



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



1st Quarter 2017

Legionnaire

Commander's Message

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas. Unfortunately, this year as last year, the world was shocked by another terrorist attack during the Christmas season. Last year Islamist Terrorists killed innocent civilians in San Bernardino and Paris; this year, on December 19, a truck driven by an ISIS inspired Islamist terrorist plowed into a Christmas market in Berlin killing and wounding many. Though President Obama declared the end of the War on Terror in 2013, he failed to get the terrorists' agreement that it was so. The administration has called Islamist Terrorist attacks "workplace violence" or civil violations to be handled by police and US courts. Ridiculous "Rules of Engagement" prevent US military from shooting back if being fired upon from a mosque without obtaining approval from headquarters. Our troops are essentially being told to fight with their hands tied behind their back.

President-elect Trump promised to rebuild the military and defeat ISIS. Based on the no-nonsense people President-elect Trump has nominated to his cabinet, it appears he has every intent to fill these campaign promises. I expect our military "Rules of Engagement" will be one of the first items to change after January 20, 2017.

Don't forget to attend the Baltimore District Four Chaplains Service on Sunday, February 5, 2017 at St. Alphonsus Church at 10 AM. Our Adjutant, Vincent Dulys is the chairman for the event. Let us try to fill the church with Legionnaires.

If you enjoy folk dancing, I urge you to come to the Windmills International Folk Dance Festival at Lithuanian Hall at noon on Saturday, April 1, 2017. Everyone I spoke with after last year's program praised it highly. Come join me for an entertaining afternoon at Lithuanian Hall on April 1.

On behalf of the officers of Lithuanian Post 154, I wish you and your family a safe, happy and healthy 2017.

Joe Jankevicius
Commander

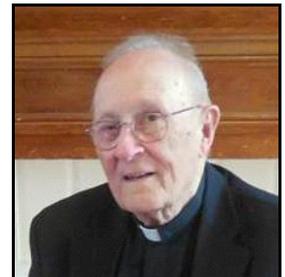
Back to God Mass



Lithuanian Post 154 Color Guard retires the Colors after Mass. Leading is Vincent Dulys followed by Joe Jankevicius, Gintaras Buivys, Howard Koontz, John Potts and Toivo Tagemets.

Lithuanian Post 154's annual Back to God Mass was held Sunday, November 8, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church. This service was started by Father Dranginis over 30 years ago to remind us that we should keep God in our lives as suggested in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion that begins with "For God and Country..."

Following Mass, Lithuanian Post 154 members and St. Alphonsus Church parishioners joined Monsignor Bastress in celebrating his 90th birthday. He is the oldest pastor in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.



Monsignor Bastress

The appointment of Monsignor Bastress as pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in 1998 was a true blessing for St. Alphonsus. Though attendance and weekly collections are not what they used to be in the 50s when most parishioners lived in the city, somehow Monsignor Bastress has been able to raise funds for badly needed major repairs to church roof, windows, organ, etc. Though repairs to the building were desperately needed, perhaps his biggest accomplishment has been convincing church leadership into designating St. Alphonsus a National Shrine. Getting St. Alphonsus named a National Shrine virtually guarantees that St. Alphonsus will not be closed. Due to poor attendance and lack of clergy, eleven Lithuanian churches in Pennsylvania were closed during the past 10 years, Thanks to Monsignor Bastress' efforts, it is unlikely that St Alphonsus Shrine will suffer the same fate.



Membership

As of December 22, 2016 we had 85 paid members. Our goal set by Department is 99. We can reach it if all current members pay their dues and we get one new member.

If you have not yet paid your membership dues, please send me a \$30 check made out to The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154. My address is on page 4.

Vincent Dulys
Membership
Chairman

Happy Birthday

January

Patrick Dohlus
Charles Gross
Bernard Milosavich
William Morrison
Stephen Mueller
Ronald Price
John Potts
Vytautas Ramunas
Stanley Ruby
Kenneth Shillenn

February

Kirk Bauer
Jeffrey Burton
Richard Jacobs

March

George Adams
Fred Kaminski
Richard Leffler
Gediminas Naujokaitis
Augustinas Uleckas

Boys State Applications Available Now

Maryland Boys State 2017 will be held at McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland from Sunday, June 18 thru Saturday, June 24.

The American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. To be eligible for Boys State, a youth must be a male who has successfully completed his junior year in high school by the beginning of Boys State. Participants will learn how a democratic government should work, through classroom instruction and by becoming a part of the operation of their Boys State local, county and state governments. The boys will hold elections to determine where participants will serve in various offices in Boys State governments. During the week-long event, attendees will reside in a McDaniel College dormitory. In some respects, it will be like a mini basic training experience that we went through when we joined the US military. Participant activities will include exercise, classroom lessons, legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, and assemblies...as well as band, chorus and recreational programs.

If you know of a boy who will finish his junior year of high school this summer who would like to attend, contact Vince Dulys or Joe Jankevicius by April 1st.

More information and applications can be found on The American Legion Department of Maryland website <http://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate/>

Applications have to be submitted by May 15th.

Windmills International Folk Dance Festival

Lithuanian Hall and the Malunas Lithuanian Folk Dance Group will be sponsoring the second annual Windmills International Folk Dance Festival on April 1, 2017. Last year's festival was a huge success and plans are in the works to surpass it in 2017. Last year dancers performed folk dances from Estonia, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Austria, Romania, Switzerland, Poland and England. The same dancers and perhaps a few more are expected in 2017. Program details have not yet been finalized pending confirmations from some dance groups. Look for advertisements in a month or so for details.

American Legion Department of Maryland Scholarship

The American Legion, Department of Maryland scholarship application is now available on the Department website: <http://www.mdlegion.org/Forms/genschlo.pdf>

To be considered for a scholarship, the applicant must:

- Be a child or a grandchild of a veteran.
- Be a Maryland resident.
- Have not yet attained their 20th birthday by January 1, 2017.
- Intend to be a full-time student when he/she enters college (at least 12 credits a semester).
- Submit the completed application, along with essay and transcript, to The American Legion, Department of Maryland before April 8, 2017.

TWO \$1,000 College Scholarships

Lithuanian Post 154 will grant two \$1,000 scholarships in 2017. 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 2017 and entering college that 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 15, 2017.

The Compassionate “Mad Dog”

President-elect Donald Trump has nominated retired Marine Gen. James Mattis, known affectionately by his troops as “Mad Dog Mattis,” to be Secretary of Defense. Gen. Mattis got his nickname as a result of his direct, plain spoken, gets the job done motivation speeches to his troops. According to military historian Max Boot, General Mattis “is one of the best-regarded generals in the modern history of the Marine Corps,” Donald Trump called General Mattis “a true general’s general.”

Though obviously General Mattis is a tough guy, there is a Christmas story of his compassionate side on the internet. Stars and Stripes newspaper’s “Rumor Doctor” investigated the story and found it to be true. Here it is:

“The story goes that Mattis stood duty on Christmas back when he was a brigadier general so that a younger Marine could spend the holiday with his family. Since the privilege of rank makes it extremely rare for general officers to pull duty for their subordinates, The Doctor was intrigued.”

“The Doctor was able to find out what happened from retired Marine Gen. Charles Krulak, who was Commandant when the story took place. Every Christmas during his tenure, Krulak delivered cookies to every Marine duty post around Washington and Quantico, Va. Back in 1998, he was making his final delivery to Marine Corps Combat Development Command headquarters at Quantico when he asked the Marine on duty who the officer of the day was. ‘The young Marine said, “Sir, it’s Brigadier General Mattis.”’ Krulak thought the Marine had misunderstood him, so he asked again, but he got the same answer.

‘I looked around the duty hut and in the back, there were two cots: One for the officer of the day and one for the young Marine. I said, “OK, let me cut through all of this: Who was the officer who slept in that bed last night?” ‘And the Marine said, “Sir, Brigadier General Mattis.” At that moment, Mattis walked around the corner. ‘So I said to him, “Jim, what are you standing the duty for?” ‘And he said, “Sir, I looked at the duty roster for today and there was a young major who had it who is married and had a family; and so I’m a bachelor, I thought why should the major miss out on the fun of having Christmas with his family, and so I took the duty for him.”’

Never before or since has Krulak run into a general officer standing duty on Christmas Day.

‘I think it says volumes about Jim Mattis and his leadership style,’ Krulak said. ‘He did it very unobtrusively. He just took the duty.’”

By Jeff Schogol
Stars and Stripes
Published: February 16, 2011

How Our Taxes Work

President-elect Donald Trump has promised to cut taxes for every taxpayer. Some in the media have called his plan a plan to reward the rich. That statement reminded me of the following tax system explanation that has been floating around the internet for years.

“Suppose that every day, ten men go out for beer and the bill for all ten comes to \$100. If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this...

The first four men (the poorest) would pay nothing.

The fifth would pay \$1.

The sixth would pay \$3.

The seventh would pay \$7.

The eighth would pay \$12.

The ninth would pay \$18.

The tenth man (the richest) would pay \$59.

The ten men drank in the bar every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement, until one day, the owner threw them a curve ball. “Since you are all such good customers,” he said, “I’m going to reduce the cost of your daily beer by \$20”.

Drinks for the ten men would now cost just \$80.

The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes.

How could they divide the \$20 windfall so that everyone would get his fair share?

So, the bar owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each man’s bill by a higher percentage the poorer he was, to follow the principle of the tax system they had been using, and he proceeded to work out the amounts he suggested that each should now pay.

And so the fifth man, like the first four, now paid nothing (100% saving).

The sixth now paid \$2 instead of \$3 (33% saving).

The seventh now paid \$5 instead of \$7 (28% saving).

The eighth now paid \$9 instead of \$12 (25% saving).

The ninth now paid \$14 instead of \$18 (22% saving).

The tenth now paid \$50 instead of \$59 (15% saving).

Each of the six was better off than before. But, once outside the bar, the men began to compare their savings. “I only got a dollar out of the \$20 saving,” declared the sixth man. He pointed to the tenth man, “but he got \$9!” “Yeah, that’s right,” exclaimed the fifth man. “I only saved a dollar too. It’s unfair that he received nine times more benefit than me!” “That’s true!” shouted the seventh man. “Why should he get \$9 back, when I got only \$2? The wealthy get all the breaks!” “Wait a minute,” yelled the first four men in unison, “we didn’t get anything at all. This new tax system exploits the poor!”

The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up. The next night the tenth man didn’t show up for drinks, so the nine sat down and had their beers without him. But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered something important. They didn’t have enough money between all of them for even half of the bill!

The people who already pay the highest taxes will naturally get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy, and they just may not show up anymore. In fact, they might start drinking overseas, where the atmosphere is somewhat friendlier.”

Author unknown.

Contact Information

COMMANDER

Joe Jankevicius
624 Oak Tree Rd
Westminster, MD 21157
JoeJankevicius@gmail.com

ADJUTANT

Vincent T. Dulys
616 Cedarwood Lane
Crownsville, MD 21032
(410) 987-5275
Vincentas@verizon.net

SERVICE OFFICER

Augustinas Uleckas
7733 Lee Drive
Pasedena, MD 21122
(410) 437-2546
avuleckas@gmail.com

EDITOR

Joe Jankevicius
624 Oak Tree Rd
Westminster, MD 21157
JoeJankevicius@gmail.com

Meeting 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

January

Sun	01	New Year's Day
Wed	11	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	12	Baltimore District Meeting - Joseph Haller Post 95 - 7 PM
Mon	16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Observed)
Tue	17	Persian Gulf War Began (1991)
Wed	25	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Fri	27	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)

February

Wed	01	National Freedom Day
Thu	02	Groundhog Day
Sun	05	Baltimore District Four Chaplains Service - St. Alphonsus Church - 10 AM
Wed	08	Boy Scouts of America founded (1910)
Wed	08	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Sun	12	Lincoln's Birthday
Tue	14	St. Valentine's Day
Sun	19	Department Executive Committee Meeting - Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD 21843 - 1 PM
Mon	20	Presidents' Day, George Washington's Birthday Observed
Wed	22	George Washington's Birthday
Wed	22	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Sun	26	100 Club Party - Tropic Thunder - 44 Thomas Ave. - Brooklyn Park 21225 - 1 PM

March

Wed	01	Ash Wednesday
Fri	03	"The Star Spangled Banner" made US National Anthem (1931)
Sun	05	Department Oratorical Contest - Towson University - 11 AM
Wed	08	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Sun	12	Girl Scouts of America founded (1912)
Sun	12	Daylight Saving Time Begins - Set clock ahead one hour
Fri	17	St. Patrick's Day
Sat	18	National Commander's Banquet - Dewey Loman Post 109 - 1610 Old Sulphur Spring Rd. - Arbutus, MD - 5 PM
Sun	19	Iraq War began (2003)
Mon	20	Spring begins
Wed	22	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

April

Sat	01	April Fools' Day
Sat	01	Windmills International Dance Festival - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Thu	06	US entered WW I (1917)
Sun	09	Palm Sunday
Mon	10	Passover begins at sundown
Wed	12	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Fri	14	Good Friday
Sun	16	Easter Sunday
Mon	17	Emancipation Day
Tue	18	Income Tax Returns due
Tue	18	Passover ends in the evening
Wed	26	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Sun	30	Vietnam War ended (1975)