



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



# *Legionnaire*

4th Quarter 2016

## **Commander's Message**

Lithuanian Post 154 and Baltimore's Lithuanian Community were busy last quarter.

It is believed that on the first weekend in July, Baltimore welcomed more Lithuanian visitors at one time than ever before. Approximately six thousand Lithuanian visitors came to Baltimore for the 15th Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival. The Lithuanian Dance Festival is held every 4 years in a North American city, and this year it was Baltimore's turn. Though there were parties and events at the major Baltimore downtown hotels and Lithuanian Hall all weekend, the main event was at the Royal Farms Arena on July 3rd. Nearly 4,000 spectators watched 1,800 Lithuanian folk dancers perform. The dance floor was filled with 33 folk dance groups from the US, 6 from Canada and 5 from other countries. Spectators were rewarded with 3 hours of nearly continuous great entertainment. The Dance Festival was a huge success.

Our Post received awards for our newsletter and for reaching 100% membership goal at the American Legion Department of Maryland Convention. With your help, we can do it again next year. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so now by sending Vincent Dulys your \$30 membership dues.

Many, many hours of planning and work went into our Installation of Officers Ceremony. Most of the work was done by Vincent Dulys and Gintaras Buivys with help from many Post members and Lithuanian Community volunteers. I wish to thank you all for an outstanding job.

Our Post has 98 members, but I have email addresses for only 42. If you have not been getting emails from me, then I don't have your address. Please email me a note so I can add you to my email distribution list. Occasionally I get American Legion notices (such as the adjacent article) that I forward to our members. I also forward VA and military articles that I feel would be of interest to legionnaires. I will not forward jokes and will not share your email address outside of the Legion.

On behalf of the officers of The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Joe Jankevicius  
Commander

## **The Armed Forces Retirement Home**

"The Armed Forces Retirement Home - Washington, DC - the premier retirement community for eligible American veterans - is now accepting applications.

AFRH offers residents an affordable lifestyle on a scenic, wooded campus just minutes from downtown Washington, DC - home to museums, monuments, and a host of entertainment, sports and other cultural options.

Many veterans choose to live at AFRH for the superior medical, dental and vision care offered, with amenities that include: private rooms with a shower, cable TV, three delicious daily meals prepared by licensed nutritionists in our modern dining facility, a wellness program and deluxe fitness center, movie theater, bowling center and hobby shops.

Services include recreational activities, resident day trips, a full-service library, barber shop, 24 / 7 security, beauty salon, computer center, mailboxes, banking services, campus PX/BX and off-campus shuttle and public transportation.

### **Persons are eligible to become AFRH residents who:**

- Served as members of the Armed Forces, at least one-half of whose service was not active commissioned service (other than as a warrant officer or limited-duty officer).
- Are 60 years of age or over; and were discharged or released under honorable conditions with 20 or more years of active service.
- Are determined to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of a service-connected disability incurred in the line of duty in the Armed Forces.
- Served in a war theater during a time of war declared by Congress or were eligible for hostile fire special pay; were released from service in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions; and are determined to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of injuries, disease or disability.
- Served in a women's component of the Armed Forces before June 12, 1948; and are determined to be eligible for admission because of compelling personal circumstances."

"Veterans must be able to live independently upon admission to the AFRH. This means being able to care for personal needs, attend a dining facility for meals, and keep all medical appointments.

Fees for independent living are 40 % of total current income (not to exceed \$1,425 / month).

For further information or to request an application, visit: <https://www.afrh.gov/apply> or contact the Office of Public Affairs at: [admissions@afrh.gov](mailto:admissions@afrh.gov) 1-800-422-9988."

Source: Armed Forces Retirement Home

## Membership

Lithuanian Post 154's membership goal set by Department for 2017 has been increased by one to 99. As of September 27th, we have 71 paid members.

If you have not yet paid your 2017 dues, please do so now. You can renew your membership on the internet by going to the American Legion National website at <http://www.legion.org/renew>. If you care to renew by mail, make a \$30 check payable to The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 and mail it to my address that is on the last page of this newsletter.

