



Commander's Message

I hope you and your family have stayed well.

The Windmills International Dance Festival was held at Lithuanian Hall on April 15th. Attendees were treated with continuous folk dance performances from a dozen countries. I especially enjoyed watching the Ukrainian children in their colorful costumes and the Lithuanian children from the KDML school near Washington DC. The Lithuanian children reminded me of the struggle Past Lithuanian Post 154 Commander Baly Brasauskas had teaching me the Lithuania dances in the 1950s.

I attended the North Central Region reception honoring American Legion Department of Maryland and Legion Auxiliary officers. Department of Maryland Commander Ronald Holcombe expressed his gratitude for the support he received over the past year. He mentioned that though the Department's membership is still sliding down, due to strong recurring efforts it is doing better than most other Departments on the East Coast. .

At the May 10 General Meeting we held elections of officers for 2023-2024. Election results are below. Also at the meeting, Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys, Henry Gaidis, Joe Jankevicius and John Potts were elected delegates to the American Legion Department of Maryland 2023 Convention.

Please notify me if you move. I get one or two envelopes returned after every newsletter mailing.

Enjoy the summer!

Joe Jankevicius
Commander

Lithuanian Post 154 Officers 2023 - 2024

Commander	Joe Jankevicius
Vice Commander	Gintaras Buivys
Adjutant	Vincent Dulys
Finance Officer	Vincent Dulys
Service Officer	Patrick Dohlus
Chaplain	Gintaras Buivys
Judge Advocate	Patrick Dohlus
Historian	Henry Gaidis
Sergeant At Arms	John Potts
Executive Committee	Leon Lukas
Executive Committee	Augustinas Uleckas

Memorial Day Service



Vincent Dulys, at the podium, conducts KIA Service as Joseph Jankevicius and Bill Ganz from Post 109 place KIA flag on helmet on top of rifle.



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 Service.

On Memorial Day, May 30, The American Legion North Central District held its Memorial Day Service at the Baltimore National Cemetery in Catonsville. Lithuanian Post 154 Adjutant Vincent Dulys conducted the POW/MIA Service. Post 154 members Gintaras Buivys, Henry Gaidis, Joseph Jankevicius and Augustinas Uleckas attended. Our Post's friend and supporter, Mark Zaruba volunteered to play Taps at the end of the Service. After the Service, they and their spouses were joined by Department Commander Ron Holcombe and Kathleen Maskavich for lunch in Catonsville,

Baltimore City Mayor Brando Scott was the keynote speaker at the Memorial Service. He was accompanied by his video crew who have posted the video of the Memorial Service on Baltimore City's YouTube channel "CharmTV Citizens' Hub." It can be viewed by going to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkfIMUEAurw&t=49s>.

Membership

Post 154 finished fiscal year 2023 with 74 paid members.

Fiscal Year 2024 started on July 1, 2023. All members should have or soon will get a renewal notice from National.

You may renew on-line by following the renewal link on our website www.lietuvis.net. If you wish, you can send me a \$30 check made out to American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 with your renewal notice to my address for processing. My address is on page 4.

Vincent Dulys,
Membership Chairman

Happy Birthday



July

Raymond W. Beares
Gintaras Buivys
Terrence Chesson
Joseph Gaila

August

Algimantas Grintalis
Victor A. Kareiva
Thomas A. Keane
Roy W. Kemmer
Joseph Lazaravich
Hugh H. Mills Jr.
Mark Nauyalis
Toivo Tagamets
Algirdas M. Veluona

September

Vincent Dulys

Taps

On May 22, 2023 Lithuanian Post 154 and Baltimore's Lithuanian Community experienced a tremendous loss. Vitas (Vito) Siaurusaitis, member of Lithuanian Post 154 since 1966, passed away at age 84. Vitas was an active member of our Post 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. You could find him working at the Lithuanian Festivals, at Lithuanian Hall every Friday for dinner or at Mass at St. Alphonsus Lithuanian Catholic Church on Sundays. He was a charter member of the Baltimore Athletic Club who participated in most sports and coached youth teams.

Vito had many friends. His kind, gentle personality will be missed by all.

Rest in peace my fellow Legionnaire.



Aurimas Valujavičius Rows Across Atlantic Alone



Aurimas Valujavičius, in center, poses for photo in Main Hall Ballroom prior to tour of Baltimore's Lithuanian Hall, Lithuanian Library and Lithuanian Museum.

Lithuanian Aurimas Valujavičius, the third person in the world to row solo across the Atlantic, stopped to visit Baltimore Lithuanian Hall before visiting the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC.

He left Spain on December 26, 2022 and arrived in Florida 121 days later on April 25, 2023 after rowing for 5,000 miles.

Aurimas has made several YouTube videos and intends to make a documentary describing his trip in 2024. Below is a link to one of his YouTube videos. Others should pop up after you watch it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDAM1iF5OLk>



Aurimas Valujavičius



Aurimas Valujavičius and Lithuanian Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis in Baltimore's Lithuanian Library.

Baltimore Lithuanian Festival A Huge Success



Malunas Lithuania Folk Dancers

After a three year break due to Covid, Baltimore's Lithuanian Festival returned to Lithuanian Hall on June 10th and 11th. The festival was well attended. Attendees were continuously entertained by folk dancers, by music and singing performances. There was plenty of delicious Lithuanian food and drink.

Vendors were on hand to sell Lithuanian jewelry, souvenirs, smoked meats, cakes and excellent hand crafted wood carvings and paintings.

Lithuanian Post 154 had an information table with Post literature, hats and ties. Our table was a great hit with children since we were giving out free balloons. After you heard a pop in the hall, you knew that a kid would soon be back for another. Besides balloons, we gave out over a dozen membership applications, hopefully some of them will be returned. Fortunately, we renewed one member at the festival - Alfred Kylaivas. Alfred had moved to Alabama a few years ago and then dropped his Post 154 membership. Fortunately he stopped by our Post 154 information table and decided to renew his membership. His Lithuanian Post 154 membership card will allow him to enjoy the hospitality of the local American Legion Post near his home in Alabama.

Among the many visitors to our table was the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States Audra Plepytė and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Egidijus Meilunas. Vice-Minister Meilunas was admiring the Post 154 Legion tie with the Vytis emblem, so we gave it to him as a souvenir.

I would like to thank Gintaras Buivys, Walt and Wendy Cooper, Vincent Dulys and Augustinas Uleckas for taking turns at the table and blowing up balloons. I would also like to thank Tom Sadauskas for coaching attendees how to research their genealogy and our Post 154 Historian, Henry Gaidis for giving visitors to Lithuanian Museum tours while wearing his Lithuanian Post 154 hat.

Joe Jankevicius



Good buddies since they were kids in the 1950s, Alfred Kyliavas, Algirdas Veliuona and Vytautas Dulys make a toast to the "good old days" growing up in Baltimore.



Joe Jankevicius on left, Gintaras Buivys on right of Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Egidijus Meilunas who is proudly wearing his new Lithuanian Post 154 tie.

American Legion Department of Maryland Convention

The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center from July 10 to 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 wish to visit, contact Vincent Dulys (410) 960-7874 prior to walking 3 flights of stairs to be certain Hospitality Suite is open.

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Meeting Information

**Lithuanian Post 154
General Meetings**

The Post General 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

The 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 & RemindersJuly Lithuanian Hall closed for summer break during 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

August

Fri 04 United States Coast Guard established (1790)
Sun 06 First atomic bomb dropped, Hiroshima, Japan (1945)
Wed 09 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting -
Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Mon 14 Japan Surrendered, ending WW II (1945)
Wed 30 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting -
Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

September

Sat 02 V-J Day, Japan Signed Formal Surrender (1945)
Mon 04 Labor Day
Mon 11 Terrorists attacked World Trade Center and Pentagon (2001)
Wed 13 "Star Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key (1814)
Wed 13 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting -
Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Fri 15 POW/MIA Recognition Day
Fri 15 Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
Sun 17 Rosh Hashanah ends at sundown
Sun 17 US Constitution Approved (1787)
Mon 18 US Air Force established (1947)
Sat 23 First day of Autumn
Sun 24 Yom Kippur begins at sundown
Mon 25 Yom Kippur ends at sundown
Wed 27 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting -
Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

October

Sat 07 Afghanistan War Began (2001)
Mon 09 Columbus Day
Mon 09 Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
Fri 13 US Navy Established (1773)
Mon 23 Grenada Campaign began (1983)
Wed 25 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting -
Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Tue 31 Halloween