



Commander's Message

I hope you and your families have stayed well.

Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires Algirdas Brasauskas, Walter Cooper, Vincent Dulys, Henry Gaidis, Joseph Jankevicius and Howard Koontz volunteered for the Color Guard and Gintaras Buivys was the Master of Ceremonies for the Lithuanian Independence Restoration Celebration on March 12 at Lithuanian Hall. I would like to thank the Post 154 Legionnaires who attended the event wearing their Post hats. It was nice to see Legion hats scattered throughout the audience.

Prior to the Department Convention, we need to hold elections of officers and delegates to the convention. We will do so at the May 10th Post General Meeting. Please feel free to nominate yourself or another Lithuanian Post 154 member (with their permission) to any of the Post's offices or to be a Convention Delegate. The Post officers are: Commander, Vice-Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Service Officer, Chaplain, Sgt, At Arms, Historian, Judge Advocate and two Executive Committee Members. Nominations are open from now until the May 10, 2023 meeting. Please contact Vincent Dulys or me with nominee names.

Congratulations to Baltimore's Lithuanian Athletic Club on it's 51st anniversary. The organization was founded on March 8, 1972. American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 helped sponsor the organization with 20 Charter members, 15 of whom were Post members. Fortunately, 5 of these charter members; Vincent Dulys, Stasys Eringis, Vitas Siaurusaitis, Augustinas Uleckas and Algirdas Veliuona from Post 154 are still active. They started the club playing Volleyball. Subsequently they expanded to other sports and grew their membership. The Club will have an information table at the Lithuanian Festival on June 10-11 at Lithuanian Hall.

Happy Easter and enjoy the summer!

Joe Jankevicius
Commander

Lithuanian Festival

Lithuanian Festival is returning to Lithuanian Hall on June 10 - 11, 2023. Bring your family and friends to the Hall for delicious Lithuanian food, drink and folk dance performances. As in the past, vendor tables with Lithuanian gifts and souvenirs will be available. Lithuanian Post 154 will have an information table.

Maryland Boys State

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students.

Maryland Boys State 2023 will be held at McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland from Sunday, June 18 through Saturday, June 24. If you know of a high school junior boy that is interested in government, politics or a desire to learn how local and state US governments operate, ask him to apply at the American Legion Department of Maryland website – <http://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate/>.

A helpful orientation presentation is available at <http://mdlegion.org/BoysStateInfo.htm>. This presentation should answer any questions and serve as a resource for preparing for the week at McDaniel College.

Applications have to be submitted by May 1, 2023.

Convention

The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center from July 10 - 14, 2023. The convention schedule is on page 4.

Lithuanian Post 154 will have a visitor Hospitality Suite at Bradley on the Bay Condominium, building A, unit 304, 3901 Ocean Highway. If you are in Ocean City on these dates and plan to visit, contact Vincent Dulys (410) 960-7874 prior to walking 3 flights of stairs to be certain it is open.

Masks No Longer Mandatory

Due to decline of COVID-19 cases, the VA Maryland Health Care System announced that masks will no longer be required in public spaces effective April 4, 2023. Visitors should still be masked while with patients in their rooms. Masking will still be required for providers during all patient contact, including inside patient rooms, when providing direct care or services, and when transporting patients. Patients with acute respiratory symptoms should wear a mask to protect those around them.

Membership

Post 154 Fiscal Year 2023 renewal membership is at 74. June 1st will close-out F.Y. 2023.

F.Y. "2024" will start on July 01, 2023 and renewal notices from National will be mailed out at the end of June.

If you have any questions or concerns about membership, please send me a text message, e-mail or call.

My contact information is on page 4.

Vincent Dulys,
Membership Chairman

Planning For Final Resting Place

One day we will all need a final resting place. You can leave the decision of where you will rest to your next of kin or you can relieve some of that burden from them by making arrangements in advance.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) offers veterans and their eligible dependents a final resting place. The cost of the burial site is free for the veteran and at low cost for the veteran's spouse and dependent children.

Though all casket burial plots at National cemeteries in Maryland have been taken, the Baltimore National Cemetery still offers a resting place for cremation remains. Its address and contact information is: Baltimore National Cemetery, 5501 Frederick Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21228 Phone: 410 644-9696.

Fortunately, the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) operates five state veteran cemeteries throughout Maryland that have burial plots available. They are:

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, Prince George's County, Phone: 301-372-6398
Crownsville Veterans Cemetery, Anne Arundel County, Phone: 410-987-6320
Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery, Dorchester County, Phone: 410-943-3420
Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery, Owings Mills, Phone: 410-363-6090
Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery, Allegany County, Phone: 301-777-2185

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration and Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs primarily use a copy of an official military discharge document, such as a DD214, to determine eligibility for burial. Proof of the veteran's Maryland residency is also required to be buried in a Maryland Veteran Cemetery. A document indicating Maryland as the home of record on entrance into or discharge from the military will suffice. Otherwise, documentation such as, two years of continuous Maryland tax records, valid Maryland driver's license or any other substantial evidence establishing 2 years of MD residency is needed.

A pre-interment program is available to minimize stress to family members at time of veteran's death. A pre-interment application can be obtained on the MDVA website or at any Maryland Veteran Cemeteries. Submit the application and the discharge/residency documents noted above to the cemetery of your choice. After reviewing the documents, the cemetery will send a pre-approval interment letter indicating that the documents are in order. MDVA reserves the right to confirm final eligibility for burial at time of death and will assign a gravesite at that time.

An eligible veteran receives a burial plot, a grave liner and interment services at no expense. A permanent grave marker with an appropriate inscription will be furnished for the veteran and eligible dependent by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The cost for these items and service for the veteran's spouse or eligible dependent is currently \$893 and may change each year. Other expenses such as funeral director services, casket, preparation and transportation of the remains and other funeral costs are borne by the veteran's next-of-kin, legal representative or estate.

The funeral director will contact the cemetery to confirm burial eligibility and schedule the burial services. The remains of a veteran or dependent need to arrive at the cemetery in a casket that is acceptable for viewing in a funeral home establishment. All viewings of remains are to be conducted at a funeral home or other establishment outside the State Veterans Cemetery. Once the casket has entered the State Veterans Cemetery, it may not be opened.

Source: NCA and MDVA websites

Happy Birthday



April

William Emerson
Michael Keiser
Errol Markowitz
Robert Parks
Vilius Ramunas
Edward Wilson III
Edward Yungaitis

May

William F. Dillon III
Joseph Jankevicius
Valentinas Raugas

June

Walter Cooper
David Cunningham
Anthony Leketa
Cynthia Leketa
John Matulonis
Albert Penkauskas

Lithuanian Independence Restoration Celebration

Lithuanian Communities from Baltimore and Washington DC celebrated Lithuania's Restoration of Independence Day at Lithuanian Hall on March 12, 2023. The celebration started with the presentation of Colors by Lithuanian Post 154 and the singing of the Lithuanian and American National Anthems.

After Gintaras Buivys and Vincent Dulys read proclamations from the Governor of Maryland and other political leaders, the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, Audra Plepyté, addressed the audience. She congratulated the Baltimore-Washington Lithuanian Community for preserving Lithuanian culture and traditions. She expressed concern that Belarus, Lithuania's neighbor to its south, will be receiving nuclear weapons from Russia. She also expressed gratitude to the US and other NATO partners for their presence in Lithuania and neighboring countries. NATO's frequent sorties over the Baltic Sea are comforting deterrents to Russian aggression.

After the Ambassador's remarks, the audience was treated to dance and song entertainment. Children from the Kristijono Donelaičio Lituainistinė Mokykla (KDLM) Lithuanian School performed folk dances, played musical instruments and sang for the audience. The entertainment continued with Baltimore's Malūnas and Mituva Lithuanian dance groups performing several dances each. Finally the program was capped by an invigorating performance by singer Irena Starosaitė from Lithuania.

After the formal program, attendees continued to enjoy their afternoon in the dining room and lounge. Delicious Lithuanian food, drink and camaraderie was plentiful.

Windmills International Folk Dance Festival

The Windmills International Folk Dance Festival will be held at Lithuanian Hall on April 15th starting at noon. Attendees will be treated to a day filled with music, dance, and food that will transport them to different parts of the world. You will enjoy authentic dances from Lithuania, Ukraine, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, India, Poland, Russia, Ireland, Greece, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Macedonia, Serbia, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania performed by Baltimore - Washington folk dance groups.

Following the main dance performances, there will be a dance workshop where attendees can learn some of the steps and techniques used in the dances they have just witnessed.

Tickets for Windmills International Dance Festival are only \$20 for a day of live entertainment. Tickets can be purchased online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) through Facebook or at the door.



Lithuanian Post 154 Color Guard Color Guard present The Colors as the audience stands during the singing of the



Malūnas Lithuanian Folk Dance Group



KDLM Lithuanian Saturday School Dance Performance

Two \$1,000 College Scholarships

Lithuanian Post 154 will grant two \$1,000 scholarships in 2023. The scholarships will be available to children, grandchildren, stepchildren, step grandchildren, nephews, nieces and adopted children of Lithuanian Post 154 members in good standing or deceased members who were in good standing at time of death.

The students must be graduating from high school in 2023. Scholarship application forms are available at Lithuanian Post 154 General Meetings or by contacting Joe Jankevicius. His contact information is on last page of this newsletter.

Completed applications must be received by July 15, 2023.

Contact Information**COMMANDER**

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Meeting Information

**Lithuanian Post 154
General Meetings**

Post General Meeting 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.

Executive Committee Meetings

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

Calendar & Reminders**April**

Sat 01 April Fools' Day
Sun 02 Palm Sunday
Wed 05 Passover begins at sundown
Thu 06 US entered WW I (1917)
Fri 07 Good Friday
Sun 09 Easter Sunday
Thu 13 Passover ends at sundown
Sat 15 Windmills International Dance Festival - Lithuanian Hall - Noon
Mon 17 Income Tax Returns due
Wed 26 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Nominations of Lithuanian Post 154 officers for 2023 -2024
Nominations of Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates to The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention
Sun 30 Vietnam War ended (1975)

May

Mon 01 Boys State application submission deadline
Sun 07 Unconditional surrender of all WWII German forces signed (1945)
Mon 08 V-E Day, Victory in Europe celebrated by US and Britain (1945)
Wed 10 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Nominations and election of Lithuanian Post 154 officers for 2023 -2024
Nominations and election of Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates to The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention
Sun 14 Mother's Day
Mon 15 Women's Army Corps Founded (1942)
Sat 20 Armed Forces Day
Sun 21 Department Executive Committee Meeting
Francis Scott Key Post 11,- 1450 Taney Rd. Frederick MD - 1 PM
Mon 29 Memorial Day
Tue 30 NC District Memorial Service at Baltimore National Cemetery - 11 AM
Wed 31 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

June

Sat 10 Lithuanian Festival - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Sun 11 Lithuanian Festival - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Wed 14 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Wed 14 Flag Day
Wed 14 US Army Founded (1775)
Sun 18 Father's Day
Sun 18 Boys State Start
Wed 21 First Day of Summer
Sat 24 Boys State End
Wed 28 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

July

Tue 04 Independence Day

**The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention - Ocean City, MD
Convention Itinerary:**

Mon 10 Fish Fry - 4 PM - Dockside Hall, SW corner Convention Center
Tue 11 Delegate Registration - 8 AM, Legion College classes
Wed 12 Convention meetings - 8 AM, Memorial Service - 7 PM
Thu 13 Convention meetings - 8 AM
Fri 14 Convention meetings - 8 AM, Department Officers Election

Wed 26 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM