



Commander's Message

I hope you and your families have stayed well during the pandemic.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has raised the possibility of the war extending into Lithuania and sparking World War III. I recently spoke with my cousin in Lithuania. She said that everyone is nervous about the likelihood that Putin will invade the Baltic countries after Ukraine. Though the Baltic States are part of NATO, they are skeptical that Article 5 of the NATO Charter will keep them free. NATO Article 5 requires all NATO members to assist an attacked member. The question is, will NATO risk WWII to defend Lithuania? History shows that there is reason to be skeptical.

Ukraine was the third largest nuclear power after the breakup of the Soviet Union. The United States, Russia and the United Kingdom, in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, pledged to respect Ukraine territorial integrity and political independence if Ukraine gave up its nuclear arsenal to Russia. Ukraine agreed. That pledge was broken by Russia's 2014 military intervention of Crimea. The US responded by sending Ukraine aid that included blankets, medical supplies and helmets that were of no use in stopping Russian tanks.

Our Post is required to submit names of our 2022 - 2023 Post Officers and Convention Delegates to the Department by June 1. To meet this date, we will have elections of officers and delegates at the May 11th Post General Meeting. Please feel free to nominate yourself or another Lithuanian Post 154 member (with their permission) to any of the Post's offices or to be a Convention Delegate. The Post offices are: Commander, Vice-Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Service Officer, Chaplain, Sgt, At Arms, Historian, Judge Advocate and two Executive Committee Members. Nominations are open from now until the May 11, 2022 meeting. Please contact Vincent Dulys or me with nominee names.

I would like to thank the Legionnaires who volunteered for the Color Guard at the Lithuanian Independence Restoration Celebration on March 13. Their picture and names are listed on page 3.

Enjoy the summer!

Joe Jankevicius
Commander

Henry's Military Collection Goes Public at Lithuanian National Museum

Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis donated his vast collection of Lithuanian military items to Lithuania at end of 2020. It is one of the largest museum collections ever donated to Lithuania. The Lithuanian National Museum in Vilnius has cataloged the six thousand items which include military armaments, uniforms, badges, medals, flags, etc. and will be placing them on public display on March 30, 2022. Henry cheerfully accepted the invitation to participate at the opening of the display. The exhibit will be on display until January 29, 2023. If you go to Vilnius this year, check it out.



Henry Gaidis



Congratulations Henry! Have a safe trip.

Bladensburg Cross

The 40 foot Bladensburg Peace Cross was commissioned by The American Legion in 1925 in memory of 49 local servicemen from Prince George's County who died during World War I.



Since it stands on public property, it was subjected to 5 years of litigation that ended with the Supreme Court in 2019 ruling that the monument was built for secular purposes and had historical importance beyond the Christian symbolism and can stay.

Over time, the 40-foot memorial has been struck by lightning, rained on and sustained damage from flooding. Vehicles have also hit the memorial, which sits in the middle of a traffic circle.

American Legion Post 136 in Greenbelt is raising funds to have the monument restored. At our last Post meeting, we voted to help. If you wish to make a donation toward its repair, please send your check to Vince Dulys noting on the check that it is for the Bladensburg Cross. He will combine all donations and forward the funds to Greenbelt Post 136.

Membership

Post 154 current paid membership is 79, just five below our goal. If you have not yet paid your 2022 dues, please do so now.

Fiscal Year "2023" will start on July 1, 2022. Everyone will be getting a renewal notice from National in June. You may renew on-line by following the renewal link on our website www.lietuvis.net or send a \$30 check made out to American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 with your notice to my address for processing. My address is on page 4.

Vincent Dulys,
Membership Chairman

Farewell My Fellow Legionnaire



Paul Salvetti, Lithuanian Post 154 member for 20 years.



Joe Jankevicius, Gintaras Buivys and Vincent Dulys stand next to the table holding Paul Salvetti's remains after the Poppy Service.

Sadly, on January 29, 2022, Lithuanian Post 154 members Balys Brasauskas, Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys, Joe Jankevicius and Howard Koontz participated at a Poppy Service for Paul Salvetti held at American Legion Dewey Lowman Post 109. He was a US Army veteran who had served in Vietnam and was an active member of Lithuanian Post 154 for 20 continuous years. Paul (75) was born December 18, 1946 and was found dead due to a heart attack at his home on December 24, 2021.

Though Paul was not Lithuanian, he grew up in Baltimore's Lithuanian Hall neighborhood and was a regular patron of Lithuanian Hall. He had many friends at Lithuanian Hall and at Lithuanian Post 154 who will miss him.

May he rest in peace.

Happy Birthday



April

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

May

William F. Dillon III
Joseph Jankevicius
Valentinas Raugas

June

Walter Cooper
David Cunningham
Anthony Leketa
Cynthia Leketa
John Matulonis
Albert Penkauskas

Lithuanian Festival

Lithuanian Festival is returning to Lithuanian Hall on May 14 - 15, 2022. Bring your family and friends to the Hall for delicious Lithuanian food and meet some of your friends that you have not seen for years due to the pandemic. As in the past, Lithuanian music, folk dance performances and vendor tables with Lithuanian gifts and souvenirs will be available. Lithuanian Post 154 will have an information table.

Convention

The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center from July 11 - 15, 2022. The convention schedule is on page 4.

Lithuanian Post 154 will have a visitor Hospitality Suite at Bradley on the Bay Condominium, building A, unit 304, 3901 Ocean Highway. If you are in Ocean City on these dates and plan to visit, contact Vincent Dulys (410) 960-7874 prior to walking 3 flights of stairs to be certain it is open.

Windmills International Folk Dance Festival

The Malunas Lithuanian Folk Dance Group will be sponsoring the Windmills International Folk Dance Festival at Lithuanian Hall on April 23, 2022 at



noon. Dance groups will perform folk dances from Estonia, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Austria, Romania, Switzerland, Poland and England. Admission will be only \$20 for a great afternoon of entertainment. Tickets are available at Lithuanian Hall. Ethnic food and drink will also be available.

Lithuanian Independence Restoration Celebration

Over 250 members of the Lithuanian Communities from Baltimore and Washington DC celebrated Lithuania's Restoration of Independence Day at Lithuanian Hall on March 13, 2022. The celebration started with the presentation of Colors by Lithuanian Post 154 followed by the singing of the Lithuanian and American National Anthems.

After greetings from dignitaries and readings of proclamations from the Governor of Maryland and other political leaders, the audience was treated to dance and song entertainment. Children from the Kristijono Donelaičio Lituianistinė Mokykla (KDLM) Lithuanian School performed folk dances, played musical instruments and sang for the audience. The entertainment continued with Baltimore's Malunas and Mituva Lithuanian dance groups performing several dances each.

After the formal program, attendees continued to enjoy their afternoon in the dining room and lounge. Delicious Lithuanian food, drink and camaraderie was plentiful. Friends who had not seen each other for two years due to the pandemic were able to reconnect.

Lithuania became the first Soviet Republic to renounce its forced annexation into the Soviet Union and reaffirm its independence on March 11, 1990. After the independence declaration, the Soviet Union imposed an economic blockade and increased military presence in Lithuania trying to force the country to revoke its independence declaration. Aided by international pressure brought to bear on the Soviet Union, Lithuania's peaceful opposition to the Soviet's tactics prevailed. Iceland was the first country to recognize Lithuanian independence on February 11, 1991. It was followed by the United States on September 2 with President George H.W. Bush warning that if Russia were to use armed force against Lithuanians, the US would react accordingly. Finally, on September 6,



Lithuanian Post 154 Vice Commander Gintaras Buivys, on stage, watches Lithuanian Post 154 Color Guard present The Colors. Standing in front of stage from left are Howard Koontz, Robert Leonavicius, Walter Cooper, Henry Gaidis, Vincent Dulys and Joseph Jankevicius.



Malunas Lithuanian Folk Dance Group



KDLM Lithuanian Saturday School Music Performance

1991 Lithuanian independence was recognized by the Soviet Union. Though the Soviet Union recognized Lithuania as an independent country, Soviet troops continued to occupy Lithuania until August 1993.

Maryland Boys State

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students.



Maryland Boys State 2022 will be held at McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland from Sunday, June 19 through Saturday, June 25. If you know of a high school junior boy that is interested in government, politics or a desire to learn how local and state US governments operate, ask him to apply at the American Legion Department of Maryland website — <http://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate/>. Applications have to be submitted by May 1, 2022.

Two \$1,000 College Scholarships

Lithuanian Post 154 will grant two \$1,000 scholarships in 2022. 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 2022. Scholarship application forms are available at Lithuanian Post 154 General Meetings or by contacting Joe Jankevicius. His contact information is on last page of this newsletter.

Completed applications must be received by July 15, 2022.

Contact Information

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Meeting Information

**Lithuanian Post 154
General Meetings**

The Post General will be 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.

Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee meeting will be held on the 4th Wednesday of every month except December at 1 PM, Meeting will be at 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)
- Sun 10 Palm Sunday
- Fri 15 Good Friday
- Fri 15 Income Tax Returns due
- Fri 15 Passover begins at sundown
- Sun 17 Easter Sunday
- Sat 23 Passover ends at sundown
- Sat 23 Windmills International Dance Festival - Lithuanian Hall - Noon
- Wed 27 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Nominations of Lithuanian Post 154 officers for 2022 -2023
Nominations of Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates to The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention
- Sat 30 Vietnam War ended (1975)

May

- Sun 01 Boys State application submission deadline
- Sat 07 Unconditional surrender of all WWII German forces signed (1945)
- Sun 08 V-E Day, Victory in Europe celebrated by US and Britain (1945)
- Sun 08 Mother's Day
- Wed 11 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Nominations and election of Lithuanian Post 154 officers for 2022 -2023
Nominations and election of Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates to The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention
- Sat 14 Lithuanian Festival - Lithuanian Hall
- Sun 15 Lithuanian Festival - Lithuanian Hall
- Sun 15 Women's Army Corps Founded (1942)
- Sun 15 Department Executive Committee Meeting
Dewey Loman Post 109 , - 1610 Sulphur Spring Rd. Halethorpe MD - 1 PM
- Sat 21 Armed Forces Day
- Wed 25 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
- Mon 30 Memorial Day

June

- Wed 01 Submit names of Post 154 officers for 2021-2022 and Delegates to Department Convention to Department
- Wed 08 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
- Tue 14 Flag Day
- Tue 14 US Army Founded (1775)
- Sun 19 Father's Day
- Sun 19 Boys State Start
- Tue 21 First Day of Summer
- Wed 22 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
- Sat 25 Boys State End

July

- Mon 04 Independence Day

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

- Mon 11 Fish Fry - 4 PM - Dockside Hall, SW corner Convention Center
- Tue 12 Delegate Registration - 8 AM, Legion College classes
- Wed 13 Convention meetings - 8 AM, Memorial Service - 7 PM
- Thu 14 Convention meetings - 8 AM
- Fri 15 Convention meetings - 8 AM, Department Officers Election

- Wed 27 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM