



American Legion Lithuanian Post 154
For God and Country



Legionnaire

May & June 2009

Commander's Message

We are in the best of times and in the worst of times.

The solutions proffered by Washington to address the present economic situation are not "transparent" and directed. This uncertainty in direction causes fear of an unhealthy and burdensome future. Change without clear and firm guidance can result in unsatisfactory living. There is much rhetoric for "pie in the sky" prosperity down the road, but all we see is sky and unprecedented debt. Yet, we still have those basic good things that allow us to enjoy life. There are no armed groups roaming the streets threatening our freedom and safety.

So today several days of rain have ended; the sun is shining; the flowers are blooming; the final days of spring are approaching - all seems to be fine. So count what we have and don't dwell on what we don't have. Billy Graham said "Comfort and prosperity have never enriched the world as much as adversity." We legionnaires have survived and even thrived on adversity.

Now as the first half of our year nears its end, there are several important things that must be done: nominations of Post officers and nominations of delegates to the Department Convention. The Baltimore District will hold its Memorial Day Service on May 30th at the National Cemetery on Frederick Road. Our Post has a leading role in this service reminding us that "All gave some, some gave all."

Initial nominations of Department Convention delegates took place at the Post's April General Meeting. Balys Brasuskas, Vincent Dulys, Joe Jankevicius and I have been nominated. Nomination of delegates will continue at the Post's May Meeting followed by elections. Initial nomination of Post officers will also take place at the May Meeting. Nominations of officers will continue at the Post's June Meeting followed by elections.

In June the District will hold its District Caucus to elect members to represent the District on the Department Executive Committee. Post 154 has nominated Vincent Dulys for this important office. He is energetic and deeply committed to The American Legion's ideals.

I hope to see you at a Post General Meeting or at the Lithuanian Festival on May 30th or 31st.

Have a safe summer!

John Maskavich
 Commander

Dinner Honoring National Commander Rehbein

Commander John Maskavich, Adjutant Vincent Dulys, Vacys Laukaitis and Joe Jankevicius attended a dinner hosted by Francis Scott Key Post 11 in Frederick, MD honoring National Commander David Rehbein.



Vincent Dulys and Vacys Laukaitis chat with National Commander David Rehbein.

Commander Rehbein stressed the importance of maintaining and growing The American Legion's membership. With nearly 3 million members, the Legion can exert significant influence in Washington. Recent annual increases in the Department of Veterans Affairs budget can in great part be attributed to the influence of The American Legion and other veterans groups.

Lithuanian Festival

Baltimore's 37th annual Lithuanian Festival will be held at the Catonsville Armory Saturday and Sunday May 30th and 31st from 11 AM to 6 PM. The Catonsville Armory is located at 130 Mellor Avenue in Catonsville. Lithuanian Post 154 will present the Colors on Sunday at 1 PM. Traditional crafts, military exhibit, Lithuanian folk dancing, music and Lithuanian food and drink will be available. It will be an excellent opportunity to see your old friends and make new ones..



The theme for the festival is "One Thousand Years of Culture." Though people have occupied the territory of what is now Lithuania since at least 3,000 BC, the first reference to the name of Lithuania in written sources was in 1009. The annals of Quedlinburg, Germany (Annales Quedlinburgenses) mention Lithuania in a story of the tragic end to St. Bruno's mission in 1009. The text written in the 11th century failed to survive, but a copy made in the middle of the 16th century is kept in Dresden, Germany. The translated text is:

"St. Brunon, alias Bonifacius, archbishop and monk was killed by the pagans together with 18 of his brethren on the Russian - Lithuanian border on the eleventh year of his conversion and on the 9th of March ascended into the heaven".

Membership

I'm sure everyone is aware that Lithuanian Post 154 reached 3-Star membership in Department this fiscal year. Congratulations to Commander John Maskavich and all the members who helped recruit and build our current roster to 98 members. Thank you for supporting The American Legion and our Post by sending in your annual dues promptly. We expect to sign up a few new members during the Lithuanian Festival in May. Plus, we have a few prospects close to completing their paperwork.

Everyone should be getting their membership renewal notices from National at the end of June for fiscal year 2010. Fiscal year 2010 starts July 01, 2009 and goes through June 30, 2010 and your 2010 card will be honored through December 31, 2010. When you get your renewal notice, please respond promptly. If we recruit a few new members at the festival, we should be able to achieve 3-Star status in 2010. It would be great to again be the first post in Maryland to reach 3-Star status next year.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or e-mail me.

Vincent Dulys
Membership Chairman

100 Club



Our Lithuanian Post 154 annual 100 Club fundraiser started on January 14 and continued through March 18. The winning numbers were:

- Kenny Smith - 55
- Gail Ludwig - 11
- Edmond Bartas - 36
- John Maskavich - 87
- Evelyn Smith - 10
- James Stein - 85
- Loy Vogel - 44
- Rasa Meeks - 59
- Ramune Buivys - 74
- Zita Uleckas - 94
- Kendra - 71
- Tom Savin - 09
- Toivo Tagamets - 79
- Frank Giannino - 23
- Loy Vogel - 44
- Bill Wengert - 70
- John Maskavich - 87
- Jim Willis - 73

The 100 Club fundraiser party took place Sunday, March 22 at J-Ray's Café. We had 60 guests in attendance. Final prize winners were:

- \$300 - Baly's Brasauskas
- \$200 - Rich Cole
- \$100 - Ramune Buivys
- \$50 - Nomedas Silgalis

Sincere thanks to Terri at J-Ray's Café for her assistance in setting up the party; also to Evelyn Smith for food catering. The food and refreshments were plentiful. Special thanks to Joe Ludwig and Gintaras Buivys for donating some of the door prizes.

The next 100 Club is sponsored by Lithuanian Hall. Their first drawing was on April 10th. Their party date is Sunday, June 14th at Lithuanian Hall.

And again, a big "Thank You" to everyone who supported The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 annual 100 Club fundraiser.

Vincent Dulys
100 Club Chairman

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 children overcome diseases and injuries of every kind. Your contribution goes to the Children's Miracle Network hospital in your community. Please send your donation check (made out to Children's Miracle Network) to Vincent Dulys, 616 Cedarwood Lane, Crownsville, MD 21032. Or, drop it off at our booth at the Lithuanian Festival on May 30 or 31; or, bring it with you to our Post's May 13 or June 10 General Meeting.

Sick Call



Edmond Bartas
8 Robins Nest Ct.
Randallstown, MD 21133

Hearing Aids Available Through VA

Due to the Department of Veterans Affairs increased budget, VA has announced that hearing aids will once again be available through their medical facilities.

Epilepsy Fund Drive



Our Post supports The American Legion Department of Maryland Epilepsy Drive by selling Pins for a donation of \$3. These pins are available at all Post meetings and gatherings. They will also be available at our booth at the Lithuanian Festival.

Scholarship



Lithuanian Post 154 will be awarding two \$500 scholarships to students graduating from high school in 2009 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.

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 the past year.

Commander John Maskavich must receive scholarship applications for 2009 by July 20, 2009. Applications will not be considered if they are incomplete or late.

Happy Birthday



May

Joseph Jankevicius
Algimantas Siugzda

June

Walter Cooper.
David Cunningham
Gintaras Dambava
Stasys Kligys
Gilbert Miller
Albert Penkauskas
Anthony Snipas

July

Raymond Beares Jr.
Gintaras Buivys
Joseph Gaila
Edward Gillespie
Anthony Kasulen
Algirdas Skudzinskas

Victims of Communism Memorial Service



President George W. Bush dedicated the Victims of Communism Memorial on June 12, 2007, the 20th anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's "tear down this wall" speech at the Berlin Wall.

Members of The Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) are planning their first "Baltic Remembrance Day" service at the Victims of Communism Memorial in Washington, D.C. on June 14 from 4 PM to 5 PM. JBANC was founded in 1961 by the three central Baltic American organizations - the Estonian American National Council, the American Latvian Association and the Lithuanian American Council.

The service is to remind the world of Communist atrocities inflicted on hundreds of thousands of Baltic citizens. They were deported on freight trains to Siberia and other desolate areas of the USSR where they worked and many died in slave labor camps.

The Victims of Communism Memorial is in Washington, D.C. at the intersection of Massachusetts and New Jersey Avenues and G Street, NW, two blocks from Union Station and within sight of the U.S. Capitol.

The service will start with an invocation followed by a short history of the sufferings the Baltic nations endured under Communism. The names of some of the those who were deported to Siberia will be read.

If you know of any Baltic people who were deported to Siberia, please call JBANC at (301) 340-1954 so that their names could be included in the remembrance service.

Multiple Sclerosis

The National MS Society is kicking off its annual "Challenge Walk of 50K" on June 13 - 14, 2009. Individual post members and Lithuanian Post 154 have supported "Team Viltis" for the past 5 years and I hope you and others will help sponsor "Team Viltis" again. Your contribution to the MS fight will move the effort closer to discovering the cause and course of the disease, better treatments and a cure. Any contribution is very much appreciated.

To donate: go to www.challengewalkMSmaryland.org or send check payable to the National MS Society to:

Birute Gorrell
1179 Dicus Mill Rd.
Millersville, Md. 21108

Department Convention

The Maryland Department American Legion convention will be held July 13th -17th. Accommodations for delegates and alternates are available at "Bradley on the Bay" building A, unit 304 - 3901 Ocean Highway. The room phone number is (410) 524-0470. Free parking is available on the overflow lot at Convention Center next door. Please stop by even if you don't go to the convention but just decide to visit Ocean City during the week. Anyone staying at Bradley must confirm with Adjutant Vincent Dulys - (410) 960-7874 cell, (410) 987-5275 home.

The Convention shirt this year is a gray short sleeve golf shirt with a Maryland crest and "Maryland" on the left chest below the crest. "The American Legion" is imprinted on the left sleeve and The American Legion Emblem on the right side of the shirt. The cost is \$25.00. If desired, your name and Post name can be added on the shirt for an additional charge. Also, if anyone is interested in any other type of shirt with Post name, etc. let Vince Dulys know. Vince will be placing an order by mid May.

Lithuanian Independence Day

The Baltimore Lithuanian Community celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day on March 1st at Lithuanian Hall. Though Lithuania has two independence days, February 16, 1918 and March 11, 1990, both were celebrated on March 1st. Lithuanian Post 154 presented Colors at the event.



Letter to the Editor

I've come to the conclusion that the Obama administration is not veteran-friendly. Nor even America-friendly.

Why is the president bad-mouthing our country while he's playing nice with our enemies around the world?

Why is his Homeland Security director suggesting that troops returning home after putting their lives on the line in Iraq and Afghanistan are security risks?

And why is he proceeding with his plans to scrap our anti-ballistic missile defense program at a time when Iran and North Korea are pushing hard to equip themselves with nuclear weapons and missiles capable of reaching our Nation and Israel?

I encourage veterans of all the wars we've fought to keep our Nation safe to contact the President and their representatives in Congress (Senators and Congresspersons) and TELL THEM to strengthen our military forces, not sabotage them .

Richard Seymour
Lithuanian Post 154 member since 1946.

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

ADJUTANT / FINANCE OFFICER
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 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

Free State Warrior Correction

The VA Survival Guide article on page 16 of the April/May Free State Warrior stated an incorrect web address. The address should be <http://www.veteransforamerica.org>. This is an excellent free reference source to VA benefits. When you enter the site, you will be prompted for a contribution, which can be skipped. Go to the page that requests your e-mail address and enter it. They will send you an e-mail with a link to download the 599 page book. If you like what you get, you can go back and contribute.

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

Calendar & Reminders

May

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|-----|----|---|
| Fri | 01 | Law Day, Loyalty Day, National Day of Prayer |
| Thu | 07 | Unconditional surrender of all German forces signed (1945) |
| Fri | 08 | V-E Day Declared (1945) |
| Sun | 10 | Mother's Day |
| Mon | 11 | Postal rates for first class stamp increases to 44 cents |
| Wed | 13 | Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
- Additional nominations, and election of Lithuanian Post Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention
- Initial nominations of Post 154 officers for 2009 - 2010 |
| Thu | 14 | Baltimore District Meeting - Federal Post 19 - 7:30 PM |
| Fri | 15 | Peace Officers Day - (Fly flags at half mast until sunset) |
| Sat | 16 | Armed Forces Day |
| Sun | 17 | Department Executive Meeting -
hosted by Proctor Kildow Post 71 - Oakland, Md. |
| Fri | 22 | National Maritime Day |
| Mon | 25 | Memorial Day (Observed) |
| Wed | 27 | Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - J-Ray's Café - 7:30 PM |
| Sat | 30 | Traditional Memorial Day
American Legion Baltimore District Service at National Cemetery -
5501 Frederick Ave. - Catonsville - 10:45 AM |
| Sat | 30 | 37 th annual Lithuanian Festival - Catonsville Armory - 11 AM - 6 PM |
| Sun | 31 | 37 th annual Lithuanian Festival - Catonsville Armory - 11 AM - 6 PM
Official Opening Ceremony with Lithuanian Post 154 Color Guard - 1 PM |

June

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| Sat | 06 | D-Day - Allied Invasion of Europe (1944) |
| Wed | 10 | Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Nominations and election of Lithuanian Post 154 officers for 2009 -2010 |
| Sun | 14 | Flag Day |
| Sun | 14 | U.S. Army founded (1775) |
| Sun | 14 | Victims of Communism Memorial service in Washington D.C. at dusk.
Memorial is located at intersection of Massachusetts
and New Jersey Avenues and G Street, NW |
| Sun | 21 | Father's Day |
| Mon | 22 | Pledge of Allegiance recognized by Congress (1942) |
| Mon | 22 | GI Bill signed into law (1944) |
| Wed | 25 | Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - J-Ray's Café - 7:30 PM |
| Thu | 26 | Korean War began (1950) |

July

- | | | |
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| Thu | 02 | U.S. Army Air Corps established (1926) |
| Sat | 04 | Independence Day (Observed) |
| Wed | 08 | No Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting |
| Mon | 13-17 | American Legion Department of Maryland Convention - Ocean City, Md.
Convention Itinerary: |
| Mon | 13 | Fish Fry behind Convention Hall - everyone welcome 4 - 6 PM |
| Tue | 14 | Legion College classes at Convention Center - 8 AM - 12 Noon
Official Opening of Convention - 8 PM |
| Wed | 15 | Convention meetings - 8 AM
Memorial Service - 8 PM |
| Thu | 16 | Convention meetings - 8 AM |
| Fri | 17 | Convention meetings - 8 AM
Election of Department Officers for 2009 - 2010 |
| Wed | 22 | Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - J-Ray's Café -7:30 PM |
| Mon | 27 | National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day |
| Tue | 28 | World War I began (1914) |