



Commander's Message

I hope you have stayed well and had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Did you notice the new page heading with the new American Legion brand mark? The new logo was created by American Legion National to appeal to the next generation of veterans and better accommodate digital and social media. The new logo does not replace the original Legion emblem. Going forward, the original emblem should be reserved for official documents and communications and the new brand mark is to be used in marketing and less formal communications.

I recently spoke with one of Lithuanian Hall's directors about the financial impact the Chinese virus had on the Hall. Though the Hall had been locked down for two years, due to generous donations from Baltimore's Lithuanian Community, grants from the Lithuanian Foundation and others, bills were paid, the Hall survived and just recently reopened. The Hall is currently operating on a pre-pandemic schedule. It is open on Fridays after 4 PM and delicious Lithuanian dinner is available after 5 PM. It is also open on special occasions and for hall rentals. The Hall celebrated its 100th Anniversary of the Opening of Lithuanian Hall in November. In December it held a Christmas Bazaar and a Lithuanian Christmas ornament making class. Hopefully the Omicron variant of the virus will fade away quickly and the Hall's reopening will be permanent.

Due to the virus, our formal Installation of Officers ceremony, at which we recognized a firefighter of the year, police officer of the year and teacher of the year was cancelled. Canceling the installation did not deter the Post from continuing the tradition of honoring these public servants. Since they could not come to us, we decided to take some Lithuanian food and the awards to them at their fire and police stations and to host a small gathering with Lithuanian dinner for the teacher and her family at Lithuanian Hall. Photos from these events are in the adjacent column. Thanks to Vice Commander Gintaras Buivys and Adjutant Vincent Dulys for obtaining the Lithuanian treats and coordinating these events.

On behalf of the officers of Lithuanian Post 154, I wish you and your family a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous 2022.

Joe Jankevicius
Commander



Police Sergeant Mark Wilson receives Police Officer of the Year Citation from Post 154 Commander Joe Jankevicius. He was nominated for his success in improving police/community relationships. Police Captain Pete Heron and Post Adjutant Vincent Dulys watch on left while Police Sergeant James Shetterly and Post 154 Historian Henry Gaidis watch on right watch.



Firefighter Joe Nocar holds the Firefighter of the Year Citation awarded to him for his bravery in rescuing an unconscious individual from the second floor of a fire engulfed building. Next to him from the left are Post 154 Vice Commander Gintaras Buivys, Post Historian Henry Gaidys and Fire Chief of Baltimore City Fire Department Niles Ford. Post 154 Commander Joe Jankevicius and Post Adjutant Vincent Dulys are on the right.



Adjutant Vincent Dulys watches Commander Joe Jankevicius present the Teacher of the Year Citation to Carolyn Council. Carolyn has been a Baltimore City School teacher for 20 years who tutors home bound children. The children form a strong bond with her and often seek her guidance on life matters unrelated to school. She was nominated for the award by one of her pupils.

New Member

I am please to announce that Aaron Morseburger, a US Marine Corps veteran, has joined Lithuanian Post 154. Like most Post members, he is of Lithuanian descent. His grandmother was Lithuanian and lived in Baltimore's "Little Lithuania" neighborhood.

Welcome Aaron!
Joe Jankevicius, Commander

Membership

Lithuanian Post 154's membership goal set by Department for 2022 is 84. As of December 27, 2021, we had 75 paid members.

If you have not yet paid your 2022 dues, please do so now. The old 2021 membership card became invalid on December 31, 2021. You can renew your membership by going to the Lithuanian Post 154 website <http://www.lietuvis.net> and click on "Online Membership Renewal." If you wish to renew by mail, make a \$30 check payable to "The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154" and mail it to my address on the last page of this newsletter.

Vincent Dulys,
Membership Chairman

Happy Birthday

January

Patrick Dohlus
Bernard Milosavich
William Morrison
Stephen Mueller
Ronald Price
John Potts
Vytautas Ramunas

February

Kirk Bauer
Jeffrey Burton

March

George Adams
Richard Leffler
Gediminas Naujokaitis
Augustinas Uleckas

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. Contact Joe Jankevicius at (410) 259-5032 or email Joe at joejankevicius@gmail.com for an application. Completed applications must be received by July 15, 2022.

Navy Drone



Saildrone Explorer

As the U.S. Navy continues to figure out how unmanned drones will play into the future of the fleet, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command began operational testing 12 DEC of a sailboat-style drone. The sensor-packed Saildrone Explorer being tested in the Gulf of Aqaba off Jordan could provide the Navy with a relatively inexpensive way to expand its sight-line, according to a Navy release announcing the testing. The drone is 23 feet long and 16 feet tall and relies on wind power to move. It also houses a sensor package powered by the sun, according to NAVCENT.

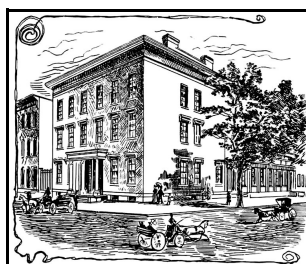
The vessel was built by the California-based Saildrone company. Other surface drones made by the company have gone out on yearlong data collection missions, and one made a "no-handed" voyage from San Francisco to Hawaii in 34 days back in 2013, according to the company. The Navy hopes the Saildrone's machine learning and artificial intelligence capabilities could provide the fleet with an affordable, zero-carbon tool for seeing over the horizon.

The U.S. Coast Guard began testing Saildrone vessels in the fall of 2020 off Hawaii. According to the Saildrone company, such vehicles are built for long missions at sea and are equipped with cameras, automated identification receivers and radar or infrared cameras for nocturnal capabilities. Software onboard recognizes targets of interest and can report those targets back to end users.

Source: NavyTimes
Geoff Ziezulewicz
December, 2021

100th Anniversary of the Opening of Lithuanian Hall

Baltimore's Lithuanian American Community, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of Lithuanian Hall with a gala celebration on Saturday November 20, 2021. The evening commenced with a cocktail hour, during which many old acquaintances were reestablished and many new friendships made.



Rather than the typical formal sit-down dinner affair that features a parade of speakers, this celebration featured an innovated program. The LHA program consisted of the showing of a documentary film, made by the noted Lithuanian Documentary Film Director, Arvydas Reneckis that featured Henry Gaidis, the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum Curator, talking about the hundred-year history of the Lithuanian Hall. This might not sound so innovative to many, but the real innovative feature was the documentary film was cut into many 5-10 minute history segments each of which was followed by live Lithuanian singers and folk dancers with presentations made on both the stage and in an open space on the hall floor in front of the audience. The assembled were treated to the outstanding voice of Nida Grigalavičiūtė, and powerful Pop-Singing voice and music playing of Augis Dicevičius. Listening to the voices of these two great Lithuanian singers would be more than enough to have an outstanding evening. Still, the LHA celebration added even more to the film documentary with performances by Chicago's noted Suktinis Dance Group under the leadership of Giedrė Knieža, and Baltimore's own Mituva Dance Group under leadership of Egle Baublyte Noethe, and the Malunas Dance Group under the leadership of Rytis Grybauskas. The non-stop documentary presentation and singing and dancing were perfectly timed and meshed together and few even noticed the back and forth change from film to live program.

At the end of the documentary and live entertainment, the assembled were treated to viewing of another inspiring Arvydas Reneckis directed Lithuanian American Community (LAC) video, "Our unity is our strength" recounting the purpose and accomplishments of the nation-wide organization. The video was followed by Daina Miežlaiškis, the Executive Vice President of the LAC and Giedrė Knieža, the organization's Chairwoman for Cultural Affairs, acknowledging and presented bouquet to Reneckis for his video services. Daina and Giedrė then similarly acknowledged and presented bouquets and LAC commendations to Rytis Grybauskas, the President of the Lithuanian Hall and Maria Patubla, the Librarian of the Lithuanian National Library. They then presented LAC Commendations to



four American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 members: Henry Gaidis, Curator of the Baltimore Lithuanian Museum; Balys Brasauskas, former Lithuanian Hall President; Vytis Dulys, Baltimore Lithuanian Community activist; and Gintaras Buivys, Baltimore LAC Chapter President, Lithuanian Post 154 Vice-Commander and Lithuanian Community activist for their decades of service to Baltimore's Lithuanian American Community.



Following the presentations the attendees drank a Champion Toast in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of the Lithuanian Hall. The toast was followed by a superb meal and a slice of a 100th Anniversary LHA Cake. Although the formal celebration ended, most of the attendees continued talking, dancing to the singing and music playing of Augis Dicevičius. The celebration continued into the early hours of the next day.

The author would be remiss and chastised in closing if he did not single out Egle Baublyte Noethe, the Lithuanian Hall Manager, for special recognition as being the person who arranged, coordinated, and even took an active part in the folk dancing portion of the program that is now part of Lithuanian American history.

By Henry Gaidis, Post 154 Historian.

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Meeting Information**Post General Meeting**

are scheduled to 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.

Exec. Committee Meeting

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

Calendar & Reminders**January, 2022**

Sat	01	New Year's Day
Wed	12	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Mon	17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Mon	17	Persian Gulf War Began (1991)
Wed	26	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Thu	27	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)
Fri	28	US - Vietnam Cease Fire (1973)

February

Tue	01	National Freedom Day
Wed	02	Groundhog Day
Wed	02	Ash Wednesday
Tue	08	Boy Scouts of America founded (1910)
Sat	12	Lincoln's Birthday
Mon	14	St. Valentine's Day
Sun	20	Department Executive Committee Meeting - Greenbelt Post 136 6900 Greenbelt Rd. Greenbelt, MD 20770 - 1 PM
Mon	21	Presidents' Day
Tue	22	George Washington's Birthday
Wed	23	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

March

Thu	03	"The Star Spangled Banner" made US National Anthem (1931)
Wed	09	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Sat	12	Girl Scouts of America founded (1912)
Sun	13	Daylight Saving Time Begins - Set clock ahead one hour
Wed	17	St. Patrick's Day
Sat	19	Iraq War began (2003)
Sat	20	Spring begins
Wed	23	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Sat	12	National Commander's Banquet - Towson Post 22 125 York Rd. Towson MD, 21204 5 - 9 PM

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
Wed	27	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Sat	30	Vietnam War ended (1975)
Sat	30	Windmills International Dance Festival - Lithuanian Hall - Noon - 8 PM