This was an important step on the road back to freedom.

In the West, the wearing of black ribbons on August 23, known as "Black Ribbon Day," became a reminder of the fate of the Baltic countries. Black Ribbon Days were organized in the United States, Canada and other Western countries to draw attention to the MRP - all the way up through 1991 and the restoration of independence for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

This year's commemoration opened at the Embassy of Lithuania on 16th Street, where guests watched a live broadcast of commemorative Baltic Way events from the Lithuanian capital Vilnius and sang the "Baltic Way" song in the three native languages. Greetings from the Embassy were offered by Deputy Chief of Mission Tomas Gulbinas, followed by well wishes from Aap Neljas of the Embassy of Estonia, and Rudolphs Bremanis of the Embassy of Latvia. Juris Mezinskis, President of the American Latvian Association (ALA), Diana Vidutis, President of the DC Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community, and Karl Altau, Managing Director of the Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. (JBANC) also spoke briefly about the significance of the day's events."



Lithuanian Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis participating in the "Baltic Way" chain.

"The Estonian and Latvian embassies also opened their doors later that day to allow participants to visit. A reception was held in the Latvian Embassy in cooperation with the American Latvian Association, where guests were able to view "The Soviet Story," a documentary film about Soviet and Nazi collaboration. 1989 Baltic Way film clips were screened at the Estonian Embassy. In a show of solidarity, many participants also visited the Embassy of Georgia. It was a year ago in August 2008 when Russian troops invaded that country and seized territories which have yet to be relinquished. Mamuka Tsereteli, President of the Georgian Association of America, and Karl Altau of JBANC spoke in support of Georgia, and emphasized the positive cooperation between Georgian and Baltic peoples.

At the three Baltic embassies, participants were asked to place colored push pins into a map tracing the 1989 Baltic Way, to indicate if and where they had joined the 1989 chain. Over 40 persons had done so, covering all three countries almost equally.

The DC Baltic Way 2009 event was organized by the Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. (JBANC) in conjunction with local Baltic-American organizations and activists in the Washington, DC area."



### Christmas Bazaar



Lithuanian Hall and the Baltimore Estonian House will be hosting Christmas Bazaars. There will be craft tables with ethnic Christmas decorations and gifts at both affairs. Ethnic food and drink will also be available. The Estonian Christmas Bazaar will be on Saturday, December 5 from noon to 5 PM and Sunday, December 6 from noon to 4 PM at the Baltimore Estonian House. Admission and parking is free. The Baltimore Estonian House is located at 1932 Belair Road just North of North Avenue in Baltimore. The Lithuanian Bazaar will be on December 13 at noon. The Children's Christmas Party, cosponsored by Lithuanian Post 154, will begin at 1 PM.

**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  
 410-960-7874 – cell  
 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  
 Cockeyed Cow Saloon  
 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

**Your Address**

After each mailing of the *Legionnaire*, the Post Office returns one or two because the address is no longer valid. Please notify me if you move.

E-Mail is a quick and low cost method of communicating that Lithuanian Post 154 would like to utilize. We plan to establish a Lithuanian Post 154 E-mail distribution list. It will be used to announce significant events not mentioned in *Calendar & Reminders* that might be of in-

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

**Calendar & Reminders**

		Birthstone: Topaz	Flower: Chrysanthemum
		Daylight Saving Time ends / set clocks back an hour	
<b>November</b>			
Sun	01	Lithuanian Post 154 - Back to God Mass	
Sun	01	St. Alphonsus Church, Saratoga and Park Ave, Baltimore - 8:30 AM	
Tue	03	Election Day - Get out and VOTE	
Sun	08	Baltimore District 4 Frenchmen Service - St. Mary's Cemetery - 10 AM	
Wed	11	Veterans Day - Baltimore District Service at Morrell Park Post 137 - 10:45 AM.	
Wed	11	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM	
Thu	12	Baltimore District Meeting - 7:30 PM	
		General Haller Post 95 located at 1746 Fleet Street, Baltimore	
Sun	15	Department Executive Committee Meeting	
		Stallings - Williams Post 206 - Chesapeake Beach	
Wed	25	No Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting	
Thu	26	Happy Thanksgiving	
<b>December</b>			
Sat	05	Birthstone: Turquoise	Flower: Narcissus
Sun	06	Baltimore Estonian House Christmas Bazaar - 12 Noon to 6 PM	
Mon	07	Baltimore Estonian House Christmas Bazaar - 12 Noon to 4 PM	
		Pearl Harbor Remembrance -	
		Baltimore District Service at War Memorial - 6 PM	
Tue	08	War declared on Japan (1941)	
Wed	09	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM	
Fri	11	Germany & Italy declared war on U.S. (1941)	
Sat	12	First Day of Hanukkah	
Sun	13	Lithuanian Hall Christmas Bazaar - 12 Noon	
		Lithuanian Post 154 Children's Christmas Party - Lithuanian Hall -1 PM	
Wed	16	First drawing for 100 Club fundraiser	
Mon	21	First Day of Winter	
Wed	23	No Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting	
Wed	23	Second drawing for 100 Club fundraiser	
Thu	24	Christmas Eve / Lithuanian Kūčios	
Fri	25	Merry Christmas	
Wed	30	Third drawing for 100 Club fundraiser	
Thu	31	Getting ready to welcome "2010"	
<b>January</b>			
		Birthstone: Garnet	Flower: Carnation
Fri	01	New Year's Day	
Wed	06	Fourth drawing for 100 Club fundraiser	
Wed	13	Lithuanian Post General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM	
Wed	13	Fifth drawing for 100 Club fundraiser	
Thu	14	Baltimore District Meeting - 7:30 PM - Post Location TBA	
Sat	17	Persian Gulf War Began (1991)	
Mon	18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (observed)	
Wed	20	Sixth drawing for 100 Club fundraiser	
Wed	27	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - Cockeyed Cow Saloon - 7:30 PM	
Wed	27	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)	

terest to you - such as the Baltic Way reenactment commemoration, which I did not know about until after the July issue of the *Legionnaire* was mailed. The Distribution List will not be used for junk mail or jokes - not even good ones.

I have volunteered to maintain this list. If you use E-mail, please send me your address if you wish to be included.

Also if you hear of a significant event that would be of

interest to fellow Post members, such as illness or death of a member, please send me a note.

Joe Jankevicius,  
 Editor