Vincent Dulys,  
Membership  
Chairman

## Happy Birthday

### October

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

### November

Joseph Astasauskas  
Wayne Callahan  
John Garpstas  
David Gorrell  
Camilla Maybee  
Anton Meisinger  
Robert Mellendick  
Thomas Sadauskas  
Walter Schmidbauer

### December

John Antoniak  
Balys Brasauskas  
John Maskavich  
Paul Salvetti  
Richard Seymour

## Department of Maryland Convention

Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys, John Maskavich and Augustinas Uleckas attended the American Legion Department of Maryland 2016 Convention in Ocean City last July.

Lithuanian Post 154 Adjutant, Vincent Dulys and Finance Officer Gintaras Buivys participated in the Post Everlasting Service at which Maryland Legionnaires who reported to the Supreme Commander this past year were *remembered*.

Thanks to Lithuanian Post 154 members who paid their dues or joined our Post by end of last year, our Post received two membership awards. We were awarded the "100% Membership Award" for reaching our Department-assigned goal of 98. For doing so by December 31, 2015 the Post was awarded the "Outstanding Commander" cap.

Lithuanian Post 154's "Legionnaire" newsletter, in competition with other posts with up to 150 members, was awarded the "John Sloan Newsletter Trophy" at the American Legion Department of Maryland Convention. Thanks to everyone who provided material, suggestions and helped make it a prize winning publication. A special THANK YOU goes to Richard Seymour for applying his excellent editing skills.

Joe Jankevicius  
Editor

## Lithuanian Post 154 Officers 2016 - 2017

Commander  
Vice Commander  
Adjutant  
Finance Officer  
Service Officer  
Chaplain  
Judge Advocate  
Historian  
Sergeant At Arms  
Executive Committee

Joe Jankevicius  
Joe Astasauskas  
Vincent Dulys  
Gintaras Buivys  
Augustinas Uleckas  
John Maskavich  
Ray Beares  
Henry Gaidis  
Toivo Tagamets  
John Potts  
Vitas Siaurusaitis

## 100 Club

Lithuanian Post 154 will hold a 100 Club fundraiser this December. One hundred \$25 tickets will be sold and participants will have a chance at two \$40 cash awards per week...for ten weeks starting December 21st. Winning numbers will be determined by the last two digits of the Wednesday mid-day and evening 3 digit Maryland Lottery. A party with hot buffet, refreshments and additional prizes of \$300, \$200, \$100 as well as door prizes will be held after ten weeks. The party will be on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 1 to 4 PM at Tropic Thunder, 44 Thomas Ave. Brooklyn Park, MD 21225. Please call me at (410) 987-5275 if you have any questions or wish to reserve your two digit number.

Vincent Dulys  
Fundraising Chairman

## Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers 2016 - 2017



Past Department Commander Carolynn G. Baker, standing at the podium, swears in Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2016 - 2017. Standing behind her from left, are Joseph Jankevicius, Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys, John Maskavich, Henry Gaidis, Augustinas Uleckas, John Potts, Vitas Siaurusaitis and Toivo Tagamets. Seated from left are Lewis Trott (Alternate National Executive Committeeman ), Mike Mooney (National Executive Committeeman) and James Marchinke (Departmentt 1st Vice Commander).

The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers Ceremony was held on September 18, 2016 at Lithuanian Hall. Past Department Commander Carolynn G. Baker served as our Installing Officer.

Approximately 130 people attended the event that included three representatives from the Lithuanian Embassy and many American Legion past and current National, Department and Baltimore District officers.

We were especially honored to have Lithuanian Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Mindaugas Zickus, Defense Attaché Colonel Alvydas Siuparis and Deputy Defense Attaché LTC Dainius Kaunas from the Lithuanian Embassy attend. Colonel Siuparis mentioned in his remarks that he was pleased to see that members of Lithuanian Post 154 and the members of Baltimore's Lithuanian Community have not forgotten their Lithuanian language, heritage, traditions and customs.

