



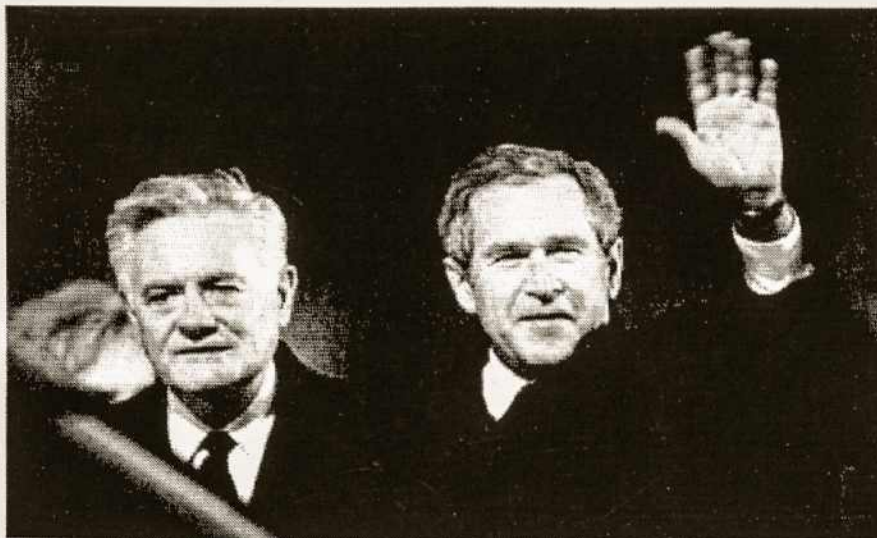
VYTIS – THE KNIGHT

Vol. 89 No. 1 – sausis/vasaris – January/February 2003

VALIO LIETUVA!



*The Knights of Lithuania congratulates
the newest invitees to NATO*



Ačiū... Ačiū... Ačiū... Ačiū...

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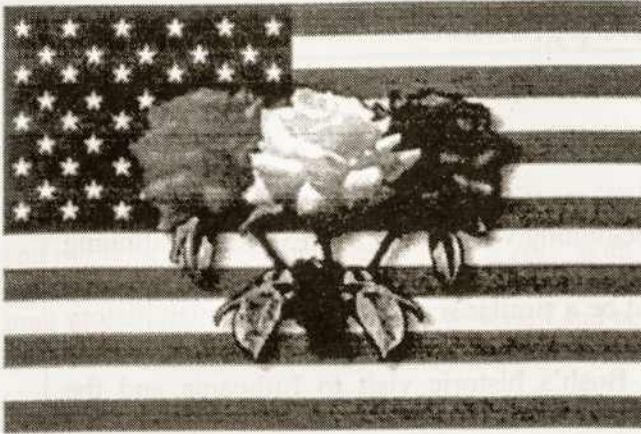
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Mission Statement: The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of our ancestors, and knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.



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Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc

Fifth JBANC Conference on Nato

**"ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA IN NATO:
BUILDING TRANS-ATLANTIC SECURITY"**

March 6-8, 2003

Washington Marriott Hotel/Washington D.C.

Simply contact JBANC at (301) 340-1954 or
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Pirmas Sniegas

Pirmas sniegas iškrito,
Ir pabalo laukai,
Snaigės krito šį rytą
Dideliais gabalais.

Širdį džiaugsmas užliejo,
Kaip vaikystei tada,
Šaltas oras be vėjo
Baltas beržas šalia.

Stovi beržas prie kelio
Baltas, lieknas, žavus
Ir vilioja iš tolo
Mus sugrižt į namus.

Rita Dmukauskienė C12

(Translation of the above poem:)

FIRST SNOW

As the snow falls and the snowflakes scatter,
The heart fills with joy as childhood
memories return.

The white slender birch at the side of the
road invites from afar to return to the land of
one's birth.

PRESIDENT, MPs URGE USA TO KEEP FUNDING FOR RADIO FREE EUROPE

President Valdas Adamkus and almost one-third of the Seimas (Parliament), MPs have appealed to the US administration and Congress with a request not to suspend funding for the Lithuanian service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. The draft 2004 budget being drawn up in the White House does not include any funding for this radio service. The letter to US officials emphasizes that this radio station has not only played a significant role in re-establishing Lithuania's independence, but still remains an important source of comprehensive and unbiased information.

~From "Embassy of Lithuania Newsletter~

*In the depth of winter, I finally learned
that within me lies an invincible summer.*

~Albert Camus~

To My Fellow Knights

The March of Time! There is an impressive, massive sculpture in Chicago's Jackson Park which depicts the progression of time beginning with Adam and Eve and continuing with great personages down the centuries up until the times of the artist. What an impressive portrayal! How interesting would be a similar sculpture of Lithuanian history especially with the events of these past 12 years culminating presently with the invitation to NATO, the European Union, President Bush's historic visit to Lithuania and the presidential elections.!

Sister M. Janine

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP OUR COSTS DOWN. MANY OF YOU INFORMED THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES. Thank you.

VYTIS Correspondents

Deadline for Council News for the March-April Vytis is March 1. Please send one copy of your Council News to the VYTIS Office by mail, email or fax.

Apologies to Council 144

In the Christmas ad for Anthracite Council 144 Schuylkill County, PA on page 8, we wrote Council 44.

Council 17 of Boston, Massachusetts

wishes all the K of L Councils

a happy, healthy and prosperous

New Year - 2003!

Laimingų Naujų Metų!

January, 2003

Dear Members,

On behalf of all the members of the Supreme Council and especially myself, I wish to extend to each of you our hopes for a Happy New Year for All. With the new year comes the chance to once again wipe the slate of the previous year clean and start fresh, to make a new beginning. As the familiar New Year's song says, "Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind." May all of us be able to live up to these wonderful words in this New Year 2003.

We have so much to look forward to this year. First and foremost for the Knights, this year we will celebrate our 90th Anniversary. This summer as we gather at our national convention, sponsored by Brockton, MA, Council 1, may we all come together as friends and family to celebrate 90 years of the Knights of Lithuania. Please watch this and future issues of Vytis for convention information. Council 1 is working really hard to make this year's convention a great one and I encourage everyone who can to participate.

Also, don't forget, our K of L Tour to Lithuania beginning June 27th. All information and a registration form were included in our last issue of Vytis. Rita Pencyla of Vytis Travel has put together a great tour and I'm sure those who can attend won't be disappointed. Please make sure to let Rita know that you plan on attending as soon as possible.

Now for the greatest news of all. I'm sure by now that all of you have heard the historic news that Lithuania has been invited to join NATO. What a great accomplishment for her and six of her fellow Vilnius Group Nations who also received an invitation. Who would have dreamed how far Lithuania has come in the past twelve years. Along with our Lithuanian Affairs Chair, John Mankus, and his wife, Grace, I had the honor of being invited to attend a celebration reception on Capital Hill in early December. During this reception, hosted by the 10 Ambassadors from the Vilnius Group Nations, Ambassador Ušackas personally offered his thanks to the Knights of Lithuania for all their help. Well, we're half way there! The governments of the standing NATO member nations must ratify the invitation to make it official. That's where all of us come in. We need to continue writing to our President, Senators and members of Congress asking them to support this invitation. I urge each of you to continue your letter writing for the coming year to insure that NATO membership becomes a reality for Lithuania and all those nations invited to join.

With so much going on in our organization, it won't be long before it is convention time. In the meantime I ask everyone to continue all your good works. I especially encourage everyone to sign up new members. This past year has seen many of our members and friends pass on leaving a void in our organization. Add to that the members who have decided not to remain with the organization either because of our recent dues increase, lack of further interest in the organization, or what ever the reason may be, and you will see the need for us to do our best to raise the number of members on the books. I'm sure our National Financial Secretary, June Grenier, is eager to add people to our roster. Let's not disappoint her and especially our organization as a whole.

Again, Happy New Year.

Vytiškai,

Rob Martin

Robert A. Martin, Jr.

President



DUES REMINDERS:



Dues for the year 2003 are now payable to your **Council Financial Secretary**. If a member has not paid his/her dues by **March 31, 2003**, they will be dropped from the *Vytis* mailing list. If dues are not received by June 30, 2003, the member will be dropped from the organization.



Lithuanian Affairs Update

By John R. Mankus, Chairman,
National Lith. Affairs Committee

Political News

NATO INVITES LITHUANIA TO JOIN ALLIANCE

On Nov. 21, at the session of the North Atlantic Council in Prague, Secretary General of NATO, Lord Robertson announced that Heads of State and Government of NATO had invited Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to start accession negotiations with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. "This is a crucially important decision where consensus among Allies has emerged gradually over the last few months," Lord Robertson stated in his Announcement on Enlargement.

President Bush in Vilnius: "Lithuania's enemy will make enemy of U.S."

"Brave people of the three Baltic States will never fight alone against aggression, and an enemy of Lithuania will be an enemy of the United States," U.S. President George W. Bush said in an address to the nation in Vilnius on Saturday morning, BNS reported. "The long night of fear, uncertainty and loneliness is over. You're joining the strong and growing family of NATO. Our alliance has made a solemn pledge of protection, and anyone who would choose Lithuania as an enemy has also made an enemy of the United States of America," the president said in the City Hall Square. He noted that, "in the face of aggression, the brave people of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia will never again stand alone." After these words, the several thousand people gathered in the square started to clap and chant, "Thank You," in Lithuanian. President Adamkus translated the word for the smiling U.S. counterpart. **The U.S. president said that NATO countries have opened "the doors of our alliance to Lithuania and six other European democracies. "We proudly invite Lithuania to join us in NATO, the great Atlantic alliance," Bush told the crowd. He noted that the United States "always recognized an independent Lithuania." "We knew that this continent would not remain divided, we knew that arbitrary lines drawn by dictators would be erased, and those lines are now gone," Bush said. "No more Munichs, no more Yaltas." You are needed in the NATO alliance. You will contribute to our common security, yet the strength of NATO does not**

only depend on the might of armies, but on the character of men and women," the U.S. president stated, adding, that "we must be willing to stand in the face of evil to have the courage to always face danger." In his words, Lithuania is loyal to the best traditions of democracy, tolerance and religious liberty, and has earned respect of the United States and other nations. He said, that today the alliance of freedom is being tested again by new and terrible dangers "like the Nazis and the Communists before them, and terrorists seek to end lives and control all life." And like the Nazis, and Communists before them will be opposed by free nations, and terrorists will be defeated," Bush stressed. He reminded, that a decade ago hundreds of Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians joined hands from Tallinn to Vilnius to show their love for freedom. **"In the Cathedral Square, there is a stone, and inscribed on that stone is one word - miracle,"** Bush stated. **"The recent history of the Baltic states truly is a miracle. You gained your freedom, you won your independence, you now join the great alliance and your miracle goes on. Today, on this great day, may God bless the memory of Lithuanian patriots and freedom fighters who did not live to see this moment. And may God always bless the brave and free people of Lithuania,"** Bush completed.

President Bush says he was moved by warm welcome in Lithuania

President Valdas Adamkus received Friday a letter from US President George W. Bush who, on behalf of himself and First Lady, Laura Bush, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to visit Lithuania. We were moved by a warm welcoming which the Lithuanian people gave to us, W. Bush said in his letter. President Bush stayed in Lithuania on Nov. 22-23, shortly after the landmark Prague-hosted summit of NATO which invited Lithuania and other 6 candidate countries to join the Alliance. **The US president repeatedly offered congratulations to Lithuania on receiving invitations to accede to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. By proceeding consistently with reforms and pursuing its goal, Lithuania won global recognition and was invited to NATO. At this historic moment, the United States considered it a big honor to be together with you. I appreciate greatly our friendship and hope to further cooperate with you successfully,** W. Bush wrote.

Lithuanian EU bid crowned by invitation

Lithuania and other nine EU candidate countries or eastern and central Europe were invited to join the European Union, the historic decision on enlargement announced following the final negotiations during the bloc's summit in Copenhagen on Dec. 13. On May 1, 2004, the 15-nation European bloc should expand by taking in three Baltic countries – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – Malta, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary and Cyprus. The EU invitees are expected to seal the accession treaties on April 16, 2003 in Greece, as a would-be chair of the Union.

Most Lithuanians support EU, NATO membership.

Most of Lithuania's residents would vote for the country's joining the EU and NATO if a referendum were held today. According to the BNS, the results of an opinion poll conducted by the Baltijos Tyrimai (Baltic Surveys) suggest that if a referendum were held on Dec. 17, about 68% - a record number – of those polled would be in favor of Lithuania's membership in the EU. Different polls during the past two years suggested a support to the EU integration by some 50 per cent of the respondents. According to the poll, about 18 per cent of the respondents would vote against Lithuania's joining the EU, 14 per cent are undecided. These two numbers saw a decrease of a few percentage points in comparison with earlier polls. **If a referendum on NATO membership were held these days, some 59 per cent of those polled would vote for joining the Alliance, 23 per cent would be against, and about 16 per cent are undecided.**

Brzezinski kills "Molotov," Ribbentrop," in Lithuanian forest

Famous U.S. political scientist, **Zbigniew Brzezinski** decided to give his two trophies killed in Lithuania names of ill-famed criminals of the last century - **Molotov and Ribbentrop**. According to BNS report, some say that Brzezinski named the two boars hunted in the central Lithuanian forest to settle account with the history – during his service as US president's national security adviser, and later as an independent politician, **he worked hard to eliminate the consequences of the secret pact between the Communist Soviet Union and the Nazi Germany, which divided Europe for almost 50 years.** Brzezinski, an ardent hunter, killed the two boars in a forest near **Krekenava** in the end of November when he was in

Lithuania to celebrate the Baltic state's invitation to NATO and the visit of U.S. President George W. Bush. The distinguished hunting company also included Lithuanian Prime Minister, **Algirdas Brazauskas**, Latvian ex-president, **Guntis Ulmanis**, **Lithuanian Ambassador in the U.S., Vygaudas Usackas** and several lawmakers. The U.S. political scientist told about the names to the trophies in a letter to Usackas. **He also thanked the Lithuanian Ambassador for the pleasant reception in Lithuania.**

ECONOMIC NEWS

Lithuania is largest foreign investor in Russia's Kaliningrad region

The Kaliningrad administration has released data showing that **Lithuania is the largest foreign investor** in the Russian Baltic Sea enclave. According to BNS, a total of 498 enterprises with Lithuanian capital participation operate in Kaliningrad, **accounting for 27.4 per cent of all joint ventures and foreign-owned companies operating in the region.** **In the first 11 months of this year,** Lithuania's total investments in the stock capital of companies operating in the region are valued at **5.722 million euros.** This represents 13.7 percent of the total foreign equity investments in Kaliningrad, the largest share among foreign countries. Poland and Germany lag behind Lithuania in terms of foreign investments in the Russian enclave, with Polish and German investments in the stock capital of Kaliningrad-based companies reaching 1.429 million euros, respectively, over the 11 months of 2002.

FITCH assigns A group ratings to Lithuania

The international rating agency, **FITCH**, has included Lithuania into a group of countries having the highest rating of **A-**. **FITCH** revised Lithuania's credit ratings for the second time this year, **noting the country's continuous economic progress, as well as stable and reliable financial system,** the finance ministry reported. According to the statement released on Dec. 17, Lithuania's long-term foreign currency rating has been upgraded to **BBB** from **BBB-**, and the long-term local currency rating had been upgraded to **A-** from **BBB+**.

LITHUANIA'S GDP GROWTH FASTEST IN REGION

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development forecasts that the **growth of Gross Domestic Product in Lithuania will be the largest in Lithuania among East and Central**

European states. According to the prognosis, the GDP will increase by 5.2% in 2002 in Lithuania, the GDP growth of 4% is forecast for Latvia, Estonia and Hungary, while the GDP growth of other East and Central European countries is forecasted to be more modest this year.

AVERAGE EARNINGS RISE IN LITHUANIA

According to the Department of Statistics, average monthly earnings in Lithuania continued to grow in the third quarter of this year. Monthly gross earnings in the Lithuanian economy, excluding sole proprietorship, averaged 1.127litas (EUR 281.75) in the third quarter, a **5.6% increase** over the same period last year. On a quarterly basis, the average earnings rose by 1.3%. Real wages, after taking into account the consumer price index, **rose by 7.5% in year-on-year terms.**

CULTURAL AND MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

UNIQUE LITHUANIAN BIBLE MANUSCRIPT ON DISPLAY IN VILNIUS

On Nov. 27th an exhibition Translator of the Bible **Jonas Bretkunas** opened at the Museum of Applied Arts in Vilnius devoted to the **400th anniversary of the Lithuanian Bible.** The manuscript of the **first translation of the Bible into Lithuanian in the 16th century** is displayed at the exhibition. The manuscript of the Bible, translated by **Jonas Bretkunas**, as well as some other valuable manuscripts have been taken to Lithuania from Germany, where they had been kept in Berlin State Museum of Prussian Heritage. I took the translator 23 years to complete the translation of 1908 pages Bible – the Old and the New Testament. Lithuanian **President Valdas Adamkus** welcomed the organizers and guests of the exhibition.

VILNIUS IS MOST MOTORIZED CAPITAL IN BALTIC STATES

According the **Latvian Central Board of Statistics**, there are more vehicles per capita in Vilnius than in Riga or Tallinn. In 2001, **Vilnius had 360 vehicles per 1,000 residents**, against 337 in Tallinn, and 265 in Riga. **The number of vehicles per capita in Vilnius is also larger than in Helsinki, 336, and Copenhagen, 212.**

LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS TREE BEST IN HELSINKI

On Dec. 4, a Christmas tree **decorated by the Lithuanian Embassy** was recognized as the most beautiful at the annual competition between **14 embassies in Helsinki.** The Lithuanian Christmas tree was **decorated with toys made from Lithuanian china and ceramics.**



ATTENTION...

A collector of **Lithuanian medals in Lithuania** is looking for donors of **old SEIMAS DELEGATE medals; K of L medals; or old RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION medals**, to be used for articles, pictures, expositions in Lithuania, to show its citizens the amount of Lithuanian activity in pre-World War II, U.S.A.

Lietuvos atributikos kolekcionierius prašo skaitytojus paaukot senus **SEIMO DELEGATAS, LIETUVOS VYČIŲ** arba **RELIGINIŲ ORGANIZACIJŲ** medalius del Lietuvių žmonių apibudinimo su senųjų Lietuvių veiklą Amerikoje prieš Antrą Pasaulinį karą.

Prašome siūsti medalius:

Please send medals to:

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3613 So. Union Avenue
Chicago, IL 60609
Tel.: (773) 376-1226



C-26 The Parade of Nations: L to R Irene Markevicius and Vivian Rodgers

October 2002 National Pilgrimage

This past fall, K of L'ers from across the country gathered on October 13th at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the organization's first national pilgrimage. Roughly 75 members representing all five districts attended this beautiful day of prayer, headed by our Supreme Council, which had met for its annual fall meeting the day before. A morning tour of the lower level of the basilica began the day. Our pilgrims then gathered in the Great Upper Church to take part in the noon High Mass. Celebrant for the Mass was the rector of the basilica, Rev. Msgr. Bransfield, who welcomed the Knights of Lithuania to the shrine in his opening remarks. The Mass was concelebrated by our very own Rev. Msgr. J. Anderlonis, national spiritual advisor, and Rev. A. Markus, spiritual advisor for the Council 112 Juniors. Also participating in the Mass were, Joe Chaplick, Washington, DC Council 142 president, and Rob Martin, Supreme Council president. The two presidents presented the gifts at the Liturgy.

Following Mass, the group gathered in the Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva for a Rosary and Prayer Service. The chapel was filled to capacity, and all enjoyed the moving service prepared and led by Msgr. J. Anderlonis. Msgr. Bransfield again expressed his thanks for our being there. Also greeting the pilgrims was Rev. Rossi of the basilica's Office of Pilgrimage Events. At the conclusion of the service, Joe Chaplick, who also serves as our local liaison with the basilica, presented Msgr. Bransfield with the donations collected at the National Convention for the Chapel's upkeep. Msgr. was very grateful for our continued support, especially now that the Chapel is being prepared for a much needed renovation.

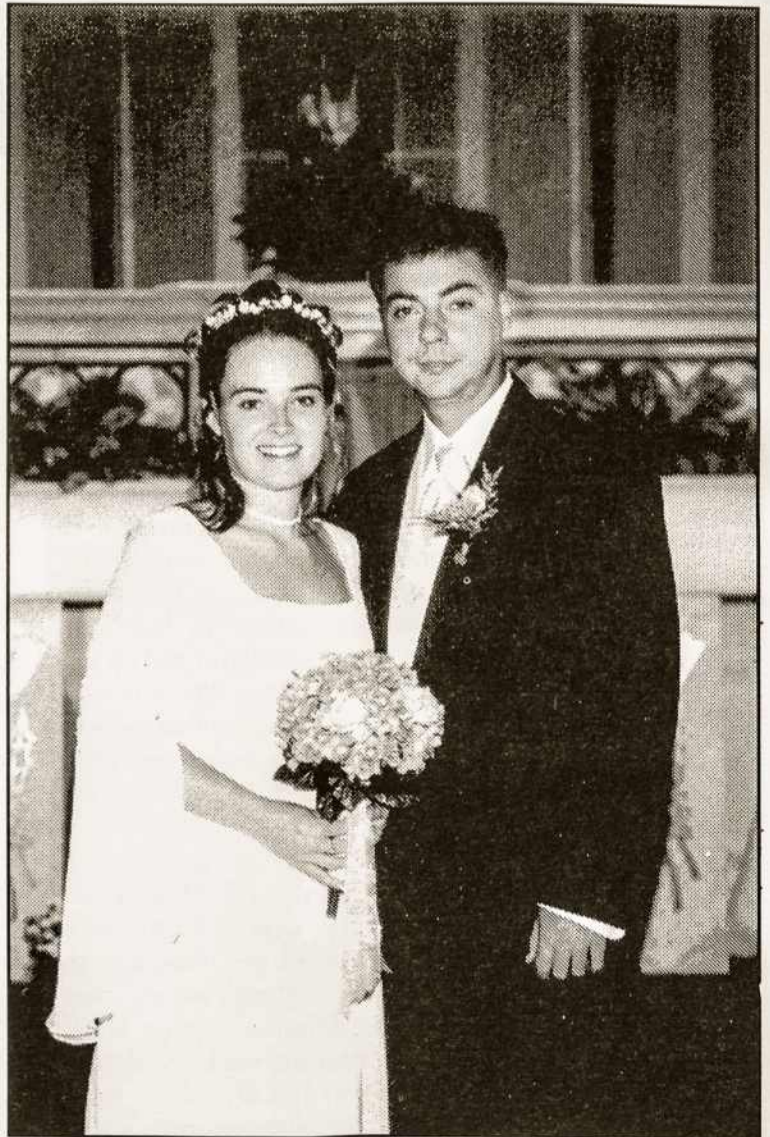
Before dispersing, the K of L pilgrims assembled on the stairs outside for a group photo.

I extend a special thank you to all who helped me in preparing the pilgrimage weekend, especially Msgr. J. Anderlonis, Msgr. Bransfield, Rev. Markus, Rev. Rossi and Joe Chaplick. Our thanks to Theresa Strolia, who organized a bus for the MAMD contingent and to all who attended. The MAMD members in town for the entire weekend had the opportunity to tour the Franciscan Monastery and to take an afternoon tour of Washington, DC. Several of the members from our NED, MCD, MAD and Amber Districts were able to "tag along" with them for these and added events.

As we continue to promote devotion to Our Lady of Siluva throughout the world, may we continue to pray for her intervention on our behalf and for her continued blessings.

The website begun during the convention is nearing completion and will be available for all very soon. Watch the *Vytis* for an announcement. Please remember that the Chapel in Washington, as well as the Shrine in Siluva, Lithuania, both need our continued support.

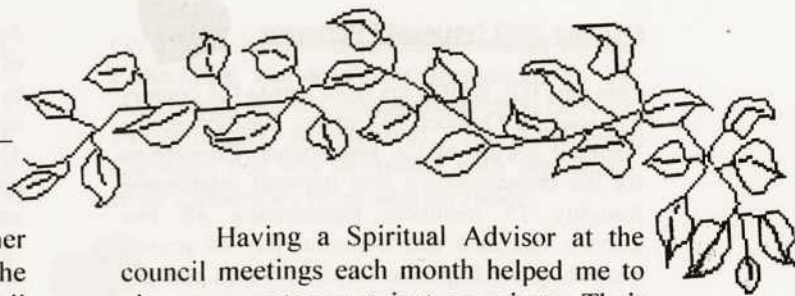
~Submitted by Rob Martin
Supreme Council President~



Amy and Rob Glaser, recently wed. Amy is a Second Degree Knight and a K of L Scholar ship recipient. C-96

My Favorite Knights of Lithuania Memories

(Knights of Lithuania Foundation Contest - 3rd Prize winning entry - 2002)



It all began while I drove my mother to Lithuanian Sunday Mass, followed by the monthly Knights of Lithuania council meeting. As an observer at the meeting, I was soon invited to join the organization. No harm in that, I thought. Now I was being spoken to by people whom I had only seen in Church.

