



Lithuanian Post 154

4th Quarter 2022

Commander's Message

I hope you and your family have stayed well and will continue to do so through the upcoming cold and flu season. The VA recommends getting the Flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster to increase your chance of staying well.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends both vaccines and says it's safe to receive them at the same time.

The VA encourages you to get a free flu shot at a community pharmacy or urgent care provider near you that is part of the VA network. The following community retail pharmacies are part of the VA network: CVS, Costco, Kroger, Safeway, Walmart and Wegmans Pharmacies. Please note that Walgreens is no longer in the VA Network.

Lithuanian Post 154 has arranged to have a Back to God Mass on November 6, at 10:30 AM at Our Lady of Victory Parish. The parish is just inside the 695 Beltway at 4414 Wilkens Avenue in Arbutus, Please wear your Legion Hat when entering the church.

On Veterans Day, Friday November 11 at 11 AM, there will be a rededication of the Bladensburg Cross. The Bladensburg Cross WWI Memorial is located on the median between Bladensburg Road and Baltimore Avenue in the center of Bladensburg. The 40 foot cross was erected with private funds in 1925 in memory of 49 WWI veterans from Prince Georges County. Since it is on public land, an atheist group wanted it removed. After a 7 years legal battle, the US Supreme Court in 2019 ruled that the historic monument can stay. Since the future of the cross was in question during litigation, the cross was poorly maintained by the park service. Thanks to American Legion Greenbelt Post 136's fundraising efforts, support from the Maryland-National Park Commission and many others, the monument has been restored and will be rededicated on Veterans Day.

I hope to see you at one of our meetings, at the Back to God Mass or on Veterans Day. Enjoy Thanksgiving and have a Merry Christmas!

Joe Jankevicius
Commander

Department of Maryland Convention



Lithuanian Post 154 Adjutant Vincent Dulys watches James Anderson, from Cumberland Post 13, and Lithuanian Post 154 Vice Commander Gintaras Buivys place KIA/MIA flag on rifle.



Delmarva Chorus singing at the Memorial Service.

Lithuanian Post 154 was well represented at the American Legion 2022 Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City last July. The Lithuanian Post 154 delegates to the convention were Gintaras Buivys, Vincent Dulys, Henry Gaidis, Joe Jankevicius and John Potts.

Lithuanian Post 154 Adjutant Vincent Dulys conducted the POW/MIA Service at the Convention's Opening Session. Vince also served as Master of Ceremonies at the evening Memorial Service for Department of Maryland comrades that reported to our Supreme Commander last year.

Lithuanian Post 154's "Legionnaire" newsletter, in competition with other posts with up to 150 members, was awarded the "John Sloan Newsletter Award."



Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers 2022 - 2023



Past Department of Maryland Commander James Marchinke swears in Lithuanian Post 154 Officers for 2022 - 2023.

The American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 Installation of Officers Ceremony was held on September 11, 2022 at Lithuanian Hall. Past Maryland Department Commander James Marchinke served as our Installing Officer.

Over 100 people attended the event including many current and former American Legion National, Department and District officers. We were especially honored to have the Defense Attaché of the Republic of Lithuania, Brigadier General Modestas Petrauskas and Deputy Defense Attaché Lt Col Valdemaras Andruškevičius join us. During his remarks, General Petrauskas informed the audience that Lithuania has been proudly shouldering to shoulder with the United States in peacekeeping operations around the world since it regained its independence from the Soviet Union. Today, Lithuania, with its NATO partners, is actively engaged in support of Ukraine by providing shelter to Ukrainian refugees, and training and munitions to the Ukrainian military. Due to the support from the West, Ukraine has recently made significant progress in reclaiming territory occupied by Russia. Putin underestimated the resolve of the Ukrainians to fight and the extent of NATO support in the fight against Russian aggression. Though the war has lasted longer than many expected, General Petrauskas urged the West not to relax and to continue to provide Ukraine what it needs to win. As a result of the war, NATO is now more unified and expanding, the opposite of what Putin expected. General Petrauskas also expressed gratitude to the US for establishing a significant military presence in Lithuania to deter expansion of Russian aggression to the Baltics.

The Post recognized and presented awards to several members of our community. Police Officer of the Year Certificate was presented to Sharif Kellogg and Firefighter of the Year Certificate to FFPM Nicholas Green. Teacher awards were presented to Rytis Grybauskas and Egle Noeth, who have been helping to preserve Lithuanian heritage in Baltimore for decades by teaching Lithuanian folk dancing to the Malunas and Mituva folk dance groups.



**Brig. General
Modestas Petrauskas**



Malunas Lithuanian Folk Dance Group

Legionnaire Balys Brasauskas was presented with a plaque recognizing his 70 years of continuous service to Lithuanian Post 154. Legionnaires Michael R. Keiser and Leon Lukas were awarded certificates recognizing their 50 years of continuous membership in The American Legion.

Elizabeth Cursey, now attending Penn State University, was awarded a \$2,000 Collegiate Scholarship.

Sadly, during the Post Everlasting Service, we said farewell to twelve Lithuanian Post 154 members who reported to The Supreme Commander the past 3 years. They are: WWII veterans John Maskavich, George Olwine and Richard Seymour; Korean War veterans Charles Gross, Richard Jacobs, Stasys Kligys, Bernard Milosavich and Algis Saurusaitis; Vietnam War veterans Joseph Astauskas, Paul Salvetti, Walter Schmidbauer and Kenneth Shillenn. May they rest in eternal peace.

This Installation of Officers Ceremony would not be possible without the hard work of the many Legionnaires and volunteers who helped make it a success. A sincere "Thank You" to Installation Chairman Vincent Dulys for organizing the event, to Vice Commander Gintaras Buivys for production of the program, supplying the sound system and the skill to use it effectively. Thanks also to Rasa Meeks and her helpers for preparing a delicious meal, to the Dulys clan for serving refreshments and to the *Mitva* and *Malunas* Lithuanian Folk Dance Groups for their dance performances. I am also grateful to Lithuanian Hall management for allowing us to have this event in their beautiful main hall and to everyone who took part in the ceremony, set up, decorated and cleaned up the hall after the ceremony.

Joe Jankevicius
Commander

Membership

Post 154 finished fiscal year 2022 with 79 paid members.

Fiscal Year 2023 started on July 1, 2022. All members should have or soon will get a renewal notice from National.

You may renew on-line by following the renewal link on our website www.lietuvis.net. If you wish, you can send me a \$30 check made out to American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 with your renewal notice to my address for processing. My address is on page 4.

Vincent Dulys,
Membership Chairman

Happy Birthday

October

- Algirdas Brasauskas
- Clarence Catterton
- Charles Crovo
- Milton Davis
- Valentinas Drazdys
- Stanley Eringis
- Henry Gaidis
- Michael Jackonis
- Howard Koontz
- James Laucht
- Robert Leonavicius
- Gerald Smith
- James Willis

November

- Wayne Callahan
- John Garpstas
- David Gorrell
- Camilla Maybee
- Anton Meisinger
- Robert Mellendick
- Thomas Sadauskas
- Walter Schmidbauer

December

- Balys Brasauskas

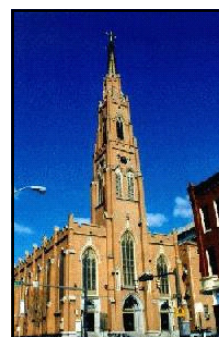
Lithuanian Mass celebrated at St. Alphonsus on July 24

On July 24, after a 3 year draught, Baltimore's Lithuanian Community, was able to pray at Mass in the Lithuanian language at St. Alphonsus Shrine. Thanks to the effort of Lithuanian Post 154 members Dr. Bernard Karpers and Vice Commander Gintaras Buivys (who is also President of Baltimore's Lithuanian Community) Archbishop of Kaunas, Kęstutis Kėvalas, was able to celebrate Lithuanian Mass at St Alphonsus Church.



Archbishop Kęstutis Kėvalas

Archbishop of Kaunas, Kęstutis Kėvalas was born in Kaunas Lithuania. In 1993 he entered the seminary of Kaunas. In 1997 Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevičius sent him for further studies to St. Mary's seminary and university in Baltimore where he graduated with degrees of bachelor and master in theology. While in Baltimore, he occasionally assisted Monsignor Arthur Bastress at St. Alphonsus.



St. Alphonsus Shrine

During his recent vacation to the US, Archbishop Kėvalas visited Baltimore and stayed at Dr. Bernard Karpers home. While there, he expressed desire to celebrate Mass at St. Alphonsus Shrine. Dr. Karpers relayed the wish to Gintaras Buivys, President of Baltimore's Lithuanian Community, who immediately went into action. Gintaras contacted St. Alphonsus and coordinated an acceptable date/time for the Mass. He subsequently sent emails and made telephone calls to members of Baltimore's Lithuanian Community asking them to come to the Mass and for each family to bring a pastry or snack to share after Mass.

The Mass was on July 24th at 1:30. Approximately 70 people attended, which is good considering the short notice and that it was the peak of vacation season. After Mass, most of the attendees met in the church basement meeting room to chat with Archbishop Kėvalas, socialize and enjoy delicious snacks.

Lithuanian Post 154 Officers 2022 - 2023

Commander	Joe Jankevicius
Vice Commander	Gintaras Buivys
Adjutant	Vincent Dulys
Finance Officer	Vincent Dulys
Service Officer	Patrick Dohlus
Chaplain	Gintaras Buivys
Judge Advocate	Patrick Dohlus
Historian	Henry Gaidis
Sergeant At Arms	Toivo Tagamets
Executive Committee	John Potts
Executive Committee	Vitas Siaurusaitis

Lithuanian Hall Reopened

Summer is over and Lithuanian Hall has returned to its normal schedule. It is open every Friday at 5 PM. Bring your family and friends to enjoy an imported Lithuanian beer with your delicious Lithuanian meal.

The Hall is also open on special occasions and for hall rentals.

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

October

Tue	04	Yom Kippur begins at sundown
Wed	05	Yom Kippur ends at sundown
Fri	07	Afghanistan War Began (2001)
Mon	10	Columbus Day
Mon	10	Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
Thu	13	US Navy Established (1773)
Sun	23	Grenada Campaign began (1983)
Wed	26	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Mon	31	Halloween

November

Tue	01	All Saints Day
Sat	05	Four Frenchmen Service - 11 AM St. Mary's Cemetery 200 Homeland Ave. Baltimore 21210
Sun	06	Daylight Saving Time ends - set clocks back one hour
Sun	06	Back to God Mass - Our Lady of Victory Church - 10:30 4414 Wilkens Ave. Baltimore, MD 21229 Wear Legion Hat into church if you have one.
Tue	08	Election Day
Wed	09	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Thu	10	US Marine Corps Established (1775)
Thu	10	American Legion Auxiliary Birthday (1919)
Fri	11	Signing of WWI Armistice (1918)
Fri	11	Veterans Day - Bladensburg Cross Rededication - 11 AM Bladensburg Rd. & Baltimore Ave. in center of Bladensburg MD
Sun	13	Department of Maryland Executive Committee Meeting - Towson Post #22 - 1 - 4 PM
Wed	23	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting rescheduled to November 30th due to Thanksgiving Holiday
Thu	24	Happy Thanksgiving Day
Sun	27	First Sunday of Advent
Wed	30	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

December

Mon	05	Somalia Campaign Began (1992)
Wed	07	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Thu	08	War declared on Japan (1941)
Sun	11	Germany & Italy declared war on U.S. (1941)
Sun	18	Hanukkah Begins at sunset
Wed	21	First Day of Winter
Sat	24	Christmas Eve / Lithuanian Kūčios
Sun	25	Merry Christmas
Mon	26	Last Day of Hanukkah
Wed	28	No Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting
Sat	31	Official End of WWII (1946)
Sat	31	New Year's Eve

January, 2021

Sun	01	New Year's Day
Wed	11	Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Mon	16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Wed	25	Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM