

**One-Year
Post History of
Lithuanian Post 154**

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Baltimore, Maryland

for

2023 - 2024

**By Henry L. Gaidis
Post Historian**

INTRODUCTION

Lithuanian Post 154, in the Northern Maryland Region, District 4, is without doubt the most unique post in The American Legion Department of Maryland and may be able to claim the same for the entire American Legion organization. Its uniqueness starts with Lithuanian Post 154's name. It is not named, as most posts, after one of the nation's great military heroes or a geographical area, but an ethnic nationality. Lithuanian Post 154 was founded by Lithuanian immigrants after WW I. Likewise, most of today's post members are Lithuanian immigrants or their descendants that are proud Americans who cherish their Lithuanian heritage, culture, and history of the Lithuanian people. As such, a significant number of its members do not even live in the State of Maryland but have joined because of their shared heritage.

Decades have passed and posts all over the nation have lost all of their World War I members, their World War II and Korean War members are being depleted daily, and even our Vietnam War members are now joining the ranks of senior citizens. Since time is not on our side, in 2018 for Lithuanian Post 154's 75 Year Anniversary Celebration, the Post published a history booklet that documents in great detail Lithuanian Post 154's early history as well as the contributions early Lithuanian immigrants made toward America gaining its independence and maintaining its freedom since the American Revolution. Since the 75 Year Anniversary booklet had page limitations to keep it within budget, the post started work on this "Ongoing Post History" The Ongoing History includes the material from the booklet and follows with events that prompted the establishment of Lithuanian Post 154 and continues in yearly order thereafter. This year's 2023-2024 history will be added to the Ongoing Post History and that of every subsequent year will be added in a similar manner.

Lithuanian Post 154 is submitting this history using the framework of The American Legion One-Year Post History, but with some deviations. Rather than including the establishment of The American Legion, American Legion Preamble, listing Lithuanian community's WW I and WW II veterans or copies of Post 154's Original Charter documents, etc. in the One-year Post History, the reader is directed to find these permanent historical documents in the Ongoing Post History Appendix - A and Photo Scrapbook in Appendix - B.

Dedication and Acknowledgements:

This History of Lithuanian Post 154 was only possible because of diligent work performed by prior Lithuanian Post 154 historians. For this reason, this history book is dedicated to the Post's past historians, Edward Budelis, Charles Sarpalis, Gintaras Buivys, and past and current editors of the Post's *Legionnaire* newsletter, Edward Budelis, John Mazz, Gintaras Buivys, Alexander Radzius, Romunas J. Noreika, and Joseph S. Jankevicius.

The current Historian would be remorse if he did not also acknowledge this Lithuanian Post 154 History was prepared with the help and support of Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius.

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ONE YEAR POST 154 HISTORY 2023 – 2024

Chapter 1 – Roster of Post Officers:



Commander
Joseph S. Jankevicius



Vice Commander - Chaplain
Gintaras Buivys



Adjutant – Finance Officer
Vince T. Dulys



Service Officer
Patrick Dohlus



Historian
Henry Gaidis



Sergeant at Arms
John Potts



Executive Officers
Leon Lukas, Augustinas Uleckas



Chapter 2 – Roster of Post Chairmen and Members:

AMERICANISM

Vincentas T. Dulys

Gintaras Buivys, Walter Cooper, Patrick Dohlus,
Joseph Jankevicius, Howard Koontz, Leon Lukas, John Potts,
Thomas Sadauskas

CEREMONIAL & INSTALLATION

Vincentas T. Dulys

Gintaras Buivys, Walter Cooper, Patrick Dohlus,
Joseph Jankevicius, Howard Koontz, Leon Lukas, John Potts,
Thomas Sadauskas

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Joseph S. Jankevicius

Patrick Dohlus, John Potts

FINANCE

Vincentas T. Dulys

Gintaras Buivys, Joseph S. Jankevicius

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Henry L. Gaidis

Gintaras Buivys, Thomas Sadauskas

POST EVERLASTING-POPPY

Gintaras Buivys

Vincentas T. Dulys, Walter Cooper, Patrick Dohlus,
Joseph Jankevicius, Howard Koontz, Leon Lukas, John Potts,
Thomas Sadauskas

HOUSE & ENTERTAINMENT

Vincentas T. Dulys

Gintaras Buivys

LEGISLATIVE

Henry L. Gaidis

Gintaras Buivys, Walter Cooper, Thomas Sadauskas

MEMBERSHIP

Gintaras Buivys

Vincentas T. Dulys, Joseph Jankevicius

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Patrick M. Dohlus

Joseph S. Jankevicius, Leon Lukas, John Potts

NATIONAL SECURITY

Henry L. Gaidis

Thomas Sadauskas

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Gintaras Buivys

Vincentas T. Dulys, Henry Gaidis, Joseph S. Jankevicius

Chapter 3 – One Year Post History:**May 2023**

On May 4, 2023, American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 Vice Commander Gintaras Buivys and Historian Henry L. Gaidis hosted the Republic of Lithuania Embassy, Minister Plenipotentiary Artūras Vazbys, First Secretary; Ryte Kukulskyte, First Secretary, and their honored visiting guest, Aurimas Valujavičius, the third person in the world to have row solo across the Atlantic for a tour around the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall, Lithuanian Museum, and Lithuanian National Library. Valujavičius left Spain on December 26, 2022, and arrived in Florida 121 days later on April 25, 2023, after rowing for 5,000 miles. His event made world news and was featured on several internet documentary videos related to his journey.

On May 10, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Lithuanian Hall, during which nomination and elections for 2023-2024 Post Officers took place. Nominated servicing officers were unopposed and re-elected unanimously. Elected officers were Joseph S. Jankevicius, Vice Commander/Chaplain Gintaras Buivys,

Adjutant/Finance Officer Vincentas T. Dulys, Judge Advocate/Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus, Historian Henry L. Gaidis, Sergeant-at-Arms Toivo Tagamets, and Executive Committee members Leon Lukas and Augustinas Uleckas. At the meeting, Vincent Buivys, Vincent Dulys, Henry Gaidis, Joe Jankevicius and John Pots were elected delegates and alternates to the American Legion, Department of Maryland, 2023 Convention.

On May 22, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 and the Baltimore Lithuanian Community experienced a tremendous loss. Vitas (Vito) Petras Siaurusaitis, a Korean War veteran and Lithuanian Post 154 Member since 1966, passed away at age 84. Vitas was born in Kybartai, Lithuania, and immigrant to Baltimore with his family during the post World War era. He was an active post member who participated at all Post events and rarely missed a meeting. He served as the Post Finance Officer for many years and most recently a source of common sense on the Executive Committee. Vito was an active supporter of Baltimore's Lithuanian Community, and you could always find him working at its annual Lithuanian Festivals, dining at the Lithuanian Hall on Friday evenings, and at Sunday mass at St. Alphonsus Church. He was a charter member of the Baltimore Athletic Club and coaching youth teams. Lithuanian Post 154 Poppie and Church Services took place on May 31, 2023, at St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church with burial following at Loudon Park Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland.

On May 30, 2023, Post 154 Members attended The American Legion, North Central District, Memorial Day Services held at the Baltimore National Cemetery in Catonsville, Maryland. Post Adjutant Vince Dulys conducted the POW/MIA Service assisted by Joe Jankevicius, Post 154 and Bill Ganz, Post 109, posted the KIA Flag. The keynote speaker at the commemoration was Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott who happily had his photograph taken with post members. Other Post Members attending the commemoration included Gintaras Buivys, Henry Gaidis, Augustinas Uleckas and pos friend, Mark Zaruba, who played Taps at the end of the service. A video crew filmed and posted the Memorial Service on Baltimore City's YouTube channel "CharmTV Citizens Hub."

June 2023

During June 10 and 11, 2023, the Baltimore Lithuanian Festival returned to the Lithuanian Hall after a three-year break due to the Covid-19 Chinese Pandemic. The festival was well attended and attendees were continuously entertained by folk dancers, music, and signing performances. There was plenty of delicious Lithuanian food and drink. Vendors were on hand selling Lithuanian Amber jewelry, souvenirs, smoke meats, cakes and excellent hand-crafted wood carvings and paintings.

Due to some lingering Covid issues and space limitations the festival committee curtailed its traditional festival opening ceremony with the colors already in place on the stage of the gala hall. Although the post did not have a flag detail, it still took an active part in the festival activities with it uniformed members manning The American Legion,

Lithuanian Post 154 Information Booth, and in the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum. The booth was decorated with Red, White, and Blue patriotic colors and contained literature and many past and current American Legion memorabilia items. Over a dozen membership applications were given out and a past member renewed. Legionnaire Alfred Kylaivas who moved to Alabama several years ago was in attendance and is now once again an active member in the post. Without doubt one of the biggest hits of the festival were free blue and gold balloons given to kids at the post table. Among Post Legionnaires who manned the booth giving out information and literature and constantly blowing up balloons were Gintaras Buivys, Walt and Wendy Cooper, Vincent Dulys, and Augustinas Uleckas.

The Baltimore Lithuanian Museum located on the third floor of the hall was opened and public tours and historic information provided by the museum curator Henry Gaidis who is also the post 154 Historian. Many American Legion historic items are on public display in the museum. Post Legionnaire Thomas Sadauskas who is a well-known Baltic Genealogical also provided genealogy information and coaching to visitors.

Among the many visitors to the post table were Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States Audra Plepyte and the Lithuanian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Egidijus Meilunas who was presented with American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154, tie with Vytis emblem, he proudly wore during the festival. Visitors to the festival could not turn around without see The American Legion colors and uniforms.

On June 14, 2023, the Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue. The meeting consisted of discussion related to post functions, finances, membership health issues and the dissemination of new and updates on ongoing American Legion, National, Department, District, and Post activities. Meeting largely related to details and activities of the Department of Maryland upcoming July Convention in Ocean City, Maryland.

On June 28, 2023, Post 154 held a General Meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue. In addition to standard review and discussion of past, current, and future American Legion, National, Department, Division and posts events, finances, and post member health issues, Lithuanian Post 154 officially sworn in its May elected Post Officers and Convention Delegates and Alternates. Elected Officers and Delegates were submitted the same day to the department in accordance with department request.

The Baltimore Lithuanian Hall closes during the June-August Summer months and there for no post events are held there during these months.

July 2023

During July 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaire Thomas Sadauskas, who also serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in USAF Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was an escort officer for sixteen CAP Cadets during a visit to the United Kingdom (UK) as part of the International Air

Cadet Exchange (IACE) Program. The Cadets were part of a group of fifty-three cadets from ten countries who toured the UK for two and a half weeks.

Lithuanian Post 154 was well represented at the Department of Maryland 2022 Convention held from July 10 through July 14, 2023, in Ocean City, Maryland. Post delegates were Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys, Henry Gaidis, Joseph Jankevicius and John Potts. The formal convention began the morning of July 13th with Adjutant Dulys serving as the Master of Ceremonies conducted the POW/MIA service. That evening Vincent also served as the Master of Ceremonies with post members Gintaras Buivys and Henry Gaidis participating in the Department of Maryland Post Everlasting Memorial Service in remembrance of our departed Department comrades who reported to Supreme Commander the past year.

Once again, our post '*Legionnaire*' newsletter won the John Sloan Newsletter Award for the best newsletter in the 15 to 150 post member category. This was the fifteenth time that Joe Jankevicius, Post 154 Commander and the Editor of the '*Legionnaire*' has won this award. In addition, Post Historian Henry Gaidis, with his first Post History submission won both the Department of Maryland award for the "Best Post History Book" in the "15 to 150 Member" category and also the Department of Maryland "Best Overall History" award.

In traditional fashion, Lithuanian Post 154 members also held a Hospitality Open House in the Bay Condominium building adjacent to the Convention Center for visiting Legionnaires and their guests.

On July 21, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaire Henry Gaidis, Chairman Post Foreign Affairs Committeeman, also serves on the Lithuanian American Council (LAC) – Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) Board of Directors, was among those invited to attend the U.S. State Department, and Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuania Embassies Commemoration of the 1940 Signing of the Sumner Welles Declaration. The Welles Declaration authored by U.S. Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles and written by Foreign Service Officer and Diplomat Loy Henderson, stated that the United States did not recognize the 1940 Russian annexation of the Baltic States. Estonian Ambassador Kristjan Prikk, Lithuanian Deputy Chief of Mission Artūras Vazbys, and Deputy Chief of Mission Jānis Beķeris, Latvian Embassy, each spoke to the importance of the Welles Declaration in not allowing the Baltics to become fully absorbed into the Soviet Union and a reminder during 50 years of Cold War occupation that their countries would once again be free.

On July 26, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue. Meeting discussions centered around the past convention and post planning of upcoming meetings and functions. The main emphasis was upon the post's formal Officer Installation Ceremony in September and event planning and community award and scholarships selections,

August 2023

On August 9, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall, consisting of National, Department, Division and post information dissemination and discussions related to the recent Department of Maryland Convention, upcoming post events, and ongoing post functions, finances, membership health issues.

On August 30, 2023, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, which after the traditional post opening ceremony included information and discussions about upcoming American Legion National, Department, District, and Post events. The emphasis of the meeting related to next month's post formal installation of officers ceremony, scholarship and community awards.

September 2023

On September 12, 2023, Lithuanian Post was saddened upon learning that Legionnaire Joseph Gaila, age 93, had passed away. Joe was a Korean War US Marine Corps Veteran and member of the post since 1988, He was born in Lithuania and fled Lithuania with his family in 1945 in advance of the invading Russian army. Joe was a graduate of Loyal University, Baltimore, Maryland, and chemist by profession. He very active in Lithuanian American activities and a founding member of the Baltimore Lithuanian American Organization, Inc. served on community central board from 1973-1976, an organizer its organizations summer youth camps, held various positions in the Catholic youth and student organization "*Ateitis*", radio announcer at the Philadelphia's Voice of the Lithuanian Community and Baltimore's Melody Times radio programs, and regularly contributed articles to the Lithuanian and English language "*Draugas*" Newspapers. In addition, Joe served on a nation and international level the President of the American Lithuanian Community Board from 1973-1976 and the Lithuanian World Community Representative to Lithuania in 2003. Joe was one of the most actives member of the Lithuanian American Community in Baltimore, the United States, and his ancestral homeland for decades. In 2003, Joe was honored by Lithuania President Valdas Adamkus with the *Lithuanian Order of Gediminas* for his outstanding contribution to Lithuanian civil and public affairs. He took great pride in having been selected as the keynote speaker at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall gala 100th Year Anniversary celebration. Joe was given a traditional American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 *Poppie Ceremony* and laid to rest on September 26, 2023, in the Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Crownsville, Maryland, with military honors. Without doubt, Joseph Gaila will be missed by Lithuanian Post 154 and the entire Lithuanian World Community. Rest in peace my fellow Legionnaire.

On September 13, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall, during which discussions related to post functions, finances, membership health issues and the dissemination of new and updates on ongoing American Legion, National, Department, District, and Post activities were discussed. The bulk of the meeting was devoted to finalizing the program and details related to the post's annual gala Officers Installation Ceremony.

On September 17, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 held its Annual Officers Installation Ceremony at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. In traditional fashion, the ceremony was preceded by an open house in the venerable building's festive decorated grand ballroom which provided time for the post Legionnaires to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends. Guests could tour the old historic building, its Lithuanian museum, and view an American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154, memorabilia display tables setup by Post Historian and Lithuanian Museum Curator Henry Gaidis. The display also included the Lithuanian Post 154 winning 2023 American Legion, Maryland Department of Maryland Convention "Best History Book" that also received the National Convention honorable mention. Among the event's honored guests were Past National Executive Committeeman Melvin C. Smullen and Past Department Commander James P. Marchinke.

The program commenced with Post Adjutant Vincent Dulys calling the assembled facing the National, Lithuanian, and Post Colors in place on the ballroom stage. Deanna Howes Spiro then sang the Lithuanian and National Anthems followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Father Dan Staniskis, a Moment of Silence in Remembrance of the 9-11-2001 Events, and the reciting of the American Legion Preamble. Lithuanian Post 154 then recognized and presented awards to members of our community, including Police Officer of the Year award to Officer Arthur Fuog, Fireman of the Year to Lt, Darryll P. Williams, and Teacher of the Year award to Jared Perry the music teacher at Brooker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts. The Post's \$1000 Scholarship Awards were presented to Ava Welch a graduate of Centennial High School and current High Point University, High Point, North Carolina and Anton Uleckas, a graduate of St. Joseph High School and now attending Mt. St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Special awards were presented to Past Post Commander Balys Brasauskas, age 98, in recognition of being the oldest post member. Mrs. Loreto Vogel a Certificate of Appreciation for decades of Post Volunteer Service, and Post Historian Henry Gaidis an American Legion, Historian Officer Badge in recognition of his service as post historian since 2000.

Sadly, during the Post Everlasting Service, farewell was said for three Lithuanian Post Members who reported to The Supreme Commander. Lebanon War Veteran Isabel M. Slifer, and Korean War Veterans Vitas Siaurusaitis, and Joseph Gaila. May they rest in Peace. Mark Zaruba, a long-time post supporter played Taps during the service.

The honorable Past Department Commander James P. Marchinke performed the formal Lithuanian Post 154 Officers Installation for the 2023-2024 year. The officers installed were Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius, Vice Commander/Chaplain Gintaras Buivys, Adjutant/Finance Officer Vincentas T. Dulys, Judge Advocate/Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus, Historian Henry L. Gaidis, Sergeant-at-Arms John M Potts, Jr., and Executive Committee members Leon Lukas and Augustinas Uleckas. Among the Honored guests were the Lithuanian Deputy Defense Attaché Valdermaras Andriuskevicius and many current and past American Legion National, Department, and District officers.

The formal Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers 2022-2023 ended with Adjutant Vincent Dulys leading the assembled singing *God Bless America*. The event continued for some time thereafter while post members and their guests enjoyed a delicious meal and watched Lithuanian Folk Dancing performed by the *Malunas* and *Metuva* Lithuanian folk-dance groups.

On September 18, 2023, the Vilnius City Council, Vilnius, Lithuania, awarded Lithuanian Post 154, Historian Henry L. Gaidis, the honorary title and badge of the “*Patron of the City of Vilnius*” (Vilniaus miesto savivaldybės mecenato) by Lithuanian Ambassador Audra Plepyte, in a formal ceremony held at the Lithuanian Embassy, Washington, D.C. Gaidis was the tenth award recipient and the first American to be conferred with this prestigious title in appreciation of his Lithuanian military collection donation to the Lithuanian National Museum that made a significant cultural contribution to the enhancing the City of Vilnius.

On September 27, 2023, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, at which time new and updates related to ongoing American Legion, National, Department, District, and Post activities, finances, membership health issues were discussed.

October 2023

On October 25, 2023, Post 154 held its Executive Committee meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, where they largely discussed upcoming Department, District, and Post events, planning of activities related to the Four Frenchmen Memorial Service, Back to God Mass, and Veteran’s Day Memorial activities and future post meetings and functions.

November 2023

On November 4, 2023, Post Legionnaires took part in the Four Frenchmen Memorial Service held at St. Mary’s of Assumption Church Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland. This annual Baltimore Memorial Service commemorates three WWI Allied French Sailors, Pierre Chatodal, Louis Brazzard and Louis Gouger, who died in 1918 after contracting the “Spanish Influenza” and Joseph Mevel who drowned while

swimming in Port Covington, who were buried in Baltimore after their next of kin couldn't be located. American Legion, Post 285, provided the event color guard during which time French flags and poppies were placed upon their graves.

On November 8, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall where in addition to normal information dissemination conversation related to the Department Veterans Day Service and Rededication of the Bladensburg World War I Veterans Memorial.

On November 10, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154, Foreign Relations Committee Members Gintaras Buivys and Henry Gaidis hosted and gave Žilvinas Tomkus, Vice-Minister, Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Lithuania and two military attaches, at tour of the historic Baltimore Lithuanian Hall and downtown area upon their arrival in at Baltimore International Airport. After leisurely lunch, the Minister and his staff continued their travelled to the Lithuanian Embassy, Washington, D.C., for arranged U.S. Defense Department meetings.

On November 11, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 members attended the Maryland Department Veterans Day Service commemorating the signing the 1918 World War I Armistice, and Rededication of the Bladensburg World War I Veterans Memorial. The 40-foot cross was erected with private funds in 1925 in memory of 49 WWI veterans from Prince Georges County. Since it is on public land, an atheist group sought attempted to have it legally removed. After a 7 years legal battle, the U.S. Supreme Court in 2019 ruled that the historic monument could stay. Thanks to American Legion Greenbelt Post 136's fundraising efforts, support from the Maryland-National Park Commission, and many others, the monument has been restored and was rededicated.

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 continued its annual "Back to God" Mass held at Our Lady of Victory Church, Arbutus, Maryland. Fr. Bill Keown introduced post members to Our Lady of Victory parishioners and thanked us for our participation at the mass. For new American Legion members, the Back to God Mass began during the early 1950 era when The American Legion took a strong anti-Communist stance, consistent with the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution, which begins with the words "For God and Country". The American Legion formally endorsed a "Back to God" movement resolution during its 1951 Miami National Convention and these masses were soon adopted by many posts and divisions around the country.

The "*Back to God Mass*" started in Maryland in 1953 by Father Anthony Dranginis, Lithuanian Post 154, a World War II combat Maine veteran who served as our post commander, Chaplin, and for many years the Department of Maryland Chaplin. With a few exceptions, this mass has been held yearly since that time. Initially these services began in the form of Catholic military field masses held at Holy Redeemers and later at the Baltimore National Cemetery on Memorial Days. For many years, these Back to God Masses were a recurring event on the American Legion, Baltimore Division, calendar. Although these masses continued for many years thereafter, they

waned over time. After this year's mass, Lithuanian Post 154 members, their spouses, and attending friends, met for lunch and socializing at a nearby Catonsville, Maryland, restaurant. Our honored guest was Ronald L. Holcombe who attended the mass and was later elected as an Alternate National Executive Committeeman for 2023-2024.

On November 29, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, where in addition to the normal American Legion National, Department, Division and Post ongoing information a discussion related to member participation and the financing of the Lithuanian Hall Christmas and New Years Celebration. Post 154 once again agreed to provide the Lithuanian Hall's annual Christmas tree and post members were urged to attend and support agreed all ongoing Lithuanian Hall and St. Alphonsus Church holiday functions.

December 2023

In December 2023, the Lithuanian Official Military History, Science Journal, The Sword (*Kardas*), was published in Vilnius, Lithuania. This October-December 2023, Lithuanian quarterly publication contained fourteen-page Lithuanian language article by Lithuanian Post 154 Historian, Henry L. Gaidis, that was translated from an English article captioned Liberation of Klaipeda (*Klaipėdos išvadavimas*). The article is part of a series of historic Lithuanian military articles written by the Post 154 Historian that has been being published for several years for the knowledge of the current Lithuanian military. This article features the story of the Lithuania 1922-1923 Liberation of Klaipeda (Memel). Stephen Darius was a Lithuanian American World War I veteran; American Legion, Darius & Girenas Post 271, Chicago, Illinois Legionnaire; and a 1933 non-stop Transatlantic Aviator.

Although Lithuanian Post 154 did not hold and meeting of special events during the Christmas and New Years Holidays, its member participated and took an active party in the traditional Baltimore Lithuanian Hall and St. Alphonsus Church holiday celebrations and services. The post continued it decades old tradition providing the Lithuanian Hall Christmas Tree which is always a center piece of the community's holiday events. The Lithuanian Hall Christmas Bazar was a gala holiday event with many local and visiting first time guest. Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis had the Lithuanian Museum open to the public where many people who never knew it existed took to opportunity to visit and learn about Lithuanian and American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 activities.

January 2024

On January 31. 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 held joint General and Executive Meetings at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, where in addition to the normal American Legion National, Department, Division and Post ongoing information disseminations and discussions, the post was honored by the attendance of the

Department of Maryland, Senior Vice Commander David Herevia. Commander Herevia gave an outstanding update of American Legion and Department of Maryland activities.

In addition, information was provided related to members about the Lithuanian Community of Washington, D.C., February 16, 2024, Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration. Lithuanian American Veterans from the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore area frequently attend each other communities' events.

February 2024

On February 6, 2024, Legionnaire Thomas Sadauskas, who is a member of Lithuanian Post 154, Foreign Affairs Committee, attended a U.S. House of Representatives, Baltic Caucus event. held at the Latvian Embassy in Washington DC. The Latvian ambassador introduced two members of the House Baltic Caucus. Representative Don Bacon (Nebraska), House Baltic Caucus Co-Chair, and Representative Marionette Miller-Meek, who spoke about continued U.S. support to NATO, the Baltic States, and Ukraine's efforts to defend itself against the Russian invasion of their country.

On February 8, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaire Hugh J. Mills, Jr., age 84, passed away. Hugh was a U. S. Marine Corps veteran and post member since 1966. He served as a Baltimore City Police officer for nearly two decades. Hugh rose to the rank of Lieutenant and served on the K-9 Unit. He later served in the Anne Arundel County Police Department. Prior to joining the police, Deacon Mills served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Deacon Mills was ordained in 1989, and he served at St. Clement Church in Lansdowne from 1989 to 1999 and again from 2016 until his retirement in February 2022. In between, he served as deacon at what is now the National Shrine of St. Alphonsus in Baltimore.

During his ministry, Deacon Mills served as the Associate State Chaplain of the Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus and Assistant Chaplain at the Baltimore Veterans Administration Medical Center. He visited patients and led prayer services at Ascension St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore. Hugh was an active member of the Lithuanian American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154, where he frequently led religious services. At St. Alphonsus, Deacon Hugh also served the church's business manager.

At St. Clement Paristh, Deacon Mills was a leader in the Boy Scout Troop, and he trained the altar servers. Lithuanian Post 154 held a Poppy Service for Deacon Hugh Mills February 15, 2024, and many post members attended his Mass of Christian Burial held at St. Clement Church and interment at Meadowridge Memorial Park. Deacons are known as faithful servants, and Hugh was surely a faithful servant of God.

On February 10, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires took part in the Lithuanian American Community February 16th Independence Day Celebration, held at in Lithuanian Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

On February 28, 2024, Post 154 Executive Committee, because of remodeling work Spirits West Restaurant, held a combined joint General and Executive Officers Meeting at Timbuktu Restaurant in Hanover, Maryland. The meeting largely consisted of discussion related to post functions, finances, membership health issues and the dissemination of new and updates on ongoing American Legion, National, Department, District, and Post activities. A large part of the meeting related to the planning of the post's annual Baltimore Lithuanian Independence Day participation.

March 2024

On March 10, 2024, Baltimore Lithuanian Community (L.A.C.), Incorporated, held its annual Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Post Legionnaires took an active part in cleaning and setting up the festival dining tables and chairs under the supervision of Vice Commander Gintaras Buivys who was heavily engaged in setting up the event acoustic system in the hall's gala ball room.

Buivys also serves as the President of the Baltimore Lithuanian Community and served as the program arranger and Master of Ceremonies at this annual Baltimore Lithuanian Independence Restoration Day Celebration. In traditional fashion, the Post Flag Detail consisting of Legionnaires Walter Cooper, Algirdas Brasauskas, Howard Koontz, Henry Gaidis, and Vincent Dulys, presented the American and Lithuanian National flags and Post 154 Banner, during the opening of the ceremony, singing of the national American and National Anthems and invocation. Post Historian Gaidis, wearing his Post 154 uniform manned the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum where many Lithuanian Post 154 memorabilia items are on display answering hundreds of questions about Lithuanian and American Legion histories.

On March 13, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at Lithuanian Hall where National, Department, Division and Post information was dissemination and discussions took place concerning the recent Department of Maryland Convention, upcoming post events, and ongoing post functions, finances, membership and health issues. It was recommended that Post Members take advantage of The American Legion's internet three-year membership on the website to save money before the anticipated increase its annual dues requirement. Members were also reminded that nomination for 2024-2025 Post Officers positions would begin at our next General Meeting.

On March 15, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 Vice Commander Gintaras Buivys attended the Republic of Lithuania Embassy remembrance commemoration of Lithuania's 50-year struggle for freedom under Russian occupation at the Victims of Communism Museum in Washington, D.C. The event began with welcoming speeches from members of the Victims of Communism members, Lithuanian Ambassador Audra Plepytė, and the curator of the museum's Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights

that was followed by a panel discussion exploring Lithuania's fight for freedom and the ongoing war in Ukraine. A tour of the grand opening of the exhibition and a light reception followed.

On March 16, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 members were in attendance and had post table at the Department of Maryland annual National Commander's Banquet held at Kent Island Post 278, Stevensville, Maryland. A great event that even more gala because of this Kent Island water area location.

On March 16 and 17, 2023, Lithuanian Post Legionnaires took part in the Annual Baltimore Lithuanian Hall, Clean Up Day. Lithuanian Hall Members regularly volunteer their services to keep the venerable historical building doing everything from heavy cleaning to making needed physical repairs. Although Legion uniforms are not worn, post members are well known in the community and take great pride in what they do for the community. All for God and Country.

On March 27, 2024, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, where in addition to the traditional American Legion National, Department, Region, and post new information dissemination. There was also a discussion of the upcoming annual Baltimore Lithuanian Festival.

April 2024

In April 2024, the Lithuanian Official Military History, Science Journal, *The Sword (Kardas)*, was published in Vilnius, Lithuania. This January-March 2024 Lithuanian quarterly publication contained twelve-page Lithuanian language translated article by Lithuanian Post 154 Historian, Henry L. Gaidis, captioned "World War II Veteran Story: Henry V. Gaidis – Pilot Pioneer (*II Pasaulinio karo veteran istorija: Henry V. Gaidis – lakunas pionerius*)". This article is part of an ongoing series of historic Lithuanian military articles written by Gaidis that has been being published for several years for knowledge of current Lithuanian military members. This article features the WWII story of the author's father and Lithuanian Post 154 member, who was used as an example of the millions of Americans who were Our Greatest Generation.

On April 24, 2024, a combined Lithuanian Post 154 General and Executive Committee meeting was held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, where. The meeting discussions included dissemination of ongoing and new National, Department, Region, and Post topics related to finances and membership health. The main topics of discussion related to the post's participation in the annual Baltimore Lithuanian Festival, on May 11 and 12, 2024, at Our Lady of Victor Church School.

On April 27, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaire Thomas Sadauskas, who also serves with the USAF Civil Air Patrol (CAP), escorted ten CAP cadets who visited the USAF 1st Helicopter Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. There the cadets

learned about the squadron's mission, flew helicopter simulators, and received helicopter orientation flights

May 2024

On May 4, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 Vice Commander, Gintaras Buivys was among the invited attendees who celebrated the centenary of the Lithuanian diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C. Ambassador Audra Plepytė acted as the Mistress of Ceremonies at the gala Lithuanian Embassy 100th anniversary of its existence and thanked the Lithuanian community in the United States for its contribution to preserving and nurturing the Lithuanian embassy and the partnership between Lithuania and the United States.

On May 8, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Lithuanian Hall where discussions related to post functions, finances, membership health issues and the dissemination of new and updates concerning American Legion, National, Department, District, and Post activities. The main emphasis of the meeting related to the nomination, election, and election of Lithuanian Post 154 Department of Maryland 2024 Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates and the post's 2024-2025 Lithuanian Post 154 Officers.

Elected and sworn in officers were Commander and Chaplin Gintaras Buivys, Vice Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius, Adjutant and Finance Officer Vincentas T. Dulys, Service Officer and Judge Advocate Patrick M. Dohlus, Historian Henry L. Gaidis, Sergeant-at-Arms Walter Cooper, and Executive Officers John Potts, Thomas Sadauskas and Augustinas Uleckas. Buivys, Jankevicius, Dulys, Gaidis, and Potts were elected delegates and alternates to the American Legion, Department of Maryland, 2024 Convention.

In addition, planning and participation by Lithuanian Post 154 in the 52nd Baltimore Lithuanian Festival, being held on May 11 and 12, 2024, at Our Lady of Victor Church School and May 29, 2024, and The American Legion, North Central District, 25 Memorial Day Services held at the Baltimore National Cemetery in Catonsville, Maryland, were discussed.

On May 9, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 Historian, Henry L. Gaidis, participated in the somber Embassy of Lithuania commemoration of the World War II Jewish Holocaust in Lithuania. Ambassador Audra Plepytė functioned as the Mistress of Ceremonies in her opening remarks noted that as anti-Semitism is on the rise in the world today the embassy hosted this event about the Holocaust in Lithuania to draw attention to the courage of people who risked their lives to save Jews from death. She then introduced U.S. Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, Ms. Ellen Germain who made similar remarks and introduced Professor Emeritus of History at Millersville University Saulius Sužiedėlis, who specializes in the history of Russia, Eastern Europe, Lithuania, the Holocaust and genocide, who was the main speaker. In his presentation entitled "No Simple Story: Rescuers during

the Holocaust,” Professor Sužiedėlis recounted the horrors of the WWII Holocaust that included comments about the 924 Lithuanians who have been honored by Yad Vashem, The World Holocaust Remembrance Center, has recognized as saviors of Jews - Righteous Among the Nations. Follow the remarks, visitors could take part in the opening of a new exhibition captioned “The Righteous Among the Nations, Those who were not afraid to die became immortal” created by the Martynas Mažvydas of the National Library of Lithuania.

During May 11-12, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 took an active part in the festival activities and the manning it American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 Information Booth, and in adjacent Baltimore Lithuanian Museum. Because of the Post’s Information Booth location and colorful patriotic decorated tables, it was the first table seen by every festival visitor before entering the gala festivities area. The festival was well attended, and attendees were continuously entertained by folk dancers, music, and singing performances. There was also plenty of delicious Lithuanian food and drinks. Many vendors were on hand selling Lithuanian Amber jewelry, souvenirs, smoked meats, cakes and excellent hand-crafted wood carvings and paintings.

The American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154, Information booth was decorated with Red, White, and Blue patriotic colors and American flags. Virtually every adult visitor to the booth was asked if they were veterans and if anyone expressed an interest was provided with member application and veteran information literature. Since the festival two new members have applied and hopefully a few more soon follow suit. An ample supply of current US military recruiting service handouts was available for the booths for younger visiting adults. Without doubt one of the biggest hits of the festival were the free blue and gold balloons given to kids at the post table. Among Post Legionnaires who manned the booth giving out information and literature and constantly blowing up balloons were Gintaras Buivys, Vince Dulys, Walt and Wendy Cooper, and Augustinas Uleckas.

In keeping with The American Legion mission to support its community activities, Post Historian and Baltimore Lithuanian Museum Curator Henry Gaidis manned two display tables containing many historical Baltimore Lithuanian ethnic and Post 154 memorabilia items and a large Baltimore Lithuanian History display banner. Post Legionnaire Thomas Sadauskas, well-known Baltic Genealogical. also provided genealogy information and counseling to interested visitors.

On May 10, 2024, Leon George Lukas, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaire Leon Lukas, passed away at home after a long illness. Leon served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971 and was an American Legion member for fifty-two years. At the time of his passing, Leon was serving as a Post 154 Executive Committee officer, On May 15, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 held a Poppy Service for their fellow Legionnaire at Ambrose Funeral Home in Lansdowne, Maryland followed by a private family service.

On May 30, 2024, Lithuanian Post 154 Members attended The American Legion, North Central District, Memorial Day Services held at the Baltimore National Cemetery in Catonsville, Maryland. Post Adjutant Vince Dulys conducted the POW/MIA Service and Post Everlasting Ceremony, assisted by Ronald L. Holcombe, Alternate National Executive Committeeman and Gintaras Buivys, Lithuanian Post 154, posting the KIA Flag. The keynote speaker at the commemoration was Tanya Bradsher, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Other attending post members attending the commemoration included Joseph Jankevicius, Yvette Muhammad, and post friend, Mark Zaruba, who played Taps at the end of the service.

Chapter 4 – Roster of Lithuanian Post 154 Members 2023 – 2024

Post Member	State	Post Member	State
George Adams	MD	Anthony Leketa	MD
Kirk Bauer	MD	Cynthia Leketa	MA
Raymond Beares	MD	Robert Leonavicius	MD
Algirdas Brasauskas	MD	Leon Lukas	MD
Balys Brasauskas	MD	Errol Markowitz	MD
Gintaras Buivys	MD	John Matulonis	MD
Jeffrey Burton	NY	Camilla Maybee	VA
Wayne Callahan	MD	Anton Meisinger	MD
Clarence Catterton	MD	Robert Mellendick	FL
Terrence Chesson	VA	Hugh Mills	MD
Walter Cooper	MD	William Morrison	DE
Charles Crovo	MD	Aaron Morsberger	WV
David Cunningham	MD	Stephen Mueller	MD
Milton Davis	MD	Gediminas Naujokaitis	VA
William Dillon	PA	Mark Nauyalis	MD
Patrick Dohlus	MD	Robert Parks	DE
Valentinas Drazdys	MD	Albert Penkauskas	OH

Vincentas Dulys	MD	Daniel Podlogar	GA
Vytas Dulys	MD	John Potts	MD
William Emerson	VA	Ronald Price	VA
Stanley Eringis	FL	Vilius Ramunas	TX
Henry Gaidis	MD	Vytautas Ramunas	FL
Joseph Gaila	MD	Valentinas Raugas	NJ
John Garpstas	MD	Thomas Sadauskas	VA
David Gorrell	MD	Peter Schweizer	MA
Algimantas Grintalis	FL	Vitas Siaurusaitis	MD
Michael Jacksonis	VA	Gerald Smith	MD
Joseph Jankevicius	MD	Toivo Tagamets	MD
Victor Kareiva	MD	Gary Thiele	OH
Bernard Karpers	MD	Donald Thompson	MD
Thomas Keane	MD	Augustinas Uleckas	MD
Michael Keiser	MD	Algirdas Veluona	MD
Roy Kemmer	PA	James Willis	MD
Howard Koontz	MD	Edward Wilson	MD
James Laucht	MD	Edward Yungaitis	MA
Joseph Lazaravich	MD	James Zeauskas	MD
Richard Leffler	MD		

APPENDIX - A - ONGOING HISTORY OF LITHUANIAN POST 154

The American Legion:

After WW I ended, troops lost a sense of purpose and moral was getting low. It was obvious that thousands of veterans who had become accustomed to rely on their buddies in the foxhole for friendship and support will feel isolated when they return to civilian life. To improve morale, minimize stress and provide an environment for ongoing veteran support, The America Legion veteran fraternal organization was founded.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over one million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at nearly two million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth

Department of Maryland:

The American Legion, Department of Maryland is a veteran and a community service organization which now numbers nearly 40,000 members. It has men and women in 128 American Legion Posts throughout the state of Maryland. These posts range in size from 15 members to over 1,400 members in a given post. Since its chartering in 1919, the Department of Maryland has continued The American Legion's commitment to community, state, and Nation through programs dedicated to Veterans Affairs, Americanism, Children & Youth, and National Defense/Homeland Security.

THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America
to maintain law and order;
to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism;
to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth;
to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

History of the Preamble

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. The Preamble to The American Legion Constitution is a list the principles why the organization was created which continues to this day.

The actual document was prepared before the historical St. Louis Caucus in May 1919 that formed The American Legion. A Committee consisting of John C. Greenaway of Arizona, Hamilton Fish of New York, and George N. Davis of Delaware. They met in private and spent many long evening hours discussing such a document before they agreed upon the principles. Each man then went in seclusion the night before the Caucus was to begin and prepared a draft. Early the next morning they met to compare their drafts and then wrote their proposed Preamble. The Preamble exactly as they wrote it was adopted by the entire Committee on the Constitution and later by the entire Caucus. It was officially adopted in November 1919 at the first National Convention of The American Legion. It is incredible that over the years the Preamble has only been changed once. In 1942, the word "war" was changed to "wars".

Although the sacred words used in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution are clear and easily understood to one and all can be read it themselves. The American Legion still encourages all of its members and supporters take a few moments to read and ponder their meaning of this document regularly and how they apply to our modern-day world. For the vast majority these words are just as true and meaningful today as they were when first written.

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes

...The American Legion recognizes the influence of Almighty God in all worthwhile endeavors and declares the allegiance of Legionnaires to both God and nation.

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America...

The Constitution of the United States is the written bulwark of our free way of life and representative government. It is our guarantee of liberty, freedom, justice and democracy. Members of The American Legion bore arms and went to war to defend and uphold this document of freedom.

To maintain law and order...Without law and order, liberty would become license. Law and order protect our pursuit of happiness, one of our God-given rights. Members of The American Legion served in wars to uphold law and order among nations. It is just as important to maintain the due processes of law in our domestic affairs. It binds Legionnaires to obey the laws of the land and to support the constituted authorities in enforcing those laws.

To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism...Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights and unlimited opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has

blazed the world-wide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work and thrift.

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars...Service in defense of America is the greatest experience in the lifetimes of all veterans. Recalling the highlights of that service means more than flashbacks to tense moments of excitement and danger in battle: the grime of muddy trenches, the perils of sub-infested oceans and the combat in the wild blue yonder. It means also the ineradicable recollection of the comradeships, the bravery of pals, the team work, the sacrifices, the miseries and hardships of military campaigns shared in common. It means the bond that binds all ex-servicemen and women together in mutual affection, respect and gratitude. It also means keeping green forever the memories of the supreme sacrifices of gallant American patriots, sacrifices necessary to the winnings of wars. It means faithful annual observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation...Always interested in building a better nation, the founders of The American Legion believed that such building must start first with the individual in their own community. Our founding Fathers it one of the cardinal principles of The American Legion to inculcate that sense of personal obligation to the community, state and nation into the individual citizen. That means educating the citizen – young, old and future – in his and her responsibility to be active in making the hometown a better place in which to live, in discharging the duty of voting in elections, in paying taxes promptly, in contributing to community chest funds and to blood banks. The word “inculcate” means “to impress by frequent admonitions” and “to enforce by frequent repetitions.” Like the duties themselves, the reminders that they remain to be carried forward are never finished.

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses...This clause places the Legionnaire on the side of right in opposing autocracy by either class or mass when this threatens. In a democracy such as ours, composed as it is of all nationalities, races, creeds and economic groups, there are bound to be both classes and masses. Indeed, the masses are composed of classes – but all groups within the mass must feel assured that in this nation, reason and fairness will prevail in all human activities and relations.

To make right the master of might...Many wars have been started by dictators who wanted their might to be the right. If human freedom is not to perish from the earth, right must always be master of might. The rights of small nations must be protected against the tyranny that powerful neighbors may seek to impose on them, just as the rights of minorities in our society must be protected and respected. Legionnaires are pledged by this clause always to stand with the right, protect the weak and preserve the liberties of the individual. This concept is the basis of The American Legion's continued advocacy of a strong national preparedness so as to achieve the ideal situation that right will be backed by adequate might.

To promote peace and good will on earth...Until the entire world becomes a good neighborhood, Legionnaires must continue the effort to promote peace and good will on earth. It is in pursuance of this founding ideal that The American Legion has supported from the beginning and seeks to strengthen the United Nations organization. Obliquely, The American Legion also contributes to this ideal by firmly supporting a strong national defense to discourage breaking of the peace by aggressors.

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy...On this ideal of safeguarding and transmitting the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, all of the youth-training programs of The American Legion are built. All Americans can be proud that in our international relations we have tried to live by the golden rule, the mark of justice. We have granted to others, as we prize it ourselves, the great boon of freedom.

These principles are part of the American heritage. Legionnaires are pledged to protect and preserve that heritage. To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness This is the most important ideal expressed in our preamble. We can hail The American Legion today as an unparalleled force in these United States for social betterment. American Legion concepts and its ideal of devotion to mutual helpfulness warmed the entire social climate of America. Today America is extending its helpful hands all over the world through our assistance programs of foreign aid. This all came about because the veterans of World War I came home enriched with wonderful ties of friendship and gave those ties meaning by consecrating them to the ideal of mutual helpfulness.

Baltimore Lithuanian American Community:

Although Lithuanian Americans can be documented as arriving in America in colonial times and serving in Pennsylvania militias. They were generally single males seeking to make fortunes and were largely assimilated into the German colonist communities that William Penn encouraged to come to America. Other arriving Lithuanian immigrants served in the American Revolution. A good number came after the failed Polish-Lithuanian insurrections against the nation's Russian occupation in 1812-14, 1831, and 1863-64. Some of these immigrants came with their families, but never in sufficient numbers to establish Lithuanian Communities. It was not until after the Civil War that Lithuanians became arriving in sufficient number to establish their own little neighborhood in Baltimore.

Most of the Baltimore Lithuanian American Community can trace their family roots to immigrants of the first large Lithuanian immigration wave who arrived in the city during the 1880s through 1914 period. Many of these Lithuanian immigrants were military veterans who had been forcibly inducted into the Russian Czar's army or just fled the existing Russian oppressive occupation. Others fled their country to escape famine, serfdom (a form of slavery that compelled peasants to work landowner's property without any rights) and harsh retaliation by the Russian Czar after a series of failed insurrections to gain freedom. Upon arriving in America, the uneducated

immigrants got jobs that Americans did not want. Many Lithuanians went to Chicago to work in meat packing plants, many went to Pennsylvania to work in coal mines and others got jobs in garment industry "sweat shops" in Boston and Baltimore.

These early American Immigrants did not find the government social support programs available today. There was no Unemployment Insurance, Medicaid, Food Stamps, etc. to help them in case of disability or job loss. To obtain a degree of security in case of hard times, immigrants formed their own mutual aid societies based on religious, occupational, or some other common interest much like today's labor unions. With that purpose in mind, two Baltimore Lithuanian American veteran fraternal societies were formed, the Knights of St. Casimir in 1887 and the Knights of St. George in 1903. Both organizations proudly wore their organization's uniforms during community, religious and patriotic events. Both organizations supported America's Great War effort and many of their members quickly volunteered for military service when WW I was declared. Sizable Lithuanian American Communities in other U.S. cities also formed veteran mutual aid societies, volunteered for military service and supported the war effort in similar fashion.



**Antanas Puceta in
Uniform of the Knights of St. Casimir**



**Adolfas Gaidis in
Uniform of the Knights of St. George**

Most Lithuanians were Catholic and immediately after they arrived sought to establish a place to pray and a place to meet. In Baltimore, Lithuanians established St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Lithuanian parish with an elementary school for their children and the Lithuanian Hall for a place to socialize. Virtually every Lithuanian American in Baltimore during World War I and World War II supported the American war efforts. They and their families proudly served their new country in the military and in civilian war efforts with distinction. For example, St. Alphonsus Parish School Hall and the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall often held War Victim Fund raising activities and War

Bond drives.

Lithuanian American World War I veterans, upon returning home from Europe, found their ancestral homeland, Lithuania, trying to gain its independence and in a continuing three-way war with Czarist Russian White forces, Communist Russian forces and the Poles. They knew and had seen first-hand the hardship of life under Russian occupation that their countrymen were living under. After experiencing freedom and democracy in America, these veterans felt duty bound to help their families and friends in Lithuania fight to achieve the same freedoms. Small groups of local Lithuanian American veterans, such as the Freedom Guards, the American Lithuanian Legion, the Alliance of American Lithuanian Soldiers, etc., began to unite with the goal of returning to Lithuania to fight for its independence.

By early 1919 a Lithuanian American Brigade had been formed with an estimated 10,000 volunteers across the United States. They were already American military trained and eager to go to Lithuania to fight for its independence. Although these veterans anticipated full support from the American government, the administration hesitated in favor of establishing a joint allied military policy for Eastern Europe. The veterans were not deterred and ignored the American government's restrictions. A Lithuanian American Brigade contingent and headquarters staff of over five hundred Lithuanian American Volunteers clandestinely traveled via Canada to Lithuania and took part in Lithuania's 1918-1920 War of Independence.

After WW I ended, most of the returning Lithuanian American veterans joined the Lithuanian military fraternal organizations that their fathers had founded. It was also common for many Great War veterans to join both The American Legion and their own ethnic organizations. In most cases, these locally formed veteran organizations had the same goals as The American Legion and only varied on the priorities. The only major difference of such Lithuanian American veteran organizations was their desire for the liberation of their ancestral homeland from Russian and Germany occupation. The most frequent comment from such Lithuanian veteran members was "If we fought and many of us died for France, we can do the same for our families suffering even more terrible Russian oppression than the French experienced from the Germans."

Lithuanian Legion of America:

After Lithuania achieved its independence, many members of the Lithuanian American Brigade upon returning home and other Lithuanian World War I veterans, continued to favor membership in their own local Lithuanian veteran organizations rather than The American Legion. On February 16, 1930, under the leadership of Peter Jurgela, nine Lithuanian American veteran groups from New York, Boston, Chicago, New Britain, Bridgeport, Waterbury, Hartford, New Haven, and Baltimore met in New York to form the national Lithuanian Legion of America organization. Other than having an emphasis on Lithuanian history and culture, the organization was modeled after The American Legion and subscribed to all of its Preamble principles.

The Lithuanian Legion of America was officially incorporated on December 19, 1934, with its headquarters being in Brooklyn, New York. The Lithuanian Legion of America's first Commander was Dr. John A Buchness (Bucnis), a Baltimorean, who had served as a Captain in the American Army during the World War I. Buchness subsequently served as the Lithuanian Legion's National Surgeon and was one of Lithuanian Post 154's charter members. The Baltimore Post members were also members of Baltimore's Lithuania American Athletic Club (LAAC) that had been established in 1915. It was easily for them to establish their Lithuanian Legion of America post home in the club's building. Following the example of The American Legion, they organized and sponsored a Lithuanian Scout Troop and many Baltimore Lithuanian youth sport teams.

Lithuanian Post 154 Established:

The Japanese December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor quickly changed the independent thinking of Lithuanian Legion of America members. Although they continued to be very proud of their ancestral heritage, they were Americans first and foremost. As a result, these proud Lithuanian Legion of America members pledged their support to the American war effort and sought membership in The American Legion. Fifteen Lithuanian Legion of America members from Baltimore applied to The American Legion for permission to form a post in Baltimore.

On March 19, 1943, the fifteen Lithuanian Legion of America Baltimore Post veterans were delighted to learn that their request for the formation of an American Legion Post in Baltimore had been approved and they had been issued a Temporary American Legion Charter. To add to their joy, these old veterans also learn that their Post was authorized to use "*Lithuanian*" in its post name in honor of their nationality and former Lithuanian Legion of America association. In addition, they were also authorized to carry the Lithuanian National Flag, side by side with the Stars and Stripes, during official functions. Upon receipt of this Temporary Charter, post members worked diligently in recruiting other Lithuanian American veterans. By June 19, 1944, when they received their Permanent American Legion Charter, the Post had grown to fifty-two members.

Our founding Post members quickly realizing, that to be successful, they needed help to fully participate in all of the various American Legion programs. They encouraged their wives, daughters and sisters to form an Auxiliary Unit. The women enthusiastically responded to the call in the same way they had supported the war effort. As a result, Lithuanian Auxiliary Unit 154 was formed and chartered in 1946. The auxiliary unit was of invaluable assistance to Lithuanian Post 154 for several decades. Unfortunately, many of its members moved away or transferred to Post Everlasting and the unit had to cease its activities.

Although Lithuanian Post 154 membership has never been large, the Post has and continues to actively participate in American Legion National, Department, and District Programs. Its achievements and work have not been in vain. Many trophies,

plaques and citations were awarded to the Post for a job well done by Baltimore District, Department of Maryland and National Headquarters. Among the Post's especially treasured awards are Americanism Citations and a Special Service Certificate awarded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for service it rendered during World War II.

Deeply concerned about the future of their country and knowing that the leaders of tomorrow are the youth of today, the Post has sponsored young men to Boys State. Boys State is a one-week program where high school boys learn leadership skills and how American local governments function. To encourage pursuit of higher education, the Post, at its annual formal Installation of Officers Ceremony, awards two freshmen college scholarships. Also at this ceremony, the Post encourages community service by recognizing a police officer, a firefighter, and a teacher of the year for their service to the community.

In all their activities, the members of Lithuanian Post 154 have never forgotten God. After the splendid "Back to God" movement was formally endorsed by The American Legion at its 1951 convention, the Post embraced the movement by praying as a group in church. The Post has continued to annually participate as a group in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at St. Alphonsus Church on the first Sunday of November.

During his radio broadcast on February 7, 1954, President Eisenhower made the nation aware and strongly endorsed the American Legion "Back to God" program. He said "As a former soldier, I am delighted that our veterans are sponsoring a movement to increase our awareness of God in our daily lives. In battle, they learned a great truth - that there are no atheists in the foxholes. They knew that in time of test and trial, we instinctively turn to God for new courage and peace of mind. All the history of America bears witness to this truth."



**Lithuanian Post 154 Participating in the
Back To God Service at Saint Alphonsus Church.**

One of the Post's former Commanders and Chaplain was the Reverend Anthony Dranginis. Father Tony served as a combat marine during World War II and participated in the Battle of Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. He became a priest after surviving these conflicts and returning home. Beside Father Dranginis' service to Lithuanian Post

154 and the Baltimore Lithuanian Community, he also served as The American Legion Department of Maryland Chaplain. In his honor, the Department of Maryland has established *The Reverend Anthony Dranginis Memorial Trophy*, which is awarded annually at the Department Convention to a Post Chaplain.

Nor did the Post forget those brave men and women who gave their lives in battle. While the war was still raging in Europe and the Pacific, on May 30, 1943, the newly established Post 154 participated in its first Baltimore District Memorial Day Service. The Post continues to annually take part in the Baltimore District Memorial Day Service or, on occasion, has conducted its own Service at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

To keep alive the memory of Post and Unit members who had reported to the Supreme Commander, Lithuanian Post 154 Adjutant John Stefura introduced the Post Everlasting Service at the Post's Installation of Officers Ceremony in September of 1950. This impressive and solemn ceremony has become part of our Post's officer installation program ever since. Following Post 154's example, The American Legion Baltimore District introduced the Post Everlasting Service at The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel in 1951. The Service was incorporated into subsequent conventions and continues to this day to be a highlight of the Department of Maryland Convention.

The Veterans in our Veterans Hospitals, nursing homes, and other hospital facilities, have not been forgotten by the members of Post 154. The Post contributes generously to these institutions and Post members enthusiastically donate blood during Red Cross Blood Drives. Post members have spent many hours visiting veterans and transporting them for treatment and doctor appointments. Legionnaire John Cuculis was cited for having volunteered eight hundred hours at Perry Point Veterans Hospital. Past Post Chaplain Fredrick T. Kaminski volunteered one day a week transporting veterans to and from the Veterans Administration clinic in Glen Burnie for medical treatment. Fred was issued a special citation in 2013 for volunteering over 2,500 hours.

The Post is also extremely proud of its award-winning newsletter the *Legionnaire*, which began being published in May 1948. The *Legionnaire* has only become better and better over the passing years through the services rendered by Lee Eddy Budelis, John Mazz, Gintaras Buivys, John Maskavich, Alexander Radzius and by Joseph Jankevicius, its present editor. The Post's *Legionnaire* newsletter has often won The American Legion Department of Maryland *John Sloan Newsletter Trophy*

The *Legionnaire* is the primary method of communication with Post members. Unlike most American Legion Posts that are neighborhood social gather centers, most Lithuanian Post 154 members belong to the Post because of their Lithuanian heritage and not the neighborhood. Most have moved away but still have interest in Baltimore's Lithuanian Community and have a desire to be associated with Lithuanian Post 154. None of the Post members live in the same postal code as Lithuanian Post 154's "Home." Only eight percent of Lithuanian Post 154 members live in Baltimore, and one third live outside of Maryland. For this reason, besides items about The American

Legion and Post activities, the *Legionnaire* often contain interesting news about the Lithuanian Community.

In keeping with our founding fathers desire to promote pride in the Post's Lithuanian heritage, the Post continues to maintain a relationship with the Republic of Lithuania Embassy. The Ambassador and military attachés have often attended the Post's Installation of Officers Ceremony.

Three Lithuanian Post 154 members have been decorated by the Republic of Lithuania for service to that nation. Joseph Gaila was awarded the Order of Grand Duke Gediminas by Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus for his service to the Restored Lithuanian Republic after the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union. Henry Gaidis was awarded the Lithuanian NATO Commemorative Badge in 2002, for his assistance to Lithuania in obtaining admittance to NATO. Vytautas Eringis was awarded the Order for Merits to Lithuania (Lithuanian: *Ordinas Už nuopelnus Lietuvai*) in 2006 by Prime Minister Arturas Paulauskas for decades of distinguished services in promoting name of Lithuania, expanding and developing international relationships related to social, culture, and in other areas. Gaidis was also awarded the Lithuanian Military Meritorious Civilian Service Medal in 2015 for his continuing contribution to cooperative activities between American and Lithuanian Armed Forces and in 2018 by President Dalia Grybauskaitė for his distinguished services in promoting the name of Lithuania, expanding international relationships, distinguished merits in social, culture, military and in other areas.

As our old veterans fade away, new veterans have come forward to continue the Post's service to the nation. Today the Post includes Lithuanian Americans veterans who have served in U.S. wars and conflicts since WW II. Like their fore fathers, the current generation of Lithuanian American veterans are proud to have served in the U.S. military and are proud to wear the American Legion cap. Today's Lithuanian Post 154 members are proud of their past and continue to stand alongside fellow legionnaires across the nation in keeping the American Legion tradition of God and Country foremost. Each and every member is a worthy successor to their Lithuanian Legion of America founding fathers.

Lithuanians Participate in American Revolution

History documents that Lithuanians were among the early immigrants who came to America during the colonial era settling in New Amsterdam and Pennsylvania. Most of these immigrants were single males seeking fame and fortunes in the new world with the intent of returning to Lithuania rich to live happily ever after. Some returned, others assimilated through marriage into German and English families without establishing any lasting Lithuanian ethnic communities. Although small in numbers, these early arriving Lithuanian immigrants and their American born children took an active part in fighting for the liberty and freedom of their newly adopted homeland. Lithuanian Americans served honorably in the nation's armed forces during the American Revolution, the War of

1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection.

The most famous of these early Lithuanian American immigrants were Generals Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski. They came to America with small cadres of ethnic staff officers to fight for American Independence. Pulaski gave his life in a cavalry charge during the Battle of Savannah. He is considered to be the Father of the American Cavalry.

Among those who accompanied Kosciuszko was his personal friend and secretary, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, who later served as a liaison between friend Thomas Jefferson and Revolutionary leaders in France. France was an American ally that helping fight the British. Other Lithuanian officers and enlisted men arrived and served in the French Luzerne Legion. Lithuanian Captains Joseph Baldesque-Baldique, Count Katskotski, Matthias Rogowski and John de Zielinski served in the Pulaski Legion.

Lithuanian Captain John Quitrin Meszkowski (Meskauskas) and Lieutenant Michael Grabowski (Grabauskas) saw action with Armand Louis de Gontaut Biron, Duke de Lauzun's French Foreign Marine Legion, which fought alongside American units in Connecticut, New York, and the Siege at Yorktown.

Andrew Thaddeus Bonaventure Kosciuszko was the most famous Lithuanian to join the American Revolution. He was born on February 12, 1746, in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, part of the Lithuanian Polish Commonwealth. Thaddeus studied at the Polish-Lithuanian Military Academy in Warsaw from 1765-1769. He subsequently spent several years studying engineering, painting, military and political science in France, Germany and Italy.

Kosciuszko became enthusiastic about the cause of American freedom and offered his services in America's struggle for independence. In 1776, Kosciuszko sailed for America. On October 30, 1776, the Continental Congress granted Kosciuszko a brevet commission as Colonel of Engineers. Kosciuszko's engineering skills proved invaluable to the American war effort. The fortifications he built at Bemis Heights proved crucial in winning the Battle of Saratoga. This battle is considered to have been the turning point in the War of Independence and directly led to France joining the conflict.



General Washington considered West Point, the plateau overlooking the Hudson River, an important strategic position. In 1778, Washington sent Kosciuszko to that location to design defense fortifications. On this plateau Kosciuszko built a series of forts that prevented the British from taking control of the river and dividing New York from New England. Had the British been able to seize control of the river, they would have been able to freely obtain reinforcements and supplies from Canada. It was on this same plateau at West Point that the United States established its military academy in 1802 which today is the oldest continuously garrisoned military post in the country. For his service, Kosciuszko was belatedly promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

The initial Lithuanian colonial immigrants were followed by additional waves of single male Lithuanian immigrants. Many found it prudent to flee Lithuania after their failed attempts in 1812, 1821, 1831 and 1863-1864 to liberate their homeland from Czarist Russian occupation. It was only during the late 1860s and 1870-1880s that Lithuanian male and female immigrants began arriving in the United States in sufficient numbers to establish lasting ethnic communities. These Lithuanian immigrants and their offspring served honorably in U.S. military services. They fought, and many were killed, during WW I and subsequent conflicts.

Lithuanian born Private John C. Kaminskie, 27th Maryland Militia Regiment, took part in the land engagement with the British Army at North Point during the historical 1814 Battle of Fort McHenry that gave birth to our National Anthem. Captain Alexander Bielski, a Lithuanian officer who fought with great distinction in the Lithuanian 1831 Insurrection, became a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. He was killed in action in 1861 during the Battle of Belmont while carrying the American flag in a charge onto a position held by Confederate artillery. Lithuanian American born, Confederate Colonel

Julius Christian Sosnowski served as a Surgeon with the Confederate Medical Corps. He is credited with saving countless Confederate and Union lives on the battle fields of the Civil War.

By the time of World War One, there were sufficient Lithuanian Americans in the country to show their political strength and loyalty to both the United States and Lithuania. On October 1, 1914, a Lithuanian American National Convention was convened in Brooklyn, New York to coordinate the various war relief programs for Lithuania. The goal of the convention was war relief for Lithuanians suffering as a result of the fighting between Germany and Russia on the Eastern front. The convention also established a Lithuanian Information Bureau in Washington, D.C. to coordinate Lithuanian American support to the U.S. during the war in Europe.

With the United States entry into World War I, over 30,000 Lithuanian Americans answered the call to duty. These newly arrived immigrants and their children served valiantly in the armed forces of their new country, and many died proving they had truly become Americans.

Since all fifteen of American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 Temporary Charter members were World War I Veterans, the Post in commemoration of the 100 Year Anniversary of the Great War, initiated a project to identify every Maryland Lithuanian American veteran who served in that conflict. This proved to be a daunting task. The official records, compiled by the State of Maryland after the war, made no effort to identify veterans by ethnic origin. This identification problem was further complicated by the fact that Lithuania had been an equal partner in the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth. In 1795, the commonwealth was wiped off the face of world maps and divided between Russia and Prussia. Since the U.S. government did not recognize Lithuania as a separate nation, these early arriving Lithuanian immigrants were seldom identified, even in census records, as being Lithuanian. Most were identified as being Polish, Russian, or German. It should also be noted that many traditional Lithuanian names were changed by families (usually shortened Americanized) or their names misspelled by ship captains, custom officials and census takers. Still the U.S. Census records for 1910 and 1920 asked the question "what language was spoken in the home." As a result, many veterans not having Lithuanian ethnic last names could only be identified through a review of census records which listed Lithuanian as the language spoken at home. There is no question that the language spoken in the home is a much better indication of nationality than some arbitrary geographic place of birth. The finding of this information through a multiple step process added to the difficulty and consumption of time.

After many months of research, the Post has identified one hundred and forty-four (144) Maryland Lithuanian American men and one (1) woman in U.S. and Maryland Military Archives, U.S. Census Records, and in some cases the Post's own membership rolls as serving during WWI. Although great care has been taken in preparing this list, regrettably there have been heroes that were surely overlooked due to a lack of information.

Of these veterans, seventy-three (73) were American born to Lithuanian immigrants and seventy-two (72) are listed as having been born in Lithuania, Russia, or Poland. Fifty-five (55) served overseas, four (4) were killed-in action, five (5) were wounded and two died of illnesses or other causes. Those Killed-in-Action are indicated on the subsequent list by an (*) designation before their names.

As in the case in most wars, two thirds of the identified Lithuanian Americans never went overseas but remained in the United States where they served in vital support activities or were still in training. The third that went overseas served in all types of support and combat missions. They fought in the trenches and the air above battlefields in France, Italy, Russia, and elsewhere. Regardless, where they served each and every one gave something to the struggle, and some gave all.

Lithuanian American Marylanders in First World War

The below listed one hundred and forty-five (145) Maryland Lithuanian American veterans, including one woman, Navy Yeoman Lillian Hildegard Akelitys, have been identified in official records as having participated in the War to End all Wars.

Source: Military and Naval Service Records, Maryland War Records Commission, Baltimore, Maryland Volumes I and II

NAME	SERVICE	ADDRESS	PLACE OF BIRTH
Abramovitz, Samuel	USA	39 S. Caroline St., Baltimore	Ponevyezh, Russia
Akelitys, Lillian Hildegard	USN	Halethorpe, Maryland	Baltimore, Md.
Alecknowch, Joseph	USA	606 W. Lombard St, Baltimore	Kovno, Russia
Ambrose, Vincent T.	USA	640 Columbia Ave., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Bagotaitis, Antonas	USA	213 President St., Baltimore	Vistitis, Russia
Batchatis, Elmer	USN	1815 E. Eager St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Bayoras, Joseph	USA	723 Saratoga St., Baltimore	Lithuania, Russia
Begus, William	USA	817 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore	Lithuania, Russia
Bender Morris	USA	2000 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore	Brest-Litovsk, Russia.
Beneshunas, Stanley Joseph	USA	614 W. Conway, St., Baltimore	Kovno, Russia
Bernotes, Walter A.	USA	30 Albemarle St, Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Bierstatias, Charles	USA	524 Columbus Ave, Baltimore	Russia
Brazius, John Joseph	USN	422 S. Paca Street, Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Buchness, Anthony V.	USA	407 S. Paca Street, Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Buchness, John Adam	USA	407 S. Paca Street, Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Buda, Michael	USA	11 Locust St., Curtis Bay, Baltimore	Curtis Bay, Md.
Burakiewicz, Joseph	USA	517 Register St., Baltimore	Suwalki, Russia
Chappas, Charles T	USA	1329 Herkimer St., Baltimore.	Russia
Cessna, Howard W.	USA	Mt. Savage, Allegany Co.	Bedford, Penna.
Chernius, William	USA	657 W. Lombard St., Baltimore	Russia
Crisunas, Charles	USA	716 W. Lombard St, Baltimore	Kovno, Russia
Demarco, John Lawrence	USA	414 S. Paca Street, Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Demarco, Joseph Leon	USA	414 S. Paca Street, Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Demarco, Samuel Joseph	USA	517 W. Saratoga Street, Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Domeika, Arthur Louis	USA	1397 Herkimer St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Dounorowicz, Leo (Link)	USA	11 W. G St., Sparrows Point	Lithuania, Russia

Dubinskie, Frank	USA	604 W. Lombard St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Ezersky, Samuel L.	USA	2008 E. Pratt St., Baltimore	Suwalki, Russia
Forys, Valentine	USA	Raspeburg, Baltimore Co.	Poland
Gasunas, Alexander	USA	Colgate, Baltimore Co.	Lithuania, Russia
Greinus, William Albert	USA	1149 Columbia Ave, Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Gruzinski, Adolf	USA	729 Curtis Ave., Baltimore	Russia
Gurklis, Paul	USA	809 Hollins St., Baltimore	Russia
Gustitus, Joseph	USA	648 Columbia Ave., Baltimore	Sualke, Russia
Gutelius, Edward Nelson	USA	191 Antietam St., Hagerstown	Kraemer, Penna.
Hallikas, Theodore	USA	Curtis Bay, A.A. Co.	Pernau, Russia
Ignatovich, Alexander	USA	31 N. Eden St., Baltimore	Russia
Jasaitis, Vincent Anthony	USN	841 W. Lombard St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Jawarz, Peter	USA	208 Ann St., Baltimore	Kovno, Russia
Jonas, John	USA	202 Albemarle St., Baltimore	Lithuania, Russia
Juras, Joseph M.	USA	248 S. Castle St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Kabas, Daniel	USA	129 W. Hamburger St., Baltimore	Russia
Kairis, Tony A.	USA	873 Hollins St., Baltimore	Brooklyn, Md.
Kairys, Fred	USA	1223 Pennsylvania Ave, Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Kalious, William	USN	112 N. Greene St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Karas, James J.	USA	1715 Lancaster St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Karas, Joseph E.	USA	2012 Preston St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Karpovich, John	USA	13 S. 10 th St., Highlandtown, Balto.	Vilna, Russia
Kasaczun, Leo B.	USA	Baltimore	Scranton, Penna.
Kazulis, Gus	USA	542 Barre St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Kliszes, John Joseph	USMC	665 W. Fayette St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Krerivienas, Vincent	USCG	310 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Russia
Kulis, William Frank	USA	2310 Cambridge St. Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Kungis, John P.	USA	115 Parkin St., Baltimore	Russia
Kwedard, William Leonard	USA	Halethorpe, Baltimore Co.	Baltimore, Md.
Lacavitch (Lacs), William G.	USA	118 Greene St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Lastowski, Alexander Joseph	USN	539 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Latusky, Thomas Anthony	USN	539 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Lebedes, Vincente	USA	631 W. Lombard St., Baltimore	Russia
Lemba, Joseph	USA	101 Elm Ave., Baltimore	Kovno, Russia
Lemkes, Herman	USA	1123 Hollins St., Baltimore	Russia
Levine, Abraham	USA	1116 E. Fayette St., Baltimore	Panevyezh, Russia
Litwin, Abraham	USA	222 N. Alsquith St., Baltimore	Radzevilski, Russia
Litwin, Peter F.	USA	724 W. Saratoga St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Losinsky, Stephen J.	USA	10 Elm St., Curtis Bay, A.A., Co.	Russia
Luscowski, Austin	USA	114 Albemarle St., Baltimore	Lithuania, Russia
Maizis, Morris	USA	1210 Madison Avenue	Russia
Malkus, Phillip M.	USA	Park Ave., Raspeburg, Ba. Co.	Baltimore, Md.
Manelow, Joseph	USA	1101 E. Lombard St., Baltimore	Niezhin, Russia
Marcin, Thomas G.	USA	Rossville, Maryland	Baltimore, Md.
Matelis, Peter	USA	523 W. Barre St., Baltimore	Kovno, Russia
Matukas, Stanislaus	USA	423 S. Bond St., Baltimore	Lithuania, Russia
Matulewicz, John C.	USA	Raspeburg, Baltimore Co.	Baltimore, Md.
Mazeika, John	USA	Lonaconing, Allegany Co.	Lonaconing, Md
Medzunas, Henry	USA	437 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Lithuania, Russia
Mikulonies, Anthony	USA	920 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Miller, Abraham B.	USA	1925 Walbrook Ave., Baltimore	Kovno, Russia

Milosh, Constant W.	USA	Middle River, Maryland	Baltimore, Md.
Munkus, Silvis	USA	817 E. Pratt St., Baltimore	Badvelicko, Russia
Naditch, Charles	USN	1905 Ensor St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Niemur, Vincent P.	USA	640 Columbia Ave., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Olevich, Algard	USMC	700 W. Lombard St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Olevich, Joseph	USA	1311 E. Eager St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Ozel, Charles Frank	USA	849 W. Lombard St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Palonis, Anthony	USA	Ocean, Allegany County	Scranton, Penna.
Pasarskus, Joseph	USA	420 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Russia
Pausa, Toney Frank	USN	668 W. Fayette St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Penn, Edward	USN	120 S. Green St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Racusin, Alexander I.	USA	119 N. Paca St., Baltimore	Riga, Russia
Rakowsky, Joseph John	USA	228 S. Freemont St. Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Raszimas, Tony	USA	730 W. Lexington St., Baltimore	Witkowszki, Poland
Raziulis, Vincent	USA	119 S. High St., Baltimore	Dusety, Lithuania
Regustus, William E.	USA	708 ½ N. Stockton St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Rosimas, John	USA	730 W. Lexington St., Baltimore	Alwitas, Russia
Rudis, Kazimeras	USN	506 W. Lombard St., Baltimore	Russia
Ruzicka, Charles	USN	1413 N. Gay Street, Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Sackalosky, John Joseph	USA	254 Patapso St., Westport, Ba. Co.	Baltimore, Md.
Sadaukas, Vincent	USA	Baltimore	Russia
Sakievich, Anthony	USN	660 W. Saratoga St. Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Sakievich, Anthony Joseph	USA	622 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Sakievich, Joseph Anthony	USN	622 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Schakus, Anthony	USA	819 Hollins St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Shasky, Joseph George	USN	122 S. Greene St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Silanski, Kazimir	USA	826 Pratt St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Skiviklas, Stelak	USA	11 th & O'Donnell Sts., Baltimore	Lubin, Russia
Skladowsky, John Andrew	USA	638 Columbia, Ave., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Smetona, John Joseph	USN	120 N. Ellwood Ave., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Snidrowski, Albert M.	USA	424 Paca St., Baltimore	Poland
*Sokolowsky, Witold M.	USA	842 ½ W. Lombard St., Baltimore	Wilna, Russia
Squarinovitch, Steve	USA	616 W. Lombard St., Baltimore	Lithuania, Russia
Stankaveck, Charles John	USA	214 S. Sharp St., Baltimore	Russia
*Stanulis, Anton	USA	658 W. German St., Baltimore	Russia
Stoikes, Charles	USMC	Baltimore, Maryland	Dickmes, Russia
(Name changed from Kazimer Shtuikes)			
Tilles, Ellis	USA	237 S. High St., Baltimore	Vilna, Russia
Tivvis, William Matthew	USA	805 S. Fremont Ave., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Tomlonas, Alexander John	USA	113 Scott St., Baltimore	New York, N.Y.
Unitas, Matthew J.	USA	110 N. Greene St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Urbin, Domonick	USA	Kitzmiller, Garrett Co.	Knomo, Russia
Urnezis, Ignacy	USA	834 E. Pratt St., Baltimore	Lithuania, Russia
Vansas, Harry J.	USA	13 N. Poppleton St., Baltimore	Shadyside, N.J.
Vencius, Bladas K.	USA	413 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Russia
Walcziaukas, Anton	USA	Montevideo, Howard Co.	Russia
Walukas, Albert	USA	1314 Glyndon Ave., Baltimore	Ansonia, Conn.
Walunas, Alek	USA	531 W. Barre St., Baltimore	Russia
Watson, George	USN	401 W. Pratt St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Welyvis, George Bennie	USA	320 N. Greene St., Baltimore	Lithuania
Wensk, Joseph A.	USA	413 Paca St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.

Yotpolis, Gaudentas	USA	412 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Lithuania, Russia
Youch, Charles	USMC	Baltimore	Roscoe, Pa.
Yousavage, Peter William	USN	922 Ridgely St., Baltimore	Girardsville, Pa.
Yuratis, Charles Stephen	USA	308 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Kovno, Russia
Zablocki, Frank	USN	2001 Spruce St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Zalis, Joel Charles	USN	248 Harrison St., Baltimore	Russia
Zaukus, John J.	USA	Curtis Bay, A.A. Co, Md.	Russia
Zdanis, Dominik	USA	527 S. Paca St., Baltimore	Russia
Zebris, Igny J.	USA	Clinton, Prince Georges Co.	Chicago, Illinois
Zemaitis, Albert A.	USA	714 W. German St., Baltimore	Pandella, Russia
*Zemaitis, Mindow Leonard	USMC	714 W. Redwood St., Baltimore	Pandella, Russia
Zilaitis, Peter	USA	1111 Curtis Ave., A.A. Co,	Russia
*Zitaitis, Frank	USA	819 Holland St., Baltimore	Kovno, Russia
Zuckas (Zaukas), John J.	USA	1101 Curtis Ave, Curtis Bay, A.A., Co.	Russia
Zukas, Charles	USN	925 N. Central Ave., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.
Zukas, Thomas Joseph	USA	Mt. Winans, Baltimore Co.	Baltimore, Md.
Zurliene, Joseph Herman	USA	501 W. Pratt St., Baltimore	Baltimore, Md.

*** Designates Killed-in-Action**

Although the State of Maryland took great effort to identify its veterans, many were overlooked. Those already serving in the armed forces, enlisted in other states, or settled in Maryland after the conflict were not included in Maryland records. Post research has identified seven such veterans who lived in Maryland and considered themselves as Marylanders. For this reason, these seven Marylanders have been added to the Post's Lithuanian American WW I Honor Roll. Three of them saw service overseas. One of them was born in Baltimore and six were born in Lithuania. Among the seven was Louis J. Mendelis, who during basic training, was determined not to be physically fit for service due to coal mine injuries and was given an honorable discharge. Mendelis later become a Catholic Priest and the noted Monsignor at St. Alphonsus Church, Baltimore, Maryland. Another one of them, Nadas Rastenis, sustained heavy injuries during a German poison gas attack causing him to be hospitalized for over a year upon his return to the United States. Rastenis subsequently became a lawyer, served as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and became a well-known poet.

NAME	SERVICE	ADDRESS	PLACE OF BIRTH
Karciauskas, Frank	USA	Chester, Pennsylvania	Lithuania
Maslauskas, Franciskus	USA	Brooklyn, New York	Tiskai, Lithuania
Mendelis, Louis J.	USA	Inkerman, Pennsylvania	Siauliai, Lithuania
Rastenis, Nadas	USA	Jacksonville, Ohio	Lithuania
(Name changed from Nicodemus Adelard Rastenis)			
Rutkus, Felix	USA	New Britain, Hartford, Connecticut	Lithuania
Velzis, Vincent J.	USA	Providence, Rhode Island	Lithuania
Zelwis, Adalbert (Albertas)	USA	Pittsburg, Pennsylvania	Baltimore, Maryland

It is estimated that 4.7 million Americans served in the Great War, 116,516 died while in the service and approximately 420,000 were wounded or became ill from diseases contracted in the line of duty. Of the recorded deaths, 53,402 died in combat and 63,114 from diseases largely due to the Spanish influenza epidemic in 1918. Maryland furnished 62,424 soldiers, sailors, and marines, of which 645 were killed in action and 884 died for other causes. Among these casualties were four Lithuanian American Marylanders killed in action, one died from disease and one for other reasons. Though time precluded exhaustive research of their biographies, the information that the Post found is a reasonable summary of their lives and the sacrifices they made for our nation.

Mindow Leonard Zemaitis was born on September 8, 1901, in Pandela, Lithuania. After arriving in the USA, the family settled at 714 W. Redwood Street, Baltimore, Maryland. Young Mindow apparently developed “patriotic fever” when war was declared, and he attempted to join the U.S. Army in Baltimore. His attempt at joining the Army failed because he was under age. Still, the fifteen-year-old would not be deterred and went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he lied about his age to recruiters. On May 2, 1917, when he was only fifteen years old. Mindow was accepted in to U.S. Marine Corps. Following his successfully completion of basic training, Mindow was assigned to the 43d Company, 5th U.S. Marine Regiment. His regiment was shipped overseas, on July 3, 1917, where he took part in some of the heaviest fighting in France during the war. The regiment’s battle honors include the Toulon-Troyon Sector, Aisne, and Chateau-Thierry. Private Mindow Zemaitis, when only sixteen years old was Killed-In-Action, on June 13, 1918, while fighting the Germans in the Chateau-Thierry Sector. Zemaitis lies buried in the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleau, France. Surely, he is the youngest of all Maryland Lithuanian Americans who gave his life for his adopted country during the Great War.

Witold M. Sokolowsky was born in Wilna, Lithuania, and immigrated to the United States in the hopes of finding a better way of live. He settled in Baltimore, Maryland, residing at 842½ West Lombard Street and worked in various garment shops. Witold was 27 years and 10 months old when he was inducted into military service on September 24, 1917. After basic training, he became a Private in Company C, 313th U.S. Infantry Regiment, 79th Division. On July 8, 1918, Witold and his unit were sent to France. He fought gallantly in the Avon Court Sector, Meuse-Argonne and the Troyon Sector until he was wounded on October 12, 1918, and died on the battlefield for his adopted country. He never married. We were unable to find any information about the family he left in Lithuania. Private Witold Sokolowsky gave all of his tomorrows so we could enjoy our todays. He lies buried in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France among his fallen comrades.

Frank Zitaitis was born in Kovno, Lithuania. Like many of his fellow countrymen, he fled his Russian occupied homeland in the hope of finding a better life in America. Very little is known about Frank’s life. He appears to have immigrated to America with, or seeking to join, his sister Barbara Narbutus and her husband. Frank was residing at 819 Holland St., Baltimore, Maryland on September 8, 1917, when he joined the U.S.

Army. After completing his basic training, he was assigned to Company I, 38th U.S. Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division. His unit was sent overseas to France on March 30, 1918, and took part in heavy fighting in Aisne, Chateau-Thierry Sector, Champagne-Marne, and Aisne-Marne. During heavy fighting in Aisne-Marne, Private Frank Zitaitis was Killed-in-Action, on July 22, 1918. Frank lies buried among his fallen comrades in the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Fere-en-Tardenois, France.

Although not combat related deaths, two Baltimore Lithuanian Americans lost their lives during WWI while on active duty. Their loss was surely as traumatic to their loved ones as those who died fighting on a battlefield. For this reason, the Post lists their names among our fallen.

Anton Stanulis's life, like many Lithuanians who came to America before the First World War, is clouded in mystery. The primary reason for this mystery is the poor spelling and handwriting of ship crews, custom and census information gatherers. Attempts to find more detailed information about Stanulis were unsuccessful. We know from the records we found that Anton Stanulis was born about 1896 in Russia and arrived in Baltimore, Maryland aboard the SS Weimar from Bremen, Germany on May 1907. He had listed his intended destination as Aurora, Illinois. He was either traveling with or became friends with fellow passenger Jonas Mickus. Attempts to find information about Jonas were equally unsuccessful. Still, we know from the ship's log that Lithuanian was the native language of both Anton and Jonas.

For reasons unknown, Anton Stanulis chose to stay in Baltimore rather than continuing his travel to Aurora, Illinois. He listed his residence as 658 W. German St., Baltimore, Maryland, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army. Upon completion of basic training, on September 22, 1917, Anton was awarded the rank of Private and assigned to Company A, 60th U.S. Infantry. 5th Division. On April 1, 1918, he was promoted to Corporal and on April 16, 1918, he and his regiment were sent overseas. While serving in France, Anton, for unknown reasons, was reduced in rank to Private on September 4, 1918. Private Anton Stanulis took part in heavy fighting in the Anould Sector; St Die Sector; Villers-en-Haye Sector; St Mihiel; and Meuse-Argonne.

On the morning of November 11, 1918, Armistice Day, Private Anton Stanulis was Killed-in-Action fighting at Meuse-Argonne. His remains were never identified. He lies among his fallen comrades in the U.S. Military Cemetery erected on the Meuse-Argonne Battle Field. Above his interned body was placed America's traditional stone cross bearing the inscription "Here rests in Honored Glory an American soldier known but to God." Even in death, Private Anton Stanulis's story is clouded in mystery. To further complicate, his tale, his burial records indicate that he had enlisted under the name Anton Stein. No further information was recorded, and one can only surmise what this indicates. Was the information listed as a result of some type of administrative error, was he Jewish by religion, listed under the name of a landlord, or trying to provide some type of financial security for a loved one if he fell. This fallen American hero's story will remain only known to God

John L. Zuckas was another Lithuanian immigrant who came to America dreaming of establishing a better life. While residing at 1101 Curtis Avenue, Curtis Bay, Anne Arundel, Maryland, John answered his nation's call to duty. On April 30, 1918, when he was twenty-five years old, he was inducted into the U.S. Army. After completing basic training, Private John Zuckas was assigned on August 2, 1918, to Casual Company, 154th U.S. Army Depot Brigade, 2nd Battalion, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. While serving on active duty at the Edgewood Arsenal, John contracted pneumonia and died on October 1, 1918. Still just as his brothers in arms who died fighting in the face of the enemy, John also gave his life for his country. His military records list his cause of his death as pneumonia. Many historians would say he surely succumbed to the Spanish Flu epidemic that passed through Maryland.

John Rosimas another single male Lithuanian immigrant was born on April 25, 1882, in Alwitas, Russia. He, like all of the earlier cited Lithuanian immigrants, made the perilous voyage across the Atlantic in search of a better way of life. On July 24, 1917, John, while living at 730 W. Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD, voluntarily joined the Maryland National Guard and soon was serving as a Private in Company I, Maryland Infantry. John's demise in many ways is even more tragic than those who died on the battlefield. Available documents do not say what devils he fought before his death or what drove him to end his own life. All we know is John died alone in Baltimore, Maryland, without any friends, relatives, or fellow soldiers to comfort him on August 6, 1917, by a self-inflicted bullet wound. May God have mercy on his soul.

We have no idea of what hopes and dreams these heroes had for the future. Surely before their deaths, each thought about going home, marrying and raising a family in the land of the free. They shared such dreams with every other soldier, sailor, and marine who served in the war to end all wars. In their case such dreams never came to pass.

WW II Heroes Listed on St. Alphonsus Church Plaque

After Lithuanian Post 154 obtained its permanent American Legion Charter, the Post's first major undertaking was the erection of a commemorative monument dedicated to Maryland Lithuanian Americans who served in World War II. This project was the idea of the Post's first commander, Dr. Albertas Zelwis, a WWI veteran. He worked closely on the project with Reverend Louis J. Mendelis, pastor of Saint Alphonsus Church and other Post members. This project was enthusiastically supported and generously funded by Baltimore's Lithuanian American Community. Post members quickly began the exhaustive effort to identify their fellow WWII Lithuanian American veterans. This task required many days of military record review, followed by sending letters to each of veterans or their families to obtain permission to place the veteran's names on the plaque.

After much work, the Post was able to identify and obtain permission to have the names of 581 Maryland Lithuanian American men and women, who served in World War II, placed on the commemorative plaque. The plaque was prominently erected on the exterior front wall of St. Alphonsus Church, in Baltimore where many of the veterans were parishioners. The plaque was officially unveiled, blessed, and dedicated on September 28, 1947, following a tumultuous parade and speaking program that featured the Mayor of Baltimore and the Governor of Maryland.

WW II Heroes Listed on St. Alphonsus Lithuanian Church Plaque

Adams, Alphonsus L.	Balchunas, Anthony F.	Bowen, Malvin R.
Adams, Anthony P.	Balinsky, Adolph	Bradunas, John J.
Adams, L. Kenmar	Balinsky, Edward	Briggs, Edward
Adams, Michael B.	Baranauskas, Anthony	Briggs, Paul P.
Adams, Pius J.	Baranosky, Simon P.	Britt, Alexander F.
Adams, Stanley A.	Barciauskas, Peter	Britt, Louis J.
Adams, Vincent J.	Basgle, Vincent	Brooks, Albert C.
Adomaitis, Charles J.	Beal, Albert T.	Brooks, George Z.
Aleksa, Joseph J.	Beal, Walter J.	Bruzinskas, John J.
Allen, Benjamin F*	Beelat, Ernest W.	Bubnis, Bernard G.
Allen, John G.	Beelat, Joseph G.	Buckles, Joseph
Allen, Joseph	Belas, Leonard	Budelis, Edward M.
Ambrose, Herbert V.	Belsky, William	Budelis, Joseph J.
Anzulis, Anthony	Bender, Albert	Budreski, Felix S.
Anzulis, John J.	Benson, Anthony P.	Budreski, Joseph
Anzulis, Joseph J.	Bikuls, Joseph T.	Budrow, John
Ashoonskas, George J.	Bistriski, Charles H.	Budusky, Francis
Bagdon, Frank J.	Bistriski, Edward J.	Bukauska. Joseph F.
Bakutis, Albert	Bistriski, Martin P.	Burke, Alexander W.
Bakutis, Bernard F.	Bludis, John J.	Burns, Jean Remeikis

WW II Heroes Listed on St. Alphonsus Lithuanian Church Plaque

Busch, Daniel J.
 Busch, Maurice S.
 Bush, John A.
 Butkus, Charles L.
 Butkus, Edward
 Butkus, Walter, Jr.
 Canking, Vincent C
 Caplins, Alphonse J.
 Carson, Joseph
 Cavaselis, Stephen J.
 Celuska, Anthony J.
 Cepurno, Eduard G.
 Chapoff, John N.
 Chapoff, Paul N.
 Charnasky, Frank
 Charnasky, Vincent
 Chepaitis, Albert
 Chepaitis, Anthony L.
 Chepaitis, Joseph
 Chesno, Frank A.
 Chesonis, Frank A.
 Chesonis, Joseph
 Chester, Charles
 Chester, John J.
 Chinskey, John D.
 Cooper, Leon
 Cooper, Theodore
 Cooper, Walter S.
 Czincila, Michael W.
 Czincila, William J.
 Dailey, John A.
 Daniels, Edward
 Dankantas, Charles
 Dashkevich, John
 Davis, William, Jr.
 Dawksho, Raymond C.
 Deger, Joseph L.
 Deltuva, Albert A.
 Deltuva, Charles
 Deltuva, Leonard J.
 Dempsey, Michael
 Demski, Richard
 Dikinis, Charles



Dober, Benedict. J.
 Doherty, James J.
 Draneinis, Anthony S.
 Dubalski, John J.
 Dubalski, Louis J.
 Duhinskas, Frank J.
 Dumsha, Albert C.
 Dumsha, Anthony W.
 Duncan, Louis
 Dunkas* John
 Erberts, Frank V.
 Ewanovski, Harold E.
 Ewanovski, Stanley A.
 Ewaska, Anthony A.

Fantom, Herman
 Fiersuk, Jacob J.
 Fiersuk, Vincent W.
 Gabriel, William F.
 Gaidis, Henry
 Gaigalas, Anthony J.
 Gaither, Stanley
 Garpstasi Anthony
 Gelazela, Joseph A.
 Gelber, Peter
 Gelumbauskas, Leo
 Giedraitis, Richard V.
 Giknis, Alex
 Giknis, Leonard

Glebas, Frank
 Godelesky, Leo S.
 Goniprouskis, Harry J.
 Gowallis, John V.
 Grabowski, Francis T.
 Gray, John
 Gray, Vincent, Jr.
 Greenwich, Edward
 Greenwich, John, Jr.
 Greenwich, Joseph
 Greenwich, Vincent
 Griber, Paul
 Grigaliunas, Vytout J.
 Grinewich, Charles
 Grosskettler, Paul A.
 Grudzinski, Edward
 Grybe, John
 Grybe, Joseph
 Gurinskas, Joseph J.
 Hoke, Leroy W.
 Januska, Vincent J.
 Jasaitis, Albert
 Jasilaitis, John J.
 Jaymont, Medard
 Jenkins, Henry A.
 Jersey, Alexander J.
 Joneckis, Charles G.
 Joneckis, George C.
 Juakelis, Paul P.
 Juskelis, Martin P.
 Juskevicius, Albert J.
 Kablis, John A.
 Kalvin, Albert J.
 Kalvin, Peter G.
 Kamarauskas, George
 Karalius, Albert L.
 Karaskevitch, Albert J.
 Karcauskas, Bernard
 Karko, Louis
 Kasin, John
 Kasinskas Albert
 Kasinskas, Edward A.
 Kasinskas, Vincent
 Kastantin, Julius
 Kazlauskas, August, Jr.

Kazlauskas, Frank V.
 Kazlauskas, Phillip
 Kelly, Gorden B,
 Kelly, Norman R.
 Kendock^a Joseph
 Keough, William R.
 Keydash, Anthony J.
 Keydash, Joseph A.
 Kicas, Anthony A.
 Kicas, Edward J.
 Kicas, Vincent G.
 Kiersarsky, Albert
 Kiersarsky, Leonard
 King, Alfred Ma
 King, Victor F.
 King, William J.
 Kirstukas, Bernard L.
 Kissel, Anthony C.
 Kissel, Michael J.
 Kleinota, Elmer W.
 Kleinota, Joseph J.
 Klimas, John L.
 Klishis Benedict W,
 Kouneski, Charles
 Kouneski, Dominic
 Kouneski, Joseph
 Kovalovski, Mary B.,RN
 Kovalovsti, Joseph J.
 Krasauskas, John W.
 Krecz, Albert S.
 Kripas, Albert A.
 Krisciunas, Charles A.
 Kucinskas, Vincent
 Kudzma, George P.
 Kulis, Stanley F.
 Kulokas, John C.
 Kulokas, Leonard A.
 Kupin, Anthony
 Kurlia, Robert
 Kursvietis, Anthony J.
 Kvedera, Joseph C.
 Kwedar, William J.
 Larkin, Elmer
 Latvanas, Alexander
 Latvanas, William

Laubert, Alfred P.
 Laukeitis, John J.
 Lazauskas, Dr. Algert P.
 Lazauskas, William
 Leikus, Peter W.
 Leister, Eric, J.
 Lenkus, Albert
 Levickas, Dr. Adolph T.
 Levickas, Dr. Herbert
 Lewis, Michael J.
 Lietuvnikas, Henry S.
 Linka, Chester A.
 Lipton John
 Lipton, Anthony A.
 Lipton, Edward J.
 Litwin, Donald J.
 Liupueter, Robert
 Lotus, Suzanne
 Lucas, Charles, Jr.
 Lucas, William J.
 Maaz, John W.
 Machis, Alfred
 Machis, Vincent R.
 Machulis, Andrew A.
 Macinskas, Edward C.
 Macis, William J.
 Mack, Edward V.
 Mackevicius, Vioent A.
 Macness, Raymond J.
 Madison, Anthony J
 Magdurakas, August, Jr.
 Makar, Joseph C.
 Makar, Peter A.
 Makauskas, John G.
 Malcavage, Joseph
 Mankus, Francis A.
 Marchlinus, Edward P.
 Markelonis, George
 Martinkus, Leonard
 Masijauskas, Leonard
 Masilionis, Albert E.
 Maslauskas, Frank B.
 Matelis, Albert
 Matelis, Dorothy T.
 Matelis, Henry T.

Matelis, Silvester
 Matulaitis, Albert
 Matulaitis, Edward
 Matulaitis, Vincent E.
 Matulis, Elmer
 Matulonis, Albert A.
 Matulonis, Gordon J.
 Maxen, Anthony
 Maxen, Veto A.
 Mazz, Michael A.
 Mazz, Vincent
 Melcavage, Peter
 Melcavage, William
 Mendolis, Dr. Christopher J.
 Miermicki, Edward B.
 Mikalayunas, Albert B.
 Mikalayunas, Anthony J.
 Mikalayunas, Michael
 Mikusauskas, Victor
 Milan, Dr. Albert R.
 Milan, Dr. Edward F.
 Milash, Paul A.
 Miliauskas, Anthony V.
 Miliauskas, Vincent T.
 Miliauskas, William
 Miller, Anthony J.
 Miller, Charles
 Miller, Edward
 Miller, Jerome J.
 Miller, Joseph W.
 Miller, Norman A.
 Miller, Peter
 Miller, Robert
 Miller, Roland
 Miller, Victor
 Mitch, Joseph G.
 Mitchell, Anthony J.
 Monkus, Victor J.
 Monroe, Bernard M.
 Moore, Leslie J.
 Moore, Stanley
 Muzdakias, Joseph L.
 Nakuosas, Frank
 Naravas, Watson
 Nathewitch, Alphonsus

Nathewitoh, Charles V.
 Nauyokaa, Anthony P.
 Navagrockis, Paul
 Navitskis, Albert A.
 Nemuras, Edward
 Nemuras, Julia
 Nemzek, Otto
 Niparavic, Leonard, A.
 Nixon, Charles B.
 Norkus, John
 North, Ernest
 Nuth, Bernard H.
 Oakjones, Donald R.
 Oakjones, George
 Olevich, Ronald
 Olevich, William
 Orbin, Joseph J.
 Orbin, Mary J.
 Ozel, Anthony
 Ozunas, Albert
 Packal, Stanley F.
 Palulis, Frank W.
 Paplauskas, Anthony
 Paskauskas, Michael, Jr.
 Paskun, Charles F.
 Paskun, William S.
 Pastarnokas, George
 Pauza, Leonard
 Payson, Wilbert J.
 Pazeras, Anthony L.
 Paznekas, Joseph
 Pechulis, Arnold
 Pechulis, William G.
 Penn, Reynold J.
 Petkus, Edward
 Petraitis, Benedict, Jr.
 Petraitis, Richard J.
 Petruska, Richard R.
 Phillips, Elmer C.
 Phillips, Joseph A.
 Phillips, Richard J.
 Piccirilli, Robert J.
 Pickley, George
 Piersuk, Albert
 Pojunas, Leonard

Poklis, Charles
 Polanskas, Edward
 Polanskas, Ernest
 Polianski, Joseph A.
 Polock, Anthony B.
 Polyanski, Albert J.
 Polyanski, Frank A.
 Pulkowski, Jacob J.
 Puzaitis, Vincent J.
 Rackauckas, Andrew, Jr.
 Rackauskas, Anthony
 Radauskas, Charles S.
 Radavich, Frank, Jr.
 Ramanauskas, Vincent
 Ratoska, Frank
 Razauskas, Leonard C.
 Razgaitis, Albert
 Razgaitis, Alphonsus
 Razgaitis, Charles
 Razulis, Casimir
 Reganus, Albert
 Rekus, Anthony J.
 Rekus, Simon
 Remeikas, Vincent
 Remeikis, Alphonsus
 Remeikis, Anthony J.
 Remeikis, John
 Remeikis, Peter G.
 Remeikis, Robert
 Remsikis, Frank J.
 Rinkus, Edward
 Rodgers, Algird
 Rogers, Charles J.
 Rogers, Welter
 Rokos, Frederick B.
 Rokosky, Anthony
 Rubasheosky, Edward
 Rubasheosky, Vincent
 Rukstelis, William J.
 Ruskell, William
 Russ, John
 Russell, Edward M.
 Rutkauskas, Edward
 Rybikowski, Joseph
 Sabesky, John G.

Sakalosky, Anthony G.
 Sakievich, George
 Sakievich, Raymond
 Sakievich, Vincent A.
 Salkauskas, John J.
 Santas, Anthony G.
 Santas, Vincent A.
 Sari, Anthony
 Sarpalis, Charles V., Jr.
 Sauris, Joseph
 Schafer, Gerald, Jr.
 Schierzka, Cyrus
 Schlack, Bernard C.
 Sciukas, Peter V.
 Sciukas, Victor M.
 Sechak, Paul
 Seippel, Dr. George F.
 Selenski, Stanley A.
 Senkewic, Walter T.
 Sernocky, Joseph
 Sernocky, Vincent
 Sesplankis, Charles A.
 Sessa, Kenneth
 Sherlock, Albert
 Shimkaveg, Albert
 Shimkaveg, Felix R.
 Shimkus, Michael A.
 Shobins, August E.
 Shumsky, Victor
 Silanskas, Alphonsus J.
 Silanskas, Edward J.
 Silinski, Joseph
 Simenaitis, Anthony G.
 Simms, Albert J.
 Simms, John P.
 Simms, Walter
 Sinkas, Edward F.
 Sinush, Vytaut
 Siudeikis, Albert M.
 Skeberdis, Adolph J.
 Skelpsa, Vincent A.
 Slavinsky, Dr. Edwin A.
 Slezas, John J.
 Solder, Edward
 Staiger, Robert J.

Stalionis, Walter
 Staugis, John, Jr.
 Stavis, Leo F.
 Stavis, Richard
 Stavis, Thomas A.
 Stefanowicz, Chester
 Stefanowioz, Walter S.
 Steiger, Theodore S.
 Stein, Joseph
 Stockus, Theodore J.
 Stokes, Leonard H.
 Strasdauskas, Joseph
 Stripeitis, Albert
 Stuikis, Albert J.
 Suksta, Stanley B.
 Survil, Anthony A.
 Taber, Joseph
 Tarauskas, Charles
 Tautkus, John J.
 Terry, Alexander W.
 Terrys, Algert
 Terrys, Theodore
 Tilenis, John P.
 Ugiansky, Ann L., R.N.
 Ugiansky, Frank
 Urbanas, William P.
 Urbas, Frank J.
 Urbonas, Joseph
 Urlock, Dr. John F., Jr.
 Urksta, Charles A.
 Varnauskas, Albert
 Vaugela, Vincent
 Velivlis, Anthony J.
 Velzis, Vincent J., Jr.
 Venskis, George J., Jr.
 Vilkas, John
 Vilkas, Leo J.
 Vocelos, Alex M.
 Walinskas, Theodore
 Wallace, Edward J.
 Wallis, Joseph J.
 Walsh, Edward V.
 Walsh, Joseph H.
 Walunas, Edward J.
 Walunas, Henry P.

Wasilewski, Edward
 Wasilewski, Joseph
 Wasilewski, Stanley
 Wassell, Frank R.
 Watson, John J.
 Weisengoff, Leo
 Weisetsoff, Joseph J.
 Wenskaitis, Joseph J.
 Wisher, Welter E.
 Wisnauskas, John A.
 Wonsowich, Joseph C.
 Woolley, Mark H.
 Yakaitis, Anthony J.
 Yankousky, Edward J.
 Yankowski, Bruno S.
 Yankowski, Edward J.
 Yodris, Edward F.
 Yoncha, Albert
 Yonkaitis, Joseph
 Young, Adam J.
 Young, Albert L.
 Young, James A.
 Young, John J.
 Young, Stanley
 Yuska, Edward
 Yuskevicz, Felix M.
 Zakas, Edward J.
 Zakas, Joseph S.
 Zalegiris, Clarence
 Zalner, Albert
 Zdanis, George P.
 Zdanis, John J.
 Zelinski, Edward W.
 Zelinski, Emil J.
 Zillis, John A.
 Zink, Alfred
 Zink, Joseph
 Zolense, Anthony O,
 Zolinas, Peter
 Zukaitis, Anthony
 Zukaitis, Joseph
 Zulus, Joseph A.
 Zurowsky, Adam P.

WW II Heroes Identified after St. Alphonsus Lithuanian Church Plaque Erected

After the St. Alphonsus Plaque was made and attached to the wall next to the entrance of St. Alphonsus Church, additional Baltimore Lithuanian Community World War II veterans were identified. It was impractical to remake the plaque as additional WW II veterans were found. Their names were recorded and are listed below. They deserve America's gratitude and honor just like those on the plaque.

Adams, Vytaut
Aident, Charles
Aident, Louis
Akelaitis, Andrew
Akelaitis, Edward
Andrelunas, Bernard B.
Andrelunas, Louis
Baleys, Frank
Balohunas, John
Balsis, Bruno
Baranauskas, Adam V.
Bayliss, Stanley
Bender, Walter
Benesch, Edward
Benesch, Joseph
Benesch, Sophia
Bohlman, Marie
Boil, Algard
Braskey, John J.
Casper, Keastutis
Chappas, Charles
Chesonis, Rex J.
Chiodi, Amelia
Compton, Roland
Cross, John
Dashkevich, Anthony
Dashkevich, Joseph
Dennis, Joseph
Elksnis, Albert
Eroughes, Anthony
Eroughes, John



Gabriel, John
Gabrilaitis, Edward
Gabrilaitis, Henry
Gaidis, Frank
Giedris, Albert

Granofsky, George
Gray, Albert S.
Gray, Joseph
Grigaliunas, Albert
Gustaitia, Stanley

Horant, John
Ivanauskas, John, Jr.
Ivanauskas, Adolph
Jasaitis, Leo
Jasinskas, Victor
Jekevicius, Albert
Jurik, George
Kalious, Charles
Kaminskas, William J.
Karko, Edward
Kashinskas, Ludwig
Kaskel, Walter
Kazlamskas, John
Kazlauskas, Alphonsus
Keiser, Leonard
Kiaunis, Paul N.
Kiffer, Frank
Kiffer, Walter A.
Kildis, Anthony
Kolitas, Lawrence W.
Kriss, Joseph G.
Kubelius, John
Kubsky, Albert.
Kurtinaitis, William
Lekevicius, John P.
Leschinsky, Frank A.
Leschinsky, Joseph T.
Lucas, Stanley
Maoy, Joseph J.
Marson, Frank A.

Masilionis, Joseph
Mason, Edward
Mazelofsky, Felix
Meyers, Walter
Miksiunas, John
Mikusauskas, Paul
Miliauskas, Charles
Mitchell, William
Mugowski, Albert
Mugowski, Joseph
Mugowskii, Edward
Murghland, Edwin
Orbin, Dominic
Orbin, Michael
Paoiunas, Frank
Paplauskas, John
Paplauskas, Stanley
Parlett, Frank
Phillips, Henry R.
Rackus, Oleard
Radman, Alfred
Radman, Frank
Raudonis, Peter
Roguokis, Edward
Sachs, Joseph
Sakocius, Francis
Sarsitas, Felix M.
Senkus, Benjamin
Senkus, John
Seymour, John, Jr.

Shilling, Joseph
Shilling, Salvadore
Shutatis, Frank
Skadin, John P.
Stanis, Alex
Stanis, Anthony
Stanis, Jake
Stanis, Steven
Subbalesky, Frank
Tamulionis, Joseph
Tamus, Frank
Thomas, Harold
Thomas, John J.
Thomas, Lawrence
Thomas, William
Ulas, Albert
Ulas, Herbert
Urbaitis, Vincent
Urban, Albert
Urban, Theodore
Vaitekunas, Adolph
Valunas, John
Vilkauskas, Elsworth
Walatkus, Ann P.
Walatkus, William P.
Walinski, Edward J.
Wiggers, Gerald J.
Youch, Joseph E.
Yucius, Anthony
Ziungaila, Edward

Lithuanian Post 154 Home:



**Lithuanian Hall Association Building
Home of The American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154,
851 Hollins Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201**

The Lithuanian Post 154 home was initially in the Lithuanian American Athletic Club (LAAC), 539 Washington Boulevard in Baltimore, a converted neighborhood row house. This building was subsequently demolished during the construction of Oriole Park baseball stadium at Camden Yards. The original post home was adequate for meetings but frequently too small for formal events. As a result, the post became one of the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall Association member organizations and used Lithuanian Hall as an extension of the post for larger functions. With the closing of the LAAC, Lithuanian Post 154 in January 1972, officially relocated its home to the Lithuanian Hall.

Typical American Legion Posts are neighborhood organizations with post members living within a few miles of their post. This was true for Lithuanian Post 154 in 1943 when it received its charter, but not true anymore. Though most members have moved out of Baltimore city, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires still meet at Lithuanian Hall in the old neighborhood and use it as its official Post home. Now, less than 8% of Lithuanian Post 154 members live in Baltimore City, 33% live outside Maryland and the remainder are scattered throughout Maryland from Westminster to the Eastern Shore, some driving an hour to attend a Post meeting. Lithuanian Post 154 is unique in the love its Legionnaires have for their ethnic heritage. Many of the out of state members have never been to the Post Home in Baltimore. They joined the post to establish a relationship with other US veterans of Lithuanian heritage after seeing Lithuanian Post

154 mentioned in a Lithuanian newspaper or after an internet search. Also, most Lithuanian Post 154 members continue their membership if they move away from the Baltimore area. One can say that today Lithuanian Post 154's "neighborhood" spans from Maryland to Florida to Texas to Ohio to Massachusetts.

The Baltimore Lithuanian Hall Association is a 501c3 nonprofit formed for the preservation of Lithuanian culture, language and traditions. It owns the 100-year-old Lithuanian Hall building in Baltimore which serves as the home for about a dozen Lithuanian independent fraternal organizations including Lithuanian Post 154. The building is operated on a volunteer basis. The association is managed by a board of directors, most of whom are elected for alternating two-year terms. The Hall's highest award for service to the community is the granting of a Lithuanian Hall "Life" Board of Director Membership. Currently, five of six of these coveted "Life" Board of Director Memberships are held by Post 154 Members. Also, five of the Lithuanian Hall fraternal organization leaders are post members making Lithuanian Post 154 deeply intertwined in Baltimore's Lithuanian community. Without doubt the two most prestigious Lithuanian American National organizations, the Lithuanian American Committee – Baltimore Chapter and Lithuanian American Council – Joint Baltic American National Committee are led by post members. The Baltimore Lithuanian Community seat of history is the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum, and its curator is a post member. The museum is the show case of the community. It is visited regularly by U.S. State Department officers as part of their training program before being assigned to Lithuania and by staff from the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C., as part of a sight-seeing tour for visiting notables. It would be hard to find a Lithuanian American Organization in Maryland without some Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaire as a member.

Lithuanian Post 154 Commanders 1943 - 2024

From - To	Commander
1942 - 1944	Dr. Adalbert Zelwis
1944 - 1945	Charles F. Ozel
1945 - 1946	William L. Kwedar
1946 - 1947	Reynold J. Penn
1947 - 1948	John A. Bush
1948 - 1949	Paul Gurklis
1949 - 1951	Anthony S. Dranginis
1951 - 1952	John A. Bush
1952 - 1954	John M. Stefura
1954 - 1955	John W. Mazz
1955 - 1956	William J. Ruskell
1956 - 1958	Anthony A. Kicas
1958 - 1959	William Lacs
1959 - 1960	John W. Mazz
1960 - 1962	Roland V. Miller
1962 - 1964	Henry T. Beaudet
1964 - 1966	Vaclovas Laukaitis
1966 - 1968	John J. Mox, Sr.
1968 - 1970	Algirdas Bucevicius
1970 - 1972	Balys Brasauskas
1972 - 1974	Peter S. Okas
1974 - 1975	Walter P. Hicks
1975 - 1977	John W. Kemmer, Jr.
1977 - 1979	Michael L. Cavanaugh
1979 - 1981	Charles V. Sarpalis
1981 - 1983	Edmond Bartas
1983 - 1984	John P. Urlock
1984 - 1985	Charles V. Sarpalis
1985 - 1986	Peter S. Okas
1986 - 1988	Vincentas T. Dulys
1988 - 1990	Kestutis Galeckas
1990 - 1995	Vincentas T. Dulys
1995 - 1996	John F Maskavich
1996 - 1998	Fred Kaminski
1998 - 2002	Gintaras Buivys
2002 - 2004	Walter J. Cooper
2004 - 2013	John F. Maskavich
2013 - 2024	Joseph S. Jankevicius

Lithuanian Auxiliary Unit 154

Charter Members

Mildred (Kicas) Sutt
Margaret Ambrose
Catherine Kwedera
Patricia Sinkus
Catherine Kwedar
Madelyn Allen
Petrone Dumsha
Ursula Karper
Eva Maslauskas
Anastasia Boudris
Adele Bush
Anna Kripas
Anna (Meris) Rekus
Anna Ozel
Mildred Bush
Marie Krenevienas

Unit Presidents

1946 - 1947 Mildred (Kicas) Sutt
1947 - 1949 Eva Kraus
1949 - 1952 Frances A. Velzis
1952 - 1954 Julia Rastenis
1954 - 1956 Nellie Miller
1956 - 1959 Marie Mazz
1959 - 1960 Mildred (Kicas) Sutt
1960 - 1962 Isabell (Kicas) Zirbs
1962 - 1964 Evelyn Brooks
1964 - 1965 Mildred (Kicas) Sutt
1965 - 1968 Shirley Colley
1968 - 1970 Eva Kraus
1971 - 1978 Francis Karpers,
1979 - 1981 Eugenia Paznekas
1982 - 1994 Mary C. Byrnes

Gold Star Mothers

Lillian Baker
Amelia Gray
Bertha Mitchell
Agnes Nasaukaitis
Julia Rastenis



**Mary C. Byrnes
1982 - 1992
Last Unit 154
President**

Post 154 Comrades Transferred to Post Everlasting

Alphonse A. Adams
Joseph Akulis
Joseph A. Allen
Robert P. Ambrose
* **Vincent Ambrose**
C. Warren Andrews, Jr.
Joseph Antoniak
Joseph Anzula
Joseph Astasauskas
William Appleby
Harry E. Baker
Albert P. Bakutis
Simon P. Baranosky
Peter Barciauskas
Edmond V. Bartas
Phillip Battaglia
Kenneth Bauer
* **Joseph Bayoras**
Jennings S. Beaty
James Beaudet
Thomas Beaudet
Joseph G. Beelat
Joseph Benesch
Stanley Beneshunas
William H. Bessling
Donald L. Beyer
Edward Bistriski
Peter Bradley
John Brandis
Boniface Brazaitis
Edward M. Briggs
Alfred J. Bucevicius
Algirdas Bucevicius
* **Dr. John A. Buchness**
Edward R. Buda
Edward M. Budelis
Alexander W. Burke
John A. Bush
Charles P. Byrne
Robert W. Carre
Leo M. Cavanaugh
Albert Chepaitis
H. Marshall Chetalat
Walter P. Cherivitch
Leon M. Cooper
Walter S. Cooper

William Coursey
Fletcher M. Crockett
Edward D. Daniels
Martin J. Demattei
Adolph G. Denbin
Authur N. DeRoche
Charles Dikinis
Harry L. Doxzen
Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis
* **Frank Dubinskas**
Albert Dumsha
Vytautas Eringis
Floyd Franklin
Emery I. Frost, Sr.
Frank Gabranski
Kestutis Galeckas
Bernard Galinaitis
Alexander Gasunas
Frank Giannino
Charles C. Grams
Thomas N. Green
Charles Gross
Earl C. Gross
Joseph Grybe
* **Paul Gurklis**
Harry Hay
Walter Preston Hicks
Ernest F. Hill
Frank J. Jacobs
Richard Jacobs
John Jarosinski
Edward J. Jarcewski
Albert C. Jasaitis
Alexander J. Jersey
Ellsworth Johnson
John Jukas
Albert J. Juskus
William J. Kamansky
* **Frank Karciouzkas**
Anthony Kasulen
August Kazlauskis
John W. Kemmer, Jr.
Joseph Keydash
Edward J. Kicas
Anthony A. Kicas
Anthony A. Kicas, Sr.



Alfred M. King
Stanley Kiturakis
Joseph J. Kleinota, Jr.
Stasys Kligys
John J. Kozlowski
Vincent Krievienas
William Kwedar
* **William G. Lacs**
Louis F. Landau
Dominick J. Lasseth
Vaclovas Laukaitis
Dr. Adolph T. Levickas
Herbert J. Levickas
William A. Lewis
Edward J. Lipton
Peter Litwin
Lester H. Lock
John P. Lockwich
Alexander W. Luckton
John G. Makauskas
Bruno Malinauskas
Thomas G. Marcin
* **Frank Maslauskas**
John Maskavich
Albert A. Matalonis
Gordon J. Matulonis
John W. Mazz
Michael Mazz
Harvey Meadows
Msgr. Louis J. Mendelis
William Meris
Paul F. Metz

* **Designates a Charter Member**

Post 154 Comrades Transferred to Post Everlasting



Anthony V. Milauskas
 Gilbert H. Miller
 Michael J. Miller
 Robert J. Miller
 Roland V. Miller
 Bernard Milosavich
 Stanley F. Milunaitis
 Joseph L. Minnich, Jr
 Vernard M. Monroe
 Joseph Muzdakias
 Watson A. Naravas
 George Nasukaitis
 * **Vincent S. Niemur**
 Ramunas J. Noreika
 Herman W. Noweck
 James B. Novick
 Peter S. Okas
 Joseph Olevich
 George Olwin
 * **Charles F. Ozel**
 John A. Parkent
 James Parr
 Joseph Pastarnokas
 Frank Pecker
 Charles E. Peddicord
 James W. Peddicord

Edward Penn
 Reynold J. Penn
 Richard Petruska
 Earl G. Pfeifer
 Vernon I. Pfeifer
 Charles M. Pinder
 Ellwood V. Price
 John Quinn
 Olgard Rackus
 Joseph J. Rakowsky
 Nadas Rastenis
 John C. Raynor
 Casimir V. Razulis
 William T. Robinson
 Albert D. Rocks
 Walter Rogers
 Stanley M. Ruby
 John C. Ruff
 William J. Ruskell
 * **Felix Rutkus**
 * **Anthony G. Sackalosky**
 Anthony V. Sakie
 Paul Salveti
 Charles V. Sarpalis
 Joseph A. Sauers
 Algis Saurusaitis

Joseph Saurusaitis
 Anthony Schakus
 John V. Sciukas
 Walter Scmidbauer
 Richard Seymour
 John Rafi Sharif
 John Rafi Sharif
 Kenneth Shillenn
 Alphonse Silanskas
 Joseph Skrelunas
 Algirdas Skudzinskas
 Clifton J. Smith
 Oliver W. Smith, Sr.
 William K. Smith
 Anthony S. Snipas
 Albert J. Soukup
 John Stefura
 Leroy M. Steiner
 John Stez
 Albert A. Stripitis
 Michael Sutt
 George W. Sweeny
 William Eldridge Trott
 * **Ignacy Urnezis**
 John P. Urlock
 * **Vincent J. Velzis**
 Vincent J. Velzis Jr.
 James H. Venker
 Donald K. Vieraitis
 James Wakefield
 Alexander Walunas
 John S. Watson
 Leo. J. Weisengoff
 Walter H. Wellsworth
 Samuel S. Werner
 Victor J. Wisnauskas
 Christian M. Wolfe
 William York
 Clarence A. Zalegaris
 Anthony B. Zeider
 * **Dr. Adalbert Zelwis**
 Frederick C. Ziemer
 Egidijus J. Zilionis
 Adam Zurowsky

* **Designates a Charter Member**

TEMPORARY CHARTER

The American Legion

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Charter for LITHUANIAN Post, Department of MARYLAND, No. 154

This is to Certify, that the National Executive Committee of THE AMERICAN LEGION hereby grants a charter to

<p>Adalbert Zelwis</p> <p>Vincent J. Velais</p> <p>Ignacy Urnesius</p> <p>Frank Karolovskas</p> <p>John A. Buchness</p>	<p>William G. Lecevitich</p> <p>Vincent Ambrose</p> <p>Felix Rutkus</p> <p>Paul Ourkile</p> <p>Francoisus Macelauskas</p>
---	---

<p>Vincent P. Nienour</p> <p>Charles F. Osol</p> <p>Joseph Bayoras</p> <p>Anthony Sakievich</p> <p>Frank Dubinettie</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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for the formation of a Post of THE AMERICAN LEGION at BALTIMORE Department of MARYLAND, under the name of LITHUANIAN Post, Department of MARYLAND, No. 154

This charter is granted on the recommendation of the Department Organization and on the following terms and conditions:

1. All acts heretofore duly and properly taken for the formation of the above named Post are recognized and confirmed by the National Executive Committee.
2. The above named Post shall uphold the declared principles of THE AMERICAN LEGION and shall conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the Department Organization and of the National Executive Committee, or other duly constituted national governing body of THE AMERICAN LEGION.
3. This charter is subject to revocation by the National Executive Committee, on the recommendations of the Department Organization, or by such authority that may hereafter be established by the National Convention.

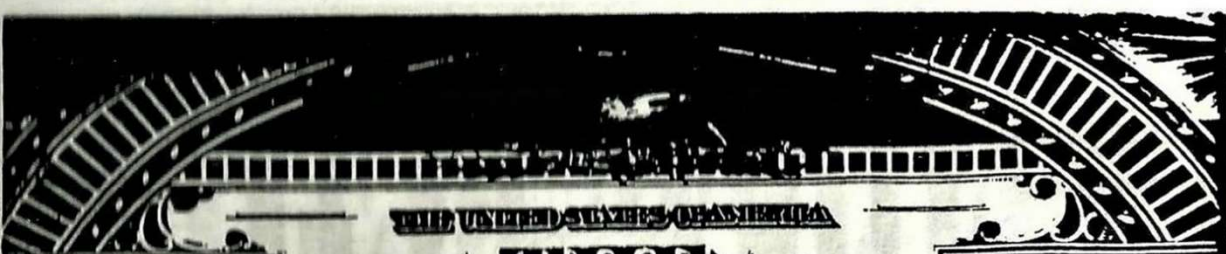
In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this twenty fourth day of March, 19 33

Daniel F. McMillan
Departmental Commander

J. Nelson Tribble
Departmental Adjutant

Roma McMillan
Secretary

Frank E. Gannon
National Adjutant



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE AMERICAN LEGION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The required number of persons duly qualified for membership having applied therefor and such application having been approved in due form.

Now therefore, pursuant to the powers conferred by the Constitution of The American Legion, this Charter is granted and those applying together with such others as may unite with them, are hereby authorized to establish and maintain a Post of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

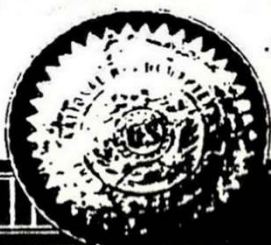
at Baltimore *to be known as* Lithuanian *Post*
No. 154 *Department of* Maryland *and this instrument, unless*
revoked or suspended, shall be conclusive evidence of the lawful existence thereof.

By the acceptance of this Charter, the said Post acknowledges irrevocable jurisdiction and declares itself to be in all things subject to the Constitutions of The American Legion, and of the Department of Maryland, and the rules, regulations, orders and laws promulgated in pursuance thereof; and further the said Post pledges itself, through its members, to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of The United States and the principles of true Americanism, for the common welfare of the living and in solemn commemoration of those who died that liberty might not perish from the Earth.

In Witness Whereof, this Charter is given under the hand and seal of the National Commander duly attested by the National Adjutant, at Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, this 19th *day of* June *1944; and countersigned by the Commander and the Adjutant for the Department of Maryland at Baltimore the* 19 *day of* June *1944.*

Commander
Chas. W. Thomas
Department Commander

Adjutant
J. Nelson Kirby
Department Adjutant



National Commander
Samuel H. Whitman
National Commander

National Adjutant
Donald G. Glassoff
National Adjutant

Post 154 Charter Documents:

CHARTER MEMBERSHIP ROLL

**THE
AMERICAN LEGION**

Lithuanian POST NO. 154
DEPARTMENT OF *Maryland*

Adalbert Zelwis. Post Commander.
Charles F. Ozel Commander
William E. Cassin Commander
William K. Krieder - Adjutant.
Amicus J. K. K. K. K.
Felix Rutkus K. K. K.
Paul Gusk. K. K. K. K. K.
Jacob Sinkas
William Mers
Michael K. K. K. K.
Michael K. K. K. K.
John Alon. K. K. K.
John R. K. K. K.
John S. Matouskas
Thomas T. Marcin
William Begus
Walter Bullett
Ignacy Urnagius
William York
John G. K. K. K.
Adas Pastenis
Frank Wadlanskas
Anthony Schabkus
Joseph J. Angula
Frank Dubuskie
Peter Matelis
Edward D. Daniris
Joseph Daynas
Anthony Sakie

Alexander P. Komas
Edward K. K.
Peter Bradley
Joseph Becht
Alexander Walunas
Charles K. K. K.
Vincent P. K. K.
Frank K. K. K.
John A. Buchner
Tony A. K. K.
Pino P. Milauskas
Alfred W. King
Frank P. Chausasky
Anthony J. Kaydash
Charles T. Mathewitch
Vincent T. Ambrose
Joseph A. K. K.
Peter F. Litwinski
Stanley A. Bluyers
Peter Conis
Charles A. Grunawich
Charles Williams
Silvanus Munkus

Lithuanian Post 154 Constitution

CONSTITUTION OF

The American Legion Department of Maryland, Lithuanian Post No. 154, Incorporated

PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State, and Nation;
To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and good will on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be *The American Legion Department of Maryland, Lithuanian Post No. 154, Incorporated*, hereinafter referred to as the "Post."

Section 2. The Post is chartered in The American Legion, Department of Maryland Incorporated, herein referred to as the "Department."

Article II - Nature

Section 1. The Post is a civilian organization; and membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in the Post; no member shall be addressed by military or naval title in any meeting of this Post.

Section 2. The Post shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

Section 3. The Post shall not be a member of, or affiliated with, any organization, committee, association, council, or group whereby The American Legion might be committed to a policy contrary to that adopted by The American Legion.

ARTICLE III - ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Eligibility for membership in the Post shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of The American Legion, Article IV – Eligibility, Section 1.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership in the Post except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. Social or honorary memberships are specifically prohibited. This provision does not preclude this Post from awarding honorary life membership to Post members utilizing the Post's rules, or policies, for awarding honorary life members.

Section 4. No person shall be a member at any time of more than one Post.

Section 5. Application for membership shall be made in writing under such regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the Post at a regular or special meeting.

Section 6. All applications for membership shall be acted upon at the next Post meeting following the making of such application, and shall at such meeting, be accepted, rejected or referred for further investigation and consideration. If a majority of the members cast their vote against the acceptance of said application, then such application shall be recorded as rejected.

Section 7. No person, who has been expelled by another Post, shall be admitted to membership of this Post without the consent of the expelling Post. Where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, the expelled member may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for permission to be admitted to membership in this Post. The expelled member shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted. If permission is granted, this Post must approve the application for membership utilizing the procedures in Section 6 above.

Section 8. No member having charges filed by this Post shall be eligible for transfer to another Post within the Department until such charges are adjudicated.

ARTICLE IV - POST OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Post shall include the following elected officers: Commander, Vice Commander (one or more), Judge Advocate, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain; and such other appointed officers as the Membership shall deem necessary. It shall be optional to combine the offices of Adjutant and Finance Officer, and to appoint, in lieu of electing, the offices of Historian and Chaplain. The Post Commander may appoint a Service Officer, Assistant Adjutant, and/or Assistant Finance Officer if deemed necessary for administration of the Post, subject to approval of the Post Membership.

Section 2. The Post Officers shall concurrently serve as the Corporate Officers of the Post Corporation. In such capacity the Corporate Officers are additionally governed by the Standards of Care as codified in Maryland Corporations and Associations Article of the Code of Maryland, now in force, or as amended in the future.

Section 3. Any member in good standing in the Post shall be eligible to hold office in the Post. No Post Officer may be an employee of this Post, and serve as a Post Officer concurrently.

Section 4. Officers shall be elected annually at least 20 days before the opening of the Department Convention, or appointed as provided in Section 1 above.

Section 5. Elected officers shall assume their duties as such within twenty days after the closing date of the Department Convention.

Section 6. Appointed officers shall assume their positions upon being designated by the Commander and approved by the Post Membership.

Section 7. The officers shall serve one (1) year terms, and shall hold office until their successors are duly elected, appointed, or as otherwise provided.

Section 8. The Spouse of a Post Officer may be an employee of this Post. However, the Post Officer must remove themselves from any employment-related issues of the employee Spouse. This Post may establish additional conflict of interest restrictions for Post Officers in the Post Special Rules of Order, or Standing Rules.

Section 9. Each officer shall have only one vote at the Executive Committee and Post Membership meetings respectively.

Section 10. No member may hold more than one elected office at a time.

ARTICLE V - POST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Post Executive Committee, hereafter referred to as the Executive Committee, shall have the administrative authority to act between Post Membership Meetings on matters of urgency coming before the Post, and shall act on such matters as may be referred to it from time to time by the Post Membership for consideration, recommendation, or final disposition, as the case may be. The Post Executive Committee serves concurrently as the Post Corporate Board of Directors.

Section 2 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the elected officers of the Post as provided in the Post Constitution, Article IV – Post Officers, Section 1, and an even number of Executive Committee members elected at-large of which there shall be at least 2, but no more than 6. The number of at-large Executive Committee members to be elected shall be set in the Post Special Rules of Order, or Standing Rules.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall authorize or recommend, as applicable, all non-budgeted expenditures exceeding the Post spending threshold as established in the Post Special Rules of Order, or Standing Rules; require adequate money for payment of all Post liabilities, and crime and fidelity insurance for all persons having the custody of Post funds in accordance with Article XIV, (Monies and Collections), Section 1 of the Department Bylaws. They shall also have charge of, and be responsible for, the management of the affairs of the Post, subject to approval or ratification, as applicable, by the Post Membership, or otherwise as provided; and may hear the reports of Post Committee Chairpersons.

ARTICLE VI - FINANCE

Section 1. The revenue of the Post shall be derived from membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the members of the Post, unless provided otherwise.

Section 2. Annual membership dues are due between October 20th and December 31st of each year for the succeeding year and the amount of dues for the succeeding year shall be fixed and determined by the Post membership no later than the preceding February Post membership meeting. At no time shall the dues of the Post be lower than the per capita rates of the National and Department combined.

Section 3. The annual dues shall be collected by the Post and transmitted promptly through the Department or to the National Treasurer. Posts are designated agents for collection for The American Legion with respect to such annual dues and upon the receipt thereof shall remit them promptly to The American Legion. In no event shall the period transpiring between the receipt of such annual dues by the Post and the remittance thereof to The American Legion exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 4. The annual dues shall be collected in such alternative method as determined by the National Executive Committee from time to time and thereafter communicated to the Department and the Post; and any such alternative method shall be in addition to and not in substitution of section 3 above.

Section 5. All expenditures shall be approved by the Post Membership, unless provided otherwise.

Section 6. All disbursements shall be authorized by the Post Commander, or by an Officer designated in the Post Special Rules of Order or Standing Rules, this must be an Officer other than an authorized signer for issuance of payments or checks.

Section 7. Budgeted expenditures, falling within the budgeted amounts, previously approved by the Post, need not be approved by an additional vote of either the Executive Committee, or the Post Membership. Non-budgeted items, or monies to be expended in excess of the approved budget, must first be approved at a Post meeting.

Section 8. Notwithstanding the Non-Budgeted items provision in Section 7 above, the Post Membership may establish in the Post Special Rules of Order, or Standing Rules, the maximum amount that the Executive Committee shall be authorized to spend for emergency situations, where entering into contract or where payment is due prior to the next Post meeting. The Executive Committee shall then report the expenditure to the Post Membership at the next regular Post Membership Meeting.

Section 9. No individual, group of persons, or subordinate organization of the Post is authorized to contract or incur any bills or obligations in the name of the Post nor act as the agent of the Post for any such purpose whatsoever, except as in, Section 5, 6, and 7 above.

Section 10. The Post shall not incur, or cause to be incurred, any liability or obligation to any other Post, subdivision, members of The American Legion, or other individuals, corporations, or organizations.

Section 11. The accounts of the Post shall be audited, internally or externally, within ninety (90) days after the end of the fiscal year, and the final report of the audit shall be delivered to the members of the Post at the next Post Membership Meeting. If an internal audit is to be conducted, the Post Executive Committee shall appoint an Audit Committee charged with the duty of auditing Post financial accounts. No Officer having the duties of authorizing disbursements, or signing checks may serve on the Audit Committee. The audit shall be done at least annually, or more frequently at their discretion.

Section 12. Financial reports shall be made at all regular Post membership meetings and the reports should not be accepted or approved, as they are subject to audit before approval by the Post.

Section 13. No real estate or leasehold property belonging to the Post or one of its subordinate organizations shall be sold or disposed of in any way or have its title encumbered in any manner without the Post notifying the County and District Councils in which it is located, and the Department in writing and without thereafter obtaining written approval of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 14. Upon dissolution of the Post, none of its assets shall be distributed to any member, or individual, or organization outside The American Legion, and such assets shall be transferred upon demand to the Department. However, nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the Department to take over or assume any financial responsibility as to Post property, assets, and/or liabilities.

ARTICLE VII - POST PROPERTY

Section 1. A request to dispose of any operable Post property shall require the approval of the Post at a regularly scheduled Post Membership Meeting.

Section 2. Neither the Post nor its subordinate organizations shall distribute the proceeds from any sale of real or personal property to its members.

Section 3. Real property belonging to the Post, whether owned or leased, shall be bought, sold, encumbered or disposed of as provided in the Department Constitution & By-Laws, Rules of the Department Executive Committee, and the Uniform Code for Buying, Selling, Leasing, or Encumbering of Post Property.

ARTICLE VIII - CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

Any member, in good standing in the Post, transferring from the Post shall be entitled to a certificate stating current membership therein and the duration thereof.

ARTICLE IX - AUXILIARIES

Section 1. The Post recognizes an auxiliary organization known as the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit _____.

Section 2. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be as prescribed by The American Legion nationally.

Section 3. The Auxiliary Unit shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and thereafter approved by the Department.

ARTICLE X - PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Section 1. All Post meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless otherwise provided.

Section 2. All meetings of the Post shall be conducted as provided in The American Legion's Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Department Convention, in accordance with the Rules of the Department Convention as adopted, and requires a majority vote of the total registered and authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the Department Adjutant to all Posts and members of the Department Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the next Department Convention, and provided further, it may be amended by unanimous vote at any Department Convention without notice.

Section 2. Any part of this Constitution which is now, or which may become, inconsistent with the Constitution of The American Legion and/or the Department of Maryland Constitution shall be nullified and be replaced by the higher Constitution provision with which this Constitution is in conflict.

**BY-LAWS
OF**

The American Legion Department of Maryland, Lithuanian Post No. 154, Incorporated

ARTICLE I - POST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Post Executive Committee, hereafter referred to as the "Executive Committee," shall meet for its organization, and such other business as may come before it, at the call of the Commander within fourteen (14) days after the Post officers shall have assumed their positions.

Section 2. Thereafter, the Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month, or at the call of the Commander, and as often as said Commander may deem necessary. All meetings of the Executive Committee shall be conducted at the Post meeting location, unless prior notice of the location is made at a regular Post Membership Meeting. The Executive Committee may meet in an alternative location, or by alternate means as established in the Post Standing Rules, in an emergency situation by notifying all Executive Committee members, and posting the change of location and/or information on how to access the alternate means at the normal Post meeting location.

Section 3. The Commander shall call a meeting of the Executive Committee upon the written request of three (3) or more Executive Committee Members.

Section 4. The Commander shall preside at all Executive Committee meetings. In the absence of the Commander, the First Vice Commander or Second Vice Commander, in the order named, shall preside at Executive Committee meetings. In the event of the absence of the Commander and all Vice Commanders, the Adjutant shall call the meeting to order and such meeting shall elect its presiding officer.

Section 5. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum thereof.

Section 6. Executive Committee meetings are open to all Post members in good standing. A Post member, other than an Executive Committee member, shall have no voice, unless the Post member shall have been recognized by the presiding officer.

Section 7. Notwithstanding the provision of Section 6 above allowing members to attend Executive Committee Meetings, the Executive Committee may enter into Executive Session for discussions and deliberations on matters requiring privacy or additional discretion. The Executive Committee must report final actions taken to the Post upon final disposition of the matter, or provide updates on progress of legal matters as appropriate.

Section 8. Minutes shall be kept of all Executive Committee meetings by the Adjutant. Post Executive Committee minutes shall be read or distributed at the next Regular Post Membership Meeting following approval by the Post Executive Committee. Actions of the Post Executive Committee may be ratified as appropriate.

ARTICLE II - VACANCIES

Section 1. In the event of the death, disability, removal, or resignation of the Commander, the First Vice Commander shall assume the title and discharge the duties of Commander. If the First Vice Commander is unable or unwilling to assume the office of Commander, the Second Vice Commander shall ascend to the Office of Commander. An election shall be held to fill the office(s) of First Vice Commander and/or Second Vice Commander as provided for in Section 2.

Section 2. Vacancies in elected offices, other than Commander, shall be filled by an election held at the next regularly scheduled Post meeting to fill the unexpired term of the position vacated. Nominations for any vacant elected office shall come from the floor at the next regularly scheduled Post meeting.

Section 3. Vacancies that occur in any appointed office shall be filled by the Commander, subject to approval of the Post Membership to fill the unexpired term of the position vacated.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. *Post Commander.* It shall be the duty of the Commander to preside at all meetings of the Post, to have general supervision over the business and affairs of the Post, and shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Post. The Commander shall appoint committees as necessary to carry out the programs and policies of The American Legion and the Post. The Commander shall be ex-officio member of all committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee and Elections Committee, and shall perform such other duties as may be directed by the Post Membership.

Section 2. *First Vice Commander.* The First Vice Commander shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of Commander in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by, the Commander. The First Vice Commander shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commander or the Post.

Section 3. *Second Vice Commander (Optional).* The Second Vice Commander shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of First Vice Commander in the absence or disability of that officer, or when called upon by the Post Commander. The Second Vice Commander shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commander or the Post, and shall assume and discharge the duties of Commander in the absence or disability of both the Commander and the First Vice Commander.

Section 4. *Judge Advocate.* The Judge Advocate shall advise the Post Membership and Executive Committee on all matters based off of American Legion experience. This includes the interpretation of the Post Constitution and By-Laws. The Judge Advocate ensures the Post receives appropriate legal support in legal matters, and acts as the presiding officer at Post hearings unless recused due to being a party of the hearing (witness/defendant/plaintiff). The Judge Advocate shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office, or assigned by the Commander or the Post.

Section 5. *Post Adjutant.* The Adjutant shall have charge of, and keep, a full and correct record of the proceedings of all Post Membership and Executive Committee Meetings. The Adjutant shall also be responsible for the safe keeping of all Minutes, which shall be retained within the Post. Upon request, copies of Minutes shall be distributed to the membership. The Adjutant shall keep such records and send such reports as may be required by the National Organization and the Department. The Adjutant shall ensure the following reports and deadlines are met: 1) Consolidated Post Report, Convention awards submissions, and End of year Reports (Due 1st Friday in June), 2) Certificate of Elections (Due immediately after elections), 3) Post Data Report (due April 15th), 4) Post Inspection Report (due Feb 1st or earlier by schedule), 5) Department Convention Delegate listing (Due NLT 20 days preceding Department Convention). The Adjutant's duties shall also include handling all correspondence of the Post. They shall be responsible for all membership records and processing. The Adjutant shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commander or the Post.

Section 6. *Finance Officer/Treasurer.* The Finance Officer/Treasurer of the Post shall have charge of all finances and see that they are safely deposited in local financial institution(s) and shall report once a month to the Executive Committee and the Post Membership the condition of the finances of the Post, with such recommendations as may deem expedient or necessary for raising funds with which to carry on the activities of the Post. The Finance Officer/Treasurer shall sign all checks disbursing the monies of the Post, unless additional authorized signers are provided in the Post Standing Rules. The Finance Officer/Treasurer shall provide, on behalf of the Post, such crime and fidelity insurance in such sum as shall be fixed by the Executive Committee, subject to approval of the Post Membership.

Section 7. *Post Historian.* The Post Historian shall be charged with keeping the individual records and incidents of the Post and its members, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commander, or the Post.

Section 8. *Sergeant-at-Arms.* The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain and post the colors and preserve order at all meetings; shall verify that each attendee at a Post meeting is admitted in accordance with Article I – Post Executive Committee and Article V – Post Membership Meetings as appropriate. The Sergeant-at Arms shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commander or the Post.

Section 9. *Post Chaplain.* The Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Post members and will offer divine, but non-sectarian, service in the event of dedications, funerals, and other public functions. The Chaplain shall also assure that sick, and deceased, members of the Post are paid due respect by the Post as directed by the Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commander or the Post.

ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Post may have standing committees such as, but not limited to: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Riders.

Section 2. Such standing committees shall consist of such members, and the chairperson thereof, as shall be designated by the Commander subject to approval of the Post Membership, , unless otherwise provided in the Post Standing Rules.

(a)Americanism Committee. The Americanism Committee shall be charged with the inspiration of patriotism and good citizenship by arrangements for proper observance of patriotic occasions; encouragement of patriotic and civic phases of instruction in schools; Americanization of aliens; combating anti-American propaganda by education of the general public in American ideals through public forums, etc.; and activities for community and civic betterment.

(b)Children and Youth Committee. The Children & Youth Committee shall ensure that any child of a veteran in need of care and protection shall receive proper and timely service and aid; to strengthen the family unit; extend support to sound organizations and facilities that provide services for children and youth; and to maintain a well-rounded program that meets the needs of the young people in their respective community.

(c)National Security Committee. The National Security Committee shall urge Post members to assist in community emergency preparedness, and to support local and national civilian defense projects.

(d)Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee. The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee shall assist veterans in obtaining needed medical care and transportation to medical appointments; in the pursuance of claims and in obtaining other veteran's rights and benefits; to visit comrades who are sick or disabled; and to visit and comfort members of their families when sick or bereaved.

(e)Sons of The American Legion Committee. If the Post has a Sons of The American Legion Squadron, this committee shall have supervision over the operations of the squadron.

(f) The American Legion Riders Committee. If the Post has an American Legion Rider program, this committee shall have supervision over the operations of the program.

(g)Operations Committee. The Post may use this committee for the purposes deemed necessary to conduct operational aspects of the Post. This Committee shall be under the supervision of the Post Executive Committee, and the specific powers and duties delegated shall be established in the Post Standing Rules.

Section 3. The Commander may nominate, subject to approval of the Post Membership, any other committees and chairpersons as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE V - POST MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. Post Membership Meetings shall be held as the Post Membership deems necessary, but no less than quarterly, in order to uphold the declared principles of The American Legion at the location serving as the Post home, commencing at a time and day, as approved annually by the Post Membership.

Section 2. The Commander shall preside at all Post Membership Meetings. In the absence of the Commander, or the Commander electing to relinquish the Presiding Officer duties temporarily, the provisions of Article I (Post Executive Committee), Section 4 shall govern the selection of a presiding officer for the meeting.

Section 3. At Post Membership Meetings, such business may be transacted and as properly presented for action.

Section 4. The location, date, and/or time of Post Membership Meetings shall be established annually and recorded on the Post Data Form and submitted to Department Headquarters not later than April 15th. Any changes to the location, date, or time of a Post Membership Meeting may be made with a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a regularly scheduled Post Membership Meeting. Any indefinite changes shall be reported to the Department Headquarters before the next regular Post meeting.

Section 5. In the event of an emergency, the Commander may reschedule, conduct meeting using alternate means as established in the Post Standing Rules, or cancel a regularly scheduled Post Membership Meeting.

Section 6. Post Membership Meetings shall be open to all Post members in good standing and National, Department, District, County and/or Area officers.

Section 7. Upon the written request of a minimum number of members necessary to constitute a quorum at a regular Post Membership Meeting, the Commander shall call a special Post Membership Meeting, which shall take place no sooner than five (5) days from the receipt of the written request. If the request for a special Post Membership Meeting has been properly called, the Commander shall give notice of the Special Post Membership Meeting by posting a notice on the bulletin boards if applicable, at least three (3) days prior to the meeting, as to the date, time, and purpose of the special Post Membership Meeting.

Section 8. A quorum for Post Membership Meetings shall be set by the table below, and based on the Post Membership size recorded on the end-of-year reports for delegate strength at the previous Department convention:

Post Membership Above	Quorum	Post Membership Above	Quorum
15	5	950	15
50	6	1050	16
150	7	1150	17
250	8	1250	18
350	9	1350	19
450	10	1450	20
550	11	1550	21
650	12	1650	22
750	13	1750	23
850	14	1850	24

Section 9. In the event the Post does not achieve a quorum at two consecutive Regular Post meetings, the Post Commander shall notify the County Commander of the lack of a quorum. In the event the Post does not achieve a quorum at three consecutive Regular Post meetings, the Post Commander shall notify the District Commander of the lack of a quorum. In the event the Post does not achieve a quorum at four consecutive Regular Post meetings, the Post Commander shall notify the Department Commander of the lack of a quorum.

Section 10. The Post may apply in writing to the Department Internal Affairs Commission for a temporary waiver of quorum requirements above. Said waiver request shall contain a proposed temporary quorum, and must be supported by good and sufficient reasons precluding the Post from achieving the quorum outlined in Section 8 above.

ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. A Nominating Committee, recommended by the Post Commander and approved by the Post Membership, may be used to search for, and to verify eligibility of, candidates for office. The Nominating Committee shall file its report with the Post Membership.

Section 2. Eligibility requirements to hold office in the Post:

(a) Any member in good standing of the Post may hold office.

(b) Prior to the elections, the Post Adjutant or a Nominating Committee shall authenticate the eligibility of each candidate for office by verifying the member's DD Form 214; separation documents from federal, active military duty; military identification card; or any other documents that prove eligibility for membership.

Section 3. Qualification and Restrictions:

(a) Eligible candidates for office may appear on the ballot for more than one elected office as defined in the Post Constitution, Article IV – Post Officers, Section 1.

(b) There shall be no absentee ballots.

Section 4. Prior to elections, the Post Commander shall recommend, subject to approval of the Post Membership, an Elections Committee, consisting of a minimum of three (3) members consisting of one (1) Judge of Elections and a minimum of two (2) Tellers.

Section 5. Election of contested offices shall be by secret ballot. The candidate or candidates receiving a majority of votes cast shall be elected to the respective office or offices for which they are candidates. In the event of no candidate receives a majority, the election procedures from Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be followed for subsequent votes on the position.

Section 6. Candidate(s) for uncontested office(s) may be elected by acclamation.

Section 7. The Elections Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that all members present to vote are in good standing, and for the security of the ballots from the beginning of the election until the results are certified. Immediately following the counting of the ballots and certification of the election results by the Elections Committee, the official ballot count shall be announced and posted, or distributed by the Post in a manner prescribed in Post Special Rules of Order or Standing Rules. Written ballots shall be retained by the Adjutant for sixty (60) days.

Section 8. If irregularities are claimed with respect to the election to any office, such challenge must be made prior to the close of the meeting.

Section 9. A ceremonial or ritual installation of Post officers may be held each year, notwithstanding this provision any incoming officer shall take the oath of office before assuming the office. The prerogative of installing Post Officers shall belong to the County/Area Commander, and the County/Area Commander's consent shall first be obtained before any other person shall conduct installation.

ARTICLE VII - REMOVAL OF POST OFFICERS

Any Post Officer may be removed from office as prescribed by the Department By-Laws, Article XIII, Section 8.

ARTICLE VIII - DISCIPLINE OF POST MEMBERS

Section 1. The Post has the power to discipline its own membership, subject to the National and Department Constitutions and By-Laws.

Section 2. Any member of the Post shall be disciplined, as prescribed by the National and Department Constitution & By-Laws, Uniform Code of Discipline of Post Members, and Rules of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Post Adjutant shall report any Post member charged by the Post, or a member being disciplined under this Article, to the Department Adjutant to ensure a Post transfer is not processed on said member.

ARTICLE IX - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1st shall be classed as delinquent, and not in good standing, and they shall be suspended from all privileges. If their dues are paid on or before February 1st, their delinquency shall terminate. If they are still delinquent after February 1st, their membership shall be suspended. If they are still under such suspension on June 30th of such year, their membership in The American Legion shall be forfeited.

Section 2. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post and payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs; provided, however, that the Post, may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members whose failure to pay dues occurred while on active military service.

ARTICLE X - DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Section 1. Nomination and Election of Delegates and Alternates.

(a) Nomination and election of delegates and alternates to the annual Department Convention shall be no later than at the May Post Membership Meeting.

(b) If the number of nominations for delegates exceeds the number of authorized delegates as prescribed in the Department Constitution, Article V, there shall be an election for the number of authorized delegates by a secret, written ballot.

i. The nominees, up to the number of authorized delegates, with the highest number of votes shall be designated as delegates.

ii. The nominees in excess of the number of authorized delegates shall be designated alternates.

(c) If the number of nominations for delegates does not exceed the number of authorized delegates as prescribed in the Department Constitution, Article V, then, all nominees shall be elected by acclamation and designated as delegates.

(d) Any vacancies to the list of delegates or alternates to the Department Convention shall be filled through appointment by the outgoing Commander.

(e) The Post Adjutant or Delegation Chairperson is authorized to make adjustments to the list of delegates, before submission in the case of a reduction in the authorized delegates, by removing the primary delegates with the lowest vote totals and placing these affected delegates on the alternate delegate list,

Section 2. The incoming Post Commander and outgoing Post Commander shall automatically be designated as delegates. Either of these officers may request in writing to be removed from the delegate list.

Section 3. The immediate outgoing Post Commander shall be the Chairperson of the Post delegation. If the outgoing Post Commander will not attend the Department Convention, the incoming Post Commander shall serve as delegation Chairperson. If neither of these Officers shall attend the Department Convention, the delegation shall elect its own Chairperson.

ARTICLE XI - RESOLUTIONS

Section 1. All resolutions of state or national scope presented to the Post by a member, or reported to the Post by a committee, shall merely embody the opinion of the Post on the subject and copy of same shall be forwarded to the Department Headquarters for approval before any publicity is given or action other than mere passage by the Post is taken.

ARTICLE XII - NOTICES

Section 1. Every member shall furnish the Post Adjutant with an address for first class mailings.

Section 2. The Post Adjutant shall cause notice of the annual election to be given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto. If other than mailed notice of elections, the form of notice shall be designated in the Post Special Rules of Order or Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended in the same manner as prescribed in the Post Constitution, Article XI - Amendments.

Section 2. Any part of these By-Laws which are now, or which may become, inconsistent with the Constitution or By-Laws of The American Legion or the Department of Maryland Constitution or By-Laws shall be nullified and be replaced by the higher Constitution or By-Laws provision with which these By-Laws are in conflict.

Lithuanian Post 154 Standing Rules

STANDING RULES OF LITHUANIAN POST 154

Updated November 30, 2022

Background of Standing Rules. Post may decide to further supplement and clarify the bylaws.

Standing rules are rules or resolutions that are of a continuing (or standing) nature. These rules deal only with administrative matters and function under the umbrella of, and must be in compliance with, the organization's bylaws.

Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition. The American Legion and the Department of Maryland utilize Roberts Rules of Order as the established parliamentary procedure.

Roberts Rules of Order

Standing Rules, §2, p.18

Standing rules are rules (1) which relate to the details of the administration of a society rather than to parliamentary procedures, and (2) which can be adopted or changed upon the same condition as any ordinary act of the society. A standing rule can be adopted by a majority vote without previous notice, provided it does not conflict with or amend any existing rule or act of the society.

STANDING RULE 1

USE OF STANDING RULE AUTHORITY

Section 1. While the major advantage to an organization in using Standing Rules is the flexibility to add, amend, or delete Rules without prior notice, and by a majority vote at the same meeting in which a motion on a Standing Rule is made, Post 154 may give advance notice of a motion on a Rule, and the Chair at the Membership Meeting will be receptive to a request to table a motion on a Standing Rule in order to give the Members additional time to consider and discuss such a motion.

STANDING RULE 2

POST OFFICERS

Section 1. In accordance with the Post Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, this Post may appoint the following officers: Post Historian, Post Chaplain, Post Service Officer, Post Assistant Adjutant, and Post Assistant Finance Officer.

Section 2. Vacancies for any reason other than death or disability shall be filled in the same manner as prescribed in Article II of the Post Bylaws.

STANDING RULE 3

POST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition. In accordance with the Post Constitution, Article V, Section 2, the Post Executive Committee shall consist of:

Commander
Vice Commander
Adjutant
Finance Officer
Service Officer
Chaplain
Sergeant-at-Arms
Historian
Judge Advocate
Two (2) members elected at-large.

ALL PAST COMMANDERS OF THE POST IN GOOD STANDING.

THE TERM OF OFFICE OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL BE FOR ONE YEAR.

THIS POST, BY ITS STANDING RULES MAY PROVIDE FOR SUCH OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES AS THE BUSINESS OF THE ORGANIZATION MAY REQUIRE.

Section 2. Responsibilities and Authority of the Post 154 Executive Committee

The Post Executive Committee is the administrative authority, and manages Post _154_ in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, of the Department of Maryland, and of Post _154_, but they manage the Post on behalf of the Post 154 Membership. The Post Executive Committee has the responsibility, and commensurate authority, on matters such as, but not limited to, the Post's compliance with the rules and regulations of The American Legion and the Department of Maryland; compliance with external laws and regulations (e.g., environmental and safety laws and regulations, alcohol license regulations and gaming permits, etc.); supervising the financial management and ensuring the audit of the Post's affairs.

Section 3. Post 154 Executive Committee Elected Members (PEMs)

- (a). The number of PEMs shall be two (2).
- (b). **Eligibility.** Any Member, other than the officers who are members of the PEC ex officio, may serve as a Post154 PEM.
- (c). **Election to the Post Executive Committee.** Elections to fill a PEM office shall be at the same time (i.e., at the same meeting), and in the same manner, as the election of Officers.
- (d). **Vacancy in a PEM Office.** A vacancy in an office of the PEM shall be treated as a vacancy in an elected office.

STANDING RULE 4

MEETINGS

Post 154 General Meetings will be held at Lithuanian Hall, 851 Hollins Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 at 11 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of January, March, May, June, August, September and November.

Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting will be held on the last Wednesday of every month except December at 1 PM at Spirits West Country Club, 2601 Wilkens Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21223.

Special meetings may be called and the above schedule and location may be changed. In these instances, Post members will be informed using email. Members that do not have email but have attended a meeting in the last 2 months will be called notifying them of any meeting changes by phone.

STANDING RULE 5

BUDGET AND PROCUREMENT

Section 1. Procurement. Procurement is the purchase of supplies or services, either with or without a formal written contract; it is not the hiring of employees.

Section 2. Budget.

- i. A budget shall be proposed by the Post Executive Committee at least 60 days before the start of the Post's Fiscal Year, which is October 1 through September 30. The budget shall be the basis of all expenditures within the Post, and must be approved by the Post Membership in Regular Meeting before the beginning of the Fiscal Year.
- ii. The Finance Officer shall make disbursement, any payment for budgeted items or expenditures, and is hereby permitted to exceed the Post budgeted amount for any line item in the Post Budget by 20%. All such expenditures in excess of budget line, are considered approved by the Post, but must be reported to the next Post Executive Committee Meeting, and Post Membership meeting.
- iii. Expenditures for items that were paid in prior years but not enumerated in the budget are hereby approved at no more than 20% above prior year amounts. All such expenditures exceeding \$300 must be reported at the next Post Executive Committee Meeting, and Post Membership meeting.

Section 3. Large Financial Activity and Investments.

Subject to concurrence of at least 3 members of the Executive Committee, the Finance Officer is authorized to execute financial bank and investments actions such as renewing CDs, move funds between financial institutions, cash in CDs and other investments. With the concurrence of at least 3 members of the Executive Committee, the Finance Officer is authorized to make unbudgeted expenditures.

STANDING RULE 6

Employees

Section 1. Post 154 will not have any employees. All post activities are performed by volunteers and independent contractors. Executive Committee member's relatives are not allowed to be Independent Contractors. Post 154 may from time to time host a dinner or social function for Post volunteers.

STANDING RULE 7

NOTICES

Section 1. In addition to a US Postal Service address for first class mailings required by National & Department, every member shall furnish the Post Adjutant with a valid email address if available, & provide the Post Adjutant with updates or changes of same. If provided, the email address will be utilized to inform members of important issues including required notices (e.g. notices for elections), thereby keeping costs down. Otherwise, a member who does not provide an email address will be responsible for obtaining information by monitoring postings on the Post website, reading the Post 154 newsletter or receiving notices via telephone.

Lithuanian Post 154 Annual Reoccurring Events:

Lithuania Post 154 has and continues to participated in virtually every celebratory, commemorative and memorial event by the American Legion and Baltimore Lithuanian Community since its founding. Although each and every one of these yearly events are worthy of being included as yearly milestones, because of their repetitive nature, describing them repeatedly each year in the Post's ongoing history would become mundane. As a result, such annual functions and events are being summarized below and omitted in each year's ongoing post history.

Annual scholarship expense is \$2,000 and donations to non-profits is usually \$2,000.

FEBRUARY	BALTIMORE DISTRICT " <i>FOUR CHAPLAINS</i> " MEMORIAL MASS (February 2, 1943, Sinking of the U.S.A. T. Dorchester) RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF LITHUANIAN STATEHOOD (formerly Lithuanian Independence Day - February 16, 1918)
MARCH	RESTORATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF LITHUANIA (Colloquially Lithuanian Independence Day - March 11, 1990) DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND - AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER RECEPTION
MAY	BALTIMORE LITHUANIAN FESTIVAL WEEKEND BALTIMORE DISTRICT MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION (formerly known as Decoration Day)
JULY	BALTIMORE DISTRICT INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMEMORATION (Colloquially our 1776 Declaration of Independence Day and the " <i>Fourth of July</i> ") LITHUANIAN STATEHOOD DAY (Colloquially Coronation of King Mindaugas Day, July 6, 1253, marking the Foundation the Lithuanian State) DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND CONVENTION
NOVEMBER	BALTIMORE DISTRICT AND LITHUANIAN POST 154 VETERANS DAY COMMERATION (formerly known as "Armistice" Day) LITHUANIAN POST 154 INSTALLATION BALTIMORE DISTICT " <i>BACK TO GOD</i> " MASS
DECEMBER	Remember Pearl Harbor Day (Celebrated for Decades) LITHUANIAN POST 154 & COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ongoing History - Lithuanian Post 154 - 1942 to Present:

As the United States expanded its war effort after the unprovoked December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and declared war against Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, and Fascist Italy, Baltimore's Lithuanian American Great World veterans began thinking about establishing an American Legion Post to demonstrate their solidarity with the American war effort. Within a very short time, The American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154, Baltimore, Maryland, was created for God and Country. The following is the ongoing story of these veterans and the veterans that have filled their ranks with the passage of time.

1942 – 1943



Commander Dr. Adalbert Zelwis (Zelvis)

Vice Commander William G. Lacavitch (Lacs)

Adjutant Anthony Sakievich

Service/Financial Officer Vincent J. Velzis, Jr.

Chaplain Vincent Ambrose

Segreant at Arms Charles F. Ozel

Temporary Charter Members: Vincent F. Niemur, Ignacy Uznesius, Felix Rutkus, Joseph Bayoras, Frank Karciouskas, Paul Gurklis, Dr. John A. Buchness M.D., Franciskus Maslauskas, and Frank Dubinskie.

1942 Post History Milestone

A self-formed American Legion Temporary Committee, composed of Vincent Ambrose, Paul Gurklis, Vincent F. Niemur, and Dr. Adalbert Zelwis, residing in Baltimore, Maryland, called a meeting of "All Lithuanian American World War I Veterans

in the State of Maryland.” Their First official meeting took place, on November 1, 1942, at the Lithuanian American Athletic Club (LAAC), 539 Washington Boulevard in Baltimore where the aims and objectives of The American Legion were discussed. The American Legion, Department of Maryland Adjutant J. Nelson Tribby and other prominent members of the Department and Baltimore District attended the meeting that began the formal discussions about the formation of an American Legion, Lithuanian American Veterans Post in Baltimore.

A Second meeting was called by the Temporary Committee, now composed of John Allen, Vincent Ambrose, Paul Gurklis, Vincent F. Niemur, and Dr. Adalbert Zelvis, Jr., on Armistice Day. November 11, 1942, to continue the discussion of forming a Lithuanian American Post of The American Legion and other important veteran and war related issues. A Third Special Meeting was called for by the Temporary Committee, on November 24, 1942, to finalize the documents required for application to the American Legion, Lithuanian American Post. All of the attending veterans were requested to bring records of their World War I military service as these records would entitle them to become “Charter Members” in the new post. As a result of this meeting a Fourth Meeting was held on December 9, 1942, that officially elected American Legion, Temporary Committee officers Commander Dr. Adalbert Zelvis, Jr., and Adjutant Anthony Sakievich. At this meeting, John McNuity, The American Legion, Maryland Membership Committee chairman, discussed the procedures and submission requirements needed for the formation of such a post.

On December 24, 1942, the formal application for the formation of a Baltimore Lithuanian Post of The American Legion was prepared and submitted. The “Application for Post of The American Legion” was sent to the Department of Maryland requesting the post to be known as Lithuanian Post 154 of Maryland. Dr. Adalbert Zelwis, D.D.S., certified to The American Legion National Headquarters the accuracy and good faith of the application listing the proposed new post’s officers and members.

1943 – 1944



Commander Dr. Adalbert Zelvis

Vice Commander William G. Lacavitch (Lacs)

Adjutant Anthony Sakievich

Financial/Service Officer Vincent J. Velzis, Jr.

Segreant at Arms Charles F. Ozel

Chaplain Vincent Ambrose

News Correspondent Dr. Adalbert Zelwis

Post Membership 19

1943 Post Milestone

On March 24, 1943, The American Legion, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, issued a "*Temporary Charter*", certifying that its National Executive Committee granted a charter in the name of Lithuanian Post, Department of Maryland, Number 154, to Dr. Adalbert Zelwis Jr., Vincent J. Velzis, Ignacy Uznesius, Fran Karciouskas, John A. Buchness, William G. Lacavitch (Lacs), Vincent Ambrose, Felix Rutkus, Paul Gurklis, Franciskus Maslauskas, Vincent F. Niemur, Charles F. Ozel, Joseph Bayoras, Anthony Sakievich, and Frank Dubinskie.

Awards and activities were numerous following the establishment of the Lithuanian Post. The most cherished early commendation was the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) "Special Service Certificate." Many trophies, plaques, and citations have also been awarded for a job well done to the post. Activities include the post-initiated Department of Maryland "*Post Ever Lasting*" and "*Back to God*" commemorations. Other post activities included visits of Veterans in Veterans Hospitals and nursing homes, Blood Donor Drives, school awards to children, Christmas parties

for Children, Lithuanian American social functions and various American Legion programs that continue every year since the Post's began.

On May 30, 1943, Post 154 held its First American Legion Memorial Day service at its Post Headquarters in the Lithuanian American Athletic Club (LAAC) building. Religious services were rendered by Rev. Casmir F. Keydash, formerly a St. Alphonsus priest and then the assistant pastor of the Ascension Church in Halethorpe, Maryland. Father Keydash later that year became a military chaplain and saw combat duty in the European Theater of Operations. The post continued this practice until May 30, 1950, when they began holding Memorial Day Service with a Military Field Mass at Holy Redeemer Cemetery followed by a social function.

In November 1943, Post 154 held its First Annual Armistice Day Party and Dance Celebration. The celebration continued to be celebrated annually until 1954 when the national holiday was officially changed to Veterans Day at the urging of major U.S. Veteran organizations.

On Sunday, November 21, 1943, Post 154 members held a "Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Presentation and Dedication" Ceremony followed by a gala buffet and dance at the Lithuanian Hall, Hollins and Parkin Streets.

1944 – 1945



Commander Charles F. Ozel

Vice Commander William L. Kwedar

Sergeant at Arms Felix Rutkus

Adjutant/Finance Officer Vincent J. Velzis

Service Officer Dr. Adalbert Zelvis, Jr.

Sergeant at Arms Felix Rutkus

Chaplain Edward Daniels

Post Membership 36 Legionnaires

1944 Post History Milestone

On June 19, 1944, The American Legion National Headquarters after a review of the post application, executed and granted the "*Post Application for Permanent Charter*" to the members of Lithuanian Post 154.

Since the post founding member met to establish the Lithuanian Post at the Lithuanian American Athletic Club (LAAC), 539 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland, they decided to make it the Headquarters of Lithuanian Post 154. The charter application documented that the post quarters are not owned, but being donated, that all prescribed ceremonies in the Official Manual of Ceremonies were being conducted with exceptions, its custodians were properly bonded, and it was in the process of forming an American Legion Auxiliary.

Since The American Legion National Headquarters granted charter was issued under a "fiscal" year reporting date, Lithuanian Post 154 has since that time been using this same year fiscal year system for reporting purposes.

Because of American World War II gathering restrictions, American Legion Conventions were held in abeyance for the duration of the war. As a result, Lithuanian Post 154 delegates did not attend a convention until 1945.

On November 5, 1944, Lithuanian Post 154 held a Memorial Day Party and Dance at the larger Baltimore Lithuanian Hall facility. The first of many gala celebrations that the post would hold in this Baltimore Lithuanian Community center.

1945 – 1946



Commander William L. Kwedar

Vice Commander Paul Gurklis

Adjutant John A. Bush

Service Officer Dr. Adalbert Zelvis, Jr.

Finance Officer Vincent J. Velzis. Jr.

Sergeant at Arms Felix Rutkus

Chaplain Edward Daniels

Post Membership 52 Legionnaires

1945 Post History Milestones

Without doubt Post 154 most memorial 1945 event was the return of its Lithuanian American veterans to Baltimore. Most of them joined the war time established American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154, Baltimore, Maryland.

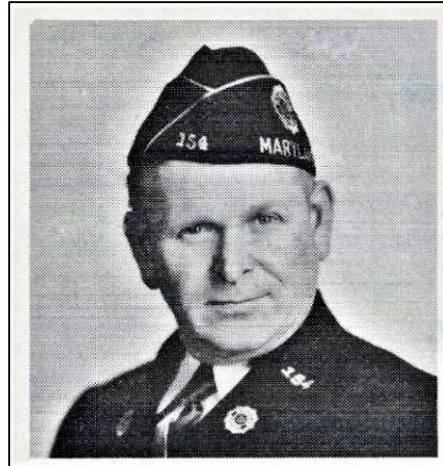
On May 27, 1945, Lithuanian Post 154, held its Third Annual Memorial Service at Chapel Hill, Holy Redeemer Cemetery, 4430 Belair Road, Baltimore, Maryland. The commemoration began in the morning with a Catholic Mass at St. Alphonsus Church for Deceased Veterans of World War I and World War II. The service consisted of a traditional American Legion model program with a Parade from Moravia Avenue to Belair Road and Chapel Hill inside the cemetery. The program included: performances by the Choral Society, Memorial Prayer and Eulogy, laying of a Floral tribute, reading of the roll of deceased veterans, a "*Salute to the Dead*," volley by the Maryland State Guard, playing of "*Taps*," singing of the American and Lithuanian National Anthems followed by a closing benediction.

With the end of the war, the State of Maryland was the first in the nation to lift its convention ban restrictions. As a result, the American Legion, Department of Maryland held its first American Legion Convention since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The 27th Annual Convention of the American Legion, Department of Maryland, took place in the Emerson Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, on August 23 and took on many aspects of a gala Postwar "*Victory*" Celebration. This convention for the wartime established Lithuanian Post 154 was the first for the post and its members.

In addition to being able for the first time to cast delegate votes at the convention, Lithuanian Post 154 sponsored an American Legion Resolution which was adopted. It was fitting for this post, largely composed of Lithuanian immigrants and the children of Lithuanian immigrants, whose ancestral homeland was under Russian military occupation to propose an American Legion Resolution, using a paraphrase from its Preamble that "It is unjust and inhuman to appease any power, be it even a member of the United Nations, at the expense and sacrifice of smaller inculpable nations." The resolution further stated, "The forceful annexation of smaller countries by larger countries, which small countries were helpful and sympathetic with the United Nations' cause, and which small countries are able and willing to join the United Nations in upholding the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, and to adhere to the cause of lasting peace." Although Russia, then still considered to be an American Ally, was not referenced in this resolution there is no doubt that this resolution specifically pertained to them.

It was a great American Legion Convention, but the weather caused Post 154 from still another milestone. The planned evening gala Convention “*Victory*” Parade was cancelled because of the weather. The cancellation allowed the Legionnaires go to two scheduled dances and campaigning events for those seeking Legion offices.

1946 – 1947



Commander Reynold J. Penn

Vice Commander Paul Gurklis

Adjutant John A. Bush

Service Officer Dr. Adalbert Zelvis, Jr.

Finance Officer Vincent J. Velzis, Jr.

Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis

Sergeant at Arms Felix Rutkus

Lithuanian Post 154 Auxiliary President Mildred (Kicas) Sutt

Post Membership 103 Legionnaires

Auxiliary President Mildred Stutt (nee Kicas)

1946 Post History Milestone

Lithuanian Post 154 Convention Delegates and Alternates attended the 1946 Maryland Department 1946 Convention held from August 14 to August 18, 1946, in Cumberland, Maryland. The convention was held in the Cumberland Maryland State Amory and quickly became plagued by a series of problems related to its location and contested voting issues. The convention was the largest ever held by the Department of Maryland with 1,350 Delegates and 450 Alternates. Cumberland had problems providing sufficient housing and eating places. In addition, this was the first convention

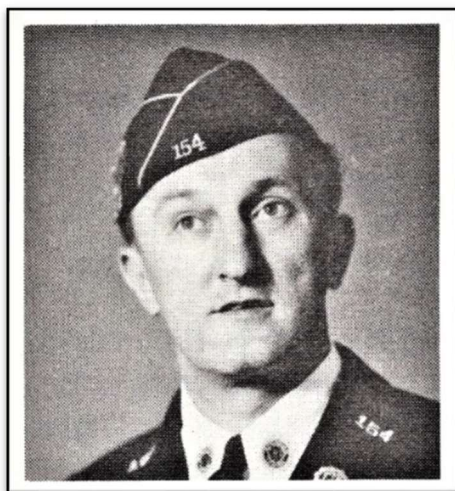
where a large number of World War II veterans attended. These recently returning home veterans were all business and took no real interest in pomp and ceremony. No World War II veterans were nominated for the Department Commander position. John F. Boschen was elected Department Commander only by the Convention Parliamentarian allowing him to reach a majority vote by allowing a shift in another candidates pledged votes, which added the World War II veterans' disgruntlement.

The saving event of the convention was the Maryland Division 1946 Convention "*Victory*" Parade, where Lithuanian Post 154 finally took part in its first American Legion parade. Although the start of the parade was delayed for an hour because of rain, it was later proclaimed to have been the largest and most excellent American Legion parade held in Maryland to that time. Governor Herbert R. O'Connor led the parade and then sat in the parade review stand as thousands of uniformed Legionnaires accompanied by Flag Details and marching bands passed in review.

Lithuanian Post 154 Unit Auxiliary Chartered

In 1946, an extremely popular and active Lithuanian Auxiliary Unit 154 was formed and chartered. The Auxiliary first President was Mrs. Mildred Stutt, nee Kicas. Her father, Vincent Kicas, was a World War I Veteran and her brother, Anthony Kicas, a World War II Veteran. Both were members of Lithuanian Post 154. Charter Members of the Lithuanian Post 154 Auxiliary were Mildred (Kicas) Stutt, Margaret Ambrose, Catherine Kwedera, Patricia Sinkus, Madelyn Allen, Petrone Dumsha, Ursula Karper, Eva Masiauskas, Anastasia Boudris, Adele Bush, Anna Kripas, Anna (Meris) Rekus, Anna Ozel, Mildred Bush, and Marie Krenevienas. Included among the Auxiliary members were Gold Star mothers Lilian Baker, Amelia Gray, Bertha Mitchell, Agnes Nasaukaitis, and Julia Rastenis. All of the Unit Charter members were the wives, sisters, or daughters of World War I or II Veterans.

1947 – 1948



Commander John A. Bush

1st Vice Commander Vincent Mikusauckas

2nd Vice Commander Albert Dumsha

Adjutant Commander Edward Daniels

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Finance Officer Vincent J. Velzis, Jr.

Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis

Sergeant at Arms Felix Rutkus

Post Unit President Mildred (Kicas) Sutt

Lithuanian War Mothers President Constance Thomas

Post Membership 93 Legionnaires

Auxiliary President Eva Kraus

1948 – 1949



Commander Paul Gurklis

1st Vice Commander Albert Dumsha

2nd Vice Commander Anthony Dranginis

3rd Vice Commander Edward Budelis

Adjutant Vince J. Velzis, Jr.

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Treasurer/Finance Officer Charles F. Ozel

Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis

Sergeant at Arms Felix Rutkus

Post Newsletter Editor & Historian Edward Budelis

Executive Committees:

Community Services Dr. John Urlock

Child Welfare and Boy Scouts Dr. Adalbert Zelvis, Jr.

Rehabilitation and Veterans Employment Anthony Kicas

Athletics and Junior Baseball Pete Leikus

Marksmanship Anthony Dranginis

Rifle Team Edward Daniels

Legislative Nadas Rastenis

Americanism Victor Mikucauskas
Safety John Manilenis
Housing Vince J. Velzis, Jr.
Returning War Dead John Bush
Post Membership 87 Legionnaires

Auxiliary 1947-1948 Officers
President Eva Kraus
Auxiliary President Eva Kraus
Vice President Anastatia Budris
Secretary Sylvia Mikusckas
Chaplin Anna Muris
Historian Frances Zelwis
Sergeant at Arms Patronis Dumska
Color Bearers Amelia Gray and Birtha Mitchell
Sons of the American Legion John Makauskas

1948 Post History Milestone

On January 11, 1948, Post 154 Legionnaire Albert J. Juskus established the weekly 'Lithuanian Melody Time" Radio Program and continued to serve Director and Announcer until his 1991 retirement. This program was aired on six different stations over the succeeding decades, featured Lithuanian music quickly became the Baltimore Lithuanian Community weekly radio news station. For the next 50 years Albert broadcasted American Legion information including Lithuanian Post 154 meeting, activities, and events. The weekly Lithuanian Melody Time Radio Program continued to be broadcasted by J. Kestutis Laskauskas and later by Legionnaire Gintaras Buivys into the modern 2010 internet era.

In May 1948, Legionnaire Edward M. Budelis established and became the first editor of Lithuanian Post 154's "*Legionnaire*" Bulletin Newsletter publication. The multi-talented Budelis was also instrumental in the formation of the post's own Lithuanian Press facility, Budelis Brothers, 2707 James Street, and later in the Lithuanian American Athletic Club (L.A.A.C.), 539 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland, location. The post's Lithuanian Press also provided its services to other Baltimore

Lithuanian Community organizations printing advertisement, flyers, tickets, etc., for over two decades.

Although there are no surviving documents, it appears that Edward “Eddie” Budelis not only became the Editor of the post newsletter, but also the Post designated Historian a position that he held from 1948 to 1971. Only 23 years later do post records reflect that Charles Sarpalis was elected as the post historian

1949 – 1950



Commander Anthony S. Dranginis

1st Vice Commander Vincent J. Velzis, Jr.

2nd Vice Commander Gordon Matulonis

Adjutant Vince Velzis, Jr.

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis

Finance Officer William Urban

Sergeant at Arms Felix Rutkus

Color Bearer Vincent Milusauckas

Flag Detail John Makauskas, John Masilienis,
Frank Dubinskis, and A. Stripetis

Executive Committees:

Community Services Dr. John Urlock

Child Welfare and Boy Scouts Dr. Adalbert Zelvis, Jr.

Rehabilitation and Veterans Employment Anthony Kicas

Housing V. Velzis

Returning War Dead John Bush

Legislative Nadas Rastenis

Americanism Victor Mikucauskas

Safety John Manilenis

Athletics and Júnior Baseball Pete Leikus

Marksmanship Anthony Dranginis

Rifle Team Edward Daniels

Sons of the American Legion Masauskas

Post Membership 83 Legionnaires

Auxiliary President Frances A. Velzis

Lithuanian War Mother President Magdalena Bulotiene

1949 Post History Milestone

In April 1949, Post 154 took part in the American Legion, 30th Founding Anniversary, Maryland Department Convention events in Baltimore. The Lithuanian American Community took great pride in seeing Post Commander Anthony Dranginis carrying the Stars and Stripes, Legionnaires Edward Budelis the Lithuanian Flag and Felix Rutkus the Post Colors, during the city's gala parade.

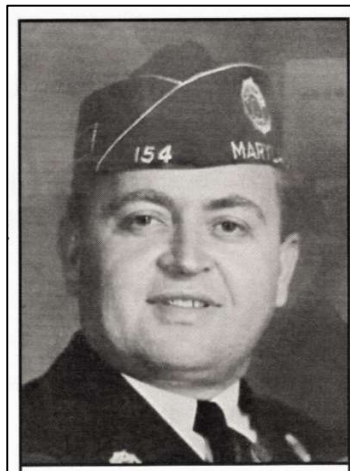
On May 30, 1949, American Legion, Baltimore District Council organized with Department of Maryland Vice Commander Kenneth R. Hammer presiding, Baltimore's 81st Memorial Day Commemoration, honoring the Nation's War Dead. The event took place at the National Cemetery, 5500 Frederick Road, Baltimore, Maryland. The service commenced with a procession led by the 2nd US Army Rifle Honor Guard and Coast Guard Flag Detail, followed by over five hundred State of Maryland and Baltimore City attendees, to the cemetery's stone commemoration site. The services started with a benediction by Rev. Louis J. Mendelis, St. Alphonsus Church pastor and Post 154 Chaplain, followed solemn and moving comments made by honored guests. The most impressive and solemn part of the program was a State Poppy Service, where Commander Hammer read out the names of each state and territory while a uniformed veteran placed a memorial Red Poppy Flowers on a green washed replica gravesite.

That same afternoon, Lithuanian Post 154 and Unit 154 Auxiliary members, held another commemorating service, organized by its Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis. A

similar procession led by Post 154 Flag Detail, included Legionnaires Edward Budelis carrying the Stars and Stripes, Paul Gurklis the Lithuanian Flag, and Felix Rutkus the Post Colors. They stood erect through the secular and religious program, which featured a Catholic Military Field Mass said in both English and the Lithuanian language for the largely two hundred ethnic assembled attendees.

In November 1950, two Lithuanian Post 154 members serving in the reserves, learned the Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance, when they were call to active duty related to the Korean Conflict. By December 1st Vice Commander Albert C. Dumsha, Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, was on duty at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Legionnaire Ernest W. Beelat was on his was to Japan.

1950 – 1951



Commander Anthony S. Dranginis

1st Vice Commander Albert Dumsha

2nd Vice Commander Gordon Matulonis

Adjutant John W. Mazz

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Finance Officer William Urban

Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis

Sergeant at Arms Felix Rutkus

Senior Color Bearer Victor Mikusauckas

Executive Committee Charles Ozel,
John Bush, and Dr. Adalbert Zelvis, Jr.

Auxiliary President Frances A. Velzis

Post Membership 95 Legionnaires

Auxiliary President Frances A. Velzis

1950 Post History Milestone

In April 1950, the Lithuanian Post 154 inaugurated a major social event, The Semi-Annual Bull Roast. This bull roast became a major source of funding and fun for the post. Post members, unit members and friends gathered to have a good time.

On May 30, 1950, the Lithuanian Post 154 began conducting its own Memorial Day Service, under the Chairmanship of Legionnaire Thomas Marcin. The Service consisted of a "*Military Field Mass*" offered by Legionnaire Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis, followed by a traditional American Legion Veterans Day commemorative program that included Post Legionnaires, members of its Auxiliary Unit, and Flag Detail participating at Holy Redeemer Cemetery. Members of the Baltimore Lithuanian American Community were invited, and the field mass and commemoration became a popular yearly event for many years.

In September 1950, Lithuanian Post 154 at its Installation Ceremony, under the Chairmanship of Legionnaire John Stefura, conducted the first solemn "*Post Everlasting Service*" in Maryland, to keep alive the memory of their Post and Unit members who had passed. Members of the Baltimore District attended the Post's Installation and saw the Post Everlasting Service. The Baltimore District suggested that the Post Everlasting Service become part of the 1951 Department American Legion Convention to be held in the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. That Service remembering departed comrades has become a high point of the convention ever since.

On November 10, 1950, the post and auxiliary held its annual Armistice Dance and Party, chaired by Legionnaire John Bush. On November 26, 1950, they participated in the annual Military Mass said by Post Chaplain Louis J. Mendelis at St. Alphonsus Church.

The Lithuanian Post Bulletin, the "Legionnaire." continued under the new outstanding editorship of Legionnaire John Mazz.

Post 154 held the Semi-Annual Bull Roast, which continues to be a major fundraising and social event for its members and friends.

Post Membership 95

1951 – 1952



Commander John A. Bush

Vice Commander John M. Stefura

Adjutant John W. Mazz

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Finance Officer Charles Ozel

Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis

Sergeant at Arms Olgard Rackus

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Medical Officer Dr. John Urlock, Jr.

Senior Color Bearer Felix Rutkus

Junior Color Bearer William Lacs

Executive Committee Dr. Adalbert Zelvis, Jr.,
Anthony Dranginis, and Albert Juskevicius

Post Membership 97 Legionnaires

Auxiliary President Frances A. Velzis

1951 Post Milestone

On June 10, 1951, Commander Anthony Dranginis presented Scholarship Medals to Mary B. Petkus and George Zelinskas at St. Alphonsus School during their graduation ceremony.

On August 25, 1951, the Lithuanian Post 154 introduced the Post Everlasting Service to the Maryland Department at its 1951 Baltimore Convention. The actual service began at 1 PM in the Main Ballroom of the Lord Baltimore Hotel with the entire program being conducted by Lithuanian Post 154 members. The Service paid tribute to the 212 Legionnaires who had been transferred to Post Everlasting the past year. That solemn memorial service honor departed Legionnaires has since be performed at every Maryland District Convention and other post commemorations. Post 154 Members took great pride when they marched in the Legion's gala parade that evening from the 5th Regiment Armory to the Baltimore City Hall Plaza after significantly contributing to the Convention's success.

1952 – 1953



Commander John M. Stefura

1st Vice Commander Edward M. Budelis

2nd Vice Commander Albert C. Dumsha

3rd Vice Commander Edward Daniels

Adjutant Victor Mikusauckas

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Finance Officer Charles Ozel

Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis

Sergeant at Arms Olgard Rackus

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Medical Officer Dr. John Urlock, Jr.

Color Bearer William Lacs and William Freeburger, Jr.

Executive Committee Adalbert Zelvis, Jr.,
John Bush, and John W. Mass

Convention Delegates John M. Stefura, Dr. Adalbert Zelvis, Jr.,
John W. Mass, Thomas G. Marcin, and Albert C. Dumsha

Convention Alternates Albert Dumsha, John A. Bush,
Lawrence H. Schwarts, William Lacs, and Frank Maslauskas

Post Membership 91

Auxiliary Unit Officers:



Unit President Julia Rastenis

Vice President Frances A. Zeleais

Recording Secretary Edwina Zurowsky

Treasurer Marie Mazz

Historian Frances Velzis

Chaplain Helen York

Sergeant at Arms Antosia Buodris

Flag Bearers Mildred Bush and Petrone Dumsha

Post Membership 107

1952 Post Milestone

On November 23, 1952, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Auxiliary Unit held a gala Veteran's Day Party and Dance at Lithuanian Hall, 851 Hollins Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

1953 – 1954



Commander John M. Stefura

1st Vice Commander John M. Nazz

2nd Vice Edward Budelis

Adjutant William J. Ruskell

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis

Sergeant at Arms Olgard Rackus

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Medical Officer Dr. John Urlock, Jr.

Color Bearer William Lacs and
William J. Freburger, Jr.

Executive Committee William J. Freburger, Jr.,
William E. Trott, and William T. Robinson

Convention Delegates Commander John M. Stefura,
Reynold Penn, John A. Bush, and John W. Mass

Convention Alternates Albert C. Dumsha, Olgard Rackus.
William E. Trott, and William J. Ruskell

Auxiliary Officers:

President Nellie Miller

Vice President Julia M. Rastenis

Secretary Frances Velzis

Treasurer Maria Mazz

Recording Secretary

Historian Frances Velzis

Chaplain Antoinette Penn

Sergeant at Arms Antosia Buodris

Flag Bearers Mildred Bush and Petrone Dumsha

Post Membership 109 Legionnaires

Post 1953 Milestones

In June 1953, Commander John Stefura presented Lithuanian Post 154 Scholarship Medals to Joseph Chepaitis and Patricia Eisenhower during the St. Alphonsus School graduation ceremony.

On November 23, 1953, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Auxiliary Unit held its eleventh Veteran's Day and the 10th Anniversary of the Post Founding Party and Dance at Noland's Night Club, Monroe and Wilkens Avenue. The event commenced with a formal program in commemoration of all American Veterans with a remembrance of our founders and the many accomplishments the post had since its founding. Following the formal program, post and unit members and their guests enjoyed a scrumptious meal and held a gala celebration party that continued into the early hours of the morning.

1954 – 1955



Commander John W. Mazz

Vice-Commander William E. Trott

Adjutant William J. Ruskell

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Chaplain Rev. Msgr. Louis J. Mendelis

Sergeant at Arms Olgard Rackus

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis and Vincent J. Velzis, Jr.

Medical Officer Dr. John Urlock, Jr.

Senior Color Bearer William Lacs

Junior Color Bearer William J. Freburger, Jr.

Executive Committee William J. Freburger, Jr.,
William T. Robinson, and Thomas Marcin

Memorial Day Committee Thomas G. Marcin

Convention Delegates Commander John M. Stefura, Reynold
Penn, John A. Bush, John W. Mass, and William J. Ruskell

Convention Alternates William T. Robinson, Felix Rutkus,
William J. Freburger, Jr., Thomas N. Green, and William E. Trott

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Mrs. Nellie Miller

Vice President Mrs. Anna Dawksho

Secretary Mrs. Frances A. Velzis

Treasurer Mrs. Marie Mazz

Historian Julia M. Rastenis

Chaplain Mrs. Antoinette Penn

Sergeant at Arms Mrs. Patricia Simkus

Flag Bearers Mrs. Mildred F. Bush and Mrs. Petrone Dumsha

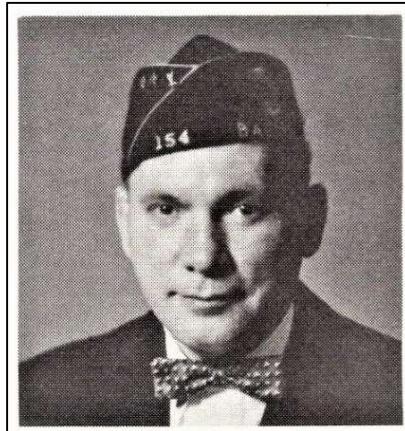
Post Membership 115

Post 1954 Milestones

On February 16, 1954, Post Chaplain and pastor of St. Alphonsus Church Louis J. Mendalis was honored by being asked to say the opening prayer at the noon session of the U.S. Senate, Washington, DC. Several post members were among the parish members who accompanied Father Mendalis for this historic prayer service.

Although June 1, 1954, is not remembered by most America Legion posts as one of their milestones, Lithuanian Post 154 which was founded by World War I veterans takes pride in remembering this historical day. Although Americans had been celebrating the 1918 Armistice Day surrender of Germany which ended the Great War for decades, the U.S. Congress did not declare Armistice Day a national holiday until May 13, 1938, and did not have a holiday to honor its World War I veterans. It was not until June 1, 1954, that the U.S. Congress at the behest of The American Legion replaced the word "Armistice" with "Veterans," and thus the Armistice Day holiday officially became known as Veterans Day.

1955 – 1956



Commander William J. Ruskell

Vice Commander William E. Trott

Adjutant John W. Mass

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Chaplain Rev. Msgr. Louis J. Mendelis

Sergeant at Arms Harry I. Foy, Jr.

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Judge Advocate Vincent J. Velzis, Jr.

Medical Officer Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr.

Senior Color Bearer William J. Freburger, Jr.

Junior Color Bearer Thomas H. Bowen, Sr.

Executive Committee William J. Freburger, Jr.,
William T. Robinson, and Harry I. Foy, Jr.

Convention Delegates Commander John W. Mass, William
J. Ruskell, John M. Stefura, and Fletcher M. Crockett

Convention Alternates William E. Trott, John A. Bush,
William T. Robinson, and Harry I. Foy, Jr.

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Mrs. Nellie Miller

Vice President Mrs. Anna Dawksho

Secretary Mrs. Frances A. Velzis

Treasurer Mrs. Marie Mazz

Historian Julia M. Rastenis

Chaplain Mrs. Antoinette Penn

Sergeant at Arms Mrs. Patricia Simkus

Flag Bearers Mrs. Mildred F. Bush and Mrs. Petrone Dumsha

Post Membership 115

Post 1955 Milestones

In June 1955, Commander William Russell presented Lithuanian Post 154 Scholarship Medals to Jonas Boguta and Jurate Palubinskas at their St. Alphonsus School graduation ceremony.

On July 13, 1955, Lithuanian Post 154 held its Officers Installation Ceremony in their Headquarters at the Lithuanian American Athletic Club presided over by Commander Buckner, Vice Commander Koslowski and Area "A" Commander Dempsay

1956 – 1957



Commander Anthony A. Kicas

Vice Commander Harry I. Foy, Jr.

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis

Sergeant at Arms Thomas H. Bowen, Sr.

Service Officer William N. Murray

Judge Advocate Vincent J. Velzis, Jr.

Medical Officer Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr.

Senior Color Bearer William Lacs

Junior Color Bearer Felix Ruckus

Junior Color Bearer William J. Freburger, Jr.

Executive Committee William J. Freburger, Jr.,
William T. Robinson, and Harry I. Foy, Jr.

Convention Delegates John W. Mazz, William J. Ruskell,
John M. Stefura, and Fletcher M. Crockett

Convention Alternates William E. Trott, John A. Bush,
William T. Robinson, and Harry I. Foy, Jr.

Membership 97

Auxiliary President Marie Mazz

1957 – 1958



Commander Anthony A. Kicas

1st Vice Commander William Lacs

2nd Vice Commander Roland Miller

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer William H. Murray

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Sergeant at Arms Leo N. Cavanaugh

Judge Advocate Vincent J. Velzis, Jr.

Medical Officer Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr.

Executive Committee William T. Robinson,
William E. Trott, and Thomas N. Green

Convention Delegates Anthony A. Kicas, John W. Mazz,
William J. Ruskell, and John M. Stefura

Convention Alternates William E. Trott, John A. Bush,
William T. Robinson, and Harry I. Foy, Jr.

Membership 108

Auxiliary President Marie Mazz

1957 Post History Milestone

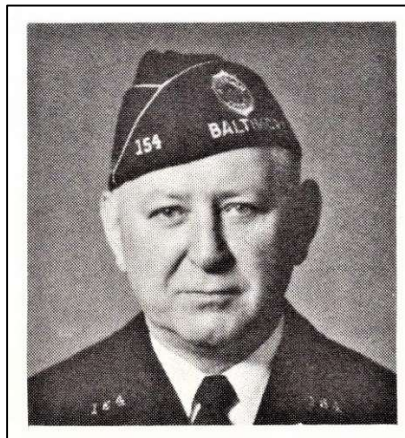
February 1957, Post Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis had to resign as Chaplain due to increased pressure and work load at St. Alphonsus Church. He recommended his assistant pastor and post member Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis as his replacement. His recommendation was approved by the post in an election at the next meeting.

In the April 1957 issue of Lithuanian Post 154 newsletter the *Legionnaire*, Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis began writing a monthly Chaplain Section, with an inspiring article about that Glorious Easter Morning, which would run for the next three decades.

On June 9, 1957, Commander Kicas presented American Legion Scholarship Awards to St. Alphonsus School graduates Eugene Silgailis, Carolyn Anna Griggs, Edward Mierzwicki, and Grazina Nastopka.

During July 24-27, 1957, Lithuanian Post 154 delegates and alternates attended the Department of Maryland, 39th State Convention, held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel and took part in all of its schedule activities. Among Post members attending the convention were Commander Kicas, Zelis, Ozel, Stefura, Mass, Ruskell, Thomas Green, Makauskas, Vincent J. Velzis, Battaglia, Lamer, and Cavanaugh.

1958 – 1959



Commander William Lacs

Vice Commander Roland Miller

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Sergeant at Arms Leo M. Cavanaugh

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Medical Officer Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr.

Color Bearer Phillip H. Battaglia

Color Bearer John Beaudet

Executive Committee John Beaudet, Thomas G. Marcin,
and William T. Robinson

Convention Delegates Anthony A. Kicas, John W. Mazz,
John M. Stefura and John A. Bush

Alternates Delegates William Lacs, John A. Bush,
John Beaudet, and Phillip H. Battaglia

Post Membership 122 Legionnaires

Auxiliary President Marie Mazz

1958 Post History Milestone

In 1958, Lithuanian Post 154 because of their deep concern for the future of the country and knowing that the leaders of tomorrow are the youth of today, formally instituted its American Legion Scholarships, Medals, and Certificates Program.

On July 10, 1958, Delegates and Alternate attended from July 16-19, 1958, the 40th Annual Department of Maryland Convention held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel in Baltimore. They attended all of the Department's scheduled meetings and functions.

On September 28, 1958, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation of Officers ceremony at Post Headquarters, LAAC, 539 Washington Boulevard.

1959 – 1960



Commander John W. Mazz

Vice Commander Leo M. Cavanaugh

2nd Vice Commander Roland Miller

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Sergeant at Arms Phillip H. Battaglia

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Medical Officer Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr.

Color Bearers John Beaudet, Frank V. Giannino
and Frank Maslauskas

Alternates George Clayton and William T. Robinson

Executive Committee All Past Commanders,
Thomas G. Marcin, John Beaudet and George Clayton

Convention Delegates William Lacs, John W. Mazz,
John M. Stefura, John A. Bush and Anthony A. Kicas

Alternate Delegates Roland Miller, Leo M. Cavanaugh,
William T. Robinson, John Beaudet and Philip H. Battaglia

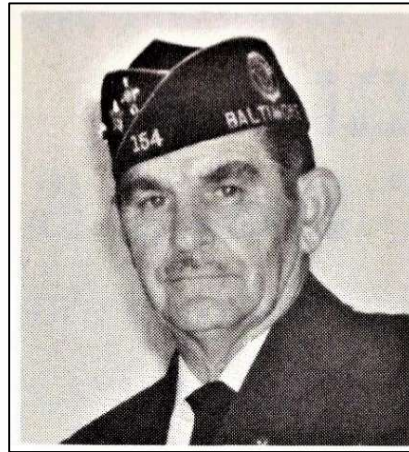
Post Membership 111

Auxiliary President Mildred (Kicas) Sutt

1959 Post History Milestone

On September 27, 1959, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation of Officers ceremony at Post Headquarters, LAAC, 539 Washington Boulevard.

1960 – 1961



Commander Roland V. Miller

Vice Commander Leo M. Cavanaugh

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Sergeant-at-Arms Phillip Battaglia

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Color Bearers William Lacs, John Beaudet,
and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders,
Frederick I. Raycob, Jr., John Beaudet, and Fletcher M. Crockett

Convention Delegates John W. Mazz, John M. Stefura,
John A. Bush, John Beaudet, and Philip H. Battaglia

Alternate Delegates William Lacs, Leo M. Cavanaugh,
Robert M. Crockett, Roland V. Miller, and William T. Robinson

Post Membership 131

Auxiliary President Isabell (Kicas) Zirbs

1960 Post History Milestone

On May 24, 1960, Post 154 Flag Detail and Post Members were among the many who attended the tenth consecutive Memorial Day Field Mass at Baltimore's Holy Redeemer Cemetery. The Mass was celebrated by Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis and Assistant Past of St. Alphonsus Church.

On September 25, 1960, Lithuanian Post 154 in conjunction with its Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation Ceremony in the Post Headquarters, 539 Washington Boulevard.

On October 16, 1960, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail with post and auxiliary unit members took part and proudly marched with the American and Lithuanian Flags and Post Banner in the combined "I Am An American Constitution" and "Maryland Defenders Day" parades.

1961 – 1962



Commander Roland V. Miller

Vice Commander Leo M. Cavanaugh

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Anthony A. Kicas

Sergeant at Arms Philip H. Battaglia

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Color Bearers William Lacs, Vaclovas Laukaitis,
and John Beaudet

Executive Committee all past Post Commanders, John
Beaudet, John Brandis, and Leo M. Cavanaugh

Convention Delegates Roland Miller, John A. Bush,
John M. Stefura, John W. Mazz, and Leo M. Cavanaugh

Alternate Delegates Charles Ozel, John Beaudet,
Vaclovas Laukaitis, William Lacs, and Phillip Battaglia

Post Membership 134

Auxiliary President Isabell (Kicas) Zirbs

1961 Post History Milestone

On June 11, 1961, Past Commander John W. Mazz and Adjutant John M. Stefura presented American Legion Scholarship Awards to St. Alphonsus School graduation students Jurate Austra and Arunas Vaskys.

During July 19-22, 1961, Lithuanian Unit 154 Delegates and Alternates Dorothy Brendis, Mildred Kicas, Isabella Kicas, Eleanor Stefura, Frances Alena Zelwis, Eva Kraus and Marie Mass attended the Department of Maryland Convention held at the Emerson Hotel.

On November 11, 1961, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit Auxiliary Flag Details carried The Colors, followed by post and unit members, in the Baltimore District Veterans Day Service Commemoration held at the Baltimore War Memorial.

1962 – 1963



Commander Henry T. Beaudet

Vice Commander Vaclovas Laukaitis

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Donald Veraitis

Sergeant at Arms Philip H. Battaglia

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Color Bearers William Lacs, Frank Maslauskas,
and John Beaudet

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders,
Billy W. Wiseman, John Beaudet, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Convention Delegates Leo M. Cavanaugh, Roland Miller,
John A. Bush, John W. Mazz, and Thomas Beaudet

Alternate Delegates John Beaudet, John M. Stefura,
and Billy Wiseman

Post Membership 134

Auxiliary President Evelyn Brooks

1962 Post History Milestone

On October 13-14, 1962, the United Lithuanian relief Fund of America (Bendrojo Amerikos Lietuviu Fondo – BALFO), which raises funds for Lithuanian War Relief victims, held its Eleventh Biennial National Convention at the Southern Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail posted Colors at the BALFO opening program ceremony and their closing banquet dinner. Mayor J. Harold Grady had earlier dedicated Saturday, October 13, 1962, as “United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America Day” in Baltimore and urged all citizens to pay tribute to this organization for the wonderful work they have done and are still doing on behalf of their less fortunate

countrymen. St. Alphonsus Church pastor and Post 154 Legionnaire Rev. Louis J. Mendalis gave opening innovation, Unit Historian Julia M. Rastenis led the Pledge to the Flag, and her husband, Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis, was one of the speakers and honored guest.

1963 – 1964



Commander Henry T. Beaudet

Vice Commander Vaclovas Laukaitis

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer John W. Mazz

Chaplain Anthony S. Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Philip H. Battaglia

Service Officer Donald Veraitis

Judge Advocate Alexander W. Burke

Color Bearers John Beaudet, Elias B. Breyer,
and Billy W. Wiseman

Executive Committee all past Post Commanders,
Fletcher Crockett, Elias Breyer, and John Brandis

Convention Delegates Henry T. Beaudet, John M. Stefura,
John W. Mazz, John A. Bush, and Roland Miller

Alternate Delegates Vaclovas Laukaitis, Donald Veraitis,
Elias Breyer, John Beaudet, and Billy W. Wiseman

Post Membership 128

Auxiliary President Evelyn Brooks

1963 Post Milestones

To encourage educational excellence and good citizenship, Lithuanian Post 154 took part in The American Legion, District of Baltimore and Department of Maryland Oratorical Contests. Post 154 has continuously sought and sponsored high school students in the American Legion Oratorical Contests and have had several reaching the Department and Regional Finals.

On March 13, 1963, Lithuanian Post 154 at its monthly General Meeting said a prayer and had a moment of silence for members who have been transferred to Post Everlasting.

On September 29, 1963, Lithuanian Post 154 in conjunction with its Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation Ceremony in the grand ball room of the Lithuanian Hall, Hollins and Parkin Street. The post also celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the post. In addition to the traditional installation functions with the presentation of the colors, innovation, singing of the American and Lithuanian National Anthems, swearing in ceremony, included on the program was the recounting of the post history, remembrance of its founders, and past accomplishments. A prayer was said for all who gave their lives for the country and The American Legion's departed Legionnaires. The gathered were reminded of the profound words of General George Patton "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived." After the formal program, post guest and attendees enjoyed a traditional Lithuanian festive meal and folk dancing program.

1964 – 1965



Commander Vaclovas Laukaitis

Vice Commander Elias Breyer

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Chaplain Anthony S. Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms John J. Beaudet

Service Officer John J. Mox, Sr.

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Color Bearers William Lacs and Philip H. Battaglia

Executive Committee all past Post Commanders,
Fletcher Crockett, John Brandis, and Bruno Malinauskas

Convention Delegates Vaclovas Laukaitis, Henry T. Beaudet,
John A. Bush, and John A. Stefura

Alternate Delegates John W. Mazz, Charles Ozel, and Don Vieraitis

Post Membership 126 Legionnaires

Auxiliary President Mildred (Kicas) Sutt

1964 Post Milestones

In July 1964, Lithuania Post 154 Delegates and Alternates attended the Baltimore District Caucus where the post was awarded the William Randolph Post No. 188, Americanism Trophy. At the Department of Maryland 1965 Convention the Post was awarded the Department's Rehabilitation Program contribution citation.

1965 – 1966



Commander Vaclovas Laukaitis

Vice Commander John J. Mox, Sr.

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Chaplain Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Ernest Lizer

Sergeant at Arms John Brandis

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Color Bearers Bruno Malinauskas, William Lacs,
and Leon Cooper

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders,
John Beaudet, William Lewis, and Al Bucevicius

Convention Delegates Vaclovas Laukaitis, John W. Mazz,
John M. Stefura, John J. Mox, Sr., and John A. Bush

Alternate Delegates Max Lindner, Algirdas Bucevicius, Ernest Lizer,
Charles Ozel, and Leon Cooper

Post Membership 128

Auxiliary 1965-1966 Officers:

President Mrs. Shirley Colley

Vice President Mrs. Marie Mazz

Secretary Mrs. Isabella Kicas

Treasurer Mrs. Helen Mazz

Historian Miss. Evelyn Brooks

Chaplain Mrs. Anna Rekus

Sergeant at Arms Mrs. Pauline King

Color Bearers Miss. Evelyn Brooks and Mrs. Eva Kraus

1965 Post Milestones

On July 8, 1965, all Post Delegates and Alternates were present at the Baltimore District Caucus and on July 21-24, 1965, they attended the Department of Maryland Convention that was held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

On September 26, 1965, Lithuanian Post 154 in conjunction with its Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation Ceremony at the Lithuanian Hall, 851 Hollins Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

1966 – 1967



Commander John J. Mox, Sr.

Vice Commander Algirdas Bucevicius

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer John W. Mazz

Chaplain Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Ernest Liser

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Sergeant at Arms Phillip H. Bataglia

Color Bearers John Beaudet, William Lacs,
and Leon Cooper

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders,
William Lewis, John Beaudet and Kestutis Galeckas

Convention Delegates Vaclovas Laukaitis, John W. Mazz,
John M. Stefura, John J. Mox, Sr., and John A. Bush

Alternate Delegates Algirdas Bucevicius, Ernest Liser,
Leon Cooper, Charles Ozel, and Max Lindner

Post Membership 125

Auxiliary 1966-1967 Officers:

President Mrs. Shirley Colley

Vice President Mrs. Marie Mazz

Secretary Mrs. Isabella Kicas

Treasurer Mrs. Helen Mazz

Historian Miss. Evelyn Brooks

Chaplain Mrs. Anna Rekus

Sergeant at Arms Mrs. Pauline King

Color Bearers Miss. Evelyn Brooks and Mrs. Eva Kraus

1966 Post Milestone:

On February 16, 1966, Lithuanian Post 154 Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis, a World War I Lithuanian American, was honored by Congressman Edward A. Garmatz of Maryland, on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, by the reading of his poem, "*War's Curse*", written on May 10, 1941, after Hitler's 1939 invasion of Poland beginning World War II. The lengthy poem was thereafter published in the Congressional Record of the 89th Congress, Second Session, documenting that day's proceedings.

On June 13, 1966, Commander Vaclovas Laukaitis in conjunction with Unit President Mildred Kicas presented American Legion Scholarship Awards to St. Alphonsus School graduates John Adams and Jo Anner Chepaitis. Other Post and

Auxiliary members at the graduation were William P. Urbanas, Albert Juskus, Algirdas Bucevicius and Katherine Kicas.

In July 1966, Lithuanian Post 154 delegates attended the Baltimore District Caucus held at the Baltimore War Memorial, where the post was awarded the William Randolph Post No. 188, Americanism Trophy.

Lithuanian Post 154 Post Delegates and Alternates attended the Department of Maryland, July 20-23, 1966, Convention held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. Unit 154 Auxiliary officers attended their convention at the Emerson Hotel. Among other post and auxiliary members attending were Unit President Shirley Colley, Eleanor and Linda Stefura, Maria Mazz, Ed Zibra, Isabella Kicas, Mildred Kicas, Evelyn Brooks, Eva Kraus, Leon Cooper, Ernest Lizer, and John A. Parkent. At the Department of Maryland Convention, Post 154 was awarded the Department's Rehabilitation Program contribution citation.

In August 1966, Lithuanian 154 Unit Auxiliary member Mary Miller became a candidate for the House of Delegates for the 6th Legislative District of Maryland. The Unit encouraged her candidacy and sought community support.

On September 29, 1966, Lithuanian Post 154 in conjunction with its Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation Ceremony at the Lithuanian Hall.

1967 – 1968



Commander John J. Mox, Sr.

Vice Commander Algirdas Bucevicius

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer John A. Bush

Chaplain Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Ernest Liser

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Sergeant at Arms John J. Beaudet

Color Bearers William Lacs, Victor H. Matsk,
and Edward Zirbs

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders,
William Lewis, Kestutis Galeckas, and Robert W. Carre

Convention Delegates John J. Mox, Sr., John M. Stefura,
John A. Bush, Vaclovas Laukaitis, and John W. Mazz

Alternate Delegates Charles Ozel, Algirdas Bucevicius,
Henry T. Beaudet, Robert W. Carrs, and Vitas Siaurusaitis

Post Membership 130

Auxiliary 1967-1968 Officers:

Unit Auxiliary President Shirley Colley

Vice President Marie Mazz

Secretary Isabella Kicas

Treasurer Helen Mazz

Historian Evelyn Brooks

Chaplain Anna Rekus

Sergeant at Arms Pauline King

Color Bearers Evelyn Brooks and Eva Kraus

1967 Post Milestone

In 1967, the United Poets Laureate International Association lauded Lithuanian Post 154 Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis for his contribution to poetry for the 1967 Year. He won this award competing with selections of submission from over thirty countries. His submission included his 1941 written poem, "*War's Curse*", which was considered by many to symbolize the anti-war mood spreading across the country at the time. For this reason, Rastenis was also among the many people nominated for the 1967 Nobel Peace Prize.

On July 13, 1967, Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and alternates attended at the Baltimore District Caucus at the War Memorial, where the post was awarded Ensign C. Markland Kelly, Jr., Post No. 174 – Child Welfare trophy.

Lithuanian Post 154 Post Delegates and Alternates attended the Department of Maryland, July 19-22, 1967, Convention held at the Emerson Hotel, where post and unit

member took part in the Opening Friday night parade and scheduled activities. The Post Unit Convention, Vice President Mrs. Marie Mazz received an American Legion "Three Thousand Hour" recognition for her Volunteer Service at the Lock Raven Veterans Administration Hospital.

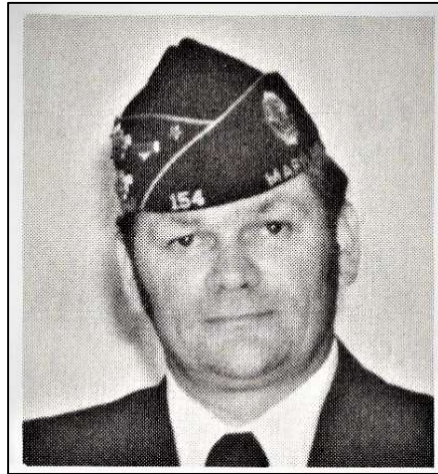
On September 14, 1967, Lithuanian Post 154 at the Baltimore District American Legion Americanism (ALA) Meeting received a Certificate of Merit for Cancer Control – 3rd Place, the Certificate of Merit for Outstanding work in Child Welfare – 3rd Place, the Bablan Trophy for Volunteer Hospital Workers Award, and the Marley C. Roche Trophy for Outstanding All Around Work for post under 100 members.

On September 24, 1967, Lithuanian Post 154 in conjunction with its Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation Ceremony at the Lithuanian Hall, 851 Hollins Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

On October 14, 1967, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail presented the colors at the Testimonial Dinner given to honor Mr. and Mrs. Nadas Rastenis at the Statler-Hilton Hotel. Nadas Rastenis was honored for his many years of service as the Post Judge Advocate and Julia Rastenis for her service to the Unit 154 in several offices including as its President. St. Alphonsus Church pastor and Post 154 Chaplain Anthony Dranginis gave the innovation. Among those attending were many post and unit officers, members and guests.

In honor of the Testimonial Dinner, Maryland Governor Spiro T. Agnew sent Nadas Rastenis a Maryland Distinguished Citizenship Certificate in recognition of his nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. The 1967 Nobel Peace Prize nomination reflects great credit to Lithuanian Americans and all Marylanders, and for his outstanding contributions to the civic, cultural, and community life of the state.

1968 – 1969



Commander Algirdas Bucevicius

1st Vice Commander Balys Brasauskas

2nd Vice Commander Roland V. Miller

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Chaplain Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Charles F. Ozel

Finance Officer John W. Mazz

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Sergeant at Arms John J. Beaudet

Color Bearers Walter P. Hicks, O. W. Smith,
Phillip H. Battaglia, Edward E. Zurbs, Frank Maslauskas,
Michael Cavanaugh, and Henry T. Beaudet

Executive Committee Vito Siaurusaitis, Kestutis Galeckas,
William A. Lewis, and all Past Post Commanders

Convention Delegates John J. Mox, Sr., John M. Stefura,
John W. Mazz, Balys Brasauskas, and Charles Ozel

Alternate Delegates Vaclovas Laukaitis, Kestutis Galeckas,
Henry Beaudet, Algirdas Bucevicius, and Walter P. Hicks

Post Membership 136

Unit Auxiliary Officers:

President Mrs. Eva Kraus

Vice-President Mrs. Shirley Colley

Secretary Mrs. Helen Mazz

Treasurer Mrs. Marie Mazz

Historian Miss. Isabella Kicas

Sergeant at Arms Mrs. Mildred Jacobs

Color Bearers Miss. Evelyn Brooks and Mrs. Frances Karpers

1968 Post History Milestone

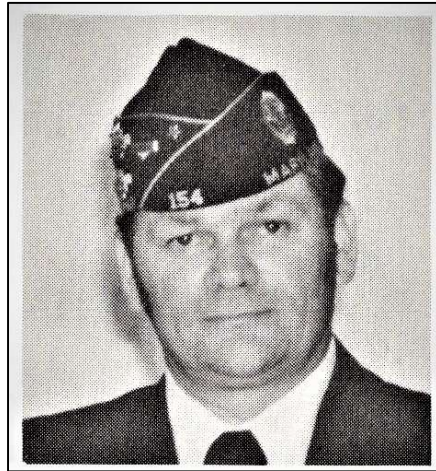
On July 11, 1968, Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates participated in the Baltimore District Caucus at the War Memorial Building and on July 17-20, 1968, they attended the Department of Maryland 1968 Convention at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. They took part in the parade and attended all scheduled events. The Unit Convention was held at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Lithuanian Unit 154 was represented by Delegates-at-Large Eva Kraus and Shirley Colley, Delegates Marie Mazz, Evelyn Brooks, and Lillian Walsh, Alternate Frances Karpers.

On September 29, 1968, Lithuanian Post 154 in conjunction with its Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation Ceremony at the Lithuanian Hall, 851 Hollins Street, Baltimore.

On November 16, 1968, Lithuanian Post 154 celebrated the 50th American Legion Golden Founding Jubilee (1919-1969) in conjunction with its own Lithuanian Post 25th Silver Founding Jubilee (1943-1968) in one gala Banquet Dinner and Dance held at the Lithuanian Hall. A Celebration Program Booklet, which included a History of Lithuanian Post 154, was distributed to all the attending guests. The formal program commenced with the traditional posting of Post 154 colors, followed by the singing of the American and Lithuanian anthems, Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Msgr. Louis J. Mendelis, and the retrieving of the post colors.

Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis, acting as the Master of Ceremony, read Congratulatory Anniversary Proclamations from Governor Spiro Theodore Agnew and Mayor Thomas D'Alessandro and introduced the distinguished guests. The Honored Guest Speaker was the Honorable Frank Barrett 6th District of Baltimore County Councilman. His speech was followed by a number of short speeches by other state and city government officials. The formal program was closed with a benediction by Father Dranginis, which was followed by a gala Dinner-Dance, with an outstanding meal prepared by Millrace Catering and music by Eddie Bere's Orchestra that was enjoyed by one and all.

1969 – 1970



Commander Algirdas Bucevicius

Vice Commander Roland V. Miller

2nd Vice Commander Vaclovas Laukaitis

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Charles F. Ozel

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Finance Officer John W. Mazz

Sergeant at Arms John J. Beaudet

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders,
Vito Siaurusaitis, Kestutis Galeckas, and William A. Lewis

Color Bearers Walter P. Hicks, O.W. Smith, Phillip H. Battaglia,
Edward E. Zirbs, Frank Maslauskas, Michael Cavanaugh,
and Henry T. Beaudet

Convention Delegates John J. Mox, Sr., John M. Stefura,
John W. Mazz, Algirdas Bucevicius, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Alternate Delegates Walter P. Hicks, Balys Brasauskas,
Charles Ozel, Mazz Lindner, Henry Beaudet, and Kestutis Galeckas

Post Committee Chairman:

Installations John W. Mazz
Bull Roast John M. Stefura
Membership Balys Brasauskas
Blood Al Jasaitis
Children's Christmas Party - Balys Brasauskas, Roland and Eileen Miller
Publicity Al Juskus
Americanism Walter C. Foreacre
Child Welfare Kaney Treece
Legal & Audit John M. Stefura
Visiting Committee Chrles Ozel & All Officers
Defense Committee Roland Miller
Traffic Safety Henry T. Beaudet
Education Charles Sarpalis
Post Membership 167
Auxiliary Unit Officers:
President Eva Kraus
Vice-President Shirley Colley
Secretary Helen Mazz
Treasurer Marie Mazz
Historian Isabella Kicas
Sergeant at Arms Mildred Jacobs
Color Bearers Evelyn Brooks and Frances Karpers

1969 Post Milestone

On January 20, 1969, Post 154 Judge Advocate and the State of Maryland proclaimed, "Lithuanian Poet Laureate" Nadas Rastenis, was recognition by the Baltimore Sun Newspaper columnist Earl Arnett in a photograph filled article "A Lifetime filled with Poetry" related to Rastenis recent media publicity.

On May 30, 1969, Post 154 took part in the annual American Legion, Department of Maryland Memorial Day Commemoration, held at the Baltimore National Cemetery.

After the conclusion of this commemoration, Lithuanian Post 154, held its first "Back to God" Memorial Mass at St. Alphonsus Church, Baltimore, Maryland, where many other American Legion, Department of Maryland Legionnaires attended. This well attended American Legion "Back to God" Mass became an annual Post hosted commemoration.

On June 15, 1969, Post Commander Algirdas Bucevicius presented The American Legion scholarship Medals and Certificates to Linas Surdokas and Lai Kuen Chan during their St. Alphonsus Church School graduation ceremony. Unit President Eva Kraus presented the American History Cash Award to Linas Surdokas and Brigitte Narbutas and Unit Citations to Patricia Davis and Denise Bucevicius for being the 2nd and 3rd place winners in the Baltimore District essay contest.

In July 1969, Post 154 Legionnaire Stanley S. Milunaitis received the Bronze Star Medal for bravery and a promotion to Sergeant while serving on active duty in Vietnam.

On July 10, 1968, Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates participated in the Baltimore District Caucus held in the War Memorial Building and the July 16-19, 1969, Department of Maryland Convention held in the Emerson Hotel. Post Colors were carried in the opening parade by Mike Cavanaugh, Phillip Bataglia, Al Jasaitis, Vaclovas Laukaitis, John Beaudet and Waler C. Foreacre followed by large contingent of Post and Unit members. For the next three days, they attended scheduled convention events.

On September 5, 1969, Lithuanian Post 154 Commander Algirdas Bucevicius accompanied by Walter P. Hicks and Oliver W. Smith presented an American Flag to St. Alphonsus School for its continued support of The American Legion Americanism Program.

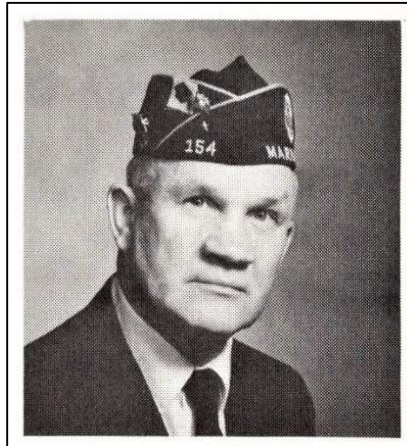
On September 15, 1969, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail commanded by Vice Commander Vaclovas Laukaitis and followed by man post and unit auxiliary members marched in the Baltimore "I am an American Day" Parade.

On September 28, 1969, Lithuanian Post 154 in conjunction with its Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation Ceremony at the Lithuanian Hall, 851 Hollins Street, Baltimore.

On October 25, 1969, the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America (Bendrojo Amerikos Lietuviu Fondo – BALFO), Chapter 64, Baltimore, Maryland, held its 25th Anniversary Celebration in St. Alphonsus School Hall, Baltimore, Maryland. Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail posted Colors at the BALFO opening program ceremony and their closing banquet dinner.

On November 11, 1969, Lithuanian Post and Unit Colors were present at the Baltimore District Veterans Day Services held at the War Memorial Plaza along with many post and unit officers and members.

1970 – 1971



Commander Balys J. Brasauskas

Vice Commander Peter S. Okas

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Charles Ozel

Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Finance Officer John W. Mazz

Sergeant at Arms Wesley Smith

Color Bearers Vaclovas Laukaitis, Walter P. Hicks,
and Kenneth M. Smith

Color Guard at the Convention John Stefura,
Algirdas Bucevicius, and Stanley Milunaitis

Executive Committee Albert J. Jasaitis, Kaney
C. Treece, and all past commanders

Convention Delegates John M. Stefura, Vaclovas Laukaitis, Charles Ozel, and
John Mazz

Convention Alternates Balys Brasauskas, Peter Okas,
Albert Jaisaitis, Kaney Treece, and Sylvester Matelis

Post Membership 163

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Eva Kraus

Vice-President Shirley Colley

Secretary Helen Mazz

Treasurer Marie Mazz

Historian Isabella Kicas

Sergeant at Arms Mildred Jacobs

Color Bearers Evelyn Brooks and Frances Karpers

Convention Delegates Eva Kraus and Shirley Colley (Delegates-at-Large)

Marie Mazz, Lillian Walsh, Frances Karpers, and Mary Byrne

1970 Post Milestone

On February 21, 1970, Lithuanian Post 154 Baltimore District Oratorical Contest contestant, Miss. Margaret Schlundt placed second.

On May 5, 1970, Lithuanian Post 154, Lithuanian Men's Chorus, took part in the American Legion, Department of Maryland, Auxiliary Memorial Day Commemorative Music Festival, held at the Baltimore War Memorial Building, where they sang a Medley of Songs. *The Chorus* under the Directorship of Mrs. Lillian Gelazala Baker, a Post 154 Unit auxiliary member, periodically performed at Baltimore Lithuanian events, and received many ovations.

On May 24, 1970, Post 154 Unit Auxiliary and Gold Star Mothers held a Memorial Day Mass celebrated by Post Chaplain Anthony S. Dranginis at St. Alphonsus Church for those Killed in Action or died from combat inflicted wounds.

On May 31, 1970, Post 154 Members took part in Baltimore District Memorial Day Memorials held at Loudon Park Cemetery.

In June 1970, the Lithuanian Post 154 reached another highest total membership figure with 154 Legionnaires.

The post unanimously endorsed its Adjutant John M. Stefura as a candidate to be The American Legion National Delegate and Finance Officer John W. Mazz as a candidate for the Department Executive Committee.

On June 14, 1970, Unit President Eva Kraus presented the American Legion History Awards to Denise Bucevicius and Arunas Kuciauskas at the St. Alphonsus School graduation ceremony.

On July 9, 1970, Lithuanian Post 154 delegates attended the Baltimore District Caucus.

On July 14-17, 1970, Lithuanian Post 154 Post Delegates, Alternates, and many post and unit members attended the Department of Maryland Convention held in Ocean City, Maryland and took part in the opening and all scheduled activities. Post Colors were carried in the parade by John Stefura, Algirdas Bucevicius, Vytis Siaurusaitis,

Vaclovas Laukaitis and Milunaitis. The Post Unit similarly attended and took part in their corresponding convention.

On September 13, 1970, Post 154 Flag Detail marched in the Baltimore "I am an American: Day Parade with many post and auxiliary uniformed members marching behind to the cheers of thousands of parade watchers.

On September 27, 1970, a joint Post 154 and Auxiliary Unit Joint Installation Ceremony took place at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. In addition to the formal swearing in ceremony the post presented its Scholarship Medal Awards. Entertainment was provided by Soloists Clement Andrews and George Galkas and accompanist Mrs. William Banker who all helped to make this annual occasion a great success.

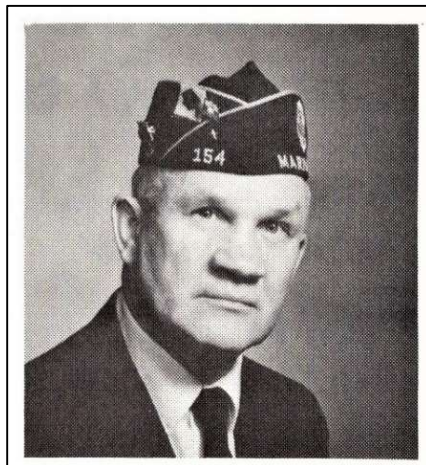
On November 1, 1970, many Post 154 members and auxiliary members once again hosted at St. Alphonsus Church, the "*Back to God*" Mass.

On November 11, 1970, Post members attended American Legion Veteran's Day Programs at the Baltimore War Memorial.

On November 23, 1970, the American people and in particular the Lithuanian American Community became no more galvanized against the Russian Soviet regime due to what occurred on this day that quickly became known nationwide as the "*Day of Shame*." On this day, during a bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union regarding fishing rights, a Lithuanian sailor, Simas Kurdika, jumped from a Russian fishing trawler, the *Sovetskaya Litva*, onto the American coast guard cutter, the USCGC *Vigilant*, while both were tethered together off Massachusetts Martha's Vineyard island just south of Cape Cod, seeking political asylum. Rather than being greeted as a political refuge fleeing communist occupation, the Coast Guard Commander order him detained and then allowed Russians to board his ship and forcibly return him to the Soviet vessel. The actions of the US Coast Guard officers and Soviet officials were widely condemned by the American news media and the three high officers associated with the incident relieved of their duties. President Richard Nixon was so angered at their actions that he instituted procedures for the future handling of defection to ensure that similar situations would never happen again.

On December 21, 1970, Rev. Anthony Dranginis, the Assistance Pastor of St. Alphonsus Church and Chaplain of Lithuanian Post 154, from the church pulpit during a mass being offered for Lithuanian Seaman Simas Kudirka that was attended by over 400 parishioners decried the "US Failure on this Defector". Among those interviewed by the press after this mass was Lithuanian Post 154 Commander Balys Brasauskas who added our main purpose is to ensure such an incident never happens in the future. Thereafter the Lithuanian American Community started a letter writing campaign to the President and Congress express their feelings about this failure and requesting an investigation related to the failed incident.

1971 – 1972



Commander Balys Brasauskas

Vice Commander Peter S. Okas

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas "Al" Bucevicius

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Kaney C. Treece

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Sergeant at Arms Wesley Smith

Color Bearers Walter P. Hicks, Algirdas Paplonskis,
and Robert E. Parks

Executive Committee Albert J. Jasaitis, Kaney C.
Treece, John Beaudet, and all past commanders

Convention Delegates Peter Okas, John M. Stefura,
and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Convention Alternates Charles Ozel, John W. Mass
and Kaney C. Treece

Post Membership 154

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Frances Karpers

Vice President Eugenia (Jessie) Paznekas

Secretary Helen Mazz

Treasurer Maria Mazz

Historian Mrs. Bertha Mitchell

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Mildred Jacobs

Color Bearers Mary Byrne and Anne Matek

Executive Committee Mere Kicas,
Maria Altoja, and Eleanor Stefura

Unit Committee Chairman:

Americanism – Betsey Karpers

Child Welfare – Helen Chesonis

Community Service – Eva Kraus

Music – Mary Byrne

Gold Star Mothers Lillian Walsh

Membership Shirley Colley

Rehabilitation – Lillian Walsh

Poppy – Maria Mazz

Legislative – Jessie Paznekas

1971 Post Milestone

On February 7, 1971, Lithuanian Post 154 sponsored, arranged, and participated in the radio broadcasting for the first time of an American Legion, Baltimore District, *Four Chaplains Memorial Service* in combination with the *Back to God* service, broadcast by WCAO Radio. The service broadcasting program participants were WCAO broadcaster Charles Purcell, Baltimore District Commander Earl Nuttall, Post 154 Catholic Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis, Jewish Rabbi Manuel Polakoff, and Protestant Rev. Robert Woodworth.

In April 1971, Lithuanian Post 154 sponsored contestants to the Baltimore District Essay contest, Miss. Denise Bucevicius from St. Alphonsus School was awarded 1st

Place in the Junior Group and Miss. Christine Detkin from Institute of Notre Dame was awarded 2nd Place in the Senior Group.

On April 24, 1971, American Legion, Lithuanian Unit No. 154 Auxiliary, celebrated its 25th Anniversary of service to God and Country with a gala banquet and dance at Lithuanian Hall, Baltimore, Maryland. During their Officer Installation Ceremony, a new unit auxiliary Banner was dedicated by Mrs. Bettie Gibbs the Baltimore District Unit President. Unit Anniversary President Shirley Colley and Anniversary Co-Chairmen Betsey Karpers and Jessie Paznekas made their 25th Anniversary Commemoration a great success.

In May 1971, Lithuanian Post 154 received the tragic news that the Russians had sentenced Kurdika to ten years in correctional labor camps and he served in such camps in the Pskov Oblast and Mordovia. Due to demonstrations and investigations by the Lithuanian American Community, it was discovered that Kudirka's mother had been born in the United States and a US citizenship which made him a US citizen.

Many members of Lithuanian Post 154 are proud of the leadership and participation by their predecessors in support of the American effort to insure such a travesty would never occur again. These include petitions presented to the US State Department and demonstration at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., during the 1971-1974 period. They only ceased when Kurdika was released from imprisonment and allowed to move with his family to the United States. In 1978, Kurdika wrote a book about his life, *"For Those Still at Sea"* that was made into a well-received TV Movie *"The Defection of Simas Kudirka"* starring Alan Arkin that same year.

While living in the US, Kudirka frequently gave lectures about Russian abuses and the communist regime that ruled in Lithuania. In May 1979, Kurdika visited Baltimore and was the honored guest of the Lithuanian American Community at its annual Lithuanian Festival. During this visit, Kurdika thanked the members of Lithuanian Post 154 for their work in liberating him from Russian captivity. Kudirka returned to live in Lithuania in 2000, after the nation regained its independence. Kurdika died on 11 February 2023, at the age of 92 in Pilviškiai, Lithuania, proud of his dual American and Lithuanian citizenships to his death.

On May 4, 1971, Lithuanian Post 154, Lithuanian Men's Chorus, directed by Mrs. Lillian Gelazala Baker, a post's unit auxiliary member, took part in the American Legion, Department of Maryland, Auxiliary Memorial Day Commemorative Music Festival, held at the Baltimore War Memorial Building, where they sang a Medley of Songs. The Chorus periodically preformed at Baltimore Lithuanian events and received many accolades for their performances.

On May 30, 1971, in accordance with Congress having declared Memorial Day to henceforth be officially on this date, Post 154 members attended the American Legion, Department of Maryland, Baltimore Division, Memorial Day Ceremony held at Loudon Park Cemetery.

Lithuanian Post 154 Post Delegates and Alternates attended the Department of Maryland, 1971 Convention and took part in the opening and scheduled activities. The Post Unit similarly attended and took part in their corresponding convention.

On September 26, 1971, Lithuanian Post 154 and its American Legion Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation of Officers formal ceremony at the Lithuanian American Athletic Club. Opening of the Program was by Commander Balys Brasauskas and continued by the presentation of Colors by the Post Color Guard, singing of the American Anthem by George Gaikas and Lithuanian Anthem by Clement Andrew, Pledge of Allegiance by President Frances Karpers, audience Preamble, and Invocation by Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis.

The American Legion Installing Post Officers were John Gotzen, Baltimore District Commander, and Chester Akers, Area "A" Commander. Unit Installing Officer was President Betty Heird, Baltimore District. Guest Speaker Major Ronald Fishman, U.S. Army. Scholarship Awards were presented by Chairman John Mazz.. Also, other awards and gifts were presented by Unit President Frances Karpers. The event closed with audience singing "*God Bless America*" and benediction said by Post Chaplain, and the Retirement of Colors.

1972 – 1973



Commander Peter S. Okas

Vice Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Wesley Smith

Service Officer Kaney C. Treece

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Executive Committee Albert J. Jasaitis, Kaney C. Treece, John Beaudet, and all past commanders

Convention Delegates Peter Okas, John M. Stefura, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Convention Alternates Charles Ozel, John W. Mass and Kaney C. Treece

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Eugenia (Jessie) Paznekas

Vice-President Frances C. Karpers

Recording Secretary Helen Mazz

Correspondence Secretary Shirley Calley

Treasurer Maria Mazz

Historian Dorothy Parks

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Bertha Mitchell

Color Bearers Mary Byrne and Eva Kraus

Executive Committee Anna Rekus, Helen Chesonis, and Mildred Jacobs

1972 Post Milestone

On January 1, 1972, The American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154, officially moved from its original post home located in the Lithuanian American Athletic Club – LAAC (Baltimore Lietuviu Atletu Klubu) Building, 539 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland, to second floor of the Lithuanian Hall Association (Baltimore Lietuviu Namu), 851 Hollins Street, Baltimore, Maryland, where it exists to this day. Regrettably, during the post relocation and subsequent water damage caused by a leaky roof about twenty years later, some of the post archive documents were destroyed.

On March 8, 1972, a new Baltimore Lithuanian Athletic Club (BLAC) was chartered by twenty members, many which were also member of Lithuanian Post 154, after the original Lithuanian American Athletic Club (LAAC) formed in 1915 ceased to exist. Five of these Lithuanian Post 154 Members, Vaclovas Laukaitis, Peter Okas, Vincas Dulys, Algis Veliuona, and Gintaras Buivys became future BLAC presidents. Following the example of Lithuanian Post 154, the BLAC also became one of the Lithuanian fraternal organizations that hold membership in the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall Association. This relocation was necessary after its building, which was the home of the club and Lithuanian Post 154, was purchased by the City of Baltimore and later demolished to make room for the construction of Oriole Park at Camden Yards complex.

On May 2, 1972, Lithuanian Post 154, Lithuanian Men's Chorus under the directorship of Lillian Gelazala Baker, a post's unit auxiliary member, for the third year took part in the American Legion, Department of Maryland, Auxiliary Memorial Day Commemorative Music Festival, held at the Baltimore War Memorial Building, where they sang a Medley of Songs to a very appreciative audience.

Lithuanian Post 154 Post Delegates and Alternates attended the Department of Maryland, 1972 Convention and took part in the opening and all scheduled activities. The Post Unit similarly attended and took part in their corresponding convention.

The first time, two Lithuanian Post 154 members, Legionnaires John Mazz and John Stefura, were elect offices in The American Legion, Department of Maryland.

During August 18-24, 1972, The American Legion, 54th National Convention took place in the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. Six Lithuanian Post 154 members consisting of Adjutant John M. Stefura, V. Siaurusaitis, C. Sadauskas, R. Hicks, V. Laukaitis, and A. Chepaitis and their loved ones took the opportunity to visit Chicago, the largest Lithuanian American community. Period publication noted that many American Legion delegations took the opportunity to visit the Lithuanian Post 154 hospitality suite to enjoy ethnic Lithuanian food and drink.

1973 – 1974



Commander Peter S. Okas

Vice Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Wesley Smith

Service Officer Kaney C. Treece

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Judge Advocate Nadas Rastenis

Executive Committee Albert J. Jasaitis, Kaney C.
Treece, John Beaudet and all past commanders,

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Frances Karpers

Vice-President Eugenia (Jessie) Paznekas

Secretary Helen Mazz

Treasurer Maria Mazz

Historian Dorothy Parks

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Bertha Mitchell

Color Bearers Eva Kraus and Mary Byrne

Executive Committee Anna Kraus, Helen Chesonis,
and Mildred Jacobs

1973 Post Milestone

During its March 1973, Lithuanian Post 154 Monthly General Meeting the members celebrated their 30th Founding Anniversary with a recollection of its history and past accomplishments followed by a moment of silence for post members no longer with us. May a merciful God keep and hold them.

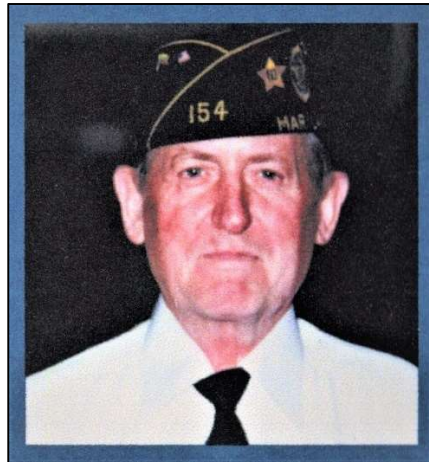
Legionnaire John Mazz replaced Edward Budelis the originator and over three-decade long Editor of Post 154 Legionnaire Bulletin Newsletter.

On June 26, 1973, Lithuanian Post 154 participated in Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer first "*Showcase of Nations*" Program, designed to celebrate the rich ethnic diversity in the city through presentations of ethnic culture and history. The first of these Baltimore outdoor weekend festivals started with a Lithuanian Festival held in Hopkins Plaza. The opening of the Lithuanian festival was a Mass held at St. Alphonsus Church, followed by Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail led parade to Hopkins Plaza. They posted the Colors in front of an erected podium where a formal program starting with the singing of the American and Lithuanian national anthems and a benediction by Post Chaplain Anthony Dranginis followed by opening speeches by Honored guests. Thereafter visitors commenced a gala weekend celebration visiting Lithuanian cultural, history, arts and crafts display booth. They enjoyed ethnic foods, listened to Lithuanian music, and watched traditional Lithuanian folk dancing. One of the most popular visitor stops was at the America Legion, Lithuania Post 154 table decorated in Red, White, and Blue. It featured the American Legion logo and was manned by uniformed post members providing American and Legion historical and recruiting information.

As a result of this positively received opening of the "Showcase of Nation's" program, it was followed by similar ethnic fairs of other nationalities.

Lithuanian Post 154 Post Delegates and Alternates attended the Department of Maryland, 1973 Convention and took part in the opening and all scheduled activities. The Post Unit similarly attended and took part in their corresponding convention.

1974 – 1975



Commander Walter Preston Hicks

Vice Commander John W. Kemmer, Jr.

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Wesley Smith

Service Officer James Laucht

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Judge Advocate Herman W. Noweck, Jr.

Color Bearers Vaclovas Laukaitis, Edwins
Kristapsons, and Algirdas Bucevicius

Executive Committee Stephen Zimnawodia
and all past commanders

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Frances Karpers

Vice-President Eugenia (Jessie) Paznekas

Secretary Helen Mazz

Treasurer Maria Mazz

Historian Dorothy Parks

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Bertha Mitchell

Color Bearers Eva Kraus and Mary Byrne

Executive Committee Anna Kraus, Helen Chesonis,
and Mildred Jacobs

1974 Post Milestone

On May 25, 1974, Mayor William Donald Schaefer awarded the City of Baltimore "*Ethnic Heritage Award*" to Lithuanian Post 154 in recognition of its generosity of spirit shown in helping others to understand and appreciate the culture of Lithuania with other citizens which strengthens our City of Baltimore.

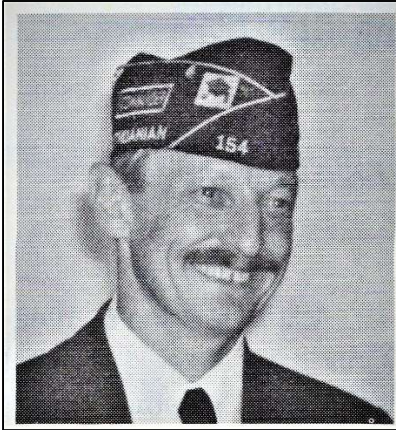
On June 1, 1975, the Baltimore Lithuanian Festival Committee awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Lithuanian Post 154 for its generosity of spirit in helping others to understand and appreciate the culture of Lithuania.

Lithuanian Post 154 Post Delegates and Alternates attended the Department of Maryland, 1975 Convention and took part in the opening and all scheduled activities. The Post Unit similarly attended and took part in their corresponding convention.

On September 9, 1974, the Lithuanian National Library, Baltimore, Maryland, requested Lithuanian Post 154 to conduct an American legion Flag Posting Ceremony at their 65th Founding Anniversary celebration. During the celebration, Lithuanian Post 154 was publicly commended for its long and continuing support in the preserving of Lithuanian culture and language.

On December 16, 1974, Russian confined Lithuanian Seaman Simas Kudirka, who Lithuanian Post 154 members had championed since he sought freedom from Russian tyranny in 1970 by jumping off a Soviet Fishing vessel onto a US Coast Guard vessel. Tragically, he was returned to the Russians after being rejected, and was finally released from Russians Labor Camp confinement and arrived in the United States. His release was facilitated by Lithuanian American document discovery that confirmed that his mother had been born in the United States and she regained her US citizenship. Thus, Simas was able to prove he was American citizen and released by the Russians to avoid further negative world press coverage. That was a Milestone proudly claimed by Lithuanian Post Members for their contributions.

1975 – 1976



Commander John W. Kemmer, Jr.

Vice Commander Leo "Mike" Cavanaugh

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Service Officer Walter P. Hicks

Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Wesley Smith

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Judge Advocate Herman W. Noweck, Jr.

Executive Committee Henry Marshall Chetalat,
Kestutis "Charlie" Galeckas, and Victor J. Mateh,
and all past commanders

Color Bearers Vaclovas "Bob" Laukaitis, Edwins
Kristapsons, and Algirdas Bucevicius

Membership Chairman Mike Cavanaugh,
John Stefura, and Stanley Milaunaitis

Finance Chairman Al Bucavicius,
Vito Siaurusaitis, and Robert Parks

Legal Chairman Herman Norweck and
Robert J. Jenkins

Publicity Chairman John Mazz, Charles Sarpalis

Rehabilitation and Services Chairman Walter Hicks,
James Laucht, and Kaney C. Treece

House and Entertainment Chairman Pete Okas,
Vito Siaurusaitis, and Henry Marshall Chetalat

Athletic Chairman Robert (Bob) Laukaitis and Pete Okas

Back to God Mass Chairman Robert Laukaitis
and Father Anthony (Tony) Dranginis

Children Christmas Chairman Mike Cavanaugh
and Roland Miller

Bull Roasts John Stefura, Al Bucevicius,
Pete Okas, and Earl Gross

Installation Chairman John Mazz

10-20 Club Chairman John Stefura, Stanley Milaunaitis,
and Robert Laukaitis

Unit Auxiliary 1975-1976 Officers

President Frances Karpers

Vice-President Eugenia (Jessie) Paznekas

Secretary Helen Mazz

Treasurer Maria Mazz

Historian Dorothy Parks

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Bertha Mitchell

Color Bearers Eva Kraus and Mary Byrne

Executive Committee Anna Kraus, Helen Chesonis,
and Mildred Jacobs

1975 Post Milestone

On June 5, 1975, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail once again opened the widely touted Baltimore “*Showcase of Nations*” Festival in Hopkins Plaza as the United States began to celebrate its Bicentennial Year. The Lithuanian Community also took the occasion to celebrate its own 100th Birthday of their arrival to the City of Baltimore. The

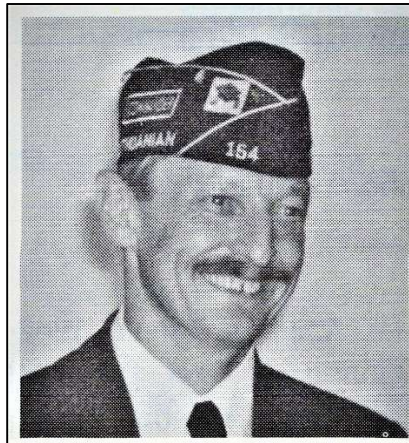
celebration began with a Bicentennial Catholic Mass offered by Rev. Anthony Dranginis and Lithuanian Post 154 Chaplain at St. Alphonsus Church followed by Rev. Dranginis and Post 154 Flag Detail leading a parade from the church to the Baltimore Hopkins Plaza celebration city site. There the post flag detail presented its colors during the opening ceremony and signing of the American and Lithuanian National Anthems. Several post members were among those making opening remarks during the ceremony. In the center of the traditional ethnic display and vendor booths surrounding the reviewing and speaking stand stood the gala Red, White, and Blue colored booth with a large American Legion Logo hosted by Lithuanian Post 154. Post members wearing summer uniforms with Lithuanian Post caps manned the booth throughout the celebration telling the story of Lithuanian Americanism since the founding of the nation and recruiting members. The American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 Booth has been found at every Baltimore Lithuanian Festival since this gala event.

On June 26, 1975, Lithuanian Post 154 was awarded an Appreciation Certificate by the Baltimore Lithuanian Festival Committee for its participation in the Baltimore Show Case of Nations Program, Lithuanian Festival, and its long tradition in the furtherance of understanding of Lithuanian History and Culture.

Lithuanian Post 154 Post Delegates and Alternates attended the Department of Maryland, 1975 Convention and took part in the opening and all scheduled activities. The Post Unit similarly attended and took part in their corresponding convention.

On August 15, 1975, the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC), Rockville, Maryland, representing the Estonian American National Council, the American Latvian Association, and the Lithuanian American Council, send Lithuanian Post 154 a thank you letter for showing that Baltic Americans across the nation are united in a common cause to restore freedom and independence to their ancestral homelands.

1976 – 1977



Commander John W. Kemmer, Jr.

Vice Commander Leo “Mike” Cavanaugh

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Henry Marshall Chetelat

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Phillip H. Battaglia

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Executive Committee Henry M. Chetelat, Kestutis “Charlie”
Galeckas, Victor J. Mateh, and all past commanders

Color Bearers Vaclovas Laukaitis and Pete Okas

Standing Committees:

Membership: Mike Cavanaugh, Chairman,
John Stefura, and Stanley Milaunaitis

Finances: Al Bucavicius, Chairman,
Vito Siaurusaitis and Robert Parks

Legal: Herman W. Noweck, Jr., Chairman,
and Robert J. Jenkins

Publicity: John Mazz, Chairman, and Charles Sarpalis

Rehabilitation & Services: Walter Hicks, Chairman,
James Lauht, and Kaney C. Treece

Visiting: All present Post Officers

Americanism: John Stefura, Chairman,
Herman W. Noweck, Jr., and John Mazz

House & Entertainment: Pete Okas, Chairman,
Vito Siaurusaitis, and John Mazz

Athletic: Bob Laukaitis, Chairman, and Peter Okas

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Frances Karpers

Vice-President Eugenia (Jessie) Paznekas

Secretary Helen Mazz

Treasurer Maria Mazz

Historian Dorothy Parks

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Bertha Mitchell

Color Bearers Eva Kraus and Mary Byrne

Executive Committee Anna Kraus, Helen Chesonis,
and Mildred Jacobs

1976 Post History Milestone

Without doubt, America's 200th Bicentennial, July 4, 1776, Anniversary commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the nation's founding Fathers was the largest and longest lasting celebrations of a lifetime. For the members of Lithuanian Post 154 and its Auxiliary, the planning, execution, and taking part in these celebrations will be remembered for generations to come.

On February 1, 1976, Lithuanian Post 154 and its auxiliary proudly marched with their American and Lithuanian flags and post banner in the Maryland Memorial Day and Vietnam War Memorial Day parades.

On April 12, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford of the United States, send a letter to Lithuanian Post 154 commending the members of the post for the special part it was played in the ongoing 200th Anniversary of the United States. Lithuanian Post 154 and

its Auxiliary proudly shows the Colors during the America's Bicentennial Celebration, Baltimore City events.

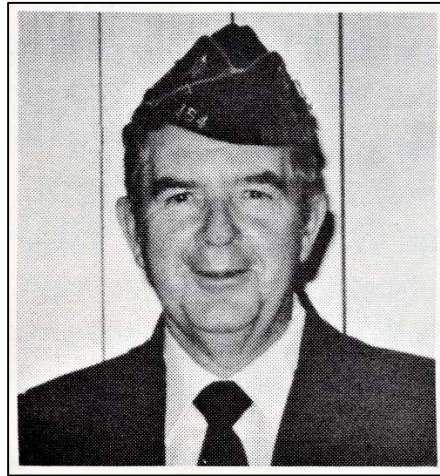
Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail presented the Colors during the June 5 - 6, 1976 Lithuanian Festival. The post setup and manned an American Legion Information Booth, on August 22, 1976, at the German American Society Festival. The Post presented Colors on September 26, 1976, in the "I am an American" Day Parade; on October 9, 1976, at the German Society Oktoberfest; and on November 14, 1976, at the American Legion, Baltimore Division, "Back to God" Mass at St. Alphonsus Church. In typical fashion, Post and Unit officers and members turned out in great numbers in support of the post at these events.

On July 15, 1976, Post 154 members marched in the American Legion, Department of Maryland 1976 Convention, Ocean City, Maryland, where the post received the 2nd Place Americanism award sponsoring Group 11 Essay winner, the 3rd Place Children and Youth Unit 50-100 members certificate, the 2nd Place Certificate and "E. Lavina Van Sant Memorial Cup," Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation award for under 100 Members, and a Three Star membership Award.

At the Baltimore District Convention, the Post received the District Awards for Merrell Park Children & Youth Trophy, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Certificate 3rd Place, Cancer Central Certificate 3rd Place, Police George Jeffries Jenes Memorial Cup 1st Place, Community Service Certificate 3rd Place, and For All Around Activities the Mary V. Roche Trophy 1st Place, for posts under 100 Members.

In addition, Post 154 was honored to have its Post Adjutant John Stefura elected to the Department's Executive Committee for 1976-1977.

1977 – 1978



Commander Michael L. Cavanaugh

Vice Commander Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr.

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Henry M. Chetela

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Sergeant at Arms Wesley Smith

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Judge Advocate Herman W. Noweck, Jr.

Executive Committee Stephen Zimnawodia
and all past commanders

Color Bearers Vaclovas Laukaitis, Edwins
Kristapsons, and Algirdas Bucevicius

Auxiliary 1978-1979 Officers

President Frances Karpers

Vice President Mary C. Byrne

Secretary/Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplin Eva Kraus

Historian Dorothy Parks

Sergeant at Arms Helen Chesonis

Executive Committee Dorothy Frost,
Eileen Miller, and Evelyn Smith

Awards and Gifts Eugenia Paznekas

Color Bearers Evelyn Smith and Lyna Mitchell

1977 Post History Milestone

On January 12, 1977, Lithuanian Post 154 was honored by the Baltimore District by their appointment of John Stefura as Chairman of the Americanism Committee, Reverend Anthony S. Dranginis to the Education & Scholarship Committee, and Peter S. Okas to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Lithuanian Post 154 sponsored student Miss. Angela Bartas represented its members and the unit at the annual Baltimore District Oratorical Contest.

On February 9, 1977, Lithuanian Post 154 announced that it was instituting an American Legion Scholarship Program commencing in the fall of 1977.

In March 1977, the Department of Maryland, Free State Warrior Newspaper, under its Post Scripts Section, reported that Lithuanian Post 154 Commander John Kemmer had announced that Post 154 at its last General Meeting had approved the establishment of a College Scholarship Award.

On March 27, 1977, the Lithuanian Post and its Unit held a post founding birthday celebration at their post home which featured the showing of the film "The Price of Freedom". A worthy reminder that veterans should never forget.

On May 30, 1977, Lithuanian Post 154 presented the colors at Memorial Day Services held at the Loudon Park Cemetery.

On April 21, 1977, Lithuanian Post 154 was honored when the Special executive Committee unanimously endorsed Post 154 Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis for the Office of Department Chaplain for the 1977 - 1978 year. That same day, the post reached its membership goal.

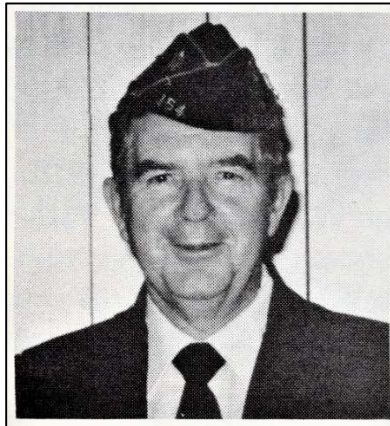
On May 21, 1977, Legionnaires and unit members attend the annual Gold Star Mothers Mass at St. Alphonsus Church at which Post 154 presented the Colors. The much-acclaimed film "The Price of Freedom" was again shown at the church school after the mass.

On May 30, 1977, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail presented the colors, and the post and unit members attended the Memorial Day services at Loudon Park Cemetery.

At the July 12-15, 1977, At the 59th Department of Maryland Convention held in Ocean City, Maryland, Cal Patton, a World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam veteran, was elected the new Department Commander. Lithuanian Post 154 endorsed its Post Chaplain Anthony S. Dranginis for the Baltimore District Chaplain and they not only concurred, but also recommend him for the position of the Department of Maryland Chaplain for the 1977-1978 year. He was elected and served in all three of the positions at the same time. Thereafter he was reelected as the Department Chaplain and served consecutively from 1977 to 1981.

This same year, Rev. Dranginis started his monthly Lithuanian Post 154, Legionnaire Newsletter "*Chaplain Corner Column*" which provides members even more patriotic, moral, and religious thought considerations.

1978 - 1979



Commander Michael L. Cavanaugh

Vice Commander Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr.

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Wesley Smith

Service Officer Henry M. Chetela

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Judge Advocate Herman W. Noweck, Jr.

Executive Committee Stephen Zimnawodia
and all past commanders

Color Bearers Vaclovas Laukaitis, Edwins
Kristapsons, and Algirdas Bucevicius

Unit Auxiliary 1979-1980 Officers

President Eugenia Paznekas

Vice President Mary C. Byrne

Secretary/Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplain Lillian Welsh

Historian Frances Karpers

Sergeant at Arms Maria Mazz

Executive Committee Evelyn Smith, Dorothy Frost,
and Eileen Miller

Color Bearers Evelyn Smith and Roberta Imbragullio

1978 Post History Milestone

During its March 1978 General Meeting, Lithuanian Post 154 commemorated its 35th Founding Anniversary with a recollection of its history and accomplishments followed by a moment of silence for departed members. May a merciful God keep and hold them forever.

1979 – 1980



Commander Charles V. Sarpalis

Vice Commander Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr.

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Service Officer Henry M. Chetela

Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Wesley Smith

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Judge Advocate Peter S. Okas

Executive Committee All Past Commanders
and Stephen Zimnawodia

Convention Delegates Reverend Anthony Dranginis,
Charles V. Sarpalis, Edmund Bartas, John M. Stefura,
Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr., and John Mazz

Alternate Delegates Kenneth Smith, Michael Mazz,
Stanley Milaunsaitis, and Emery Frost

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Eugenia Paznekas

Vice President Mary C. Byrne

Secretary/Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplain Lillian Welsh

Historian Frances Karpers

Sergeant at Arms Maria Mazz

Executive Committee Evelyn Smith, Dorothy Frost,
and Eileen Miller

Color Bearers Evelyn Smith and Roberta Imbragullio

1979 Post Milestone

Past Post Commander John W. Kemmer was also elected and served as the Baltimore District Council. - Area "A" Commander.

From December 9-10, 1979, the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania (Vyriausias Lietuvos Islaisvinimo Komitetas – VLIK) held their 36th Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail posted colors at the VLIK opening program ceremony and closing banquet dinner.

1980 – 1981



Commander Charles V. Sarpalis

Vice Commander Edmond V. Bartas

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Service Officer Roland V. Miller

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Vernon L. Pfeifer

Historian John W. Kemmer, Jr.

Judge Advocate Peter S. Okas

Executive Committee Kenneth M. Smith, Alphonas Adams,
Stanley F. Milaunaitis and all past commanders

Standing Committees Chairman:

Americanism: John Stefura

Membership: Edmond V. Bartas

Children & Youth: Edmond V. Bartas

Back to God: Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Bull Roasts: John M. Stefura

Worker's Party: Algirdas Bucevicius

College Scholarship: Edmond V. Bartas

Installation: John W. Kemmer, Jr.

Blood: Roland Miller

School Awards: John Mazz

Memorial Day: John W. Kemmer

Legion Day at the Races: John M. Stefura

Convention Delegates Charles Sarpalis Edmond Bartas,
John Stefura, John Mazz, and John Kemmer

Alternate Delegates Dr. John Urlock, Roland Miller,
Rev. Anthony Dranginis, and Kenneth Smith

Post Membership 156

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Mary C. Byrne

Vice President Eugenia Paznekas

Secretary/Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplain Lillian Welsh

Historian Frances Karpers

Sargeant at Arms Maria Mazz

Executive Committee Evelyn Smith, Dorothy Frost,
and Eileen Miller

Color Bearers Evelyn Smith and Roberta Imbragullio

1980 Post Milestone

On May 30, 1980, The American Legion, Department of Maryland, Baltimore District held its Memorial Day Services at the Baltimore National Cemetery. The Service Invocation was said by Rev. Anthony Dranginis who served as both the Department and Lithuanian Post 154 Chaplain.

On June 11, 1980, Commander Sarpalis announced the Lithuanian Post 154 College Scholarship recipient was Angelas Bartas for the second semester. Unit member Maria Mass was given a Special Plaque for her over 2,000 hours volunteer service at the Loch Raven Veterans Hospital.

On June 26, 1980, Post Commander John W. Kemmer was elected to the Baltimore District Council as the Area "A" Commander for his second term and Post Adjutant John M. Stefura was elected to the office of Department Executive Committeeman for the Baltimore District.

During the July 8 -11, 1980, Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates attended The American Legion, Department of Maryland Convention held in Ocean City, Maryland and participated in all scheduled events. Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis was elected for his fourth straight term as the Department Chaplain. Rev. Dranginis was also appointed the Chairman of the Department Service to God and Country Committee. Commander John W. Kemmer and Post Adjutant John M. Stefura were official elected to this Department Executive Committeeman for the Baltimore District Council positions. Past Post Commander John W. Kemmer was reelected to the Office of Area "A" Commander of Baltimore District Council for his second term.

Six Lithuanian Post Members were also given appointments to Department Committees. John Stefura appointed to the Americanism Foundation, American Legion Day at the Races, and Special Olympics Committees. John Kemmer was appointed to the Boy Scouts Committee, Drug Abuse Committee, Joint Veterans Committee, Special Olympics, and Time and Place Committees. John Mass was appointed to the Education and Oratorical Committees; Henry Beaudet to the Contest Committee; Peter Okas to the Law-and-Order Committee; and Charles Sarpalis to the Education and Scholarship Committee. Post Legionnaire Robert Ensey won the Department Convention 1st Place Trophy in the Golf Tournament.

Post 154 won the Department 1st Place for The Velzis Chaplain Trophy; The Jean Gahan Trophy for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation under 100 members; and the Best Post History (John W. Kemmer, Jr.) for members of less than 500. The Post

sponsored constant Michael Sullivan won 1st Place in the Baltimore District Oratorical Contest and placed 2nd in the Department of Maryland contest.

Lithuanian Post 154 also received Citations from The American Legion, National Headquarters for Most Distinguished Service and its Distinction Birthday Award.

Lithuanian Post 154, American Legion Auxiliary, during 1980-1981 won the Baltimore District 1st Place Morrell Park Child Welfare Trophy & Certificate for Children & Youth; Kemper Hargest Memorial Trophy for Veterans Affairs & Certificate; and the Mary V. Roche Trophy and Certificate for All Around Activities under 100 members. The Unit also won 3rd Place for Americanism, Chaplain, Community Service, Gold Stat, and Music.

On September 7, 1980, Lithuanian Post 154 Colors Guard, Legionnaire and Unit Auxiliary members proudly marched in the Baltimore "I Am an American" Day Parade.

On September 28, 1980, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit Auxiliary started holding Joint Installation Programs at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall with a formal swearing and presentation of awards ceremony followed by a gala celebration. Many current and former National and Department Officers attended the function.

1981 – 1982



Commander Edmond V. Bartas

Vice Commander Kenneth M. Smith

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Service Officer Roland V. Miller

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Vernon L. Pfeifer

Historian John W. Kemmer, Jr.

Judge Advocate Peter S. Okas

Executive Committee Alphonas Adams,
Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr., and Emery L. Frost, Sr.,
and all past commanders

Color Bearers Kenneth Smith, Stanley Milaunaitis, Henry M.
Chetelat, Kestutis Galeckas, and Rimantas S. Vitkauskas

Standing Committees:

Americanism: John Stefura

Children & Youth: Kenneth M. Smith

Back to God: Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Bull Roasts: John Stefura

Worker's Party: John Stefura

College Scholarship: Charles V. Sarpalis

Installation: John W. Kemmer, Jr.

Blood: Roland Miller

School Awards: John Mazz

Memorial Day: John W. Kemmer

Legion Day at the Races: John M. Stefura

Convention Delegates Charles Sarpalis, John Stefura,
Roland Miller, John Mazz, and John Kemmer

Alternate Delegates Edmond Bartas, Dr. John Urlock,
Rev. Anthony Dranginis, and Kenneth Smith

Auxiliary Unit Officers

President Eugenia Paznekas

Vice President Mary C. Byrne

Secretary/Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplain Lillian Welsh

Historian Frances Karpers

Sergeant at Arms Maria Mazz

Executive Committee Evelyn Smith, Dorothy Frost,
and Eileen Miller

Color Bearers Evelyn Smith and Roberta Imbragullio

1981 Post History Milestone

Post Adjutant and Past Post Commander John M. Stefura became the first Lithuanian Post Legionnaire to be elected Command of the Baltimore District (1981-1982) and Post Historian John W. Krammer on his election as a member of the Department Executive Committee.

In addition, John W. Krammer was appointed by The American Legion National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, to serve on the National Executive Committee for 1981-1982.

At the Baltimore District Convention, the Post received four awards, being The Three Star Award for exceeding the prior Year's membership; The Melvin Sheffield All Around Legion Program for post with less than 175 Members; the Honor Ribbon for Membership; and the C. Markland Kelly Child Welfare Award for Americanism for post with less than 175 members.

During the July 14 – 17, 1981, Department of Maryland Convention was held in Ocean City, Maryland, all of the post elected Delegates and Alternates were present along with a good number of post and unit members. Chaplain Dranginis once again celebrated a morning mass at Holy Savior Church for any Catholic in attendance.

At the convention Lithuanian Post also had the greatest number of members (seven) appointed at one time to Maryland Department Committees. Those so honored with these Committee Appointments were John Stefura for Americanism – National Security Commission and American Legion Day at the Races Special Olympics Committee; John Kemmer for Boys Scout Committee, Drug Abuse Committee, Convention Corporation Committee, History Commission, and Special Olympics Committee; John Mazz Education and Scholarship Committee and Oratorical Committee; Henry Beaudet for Contest Committee; Charles Sarpalis for Education and Scholarship Committee; Peter S. Okas for Law and Order Committee, and Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis for Service to God and Country Committee.

Post 154 was awarded seven service awards, being the Kenneth Hammer Memorial Trophy for the Best Yearly Post History by Historian John Kemmer for post with less than 500 Members; the Otto S. Heuer Annual Memorial Americanism Award for the Best All Around Americanism Program; the Walter L. Biegel Memorial Post Activities Trophy, and the Adam Brzecko Memorial for Americanism. In addition, Legionnaire Robert Ellsworth Ensey won the 1981 American Legion Golf Tournament.

Lithuanian Post 154, American Legion Auxiliary, during 1980-1981 won the Baltimore District 1st Place Morrell Park Child Welfare Trophy & Certificate for Children & Youth and the Mary V. Roche Trophy and Certificate for All Around Activities under 100 members. The Unit also won 2nd Place Gold Star Certificate and five 3rd Place Certificates for Americanism, Chaplain, Community Service, Music, and Veterans' Affairs and Rehabilitation,

Lithuanian Post 154 later received a National Headquarters Citation for the Most Distinguished Service One-Year Post History Contest Award.

On September 27, 1981, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit Auxiliary held a Joint Installation Programs at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall with their formal swearing and presentation of awards ceremony being followed by a gala celebration.

1982 – 1983



Commander Edmond V. Bartas

Vice Commander Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr.

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Service Officer Roland V. Miller

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Kenneth M. Smith

Historian John W. Kemmer, Jr.,

Judge Advocate Peter S. Okas

Executive Committee Alphonas Adams,
Emery L. Frost, Sr., Stanley Milaunaitis,
and all past commanders

Color Bearers Vitas Siaurusaitis, Stanley
Milaunaitis, Vaclovas Laukaitis, Emery M. Chetalat,
and Rimanatas S. Vitkauskas

Convention Delegates Edmond V. Bartas, John Mazz,
John Kemmer, Charles Sarpalis, and Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr.

Alternate Delegates Roland Miller, Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis,
and Kenneth Smith.

Baltimore District Commander Delegate Adjutant John Stefura
Post Membership 155

Auxiliary Unit Officers:



President Mary C. Byrne

Vice President Eugenia Paznekas

Secretary-Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Marie Mazz

Executive Committee Dorothy Frost,
Eileen Miller, and Evelyn Smith

Auxiliary Color Bearers Evelyn Smith
and Roberta Imbragullio

1982 Post History Milestone

On February 28, 1982, Lithuanian Post 154 oratorical contestant Michael Sullivan, Mt. St. Joseph High School, won 1st Place in the Baltimore District Oratorical Contest and 2nd Place later in the Department of Maryland contest.

On May 30, 1982, Lithuanian Post 154 with its Flag Detail and post and unit members, once again attended the American Legion, Department of Maryland, District of Baltimore, annual Memorial Day Commemoration, at Baltimore National Cemetery. Among Post Relics maintained at the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum, in the Lithuanian Hall, is the original signed Proclamation of Mayor William Donald Schaefer issued on this occasion. Mayor Shaefer in his proclamation provided a brief history of The American Legion, the Legions' Preamble, followed by "...WHEREAS, to commemorate their war dead from World War I to the present, The American Legion, Maryland Department (Baltimore District) will conduct a ceremony on May 30, 1982, at the Baltimore National Cemetery, the thirty-second such ceremony. Now, THEREFORE, I Mayor of the City of Baltimore, do hereby proclaim May 30, 1982, as American Legion National Cemetery Day in the City of Baltimore, and do urge all citizens to pay tribute to those American patriots who were willing to defend the United States."

On June 12, 1982, Post 154 sponsored contestants, Donna Jones, complete in the Maryland Special Olympics held at Towson State University, and Michael Sullivan, Mount St. Joseph High School, won 1st Place in the Baltimore District Oratorical Contest.

On June 24, 1982, Adjutant John M. Stefura was elected a member of the Department of Maryland Executive Committee at its Baltimore District Caucus.

During July 13 - 16, 1982, Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates took part in all of the scheduled American Legion, Department of Maryland 64th Annual Convention in Ocean City events. The Post Flag Detail followed by a dozen or more post and unit members marching in the opening parade. Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis was reelected as the Department of Maryland Chaplain.

At this convention, Lithuanian Post154 received the Kenneth Hammer Memorial Trophy for Best Yearly Post History – John Kemmer, Historian; the Robert E. Grieshamer Memorial Trophy for Oratorical Contestant – Michael Sullivan; and the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy for Americanism Program. Once again, Post member Ellsworth Ensey won the American Legion Golf Tournament.

On July 15, 1982, Lithuanian Post 154 and its American Legion Unit Auxiliary members entered a period of mourning upon learning that Monsignor Louis J. Mendelis, a World War I veteran, Past Post154 Chaplain for many years, and the pastor at St. Alphonsus Church, had been reassigned to Post Everlasting.

In August 1982, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Auxiliary members, accompanied by Baltimore Lithuanian folk dancers, attended The American Legion National Convention in Chicago, Illinois. On August 22, 1982, they proudly marched behind the Post's Flag Detail with their American and Lithuanian Flags and Post Banner in The American Legion National Convention Parade. The Post Flag Bearers were John Stefura, Vitas Siaurusaitis, Charles Sarpalis, Kestutis and Vaclovas Laukaitis. Marching along with the Color Bearers were Legionnaires Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis, Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr., Emery L. Frost, Jr. and Edvins Kristapsons, followed by Unit President Mary C. Byrne, Dorothy Frost, Irene Galeckas, Maxine Moeller, and Mrs. Kristapsons and a host of Lithuanian Folk Dances in national customs.

Lithuanian Post 154 at the Baltimore District Caucus received The Three Star Award for exceeding the prior Year's membership; The Melvin Sheffield All Around Legion Program for post with less than 175 Members; and The Fort McHenry "Rehabilitation" Award.

On September 26, 1982, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit Auxiliary started holding Joint Installation Programs at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall with their formal swearing ceremony and presentation of community and scholarship awards, being followed by a gala celebration. Many current and former National and Department Officers attended the function.

Lithuanian Days Magazine, California, October 1982, published an article by Post 154 Legionnaire Henry Gaidis captioned "Staff Sergeant Stanely Bender, Lithuanian Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient" dealing the World War II history of this World War II hero.

1983 – 1984



Commander Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr.

Vice Commander Kenneth M. Smith

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Service Officer Roland V. Miller

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Historian John W. Kemmer, Jr.

Judge Advocate Peter S. Okas

Historian Dr. John Urlock Jr.

Executive Committee Alphonas Adams, Emery L. Frost, Sr.,
Stanley Milaunaitis and all past commanders

Convention Delegates Dr. John P. Urlock, Jr., Edmond Bartas,
John Mazz, John Kemmer, Charles Sarpalis

Alternate Delegates Roland Miller, Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis,
and Kenneth Smith.

Post Membership 151

Unit Auxiliary Officers:

President Mary C. Byrne

Vice-President Eugenia Paznekas

Secretary-Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sargent at Arms Evelyn Smith

Executive Committee Dorothy Frost,
Eileen Miller, and Evelyn Smith

Color Bearers Evelyn Smith
and Roberta Imbragullio

Delegate-at-Large Helen Mazz

Delegates Mary Byrne, Eugenia Paznekas, Evelyn Smith, and Dorothy Frost

Alternates Marie Mazz and Lillian Walsh

1983 Post History Milestone

In April 1983, Lithuanian Post 154 officially initiated its Policeman and Fireman of the Year Award Program

On April 17, 1983, Mayor William Donald Schaefer issued a proclamation on this occasion declaring it "Lithuanian Post 154, Fortieth Anniversary Day" in Baltimore. Mayor Shaefer in his proclamation briefly cited the history of post and its activities which included its participation in community and state patriotic events, encouraging their fellow Americans to renew their faith in God and supporting young people and sponsoring scholarships and awards to students for academic excellence and achievement.

Lithuanian Post 154 held a 40th Founding Anniversary Gala Banquet and Dance to celebrate its long and marvelous record of achievements performed for God and Country, for Veterans and their Fellow Americans. After the formal presentation of Colors, singing of the American and Lithuanian National Anthems, Pledge of Allegiance, innovation, and introduction of honored guests, came speeches by Charles C (Bus) Bender, Department of Maryland Commander and Raymond E. Callegary, Department Judge Advocate. Post Adjutant gave a Tribute to Deceased Post Commanders followed by presentations and awards and a salute to the colors and closing Benediction by Post Chaplain Anthony Dranginis. After that came an outstanding meal catered by Vitas Siaurusaitis and dancing to the music of the Eddie Bere's Orchestra.

On April 22, 1983, Lithuanian Post 154 sponsoring Paresh N. Shab, Mount St. Joseph High School in the 46th Annual National High School Oratorical Contest Finals, held at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, with Post 154 Adjutant John Stefura serving as the Oratorical Americanism – National Security Chairman.

At the Baltimore District Caucus Post 154 received The Three Star Award for exceeding the prior Year's membership; The Melvin Sheffield All Around Legion Program for post with less than 175 Members; and The Fort McHenry "Rehabilitation" Award.

On May 12, 1983, Baltimore Veterans Administration Center held its 30th Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at the VFW Post 9083, Parklawn, Maryland, at which both Lithuanian Post 154 and Lithuanian Unit 154, received Certificates Awards in Recognition of Volunteer Services to Veterans. Marie Mazz received a Special Certificate of Appreciation for her 10,576 hours of volunteer service over the past 25 years.

On June 7, 1983, Post Commander Edmund Bartas awarded the post's Scholastic Awards to Edward Bartus and Mary Byrne and Scholastic Achievement Medals to Natalie Middleton and Michart Mun. Unit President Mary Byrne presented the unit's Annual History Award to Bridgid Burke and Michael Mun and Americanism Essay Contest Certificate to Nicole Blackwell, Kimberly Maker, Dawn Hayes and Glen Norbut at their St. Alphonsus School graduation ceremony.

During July 13 - 16, 1982, Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates took part in all of the scheduled American Legion, Department of Maryland 65th Annual Convention in Ocean City events. They proudly joined the Post Flag Detail, followed by a dozen or more post and unit members marching, in the convention parade. Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis was reelected as the Department of Maryland Chaplain.

Awards received by Lithuanian Post 154 at the Department Convention and the Baltimore District were the 1st Place awards for Walter W. Biegel Memorial Trophy for Excellence in Most Post Activities and Baltimore District Scrap Book Contest and the 2nd Place Certificate of Participation in the One Year Post Scrap Book Contest - Historian John Kemmer under 500 Members. The Post also won the Baltimore District Council Melvin Sheffield, Post No. 133 Trophy for All Around Legion Program for post of less than 175 members.

On September 25, 1983, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit Auxiliary held a joint Installation Ceremony at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. After the traditional opening program with presentation of colors, singing of the American and Lithuanian National Anthems, invocation and introduction of guests followed by several speeches, community and scholarship awards were presented. The formal Installation ceremonies were conducted by John Dunkerly, Baltimore Area "A" Commander and Mrs. Hilda Hunt, Baltimore District president. Members and guest then took part in a gala celebration which included a Lithuanian Folk Dancing presentation and a scrumptious dinner.

1984 – 1985



Commander Charles V. Sarpalis

Vice Commander Vince Dulys

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Algirdas Bucevicius

Service Officer Roland V. Miller

Chaplain Anthony S. Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Historian John W. Kemmer, Jr.

Judge Advocate Herman W. Noweck

Executive Committee Alphonas Adams,
Emery L. Frost, Sr., and Vitas Siaurusaitis

Convention Delegates Charles V. Sarpalis, John Mazz,
Dr. John Urlock, Jr., Edmond Bartas, and John Kemmer

Alternate Delegates Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis,
Kenneth Smith, and Roland Miller,

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Mary C. Byrne

Vice President Eugenia Paznekas

Secretary-Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Evelyn Smith

Executive Committee Dorothy Frost,
Eileen Miller, and Evelyn Smith

Color Bearers Evelyn Smith
and Roberta Imbragullio

1984 Post Milestone

On June 7, 1983, Post Commander Dr. John P. Urlock awarded the post's Scholastic Awards to Sherry Wright and Glenn Narbut, American History Awards to Jacqueline Adams and Glenn Narbut, and Americanism Essay Contest Awards to Nicole Blackwell (Second in District Unit), Antiube Caldwell, and Shawn Machall. School Scholastic Merit Awards to Jacqueline Adams, Chenoa Lewis, Glen Narbut, and Sherry Wright at their St. Alphonsus School graduation ceremony.

On June 28, 1984, Lithuanian Post 154 at the Baltimore District Caucus was awarded the Raymond E. Pollack, Sr., Post 20, Americanism Plaque, the Otha Springs Memorial Posts 294 Community Service Plaque, the Frank E. Pollack, Sr., Child Welfare Plaque, and the James A. Buckheit Memorial Plaque for All Around Legion for post of less than 175 members.

During July 10 - 13, 1984, Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates took part in all of the scheduled American Legion, Department of Maryland 66th Annual Convention in Ocean City events. They proudly joined the Post Flag Detail, followed by a dozen or more post and unit members marching, in the convention parade. Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis held daily convention morning masses for convention participants and was reelected as the Department of Maryland Chaplain.

Post 154 Unit received three Department 1st Place Certificates for Children & Youth, All-Around Activities, and Volunteer Hospital (Rehabilitation). Two 2nd Place Certificates for Americanism and Chaplain, and three 3rd Place Certificates for Gold Star, Music, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation for units under 100 members.

On September 23, 1984, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit Auxiliary held a joint Installation Programs at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall by John Dunkerly, Baltimore Area "A" Commander and Mrs. Hilda Hunt, Baltimore District President. Many of the attendees were American Legion current and former National and Department Officers. The ceremony included the post's presentation of Community awards, plaques and certificates given to Lt. John Masari, Truck No. 2, as the Fireman of the Year and Agent Edward Satterfield, Baltimore Police Department, Southern District, as Policeman of the Year and Scholarship Award to the Post's Oratorical Contest winner Scott Bergman, Mount St. Joseph High School. A "Special" award of American Legion Life Membership was presented to Past Commander John W. Mazz for his decades of service to the post and community. After the formal program, the attendees were treated to a Lithuanian

Folk Dancing presentation by “Aras” followed by an outstanding dinner and gala celebration.

Lithuanian Post 154 also received two Special 1984 Awards for their unselfish and devoted service during the 1984 Year. They were awarded the United Cerebral Palsy Humanitarian Service Award for unselfish and devoted service that brought new hope to children and adults with Cerebral Palsy. The Post was also recognized by the Special Olympics, created and sponsored by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation for the Post's generosity and outstanding support that has made a major contribution to the health and happiness of the mentally retarded in the State of Maryland.

1985 – 1986



Commander Peter S. Okas

Vice Commander Vince T. Dulys

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Vitas Siaurusaitis

Service Officer Roland V. Miller

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Historian Dr. John Urlock Jr.

Judge Advocate Herman W. Noweck, Jr.

Executive Committee All Past Commanders, Alphonas Adams, Emery L. Frost, Sr., and Kenneth M. Smith

Post Committee Chairmen:

Americanism John M. Stefura Chairman and
Herman W. Noweck and John W. Mazz

Membership Vincent Dulya and Charles Sarpalis

Fundraising Vincent Dulys

Finance Vitas Siaurusaitis

Legal Herman W. Noweck

Publicity John W. Mazz

Rehabilitation & Services Roland Miller and Henry M. Chetalat,
Alexander Jersey and John V. Sciukas

Athletics Vincent Dulys

Scholarship Charles Sarpalis Chairman
and Edmond V. Bartas and Herman W. Noweck

Audit Vincent T. Dulys Chairman and Dr. John Urlock,
John Stefura and Herman W. Noweck

Convention Delegates John M. Stefura, Roland V. Miller, Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr.,
Emery L. Frost, Sr., and Dr. John Urlock Jr

Alternate Michael A. Mazz and Edmund Bartas

Post Membership 143

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Mary C. Byrne

Vice-President Eugenia Paznekas

Secretary-Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplin Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Evelyn Smith

Executive Committee Dorothy Frost,
Eileen Miller, and Evelyn Smith

Color Bearers Evelyn Smith and Roberta Imbragullio

1985 Post History Milestone

The Post's sponsored orator Daniel Callahan won second place in the Maryland Department Oratorical Contest.

On May 15, 1985, the Baltimore Veterans Administration Center held its 32nd Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at the VFW Hall, Parkville Memorial Post No. 9083. Both Post 154 and the Lithuanian Unit received "Certificates of Appreciation" for their volunteer hospital and veterans volunteer hours.

On July 9 - 12, 1985, fourteen Lithuanian Post 154 members attended the Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City, Maryland, Roy Kemmer, Vitas Siaurusaitis, Charles Galeckas, Kenneth Smith, Vincas Dulys, Vaclovas Laukaitis, Herman Noweck, Dr. John Urlock, Rev. Anthony Dranginis, Charles Sarpalis and John Stefura carrying the post flags marched in the gala parade. Post 154 Chaplain Dranginis celebrated the morning masses at the Department of Maryland Convention for Catholic at Holy Savior Church.

Lithuanian Post 154 received the Department Award 1st Place awards for Americanism and the Joseph A. O'Grady Memorial Trophy for Excellence in Community Service for post under 500 members and the District Award for Americanism. A Certificate of Appreciation from Medical Eye Bank of Maryland award to Charles Sarpalis – Post 154 and a Special Olympics Certificate of Appreciation awarded to Post 154 and its Auxiliary unit.

At the 1985 American Legion, Department of Maryland, Ocean City Convention, Lithuanian Post 154 received two 1st Place Awards, the District Americanism Award and Joseph A. O'Grady Memorial trophy for Excelling in Community Service for post under 500 Members, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Medical Eye Bank of Maryland awarded to Charles Sarpalis and the Special Olympics Certificate of Appreciation. Post 154 also received the Baltimore District Council Raymond E. Pollack, Sr., Post No. 20, Americanism Plaque; Otha Spriggs Memorial Post No. 294, Community Service Plaque; Frank E. Pollack, Sr., Post No. 20, Child Welfare Plaque; and the James A. Buckheit Memorial Plaque, Post No. 133, All Around Legion Program (less than 175 Members).

Lithuanian Unit 154 received the Department 3rd Place Americanism Certificate, Baltimore District 1st Place All Around Activities and Children and Youth Certificates and 3rd Place Americanism, Cancer Control, Music, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Certificates.

On August 22, 1985, Chairman John Mazz presented Scholarship Medal Awards at the Joint Installation of Post and Unit Officers.

On September 22, 1985, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit Auxiliary held a joint Installation of Officers at the Lithuanian Hall in Baltimore, Maryland. Installation of Officers by Earl Nuttall, Department of Maryland Commander and Mrs. Marie Walbert, Baltimore District President. Post 154 Community Police and Fireman Awards presented by Program Chairman John M. Stefura; Scholastic Awards by Commander Charles Sarpalis; St. Alphonsus School Awards by John W. Mazz, and Oratorical

Award by John Stefura. Invocation, Memorial Service and Benediction, were performed by Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis. In addition, Post and Unit Members and their guests were entertained by the Lithuanian “Aidas Quartet” and the Lithuanian Children’s Dance Group “Ratelis” directed by Cynthia Valiuna Meehan. The event concluded with an outstanding dinner

1986 – 1987



Commander Vincentas T. Dulys

Vice Commander Kestutis Galeckas

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr.

Finance Officer Vitas Siaurusaitis

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Historian Kenneth Smith

Judge Advocate Herman W. Noweck, Jr.

Executive Committee All Past Commanders,
Emery L. Frost, Sr., and Patrick Dohlus

Convention Delegates Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr., John M. Stefura,
Charles V. Sarpalis, Roland V. Miller, and Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Alternate Delegates Vitas Siaurusaitis, Vincas Dulys,
Emery L. Frost, Sr., and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Post Committee Chairmen:

Americanism John M. Stefura

Membership Kestutis Galeckas

Fundraising Vincent Dulys

Finance Vitas Siaurusaitis

Legal Herman W. Noweck

Publicity John W. Mazz

Rehabilitation & Services Roland Miller

Athletics Peter S. Okas

Scholarship Chairman Charles Sarpalis and
Members Edmond V. Bartas and Herman Noweck

Oratorical Edmond V. Bartas

Blood Bank Henry M. Chetalat

Audit Vincent Dulys, Raymond E. Bears Jr.,
Vitas Siaurusaitis, John Stefura, and Balys Brasauskas

Post Membership 143

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Mary C. Byrne

Vice President Eugenia Paznekas

Secretary-Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Evelyn Smith

Executive Committee Frances Bakutis,
and Eileen Miller

Color Bearers Evelyn Smith and Roberta Imbragullio

1986 Post History Milestone

In May 1986, Post 154 sponsored Oratorical Contestant Martin Maraficti finished fifth in the Department Contest.

On May 3, 1986, five Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires participated in the North American Lithuanian Athletic Society XXXVI Games held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Commander Peter S. Okas in Chess, Vaclovas Laukaitis in bowling, and Vincent Dulys, Al Skudyinskas, and Al Valuinis in racquetball. Laukaitis finished first place among 24 bowling competitors and Vincent Dulys finished first in the "B" Division and Al Skudyinskas 3rd Place in the "C" Division, and Al Valuinis took the consolation position in the "C" Division racquetball competition. Lithuanian Post 154 also finished second in the American Legion sponsored Baltimore Competition and only two games away from first

On May 18, 1986, at Baltimore District Executive Committee (D.E.C.) Meeting, Lithuanian Post 154 Commander Peter S. Okas and Vice Commander Vince T. Dulys received 100% Membership Caps for having achieved a Three Star Post rating.

On June 1, 1986, Post Commander Peter S. Okas and Unit President Mary C. Byrne presented Post and Unit awards to the honorees at the St. Alphonsus Church School during their graduation ceremony.

During the July 15-18, 1986, American Legion, Department of Maryland 68th Annual Convention, held in Ocean City, Maryland, seventeen Lithuanian Post 154 members and six Unit were in attendance. Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis celebrated morning masses each day for the Departments Catholic delegates and alternates at the Holy Savior Church. The Post's Flag Detail and members marched proudly behind the colors at the opening ceremonies.

At this convention, Post 154 achieved Three Star Membership status and was awarded the District Americanism Award for the best Americanism Report in the Baltimore District and the Adam Brzecko Memorial Trophy for the Post showing the most outstanding achievement for the advancement of the Americanism Program under 500 members. Post Legionnaire Elsworth Ensey won three of the convention's Golf Trophies.

At the Baltimore District Council Caucus, Lithuanian Post 154 won the Americanism: Raymond E. Pollack, Sr., Post No. 20 Americanism Plaque; Community Service: Baltimore Plaque; the All-Around Legion Program: James A. Buckheit Memorial Plaque Post No. 133; and the Child Welfare: Frank E. Pollack, Sr., Post No. 20, Child Welfare Plaque, for post with less than 175 members. The Post won four of six awards in these categories

On September 28, 1985, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit Auxiliary held a Joint Installation of Officers at the Lithuanian Hall in Baltimore, Maryland. Installation of Officers was performed by Earl C. Nuttall, Alternate National Executive Committeemen and Mrs. Rose Rohleder, Baltimore District President. Invocation, Memorial Service, and Benediction was by Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis. Post 154 Community Police and Fireman Awards were presented by Program Chairman John M. Stefura; Scholastic Awards by Charles Sarpalis; St. Alphonsus School and Oratorical Awards by

John Stefura. Following the formal ceremony, the “Ratelis” Lithuanian Children’s Dance Group gave a performance that was followed by a great meal and renewal of old friendships and new friendships were made during the continued celebration.

1987 – 1988



Commander Vincentas T. Dulys

Vice Commander Kestutis Galeckas

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Robert Leonavicius

Chaplain Paul Metz

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Service Officer Patrick Dohlus

Historian Charles Sarpalis

Judge Advocate Peter S. Okas

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders

Emery K, Frost, Sr., Patrick M. Dohlus, and Herman W. Noweck, Jr.

Post Committees:

Americanism Chairman John M. Stefura

Membership Chairman Kestutis Galeckas

Fundraising Vincas Dulys

Convention Delegates Vincas Duly, Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr.,
John M. Stefura, Charles V. Sarpalis and Emery L. Frost, Sr.

Alternate Delegates Rev. Anthony Dranginis, Michael Mazz,
Kestutis Galeckas and Vaclovas Laukaitis

St. Alphonsus School Awards Robert Johnson and Keysha Stewart
for Highest Scholastic Average

Post Membership 145

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Mary C. Byrne

Vice President Eugenia Paznekas

Secretary-Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplin Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Evelyn Smith

Executive Committee Frances Bakutis and Eileen Miller

1987 Post Milestone

Post 154 Oratorical Contestant Jude Aidoo from Mount St. Joseph High School won 1st Place in the Baltimore District and finished 4th in the Department Competition.

On June 5, 1987, Commander Vincent T. Dulys and Unit President Mary C. Byrnes presented the American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 Scholarship Medal Award to Robert Johnson and Kaysha Stewart students at St. Alphonsus Church School.

On June 14, 1987, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail and post and unit auxiliary members took part in the 600th Anniversary of Christianity in Lithuanian mass offered by Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis and celebration held at St. Alphonsus Church school hall.

Twenty-Two post members attended the 1988 Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City, Maryland. The post for the second time in a row attained Three Star Membership and received five plaques from the Department and three plaques from the Baltimore District.

On October 4, 1987, Post 154 again held its gala annual Installation Ceremony with its unit auxiliary members at the Lithuanian Hall.

1988 – 1989



Commander Kestutis Galeckas

Vice Commander Vincas T. Dulys

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Vitas Siaurusaitis

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr.

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Historian John F. Maskavich

Judge Advocate Peter S. Okas

Executive Committee Emery L. Frost, Sr., Patrick Dohlus,
Herman Noweck and all past post commanders

Post Committees:

Americanism Chairman John M. Stefura

Membership Chairman Kestutis Galeckas

Fundraising/Installations Vincas T. Dulys

Scholarship Awards Charles V. Sarpalis

Convention Delegates Kestutis Galeckas, John M. Stefura,
Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr., Michael Mazz, and Charles Sarpalis

Alternate Delegates Kenneth Smith and Patrick Dohlus

St. Alphonsus School Medals: Ernest Wilson and Shonaressa Medley

Post Membership 145

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Mary C. Byrne

Vice President Eugenia Paznekas

Secretary-Treasurer Helen Mazz

Chaplain Lillian Walsh

Sergeant at Arms Evelyn Smith

Executive Committee Frances Bakutis,
Dorothy Frost, and Eileen Miller

Color Bearers Evelyn Smith and Aldona Buda

1988 Post History Milestone

Post 154 Oratorical candidate Miss. Kelli Milla from Archbishop Keough High School won 1st Place in the Baltimore District Contest and 4th Place in the Department Contest.

During the July 15-18, 1988, Post 154 delegates, alternates, and many members and their families attended the Maryland Department Convention in Ocean City, Maryland. The Post for the third straight year received a Three Star Membership Award for exceeding the prior year's total membership.

On September 25, 1988, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Auxiliary Unit held a Joint Installation Program and a gala Post 45th Founding Anniversary Celebration. The program commenced with Post Chairman John M. Stefura welcoming the attendees with Commander Vincent Dulys opening the ceremony with a joint Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance by Mary C. Byrne, Unit President, singing of the American and Lithuanian National Anthems, reciting of The American Legion Preamble, and Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis giving the Innovation.

Following introductions of American Legion Officers and honored guests, Community Awards were presented by Chairman Stefura and President Byrne, Scholarship Awards by Charles V. Sarpalis, School Awards by Stefura, and Oratorical Awards by Commander Dulys. The American Legion Installing Officer was Earl C. Nuttall, National Executive Committeeman and Auxiliary Installation was by Mrs. Phyllis A. Saumenig, Baltimore District President.

Memorial Service by Rev. Dranginis assisted by Vaclovas Laukaitis, entertainment by "Ratelis" the Lithuanian Children's Dancing Group, Benediction by Rev. Dranginis, and program closing with the singing of "*God Bless America*."

1989 – 1990



Commander Kestutis Galeckas

Vice Commander Vincas T. Dulys

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Vitas Siaurusaitis

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr.

Historian John F. Maskavich

Judge Advocate Peter S. Okas

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Executive Committee Emery L. Frost, Sr.,

Patrick Dohlus, and Carl Thomas

Post Committees:

Americanism Chairman John M. Stefura

Membership Chairman Kestutis Galeckas

Fundraising Vincas Dulys

Convention Delegates Kestutis Galeckas, John M. Stefura,
Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr., Michael Mazz, and Charles Sarpalis

Alternate Delegates Kenneth Smith and Patrick Dohlus

Post Membership 145

Auxiliary Unit Officers:

President Mary C. Byrne

Vice President Eugenia Paznekas

Secretary and Treasurer Helen M. Mazz

Sergeant at Arms Evelyn Smith

1989 Post History Milestone

On February 22, 1989, Lithuanian Post Chaplain Anthony Dranginis, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church and Lithuanian Post 154 Chaplain, was honored by being requested to give the opening prayer for the US House of Representatives, US Capital Building, Washington, D.C. His prayer and short biography then became part of the Official Congressional Record for February 22, 1989, page 2499. Chaplain Dranginis's "*The Chaplain Corner*" appears as the beginning of Lithuanian Post 154 "*Legionnaire*" monthly newsletter and on several occasions his column has appeared in the American Legion "Free State Warrior Newspaper, The American Legion Magazine, and the Department of Maryland Journal.

On March 8, 1989, Post 154 at its general meeting celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the American Legion and the 45th Anniversary of the Founding Lithuanian Post 154 with commemoration and moment of silence for all members assigned to Post Everlasting.

In June 1989, Post 145 ten-year member Rafi Sharif, a Disabled veteran and student at the University of Baltimore, was awarded the university's Veterans Service Award, by its Veterans Club that came with a cash award, for his current and past service to veterans and the community. Rafi is also life member of the Disable American Veterans organization, the serving President of the University Sociology Form and volunteers as a skipper of the Sea Scout II, a project dedicated to helping youth. His past service includes organizing a Marine Corps League Detachment in York, Pennsylvania and volunteering as a Literacy Tutor at a Center for the blind.

In July 1989, Adjutant John M. Stefura present the Post's Annual American Legion School Awards to Ernest Wilson and Shonaressa Medley students at St. Alphonsus Church School.

Post 154 sponsored Oratorical contestant Kelli Miles finished fifth in the Department of Maryland Contest. Baltimore District and Post 154 Chaplain Anthony S. Dranginis was elected The American Legion, Department of Maryland, Chaplain for the 1989 – 1990 year. Post 154 Adjutant John M. Stefura was appointed to the Registration and Information Committee for The American Legion National Convention.

During July 10 - 14, 1989, the Department of Maryland Convention was held in Ocean City, Maryland, and Lithuanian Post 154 members participated in virtually every one of its scheduled events and meetings. The Post Flag Detail and post and auxiliary unit members marched proudly in the July 13th Convention parade. Post 145 members conducted the Department Post Everlasting Memorial Ceremony at the convention and Post Chaplain Rev. Tony Dranginis conducted daily masses for the American Legion attending members.

Lithuania Post 154 for the fourth straight time attained 3 Star Membership and was awarded plaques for Americanism, Child Welfare, Rehabilitation and All-Around Legion Program. In addition, its Flag Detail won the Convention 1st Place Parade Marching Color Guard Trophy.

Lithuanian Post 154 Axillary Unit received two Department of Maryland Americanism 1st Place and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation 3rd Place under 100 member awards. Unit Secretary Helen Mazz was appointed the Americanism Representative for the Baltimore District.

During the September 1-7, 1989, period, The American Legion National Convention took place in the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland and Lithuanian Post 154 members were similarly involved in virtually every of the convention events and meetings.

Post Adjutant John M. Stefura was appointed and served on The American Legion National Convention 1989 – 1990 Registration and Information Committee. Post Chaplain, Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis offered daily masses for the delegates at St. Alphonsus Church within walking distance of the Convention Center.

Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires and its Unit Members proudly marched behind the Post's Flag Detail in the Sunday, September 3, 1989, kick off Convention parade. Commander Kestutis Galeckas was among those honored by riding in one of the lead VIP parade convertibles. As his vehicle was passing his assembled Post 154 Flag Detail, followed by his fellow Legionnaires and Unit Members, and a contingent of Lithuanian ethnic dressed folk dancers, Commander Galeckas stood up and hand saluted. He held this salute until his vehicle passed by Post 154 members and supporters.

Another significant contribution by the Post to the extremely successful 1989 American Legion Baltimore National Convention was Lithuanian Post 154 hosting the Department of Connecticut Delegation to a hospitality event held at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall post headquarters. Although a spur of the moment function prompted by the Connecticut delegation's inquiry about the Lithuanian Hall facility, Vice Commander Vincas Dulys quickly arranging an outstanding catered that was appreciated by all who attended the event.

On September 24, 1989, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit Auxiliary Members held a gala Joint Installation of Officer ceremony at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall.

On October 8, 1989, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail and members took an active part in the 100th Anniversary of the founding of St. Alphonsus Church, including its opening Lithuanian Mass Commemoration and School Dinner Celebration. The Mass, and gala festivities were led by St. Alphonsus Church pastor and Lithuanian Post 154 Member Reverence Louis J. Mendalis, a World War I veteran.

During November 4-5, 1989, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail presented the Colors during the Lithuanian World Society for the Liberation of Lithuania convention in Baltimore during the opening mass at St. Alphonsus Church and formal convention ceremony program and closing banquet.

1990 – 1991



Commander Vincas T. Dulys

Vice Commander Kestutis Galeckas

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Vitas Siaurusaitis

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Service Officer Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr.

Historian John F. Maskavich

Judge Advocate Peter S. Okas

Sergeant at Arms Oliver W. Smith, Jr.

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders

Convention Delegates Kestutis Galeckas, John M. Stefura,
Dr. John F. Urlock, Jr., Michael Mazz, and Charles Sarpalis

Alternate Delegates Kenneth Smith and Patrick Dohlus

Auxiliary Unit Officers

Auxiliary President Mary C. Byrne

Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer Helen M. Mazz

Post Membership 122

1990 Post History Milestone

On February 15, 1990, Post 154 sponsored Nukund Krisnaswami, Sophomore, Mount St. Joseph High School, won first place in the Baltimore District Oratorical Contest held at Morrell Park Post No. 137. On March 4, 1990, Nukund finished 2nd Place in the Maryland Department competition held in the Maryland Legislative Building in Annapolis, Maryland.

On February 18, 1990, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail and Legionnaires took part in the Lithuanian Independence Day Mass and Celebration Banquet at St. Alphonsus Church. On this occasion, all those in attendance prayed for the liberation of their ancestral homeland from 50 years of Soviet Russian military occupation.

In the March 1990 issue of Lithuanian Post 154 *Legionnaire* Newsletter, Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis in the opening prayer like section wrote... "We shall continue to raise our voice in strong opposition to any traffic with communism, with its denial of God's existence and its complete disregard for human dignity." "We will always concern, our selves, with the problems of veterans' rehabilitation, feelings that a soldier is a special person, and despite the sporadic attacks and incidents, we shall, as members of the American Legion, strive to keep alive the spirit of patriotism, of love of God and country. This is our purpose. This is our challenge. No one, but no one, shall swerve us from it. For God and Country". Few during those cold winter months of February and March 1990 could anticipate that a Merciful God would soon answer their prayers.

In the late 1980's, Mikhail Gorbachev Russian President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet wanting to increase the support for the Russian control over the other nonethnic Russian member states and feeling totally secure than none would challenge Russian control instituted a policy of "*Glasnost*" (Openness) allowing enhancement of freedom of speech, press, and allowing the formation of some minor non-communist political parties that included the Lithuanian "*Sajūdis*" Reform Movement Party. After a landslide victory in elections, the members of *Sajūdis* on March 11, 1990, became the first Soviet Republic to proclaim its independence from the Soviet Union. A day that will long be remembered by every member of Post 154 and the entire Lithuanian World Community as a Major Historical Milestone as God finally answered their prayers. On

this day, the Lithuanian (Seimas) Parliament declared the nation's renewed Independence after more than 50 years of Russian military occupation. Gorbachev quickly realized his error and under pressure from Russian conservative political figures imposed an economic blockade against Lithuania and attempted to cut off Lithuanian contact with the rest of the world. When the blockade faltered, the Russians began moving additional troops into the country to suppress the independence movement. Although the Lithuanian people would have to stand firm against still another wave of Russian military attempts to suppress their independence and some would have to give their lives in the struggle, the nation was eventually successful.

Upon learning of the 1990 Lithuanian Declaration of Independence, the Baltimore Lithuanian Community flocked to the Lithuanian Hall, where a Post 154 social was already in progress that quickly became spontaneously a major community celebration. Thereafter the Baltimore Community, led by a number of Post Members, became actively engaged in gaining support for Lithuania and securing worldwide recognition of its restored independence. In Baltimore, the Lithuanian American Community with Post 154 members established a *Lithuanian Freedom Movement* organization which would last for a couple of years. The organization demonstrated at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and pressuring the White House, Senators and Congressmen, in a massive rally at the U.S. Capital building.

In June 1990, Lithuanian Post 154 Auxiliary received 47 Americanism Essays from students of St. Alphonsus School. The Unit Winners in Group I - 1st Place – Shane Lonesome, 2nd Place – Sheri Neale, 3rd Place – Ebony Nakia Brown. Group II 1st Place – Anwar Young, 2nd Place Mona James and 3rd Place Karis Wilson. The two First Place Winning essays were forwarded to the Baltimore District to participate in further competition.

During the July 10-13, 1990, American Legion, Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City, Maryland, Lithuanian Post 154 delegates and alternates participated in virtually every scheduled event. Department and Post 154 Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis presented the following Resolution to the Department Executive Committee related to the ongoing Russian attempt to suppress Lithuanian independence, which they voted on and past. The Resolution which contained the following paragraphs was immediately sent to the President.

“Whereas we firmly believe in the principle of right over might

“Be it Resolved by The American Legion, Department of Maryland that we urge the President to call upon the American people to launch on Thanksgiving Day a continuing appeal to Almighty God to bring about a just and peaceful end to the crisis and

“Be it Further Resolved that in the event there is no peaceful solution forthcoming and military action is forced upon us, the President is asked to call upon the people to pray to God for our quick victory with minimum loss of life on both sides of the conflict.”

At the Department 1990 Convention, Lithuanian Post 154 received its fifth straight 3 Star Membership designation and won five of seven of the Maryland District Convention awards being 1st Place in Veterans Affairs & rehabilitation, Children & Youth Welfare, and All-Round activities, and 3rd Place Chaplain, Community Service, Girl State, Gold Star, and Music in its membership categories.

In the August 1990 meeting of the Department Executive Committee. at Kent Island, Lithuanian Post 154 received a Special Children & Youth Citation from The National Commission for its work and contribution in this area.

The September 1990 issue of Lithuanian Post 154, *Legionnaire* Newsletter, started off in its normal fashion with a Rev. Anthony Dranginis, Chaplain Corner article, with the caption "Captive Nations". While the Lithuanian people were in a desperate struggle with Russian military forces for their freedom, Dranginis reminded the post that "Freedom is a condition so basic and necessary to human beings that any action restricting this God given privilege is a blatant violation of human rights. Our Nation was founded on the belief that all men are created equal, and that freedom is an undeniable right of every individual. It is therefore my belief that we as a nation have an obligation to encourage these ideals both in our own country and others." He ended the article with the sentence "The many captive nations of the world will continue to demonstrate their love for the freedom of which they have been deprived so unjustly. For God and Country."

On September 23, 1990, Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit auxiliary held a joint installation of officers' ceremony at which the post presented plaques and \$100 Bonds to its Police Office and Fireman of the Year selections.

On October 7, 1990, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail posted the Colors during the opening ceremony of the 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration Banquet and Dance at Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Command Galeckas was among the speakers.

Lithuanian Post 154 and its Unit collect clothing, books, writing materials, cosmetics, etc., which are to be donated to various local Veterans Hospitals and Homes. Commander Galeckas and Legionnaire Wesley Smith delivered the most recent donations to Charlotte Hall.

At the November 1990 meeting of the Department Executive Committee, Department and Post 154 Chaplain present the Following Resolution, which was voted an, pasted, and immediately sent to President George Bush. "Whereas We have confidence in President Bush['s handling of the Persian Gulf crisis and Be it resolved by The American Legion, Department of Maryland that we urge the President to call upon the American people to launch on Thanksgiving Day a continuing appeal to Almighty God to bring about a just and peaceful end to the crisis and Be it Further Resolved that in the event there is no peaceful solution forthcoming and military action is forced upon us, the President is asked to call upon the people to pray to God for our quick victory with minimum loss of life on both sides of the conflict."

On November 11, 1990, Lithuanian Post 154 and Unit members took part in the annual “*Back to God*” Mass at St. Alphonsus Church and the Baltimore District Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Baltimore War Memorial Building. For Post Legionnaires both occasions gave them their own personal reminder that continuing service is required to keep America free. Earlier that week, they received and read the November 1990 issue of Lithuanian Post 154 *Legionnaire* Newsletter. In this issue, their newly elected Post Vice Commander Fred Kaminski (1990-1991) announced to the post that he once again be away for the Christmas holiday. Fred, an active member in the US Naval Reserves, just accepted another call to duty that would require him to serve several weeks to several months with the Military Sealift Headquarters in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Fred further advised that he was proud of the fact he was elected and anticipated that he would be able to perform his duties to both the country and post. In his closing, Fred paraphrased British Admiral Horatio Nelson ship signal to the British Navy “England expects every man will do his duty” while dying of his wound aboard his flagship HMS Victory Navy during the 21 October 1805 Battle of Trafalgar. It does not take much to change one word. “America expects every man to do his duty”.

On December 7, 1990, lest we Forget. Post 154 and Unit members took part in the Baltimore District annual Pearl Harbor Day Services held at the Main Entrance to Memorial Stadium. All with flag poles flew their flags at half-mast as a reminder of the “date which will live in infamy.”

On December 9, 1990, Lithuanian Post 154 once again took great pride in its annual festive Christmas Celebration at the Lithuanian Hall, where it donates a Christmas Tree, a member played Santa Claus, and Legionnaires handed out gives to children.

On December 25, 1990, Christ’s coming into our world was quiet and gentle.

There are Milestone Years, but for Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires 1990 will be “The Year to be Remembered” throughout our history.

1991 – 1992



Commander Vincas T. Dulys

Vice Commander Fred Kaminski

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Chaplain Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis

Historian John F. Maskavich

Judge Advocate Peter S. Okas

Finance Officer Vitas Siaurusaitis

Sergeant at Arms Oliver W. Smith, Jr.

Executive Committee Emery L Frost, Sr.,

Convention Delegates Vincas T. Dulys, Rev. Anthony Dranginis,
John M. Stefura, Michael Mazz, and Roland Miller

Alternate Delegates Patrick Dohlus and Kestutis Galeckas

Unit Officers:

Auxiliary President Mrs. Mary C. Byrne

Vice President Mrs. Jessie Paznekas

Secretary/Treasurer Mrs. Helen M. Mazz

Sergeant at Arms Mrs. Evelyn Smith

Executive Committee Mrs. Catherine Byrne and Mrs. Dorothy Frost

1991 Post History Milestone

On January 13, 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev, the Russian President of the Soviet Union, tired of the Lithuanian Freedom Movement's success in swathing his suppression attempts ordered Soviet troops attack the Vilnius TV Tower to cut off contact with the Western Nations. The Russians began moving a massive Russian military tank column into Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. During one of the Russian assaults upon the Lithuanian Parliament Building, which was defended by unarmed civilians who refused their orders to disperse, fourteen unarmed civilians were crushed to death when they held firm. Because the Lithuanian people were able to continue sending reports to the west via the internet, Gorbachev withdrew his forces because it was condemned by the world. The Lithuanian freedom movement success soon spread to other Russian World War II occupied nations and the Soviet Union itself would self-destruct within a year. Support for Lithuania Independence continued to grow and within three years the last Russian occupation troops were finally removed from Lithuania. Today, January 13th is known in Lithuania as Defenders of Freedom Day (*Laisvės Gynėjų Diena*) and a national commemorative holiday.

When the Baltimore Lithuanian Community learned of the Russian assaults, they rallied at the Lithuanian Hall and boarded busses to demonstrate at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C. in protest of the Russian military massacre of 14 Lithuanian civilian in downtown Vilnius in their attempt to suppress the ongoing Lithuanian Freedom movement. Among the leaders of the protestors was Past Lithuanian Post 154 Commander Balys Brasauskas who was accompanied by a number of his fellow Legionnaires. The peaceful demonstration included a picking line with a funeral coffin carried by pall bearers followed by 14 protestors wearing white sheets.

Staunch Baltimore Lithuanian Freedom Movement support continue until the reestablished Republic of Lithuanian was recognized by the United States. Lithuania became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU).

In March 1991, Post Vice Commander Fred Kaminski call Adjutant John M. Stefura to report that he was doing well, but in Saudi Arabia related to his ongoing US Naval Reserve, Military Sealift Headquarters, Bayonne, New Jersey. He is expected to be home in the very near future. For God and Country.

In April 1991, Unit Chairman Eugenia (Jessie) Paznekas announced that the Post 154 sponsored Americanism Essay candidate Ryeshia Holley from St. Alphonsus school won 3rd Place in the Baltimore District Contest.

On May 31, 1991, Adjutant John M. Stefura and Unit Chairman Eugenia Paznekas presented to St. Alphonsus School Boys and Girls Medal Awards to Onika McClain and Sylvia Blake for the Highest Scholastic Average in the graduating class

and Vice President Eugenia presented the Unit Americanism Essay 1st Place Award to Ryeshia Holly, 2nd Place to Ebony Brown, and 3rd Place to Sheri Neale.

During the July 9-13, 1991, American Legion, Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City, Maryland received four recognition plaques. These plaques included its sixth time in a row Three Star Membership status, Americanism, Community Service. Post sponsored Munkund Krisnuswani was the Department Oratorical Content Department competition winner. Munkund went on to win 1st Place in the Regional and Sectional Contests and finished 3rd Place in the American Legion National Contest. Not bad for a small post that routinely competes against larger 500-member post.

In July 1991, six Lithuanian Post 154 and Baltimore Lithuanian Athletic Club (BLAC) members, Balys Brasauskas, Vytautas K. Dulys, Vaclovas Laukaitis, Peter Okas, Augustinas Uleckas, and Algirdas Veluona, traveled to Lithuania and competed in the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuanian World Games competition events held in Kaunas, Klaipeda, and Vilnius. No Post member won medals, but they won a number of honorable mention certificates for their participation. The Post would be remission if it did not mention that Jania Brasauskas, the wife of Former Post Commander Balys Brasauskas won a Bronze Medal in Senior Member Tennis.

Post Legionnaire John Cuculis was honored by Perry Point Veterans Hospital for his over 400 hours of volunteer service.

On August 27, 1991, Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis, the beloved Lithuanian Post 154 Commander (1949-1951), Department of Maryland Chaplain (1988-1990) and Post Chaplain (1957-1991), was reassigned to Post Everlasting. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II in the Pacific and fought in combat in Guadalcanal where he received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lieutenant. He then took part in combat at Iwo Jima, where during the terribly bloody fight vowed to enter the priesthood if he survived the war. He went on to fight at Okinawa and after the occupation of Japan he rose to the rank of Captain. In the Spring of 1947, he left military service and returned to Lithuanian civilian life in Baltimore, which included participation in its theater group, singing society, The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154, and St. Alphonsus Church activities. Still, Anthony never forgot his battlefield vow and in 1956, he became an ordained Catholic Priest and was assigned as the assistant pastor at St. Alphonsus Church in 1956 and later pastor until his passing.

Rev. Dranginis will always be remembered as a leader of the Baltimore Lithuanian Community in all their religious and social activities. Father Tony, to his post members, was a plain spoken leader who loved everything about the American Legion and enjoyed being around his fellow veterans. He took great joy in our Field Masses, "Four Chaplains", "Back to God", and Memorial Day Commemorations. Yes, and even our annual American Legion Conventions in Ocean City, Maryland. He gave freely of his time to the American Legion for God and Country. Many of us will always remember Father Tony in this black clerical dress wearing his American Legion Hat proudly leading the Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail followed by a procession of church goes

from St. Alphonsus Church to Lithuanian Festival downtown locations. Although he never gave any indication of any political preference, Father Dranginis was an avid supporter of all things related to the Liberation of Lithuania from Russian occupation. God blessed Reverend Dranginis as he lived long enough to see his Lithuanian ancestral homeland free and independence again. Something he had dreamed of virtually all his entire life.

Rev. Anthony S. Dranginis, Past Lithuanian Post Commander (1949-1951), Department and Post Chaplain, starter of the annual Post Memorial Service, was transferred to Post Everlasting at a Catholic funeral mass at St. Alphonsus Church carried by Post 154 Pall Bearers with representative from virtually every Baltimore Post and Unit, and many Department officers. "Farewell, my Fellow Legionnaire."

1992 – 1993



Commander Vincentas T. Dulys

Vice Commander Fred Kaminski

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Vitas Siaurusaitis

Chaplain Charles V. Sarpalis

Sergeant at Arms Oliver W. Smith, Jr.

Service Officer Patrick Dohlus

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders
and Emery L. Frost, Sr.

Convention Delegates Vincas T. Dulys, Fred Kaminski,
and John M. Stefura

Auxiliary President Mary C. Byrne

Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer Helen M. Mazz

1992 Post History Milestone

The post for the seventh straight year received a Three Star Membership designation for exceeding the prior year's total membership,

Post Adjutant John Stefura chaired the Maryland District Four Chaplains Memorial Service at St. Alphonsus Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

Post Legionnaire John Cuculis raised his volunteer service at Perry Point Veterans Hospital to 800 hours.

The Post continued to support the Eye Bank, Special Olympics, USO, and other civic charitable organizations.

1993 – 1994



Commander Vincentas T. Dulys

Vice Commander Fred Kaminski

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Patrick Dohlus

Finance Officer Vitas Siaurusaitis

Chaplain Charles V. Sarpalis

Sergeant at Arms Gintaras Buivys

Historian John Maskavich

Judge Advocate Kestutis Galeckas

Color Bearers Fred Kaminski, Vacys Laukaitis, Gintaras Buivys, Patrick Dohlus, and Robert (Bob) Leonavicius

Executive Committee Emery L Frost, Sr., Leland Iverson, and Robert Leonavicius

Convention Delegates Vincas T. Dulys, Fred Kaminski, John F Maskavich, and John M. Stefura

Auxiliary President Helen M. Mazz

1993 Post History Milestone

On April 25, 1993, celebrated its Golden 50th Anniversary of continued allegiance to the American Legion Preamble in an exemplary fashion. May this Golden Celebration be a continuous stimulus for another 50 years of meaningful Lithuanian Post 154 accomplishments for God and Country.

Post 154 attained the Three-Star Convention Award.

1994 – 1995



Commander Vincas T. Dulys

Vice Commander John F Maskavich

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Patrick Dohlus

Finance Officer Robert Leonavicius

Chaplain Paul Metz

Historian Fred Kaminski

Sergeant at Arms Gintaras Buivys

Judge Advocate Leland Iverson

Executive Committee Emery L. Frost Sr.,
Vitas Siaurusaitis, and All Past Post Commanders,

Convention Delegates Vincas T. Dulys, John M. Stefura,
Charles Sarpalis, John Maskavich, and Robert Leonavicius

Convention Alternates Roland Miller, Edmond Bartas and Leland Iverson

Installation of Officers R. Lee Fisher,
Alternate National Executive Committeeman

Post History Milestone

At the Department of Maryland Convention, Post 154 received the Three Star Membership Award for exceeding the prior year's total membership and Commander Dulys received a gray sport coat and an Outstanding Commanders Cap and name pin for the Year 1993 - 1994.

Post 154 Oratorical Candidate received a \$500 Scholarship Award for his participation in the Department Oratorical Contest.

Lithuanian Post 154 has had many great historic joyful occasions, but regrettably as many sad days as well. During the 1994 - 1995 period, it suffered one of its greatest losses, Lithuanian Post 154 Unit ceased to exist. During the early years of the 1990s with their increasing age and declining health, fewer and fewer of the stalwart members of the Lithuanian Post 154 Unit appeared at post installations and the post's annual Lithuanian festival activities. Mary C. Byrne who served as the unit's president, from 1982 to 1994, valiantly continued her duties but increasingly her work involved reporting and publishing Baltimore Sun obituaries about the funeral services of her members.

For almost 50 years, the beautiful and dedicated white dressed women of The American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 Unit Auxiliary were the mainstay of support at each and every one of the post's functions and activities. Without doubt, these ladies embodied The American Legion Unit motto. They truly honored the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. Among the unit members were Gold Star Mothers who lost sons that died in the service of the nation.

The Lithuanian Post 154 Unit was founded and composed virtually of the wives, sisters, and daughters of the World Wars post 154 members. They visited local veterans' hospitals, assisted in post fundraising events, ceremonies, and participated in

scholarship programs, Americanism Essay Contest for 3rd through 9th grades at St. Alphonsus, sold poppies, attended Back to God Masses, Post Everlasting Commemoration, and even cooked and cleaned before and after bull roast and celebrations. There was nothing that they refused to do or could not do. With the passage of time, virtually all of the unit's members have joined their loved one in Post Everlasting.

With the passing of President Mary C. Byrne, Lithuanian Post 154 Unit ceased to exist. Each and every one of these saints in their white dresses are sadly missed and will be fondly remembered by all that knew them. To paraphrase General George S. Patton, let us not mourn the passing of such greats but rejoice that they lived.

1995 – 1996



Commander John F. Maskavich

Vice Commander Frederick Kaminski

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Robert Leonavicius

Chaplain Paul Metz

Sergeant at Arms Gintaras Buivys

Service Officer Patrick Dohlus

Historian John Maskavich

Judge Advocate Leland Iverson

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders,
Vitas Siaurusaitis, and Emery L. Frost Sr.

Convention Delegates Vincas T. Dulys, John F Maskavich,
John M. Stefura

Post 1995 Milestone

On March 12, 1995, St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church celebrated its 150th Anniversary with Lithuanian Post 154, the Post Unit Auxiliary Members, and their flag details participating in the celebratory mass and gala commemorative dinner and social.

1996 – 1997



Commander Frederick Theodore Kaminski

Vice Commander/Adjutant John M. Stefura

Finance Officer Robert Leonavicius

Chaplain Paul Metz

Sergeant at Arms Gintaras Buivys

Service Officer Patrick Dohlus

Historian Edmond Bartas

Judge Advocate Leland Iverson

Executive Committee All Past Post Commanders,
Emery L, Frost, Sr., and Vitas Siaurusaitis

Convention Delegates Commander John F. Maskavich,
Frederick Kaminski, John M. Stefura, and Patrick Dohlus

1997 – 1998



Commander Frederick T. Kaminski

Vice Commander/Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Finance Officer Robert Leonavicius

Chaplain Paul Metz

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Historian John Maskavich

Judge Advocate Vincas Dulys

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis and
All Past Post Commanders

Flag Detail Raymond Beavers, Gintaras Buivys,
Patrick Dohlus, Robert Leonavicius, and Fred Kaminski

Post Committee Chairmen:

Education Committee John Maskavich

Blood Bank Coordinator Paul Metz

Newsletter Editor Gintaras Buivys

Convention Delegates John F. Maskavich, Frederick
Kaminski, John M. Stefura, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Community Awards:

Police Officer Louis E. Orzech III

Fireman James Baker

Installation of Officers Shawn P. Whalen, Sr.
Area A Commander Baltimore District

1998 Post Milestones

On February 1, 1998, American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154, officially relinquished its long-standing occupancy of the Post Room located on the second floor of the Lithuanian Hall. Under mutual agreement the Post Room that has been declining in use over the years became available for Lithuanian Hall public rentals. Henceforth Post 154 in accordance with a Lithuanian Hall February 11, 1998, agreement will have free of charge usage of the more convenient Maple Room for its meetings and a storage room on the second floor.

Past-Commander Vincent Dulys spearheaded the move consisting of the packaging and storage of plaques and other memorabilia assisted by post members which will now be preserved in the adjacent storage room, the ex-Projection Room.

1998 – 1999



Commander Gintaras Buivys

Vice Commander Fred Kaminski

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Chaplain Paul Metz

Finance Officer Robert Leonavicius

Service Officer Patrick Dohlus

Historian John Maskavich

Judge Advocate Vince Dulys

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis and
all Past Post Commanders

Post Committee Chairmen:

Education Committee John Maskavich

Blood Bank Coordinator Paul Metz

Newsletter Editor Gintaras Buivys

Convention Delegates Commander Gintaras Buivys,
John F. Maskavich, John M. Stefura, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Community Awards:

Policeman Joseph Schultz, Jr.

Fireman EVD Lawrence G. Korycki, Jr.

Scholastic Awards:

Elementary School Christopher Leonavicius and Erik Miller

Middle School Angela Miller and Emily Soaper

Senior High School Jessica Miller and Emily Soaper

Collegiate Scholarship Award Valerija Vitkauskas

Special Gift Award:

Post Certificate and Award for Continued Post Support
Unit Auxiliary President Mary C. Byrne

1999 – 2000



Commander Gintaras Buivys

Vice Commander/Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Patrick Dohlus

Chaplain Paul Metz

Finance Officer Robert Leonavicius

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Historian John Maskavich

Judge Advocate Vince Dulys

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis and
Past Post Commanders

Post Committee Chairmen:

Education Committee John Maskavich

Blood Bank Coordinator Paul Metz

Newsletter Editor Gintaras Buivys

Convention Delegates Commander Gintaras Buivys,
John F. Maskavich, Joe Astauskas, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Alternate Delegates Walt Cooper and Robert Leonavicius

Community Awards:

Policeman Kevin E. Jones

Fireman Robert L. McMillen, Jr.

Scholastic Awards:

Elementary School Christopher Leonavicius and Erik Miller

Middle School Angela Miller

Senior High School Kathryn Soaper

Collegiate Scholarship Award Valerija Vitkauskas

Special Award: John Mazz, 50 Year American Legion Service Certificate

Installation of Officers Charles Knofski

Baltimore District area "A" Commander

1999 Post Milestones

Post 154 Member John Sharif (Jonas Rafaelis) was elected as the 3rd Vice-Commander for the Department of Maryland, Catholic War Veterans.

2000 – 2001



Commander Gintaras Buivys

Vice Commander Walter J. Cooper

Adjutant John M. Stefura

Service Officer Patrick Dohlus

Chaplain Fred Kaminski

Finance Officer Robert Leonavicius

Sergeant at Arms Vaclovas Laukaitis

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Vince Dulys

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis, Juozas
Astasauskas and Mike Jacksonis

Color Guard Ramunas Noreika

Post Committee Chairmen:

Lithuanian Festival Gintaras Buivys

Christmas Party Walter Cooper

Blood Bank Fred Kaminski

Education Robert Leonavicius

Newsletter Gintaras Buivys

Convention Delegates Commander Gintaras Buivys, Vincent T.
Dulys, Joseph Astasauskas, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Convention Alternates: Walter Cooper and Robert Leonavicius

Community Awards:

Police Officer Kevin Carvell

Fireman Emergency Vehicle Driver Martin D. Loftus

Scholastic Awards:

Elementary School Robert Leonavicius, Lauren Soaper and Erik Miller

Middle School Christopher Leonavicius and Angela Miller

Senior High School Katie Soaper

Installation of Officers John A. Grill

Baltimore District Department Executive Committee

Post Members 110

2000 Post Milestones

In April 2000, Post Legionnaire Balys Brasauskas was recognized for having donated more than 18 gallons of blood to the American Red Cross and is still going strong.

During May 5-7, 2000, the 50th Lithuanian Athletic Games of North America Days, was hosted by the Baltimore Lithuanian Athletic Club (BLAC).and five of its nine Olympic Game Organizing Committee members where Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires. The Post committee members were Vincent Dulys, Vytautas Dulys, Antanas Uleckas, Algirdas Veliuona and Gintaras Buivys. Many other post members were competing participants.

Post 154 Life Member John Sharif (Jonas Rafaelis) was elected to his second term as 3rd Vice-Commander for the Department of Maryland, Catholic War Veterans.

Judge Advocate Vincent Dulys, elected to the position of Baltimore District Vice Commander and appointed to serve on the Department of Maryland Internal Affairs Commission for three years.

2001 – 2002



Commander Gintaras Buivys

Vice Commander Walter J. Cooper

Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Finance Officer Algirdas Brasauskas

Chaplain Fred Kaminski

Sergeant at Arms Ramunas Noreika

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Vaclovas Laukaitis

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis and Juozas E. Astauskas

Post Committee Chairmen:

Education Robert Leonavicius

Fundraisers Vince Dulys

Lithuanian Festival Gintaras Buivys

Blood Bank Fred Kaminski

Newsletter Gintaras Buivys

Convention Delegates Commander Gintaras Buivys,
Vincent T. Dulys, Juozas E. Astauskas, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Alternate Delegates Walt Cooper and Robert Leonavicius

Community Awards: Police Officer Corey Britton and Fireman Adrian C. Barbour

Scholastic Awards:

Elementary school Lauren Soaper and Nicole Cooper

Middle School Erik Miller, Shannon Noreika, Christopher Leonavicius

High School Stacy Cooper, Melanie Cooper, and Angela Miller,

Collegiate Scholarship Katie Soaper

Installation of Officers was Department Service Officer Lance H. Sweigart

Post Members 104

2001 Post Milestones

On January 29, 2001, long serving Post 154 Medical Officer Dr. John Urlock was awarded the U.S. Congressional Achievement Award, by Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, for his Dedicated Service and Sacrifice to our Nation during his participation in World War II, Normandy Campaign, June 6, 1944, through August 31, 1944.

Adjutant Vince Dulys was re-elected as 1st Vice Commander of the Baltimore District and assignment to the Department of Maryland Internal Affairs Commission.

On September 16, 2001, Lithuanian Post 154 held its annual Installation Ceremony at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Opening Welcome remarks were made by Chairman Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys followed by the Opening of the Program by Commander Gintaras Buivys, Presentation of Colors by the Post Color Guard, Invocation by Monsignor Arthur Bastress, Pastor, St. Alphonsus Church, singing of the American and Lithuanian Anthem by Gintaras Dambrava, Pledge of Allegiance, reading of The American Legion Preamble followed by the POW/MIA Ceremony.

Chairman Dulys then Introduced honored Officers and Guests. Lithuanian Post 154 was highly honored by the presence of The American Legion, National Commander Richard J. (Ric) Santas (2001-2002) who spoke briefly and jointed Lance H. Sweigart,

Department Service Officer, in the Installation of Officers ceremony. Early arriving attendees were served refreshments and were able to view two Commemorative U.S. Military Display tables or could just sit and talk with our friends or make new ones. Lithuanian Post 154, Post Everlasting Memorial Service was then conducted by Monsignor Arthur Bastress, assisted by Post Judge Advocate Vaclovas Laukaitis. Following the memorial service, Monsignor Bastress said the Benediction followed by the assembled traditional singing of God Bless America. Following the formal installation program, the assembled continued the celebration while dinned and listening to music played by Juozas Sujeta.

Lithuanian Post 154 was later honored that month when its name was added to the U.S. Army, Special Forces Computer Search Engine.

2002 – 2003



Commander Walter J. Cooper

Vice Commander Vincent T. Dulys

Adjutant Gintaras A. Buivys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Finance Officer Gintaras A. Dambrava

Chaplain Fredrick T. Kaminski

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Vaclovas Laukaitis

Sergeant at Arms Ramunas J. Noreika

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis
and Juozas E. Astasauskas

Flag Detail Ramunas Noreika

Post Committee Chairmen:

Education Robert Leonavicius

Fundraisers Vince Dulys

Tours & Blood Bank – Fred Kaminski

Newsletter Gintaras Buivys

Lithuanian Festival Committee Gintaras Buivys

Christmas Party Walter Cooper

Convention Delegates Commander Gintaras Buivys,
Vincent T. Dulys, Juozas E. Astauskas, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Community Awards:

Teacher Ms. Laura Feiler

Police Officer Raymond Johnson

Fireman Lt. Vincent D. Blake

Scholastic Awards:

Elementary school Lauren Soaper and Nicole Cooper

Middle School Erik Miller, Shannon Noreika, Christopher Leonavicius

High School Stacy Cooper, Melanie Cooper, and Angela Miller,

Collegiate Scholarship Katie Soaper

Installation of Officers Norris J. Walbert

Past Department Commander

2002 Post Milestone

On April 1, 2002, Ramunas Noreika assumed the duties as the Editor of the Post Legionnaire Newsletter.

On November 23, 2002, the President of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus, awarded Post 154 Legionnaire Henry L. Gaidis, the Lithuanian North Atlantic Treaty Organizations (NATO) Ascendancy Merit Badge for his service in assist Lithuania in obtaining admission into NATO.

2003 – 2004



Commander Walter J. Cooper

Vice Commander John F. Maskavich

Adjutant Gintaras A. Buivys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Finance Officer Vincent T. Dulys

Chaplain Fredrick T. Kaminski

Judge Advocate Vaclovas Laukaitis

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Sergeant at Arms Ramunas J. Noreika

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis, Juozas
E. Astauskas, and Past Post Commanders

Convention Delegates Commander Walter Cooper, Gintaras
Buivys, Vincent T. Dulys, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Post Committee Chairmen:

Education Robert Leonavicius

Fundraisers Vince Dulys

Tours & Blood Bank – Fred Kaminski

Newsletter Gintaras Buivys

Lithuanian Festival Committee Gintaras Buivys

Christmas Party Walter Cooper

Community Awards:

Teacher Monica Carr

Policeman Officer Antoine Gibson

Fireman Timothy Biermann

Scholastic Awards:

Middle School Nicole Cooper, Lauren Davidov, Sara Dunn,
Samantha Keane and Erik Miller

High School Christopher Leonavicius, Stacy Cooper,
Melanie Cooper, and Angela Miller

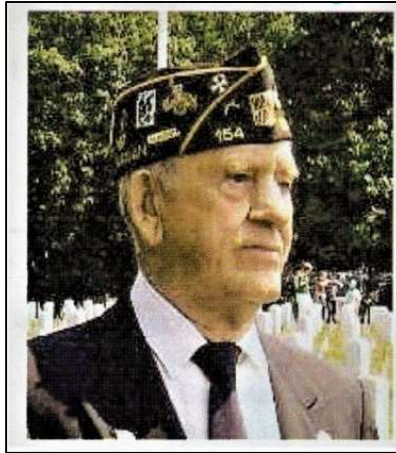
Installation of Officers Leroy E. Thornton
Past Department Commander

2003 Post Milestone

On February 3, 2003, Post 154 Member Joseph Gaila and Lithuanian American Community (LAC), Incorporated, leader was awarded the Restored Republic of Lithuania, Commander's Cross of the Order of Grand Duke Gediminas for his distinguished service to Lithuania. The LAC is a nation-wide Lithuanian American civilian social organization that actively supports strengthening democracy. The LAC sought the liberation of Lithuania during its 50 years of Nazi German and Russian occupation. Legionnaire Gaila served as the organization's representative in Lithuania during the nation's hectic 1991-1992 struggle for freedom and liberation from Russian military occupation.

Post 154 received the Baltimore District Three Star Membership Award for exceeding the prior year's total membership.

2004 – 2005



Commander John F. Maskavich

Vice Commander Aleksandras Radzius

Adjutant/Finance Officer Vincentas T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Sergeant at Arms Algis Paplonskis

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Gintaras A. Buivys

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis, Juozas E. Astasauskas,
Joseph Sigintas Jankevicius and Past Post Commanders

Convention Delegates Commander John F. Maskavich,
Vincent Dulys, Gintaras Buivys, and Vaclovas Laukaitis

Post Committee Chairmen:

Education Robert Leonavicius

Fundraisers Vince Dulys

Tours & Blood Bank – Fred Kaminski

Lithuanian Festival Committee Gintaras Buivys

Christmas Party Walter Cooper

Newsletter Aleksandras Radzius

Community Awards:

Teacher Salka Harris

Police Officer Deryl Turner

Fireman Captain James E. Beebe

Scholastic Awards:

Middle School Nicole Cooper, Lauren Davidov,
Sara Dunn, Samantha Keane, and Erik Miller

High School Christopher Leonavicius, Stacy Cooper,
Melanie Cooper, and Angela Miller

Installation of Officers David E. Winpigler
Past Department Commander

Post Membership 104

2004 Post History Milestone

In July 2004 Vince Dulys, past Post Commander, and past Baltimore District Commander, was elected to the Department Executive Committee at the Baltimore District Caucus.

2005 – 2006



Commander John F. Maskavich

Vice Commander Aleksandras Radzius

Adjutant/Finance Officer Vince T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Gintaras A. Buivys

Sergeant at Arms Algis Paplonskis

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis, Juozas E. Astauskas,
Joseph S. Jankevicius and Past Post Commanders

Convention Delegates Commander John Maskavich, Vincent Dulys,
Joseph (Sigitas) Jankevicius, and Aleksandras Radzius

Community Awards:

Teacher Phyllis Davis

Police Officer Kristel Travers

Fireman Emergency Boat Operator Robert T. Sebeck

Scholastic Awards:

Scholarships Emile Mosier and Erik Miller

Installation of Officers William B. Proctor
Past National Executive Committeeman

2005 Post Milestone

February 16, 2005, Post 154 Legionnaires Vacys Laukaitis, Gintaras Buivys, and Henry Gaidis were among the invited guests at the Republic of Lithuania Embassy, Washington, D.C., Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration, that included Major-General Jonas A. Kronkaitis, the Commander of the Lithuanian Armed Forces. At the event, Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas, in the name of the President of Lithuania, awarded the Order of Grand Duke Gediminas, 1st Class Decoration, to Senators Joseph Biden and John McCain, for their past and continuing support of Lithuania and the nations Freedom.

Bridges Magazine, Hamilton Square, New Jersey, May 2005, published an article by Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis captioned "SSgt. Stanley Bender, Lithuanian Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient" which details his biography and his World War II service.

Adjutant Vincent Dulys was elected to the Department Executive Committee and a Delegate to the American Legion National Convention.

In the November 2005 issue of Bridges Magazine, Hamilton Square, New Jersey, another article by Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis captioned “Captain Ann Agnes Bernatitus, U.S. Navy, World War II”, was published recounting the history of the Battle of Corregidor and Lithuanian American naval nurse who was the first recipient of the U.S. Legion of Merit decoration.

On Veteran’s Day, November 22, 2005, Post 154 Flag Detail, consisting of Balys Brazauskas, Fred Kaminski, Joseph Jankevicius, Aleksandras Radzius, and Henry Gaidis, were honored by being asked to raise the 30-foot x 42-foot fifteen stars and fifteen strips flag over Fort McHenry this memorial day.

2006 – 2007



Commander John F. Maskavich

Vice Commander Aleksandras Radzius

Adjutant/Finance Officer Vincent T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Judge Advocate Gintaras Buivys

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Sergeant at Arms Walter Cooper

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis, Juozas
E. Astauskas, and Joseph S. Jankevicius

Convention Delegates Commander John Maskavich,
Vincent Dulys, Joseph Jankevicius, and Aleksandras Radzius

Community Awards:

Teacher Birute M. Gorrell

Police Officer Michael Hobson

Fireman Captain Francis E. Uhlhorn III

Scholastic Awards:

School Emilie Mosier

Scholarships Christopher R. Leonavicius and Amanada Meehan

Installation of Officers William B. Proctor

Past Dept Executive Committeeman

Post Members 101

2006 Post Milestone

On February 26, 2006, Post 154 Flag Detail, commanded by Joseph Jankevicius carried our Colors at the Philadelphia Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration.

On June 22, 2006, at the Baltimore District Caucus, which was held at the Lithuanian Hall, re-elected incumbent Post 154 Adjutant Vince Dulys as one of its four Executive Committee Members.

During the July 2006, Maryland Department Convention, Post 154 Chaplin, Reverence Anthony Dranginis was awarded the Best Post Chaplain's Annual Report Trophy and Vice-Commander and Lithuanian '*Legionnaire*' newsletter editor, Aleksandras Radzius, won the post's first American Legion, Maryland Division, Joh Sloan Award for the best newsletter for post under 150 members.

Bridges Magazine, Hamilton Square, New Jersey, November 2006, published an article by Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis captioned "Lithuanian Hero of the Forgotten Cold War", the story of Lithuanian American Anthony B. Herbert the highest decorated Korean War enlisted and later Lt. Colonel in Vietnam service.

2007 – 2008



Commander John F. Maskavich

Vice Commander Vaclovas Laukaitis

Adjutant/Finance Officer Vincent T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Judge Advocate Gintaras Buivys

Sergeant at Arms Walter Cooper

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Historian Henry Gaidis

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis, Juozas E. Astauskas,
Joseph S. Jankevicius, and past Post Commanders

Convention Delegates Commander John Maskavich, Vaclovas
Laukaitis, Vincent Dulys, Joseph Jankevicius, and Vitas Siaurusaitis

Community Awards:

Teacher Joana Vaiciulaitis - Buivys

Police Officer Stephen Wilson

Fireman Lieutenant Gilbert Brooks

Scholastic Awards Emilie Mosier (Elementary)

Scholarship Christopher R. Leonavicius
and Amanda Miller (Collegiate)

Special Award Vincent Dulys for Outstanding Continuous Service

Installation of Officer was Past Department Commander Elbert D. White

2007 Post Milestone

In January 2007, Executive Committee member Joseph Jankevicius became the Editor of the Lithuanian Post 154 '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter and became a color publication. Three months later, *Legionnaire* issues began being posted on the internet.

In June 2007, the Baltimore District Caucus reelected incumbent Post 154 Adjutant Vince Dulys as one of its four Executive Committee Members.

Balzekas Museum, The Museum Review Magazine, Chicago, Illinois, April-June 2007, published an article by Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis captioned "Rear Admiral Fred Edward Bakutis, U.S. Navy", which recounts the history of this Lithuanian American World War II "Air Ace" and Navy Cross recipient.

At the Department of Maryland 2007 Convention, the new editor of Legionnaire Newsletter won the post's second John Sloan Award for Best Newsletter for post under 150 members. Jankevicius took advantage of an opportunity to obtain a personal interview with the convention's keynote speaker, General Edward Leacock, Assistant Adjutant General, Maryland National Guard, related to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, which was later published in the Legionnaire.

Balzekas – Lithuanian Museum Review Magazine, Chicago, Illinois, in its July-August 2007, issued published an article by Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis captioned "Lithuanian Americans in the Civil War." It tells the story of American Lithuanians who fought on both sides in the Civil War. The story includes a Lithuanian who was killed in a heroic infantry charge into a fortified Confederate artillery position who was also a personal friend of President Abraham Lincoln.

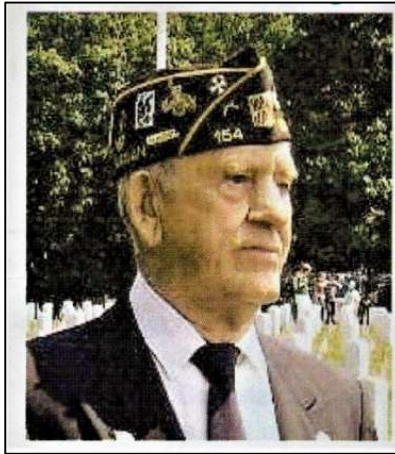
The *Legionnaire* in its September-October 2007 issue began publishing letters being received from Post 154 members on military active duty. PSF William Cherneski, 58th Brigade Combat Team Maryland Army National Guard, is now on active duty in Iraq, wrote a very informative message from the front. In the newsletters next issue, a similar letter from Lance Corporal William Dillon, USMC, HML/A269 ORD, also serving in Iraq. Post Historian Henry Gaidis also write a very interesting article about our post's founding fathers membership service in post-World War I and the formation of the Lithuanian Legion of America.

On September 16, 2007, Post 154 at its annual Installation Ceremony was honored to have two Republic of Lithuania Embassy, military attachés Colonel Romualdas Petkevicius and Lt. Colonel Egidijus Armalys, as Guest of Honor. Colonel Petkevicius later served as the Director of the Vilnius-based NATO Director of Regional Cyber Defense Center.

Post Member Vacys Laukaitis played "Santa" by volunteering to send the post's "Package to Troops" to members of the Lithuanian Military Mission serving alongside

American force in Iraq. A thank you message was received attesting to the fact it arrived on time.

2008 – 2009



Commander John F. Maskavich

Vice Commander Joseph E. Astasauskas

Adjutant/Financial Officer Vincent T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Finance Officer Vitas Siaurusaitis

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Gintaras Buivys

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Executive Committee Juozas E. Astasauskas,
Joseph (Sigitas) Jankevicius, and past Post Commanders

Convention Delegates Commander John Maskavich,
Vincent Dulys, Balys Brasauskas, and Joseph Jankevicius

Convention Alternate Vitas Siaurusaitis

Community Awards:

Teacher Katherine Grintalis-Jandorf

Police Officer Samuel Thomas

Fireman Lieutenant Shawn C. Riddell

Scholastic Award:

Elementary Emilie Mosier

Collegiate Katarina Slavikas

Special Awards:

50 Years American Legion Service Vacys Laukaitis

Post 154 Appreciation Award Frank Vogel

Installation of Officers Orlyn C. Oestrereich
Department First Vice Commander

Post Members 93

2008 Post Milestones

In December 2008, Post 154 took part in the "Packages to Troops" Program, headed by Vice-Commander Vaclovas Laukaitis, by sending packages to American troops serving in Iraq and members of the Lithuanian Military Mission serving in Afghanistan. Among those acknowledging receipt of such Christmas packages was Post 154-member, Corporal William Dillon III, U.S. Marine Corps, serving on active duty with a Marine Expeditionary Unit in Afghanistan. Last year, Dillon served also served in a similar unit on combat duty in Iraq.

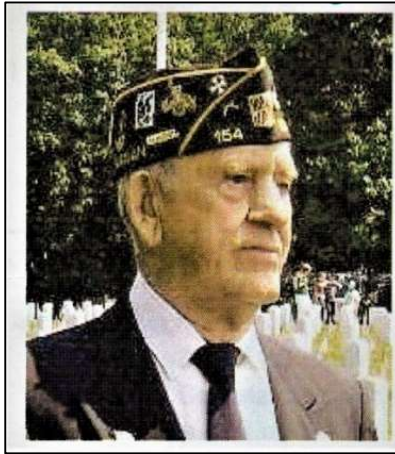
On January 14, 2008, Lithuanian Post 154 received an American Flag from Major Ronald D. Spertbaum, Camp Striker, Iraq Operation, Baghdad, Iraq, in honor of Lithuanian American Legion Post 154, Baltimore, Maryland, on the 11th day of January 2008, accompanied by an attesting Certificate to this fact. Major Spertbaum further advised that such packages make it easier to serve knowing those back home stand behind the troops on this crusade.

On May 2, 2008, Post member Stasys Kligys, a Korean War Veteran, took part in the State of Georgia official observance of Days of Remembrance by Lighting the Victims of Holocaust Remembrance Candle, at their Atlanta, Georgia commemoration.

At the 2008 Maryland Department Convention, Post 154 Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys served as the Master of Ceremonies at the Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) and Post Everlasting Service. Commander John F. Maskavich was one of the four ceremony participants. Post 154 received three awards being the Three Star Award for exceeding last year's membership, the Department Commander's Trophy for being the first post in the Baltimore Division to exceed the prior year membership, and Editor Joseph Jankevicius '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter won his second John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter.

During 2007, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaire Corporal William Dillon, U.S. Marine Corps, served a combat tour in Iraq and in 2008 aboard the USS Iwo Jima as part of a Marine Corps combat Expeditionary Unit in support Afghanistan operations.

2009 – 2010



Vice Commander Joseph E. Astasauskas

Adjutant/Financial Officer Vincent T. Dulys

Finance Officer Vito Siaurusaitis

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Judge Advocate Gintaras Buivys

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Executive Committee Juozas E. Astasauskas, Joseph Jankevicius,
Algis Paplonskis, and all past commanders

Convention Delegates Commander John Maskavich,
Vincent Dulys, Balys Brasauskas, and Joseph Jankevicius

Community Awards:

Teacher Kenneth Bauer PhD.

Police Officer Brian Pisani

Firefighter Lieutenant Timothy J. Biermann

Scholarship Awards:

Elementary School Emilie Mosier

Collegiate Scholarships Gabriela Buda and Nicholas Galinaitis

Special Awards:

50 Years American Legion Award Robert Burr

Post 154 Appreciation Award Loy Vogel

Post Spiritual Advisor Monsignor Arthur Bastress

Installation of Officers William B. Proctor

Past National Executive Committeeman

Post Members 98

2009 Post Milestones

On June 14, 2009, the Post Flag Detail, consisting of Commander John F. Maskavich, Balys Brasauskas, Joseph Jankevicius, and Toivo Tagamets, took part in the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC), "Baltic Remembrance Day" Commemoration, which also celebrated the 20th Anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's Berlin "Tear down this wall" speech at Victims of Communism Memorial in Washington, D.C. Many historians attribute President Reagan's speech to having been the catalyst that led to the downfall of the Soviet Union and the liberation of Russian military occupied European nations.

Post 154 was well represented at the 2009 Department of Maryland Convention with Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys serving as the Master of Ceremonies for the Post Everlasting Service and John F. Maskavich taking part in the services. The post received three awards being the Three Star Commander Trophies for being the first Baltimore post to exceed the prior year's membership, exceeding the prior year's total membership, and Judge Advocate and Editor Joseph Jankevicius of Post 154 '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter received the Post's fourth John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter for post under 150 members. Commander Maskavich accepted a Membership Jacket awarded to the post by the Baltimore Division for achieving Three Star Status.

On August 23, 2009, Post Members took part in the Reenactment of the "Baltic Way" Celebration in Washington, D.C. This event commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between Russian and Nazi German that led to the Russian 50-year military occupation of the Baltic States. It was also the 20th-year of the 1989 Baltic Way demonstration when the Baltic People formed a 400-mile handholding

line from the capitals of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to show their unified desire for freedom from Russian occupation.

2010 – 2011



Commander John F. Maskavich

Vice Commander Joseph E. Astasauskas

Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Finance Officer Gintaras Buivys

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Joseph S. Jankevicius

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Executive Committee Juozas E. Astasauskas, Joseph Jankevicius, Algis Paplonskis, Vito Siaurusaitis, and all past commanders

Convention Delegates Commander John F. Maskavich, Vincent Dulys, Balys Brasauskas, and Joseph Jankevicius

Community Awards:

Teacher Nijole Ona Kaltreider

Police Officer Robert Tice

Fireman Paramedic Steven A. Schokney

Scholarship Awards:

Elementary School Emilie Mosier

Collegiate Scholarship Quinn Meehan

Installation of Officers Gary B. Vogt

Department Third Vice Commander

Post Members 97

2010 Post Milestone

On February 9, 2010, Post members met with visiting Major General Arydas Pocius, Lithuanian Chief of Defense, and Adjutant General Jessica Wright, Pennsylvania National Guard, at the Lithuanian Embassy where continued Lithuanian and American National Guard NATO cooperation was discussed.

During the April 30 - May 1, 2010, period, Post 154 members were invited to attend the American Association of the Friends of Kosciusko Memorial Conference at the U.S. Military Academy (USMA), West Point, New York, which features a wreath laying closing event at the academy's Lithuanian born Revolutionary War General Thaddeus Kosciusko Memorial. This year's commemoration also celebrated the 600th Anniversary of the 1410 Polish Lithuanian military victory over the mercenary German Teutonic Knights in the Battle of Tannenberg. The post was further honored when its Flag Detail, consisting of Commander John Maskavich, Vincent Dulys, Gintaras Buivys, and Henry Gaidis, were asked to lead the march and take part in the event's closing memorial wreath laying at Kosciusko Monument ceremony. After short speeches by the Polish and Lithuanian Ambassadors, flowered wreath laid the Polish and Lithuanian communities with Commander John Maskavich honored by laying the Lithuanian wreath. The event close with the U.S. Army Honor Guard firing volleys and taps being played.

At the 2010 Department of Maryland Convention, Post 154 Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Post Everlasting Service and John F. Maskavich took part in the services. Post Commander John F. Maskavich was named the Department of Maryland's Outstanding Commander in 2009-2010, and Judge Advocate and Post '*Legionnaire*' Editor Joseph Jankevicius received the Post's fifth

John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter. In addition, the post was again awarded a Three Star Membership Award for exceeding the prior year's total membership.

In September 2010, Post Chaplain Fred Kaminski was awarded a Special Citation by the Disabled American Veterans as a Thank You for his 1,000 hours of service to the organization. For several years, Fred has been volunteering one day a week transporting veterans to and from medical appointments at the Veterans Administration Clinic in Glen Burnie, Maryland. Something few volunteers can match much less surpass.

On October 4, 2010, Post Member Seaman Joseph Cherneski had the privilege of serving in the U.S Navy Honor Guard for Navy Seal Lt. Brendan J. Looney, who was Killed in Action in Iraq, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

Lithuanian Post 154 prides itself with having members who join because of their own ethnic roots. In November 2010, 2nd Lieutenant Dulys-Camilla Nusbaum, a recent U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, graduate, while serving on active duty as a Brigade Medical Supply Officer in Iraq, was with great honor admitted unanimously as a member of our post. The Lieutenant is the niece of proud Post Adjutant Vince Dulys.

In its November-December 2010 issue, Lithuanian Heritage Magazine, Chicago, Illinois, published an article by Post Historian Henry Gaidis captioned "The Kosciusko Nationality Question." The article provides a biography of the famous US Revolutionary General Thaddeus Kosciusko that includes his Lithuanian roots, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and American military service, and founding of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

2011 – 2012



Commander John F. Maskavich

Vice Commander Juozas E. Astasauskas Sr.

Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Finance Officer Gintaras Buivys

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Joseph S. Jankevicius

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis,
Algis Paplonskis, and all past commanders

Convention Delegates John F. Maskavich, Vincent
Dulys, Balys Brasauskas, and Joseph Jankevicius

Community Awards:

Teacher Rytis Grybauskas, Malunas,
Baltimore Lithuanian National Folk Dance Group

Police Officers Scott Lawrence and Jennifer Wortham

Fireman Lieutenant Christopher L. Quick

Scholastic Awards:

Elementary School Emilie Mosier

Collegiate Scholarships Anneliese Galinaitis and Kasey Jackson

Special Awards:

Installation of Officers Dr. Gordon B. Browning
Department Judge Advocate

Post Members 97

2011 Post Milestone

On May 21, 2011, at Baltimore Lithuanian Festival, U.S. Army Catonsville Armory, the Post 154 Flag Detail, consisted of Vincent Dulys, Vacys Laukaitis, Gintaras Buivys, Balys Brasauskas, Toivo Tagamets, Fred Kaminski, and Henry Gaidis. The Post Information Table, being manned by Toivo Tagamets, was approached by the Lithuanian Ambassador Zygmintas Pavilionis accompanied by Professor Vytautas Landsbergis, the legendary Lithuanian Independence Patriarch. Landsbergis was the Sąjūdis leader who served as the 1991 Lithuanian Parliament President that declared independence and overthrow of the 50-year Russian occupation of nation. Landsbergis in Lithuania is held in honor like George Washington is in the United States. Landsbergis was cheered by all and took the time to greet each attending post members and thank them for their service to God, American and Lithuanian people.

At the September 2011 Maryland Department Convention, Post 154 Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys again served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Post Everlasting Service and John F. Maskavich took part in the services. The post also received the Three Star Membership Award for exceeding the prior year's total membership. Judge Advocate and editor Joseph Jankevicius of post's '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter won the Post's sixth John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter.

At this convention, Peter J. Schweizer, representing the Baltimore Grand Prix, informed the Legionnaires that Active-Duty Military Personnel and Veterans and their family members would be admitted free to the Friday Baltimore Grand Prix race. Schweizer during his presentation noted that he was a veteran but was not a member of the American Legion. That did not last long. Peter was immediately greeted by Post 154 Adjutant Vincent Duly as soon as he got off the stage and that situation immediately corrected. Peter J. Schweizer became a member of Lithuanian Post 154 before he left the auditorium.

In 2011, while assigned to "Operation New Dawn" in Mosul, Iraq, Lithuanian Post 154 Member active duty, Lieutenant Camilla Dulys-Nusbaum, U.S. Army Medical Service Corps, and a West Point Graduate, was awarded the Bronze Star.

2012 – 2013



Commander John F. Maskavich

Vice Commander Juozas E. Astasauskas Sr.

Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Finance Officer Gintaras Buivys

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Joseph Jankevicius

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis,
Joseph Saurusaitis, and all former post commanders

Convention Delegates Commander John F. Maskavich,
Vincent Dulys, Balys Brasauskas, and Joseph Jankevicius

Community Awards:

Teacher Andrius J. Kirkvelaitis

Police Officer Edward Taylor

Firemen Captain Philip R. Gentile, Sr.,
and Lieutenant Derrick Ready

Scholarship Awards:

Middle School Emilie Mosier

Collegiate Scholarship Caytlin Meehan

Post 154 Appreciation Award Monsignor Arthur Bastress
Post Spiritual Advisor

Installation of Officers Philip J. Surprenant
Past National Executive Committeeman

Post Membership 101

2012 Post Milestone

In the January-February 2012 issue of the Legionnaire Newsletter, Post 154 Historian provided an update American Legion of Lithuanian Post 154 History.

The Lithuanian Heritage Magazine, Chicago, Illinois, published a three-part series in its January-February, March, and April 2012 issues article by Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis captioned “History of the Lithuanian Guard and Labor Service Companies in Post War Germany”, which recounts the history of Lithuanian Displace Persons who served as auxiliaries in the US Army from 1946 through 1991. Many of which served in the US Army during the Korean War to gain immigrant entry into the United States.

On June 28, 2012, Legionnaires John Maskavich and Joseph Jankevicius, at the request of Gloria Bartus, Enoch Pratt Librarian, and the daughter of Past Commander Ed Bartus, presented a post donated large American Flag to the Pratt Govans Library and smaller American Flags to the attendees of the Govans Library Independence Day Concert.

On July 10, 2012, Logan Jacksonis, the son of Post 154 Member Michael Jacksonis, won the Maryland Oratorical Contest and represented the Department of Maryland at 75th Annual Finals of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarships Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was one of the Finalists. He also delivered a speech on the U.S. Constitution at the Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City, Maryland.

Post 154 Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys again served as the 2013 Department of Maryland Convention, Master of Ceremonies for the Post Everlasting Service, and Judge Advocate and Editor of its ‘*Legionnaire*’ Newsletter, won the Post’s eight John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter.

2013 – 2014



Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Vice Commander Juozas E. Astauskas Sr.

Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Finance Officer Gintaras Buivys

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate John F. Maskavich

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis,
Juozas Saurusaitis, and Algirdas Paplonskis

Convention Delegates Commander Joseph Jankevicius,
Vincent Dulys, John F. Maskavich, and Toivo Tagamets

Community Awards:

Police Officer Diem Phen

Fireman Matthew Graves

Teacher Loretta Bradunas

Scholarship Awards:

Collegiate Scholarships Michael Jankevicius and David J. Liupaeter

Special Award: 60 Years American Legion Member Balys Brasauskas

Installation of Officers David E. Winpigler
National Executive Committeeman

Post Membership 102

2013 Post Milestones

On January 9, 2013, Lithuanian Post 154 Commander John Maskavich at a General Meeting announced following his annual physical his physician has advised that he curtail his service as the post commander and most of his post activities. John has been a member of the post since 1976 and has served as the Post Commander from 1995 to 1996 and continuously from 2004 to 2013. Following his resignation, Vice-Commander Juozas E. Astauskas Sr., and Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys took the duties of Post Commander pending the May 2013 post elections.

The Lithuanian Heritage Magazine, Chicago, Illinois, in its January-February 2013, published an article by Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis captioned "Sgt. Maj. Walter James Sabalauski - Lithuanian American War Hero" which recounts the story of this Lithuanian American World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Veteran who was decorated with the US Army Distinguish Service Cross in Vietnam.

On February 3, 2013, Lithuanian Post 154 hosted The American Legion, Baltimore Department, Four Chaplains Memorial Service at St. Alphonsus Church, Baltimore, Maryland, which marked the 50th straight year the post has been hosting this annual commemoration. The service was initiated by pasted Post Chaplain Reverence Anthony Dranginis in 1963, to remember and honor four U.S. Military Chaplains, Methodist Minister George Fox, Rabbi Alan Goode, Dutch Reformed Minister Clark Poling, and Roman Catholic Priest John Washington, who gave their lives to save the lives of other soldiers. While being transported across the North Atlantic aboard the *Troop Transport Dorchester*, on February 3, 1943, the ship was torpedo by a German submarine. As the doomed ship was going down, these four Chaplains gave their life jackets to the soldiers and remained aboard to comfort and help others. These four Military Chaplains won immortality through living by the sacred words "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his brothers."

In April 2013, Post 154 Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski who three years earlier had been awarded a 'Special Citation' for having preformed 1,000 hours of volunteer service to the Disabled American Veterans, surely has now demonstrated the meaning of The American Legion Preamble. "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." Fred has now been awarded another "Special Citation" for 2,500 hours of volunteer service for God and Country earned through driving disabled veterans to and from Veterans Administration medical appointments.

In May 2013, Lithuanian Post 145 *Legionnaire*' Newsletter converted from bimonthly to a quarterly publication.

The Lithuanian Heritage Magazine, Chicago, Illinois, May- June 2013 issue, published an article by Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis captioned "Zenon B. Lukosius and The Capture of the U-505" recounts the story of this Lithuanian American World War II hero that was instrumental in the capture of a Nazi U-Boat in combat on the high sea.

Post 154 Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys again served as the 2013 Department of Maryland Convention, Master of Ceremonies for the Post Everlasting Service, and Judge Advocate and Editor of its '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter, won the Post's ninth John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter.

Lithuanian Heritage Magazine, Chicago, Illinois, in its September-October 2013 issue an article by Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis captioned "Julius Bielskis Lithuanian American Diplomat & Patriot", recounts the story of this American War I veteran and leader of the Lithuanian American Brigade in Lithuania's 1918-1920 struggle for independence.

2014 – 2015



Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Vice Commander Joseph E. Astasauskas Sr.

Adjutant Vincentas T. Dulys

Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Finance Officer Gintaras Buivys

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate John F. Maskavich

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis,
Juozas Saurusaitis and Augustinas V. Uleckas

Convention Delegates Commander Joseph Jankevicius,
Vincent Dulys, and John F. Maskavich

Community Awards:

Police Officer Courtney Upham

Fireman James E. Kusner

Teacher Andrew Bauer

Scholastic Awards:

Collegiate Scholarship Marisa Marija Ramunas

Special Award:

70th American Legion Service - Edward D. Daniels

Installation of Officers was by Past Department Commander Victor M. Riston

Post Membership 97

2014 Post Milestones

On June 19, 2014, Post Adjutant Vince Dulys at the Baltimore District Caucus was elected to represent the Baltimore District on the Department Executive Committee and the Baltimore's District's delegate at the August 2014 American Legion, National Convention, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

With its July-August 2012 published newsletter, Lithuanian Post 154 *Legionnaire* Newsletter, due to printing, mailing and pervasiveness of the internet, changed to being a quarterly publication. With the change, the post began using emails to notify members of Post and Lithuanian Community events.

At the 2014 Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City, Maryland, Post 154 Adjutant Vincent T. Dulys again served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Post Everlasting Service, and Commander and Editor of its '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter, Joe Jankevicius won Post's 10th John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter for post under 150 members.

2015 – 2016



Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Vice Commander Juozas E. Astasauskas Sr.

Adjutant Vincentas T. Dulys

Service Officer Augustinas V. Uleckas

Chaplain Frederick T. Kaminski

Finance Officer Gintaras Buivys

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Raymond Beares

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis,
John Potts, and Past Post Commanders

Convention Delegates Commander Joseph Jankevicius,
Vincent Dulys, Augie Uleckas, and Balys Brasauskas

Community Awards:

Police Officer Edward Creed

Fireman Emergency Vehicle Driver Michael V. Hiebler

Teacher Ilona Verbusaitiene

Scholastic Awards:

Collegiate Scholarships Morgan Sadauskas and Joseph Scuderi

Special Award:

50 Years American Legion Service Vitas Siaurusaitis

Installation of Officers John F. Milburn
Past National Executive Committeeman

Post Membership 98

2015 Post Milestone

On January 10, 2015, the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall, which is the home of Lithuanian Post 154, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Lithuanian Hall Association which raised the money to purchase this venerable old building, which was formerly the Baltimore townhouse of the multi-millionaire Ross Winans (1796-1877) family who owned the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. The gala celebration began as traditionally at Lithuanian community events with Post 154 Flag Detail marching with the colors. While the detail remained at attention, the Lithuanian and American National Anthems were sung by Deanna Howes, followed by Monsignor Arthur Bastress saying a prayer. The colors were then posted and remained on display throughout the event. The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Post Adjutant Vincentas T. Dulys who introduced the speakers. The first to speak was Lithuanian Ambassador Vytautas Zygimantas Pavilionis followed by a series of brief comments by Lithuanian Hall officers. The two main speakers were Post Historian Henry Gaidis who spoke about the immigrant founding of the hall followed by Post Legionnaires Joseph Gaila who spoke about the arrival of the Displaced Persons after WWII and the struggle the community played in the liberation of their ancestral homeland.

Lithuanian Heritage Magazine, Chicago, Illinois, in its January-February 2015 issue published an article by Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis captioned "Vytautas Andrius Graiciunas, Lith Am Management Theorist & Aviation Hero", which tells the story of the Lithuanian American World War I aviator.

On the 4th of July 2015, Post 154 Legionnaire Kirk Bauer was honored when he was selected as the Grand Marshal of the Catonsville, Maryland, gala parade. Kirk a disabled Vietnam War veteran who was awarded two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. He has also served as the Executive Director of Disabled Sports USA for over 30 years.

The Maryland Department 2015 Convention, held from July 13-17, 2015, in Ocean City, Maryland, was well attended by Post Members. Adjutant Vince Dulys again served as the Convention Master of Ceremonies for the Post Everlasting Service and Joe Jankevicius, Post 154 Commander and Editor of its '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter, won the John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter. The Post, with its 97 dues paid members, reached the 100% of its previous fiscal year membership.

On September 20, 2015, Post 154 held its annual installation of officer ceremony at the Lithuanian Hall. The post was honored by having the Republic of Lithuanian Ambassador Roland Krisciunas and his wife Zivile, Lithuanian Defense Attaché Colonel

Juozas Kacergius, and many current and past American Legion National, Department, and Baltimore District, officers among their guests.

On November 17, 2015, Post 154 Historian Henry L. Gaidis, was decorated by the Juozas Olekas, the Minister for National Defense of the Republic of Lithuania, at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C., with National Defense System of the Republic of Lithuania Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service. The medal is the Lithuanian military highest National Defense System level award bestowed on civilians for extraordinary merits and exceptional performance in strengthening national defense over the period of many years and for dedication while conducting civilian service.

2016 – 2017



Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Vice Commander Juozas E. Astasauskas Sr.

Adjutant Vincentas T. Dulys

Service Officer Augustinas V. Uleckas

Chaplain John F. Maskavich

Finance Officer Gintaras Buivys

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Raymond W. Beares

Executive Committee All Past Commanders,
Vitas Siaurusaitis, and John Potts

Convention Delegates Adjutant Vincent Dulys,
Gintaras Buivys, Augie Uleckas, and John Maskavich

Community Awards:

Police Officer Detective Sharod Watson

Fireman Lieutenant Gary Stoltz

Teacher Kathleen R. Maskavich

Special Awards:

Appreciation Certificate for Continued Support to Post 154
Vytas Dulys

In Appreciation of Outstanding Community Work a US 15 Star Flag that
flown over Ft. McHenry was presented to Post Historian Henry Gaidis

Scholastic Award:

Collegiate Scholarship Katie Jankevicius

Installation of Officers Carolynn G. Baker
Past Department Commander

Post Membership 98

2016 Post Milestone

The Lithuanian Heritage Magazine, Chicago, Illinois, in its May-June 2016 issue published an article by Post 154 Historian Henry L. Gaidis, titled "Henry V. Gaidis, Pioneer Aviator, Typical Lithuanian American WWII Veteran Story". The article recounts his father's prewar aviation history and World War II service with the 15th Air Force in Italy. Henry Victor Gaidis was a Lithuanian Post 154 Member and his son, Henry L. Gaidis joined a generation later following in his father's footsteps.

On June 23, 2016, Post Adjutant Vincent Dulys was re-elected to represent the Baltimore District on the Maryland Department Executive Committee for another year.

On July 14, 2016, Adjutant Vince Dulys again served as the Department of Maryland 2016 Convention, Master of Ceremonies for its Post Everlasting Service and Post Finance Officer Gintaras Buivys participated in the Post Everlasting Service. Commander Joe Jankevicius, who is also the Editor of its '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter, won the John Sloan Newsletter Trophy for Best Newsletter for the post up to 150 members.

In addition, Lithuanian Post 154 received two membership awards being the “100% Membership Award” and for doing so by December 31, 2015, thus Commander Jankevicius received a “Outstanding Commander” cap.

On September 18, 2016, Lithuanian Post 154 held its annual installation ceremony at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Among the Honored guests was the Republic of Lithuania Chief of Mission Mindaugas Zikus; Military Defense Attaches Colonel Alvydas Siuparis and Lt. Colonel Dainius Kaunas; and many current and past American Legion National, Department, and Baltimore District officers.

On November 23, 2018, the Republic of Lithuania Embassy, Washington, D.C., invited a number of Lithuanian Post 154 veterans to attend their celebration of Lithuanian Armed Forces Day. In commemoration of the celebration, the Lithuanian Minister of Defense, Juozas Olekas, visiting the United States gave the commemorative speech. As the end of this talk, Minister Olekas called Post Historian Henry L. Gaidis to the front and awarded him the National Defense Service of the Republic of Lithuania Civilian Service Medal. This award is the highest decoration that the Lithuanian Defense Ministry can award to a civilian and bestowed for extraordinary merits and exceptional performance in strengthening national defense over the period of many years for dedication while conducting civilian service. Gaidis was awarded this decoration for his 20 years of volunteer service as a Representative of the Lithuanian American Council and Board of Director Member of the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC), which greatly contributed to the advancement of the Lithuanian military including its admission into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO),

On November 30, 2016, Post 154 Legionnaire Kirk Bauer, who is the Executive Director of Disabled Sports, USA, and a wounded Vietnam warrior who lost his left leg, was among the 150 wounded warriors and their families who were invited to attend the weeklong 28th Annual Hartford Ski Spectacular at the Breckenridge Ski Resort in Colorado.

2017 – 2018



Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Vice Commander Juozas E. Astasauskas Sr.

Adjutant/Financial Officer Vincentas T. Dulys

Service Officer Augustinas V. Uleckas

Chaplain John F. Maskavich

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Raymond Beares

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Raymond W. Beares

Executive Committee Vitas Siaurusaitis,
John Potts, and All Past Commanders

Convention Delegates Joseph Jankevicius, Vincent Dulys, Howard
Koonts, John Maskavich, John Potts, and Augustinas Uleckas

Community Awards:

Police Officer John Gregorio

Fireman Emergency Vehicle Drive Timothy Beal

Teacher Heather Johns

Scholastic Awards:

Collegiate Scholarships Mathew Scuderi and Bradley Ramunas

Special Awards:

50 Years Continuous Post 154 Service Certificate – Joseph Saurusaitis and Algirdas Siaurusaitis

Installation of Officers John F. Milburn
Past National Executive Committeeman

Post Membership 92

2017 Post Milestones

On June 22, 2017, Post Adjutant Vincent Dulys was re-elected to represent the Baltimore District on the Maryland Department Executive Committee for another year.

On July 13, 2017, Adjutant Vince Dulys again served as the Department of Maryland 2017 Convention, Master of Ceremonies for its Post Everlasting Service and Joe Jankevicius, Post 154 Commander and Editor of its '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter, won the John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter.

On September 17, 2017, Lithuanian Post 154 held its annual installation ceremony at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Among the Honored guests was the Republic of Lithuania Chief Military Defense Attaché Colonel Grazvydas Liubinas who spoke the event and thank the American Legion and Post for its continued support of all NATO forces. Other guest included many current and past American Legion National, Department, and Baltimore District officers. Over the years, this Post 154 Installation has become one of the traditional Lithuanian Hall events that member of the entire community attend. All our proud of the American Legion members watch our Post Flag Detail and commemorate American Legion veteran presentations.

On October 21, 2017, the Lithuanian Embassy, Washington, D.C., at its annual Basketball Tournament, held at the Southern Regional Technology and Recreational Complex, Ft. Washington, Washington, D.C., in which Post 154 members routine take part, Ambassador Rolandas Kriscunas presented Post Legionnaire Augustinas Uleckas with an Honor Plaque for his many years of dedicated volunteer service to the Embassy. Ambassador Kriscunas use this event dedicated to the "Year of Sport in Lithuania" to also honor Uleckas for accomplishments at Calvert Hall High School and University of Baltimore in leading his teams to several Baltimore soccer and lacrosse championships. During those years, Uleckas was named to All Mason-Dixon and All-South Soccer Teams and also named the Pro Soccer Magazine Star for 1966.

On November 3, 2017, Post Commander Joe Jankevicius and Historian Henry Gaidis attended the Republic of Lithuanian Embassy, 99th Lithuanian Armed Forces Commemoration Day celebration in Washington. Among the notables who spoke at the informal event were Professor Vytautas Landsbergis, the 1990-1991 re-establishment of Lithuanian Independence patriarch, Emanuelis Zingeris a signatory of the 1990 Re-Establishment of Lithuanian Declaration and Seimas (parliament) member, Major-General Jonas Kronkaitis, US Army Colonel Retired and former Commander of the Lithuanian armed forces, and Deputy Assistant of State Sharon Hudson-Dean, U.S. State Department. After closing remarks by Colonel Alvydas Siuparis, the Lithuanian Military Attaché, the guests were treated to an outstanding Lithuanian dinner followed by a couple hour talking and mingling period.

On November 11, 2017, Post Members including Joseph Jankevicius, Vincent Dulys, and Augustinas Uleckas were among the thousands of attendees at the Veterans Day Service held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, commonly known as “The Wall” in Washington, D.C. Because of our country’s shameful experience during the war years, current Veterans are now treated with respect and appreciation.

2018 – 2019



Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Vice Commander Juozas E. Astasauskas Sr.

Adjutant Raymond Beares

Service Officer Augustinas V. Uleckas

Chaplain John F. Maskavich

Finance Officer Vincentas T. Dulys

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Raymond Beares

Executive Committee All Past Commanders,
Vitas Siaurusaitis, and John Potts

Convention Delegates Commander Joseph Jankevicius,
John Maskavich, Augie Uleckas, and John Potts

Community Awards:

Police Officer Aisha Whitebay

Fireman Drew Dorion

Teacher Erin Schurtleff

Scholastic Awards:

Collegiate Scholarship Madison Cummings

Certificate of 50 Years Service to Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires
John Antoniak, Charles E. Gross Jr., Waler Schmidbauer, and Gerald T. Smith

Installation of Officers James P. Marchinke
Past Department Commander

Community Awards:

Police Officer Mark Wilson

Fireman EMT Thomas P. Ceiri

Teacher Nancy Bauer

Scholastic Awards:

Collegiate Scholarship Emily Scuderi

Special Awards:

50 Years Continuous Post 154 Service Certificate to Joseph S. Jankevicius

Installation of Officers James P. Marchinke
Past Department Commander

Post Membership 92

2018 Post Historic Milestone

On February 16, 2018, the Republic of Lithuania celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Lithuania that was celebrated by every Lithuania diaspora Community around the world. That 100th Anniversary Celebration commemorate the founding of the Lithuanian Armed forces that played an interracial part in the yearlong celebration. Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis is also a Lithuanian military collector who owns the last surviving pre-War World II, Lithuanian Naval Flag. The Lithuanian Government requested the loan of the flag for their yearlong 100th Armed Forces Founding Celebration.

Gaidis relinquished the flag to Military Attaché Colonel Alvydas Šiuparis at the Lithuanian Embassy who arranged for its transportation via diplomatic pouch to Lithuania. The flag was received in a Special Ceremony by the Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Minister Linas Linkevičius who then relinquished it to full dressed Lithuanian Navy Honor Guard for its transfer to the Lithuanian Sea Museum in Klaipeda for the nation's yearlong celebration. The story about the Gaidis Flag and its delivery to the museum received extensive coverage in Lithuanian newspapers and television.

On March 11, 2018, the Baltimore Lithuanian Community celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Lithuania at Lithuanian Hall. Lithuanian Post 154 Flag detail consisting of Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys, Henry Gaidis, Howard Koontz, John Potts and Toivo Tagamets, presented the colors during the opening festivity's program. Post Chaplain John Maskavich gave the opening prayer. The Celebration included discussions about Lithuanian History, music by the *SUBTILU-Z* band from Lithuania, and dance performances by the Malunas and the Senior Malunas Dance Groups. Post Historian Henry Gaidis who is also the Curator of the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum display historical Lithuanian artifacts and answered questions before and after the festivities. In addition, the Spindulelis children's group from New York and children from the Kristijono Donelaicio Molykla (Lithuanian Language School) in Washington DC entertained the audience with song and music. Delicious Lithuanian food was available after the program.

On May 30, 2018, Lithuanian Post 154 Members attended the American Legion, Baltimore District Memorial Day Service at the Baltimore National Cemetery. Post Adjutant Vincent Dulys conducted the POW/MIA Service assisted by post members Joseph Jankevicius, John Potts and John Maskavich.

On June 8, 2018, Post 154 Legionnaires hosted the Pennsylvania National Guard (PANG), 28th Infantry Division, and the Lithuanian National Defense Volunteer Forces Big Bands, as part of their ongoing Commemoration of the 25th Partnership Anniversary during a visit to the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. The two visiting bands presented an outstanding public musical dueling concert that turned into a gala affair that was loved by one and all. Both the US and Lithuanian Government have cited this ongoing partnership between these two National Guard units as an example the epitome of success for a NATO Partnership program.

On July 12, 2018, Adjutant Vince Dulys served as the Department of Maryland Convention, Master of Ceremonies for its opening Post Everlasting Service ceremony reminding us that some of our comrades are still missing and we must spare no efforts to find them or their remains. Post 154 Commander and Editor of its '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter, Joe Jankevicius won the John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter for post up to 150 members. The post also received the 100% Membership Award for reaching our post goal before the end of the 2019 dues year.

On September 16, 2018, Lithuanian Post 154 in conjunction with its 2018 Installation Ceremony held a gala celebrated in honor of the 100th Anniversary of founding of the American Legion, the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Lithuanian Post 154, Baltimore, Maryland, and the ending of World War I, at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Honored guest included the Lithuanian Embassy Military Attaché Lt. Colonel Grazvydas Liubinas and many current and past American Legion National. Department of Maryland, and Baltimore District officers. Post Historian Henry Gaidis in addition had two tables featuring World War I relics and memorabilia on display for Legionnaires and their guest to view before the formal ceremony and gala celebration began.

'Lest We Forget' Post 154 created a 75th Anniversary Lapel Pin and a Special Commemorative Program Booklet includes a History of Lithuanian Post 154, with sections devoted to its origin as a Lithuanian Legion of America post, and Lithuanians notables who have served and fought in every American war and conflict from the American Revolution to the present. In commemoration of their service, this booklet also identifies and honor, by name Maryland Lithuanian Americans known to have served in the two Great Wars.

In addition, Legionnaires John Antoniak, Charles Gross, Jr., Walter Schmidbauer, and Gerald Smith were recognized for their 50 years of continuous membership in the American Legion and Lithuanian Post 154.

After the traditional American Legion formal installation ceremony, complimentary remarks were made about the American Legion and Lithuanian Post 154, and eulogies presented for the lost and service of our veterans since the Revolutionary War to the Present. In a fitting climax to the formal program, Post 154 unveiled and Monsignor Arthur Bastress, St. Alphonsus Church, blessed a Bronze Plaque reading "We dedicate this Commemorative Plaque in solemn recognition and remembrance of the courageous American men and women of Lithuanian descent who, since the American Revolution, have served valiantly in the Armed Forces of the United States of American. God Bless them and our nation." The Plaque was put on display for the rest of the festive and dining program and thereafter hung on a wall of the Lithuanian Hall Grand Hall foyer area for future generations to remember.

On November 11, 2018, Lithuanian Post 154 members led by Commander Joseph Jankevicius attended the Veterans Day Services held at the Vietnam Veterans Monument, commonly known as "The Wall" in Washington, D.C. As is traditional during

such visits post members looked for the names of family members and those with ethnic Lithuanian names that gave their all for God and Country.

On November 27, 2018, Post 154 Commander Joseph Jankevicius and Historian Henry Gaidis, wearing their American Legion uniforms, were among the invited NATO Embassy military attaches and American and foreign politicians and diplomats, who attended the Republic of Lithuania Embassy for their 100th Anniversary of the 1918 formation of the Lithuanian Armed Forces. The event commenced with the playing of the American and Lithuanian national anthems and Ambassador Rolandas Krisciunas acting as Master of Ceremony. The main speakers were Lithuanian Minister of Defense Raimundas Karoblis who recounted the history of the founding of its Armed Forces. He was followed by brief comments by Major-General Jonas Kronkaitis, a retired U.S. Army Colonel and Commander of the Lithuanian armed forces (1999-2004). Major-General Timothy J. Hilty, the Assistant Adjutant General, Pennsylvania National Guard, and Colonel Alvydas Siuparis, the Lithuanian Defense Attaché. After the speeches, the guests were invited to a Lithuanian dining feast. The celebration and mingling continuing for a few hours.

2019 – 2020



Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Vice Commander Gintaras Buivys

Adjutant/Financial Officer Vincent Dulys

Service Officer Augustinas V. Uleckas

Chaplain John F. Maskavich

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Patrick Dohlus

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Executive Committee All Past Commanders,
Vitas Siaurusaitis, and John Potts

Convention Delegates Commander Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys,
John Maskavich, John Potts, and Augie Uleckas

Community Awards:

Police Officer Mark Wilson

Fireman EMT Thomas P. Ceiri

Teacher Nancy Bauer

Scholastic Awards:

Collegiate Scholarship Emily Scuderi

Special Awards:

50 Years Continuous Post 154 Service Certificate –
Joseph S. Jankevicius

Installation of Officers James P. Marchinke
Past Department Commander

Post Membership 90

2019 Post Milestone

On July 4, 2019, the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė, on the Lithuanian Statehood and Coronation of Lithuanian King Mindaugas Celebration Day, in Vilnius, Lithuania, awarded Post 154 Historian Henry L. Gaidis, the Knight's Cross of the Order for Merits to Lithuania. This Order is bestowed upon the persons for special merits to Lithuania, fostering and development of interstate relations, and special merits in the public service and military fields.

On July 13, 2019, Adjutant Vince Dulys again served as the Department of Maryland 2019 Convention, Master of Ceremonies for its Post Everlasting Service with Gintaras Buivys being a detail participant, and Joe Jankevicius, Post 154 Commander, and Editor of the '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter, won the John Sloan Trophy for Best newsletter for post with under 150 members.

2020 – 2021



Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Vice Commander/Chaplin Gintaras Buivys

Adjutant/Financial Officer Vincentas T. Dulys

Service Officer Augustinas V. Uleckas

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Historian Henry L. Gaidis

Judge Advocate Patrick Dohlus

Executive Committee All Past Commanders,
Vitas Siaurusaitis, and John Potts

Post Membership 89

2020 Post Milestone

On January 1, 2020, the U.S. Congress finally corrected an administrative error that left Honorable Service Discharges Veterans serving between 1955 the official ending of the Korean War and the 1961 start of the Vietnam War from American Legion Membership. This correction finally allowed Vytautas Dulys, who had honorably served in the US Army from 1957 to 1960 and has been helping Lithuanian Post 154 in every one of its events since that time, to finally become a member of the post. Post 154 is proud of Legionnaire Vytautas Dulys' service both to his country and our post. For many years he bore this cross imposed by bureaucrats and never let it interfere with his service to God and Country that was finally corrected through American Legion legislative effort.

On March 1, 2020, Post 154 Flag Detail, consisting of Vincent Dulys, Walter Cooper, Thomas Sadauskas, Henry Gaidis, and Toivo Tagamets, presented its colors

at the Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Legionnaire Hugh Mills gave the heartfelt blessing which was followed by a beautiful rendition of the American and Lithuanian anthems. Post 154 Historian and Baltimore Lithuanian Museum Curator, Henry Gaidis, had opened the museum to the public and with the help of Legionnaires setup three large six by eight-foot Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) Information panels. The informative display focused on the 1918 overthrowing a Czarist Russian 100-year occupation and the establishment of the free and independent Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian Republics.

Delicious Lithuanian food was served, both before and after the formal program, which commenced with the Kristijono Donelaicio Molykla (Lithuanian Language School) students reciting poetry, singing songs, and folk dancing. The students were followed by the adult Mituva and Malunas Folk Dancers. The formal program ended with an hour-long concert presented by "Tutto A. Dio," a very talented touring Lithuanian singing trio, and Augustinas the Accordionist and Greta playing the Viola. Another great Baltimore Lithuanian Celebration event that gave no indication of things to come.

Although the U.S. Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratory confirmed a case of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, on January 20, 2020, only a few took any notice for a month or two. Ten days after the Baltimore Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak designated disease as a worldwide pandemic. Without doubt the Chinese originated COVID-19 pandemic virus then quickly became a Major 2020 Worldwide Milestone which would last for several years.

By April 2020, it was estimated that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) had already exceeded the 58,220 American Vietnam casualties and would surely exceed 74,000 victims by the end of the year. As a result, nonessential business and government agencies were closed and virtually all civilian gatherings postponed or cancelled. The American Legion National and District Conventions and Post Installation, general meetings, and executive meetings, were cancelled until further notice just as quickly.

With the closure of the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall, because of government imposed mandates, all of its fraternal organizational meetings, including Lithuanian Post 154 General and Executive Meetings ceased. As a result, Post 154 Officer was unable to hold their traditional August General Meeting when Officer are nomination meeting and formal installation ceremony. Under the existing situation, the Post Commander established a telephone call-in system that allowed for officer nominations and our post elections. All of the incumbent post officers agreed to continue their tenure since there were no other candidates. As a result, on August 12, 2020, all of the current Lithuanian Post 154 officers were reelected to another term.

Post 154 Commander Joe Jankevicius, Vice Commander and Service Officer Gintaras Buivys, and Adjutant Vince Dulys kept the post functioning via the Zoom conferencing program using internet, telephone calls, and updated information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in its '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter. Joe constantly

reminded all in the newsletter that a large part of the post was composed of the most vulnerable of the American population and they should stay at home and avoid crowds as much as possible. Gintaras continued to send out post member birthday cards and to make Buddy Checks of post members.

Lithuanian Post 154 being a small post lives by the old U.S. Army/Marine unofficial slogan “Improvise, adapt, overcome”. When faced with a challenge frequently causes it to use their ingenuity and creativity to couple. Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis entered into an agreement with the Lithuanian National Defense Force, Monthly Magazine Karys (The Warrior) to update his old articles and write new articles for their English language magazine Lithuanian Military Digest. This publication is intended for reading by fellow NATO Member forces to keep up their English language proficiency. Gaidis’ articles began appearing in these publications regularly starting in March 2020 and continued through December 2022 at which time the Lithuanian Military Digest was curtailed and their Karys Magazine being published in both the Lithuanian and English languages.

Henry Gaidis’ first Lithuanian American military article appeared in the Lithuanian Military Digest Magazine, April 2020, being an updated article captioned “Captain Ann Agness Bernatitus – a Lithuanian Origin U.S. Navy Legend. The article is a biography of a Lithuanian American nurse and features her service during the World War II Battle of Corregidor for which she received the first U.S. Order of Merit decoration because she was a non-combatant.

On September 15, 2020, over two years work conducted by Post Historian Henry Gaidis in conjunction with the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and the U.S. State Department came to fruition. This work began with Gaidis’ offering to donate his Lithuanian Military Collection to the Lithuanian National Museum in Vilnius, Lithuania, which consisted of thousands of artifacts covering centuries of the nation’s military history lost during the 50 years of Russian occupation. Since the collecting included approximately fifty handguns and rifles, not to mention some 50 swords and bayonets, because of existing firearm regulations in both countries, their two foreign affairs ministries hard to virtually agree to a treaty like agreement to circumvent their own laws to allow this donation to take place. The Gaidis Collection arrived in Lithuania on November 6, 2020, and was catalog and researched for at least a year before being put on public display. Among other donated Gaidis Collection memorability is one of the Lithuanian Post 154 first uniform and other post relics that will now make the American Legion History known to the people of Lithuania.

The Department of Maryland similarly cancelled its 2020 Convention because of the COVID-19 Pandemic in favor of virtual internet convention version convention taking place in larger Legion Post homes in local locations. Post 154 was assigned to the convention location site at the Dewey Lowman Post 109 in Arbutus, Maryland. Commander Joseph Jankevicius attended via the internet, while Vice-Commander

Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys, and John Potts braved the elements and attended the Arbutus Convention in person observing “social distancing.”

Due to the pandemic situation these mini conventions were strictly business related with no formal Memorial Service. All of the prior year’s Department officers were renominated and elected to their same positions through the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The most significant convention business action was the adoption of the Department’s Reorganization Committee recommendation that the Maryland Department become more equitable balanced related to post geographic locations and population sizes.

Under the approved change, The American Legion, Department of Maryland organization structure Lithuanian Post 154 was assigned to the new Northern Maryland Region, District 4. Post 154. Legionnaire John Potts was nominated and accepted the office of Baltimore District A Commander.

Regrettably, Post 154 member, Algirdas Siaurusaitis, a Korean War veteran passed away on May 18, 2020, and John Maskavich, a World War II veteran and former ten-year serving Post Commander, passed away on October 3, 2020, due to COVID-19 complications. Both were laid to rest at their family’s request with abbreviated Lithuanian Post 154 ceremonies conducted by facemask wearing post members.

Balzekas – Lithuanian Museum Review Magazine, Chicago, Illinois, in its October-December 2020 issued published an article by Lithuanian Post Historian Henry Gaidis captioned “Lithuanian Military Heroes Still Walk Among Us – Lt. General Richard F. Natonski, U.S. Marine Corps Retired,” which provided information on his roots and military service in Vietnam and Iraq.

2021 – 2022



Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius

Vice Commander/Chaplin Gintaras Buivys

Adjutant/Financial Officer Vincentas T. Dulys

Service Officer/Judge Advocate Patrick Dohlus

Sergeant at Arms Toivo Tagamets

Historian Henry Gaidis

Judge Advocate Patrick Dohlus

Executive Committee All Past Commanders,
Vitas Siaurusaitis, and John Potts

Convention Delegates: Joseph Jankevicius, Gintaras Buivys,
Vincent Dulys, and John Potts

Installation of Officers Program – COVID-19 Cancelled

Post Membership 83

2021 Post Milestone

The Chinese originated COVID-19 pandemic virus continued to be the major world problem affecting not only all Lithuanian Post 154 activities, but worldwide economic situation for the 2021 – 2022 period. Commander Joe Jankevicius, Vice Commander, Service Officer Gintaras Buivys, and Adjutant Vince Dulys, continued to keep Post 154 functioning via the Post's '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter, internet and "Buddy Check" telephone calls. With the ongoing U.S. government economic and social lockdown, the main emphasis of Post 154 for the year was to stay connected with members and getting them the recommend COVID-19 vaccinations at the VA.

Regrettably, Post 154 Legionnaire Joseph E. Astasauskas, Sr. a very active member of the Baltimore Lithuanian Community passed away on February 10, 2021, at the Lock Raven Veteran Administration Center due to COVID-19 complications. Joe was laid to rest at his family's request with abbreviated ceremonies conducted by facemask wearing post members.

Lest we Forget. Although the number of Americans who died from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) will be debated by historians for centuries to come, the US Department of Health and Human Services (DH&HS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia, in February 1, 2023, estimated that over one million Americans died from COVID. Without doubt this disease has caused more veteran deaths than any other single factor in American history.

On February 16, 2021, Gintaras Buivys, Post 154 Vice Commander and President of the Lithuanian American Council, Baltimore Chapter, to keep up moral setup and hosted an outstanding virtual Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration via the Zoom Internet system.

As federal, Maryland, and Baltimore City government imposed COVID-19 restrictions began to reduce, Lithuanian Post 154 slowly began to return to a more normal basis.

From April 22 through the April 25, 2021, Post 154 member Victor Kareiva volunteered at the display of The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of 58,279 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice, during the wall's visit to Ocean City, Maryland.

Lithuanian Military Digest, the official Lithuanian National Defense Force, Kary Magazine, NATO - English publication, in its June 2021 issue published Post 154 Historian article captioned "US Dragoon Helmet Plate". This article tells the story of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko and American Lithuanian Revolution War Hero and General Casimir Pulaski a Polish born American Revolution War Hero that has Lithuanian roots. Among the Polish and Lithuanian Officers that accompanied them to America were many cavalry officers to aid in the Revolution. The insignia of the Lithuanian Cavalry features a Charging mounted Knight with raises sword. This insignia known as the "Vytis" is virtually identical to the first insignia adopted by the U.S. Dragoons surely adopted because of its use by the Lithuanian Revolutionary Cavalry officers.

On June 11, 2021, the new Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, Audra Plepyte and her aides, visited the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall at the request of Gintaras Buivys the Post Vice Commander and President of the Baltimore Lithuanian Community. During her visit Ambassador Plepyte was given an escorted by Gintaras, Commander Jankevicius, Adjutant Vincent Dulys, and Historian Henry Gaidis a tour of the venerable old building that included the Lithuanian National Library and the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum before dining in the hall's restaurant.

From July 13 to July 16, 2021, the Department of Maryland held its 2021 Convention in Ocean City, Maryland. Post Adjutant Vince Dulys once again served as the Department of Maryland 2019 Convention, Master of Ceremonies for the Post Everlasting Service, with Gintaras Buivys assisting in commemorative memorial detail, and Joe Jankevicius, Post 154 Commander and Editor of its '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter, won the John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter.

During the summer of 2021, Post 154 Executive Officers in private ceremonies presented three American Legion 50-year Post Membership Awards to Charles Crovo, James Laucht, and Vincent Dulys.

On November 20, 2021, the Baltimore Lithuanian Community (LAC) celebrated the 100th Anniversary of opening of the Lithuanian Hall with a gala celebration. The evening commenced with a cocktail hour followed by a typical sit-down dinner with a parade of speakers that include Gintaras Buivys, who is not only the Post Vice Commander, but the President of the LAC Baltimore Chapter. Following these speeches an innovated Lithuanian Hall film history documentary was shown on the gala

hall stage. The film featured, Post 154 Historian, Henry Gaidis, talking about the arrival of the first Baltimore Lithuanian immigrants and the 100-year history associated with the venerable Lithuanian Hall. The innovated aspect of this video was Gaidis' story telling was stopped at frequent appropriate points, during which live Lithuanian singers and folk dancers performed, related to the topic just being discussed. This history video was followed by a powerful Pop-Singing program by Nida Grigalaviciute, music played by Augis Dicevicius, and performances by the Mituva Lithuanian Folk Dancers.

During the closing part of the formal program, Daina Mieziaiskis, Executive Vice President, National LAC Organization, awarded six Commendation Certificate to members of the Baltimore Lithuanian Community for long distinguished service to the Lithuanian American Community. Four of these coveted awards were presented to Post 154 Members Gintaras Buivys, Henry Gaidis, Vytautas Dulys, and Balys Brasauskas. Although the awarding's ended the formal program, the celebration continued for many more hours.

2022 – 2023



**Commander
Joseph S. Jankevicius**



**Vice Commander - Chaplain
Gintaras Buivys**



**Adjutant – Finance Officer
Vince T. Dulys**



Service Officer
Patrick Dohlus



Historian
Henry Gaidis



Sergeant at Arms
Toivo Tagaments



Executive Officers
John Potts,



Vitas Siaurusaitis

2022 Post Milestone

May 2022

On May 11, 2022, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Lithuanian Hall, during which nominations and election of Post Officers for the 2022-2023 took place. Elected officers without opposition were Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius, Vice Commander/Chaplain Gintaras Buivys, Judge Advocate/Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus, Adjutant/Finance Officer Vincentas T. Dulys, Historian Henry L. Gaidis, Sergeant-at-Arms Toivo Tagamets, and Executive Committee members John Potts and Vitas Siaurusaitis.

The Lithuanian Military in its English NATO language magazine, *Lithuanian Military Digest Magazine*, May 2022, No.5 (36), pages 16-23, published a Special article entitled, "Lithuania - the Greatest Mission of Former FBI Agent". The article is written in a biography like form based upon an interview with Lithuanian Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis about his recent donation of a historic Lithuanian military collection containing weapons, uniforms, insignia, and documents from the medieval era to the present to the Lithuanian National Museum (LNM) in Vilnius, Lithuania. The LNM is similar to and has the same prestige in Lithuania as does the US Smithsonian Museum in Washington. Gaidis' donated collection has been on public display in the LNM since April 2022 and will continue to be on display until the spring of 2023. Among the donated items was a Lithuanian Post 154 uniform worn by former Lithuanian Post 154 Commander John M. Stefura (1952-1954) who also served as Post Adjutant for decades. Gaidis has display his collection during annual Baltimore Lithuanian Festivals, Lithuanian Independence Day Celebrations, and Lithuanian Post 154 Installations as well as in the Lithuanian Hall, Baltimore Lithuanian Museum. Duplicate Lithuanian American military and American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154, material has been retained and will continue to be display keeping alive the story of the Lithuanian American military service.

The people of Lithuania take great pride in the histories of the Lithuanian American diaspora and especially interest in military service and activities that helped Lithuania regain its freedom. Items from his collection will soon be put on display in various smaller museums around the country. The magazine cover featured a photograph of Gaidis in his American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 uniform and other photos of him wearing the uniform at the opening museum event and coffee meeting with Major General Valdemaras Rupsys, the Chief of Defense of Lithuania in his office at Lithuanian Military Headquarters in Vilnius. The meeting included discussions of the ongoing Lithuanian military and NATO support of Ukraine against its struggle with Russia. General Rupsys noted that he was fully aware of the past and continuing service of the American Legion and Lithuanian Post 154 in Baltimore and Darius and Girenas Post 2751 in Chicago and thanked the American Legion for its continued support of the little nations of the world in their struggle against aggression in all of its forms.

On May 25, 2022, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, where the meeting consisted of information and discussions of upcoming American Legion National, Department, District, and Post events.

On May 30, 2022, Post 154 Members attended The American Legion, North Central District, first Memorial Day Services held at the Baltimore National Cemetery in Catonsville, Maryland. Post Adjutant Vince Dulys conducted the POW/MIA Service assisted by Joe Jankevicius and Gintaras Buivys. Post 154 friend and supporter Mark Zaruba played Taps at the end of the service.

June 2022

In the June 2022 NATO English language issue of *Lithuanian Military Digest* Magazine, an article by Lithuanian Post 154 Historian, Henry Gaidis, was published. The article was entitled “*World War II Story: Henry V. Gaidis – Pioneer aviator*”. This article, dedicated to American fighting man in World War II was written around a biography of his father, Henry Victor Gaidis, a B-17 Crewmember who served with the 15th Air Force, 348th Bombardment Squadron, in Italy. Henry V. Gaidis was also a long-time member of Lithuanian Post 154 before he moved from Baltimore and transferred to the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post where he became its post manager in Crisfield, Maryland,

On June 1, 2022, Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. In addition to standard review and discussion of past, current, and future posts events, the post officially swore in its May elected officers and selected its 2022 Convention Delegates and Alternates. This information was submitted the same day to the department. Lithuanian Post 154 Department of Maryland 2022 Convention Delegates were Joseph Jankevicius, Vincent Dulys, and Gintaras Buivys and Alternates Henry Gaidis, and John Potts.

The Baltimore Lithuanian Hall traditionally closes during the June-August Summer months and therefore no Lithuanian Post 154 in house events take place.

July 2022

From July 12 through July 15, 2022, the Department of Maryland held its 2022 Convention in Ocean City, Maryland. Lithuanian Post 154 Adjutant Vince Dulys conducted the POW/MIA service at the Convention's Opening Session. On the evening of July 13th, Vincent Dulys was the Master of Ceremonies for the Memorial Service Program in remembrance of our Departed of Maryland comrades that transferred to Post Everlasting. Post 154 Members Gintaras Buivys and Henry Gaidis assisted at the event. Joe Jankevicius, Post 154 Commander and Editor of the '*Legionnaire*' Newsletter, won his fifteenth John Sloan Trophy for Best Newsletter from a post with less than 150 members. In traditional fashion, Lithuanian Post 154 held a Hospitality Open House in the Bay Condominium building adjacent to the Convention Center.

On July 22, 2022, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires Thomas Sadauskas and Henry Gaidis, who are also Lithuanian American Council (LAC) – Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) Board of Director members, were among those invited to attend the US State Department, Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuania Embassies Commemoration of the 1940 Signing of the Wells Declaration. This document gave a ray of hope of freedom to the three Baltic States during the WWII Nazi and Russian military occupations of their nations. The commemoration featured grave site flower laying and speeches by the US State Department, three Baltic Embassy Ambassadors, and JBANC. The Wells Deceleration authored by US Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles and Foreign Service Officer and Diplomat Loy Henderson stated that the US did not recognize the Russian annexation of the Baltic States after World War II and the following 50 years of Soviet occupation of the Baltic nations.

On July 24, 2022, Baltimore Lithuanian Community Chapter through the efforts of Post 154 Legionnaires Dr. Bernard Karpers and Gintaras Buivys arranged the offering of a Lithuanian language Catholic Mass by Archbishop Kestutis Kevalas of Kaunas, Lithuania, at the St. Alphonsus Church Shrine. The Mass was attended by many Posts 154 members and the Lithuanian community. Bernie has known the archbishop since he lived in the US while attending St. Mary's seminary and university where he received Bachelor and Master degrees in theology. Bernie and his family hosted the archbishop in their home during his Baltimore visit. After the mass, the archbishop stayed a couple hours for a social, snack feasting gathering with the Lithuanian community. Such Lithuanian language masses are now only given periodically since the demise of the late Department of Maryland and Lithuanian Post Chaplain Anthony Dranginis the last Lithuanian language priest in Baltimore in 1991. This Mass was a treat and remembrance for the members of the Baltimore Lithuanian Community.

On July 27, 2022, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue. Discussions largely centered around the past convention and planning of upcoming post meetings and functions. The main emphasis of the meeting related to Lithuanian Post 154's September formal installation ceremony, the awarding of scholarships and related event program planning.

August 2022

In the August 2022 issue of Lithuanian Military monthly NATO magazine, *Lithuanian Military Digest*, No.8, pages 18-23, in its several year publishing of Lithuanian Post 154 Historian articles published his article entitled "*The Lithuanian Guard and Labor Service Companies in Post War Germany*". This article featured the history of Lithuanian refugees who fled Russian occupation of their nation towards the end of WWII and found temporary refuges in Allied formed Displaced Persons Camps. Because after the surrendered of Nazi Germany, many Americans soldiers were being transferred to the Pacific Theater of Operations or being discharged and going home, the US Army began recruited auxiliary military security and engineer from these Displaced Person Camps. The first of these foreign trooped to be recruited were the Polish and Lithuanian refugees as they were considered the most loyal to the allied reconstruction functions. A little-known story in the history of a Lithuanian US Army Civilian Volunteer unit from WWII is that the last US Army Lithuanian Service Company was deactivated in 1991 when the Republic of Lithuania regaining its independence. Also, Lithuanian Post 154 is proud to proclaim that one of its current members, Balys Brasauskas, age 98, was one of these Lithuanian Guard Members. He became an American citizen, and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era.

On August 10, 2022, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall, where the meeting consisted of information and discussions of upcoming American Legion National, Department, District, and Post events. The emphasis of the meeting was the dissemination of information related to next month's formal installation of officers' ceremony.

On August 25, 2022, Post 154 Legionnaire Maria Isabelle Slifer passed away succumbing to the ravages of Alzheimer. Isabelle was a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel and in retirement had served as The Association of the US Army, Deputy Director for Reserves Affairs. She was also a survivor of the US Pentagon September 11, 2001, attack by Muslim terrorist. Later she served as the US Army Reserve Ambassador for Virginia.

On August 31, 2022, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, which after the traditional post opening ceremony included information and discussions about upcoming American Legion National, Department, District, and Post events. The main emphasis of the meeting related to Lithuanian Post 154 formal installation ceremony, scholarship awards, community awards and other details related to its program.

September 2022

On September 11, 2022, Lithuanian Post 154 held its Annual Officers Installation Ceremony at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Past Department Commander James P. Marchinke performed the Installation of Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2022-2023 year. The officers installed were: Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius, Vice Commander/Chaplain Gintaras Buivys, Judge Advocate/Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus, Adjutant/Finance Officer Vincentas T. Dulys, Historian Henry L. Gaidis, Sergeant-at-Arms Toivo Tagamets, and Executive Committee members John Potts, Vitas Siaurusaitis.

Among the Honored guests were the Lithuanian Embassy's Defense Attaché, Brigadier General Modestas Petrauskas, Lithuanian Deputy Defense Attaché, Valdemaras Andriuskevicius and many current and past American Legion National, Department, and Baltimore District officers. General Petrauskas who had previously served as the Lithuanian Representative to NATO and the European Union (2018-2020) gave a brief update about the status of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the need for NATO and the Western Nations to continue their support of Ukraine.

During the program, Lithuanian Post 154 recognized and presented awards to several members of the Baltimore Lithuanian Community. Police Officer of the Year Certificate was presented to Officer Sharif Kellogg and Firefighter of the Year Certificate to Nicholas Green. Teacher awards were present to Rytis Grybauskas and Egle Noeth who helped preserve Lithuanian heritage in Baltimore. They have been teaching Lithuanian folk dancing to the Malunas and Mitva folk dancing groups for decades. Special awards were presented with plaques to Legionnaire Balys Brasauskas for his 70 years of continuous service to Lithuanian Post 154. Legionnaires Michael R. Keiser and Leon Lukas recognizing their 50 years of continuous membership in The American Legion. The Post 154 Collegiate Scholarship of \$2,000 was awarded to Eizabeth Cursey, a current student at Pennsylvania State University.

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, two recent formal Post 154 installations ceremonies did not take place. As a result, Lithuanian Post 154 during the 2022-2023 Installation Ceremony took the occasions to remember twelve (12) of its members that had been transferred to Post Everlasting during the prior two years. While playing "My Buddy", WWII veterans - John Maskavich, George Olwine and Richard Seymour; Korean War veterans - Charles Gross, Richard Jacobs, Stasys Kligys, Bernard Milosavich, and Algis Saurusaitis; and Vietnam veterans - Joseph Astauskas, Paul Salvetti, Walter Schmidbauer, and Kenneth Shillenn, were honored and remembered. May they rest in eternal peace. "Farewell, my Fellow Legionnaires."

On September 14, 2022, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall where discussions largely centered around the past convention topics and planning of upcoming and future post meetings and functions.

On September 28, 2022, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, at which time past, current, and future Post, District, and Department, and National topics were discussed, and plans made.

October 2022

In the October 2022 issue of Lithuanian Army NATO Forces oriented

Lithuanian Military Digest magazine, No.10, pages 14-23, published Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis' article entitled "*The Lithuanian Freedom Fighters*". The article describes the Lithuanian partisan's battles against both Nazi Germans and Russian Communist occupations during the World War II era that did not cease until 1956. These partisans only then ceased their activities against the Russian occupation when the Russians threatened to deport the entire Lithuanian nation to Siberia. This is a story little known in the West and rarely mentioned in today's modern history books.

On October 23, 2022, Post 154 Members, Gintaras Buivys, Henry Gaidis, and Thomas Sadauskas, provided a Flag Ceremony at Maria Isabelle Slifer Celebration of Life Commemoration, held at the National Museum of the US Army, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

On October 26, 2022, Post 154 held its Executive Committee meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, where they largely discussed upcoming Department, District, and Post events, planning of activities related to the Four Frenchmen Memorial Service, Back to God Mass, and Veteran's Day Memorial activities and future post meetings and functions.

November 2022

On November 4, 2022, Post Legionnaires took part in the Four Frenchmen Memorial Service held at St. Mary's Cemetery.

On November 8, 2022, Lithuanian Post 154 members attended the "Back to God" Mass held at Our Lady of Victory Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

On November 9, 2022, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall the main emphasis related to the Department Veterans Day Service and Rededication of the Bladensburg World War I Veterans Memorial.

On November 11, 2022, members of Lithuanian Post 154 attended the Department Veterans Day Service and Rededication of the Bladensburg World War I Veterans Memorial.

On November 30, 2022, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, where the discussion mainly related to supporting the Lithuanian Hall planned Christmas and New Years Celebration. Post 154

agreed to provide a Christmas tree and members were urged to attend and support both functions.

December 2022

In the December 2022 issue of *Lithuanian Military Digest* magazine, No.12, published two of Lithuanian Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis' naval articles captioned "*Remembering Pearl Harbor: Lithuanian American On Board the USS Oklahoma*" and "*Lithuanian American - Air Ace of World War II*". The first article tells the story of a US Navy Seaman 1st Class Frank Slapikas who was Killed in Action on December 7, 1941, and was among the 429 unidentified crewmen aboard the Battleship USS Oklahoma. The story describes the ongoing effort of the US to never forget its missing and his identification in 2018 by DNA and his return to the US for burial. Gaidis' second article recounts the life of Admiral Frederick Edward Bakutis starting with his US Naval Academy graduation, through his distinguished WWII naval "Air Ace" aviation service. It continued with his receiving the Navy Cross and ended with his aircraft carrier's recovery of two Apollo astronaut capsules in the Pacific.

January 2023

On January 11, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at Lithuanian Hall where past, current, and future Post, District, and Department, and National topics were discussed, and post participation plans. The main discussion emphasized the planning and participation of Lithuanian Post members in upcoming Lithuanian American Community events.

On January 21, 2023, the Lithuanian American Community - Baltimore Chapter President and Lithuanian Post Legionnaire Gintaras Buivys arranged the showing of a Lithuanian language documentary film by Andrius Lekavicius. Intitled "*Vytautas Kernagis: Nepakeiciamu Yra*" (Kernagis your irreplaceable), to be shown at the Hollywood Cinema in Arbutus, Maryland. The film was a documentary by the now deceased photographer who documented the horrible living conditions the Lithuanian people had to endure under Russian occupation of Lithuania. The film was much appreciated by the Lithuanian Community viewers and played to a sold out in advance house.

February 2023

On February 1, 2023, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue largely being a discussion of last year's activities and finances and planning of coming year events. Department of Maryland Commander Ronald L. Holcombe attended the meeting and expressed thanks that Lithuanian Post 154 is ahead in its membership retention scheduled and discussed pending Department activities.

On February 22, 2023, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue that involved dissemination and discussion about upcoming events, planning of activities, and future post meetings and functions.

March 2023

On March 8, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 held a General Meeting at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. In addition to the traditional American Legion Post ceremony, followed by dissemination of information and discussions of National, Department, District, and Post events, was the planning and participation of post members in the upcoming annual Baltimore Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration.

On March 11, 2023, Commander Joseph Jankevicius and Adjutant Vincent Duly and their spouse represent Lithuanian Post 154 at the Department of Maryland annual National Commander's Banquet.

On March 12, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaire Gintaras Buivys served as the Master of Ceremonies and at the annual Baltimore Lithuanian Independence Restoration Day Celebration. In traditional fashion, the Post Flag Detail consisting of Legionnaires Vincent Dulys, Algirdas Brasauskas, Joseph Jankevicius, Walter Cooper, Henry Gaidis, and Howard Koontz, presented the American and Lithuanian National flags and Post 154 Banner, during the opening of the ceremony, singing of the national American and National Anthems and invocation. Post Historian Henry Gaidis, wearing his Post 154 uniform, manned the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum which had Lithuanian Post 154 memorabilia on display and answered question from museum visitors.

On March 29, 2023, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue, where in addition to the traditional reporting of and planning in the participation pending Legion upcoming events discussed participation of post members in support of the Lithuanian Hall Windmills International Dance Festival.

April 2023

On April 15, 2023, the Lithuanian Hall held its Annual Windmills International Dance Festival featuring ethnic folk dancers from the Baltimore – Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. They performed folk dances native to about a dozen, mostly European, countries. Since many of the participants have never been to the Lithuanian Hall before or know very little about the Lithuanian people, their culture and history, Post 154 Legionnaire Henry Gaidis who is also the Curator of the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum opened the museum and answered questions throughout the day. The Baltimore Lithuanian Museum includes relics and information about the History of the American Legion and Lithuanian Post 154 and is also houses post archives for those in conducting historical and genealogical research.

On April 26, 2023, Post 154 Executive Committee held a meeting at Spirits West Country Club on Wilkens Avenue that largely involved discussion about and planning of the Annual Baltimore Lithuanian Festival. For the past few years, this annual event has taken place in the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Post Legionnaires take an active part in cleaning and setting up festival display tables in the hall's large gala ball room. Traditionally the Post presents The Colors during the opening ceremony and sets up a display table with Legion information. Post Historian Henty Gaidis will have the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum, located on the third floor, open and plans to be available for tours wearing his Post uniform.

May 2023

On May 10, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 held its monthly General Meeting at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Besides the traditional discussion of American Legion and Department of Maryland upcoming events and activities, the post accepted nominations and elected Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2023-2024 and Delegates to The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention. Elected officers were Commander Joseph S. Jankevicius, Vice Commander/Chaplain Gintaras Buivys, Adjutant/Finance Officer Vincentas T. Dulys, Judge Advocate/Service Officer Patrick M. Dohlus, Sergeant-at-Arms John Potts, Historian Henry L. Gaidis, and Executive Committee member, Leon Lukas. Delegates to the Department Convention are Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys and Henry Gaidis. Alternates Delegates to the Department Convention are Joseph Jankevicius and John Potts.

An update on the Post's planned participation at the Baltimore Lithuanian Festival to be held at Lithuanian Hall on June 10th weekend was presented. A display table has been reserves and Legion literature has been ordered. Balloons and educational rulers with president pictures with dates in office have also been ordered for distribution to children. The children are expected bring their parents to the Post's display table where they will learn about The American Legion and hopefully show interest in joining Lithuanian Post 154.

On May 30, 2023, Post 154 Members attended The American Legion, North Central District, Memorial Day Services held at the Baltimore National Cemetery in Catonsville, Maryland. Post Adjutant Vince Dulys conducted the POW/MIA Service assisted by Gintaras Buivys and Joe Jankevicius. Post 154 friend and supporter Mark Zaruba played Taps at the end of the service.

On May 31, 2023, Lithuanian Post 154 attended the funeral of Vitas Siaurusaitis, member of Lithuanian Post 154 since 1966, who passed away on May 22, 2023. Services were held at St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church located at 2612 Wilkens Avenue, with burial following at Loudon Park Cemetery at 3620 Wilkens Avenue in Baltimore. The family arranged for Military Honors by the National Guard at the cemetery. Post 154 members placing poppies on Vito's casket and give him a final salute at the gravesite.

APPENDIX - B - PHOTO SCRAPBOOK

LITHUANIAN LEGION OF AMERICA

Baltimore Chapter Veteran organization, predecessor of
The American Legion
Lithuanian Post 154, Baltimore, Maryland



Lithuanian Legion of American National Staff circa 1930.
First National Commander and Baltimore Chapter Commander
Dr. John A. Buchness (Bucnis) seated front row third from right.

After the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, in solidarity with the ongoing American World War II war effort, the Lithuanian Legion of Americana Veteran organization was disbanded and its members joined The American Legion. Its Baltimore Chapter Members where the founding fathers of The American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 in Baltimore, Maryland.

LITHUANIAN POST 154 PAST COMMANDERS

First Forty Years 1943-1983

PAST COMMANDERS OF LITHUANIAN POST #154 INC.



Dr. Adalbert Zelwis



Charles F. Ozel



William L. Kwedar



Reynold J. Penn



John A. Bush



Paul Gurklis



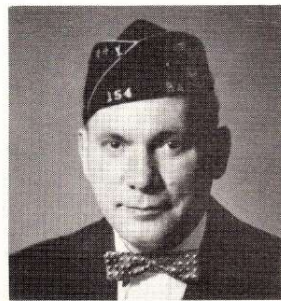
Anthony S. Dranginis



John M. Stefura



John W. Mazz



William J. Ruskell



Anthony A. Kicas



William Lacs

PAST COMMANDERS OF LITHUANIAN POST #154 INC.



Roland V. Miller



Henry T. Beaudet



Vaclovas Laukaitis



John J. Mox, Sr.



Algirdas Bucevicius



Balys Brazauskas



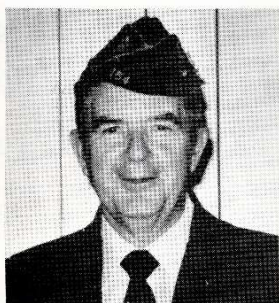
Pete Okas



Walter P. Hicks



John W. Kemmer, Jr.



Michael L. Cavanaugh

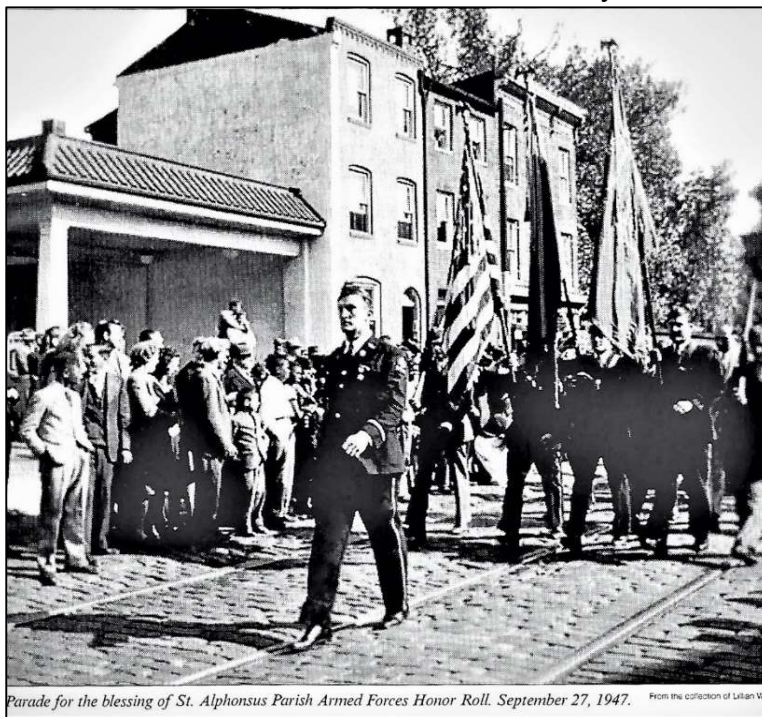


Charles V. Sarpalis



Edmond V. Bartas

1947 WORLD WAR II PLAQUE DEDICATION
ST. ALPHONSUS CURCH PARISH PLAQUE ERECTED
WW II plaque erected through the efforts of The American Legion,
Lithuanian Post 154, Baltimore, Maryland.



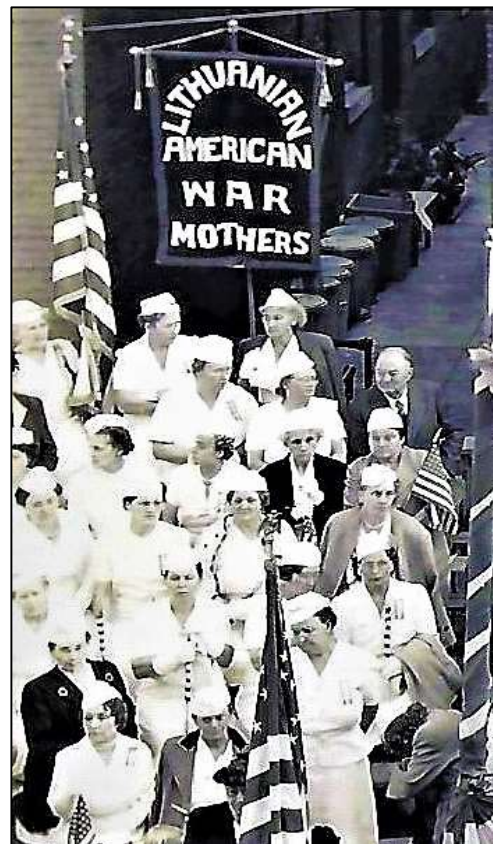
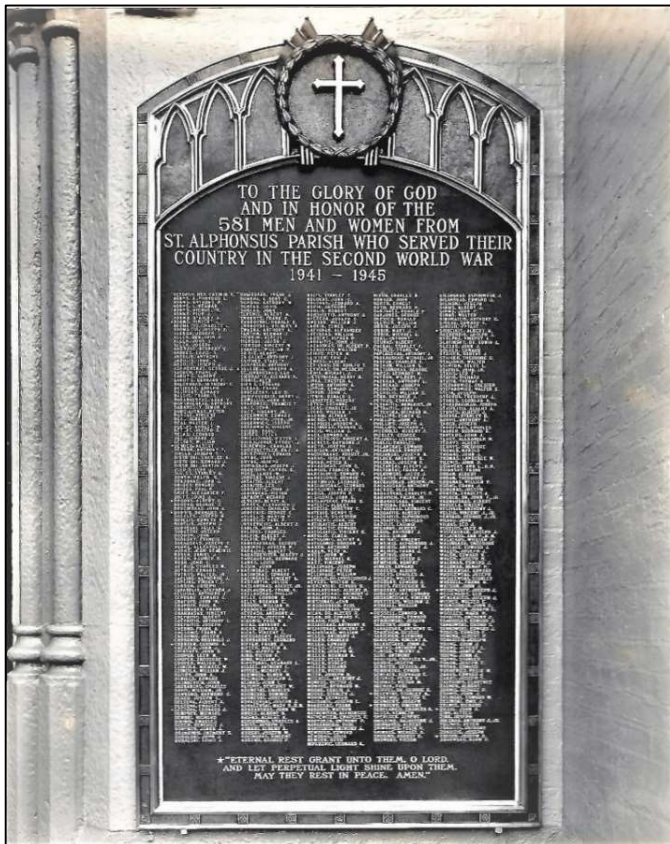
Lithuanian Post 154 Commander John A. Bush leading Flag Detail followed by Baltimore Lithuanian American World War II veterans from the Memorial Plaza to the plaq honoring, dedication and celebration at St. Alphonsus Church.



Captain and later Post 154 Command John P. Urlock leading World War II Veterans who were encouraged to wear their old uniforms.



Lithuanian Post 154 Legionaire Lt. Col. Anthony "Tony" Miller (Milanauskas) driving VIP military Jeep with Baltimore Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro, Jr. and Post Chaplain and St. Alphonsus Church Pastor Rev. Louis J. Mendelis in the Dedication Parade.



ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH CHURCH WW II MEMORIAL PLAQUE



St. Alphonsus Church World War II Commemorative Plaque Guest Viewing Stand.
Honored guest included the Governor of Maryland & Mayor of Baltimore.



Leaders and members of American Legion Post No. 154 (Lithuanian), Baltimore, Md., and guests: Congressman Garmatz, Monsignor L. Mendelis, Senator J. M. Butler, Congressman F. Small, Atty. Wm. F. Laukaitis. Amerikos lietuvių legionierių posto Nr. 154, Baltimore, Md., vedei ir veikėjai su žymiais amerikiečių politikais; stovi iš kairės dešinėn: Gurkiys, kongresmenas Garmatz, pre. L. Mendelis, senatorius J. M. Butler, kongresmenas F. Small, Velžis, adv. Wm. F. Laukaitis ir Stefura.

I AM AN AMERICAN DAY PARADE



The cover of The Lithuanian Days Magazine, Los Angeles, California, May 1950 with photograph of Lithuanian Post 154 and Unit 154 Auxilery members proudly marching in the annual Baltimore "I Am An American Day Parade."

GOLD STAR MOTHERS



Post 154 Commander William Lacs (1958-59) center with left to right Past Commanders Reynold J. Penn (1946-47), John A. Bush (1947-48), Charles F. Ozel (1944-45), and Paul Gurklis (1948-49) in conversation with Post Chaplain Rev. Louis J. Mendelis.



Seated from left: Unit 154 President & Gold Star Mother Julia Rastenis (1952-54), Post 154 Commander John M. Stefura, Gold Star Mother Bertha Miller and Miss. Mazz. Back row, future Unit President Eugenia Paznekas, Gold Star Mother Amelia Gray, future Post Command John W. Mazz (1954-55), and Unit Treasurer Mrs. Marie Mazz.

**LITHUANIAN POST 154 UNIT
GOLD STAR MOTHERS FUND RAISING**

"All gave some – Some gave all"



Maryland Governor William P. Lane
greeted by Gold Star Mother Amelia Gray



Baltimore Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro, Jr.
being greeted by Post 154 Legionnaire
Program Chairman Nadas Rastenis.



Post 154 Unit Gold Star Mothers Amelia Gray, Julia Rastenis,
and Bertha Miller in Lithuanian Folk Dress.

LITHUANIAN POST AND UNIT 154 AMERICANISM PROGRAM
Lithuanian Hall Grand Ball Room Stage



Unit President Julia Rastenis leading Pledge of Allegiance
& Reciting of The American Legion Preamble.



Post 154 Chaplin Rev. Louis Mendelis, Commander John Bush, watch Unit President
Julia Rastenis present Community Service Award - 1954.

LITHUANIAN POST 154 MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATIONS



Lithuanian Post 154 and Unit 154 members with War Mothers and guests participating in Memorial Day World War II field mass commemoration at Holy Redeemer Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland

LITHUANIAN POST 154 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TRADITION



Auxiliary President Julia Rastenis and Bertha Miller flanking Santa Claus (Legionnaire Earl Gross) and unit officers and members 1952-53.



Lithuanian Unit 154 President Mary Byrne, Santa Claus (Legionnaire Earl Gross), and children of all ages awaiting Christmas gifts - 1983.



Front Row - left to right: Lithuanian Post 154 Past Commander Charles Sarapolis (1979-1981), Unit member Evelyn Smith, Santa Claus (Legionnaire Earl Gross), President Mary Byrne, Past Commander Edmond V. Bartas (1981-82). In the back Past Post Commanders Michael L. Cavanaugh (1977-79) and John F. Stefura (1952 -54).



After the December 2009 Post 154 meeting, Legionnaires Toivo Tagamets, Al Paplonskis, Balys Brasauskas, Vacys Laukaitis, John Maskavich, Vitas Siaurusaitis, Joe Saurusaitis, Gilbert Miller, Joe Jankevicius and Joe Astasauskas inspect goodies in Christmas package being prepared for shipment to fellow Post 154 Legionnaire Corporal William Dillon who is serving in Afghanistan.

FOUR CHAPLAIN MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE



Lithuanian Post 154 Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis on February 7, 1971, arranged for the "Four Chaplains" service broadcast over Baltimore WCAO Radio.

LITHUANIAN LIBERTY OAK TREE



Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail at annual Liberty Tree Commemoration.
Maryland Capital Circle, Annapolis, Maryland

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND CONVENTIONS



Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail and post members parading during one of the Department of, Maryland Conventions in Ocean City.

LITHUANIAN POST 154 MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATIONS



Lithuanian Post & Unit Flag Details at The American Legion, Baltimore District, Memorial Day Commemoration.



The American Legion, Baltimore District, at Baltimore National Cemetery Memorial Day Commemoration.

DEDICATION OF BALTIMORE LITTLE LITHUANIAN PARK - 1978
(across the Street from Lithuanian Hall)



Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail present Colors as Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaffer dedicates Little Lithuanian Park.



Lithuanian *Malunas* Folk Dancers pose in Baltimore Little Lithuanian Park.

BALTIMORE LITHUANIAN FESTIVALS



Post 154 Adjutant John Stefura leading Flag parade after St. Alphonsus Church mass to the Hopkins Plaza festival.



Post Chaplain Rev. Anthony Dranginis leading Color Guard after Mass from St. Alphonsus Church to Lithuanian Festival Charles Plaza.



Past Commander & Post Historian Charles Sarpolis manning
American Legion Information Display Booth.



Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail led Festival Parade from Mass at St. Alphonsus Church
to Festival Hall prior to Lithuanian Festival Opening Ceremonies - 1972



Baltimore Lithuanian Festival - Charles Plaza - (1977-1992).
Reviewing & Guest seating area located between the two center pillars.



Past Commander & Post 154 Historian Charles Sarpalis
American Legion Outdoor Display Booth.



Combined Lithuanian Post 154 and Unit 154 Auxiliary Information Booth



Baltimore Festival Hall exterior decorated for annual ethnic festivals. (1993 -1996)



Typical decorations for Lithuanian Festival at Festival Hall in Baltimore.



Commander John Maskavich, opening speaker, and Lithuanian Post 154 Parade Flag Detail are awaiting opening of Festival Formal Program.



The American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail parade in the Lithuanian Festival at the Baltimore Festival Hall.



American Legion Indoor Festival Hall Display Booth manned by Commander Fred Kaminski and Past Commanders Charles Sarpalis, and Kestutis Galeckas.



Lithuanian Post 154 Historian and Baltimore Lithuanian Museum Curator Henry Gaidis at his festival Lithuanian American Historic Relic Display tables.

BALTLIMORE LITHUANIAN FESTIVAL - 1979
SPECIAL HONORED GUEST – SEAMAN SIMAS KUDIRKA



Simas Kudirka jumped to freedom off of a Russian ship in 1970. He was returned to the Russians by the US Coast Guard and imprisoned. He was later found to be an American citizen and released.



From left: Peter Okas, Simas Kudirka, Al Bucevicius, and Vaclovas Laukaitis. Seaman Simas Kudirka visited Post 154 during his visit to the Baltimore Lithuanian Festival. He thanked Lithuanian Post 154 for their help in obtaining his release from Soviet captivity.



Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires preparing to march into the Lithuanian Festival with Colors. From left: Fred Kaminski, Henry Gaidis, John Maskavich, Toivo Tagamets facing away, Hugh Mills in yellow shirt, Vincent Dulys, Balys Brasauskas and Joe Jankevicius.



Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires Walter Cooper, John Maskavich, Henry Gaidis, Toivo Tagamets, John Potts and Gintaras Buivys at 2016 Lithuanian Festival.



Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires pose with Lithuanian Independence Patriarch and President Vytautas Landsbergis (center) and Lithuanian Ambassador to U.S. Rolandas Kriščiūnas (left) during visit to the 2011 Lithuanian Festival held at Catonsville Armory. Legionnaires from left Balys Brasauska, Joseph Jankevicius, Fred Kaminski, Vaclovas Laukaitis, Gintaras Buivys and John Maskavich.



Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis talking to Patriarch Vytautas Landsbergis and Lithuanian Ambassador Rolandas Kriščiūnas during visit to display area.



Historian Henry Gaidis, Lithuanian Patriarch Vytautas Landsbergis and Jan Burbulis during festival museum display visit.

LITHUANIAN POST 154 INSTALLATION CEREMONIES



Lithuanian Hall Grand Ball Room festival, entertainment, and eating area during Lithuanian “Malonas” Folk Dancers performance.



Lithuanian Post 154 Flag Detail at Lithuanian Hall preparing to enter for Festival Opening Ceremonies. From left: John Maskavich, Augustinas Uleckas, Henry Gaidis and Gintaras Buivys.

Baltimore Lithuanian Hall



Lithuanian Post 154 Officers and Honored Guest at front table.



Lithuanian Post 154 and Unit 154 Color Presentation.



Preparing for Presentation of the Colors at Lithuanian Hall. From left: Vincent Dulys, Howard Koontz, Gintaras Buivys, Henry Gaidis, John Pots, Joseph Jankevicius and Toivo Tagamets.



Lithuanian Post 154 Installation Officer and Honor Guest Table.



Dipping Post Banner during National Anthems.



Lithuanian Post 154 Officer Swearing in Ceremony



Lithuanian Post 154 Post Everlasting Memorial Service

**“BACK TO GOD” AND “FOUR CHAPLAIN” COMMEMORATIONS
ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**



Lithuanian Post 154 “Back to God” Mass Flag detail left to right: Walter J. Cooper, Vince Dulys, John Maskavich, Vaclovas Laukitis, Msgr. Arthur Bastress, Joseph E. Astasauskas Sr., and Fred Kaminski.



Post 154 and Unit 154 Auxiliary Members in prayer.



Post 154 Flag Detail exiting church after memorial mass.

LITHUANIAN POST 154 HEADQUARTERS SOCIAL FUNCTIONS



Post 154 Lithuanian Hall Headquarter meeting and socializing room.



Lithuanian Post and Unit Members celebrating an anniversary. Left to right: Unit Officers Lillian Walsh, Julia Rastenis, Mary Byrne, and Post Past Commanders Charles Sarpalis, Algirdas Bucevicius, and John Stefura.

LITHUANIAN POST 154 FUND-RAISING EVENTS



Typical Post 154 Bull & Oyster Roast



Traditional Post 154 Bingo and Chance fund raising event.



Post Legionnaires working Bingo and Chance Spinning Wheel.



Post 154 Auxiliary Members working refreshment area.

AMERICANISM AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP IN ACTION EVENTS

1990 Free Lithuania Committee - US State Department, Washington, D.C. Protest
Demonstration for lack of support for Recognizing Lithuanian independence
after 50 years of Russian Soviet military occupation.



Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires leading Baltimore Community
US State Department protest demonstration.



Lithuanian Post Legionnaire Albert Juskus presenting Baltimore Lithuanian Community Recognition Petition to US State Department representative calling for Republic of Lithuania to be recognition.

**DEMONSTRATION AT RUSSIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D.C
1990 FOR KILLING LITHUANIAN CIVILIANS**



Past Commander Balys Brasauskas and other Legionnaires demonstrating at the Russian Embassy, Washington, D.C. against Soviet military aggression.

1991 DEMONSTRATION FOR CONTINUED FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE REPUBLIC
OF LITHUANIA'S INDEPENDENCE BY U.S. CONGRESS





Past Post 154 Commanders Kestutis Galeckas, Charles Sarpalis and Balys Brasauskas with fellow Legionnaire and Unit Members in support of Lithuanian Freedom and Independence.

**LITHUANIAN POST 154 FLAG DETAIL AT U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY WEST POINT
NEW YORK, - 2010 COMMEMORATING GENERAL THADDEUS KOSCIUSKO AND
BATTLE OF ŽALGIRIS**



Lithuanian Post 154 Commander John Maskavich placing flowers at the General Thaddeus Kosciuszko Monument at West Point.



Post 154 Flag Detail members Gintaras Buivys, Henry Gaidis, John Maskavich, and Vincent Dulys at West Point - 2010.

**VETERANS' POST EVERLASTING MEMORIAL SERVICE
DURING "CHINESE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC."**
"Farewell My Fellow Legionnaire."



Members of Lithuanian Post 154 pose behind Joseph Astasauskas' gravestone. Standing from left is Vytautas Dulys, David Gorrell, Henry Gaidis, Gintaras Buivys, Joe Jankevicius, Vincent Dulys and Augustinas Uleckas.



Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott poses for picture with Lithuanian Post 154 legionaries Vincent Dulys, Gintaras Buivys, Joseph Jankevicius, Henry Gaidis and Augustinas Uleckas after Memorial Day Service at the Baltimore National Cemetery on May 30, 2023.

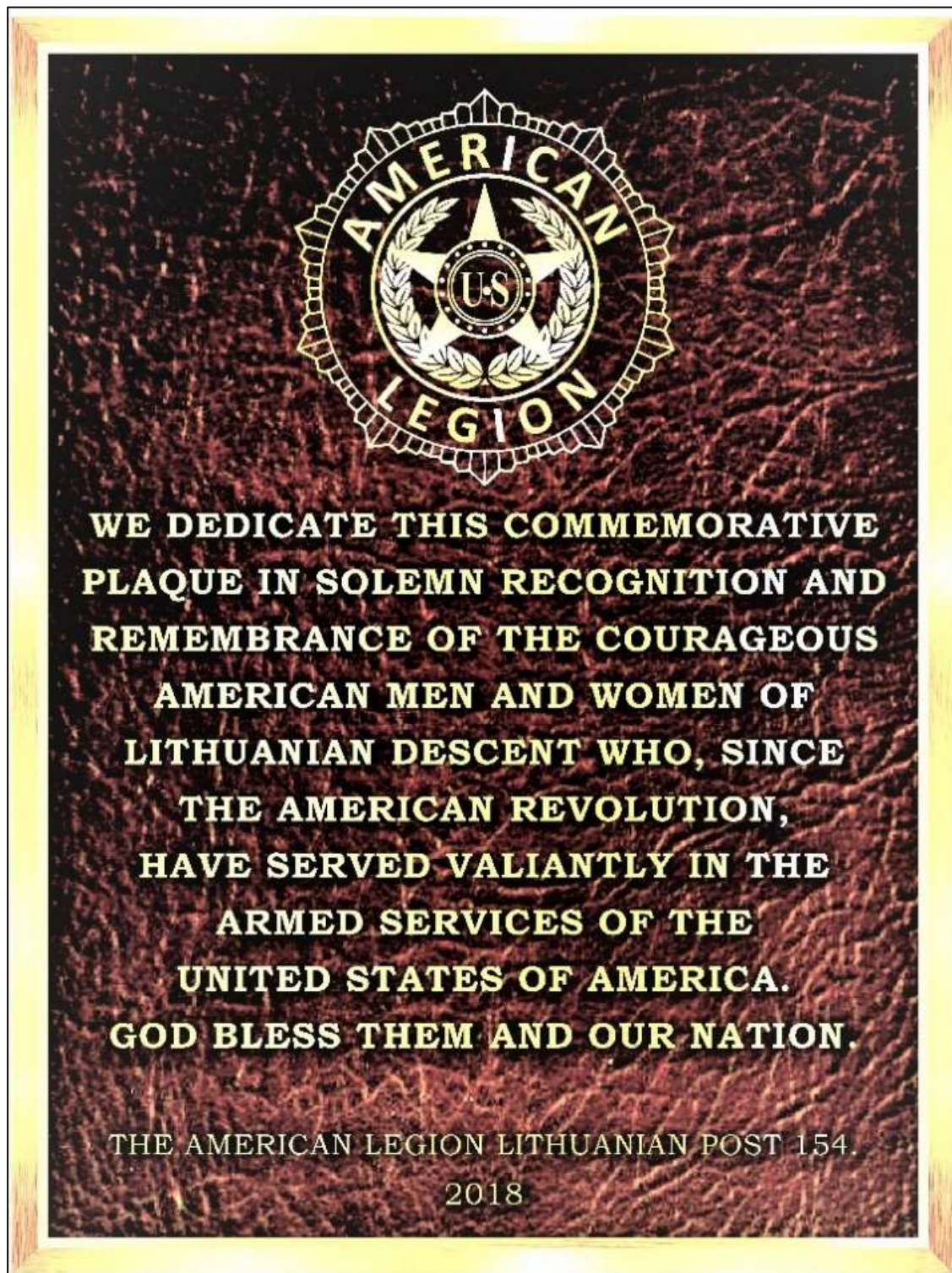
**The American Legion, Lithuanian Post 154 Member, Algirdas Siaurusaitis' abbreviated May 21, 2020, burial.
LEST WE FORGET**

VETERAN PLAQUE DEDICATION - 2018



Msgr. Arthur Bastress blessing the Lithuanian Post 154 Commemorative Plaque in remembrance of all American men and women of Lithuanian descent who have served valiantly in the Armed Forces of the United States - 2018.

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE



Lithuanian Post 154 Memorial Plaque that Lithuanian Hall visitors see before entering its Banquet Hall.

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