



The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154
For God and Country



1st Quarter 2019

Legionnaire

Commander's Message

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a joyous Christmas.

At the November's Executive Committee Meeting a suggestion was made and accepted to move the Post General Meetings to daytime. All of the "regular" General Meeting attendees are retired and some of the members are reluctant to drive at night, especially to downtown Baltimore. Since we need to give the Department formal advance notice of the change, the January meeting will still be held at 8 PM as before. Subsequent meetings will be at 11 AM at Lithuanian Hall on the 2nd Wednesday in March, May, June, August, September and November. Executive Committee Meetings will continue to be held each month on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Spirits West at 1 PM.

I thank all of you who attended our Post's Back to God Mass at St. Alphonsus Church on October 14 and especially the Post members who participated in the Posting of the Colors,

On behalf of the officers of Lithuanian Post 154, I wish you and your family a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous 2019.

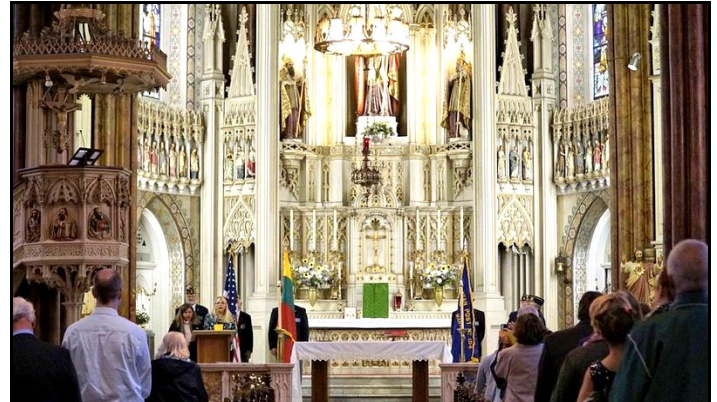
Joe Jankevicius
 Commander

Lithuanian Language Mass at St. Alphonsus

Due to the perseverance and outstanding coordination effort by Joana Buivys, Holy Mass completely in the Lithuanian language is returning to St. Alphonsus Church. She found a Lithuanian priest, Father Danielius Staniškis, at St. Francis de Sales Church in Salisbury, Maryland and persuaded him to visit the Shrine of St Alphonsus to celebrate Lithuanian Mass on a regular basis. Father Staniškis has agreed to drive to Baltimore, after Mass at St. Francis de Sales in Salisbury is over, on every second Sunday of the month in 2019 to celebrate Mass in the Lithuanian language at 1:30 PM at St. Alphonsus Church.

The first Mass of the new year will be on January 13, 2019, which coincides with Lithuania's commemoration of Defenders of Freedom Day (Laisvės Gynėjų Diena). On that day in 1991, fourteen unarmed Lithuanian civilians were shot or run over by Soviet tanks while protecting the Vilnius TV Tower that was broadcasting news of Lithuania's Declaration of Independence which the Soviets wanted to suppress. The death of these 14 civilians was a major cause, under world pressure, for the Soviet Union to recognize Lithuanian Independence.

Back to God Mass



Lithuanian Post 154 Color Guard posting Colors prior to Mass. (Photo by Amfoto Audrys)

Lithuanian Post 154's annual Back to God Mass was held Sunday, October 14, 2018 at St. Alphonsus Church. This Mass coincided with the restoration of Lithuanian-English Masses at St. Alphonsus Church. Approximately 100 people attended and many of them joined our Post for socializing with coffee and donuts after Mass in the church basement.

The American Legion, consistent with the Legion's purpose as stated in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion that begins with "For God and Country,," at its 1951 convention in Miami, Florida, formally endorsed a "Back to God" movement. Prompted by the American Legion's endorsement, Lithuanian Post 154's "Back to God Mass" was started by Father Dranginis. It has been held every year since then.

The Legion's Americanism activities in the 1950s took a McCarthyist stance. There was an anti-Communist "crusade" to discourage Communist influence and bring the American people closer to God. During his radio broadcast on February 7, 1954, President Eisenhower made the nation aware and strongly endorsed the American Legion "Back to God" program. He said "As a former soldier, I am delighted that our veterans are sponsoring a movement to increase our awareness of God in our daily lives. In battle, they learned a great truth--that there are no atheists in the foxholes. They know that in time of test and trial, we instinctively turn to God for new courage and peace of mind. All the history of America bears witness to this truth."

The American Legion's National Commander, Lewis K. Gough, promoted "regular church attendance, daily family prayer, and the religious training of children." Also, The American Legion endorsed the passage of state bills requiring U.S. loyalty oaths of school teachers. Something that would certainly be challenged in our courts today.

Membership

As of December 22, 2018 we had 80 paid members. Our goal set by Department is 92.

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
Kenneth Shillenn

February

Kirk Bauer
Jeffrey Burton
Richard Jacobs

March

George Adams
Richard Leffler
Gediminas Naujokaitis
Augustinas Uleckas

Boys State Applications Available Now

Maryland Boys State 2019 will be held at McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland from Sunday, June 16, 2019 thru Saturday, June 22, 2019.

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 city 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, ask him to go to The American Legion Department of Maryland website <http://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate/> and click on "Apply Today" button. Ask the boy to notify Vincent Dulys or Joe Jankevicius after they submit the application online.

Applications have to be submitted by April 15, 2019.

TWO \$1,000 College Scholarships

Lithuanian Post 154 will grant two \$1,000 scholarships in 2019. 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 2019 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 for an application. Completed applications must be received by July 15, 2019.

American Legion

Department of Maryland Scholarship

American Legion Department of Maryland scholarship applications are 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.
- Had not yet attained his/her 20th birthday by January 1, 2019.
- 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 by April 8, 2019, to:

The American Legion, Department of Maryland
Room E
101 N. Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21202.

Windmills International Folk Dance Festival

The Malunas Lithuanian Folk Dance Group will be sponsoring their fourth annual Windmills International Folk Dance Festival on March 30, 2019 at 11 AM at Lithuanian Hall. 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 2019. Admission is only \$20 for a great afternoon of entertainment. Ethnic food and drink will be available.

Ashes in the Snow

The U.S. release of *ASHES IN THE SNOW*, the film adaptation of Ruta Sepetys' novel, *Between Shades of Gray* will be available in select theaters on January 11, 2019. The movie will also become available simultaneously on many streaming services such as Amazon, iTunes, Xfinity/Comcast, DISH, Direct TV and more.

The novel, *Between Shades of Gray*, tells a 15 year old Lithuanian girl's story of her family's brutal deportation by the Soviets and struggle for survival in Siberia. She was one of the 17,000 innocent Lithuanians the Soviets perceived as a threat to their form of government who were arrested and deported to Siberia in June of 1941.

Pennsylvania National Guard welcomes Lithuanians to Fort Indiantown Gap



Lithuanian delegation poses in front of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter prior to aerial tour of Fort Indiantown Gap. (Photo by Sgt. Zane Craig)

“The Lithuanian Armed Forces have begun the process of increasing their rotary wing aircraft capabilities. As the Pennsylvania National Guard's partner in the State Partnership Program, the Lithuanian delegation came to the EAATS to learn more about the Pennsylvania National Guard's rotary wing capabilities, extensive training possibilities, and expertise with the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in particular.

In addition to Vytautas Umbrasas, the Vice Minister of Defense, the Lithuanian delegation included Saulius Gasiunas, the Director of the Department of Transatlantic Cooperation, Col. Alvydas Siuparis, the Embassy Defense Attaché, and Lt. Col. Grazvydas Liubinas, Deputy Defense Attaché.

After touring the EAATS facilities, the delegation boarded a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter for an aerial tour of Fort Indiantown Gap and demonstration of the Black Hawk's capabilities in flight.

The Pennsylvania National Guard State Partnership Program with the Lithuanian Armed Forces began April 27, 1993, as Lithuania regained its independence from the Soviet Union. The training at the EAATS consists of more than 28 formal courses providing technical and functional training to over 1,500 soldiers annually from all 54 states and territories, the active Army, Army Reserves and various international military students.”

By Sgt. Zane Craig - Pennsylvania National Guard Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site (EAATS)
Dec. 13, 2018

Lithuanian Armed Forces Centennial Celebration

On November 27, 2018, Commander Joe Jankevicius and Historian Henry Gaidis represented Lithuanian Post 154 at the Lithuanian Embassy, Washington, D.C., annual Lithuanian Armed Forces Day Celebration. This year's event also marked the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Lithuanian Armed Forces (1918-2018) and the 25th anniversary of Lithuanian Military's Partnership Program with the Pennsylvania National Guard.

The celebration commenced with the playing of the Lithuanian and American National Anthems followed by welcoming remarks and introduction of honored guests by Lithuanian Ambassador Rolandas Kriščiūnas, who acted as the Master of Ceremony for the event. The guests included many U.S. government civilian officials, Pentagon military officers and staff, and military attachés from fellow NATO member countries.

The main speaker, Lithuanian Minister of Defense Raimundas Karoblis, gave a recounting of the founding of the Lithuanian nation and its armed forces and their struggle for independence. His remarks also included praise for the current Lithuanian armed forces and thanks for all of their military allies around the world. Other speakers included Major General Jonas A. Kronkaitis, who, after retirement from the US military, joined the Lithuanian military and served as the Commander of the Lithuanian Armed Forces from 1999 to 2004; Major General Timothy J. Hilty the Assistant Adjutant General, Pennsylvania National Guard; and Colonel Alvydas Šiuparis the Lithuanian Defense Attaché for the U.S. and Canada. General Kronkaitis briefly recounted the founding of the modern day Lithuanian Armed Forces followed by General Hilty who praised the great success of the Pennsylvania - Lithuanian National Guard Partnership Program, which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Today the Lithuanian and American Armed Forces stand shoulder to shoulder in the defending of the free world. Colonel Šiuparis took the occasion not only to praise the Lithuanian Armed Forces, but to thank all of Lithuania's military partners.

After the formal program, the assembled guests were invited to part take in a festive Lithuanian food feast. The celebratory event continued for a few hours with many old friendships renewed and new friends made.

For God and Country

Henry Gaidis

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Meeting Information

Post General Meeting

Will be at Lithuanian Hall
851 Hollins Street.
Baltimore, MD 21201

8 PM on January 9, 2019
and at 11 AM on the 2nd
Wednesday of March, May,
June, August, September
and November.

Exec. Committee Meeting

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

Calendar & Reminders

January

Tue	01	New Year's Day
Wed	09	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 8 PM
Thu	10	Baltimore District Meeting - Mahool-Potts Post 2 - 7 PM
Sun	13	Lithuanian Mass at St. Alphonsus Church - 1:30 PM
Thu	17	Persian Gulf War Began (1991)
Mon	21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Sun	27	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)
Mon	28	US -Vietnam Cease Fire (1973)
Wed	30	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM (Changed to 5th Wednesday this month only)

February

Fri	01	National Freedom Day
Sat	02	Groundhog Day
Sun	03	Baltimore District Four Chaplains Service - St. Alphonsus Church - 10 AM
Fri	08	Boy Scouts of America founded (1910)
Sun	10	Lithuanian Mass at St. Alphonsus Church - 1:30 PM
Tue	12	Lincoln's Birthday
Thu	14	St. Valentine's Day
Sun	17	Department Executive Committee Meeting - Harry White Wilmer Post 82 - 6330 N. Crain Highway, La Plata, MD 20646 - 1 PM
Mon	18	Presidents' Day, George Washington's Birthday Observed
Fri	22	George Washington's Birthday
Wed	27	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

March

Sun	03	"The Star Spangled Banner" made US National Anthem (1931)
Wed	06	Ash Wednesday
Sun	10	Daylight Saving Time Begins - Set clock ahead one hour
Sun	10	Lithuanian Mass at St. Alphonsus Church - 1:30 PM
Tue	12	Girl Scouts of America founded (1912)
Wed	13	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Sun	17	St. Patrick's Day
Tue	19	Iraq War began (2003)
Wed	20	Spring begins
Sat	23	National Commander's Banquet - Bernard L. Tobin Post 128 - 44 Park Street - Aberdeen, MD 21001 - 5 PM
Wed	27	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Sat	30	Windmills International Dance Festival - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM

April

Mon	01	April Fools' Day
Sat	06	US entered WW I (1917)
Sun	14	Palm Sunday
Sun	14	Lithuanian Mass at St. Alphonsus Church - 1:30 PM
Mon	15	Income Tax Returns due
Fri	19	Good Friday
Fri	19	Passover begins at sundown
Sun	21	Easter Sunday
Wed	24	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Tue	30	Vietnam War ended (1975)