



Department of Maryland Convention

Lithuanian Post 154 was well represented at the 2023 American Legion Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City last July. Post 154 delegates to the convention were Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys, Henry Gaidis, Joe Jankevicius and John Potts.

The convention week started on Monday July 10 with a golf tournament to raise funds for Legion programs supporting veterans and Children and Youth. Also a Fish Fry was held Monday afternoon to allow early arrivals to get reacquainted with old friends and make new friends in a casual environment snacking on fried fish sandwiches, hot dogs and sipping cold beverages. Tuesday morning began with Delegate Registration followed by assembly of all delegates for announcements of significant changes the past year impacting the American Legion and veterans as well as last minute convention program adjustments. After the announcements, delegates broke out into "Legion Classes" based on their interest. Separate classes were held for each of the legion offices (Commander, Historian, etc.) that included explanation of new rules and legislation impacting that specific discipline.

The formal convention started on Wednesday morning with Lithuanian Post 154 Adjutant Vincent Dulys conducting the POW/MIA Service at the Convention's Opening Session. The remainder of Wednesday and continuing into Thursday consisted of presentations, committee reports and award presentations.

Thanks to the hundreds of hours of work by Post 154 Historian, Henry Gaidis, Lithuanian Post 154 was awarded the best History Book in the 15 to 150 member Post category and "Best Overall History Book" in competition with all American Legion Department of Maryland Posts. Department of Maryland subsequently submitted Lithuanian Post 154's History book to the American Legion National Convention to compete against the best Post History Books from Posts in other states. Results of that competition are expected in October.

Again this year, *Legionnaire*, our Post 154 newsletter was awarded the *John Sloan Newsletter Award* for be-



Delmarva Chorus

ing the best newsletter in the 15 to 150 Post member category.

A Solemn Memorial Service was held on Wednesday evening for the 1,690 Department of Maryland legionnaires that reported to The Supreme Commander last year. Lithuanian Post Adjutant Vincent Dulys was the Master of Ceremonies and Post members Gintaras Buivys and Henry Gaidis participated. The Delmarva Chorus treated the audience with patriotic songs and solemn hymns appropriate for the occasion.

Prior to the American Legion Department of Maryland reorganization last year, for the most part, Department officers "moved up the ladder" and elections were essentially predetermined. This year, John Countryman, Dept. Vice Commander Southern Md. Region and David Heredia, Vice Commander: Northern Central Region sought the office of Department of Maryland Sr. Vice Commander. An election was held and David Heredia was elected Department of Maryland Sr. Vice Commander.



Vincent Dulys voting.



John Countryman, Dept. Vice Commander-Southern Md. Region on left and Nikki Randolph, Dept. Vice Commander-Eastern Shore Region on right congratulate Lithuanian Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis on being awarded the "Best History Book Award."



John Countryman, Dept. Vice Commander-Southern Md. Region on left and Robert Ouellette Sr., Dept. Vice Commander-Western Md. Region on right congratulate Joseph Jankevicius on being awarded the "John Sloan Newsletter Award."

Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers 2022 - 2023

The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers Ceremony was held on September 17, 2023 at Lithuanian Hall. Past Department of Maryland Commander James Marchinke served as Installing Officer.

Over 120 people attended the event including many current and former American Legion National, Department and District officers. We were especially honored to have the Deputy Defense Attaché of the Republic of Lithuania Lt Col Valdemaras Andruškevičius join us.

Lithuanian Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis, who is also Curator of the Lithuanian Museum on the third floor of Lithuanian Hall, had the museum open. He gave attendees tours explaining Lithuanian history and rich culture. Henry also had a display table in back of the main hall with military items. Among the items was a mannequin dressed in a 1950s Post 154 uniform and a copy of his Lithuanian Post History book that won "The Best History Book" at the 2023 Department of Maryland American Legion Convention.

Lithuanian Post 154 Vice Commander and Installation Committee Chairman Gintaras Buivys read a Certificate of Recognition from Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott congratulating Lithuania Post 154 on its 80th anniversary.

The Post recognized and presented awards to several members of our community. Police Officer of the Year Certificate was presented to Arthur Fuog and Firefighter of the Year Certificate to Lt. Darryll P. Williams. Teacher of the Year award were presented to Baltimore City music teacher Jared Perry of Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts.

Legionnaire Balys Brasauskas was presented with an Updated Name Badge recognizing that he is the oldest member, at 98, of Lithuanian Post 154. Loreto Vogel, who has been volunteering at Lithuanian Post 154 events for many years was recognized with a certificate of appreciation. Henry Gaidis was presented with a Historian Officer Badge recognizing his service as Post 154 Historian since 2000.

Ava Welsh, graduate of Centennial High School and now attending High Point University in NC and Anton Uleckas, graduate of Mt. St. Joseph High School and now attending Mt. St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships.

Sadly, during the Post Everlasting Service, we said farewell to two Lithuanian Post 154 members who reported to The Supreme Commander. They are Lebanon War veteran Isabelle M. Slifer and Korean War veteran Vitas Siaurusaitis. May they rest in eternal peace. Thanks to Mark Zaruba for playing Taps at the Service.

The event concluded with the singing of *God Bless America* led by Vincent Dulys, enjoyment of a delicious meal served by Rasa Meeks and her team as attendees watched Lithuanian Folk Dance performances by the *Malunas* and *Metuva* Lithuanian folk dance groups.



Past Department of Maryland Commander James Marchinke swears in Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2023 - 2024. In picture from left: Commander James Marchinke, Joseph Jankevicius, Gintaras Buivys, Henry Gaidis, Augustinas Uleckas and Vincent Dulys.



Malunas Lithuanian Folk Dance Group

This Installation of Officers Ceremony would not be possible without the hard work of the many Legionnaires and volunteers who helped make it a success. All the work was done by volunteers, nobody was paid.

A sincere "Thank You" to Installation Chairman Gintaras Buivys for organizing the event, supplying the sound system and operating it effectively and to Vincent Dulys for performing Master of Ceremonies duties. Thanks also to Rasa Meeks and her helpers for preparing a delicious meal, to Gerry Wasnusi, Michael Valeika, Kazimeras Uleckas, David & Birute Gorrell for serving refreshments, to *Mituva* and *Malunas* Lithuanian Folk Dance Groups for their dance performances, to Lithuanian Hall management for allowing us to have this event in their beautiful main hall and to everyone who took part in the ceremony, set up, decorated and cleaned up after the event.

Joe Jankevicius
Commander

Lithuanian Post 154 Officers 2023 - 2024

Commander	Joseph 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

Membership

Department of Maryland has set Lithuanian Post 154 membership goal at 75. As of September 22, Post 154 had only 56 that have renewed. Fiscal Year 2024 started on July 1, 2023. All members should have received a renewal notice from National. So please renew now.

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. My address is on page 4.

Vincent Dulys,
Membership Chairman

Happy Birthday

October

Algirdas Brasauskas
Clarence Catterton
Charles Crovo
Milton Davis
Valentinas Drazdys
Stanley Eringis
Henry Gaidis
Michael Jacksonis
Howard Koontz
James Laucht
Robert Leonavicius
Gerald Smith
James Willis

November

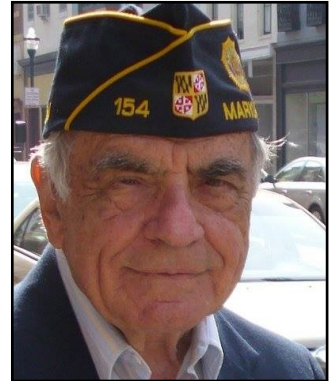
Wayne Callahan
John Garpstas
David Gorrell
Camilla Maybee
Anton Meisinger
Robert Mellendick
Thomas Sadauskas

December

Balys Brasauskas
Leon Lukas

Taps

Lithuanian Post 154 is sorry to inform you that fellow legionnaire Joseph Gaila, 93, passed away on September 12, 2023. He was a member of Lithuanian Post 154 since 1988. Lithuanian Post 154 members met for a Poppy Service to say "Farewell my fellow Legionnaire" to Joe prior to his burial at Crownsville Military Cemetery.



Joe was born in 1930 in Lithuania, he left his country in 1945 to escape Soviet occupation. In 1950 he emigrated to America and the following year was drafted into the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He received a BS in chemistry from Loyola College (MD). He worked as a chemist and technical director for various US and British beverage companies.



Joseph Gaila wearing the Order of Gediminas Presidential Award.

Active in the Lithuanian emigre community, Joe served as president of the American Lithuanian Community's central board from 1973 to 1976. He organized Lithuanian youth summer camps and held various leadership roles within the Catholic youth and student organization "Ateitis." Joe was also a radio announcer at Philadelphia's Voice of the Lithuanian Community and Baltimore's Lithuanian Melody Times radio programs. He was a regular contributor to the daily "Draugas" Lithuanian newspaper.

From 1993 - 1997 he served as the Lithuanian World Community representative in Lithuania. In 2003, the Lithuanian government honored his service to Lithuania by presenting him with the Gediminas Order. The Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas is the Lithuanian Presidential Award to honor the citizens of Lithuania for outstanding performance in civil and public office.

Joe was one of the most active members of the Lithuanian Hall for decades and a founding member of the Baltimore Chapter of the Lithuanian American Council. He was keynote speaker at various Lithuanian functions in many American and Canadian cities with large Lithuanian populations. He was keynote speaker at Baltimore Hall's gala 100 Year Anniversary celebration. Without doubt, he will be missed by Lithuanian Post 154 and the entire Lithuanian community.

Rest in peace my fellow Legionnaire.

Another Medal?

Vilnius City Council has awarded the title of "Patron of the City of Vilnius" to Lithuanian Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis in appreciation for the Lithuanian military collection he donated to the Lithuanian National Museum in 2021 (reported in the 1st Quarter 2021 issue of the Legionnaire). The "Patron" title is granted to individuals who have made significant contributions to enhance the city of Vilnius. The collection is currently on display in a wing of the Lithuanian National Museum in Vilnius and includes thousands items and is valued at several hundred thousand dollars.

Congratulations Henry!



Lithuanian Hall Reopened

Summer is over and Lithuanian Hall has returned to its normal schedule. It is open every Friday at 5 PM. Bring your family and friends to enjoy an imported Lithuanian beer with your delicious Lithuanian meal.

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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 & Reminders**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

November

Wed	01	All Saints Day
Sat	04	Four Frenchmen Service - 11 AM St. Mary's Cemetery 200 Homeland Ave. Baltimore 21210
Sun	05	Daylight Saving Time ends - set clocks back one hour
Tue	07	Election Day
Wed	08	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Fri	10	US Marine Corps Established (1775)
Fri	10	American Legion Auxiliary Birthday (1919)
Sat	11	Signing of WWI Armistice (1918)
Sat	11	Veterans Day
Sun	19	Department of Maryland Executive Committee Meeting - Harford Post #39 - 1 - 4 PM
Thu	23	Happy Thanksgiving Day
Wed	29	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

December

Sun	03	First Sunday of Advent
Tue	05	Somalia Campaign Began (1992)
Thu	07	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Thu	07	Hanukkah Begins at sunset
Fri	08	War declared on Japan (1941)
Mon	11	Germany & Italy declared war on U.S. (1941)
Wed	13	Pearl Harbor Day
Fri	15	Last Day of Hanukkah
Wed	20	U.S. Space Force Birthday
Wed	20	Panama Operation Just Cause 1989
Thu	21	First Day of Winter
Sun	24	Christmas Eve / Lithuanian Kūčios
Mon	25	Merry Christmas
Wed	27	No Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting
Sun	31	Official End of WWII (1946)
Sun	31	New Year's Eve

January, 2024

Mon	01	New Year's Day
Wed	10	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Mon	15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Wed	31	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM