



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



1st Quarter 2020

# Legionnaire

## Commander's Message

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

In response to several members stating that they were reluctant to drive at night, especially to downtown Baltimore, to attend our Post General Meetings, we moved the meetings to daylight at beginning of 2019. Unfortunately, that did not improve attendance. The same members that used to come at night, now come during the day. If you have any suggestions to improve attendance, please let me know. We have 7 General Meeting scheduled for 2020. They will be at 11 AM at Lithuanian Hall on the 2nd Wednesday in March, May, June, August, September and November. Please consider attending.

On page 3 is a notice that Boys State applications are now available. Two of my grandsons attended Boys State several years ago and very much enjoyed the experience. They obtained leadership skills, learned civics and made friends with whom they still stay in contact. It is an excellent program.

Though it may seem like it is early to start thinking about something that will happen in June, it is not. Besides the online application process, the boy will need to obtain a recommendation from his high school as well as obtain medical clearance.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors Girls State, a program for girls similar to the Boys Stat program. The Department of Maryland Girls State program this year will be held June 16th to June 21st at Salisbury University. Girls State is available to girls who will finish their junior high school year this summer. More information is available at the Auxiliary website <http://www.alamd.org/girls-state.html>.

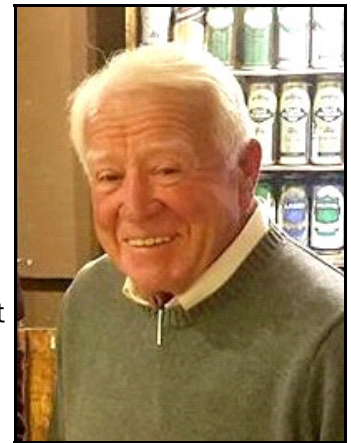
There is no cost to the boy or girl or their families to attend Boys State or Girls State. Please let Vince Dulys or me know if your recommended boy or girl decides to apply.

On behalf of the officers of Lithuanian Post 154, I wish you and your family a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous 2020.

Joe Jankevicius  
Commander

## Lithuanian Post 154 Welcomes First Member Made Eligible as a Result of the Legion Act

Though Vytautas Dulys has been helping Lithuanian Post 154 in the background for decades, he was unable to joint our Post until recently. During the mid 1960s, he helped renovate the Legion Room that we rented from Lithuanian Hall. Also Vytas was an annual volunteered at our post's Bull Roasts and other programs. If you have ever attended a Lithuanian Post 154 Installation, Vytas has been a significant annual contributor to its success.



Vytas served in the US Army from 1957 to 1960, a period of time that was previously deemed "non-conflict" by Congress, therefore making him ineligible to join The American Legion. Fortunately, the American Legion was able to convince Congress that over a thousand U.S. military personnel were killed during the presumed "non-conflict" periods, prompting legislation to correct the error. On July 30, 2019 President Trump signed into law the LEGION ACT, which expanded American Legion membership eligibility to all honorably discharged veterans who served any time after December 7, 1941.

Besides helping Lithuanian Post 154 for decades, Vytas did the same for Baltimore's Lithuanian Community, especially Lithuanian Hall. Some of his most visible work was with the major renovations which included the lounge, main hall, restrooms, the Maple Room, etc. These renovations make the Hall appealing to its members and renters. Renting the Main Hall and the Maple Room for weddings, birthday parties and other affairs a significant source of rental income.

In 2003, Vytas was asked by the Lithuanian Hall Board of Directors to update Lithuanian Hall's Bylaws. Vytas led a team to update Lithuanian Hall's Bylaws. In recognition for his long term service to Lithuanian Hall, Vytas was granted Lifetime Directorship.

Vytai, welcome to Lithuanian Post 154!

## Membership

As of January 01, 2020 we have 87 members paid at Department. The 4 members who have not yet renewed for F.Y. 2020 may renew on-line at [www.mdlegion.org/renew](http://www.mdlegion.org/renew), Another option is to mail me your renewal check payable to American Legion Post # 154 in the amount of \$30.

New F.Y. 2021 membership year will start July 1, 2020

If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call, text or e-mail. Contact information is on Pg 4 of this newsletter.

Vincent Dulys,  
Adjutant,  
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

## TAPS

I am sorry to inform you that Richard Seymour, a member of Lithuanian Post 154 since 1946, passed away on November 20, 2019. Richard served in the US Navy during World War II in the Pacific aboard a LST. The LST is a ship that had a bow which opened to allow its cargo of tanks, vehicles, supplies and troops to go down a ramp directly onto shore with no dock or pier, often while under enemy fire. Sailors sarcastically claimed that the LST acronym stood for "Large Slow Target." Fortunately, Richard survived WWII to come home to raise a loving family and succeed in the publishing industry.



Though Richard and I were Lithuanian Post 154 members for many years before 2007, it was not until then that I got to know him. That year I took over the publishing of our Post's newsletter, the *Legionnaire*. In my first issue, I asked our members to send me articles that would be of interest to veterans and to send suggestions that would improve our newsletter. Well, a couple weeks later, I received an email from Richard Seymour titled "Newsletter Comments." Upon seeing the title, the phrase "Be careful what you wish for" immediately came to mind. After reading his email, I had to concede that if I would have had Richard's comments before publishing, my first issue of the *Legionnaire* would have been significantly better. I responded to thank him and asked if he would be willing to edit subsequent newsletters. He agreed. A month later I sent Richard a 4 page draft of the next *Legionnaire* and he responded with 10 pages of comments. Fortunately, in subsequent years my skills must have improved. For the 4th quarter 2019 *Legionnaire* draft, he only sent me only 2 pages of comments.

Richard helped me with every issue of the *Legionnaire* since 2007. Thanks to his editing skills, the *Legionnaire* newsletter, in competition with other Maryland Legion Posts with up to 150 members, was awarded the "John Sloan Newsletter Trophy" for best newsletter 12 times at the annual American Legion Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City.

If you notice any spelling mistakes, awkward wording or punctuation errors in this or a subsequent *Legionnaire*, be assured that they would not be there if Richard was still with us. Let that error become a reminder for you to say a prayer for Richard.

Joe Jankevicius

## TWO \$1,000 College Scholarships

Lithuanian Post 154 will grant two \$1,000 scholarships in 2020. 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 2020 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](mailto:jmaskavich@gmail.com) for an application. Completed applications must be received by July 15, 2020.

## Windmills International Folk Dance Festival

The Malunas Lithuanian Folk Dance Group will be sponsoring the annual Windmills International Folk Dance Festival on April 18, 2020 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 2020. Admission is only \$20 for a great afternoon of entertainment. Ethnic food and drink will be available.

## The American Legion Department is Maryland Planning to Reorganize

Due to changes in membership and a reduction of the number of Posts in several areas of Maryland, some areas had less representation than others. To address this problem, the American Legion Department of Maryland at its 2014 Convention formed an Ad Hoc Committee to study reorganizing the Department to balance membership among Areas. Their goal was to recommend changes that would group Posts into approximately same size areas with equitable membership representation subject to geographic considerations. The reorganization would balance the workload and improved coverage by Area, County, and District Commanders.

The Reorganization Ad Hoc Committee presented its draft Department Reorganization resolution to the Department Executive Committee (DEC) for consideration.

The DEC concurred with the proposed Department-wide reorganization structure. The Internal Affairs Commission was tasked with finalizing the restructuring plan and present it to the DEC by the May 2020 meeting. Also, the Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee was tasked to draft the necessary amendments to the Department Constitution and Bylaws to effect the restructuring and present them for future consideration of the DEC. Once approved by the DEC, the D7619 Department Reorganization Resolution will be presented at the 102nd Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City July 2020 for approval.

The proposed American Legion Department structure is:

Department Commander - 133 Posts, 44,459 Members  
 Department Vice Commander (Membership Chairman)  
 Northern MD Area Vice Commander  
 District Commander  
 District N1 Vice Commander  
 Post Commanders - 18 Posts, 6,997 Members  
 District N2 Vice Commander  
 Post Commanders - 16 Posts, 3,684 Members  
 (Lithuanian Post 154 in N2 District)  
 Western MD Area Vice Commander  
 District Commander  
 District W1 Vice Commander  
 Post Commanders - 15 Posts, 5,605 Members  
 District W2 Vice Commander  
 Post Commanders - 15 Posts, 7,588 Members  
 Southern MD Area Vice Commander  
 District Commander  
 District S1 Vice Commander  
 Post Commanders - 20 Posts, 7,926 Members  
 District S2 Vice Commander  
 Post Commanders - 19 Posts, 5,343 Members  
 Eastern MD Area Vice Commander  
 District Commander  
 District E1 Vice Commander  
 Post Commanders - 14 Posts, 3,922 Members  
 District E2 Vice Commander  
 Post Commanders - 16 Posts, 3,394 Members

## Planning Your Final Resting Place

The VA provides for a final resting place for eligible veterans, their spouses and their eligible dependants. It can also provide a headstone or marker, a US flag to drape the casket and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

If the deceased veteran or the veteran's spouse is to be buried at National Cemetery, the cost may be minimal to none.

If the burial is at a State Veterans Cemetery, there is a minimal charge for the non veteran spouse.

In both cases, you should check with the cemetery's scheduling officer. You can request additional information by calling:

Rodney Smith  
 Program Support Assistant  
 Baltimore National Cemetery  
 (410) 644-9696

Burial benefits are paid to a spouse, designated family member, or executor to partially offset the cost of burial expenses. These benefits are paid at different rates based upon whether the veteran's death was service connected or non service connected.

Augustinas Uleckas,  
 Lithuanian Post 154 Service Officer

## Boys State Applications Available Now

Maryland Boys State 2020 will be held at McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland from Sunday, June 21, 2020 thru Saturday, June 27, 2020.

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 works through classroom instruction and by becoming a part of the operation of their Boys State city or 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, 2020.

## Contact Information

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## Meeting Information

### Post General Meetings

are 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.

### Exec. Committee Meetings

are held on 4th Wednesday of every month except December at 1 PM at Spirits West Country Club, 2601 Wilkens Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21223

## Calendar & Reminders

### January

Wed	01	New Year's Day
Wed	08	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Thu	09	Baltimore District Meeting - Mahool-Potts Post 2 - 7 PM
Fri	17	Persian Gulf War Began (1991)
Mon	20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Wed	22	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Mon	27	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)
Tue	28	US -Vietnam Cease Fire (1973)

### February

Sat	01	National Freedom Day
Sun	02	Groundhog Day
Sat	08	Boy Scouts of America founded (1910)
Wed	12	Lincoln's Birthday
Fri	14	St. Valentine's Day
Sun	16	Department Executive Committee Meeting - Post 278, 800 Romancoke Rd, Stevensville, MD 21666 - 1 PM
Mon	17	Presidents' Day, George Washington's Birthday Observed
Sat	22	George Washington's Birthday
Wed	26	Ash Wednesday
Wed	26	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

### March

Tue	03	"The Star Spangled Banner" made US National Anthem (1931)
Sun	08	Daylight Saving Time Begins - Set clock ahead one hour
Wed	11	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Thu	12	Girl Scouts of America founded (1912)
Tue	17	St. Patrick's Day
Wed	11	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Thu	19	Iraq War began (2003)
Thu	19	Spring begins
Wed	25	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Sat	28	National Commander's Banquet - F Scott Key Post 11, 1450 Taney Ave, Frederick, MD 21702 5 -11 PM

### April

Wed	01	April Fools' Day
Sun	05	Palm Sunday
Mon	06	US entered WW I (1917)
Wed	08	Passover begins at sundown
Fri	10	Good Friday
Sun	12	Easter Sunday
Wed	15	Income Tax Returns due
Sat	18	Windmills International Dance Festival - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Wed	22	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Thu	30	Vietnam War ended (1975)