



*The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154
For God and Country*



2nd Quarter 2016

Legionnaire

Commander's Message

Lithuanian Post 154 had a busy first quarter. Post members attended Baltimore District's Four Chaplains Service at Saint Alphonsus Church, our Color Guard posted the Colors at the Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration and several of us attended The American Legion National Commander's Reception on Kent Island. I would like to thank all Post members who attended these events and especially thank those who took part.

I wish to congratulate Richard Seymour and Vitas Siaurusaitis for their years of membership in The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154. Richard received a Certificate from The American Legion National recognizing him for 70 years of continuous membership and Vitas received a Certificate for 50 years of continuous membership. Congratulations!

Lithuanian Post 154 will participate at the 44th Annual Baltimore Lithuanian Festival. Again, the Festival will be held at the Catonsville Armory. Please note, the Festival this year will be the weekend following Mother's Day, Saturday May 14 and Sunday May 15, rather than on Mother's Day weekend as in the past. Our Post will be presenting the Colors on Sunday at noon. As in the past, we will have a table offering information about our Post and US military services. Hopefully we will be able to recruit a few members to our Post during this event.

Nominations of Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2016 - 2017 will take place at the April and May Post General Meetings with elections at the May meeting. Nominations for Delegates to the American Legion Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City will take place at the May and June Post General Meetings with elections at the June meeting. I urge you to attend.

I hope you have a safe, fun filled summer.

Joe Jankevicius
Commander

Four Chaplains Service

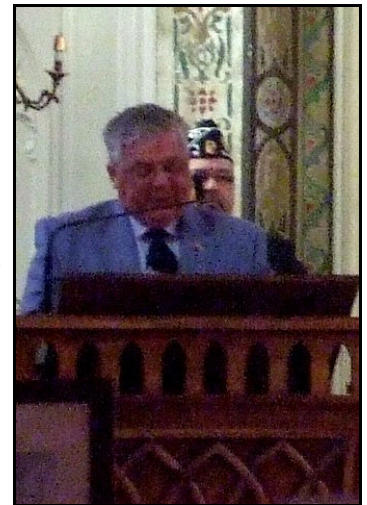
The American Legion Baltimore District held its annual Four Chaplains Service at St. Alphonsus Church on Sunday, February 7th. The service honored the brave deeds of four Army chaplains aboard USAT Dorchester. On February 3, 1943 USAT Dorchester was torpedoed by a German U boat. Chaplains Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed, calmed panicking passengers and directed them to lifeboats and safety. Their actions helped save 230 of the 902 passengers aboard. Survivors reported that when the life jacket locker was empty, the four chaplains gave up their own life jackets to save others.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to the four chaplains and presented to their next of kin. A posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, never before given and never to be given again, was authorized by Congress and awarded by President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961.

Though this was an American Legion Baltimore District sponsored event, Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires played significant roles at the service. Our Adjutant, Vincent Dulys was the chairman, master of ceremonies and conducted the POW/MIA service. Past Lithuanian Post 154 Commander John Maskavich was the lector. Lithuanian Post members Gintaras Buivyis and John Maskavich participated in the POW/MIA Remembrance Service. Lithuanian Post 154 member Deacon Hugh Mills assisted Monsignor Arthur Bastress celebrate Mass.



Gintaras Buivyis placing the Killed in Action flag on the empty chair.



Chairman Vincent Dulys conducting the POW/MIA Service

Membership

Our Post achieved its 100% membership goal for Fiscal Year 2016 due to the addition of new members and transfers from other Posts. We still have several members who have not renewed even though I have sent them several notices.

Fiscal Year 2017 will start on July 1, 2016. You should be getting a reminder letter to renew your membership for 2017 from National in June. Please send your 2017 membership dues of \$30 when you get the notice.

Vincent Dulys
Membership
Chairman

Happy Birthday

April

William Emerson
Michael Keiser
Errol Markowitz
John Maskavich Jr.
Algirdas Paplonskis
Robert Parks
Vilius Ramunas
Algirdas Siaurusaitis
Edward Wilson III
Edward Yungaitis

May

William F. Dillon III
Bernard Galinaitis
Joseph Jankevicius
Valentinas Raugas

June

Walter Cooper
David Cunningham
Gintaras Dambrava
Stasys Kligys
Anthony Leketa
Cynthia Leketa
John Matulonis
Gilbert Miller
Albert Penkauskas

Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration

On February 27, 2016, Baltimore's Lithuanian Community celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day. Our Post was invited to present the Colors at the celebration. I wish to thank Raymond Beares, Balys Brasauskas, Gintaras Buivys, Walter Cooper, Henry Gaidis and John Potts for volunteering for the Color Guard.



Following the opening ceremony, three individuals were recognized for their decades of service to Baltimore's Lithuanian Community. Two of them, Balys Brasauskas and Henry Gaidis, are Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires and the other, Vytas Dulys, is our Post 154 Adjutant's brother. Congratulations gentlemen!

The Independence Day Celebration included a discussion of Lithuanian History, greetings from the Lithuanian Embassy, from Maryland's Governor and local politicians. The celebration concluded with live entertainment that extended into the night.

Joe Jankevicius
Commander

National Commander Reception

On March 19, 2016, Lithuanian Post 154 members Vincent Dulys, John Maskavich, Joe Jankevicius and Augustinas Uleckas attended a dinner reception honoring National Commander Dale Barnett at Kent Island Post 278 in Stevensville, MD. In his upbeat, motivating remarks about The American Legion, Commander Barnett pointed out that The American Legion is making a positive impact on America's youths by encouraging their participation in programs such as Boys State, Boy Scouts of America, Legion-sponsored sports activities and numerous others where they learn to compete, cooperate and command, The Legion's National Emergency Fund has helped thousands of Legionnaires recover from floods, hurricanes and other disasters.



**National
Commander
Dale Barnett**

Commander Barnett's testimony to Congress was instrumental in eliminating bonuses to VA employees based on falsified performance documents. He said the VA bureaucracy lacks accountability and vowed to continue to lobby Congress to make the VA serve Veterans rather than itself.

TWO \$1,000 College Scholarships

Lithuanian Post 154 will grant two \$1,000 scholarships in 2016. 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 2016 and entering college this fall. Application forms are available at Post General Meetings or can be mailed to you. Contact Education Chairman John Maskavich at (410) 747-9628 or email John at jmaskavich@gmail.com. Completed applications must be received by July 16, 2016.

Windmills International Dance Festival

The *Malunas* Lithuanian Folk Dance group will be hosting the *Windmills International Dance Festival*. Polish, Gypsy, Estonian, Romanian, Ukrainian, English, Austrian, German, Swiss, Russian and Lithuanian Folk dances will be performed. There will also be accordion, bagpipe, balalaika and melodica musical performances. These performances will be followed by live ballroom music for your dancing pleasure .

Where: Lithuanian Hall,
851 Hollins St
Baltimore, MD 21201

When: Saturday, April 9
1 to 6 PM Folk Dancing with a
Musical Intermission at 2:30 to 3:30 PM
6 to 8 PM Ballroom Music & Dancing
6 to 8 PM Dance Workshop
8 PM to ? Karaoke

Admission: Adults \$10, Children under 8 FREE

Parking will be available at the University of MD Biopark Garage until 11 PM. The garage is two blocks away from Lithuanian Hall on the corner of Baltimore and Poppleton streets.

Contact (443) 694-8161 for tickets & table

XV Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival

Baltimore will be hosting the XV Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in 2016. Over 1,600 Lithuanian dancers from all over the world, accompanied by their families and friends, will swarm Baltimore.

Where: Baltimore's Royal Farms Arena
201 W Baltimore St,
Baltimore, MD 21201

When: Sunday, July 3, 2016

More information and Tickets:
<http://sokiusvente2016.org>

44th Annual Lithuanian Festival of Baltimore

Where: Catonsville Armory
130 Mellor Ave. Catonsville, MD

When: Saturday and Sunday,
May 14 and 15, 2016
from 11 AM to 6 PM.

Admission: Adults \$5,
Children under 12 FREE!

Lithuanian Post 154 will post the Colors on Sunday, May 15, at noon. Plan now to attend with your family and friends. Traditional Lithuanian crafts, music and folk dances, along with lots of Lithuanian food and drink will be available.

Department Convention

The American Legion
Department of Maryland Convention
July 11 - 15
Ocean City, Maryland

Accommodations for delegates and alternates are available at "Bradley on the Bay" condominium building A, unit 304, 3901 Ocean Highway.
Contact Adjutant Vincent Dulys to coordinate accommodations.
(410) 960-7874

Stop by the condominium, even if you don't go to the convention but just decide to visit Ocean City during that week.

On Monday, the day before the official Convention starts, there will be a Fish Fry behind the Convention building at 4 PM.

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."
— Plato

"If you have ten thousand regulations you destroy all respect for the law."
— Winston Churchill

Contact Information

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Meetings Information

Post General Meeting

Second Wednesday of
the month except July
at 8 PM

Lithuanian Hall
851 Hollins Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Exec. Committee Meeting

Fourth Wednesday of the
month at 1 PM
Spirits West Country Club
2601 Wilkens Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21223

Calendar & Reminders

April

- Fri 01 April Fools' Day
Wed 06 US entered WW I (1917)
Wed 13 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Initial nominations of Lithuanian Post 154 officers for 2016 -2017
Fri 15 Emancipation Day
Mon 18 Income Tax Returns due
Fri 22 Passover begins in the evening
Wed 27 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting -
Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Sat 30 Passover ends in the evening
Sat 30 Vietnam War ended (1975)

May

- Sat 07 Unconditional surrender of all WWII German forces signed (1945)
Sun 08 Mother's Day
Sun 08 V-E Day, Victory in Europe celebrated by US and Britain (1945)
Wed 11 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Nominations and election of Lithuanian Post 154 officers for 2016 -2017
Initial nominations of Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates to
The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention
Sat 14 Lithuanian Festival at Catonsville Armory - 11 AM to 6 PM
130 Mellor Avenue, Catonsville, MD
Sun 15 Lithuanian Festival at Catonsville Armory - 11 AM to 6 PM
Formal Ceremony at noon - Lithuanian Post 154 will present Colors
Sat 15 Women's Army Corps Founded (1942)
Sat 21 Armed Forces Day
Wed 25 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting -
Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Mon 30 Memorial Day - American Legion Baltimore District Service at
The National Cemetery - Frederick Ave. - Catonsville, MD - 10:30 AM

June

- Wed 08 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Nominations and election of Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and
Alternates to The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention
Tue 14 Flag Day
Tue 14 US Army Founded (1775)
Sun 19 Father's Day
Wed 22 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting -
Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

July

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

- Mon 11 Fish Fry behind Convention Center - 4 - 6 PM
Tue 12 Legion College classes at Convention Center - 8 AM - 12 Noon
Official Opening of Convention - 8 PM
Wed 13 Convention meetings - 8 AM
Memorial Service - 8 PM
Thu 14 Convention meetings - 8 AM
Fri 15 Convention meetings - 8 AM

- Mon 04 Independence Day
Wed 13 **No Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting**
Wed 27 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting -
Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM