



American Legion Lithuanian Post 154
For God and Country



Legionnaire

July & August 2009

Commander's Message

Stop the merry go round! Let me off this whirling dervish of everything having to be done now. Impassioned pleas to do this and that without any specific means of paying for it are most deafening. The "hurry up and do it now" results in totally unmanageable action: e.g., a 1,100-page bill passed without having been read by our legislators is irresponsible. This is just a start. Bills introduced 20 - 30 years ago were 30 pages; now they are up in the hundreds of pages with "goodies for all." Most of our legislators are college graduates and attorneys. Every attorney I have met has advised me not to sign anything without reading it and obtaining legal counsel. I guess following their own advice would not be consistent with the "hurry up and do it now...we will fix it later" attitude in Washington D.C.

In the midst of this frenzied political business and social hubbub, there comes time for peace and sanity for members of Lithuanian Post 154. We open our Post meetings as former Armed Services members, and now civilians, by saluting the Colors of our nation. We then proceed with a prayer by the chaplain. This is a recognition of the first phrase of the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution: "For God and Country." We continue with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and remember our POWs, MIAs and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. These actions remind us of who we are: members of The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154. We end our meeting with a prayer. How different from the outside noises around us!

Our recent activities consisted of participating in the Baltimore District's Memorial Day Service at the Baltimore National Cemetery on May 30. Vincent Dulys and I participated in the service and several other Post members attended. The Post participated at the Lithuanian Festival. The Lithuanian Festival opened on May 30 and we presented the Colors on May 31. Gintaras Buivys, past Lithuanian Post 154 Commander, was master of ceremonies. A big thank you to Gintaras Buivys for contributing a TV, a converter box and a DVD player for a raffle. Thanks to Fred Kaminski and Toivo Tagamets, the "Dynamic Duo," for maintaining our booth and selling raffle tickets. Proceeds from the raffle and donation jar were given to The Multiple Sclerosis Society. Thanks also to the Color Guard and all others who helped to make this a good showing of our Post to the Lithuanian Community.

We had final nominations and elections of Delegates to the Department Convention at the May General Meeting. We had final nominations and elections of Post Officers for 2009 - 2010 at the June General Meeting. A list of Delegates and Post Officers are listed on the next page of this

Lithuanian Festival



Lithuanian Post 154 Color Guard participating in Opening Ceremony at Lithuanian Festival.

Lithuanian Post 154 participated in the 2009 Lithuanian Festival. Thanks to Fred Kaminski and Toivo Tagamets for setting up and manning our information booth. Visitors were given information about The American Legion and Lithuanian Post 154, and were able to enjoy a video of the Four Chaplains Service held at St. Alphonsus Church.

There was plenty of food, drink and good company.

newsletter.

Of note: as of the middle of June, Lithuanian Post 154 is the only 3-Star Post in the Baltimore District. Kudos to all members for a job well done. With your help, we can again gain 3-Star status in 2010. Please respond to your membership renewal notice promptly.

All in all, this has been a very successful year. As of this writing we have had no member report to Post Everlasting this year. So as it is said, "God Willing" we will continue our association, comradeship and mutual helpfulness for another year.

Continued best wishes for good health so that you may enjoy the rest of the summer and all of life's good things.

John Maskavich
Commander

Membership

Lithuanian Post 154 closed out fiscal year 2009 with 98 members. We surpassed our Department goal by 4 members and were the first Post in The Department of Maryland to reach 3-Star status. Fiscal year 2010 starts on July 1, 2009 and looks very promising for our Post. We have 6 new members joining in July. Several people attending the Lithuanian Festival expressed interest in transferring to our Post.

New members for fiscal year 2010 are: Heath Cherneski, (currently serving as a U.S. Army test pilot); Stephen Cherneski, (currently serving with the 20th special forces group - U.S. Army); Joseph Cherneski (currently serving with the U.S. Navy ceremonial honor guard in Washington D.C.); Bronius Galinaitis - Annapolis, MD; Joseph Keydash - Baltimore, MD; and Vytautas Ramunas - Miami, FL.

Everyone should be receiving notices from National for their 2010 dues; please make your \$21 check payable to American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 and mail it to me. My address is on the last page of this newsletter. Rather than paying annual dues, Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership is also available. Rates are based on your age. The chart below lists the age brackets and rates. Let me know if you are interested.

Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54
\$732	\$696	\$657	\$614	\$567	\$517	\$463
55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	Over 84
\$407	\$351	\$296	\$244	\$195	\$152	\$123

I would like to recognize eight members who have been members for over 50 years.

Balys J. Brasauskas - 57	Robert S. Burr - 50
Edward D. Daniels - 66	Frank V. Giannino - 52
Vaclovas Laukaitis - 51	Algis A. Paplonskis - 53
Olgard Rackus - 65	Richard T. Seymour - 64

Vincent Dulys
Membership Chairman
Lithuanian Post 154

2009 - 2010 Post Officers

Election of Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2009 - 2010 took place at the June General Meeting. The elected officers are:

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	Algis Paplonskis
	Joseph Saurusaitis
	Joseph Jankevicius

Stimulus Joke from Internet

Three contractors are bidding to fix a broken fence at the White House. One is from Chicago, another is from Tennessee, and the third is from Minnesota.

All three go with a White House official to examine the fence. The Minnesota contractor takes out a tape measure and does some measuring, then works some figures with a pencil. "Well," he says, "I figure the job will run about \$900: \$400 for materials, \$400 for my crew and \$100 profit for me."

The Tennessee contractor also does some measuring and figuring, then says, "I can do this job for \$700: \$300 for materials, \$300 for my crew and \$100 profit for me."

The Chicago contractor doesn't measure or figure, but leans over to the White House official and whispers, "\$2,700." The official, incredulous, says, "You didn't even measure like the other guys! How did you come up with such a high figure?"

The Chicago contractor whispers back, "\$1000 for me, \$1000 for you, and we hire the guy from Tennessee to fix the fence."

"Done!" replies the government official.

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

Sick Call

Edmond Bartas
8 Robins Nest Ct
Randallstown, MD 21133

Edward Budelis
2307 Lake Circle
Eldersburg, MD 21784



Ed Budelis holding Sir Koff-a-lot.

Ed Budelis underwent triple bypass surgery and is doing well. He expects to be able to go home after a couple of weeks of therapy at Brinton Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation facility near Winfield, MD.

2009 Convention Delegates

John Maskavich, Vincent Dulys, Balys Brasauskas and Joseph Jankevicius were elected Lithuanian Post 154 delegates to the Maryland American Legion Convention in Ocean City. All members are welcome to stop by the Lithuanian Post 154 hospitality room. Schedule of events and address of hospitality room is listed in Calendar & Reminders.

The American Flag

"Born during the nation's infancy, I have grown with it, my stars increasing in number...the domain over which I wave expanding until the sun on my flying folds never sets.

Filled with significance are my colors of red, white, and blue into which have been woven the strength and courage of American manhood, the love and loyalty of American womanhood.

Stirring are the stories of my stars and stripes.

I represent the Declaration of Independence.

I stand for the Constitution of the United States.

I reflect wealth and grandeur of this great Land of Opportunity.

I signify the Law of the Land.

I tell the Achievements and progress of the American people in art and science, culture and literature, invention and commerce, trade and industry.

I stand for peace and good will among the nations of the world.

I believe in tolerance.

I am the badge of the nation's Greatness, and the emblem of its Destiny.

Threaten Me and Millions Will Spring to My Defense.

I AM THE AMERICAN FLAG.¹

¹KNOW YOUR AMERICANISM — AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION."

The above poem was printed in the 1996 June/July issue of Lithuanian Post 154 "Legionnaire." Through the years, our flag and what it stands for, has been threatened. But as the poem promises, millions of patriotic Americans have sprung to its defense. The vast majority of Americans hold "Old Glory" sacred, but the Supreme Court and the U.S. Senate say desecrating our flag is OK. The Supreme Court in 1989 ruled that burning our flag is a form of "speech plus" that is protected by the First Amendment. Efforts by millions since then, including The American Legion, to pass a constitutional amendment protecting our flag have failed. Passage of the amendment failed by only one vote in 2006. Call or write your U.S. Senators and ask them to pass the flag amendment.



Baltic Remembrance Day



Legionnaires Toivo Tagamets, Joseph Jankevicius, Balys Brasauskas and John Maskavich attended the Joint Baltic American National Committee's (JBANC) organized "Baltic Remembrance Day" service at the Victims of Communism Memorial in Washington, D.C. on June 14th.

The Victims of Communism Memorial is a replica of the *Goddess of Democracy* statue that was made from paper by dissidents during the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989.

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 reminded us of the 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 service started with an invocation followed by a short history of the suffering the Baltic nations endured under Communism. A survivor of Siberia deportation related her experiences about trying to stay alive. She and her family were taken from their farm after being given only a few hours to pack. The Soviets wanted her father's farm for their Collectivization Program. Farms were taken away by the Socialist state and farmers deported or forced to move into villages and then work for the state on the lands the state had stolen from them. She saw starvation, inhumane treatment, death and unbelievable courage. She repeatedly said "I don't know where we found the courage." Representatives from the three nations read names of some of the people deported to Siberia. The service ended with everyone leaving with sad hearts and teary eyes.

The JBANC plans to make this service an annual event. Consider attending next year.

Multiple Sclerosis

The Chesapeake Challenge Walk took place on Saturday & Sunday - June 13th & 14th in Chestertown, MD on the Eastern Shore with 750 volunteers participating in the event. Over \$750,000 was raised for Multiple Sclerosis Society. Our "Viltis" team walked 30 miles that weekend and raised nearly \$7,000.

We wish to thank The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154, and individual Post members, their families and friends who donated to this worthy cause.

Birute Gorrell



Team Viltis

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@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



**Huh, you plan to borrow and
spend your way to prosperity?**

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

Calendar & Reminders

July

Wed	01	FY 2010 Membership starts - send in your Lithuanian Post 154 dues
Thu	02	U.S. Army Air Corps established (1926)
Sat	04	Independence Day Observed
Wed	08	No Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting in July
Mon-Fri	13-17	American Legion Department of Maryland Convention - Ocean City, MD Lithuanian Post 154 Hospitality Room at Bradley on the Bay - Bldg A - 304 Located on Ocean Highway next to southeast corner of Convention Center parking lot. All members are welcome to stop by. Convention Itinerary:
Mon	13	Fish Fry behind Convention Hall - everyone welcome - 4 PM - 6 PM
Tue	14	Legion College classes at Convention Center - 8 AM to 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)

August

Sat	01	Air Force Day
Tue	04	United States Coast Guard Established (1790)
Wed	12	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Fri	14	Japan surrendered ending WW II (1945)
Wed	19	National Aviation Day
Fri - Thu	21-27	American Legion National Convention in Louisville, KY
Wed	26	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - J-Ray's Café - 7:30 PM

September

Mon	07	Labor Day
Wed	09	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	10	Baltimore District Meeting - host: Northeastern Post 285
Mon	14	Star Spangled Banner written by Francis Scott Key (1814)
Thu	17	Constitution Day (text of Constitution approved by Congress in 1787)
Fri	18	U.S. Air Force established (1947)
Fri	18	POW/MIA Recognition Day
Sat	19	Rosh Hashanah
Sun	20	Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers - Lithuanian Hall - 1 PM
Tue	22	First day of autumn
Wed	23	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Meeting - J-Ray's Café - 7:30 PM
Mon	28	Yom Kippur

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

As an American, a war vet, a member of Lithuanian Post 154, a registered Democrat and a Conservative, I am neither ashamed nor afraid to admit that I am deeply troubled by the actions and planned actions of President and Commander-in-Chief Barack Obama.

I see nothing but dire consequences.

But that's just my opinion. Others may disagree with me. That's why I am requesting that you invite other Post members to send in their comments regarding how they feel about the current Administration in Washington, D.C. And then provide space in following issues of Legionnaire to print those comments.

Thanks,

Richard Seymour
Lithuanian Post 154 member since 1946