The Post recognized and presented awards to several members of our community: Police Officer Detective Sharod Watson, Fireman Lieutenant Gary Stoltz, and Teacher Kathleen R. Maskavich received certificates and gift cards. Vytautas Dulys was presented a certificate and a restaurant gift card in gratitude for his many years of support of Lithuanian Post 154 and Baltimore's Lithuanian Community. In gratitude for his many years of service as Historian for Lithuanian Post 154 and Curator of Baltimore's Lithuanian Museum, Henry Gaidis was presented a US flag that had flown over Ft. McHenry.

Katie Jankevicius, who is attending Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas, was awarded a \$1,000 Collegiate Scholarship.

Matthew Scuderi, a senior at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney, Maryland, was sponsored to Boys State by Lithuanian Post 154. He described his experience at Boys State last June to our audience. Boys State is The American Legion program in which nearly 200 high school boys spent a week living at McDaniel College in Westminster learning how US local and state governments are established and operate. He said the 5 AM to 9 PM days were not just filled with study and politics. The boys made friends by working together on projects, playing sports and having a talent show. He said it was a week that he will remember and cherish forever and will encourage his cousin to apply in two years when he becomes a senior.

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. A sincere "Thank You" to Monsignor Bastress for his support and prayers, Deanna Howes for singing the Lithuanian and US National Anthems, Mark Zaruba for playing *Taps* during the Memorial Service and to the *Malunas* Folk Dance Group for their dance performances. Thanks also to Rasa Meeks and her team for preparing a delicious meal and the Dulys clan for serving refreshments. I am also grateful to the 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 the hall after the ceremony.

Vincent Dulys  
Installation Chairman



Lithuanian Defense Attaché Colonel Alvydas Siuparis addresses the audience as Carolynn G. Baker, Vincent Dulys and Joseph Jankevicius listen.



Malunas Lithuanian Folk Dance Group



## Contact Information

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## Meetings Information

### Post General Meeting

8 PM on every 2nd  
Wednesday of the month  
except July at  
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

### October

Sun	02	Rosh Hashanah begins after sundown
Fri	07	War on Terror Began (2001)
Mon	10	US Naval Academy Established (1845)
Mon	10	Columbus Day Observed
Tue	11	Yom Kippur begins after sundown
Wed	12	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Wed	12	Columbus Day
Thu	13	US Navy Established (1775)
Sun	23	Granada Campaign Began (1983)
Mon	24	United Nations Day
Wed	26	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Mon	31	Happy Halloween

### November

Sat	05	Baltimore District 4 Frenchmen Service - St. Mary's Cemetery - 233 Homeland Avenue, Baltimore MD - 11 AM
Sun	06	Daylight Saving Time ends - set clocks back one hour
Sun	06	Lithuanian Post 154 - Back to God Mass - Post 154 presents Colors. St. Alphonsus Church - 8:30 AM
Tue	08	Election Day - Get out and VOTE
Wed	09	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	10	US Marine Corps Established (1775)
Thu	10	Baltimore District Meeting - Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Post 187 - 7 PM
Fri	11	Signing of WWI Armistice (1918)
Fri	11	Veterans Day - Baltimore District Veterans Day Service - Northeast Post 285 - 12 Noon
Sun	20	Department Executive Committee Meeting - Post 206 - Chesapeake Beach, MD - 1 - 4 PM
Thu	24	Happy Thanksgiving Day
Sun	27	First Sunday of Advent
Wed	30	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

### December

Mon	05	Somalia Campaign Began (1992)
Wed	07	Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance - Baltimore District Service at War Memorial - Time TBA
Thu	08	War declared on Japan (1941)
Sun	11	Germany & Italy declared war on U.S. (1941)
Wed	14	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Wed	21	First Day of Winter
Wed	21	Start of Lithuanian Post 154 100 Club Fundraiser
Sat	24	Hanukkah Begins at sunset
Sat	24	Christmas Eve / Lithuanian Kūčios
Sun	25	Merry Christmas
Wed	28	No Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting
Sat	31	Official End of WWII (1946)
Sat	31	New Year's Eve

### January, 2017

Sun	01	New Year's Day
Wed	11	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	12	Baltimore District Meeting - Gen. Joseph Haller Post 95 - 7 PM
Mon	16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Wed	25	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM