

GARSAS • Lithuanian U.S. Alliance of America

English Section

Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress Essay Award

Prizes: First — \$250.00; Second — \$150.00; Third — \$100.00.

Date of Award: November 8, 1976 at the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress Meeting.

Rules for Participation

1. Subject of Essay: What the Bicentennial Means to Me.

2. Number of Words: 500 minimum.

3. Eligibility: All high school seniors scheduled to graduate in May or June 1976, who have been admitted to or have applied for admission to college in the Fall of 1976, except children of Officers or Members of the Executive of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress.

4. Deadline for Submission: June 30, 1976.

5. Membership: Student must be a member of a Fraternal Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress.

6. Selection: Winners will be selected by a panel of three (3) impartial judges.

7. Preparation: Essay must be typewritten and double spaced.

8. How & where to submit Essay: The face page should indicate the following:

- (a) Title of Essay;
- (b) Your name, address and home telephone number;
- (c) The name of the college which has accepted you or the one you plan to attend;
- (d) The name of your Fraternal Society;
- (e) On or before June 30, 1976, send your essay to the President of your Fraternal Society, who will certify your membership and that your dues are paid currently.

Make June 14, 1976, A Date To Remember

Fraternal benefit societies in the United States today have more than ten million members who represent almost all religions, races, creeds and walks of life. Together these members make up one of the largest blocks of persons in the nation who for the most part have faith in and loyalty for their country.

Now, as we observe the 200th anniversary of our nation, is the time for us as fraternalists to join each other in speaking up for America! It is time we conduct a nationwide demonstration to show the world we believe in our country as did the American Revolution heroes 200 years ago.

The National Fraternal Congress of America, of which your society and 98 others are members, is helping us to make this possible. Here is the plan.

On June 14, 1976, at 12 noon your time, local units of all N.F.C.A. affiliated societies are invited to jointly sponsor public United States

Flag raising ceremonies in their communities.

As you and your fellow fraternalists sponsor your flag raising program, a flag raising ceremony of deep national significance will take place at a small country schoolhouse near the town of Fredonia, Wisconsin. Historians have documented that our national observance of Flag Day had its start in this schoolhouse, known as Stony Hill School, on June 14, 1885. On that date, a young teacher named Bernard J. Cigrand honored the 108th anniversary of the adoption of our flag by Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. He observed the birthday by having his pupils honor a small U.S. Flag he placed in a bottle on his desk and by having them turn in themes on the subject of the United States Flag.

This was the beginning of years of fervent and devoted efforts on Cigrand's part to bring about national recognition and observance of Flag Day. His dream became a re-

ality in 1915 when President Woodrow Wilson officially established June 14 as National Flag Day.

The 1976 Flag Day ceremony at Stony Hill School will include some interesting events. Sponsored by the National Fraternal Congress, the National Fraternal Flag Day Foundation, and State Fraternal Congresses, a state flag from each of the states will be raised to form an "Avenue of Flags" focusing on an 80-foot flagpole upon which the United States Flag will be raised at exactly 12 noon. A time capsule has been set at the base of this flag. Into this capsule will be placed kits from each of the 50 sta-

tes. These kits will include small state flags, a brief history of each state, greetings from the governor of each state to the American people in the year 2000 when the time capsule will be opened, a history of the United States Flag, and messages from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, the fraternalists, and the local community.

The National Fraternal Congress of America and the National Fraternal Flag Day Foundation plan to invite many prominent individuals to the Flag Day ceremony at Stony Hill. They include President Ford; Astronaut Neil Armstrong, who was the first man to walk on the moon; prominent religious, political, and business leaders, and representatives of the State Fraternal Congresses.

Help us to make 6/14/76 a date to remember in your community by sponsoring a flag raising ceremony as they honor the birthplace of Flag Day at Stony Hill School. Let's show the world our faith in and loyalty for our country by joining hands in this great effort.

Derwinski and Annunzio Commend President

Congressman Ed. Derwinski (R., 4th, Ill.) and Congressman Frank Annunzio (D., 11th, Ill.) commended President Ford on his appointment of Myron B. Kurepas as Special Assistant to the President for Ethnic Affairs.

In a joint statement, the two Congressmen described the Presidential appointment of Mr. Kurepas as a very practical and long overdue addition to the President's staff and a positive recognition by the President of the great contributions which American of all ethnic origins are continuing to make to the progress of our country.

"At the time we enter our bicentennial year, the public is turning its attention to the great history of our country," Derwinski and Annunzio said. "Therefore, it is especially appropriate that the President designate a Special Assistant for Ethnic Affairs since it is due largely to the contributions of generations of immigrants that the United States has reached its preeminence among the family of nations".

Congressmen Annunzio and Derwinski have worked together in a completely bipartisan fashion to impress upon the Executive Branch, and specifically the White House office, the obvious value of a Presidential Assistant concentrating on the subjects encompassing all ethnic groups.

"This action contributes much to the democratic process. It gives ethnic leaders as well as the ethnic groups of America a place in the White House to discuss their problems and to consult with a specially designated, official representative of the President. This appointment emphatically demonstrates that all ethnic groups are being recognized, that they do belong, and that they are not being left out. It also serves to restore faith in our democratic process and goes a long way toward reducing the apathy now prevalent in our society — par-

ticularly as far as ethnic groups are concerned", said the two Congressmen.

Derwinski praises appointment of Bobelis

Congressman Ed. Derwinski (R., Ill.) expressed his great satisfaction at the appointment by Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare David Mathews of Dr. C. Kazys Bobelis to serve on the National Advisory Council on Regional Medical Programs of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

"I have known Dr. Bobelis for many years and am mindful of the leading role he has played in Lithuanian-American organizations, but in his professional capacity in medicine, he is very highly regarded, and I believe his appointment is a well justified tribute to the professional excellence as a physician and surgeon which he has achieved", Derwinski said.

The Council meets periodically in Washington and advises the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare on medical programs coming under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

Grants-in-aid and research Assistantships

The Immigration History Research Center will again offer grants-in-aid and research assistantships during 1976-77.

Grants-in-aid up to \$3,000 for travel and living expenses are available to doctoral candidates, recent Ph.D.s and established scholars. Deadline for 1976 applications is May 1, 1976.

Research Assistantships for graduate students enrolled at the University of Minnesota and engaged in studies relating to American immigration and ethnic history are available for the academic year 1976-1977. Candidates should be proficient in one or more languages of Eastern, Central or Southern Europe, or the Middle East. Deadline for

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO THE LITHUANIAN PEOPLE

Department of State
WASHINGTON

February 3, 1976

Dear Mr. Charge d'Affaires:

On the occasion of the fifty-eight anniversary of the proclamation of Lithuanian independence I am pleased to extend to you and to the Lithuanian people greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Government and people of the United States.

As we look back through America's history during this bicentennial year, it is evident that our nation has been enriched by the many contributions of its citizens of Lithuanian origin. We are especially aware of the desire of the Lithuanian people for freedom and self-determination. Their pursuit of these goals elicits our continuing admiration and respect.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Ingersoll
Acting Secretary

ON WINNING AND LOSING

"I don't like to lose, and that isn't so much because it is just a football game, but because defeat means the failure to reach your objective. The trouble in American life today, in business as well as in sports, is that too many people are afraid of competition. The result is that in some circles people have come to sneer at success if it costs hard work, training and sacrifice".

Knute Rockne

The American Spirit

American heritage is rich and varied and can be expressed in many ways — from region to region, one generation to another, from one ethnic background with its memories and traditions to that of another. All of the various experiences combine to form a unique heritage — an American culture and an "American Spirit".

The Tamburitzans' special Bicentennial production, entitled "The American Spirit", traces the development of the American musical heritage and uses many sources to present it — the music and dance of different regions of the United States, of different ethnic groups (including the music of the "Old World" and its changes in America) and the musical heritage form various generations of America.

This special Bicentennial production begins with a dance scene from New England where our forefathers set foot on Plymouth Rock and continues with music and dances from the Appalachian Mountains. A western Hoedown and a Negro Spiritual are featured along with America Polka Styles (which are an example of European culture transformed in the United States). Dance scenes from the Roaring Twenties and the Fabulous Forties make this musical history lesson.

1976-1977 applications is February 15, 1976.

For more information please contact

Immigration History Research Center
826 Berry Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55114

The American culture has its richness in its diversity and its unity as well — a unity which has created our own special "American Spirit". (Tamburitzan — Spring, 1976)

Lithuanian Day

Pottsville, Pa. — The Lithuanian Bi-Centennial Committee of Schuylkill County, which was formed over a year ago to preserve our Lithuanian heritage, will sponsor a Lithuanian Day at Boscov's Department Store in Fairlane Village Mall on Rte. 61 — Pottsville, on the day of Lithuanian Independence, Feb. 16, 1976, from 9:30 AM to 9 PM. The day will open with prayers for the return of freedom to Lithuania. There will be a beautiful display of Lithuanian amber, wayside crosses, linens, pottery, wood carvings. Throughout the day, there will be demonstrations on the making of the Lithuanian Christmas tree ornaments of straw, — a tree will be on display. There will be also a demonstration on the making of Lithuanian Easter eggs — Margučiai. A truly Lithuanian Day has been planned and we are hoping that all our Lithuanian friends will attend.

Officers of the club are: President — Bernice Mikatawage, Minersville; Vice Pres. — Joseph Martunas, Minersville; Secretary — Anna Klizas Wargo, St. Clair; Treasurer — Nell Klizas, St. Clair; Chaplains — Father Algimantas Bartkus, St. Clair and Father Joseph Neverauskas, Shenandoah.

Anna Klizas Wargo
Secretary

PEOPLE SHAPE THE GOVERNMENT

Through free elections, the people of the United States choose their representatives in State and Federal Government and thus are able to influence directly the domestic and foreign policies of their country. At political conventions held by the two major political parties, the Republican and the Democratic candidates for President and Vice President are chosen. These men, together with other elected and appointed representatives, work in the Nation's Capitol of Washington in the District of Columbia, a small area of land administered by the Federal Government.

(Window to America)

LAND AND PEOPLE

The United States is a country of great diversity — vast cities and small villages; roaring factories and quiet fields; busy streets and small churches for meditation. Geographically, there is variety, too — lakes and deserts; prairies and mountain ranges; rocky seacoasts and sunbaked plains. And at the core of this varied land are the people — the most varied of all, for they seem from countries and social levels throughout the world. But in spite of many differences, certain traditions — freedom, equality, individual rights — are common to all and are taught in the home, in the church, and in the schools.

(Window to America)

Our purpose is to cultivate in the largest possible number of our future citizens an appreciation of both the responsibilities and the benefits which come to them because they are Americans and are free.

James Bryant Conant
Harvard University, January 11, 1943