While attending the meetings, I began to admire the various members of the "older generation," mostly those who had come to America after World War II. I loved how they spoke the Lithuanian language, and I began to understand more of the words.

The council president was an Honorary Member even before I knew him, and was re-elected to the presidency, year after year. He was a gentleman, an eternal bachelor, who, at the very mention of the word, "Lithuania," had eyes that would swell up with a tear or two as he was reminded of his beloved homeland. I eventually noticed that he was a staple in the maintenance of the Church buildings themselves, always available to help one with a project. He died calmly in bed on the morning of a council meeting day. Since he was always on time, his absence was quickly investigated, his body was found, and soon after was lovingly buried by his council, his friends.

The Lithuanian Affairs chairpersons were great leaders of our Lithuanian community, and a few were also Honorary Members. We were urged to write letters to publicize Lithuania's plight among the Soviets. We were informed of the latest tragedies, accomplishments and necessities. They each spoke emotionally, their faces turning red, and voices rising as their anger was visible while reporting the Communists' activities to the membership. I learned much about Communism during those meetings.

Having a Spiritual Advisor at the council meetings each month helped me to view our pastors not just as priests. Their announcements were not all religious, as they are in Church. The men are truly good guys! They laugh, enjoy mingling and chit chatting, and became very approachable. My admiration for the religious deepened quickly. The opening and closing prayers were always special for the occasion.

The Church hall's kitchen has got the goodies that I love to eat. It is from there where I had my first taste of my most favorite dessert in the world, the "Napoleonas" tort. I run for it every time I see it on a Lithuanian dessert table.

Our council has many years of service, with lots of Honorary Members, which tells me that I'm onto something good. Unfortunately, the headcount is dwindling, not growing. Those of my generation just don't seem to be much interested in joining Lithuanian clubs, as you may well know.

I have my fourth degree now, and have been the Cultural Chairperson for years. I just hope that my readings of Lithuanian customs and traditions are just as enjoyable for the membership as they are for me.



~Emilija Sadonis, C29
Newark, New Jersey

~~~~~  
"God still draws near to us in the ordinary, commonplace, everyday experiences and places... He comes in surprising ways. "



## NEWSWORTHY

(Information received from "Bishop's Brief," Bishop P. Baltakis's newsletter.)

**GOLDEN JUBILEE in the priesthood.** Paul Antanas Baltakis OFM, titular bishop of Egar assigned to Lithuanians living outside Lithuania, cherished friend and C-110 member, celebrated his golden anniversary in the priesthood on August 24, 2002. To mark the occasion, he received a personal greeting and apostolic Blessing from the Holy Father for his pastoral care of his Lithuanian flock. Ilgiausių, švenčiausių, sveikiausių metų!

**70 YEARS A PRIEST.** Rev. Msgr. Joseph Prunskis, HM, and sponsor of the annual essay contest, according to the 2002 Catholic Directory published in Lithuania, celebrated this year his 70<sup>th</sup> year since ordination. Monsignor presently resides at Holy Family Villa in Lemont, IL where he also attained his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

On a sad note, **Lawrence MA** – After 99 years of serving Lithuanians, St. Francis Church was closed on July 7, 2002. The Lithuanian Mass was transferred to Holy Rosary Church where the Liturgy is offered by Rev. Albinas Janiunas, pastor emeritus. Despite its merger with Holy Rosary Church, St. Francis Parish will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 31, 2003.

**Denver, CO** – Rev. A. Kulbis, OSM, Pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, has agreed to serve the spiritual needs of Lithuanians living in Colorado and Oregon. A number of young Lithuanian families have settled there. On May 12, 2002, for the first time in Denver history, Rev. Kulbis administered First Holy Communion to a group of Lithuanian children whom he had prepared for the sacrament.

### At the Vatican...

His holiness, **Pope John Paul II**, celebrated his 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the papacy on October 16, 2002. Only four Popes in the history of the Catholic Church have ruled longer **St. Peter, Pius VI** (24 years, 6 months and 7 days), **Leo XIII** (25 years and 5 months) and **Pius IX** (31 years, 7 months and 21 days).

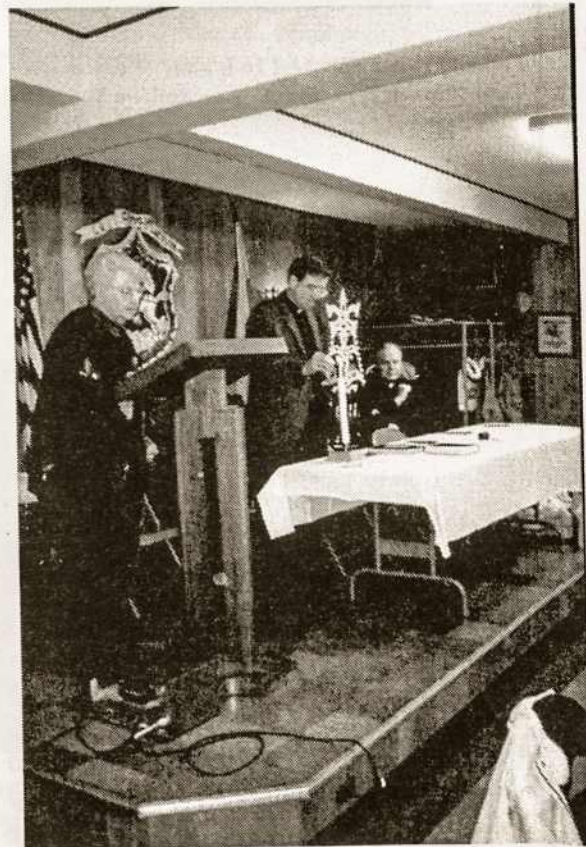
John Paul II has visited 129 countries and rightly deserves the title of "Traveling Pope." Moreover, he has written 13 encyclicals and 93 Papal letters, has beatified 1,297 and canonized 454, and elevated 201 Cardinals.

During Pope John Paul II's papacy the number of Catholics in the world has increased dramatically. During the past 22 years, the total has grown 40%, from 757 million to 1,045 billion. Catholics have increased 135% in Africa, 86% in South America, 25% in Asia and 6% in Europe. There are many more bishops, while the

number of priests has diminished. However, there is an increase in the number of men entering seminaries, as well as new lay deacons and lay missionaries.

On the occasion of his 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Pope John Paul II has proclaimed **additions to the Rosary**. The traditional three parts consisting of fifteen mysteries have been complemented by a fourth set which calls upon the faithful to reflect upon the following events in the life of Christ: **1. His Baptism in the Jordan; 2. His First Miracle, Changing Water into Wine at the Wedding of Cana; 3. His Proclamation of the Kingdom of God; 4. His Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, and 5. His Institution of the Eucharist.** The Pope described the Rosary as a compendium of the Gospels and proclaimed the period of October, 2002 to October, 2003, the **Year of the Rosary**.

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Kucios - Elinor Sluzas moderator, Father Mike lighting the candle, and Rev. J. Rotan of the Univ. of Dayton.

## JUNIORS' CORNER... COUNCIL MEMBER RECEIVES SCOUTING HIGHEST AWARD



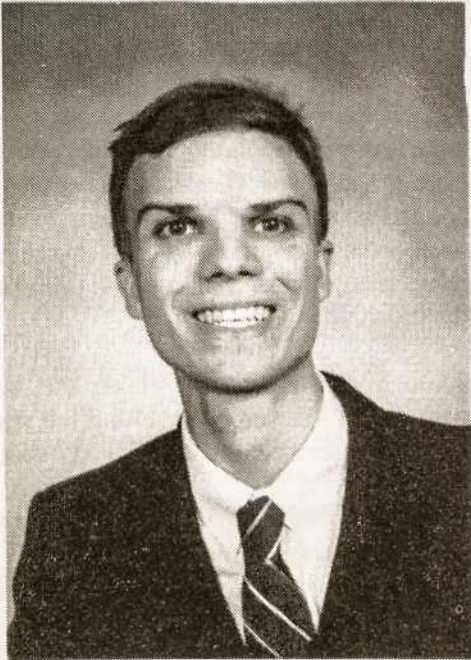
Father Michael Letteer, co-master of ceremonies and the parochial vicar of Our Lady of Hope Church, Coal Township (right) congratulates Andrew Wislock (left) on receiving his Eagle Award.

Andrew Wislock, a member of Council 156, Shamokin, received his Boy Scout **Eagle Award**, on Sunday, September 15, 2002. Father Michael Letteer, the parochial vicar at Our Lady of Hope Church, and Mary Ann Charnosky, a K of L council member, served as co-masters of ceremonies at the event. Andrew received his Eagle Scout medal from his scoutmaster, Dr. Edward Twigg II.

Andrew received citation on this accomplishment from national, state and local dignitaries. He began his scouting career in 1992 as a Cub Scout and eventually obtained his Arrow of Light award, Cub Scout's highest award. In Boy Scouting, Andrew obtained over 44 merit badges and serves as the senior patrol leader of Troop 254 in Shamokin. In the summer of 2001, he served as the assistant patrol leader for the

National Jamboree Council Troop. Recently, this summer, he completed a trip to Philmont in New Mexico, where he backpacked over 100 miles. In July, 2002, he received his 50-mile badge after completing a canoe trip on Lake Keuka, New York, and a conservation project. In addition, he served as a member of the scout press corps at the 2002 NOAC National Conference. Andrew is also a member of the Order of the Arrow. For his Eagle project, he refinished and painted the parish garage and the interior walls of various offices and classrooms in the Our Lady of Hope Parish Center, Coal Township. Andrew is an altar server and active in parish fundraising activities at Our Lady of Hope Church. His parents are Robert Wislock, Council 156 President, and Kathleen Wislock, a council member.

**WORDS OF GRATITUDE...**



Dear Knights of Lithuania,

As co-recipient of the 2002 Sviklas & Tamulevich Scholarship, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Knights of Lithuania. I have utilized my pride and admiration for my Lithuanian heritage to fuel many of my academic pursuits. Because of this award, during the following year I will be able to focus my efforts on researching my dissertation concerning World War II Eastern European Displaced Persons. As an attorney and scholar, I plan to use my skills to make beneficial contributions to the legal and historical discourse. I have great appreciation for the Knights of Lithuania's generous support of my academic endeavors and the encouragement of valuable and creative contributions to the scholarly community. Again, please accept my many thanks.

Sincerely,



*Mary K. Mankus*

Mary K. Mankus

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Dear Fellow Knights,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship award I received recently. I was both delighted and surprised by your generosity and am glad to see that the Knights continue to promote the educational advancement of their members.

For some time, I have dreamt of completing a Master's degree in Operations Research. Since I recently became unemployed, and now attend school full time, this award will help to fulfill my dream.

Fraternally yours,

*Pranas V. Ciziunas*

Pranas V. Ciziunas



Our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Richard Jakabauskas, whispering his Christmas List to Santa.

C-26, Worcester

## Important Notice...

All applications for the **FOURTH DEGREE** to be awarded in Brockton, MA at the National Convention must be received by **April 1, 2003**.

Any applications received after that date will be considered for the next year.

Please send all applications to:

Lee Moore  
Supr. Council Ritual Committee  
126 High Street  
Clearfield, PA 16830

## Honorary Membership Notice

The following names have been submitted to the Honorary Membership Committee for consideration to Honorary Membership:

**C-136 - Bernice Aviza - Hudson Mohawk**

**C-1 - Veronica Bizinkauskas - Brockton**

**C-157 Ann Marie Kassel - Lemont, IL**

Submitted to Mr. Frank Petrauskas  
Chairperson Honorary Membership Comm.



The parade of nations (New Year's Eve). L. to R. Vivian Rodgers, Ray Jakubauskas, Bill Leseman, Gintaras Dirzuskas, Irene Markevicius & AnnLeseman. Council 26

*This important piece of Council News waited for a longtime to be published. When a parish closes, some characteristics of personal and corporate death emerge. Many members have experienced this painful loss, and our readers will indeed respond with compassion and empathy. We regret this article could not be printed earlier. - Editor's Note*

### Closing of the Parish

- Genute Strimaitis-Valente, C-50, New Haven

I have some very disturbing and sad news to report. Some time in September (2002) our parish, St. Casimir's of New Haven, will be closing. Even though the exact date has not been determined, you can feel the loss. St. Casimir's Church has enjoyed many, many years as the local Lithuanian entity. The inevitable has happened.

Although the doors will close, the walls of St. Casimir will long be open telling the stories of our dancers, singers, ethnic parties, and dances.

*I remember going to the council meetings as a child of 4 or 5; now forty years later, I am the council reporter.*

*I remember the loving way I used to look at Močiute as she walked up the aisle for Communion.*

*I remember Mamyte ir Tėvelis singing in the church choir.*

*I remember the aromas that crept up the staircase from the women cooking kugelis and dešras in the basement.*

*I remember as a kid playing hide-and-seek in the parish hall while the adults sang songs of Lithuania.*

*I remember proudly walking to the Church Cross holding the Lithuanian flag as people gathered to sing songs of freedom.*

*I would not give up these remembrances. I now watch my daughter playing these same games and thank God that she will have some memories to hold dear to her heart as I do.*

*A tear, a deep breath, times change and so must we...*

I have belonged to St. Casimir for forty years, and I for one will be sad for a very long time. I suppose there are many churches I could attend, but none will hold my heart or soul like St. Casimir.

Our council president Isabel Peterson, is diligently working to keep our council alive. If anyone can do it, Isabel will. When you have a strong council, (no matter what the number of members) as we do, God will take heed and turn us to the right path.

## IMPORTANT DIRECTIVES FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SELECTION PROCESS

There has been some confusion recently regarding the selection process for Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania. Therefore, the committee has decided to publish the guidelines in the *Vytis*. However, these guidelines can also be found in the Knights of Lithuania Manual. Each council president should have a manual, as these were sent to each council approximately 10 years ago.

Each council should familiarize itself with these guidelines, so as when in the future it chooses to consider a member as a candidate, the proper qualifications will be met. Proper procedure on the council and district levels will eliminate the possibility of embarrassment later on.

### CANDIDACY PROCEDURES:

1. Before proposing a member for Honorary Membership Candidacy, work up a detailed history of activities and accomplishments with the Council, District and Supreme Council. Add other activities and participation with parish, religious, civic or other organizations, if any, which have resulted in recognition of the K of L or Lithuanian causes.
2. Considering that the Honorary Membership is NOT a Degree, and that there are probably several hundred members who have also been awarded the Fourth Degree, the Distinguished Order of St. Casimir, for their years of dedicated, untiring service in the K of L, pick out and make a separate list of those accomplishments which are extraordinary.
3. Review with several fellow officers and members, and if you feel that the Honorary Membership Committee and National Convention delegates will agree that this member has distinguished himself/herself by intensive, sustained, outstanding service for the K of L and the Lithuanian causes, then prepare and present a resolution at your Council and District meeting.
4. Upon approval by the members, send the history and the resolution to the Honorary Membership chairperson. The resolution must be signed by the Council and District President, Secretary and Spiritual Advisor. If one of these signatories is the candidate, the officer next in line of authority is to sign. The resolution must be recorded in the meeting minutes.
5. The Honorary Membership Committee will review the history and ask for more data, if necessary. If the Committee sees that the candidate still has not reached the standards, the Council and District presenting the resolution will be so advised.
6. If the candidate is found acceptable by the majority of the Committee, the originating resolution body will be advised of the possible date of presentation of the resolution to the National Convention delegates for final approval.
7. If several approved candidates are pending, the order of procedure will be weighed not only on the basis of date the resolution was received, but also on the basis of qualification.
8. If there are two candidates a Council and District want to propose, it is urged that they be submitted in separate years, so as not to detract from the distinctiveness of this honor, for rarely is their eligibility so completely equal.
9. Members on the Honorary Membership Committee are selected to represent the various active District areas and are members who are aware of the performance of the more active members. It is not often, but where the candidate's accomplishments are not known as extensively by the other committee members, they are

accordingly appraised by the area representative.

**REQUISITES:**

1. The candidate must be a Fourth Degree member.
2. The Honorary Membership Committee must present the resolution for Honorary Membership to the National Convention for approval by the Convention Delegates.
3. The history of the recipient must be published in the *Vytis* prior to the Convention when the Honorary Membership is conferred.

**QUALIFICATION EXAMPLES:**

1. Though not an absolute prerequisite, most of the present Honorary Members have held office in the Supreme council.
2. Though not an absolute prerequisite, most of the present Honorary Members were continuously active for at least twenty-five years.
3. There are and have been great numbers of great presidents and vice-presidents. These higher offices were justly earned and were acknowledgments of the trust in these leaders to keep the K of L activities and goals alive and growing. Then there have been the extraordinary ones whose dynamic leadership and fervor reached out, electrified and inspired officers at all levels and members to greater heights of intensive work, membership enrollments, establishment and reorganization of Councils and Junior groups.
4. There are many committees: each one an integral part of the K of L. There are those committed to maintaining and furthering the cultural and the Lithuanian political causes. Most members who have assumed the responsibility of these committee offices did so because they felt that personal belief in its importance. Then there are those who brought that importance to the foreground and attention of all K of L'ers by imagination. They made culture and customs interesting with exciting presentations. They made it living

through choral and drama groups. They made every active member an ardent participant in the data gathering and letter writing, resulting in tremendous impact and impressions on journalists and political leaders.

5. There is no doubt that those rare, special people who have assumed the gigantic responsibility as Editors, secretaries, financial secretaries, treasurers and members of various committees deserve preferred recognition. Then there are those who brought efficiency and economical procedural innovations to these offices. There are those who have enhanced the K of L image by successfully promoting the K of L role in the religious or scholarship fields.
6. The capabilities and scope of each K of L activity are without limitation. The extraordinary member finds and uses his or her talents and potential to their fullest, expels complacency and injects attention, enthusiasm and participation to spur everybody to their maximum capabilities and performance.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

Occasionally, a very special person (sometimes a non-member) is proposed for Honorary Membership, calling for special procedures. This type of award is spelled out and allowed for in the K of L Constitution, (Article V, Section 3d.). The person so proposed, a Catholic Lithuanian, is one whose activities are preeminently outstanding and exemplary of the highest ideals of the Knights of Lithuania, and who is deemed to bring honor to the Knights if presented this award. Such a person may be recommended to the Honorary Membership Committee by a Council, a District, or by the Supreme Council. Clearly, if this special person being proposed is not initially a member, the requirement of "Fourth Degree" is waived, upon approval of the Honorary Membership Committee, the Supreme Council and the Convention Delegates.

Some of the people who have been so awarded Honorary Membership include two



Archbishops, two Bishops, an internationally renowned freedom-seeking defector, a Lithuanian Ambassador, and a President of Lithuania.

**ABOUT HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:**

The Honorary Membership IS NOT another Degree to be received after the Fourth Degree is earned. It is a distinctive honor bestowed upon a member for "outstanding" services. This kind of member may come up in a Council or District perhaps once in a generation and most candidates who have had this honor bestowed upon them have been "outstanding" for an average of twenty-five years. If there are two or even three such candidates, it is urged that the Council and District submit them one at a time, so as not to detract from the distinctiveness of this honor, for rarely is their eligibility so completely equal.

There is no formal application form for the Honorary Membership. If a District or a Council feels that on occasion, they have a fellow member who has, over the years, distinguished himself/herself, by intensive, sustained, outstanding services to the Knights of Lithuania and the Lithuanian cause, they may apply for candidacy for this member as listed under CANDIDACY PROCEDURES.

Submitted by Mr. Frank Petrauskas, HM, Honorary Membership Comm. Chair.



**Troškūnai, Lithuania; Our Blessed Mother as described in *Vytis* Nov.-Dec., page 32.**

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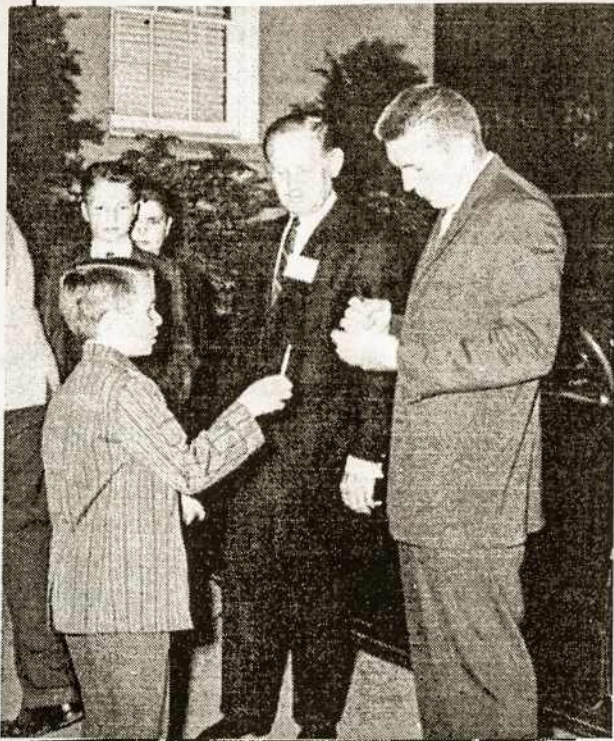


**Photo at left:**

K of L members, Council #147, St. Petersburg, Florida. Maria Gelazius, Treasurer; John Jonaitis, President, and Valeria Lescinskas, participating in a Memorial Service at Holy Name of Jesus Church, in Gulfport, Florida



*Super Bowl<sup>18</sup> Memories...*



## JOHNNY UNITAS

### **FATHER OF MODERN AMERICAN FOOTBALL ~ SON OF LITHUANIAN IMMIGRANTS**

On Sept. 11, 2002, as the US mourned the First Anniversary of the NY Twin Towers tragedy, another event occurred, causing mourning in the Sports Community and the Lithuanian American Community. Football star, son of Lithuanian immigrants, **John Unitas** died of a heart attack.

The following is an account of Mr. Unitas' life and times, by **Tony Mazeika** of Mission Viejo, California, who was well acquainted with the star and his life.

I have to start by apologizing. In my younger years I knew of Johnny Unitas (John Constantine Jonaitis), but because of my focus on Lithuanian public affairs and an obsession with baseball (especially the Brooklyn Dodgers), I didn't grasp that history was being made by the Pittsburgh born Lithuanian American. I was very thrilled with the historic performance of another Lithuanian American, Johnny Podres, baseball pitcher, who overpowered the unbeatable New York Yankees in 1955, and led the Brooklyn Dodgers to their first World Series championship. In the 1960's, I was committed to activities that centered around Baltic resistance to Soviet occupation including the November 13, 1965 Madison Square Garden rally and march to the United Nations. With the exception of now deceased Father Casimir Pugevicius, I knew no Lithuanian who was close to him. But, I am happy that Father Pugevicius, while associate pastor of a Baltimore Catholic parish, did meet with him and knew him. His meetings, however, have never been documented. (Pugevicius, for me, is another hero. He spent many years working with the underground Lithuanian Catholic Church, documenting Soviet violations of religious rights and a translator of the smuggled out chronicles of the Roman Catholic Church. He himself deserves greater recognition for his religious rights struggle).

The time frame of the late 1950's through 1973 proved to be Unitas' period of historic glory as the greatest NFL (National Football League) quarterback of all time. Only in time, as each record and statistic was broken, did I realize

what was happening for this unassuming American of Lithuanian ancestry. Not only was he becoming the greatest football player of all time, but because of his unquestioned leadership (called "Field General" by **Sports Illustrated's** Peter King), Unitas reinvented professional football into today's most popular, almost fanatical fall sport. During his leadership as quarterback for the Baltimore Colts, as "field general," he exercised absolute game play control and player discipline. Because of his personal introduction of the "two minute" drill during the final clock ticking moments of the game, football has been transformed into a billion dollar spectator and television spectacular. Those final two intense minutes of play have created some of the greatest upsets in history.

Johnny was born in Pittsburgh on May 7, 1933 to a Lithuanian immigrant family. His father, who owned a local coal delivery company, died of pneumonia when Johnny was only 5, and his mother raised four children by herself, supporting them by working two jobs. There was a sizable Lithuanian community in Pittsburgh those days. The men either worked in the steel mills or neighboring coal mines.

At St. Justin's, a small Catholic high school, Unitas played halfback and end until he replaced the injured starting quarterback in his junior year. As a senior, he drew interest from colleges. However, both Notre Dame and Indiana University turned him down because he was too small. He finally accepted a scholarship from Louisville where he became a starter and led his university to four wins, and threw 21 touchdowns.

(The following facts from the "Unitas Timeline" were provided by the Baltimore Sun).

After completing his career at the University of Louisville, he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers, and thus began his professional career in 1955. From Pittsburgh, he went on to enhance his career further with the Baltimore Colts, where he led the Colts over the NY Giants for the NFL championship, in what are to be called "The Greatest Games Ever Played." He continued to bring victory to the Colts, making NFL history with 212 touchdown passes, by 1966, and NFL record streak of 47 games, and other outstanding feats.

In 1973, he was traded to the San Diego Chargers, where he became the first player to top 40,000 yards passing for his career.

Johnny Unitas retired from the NFL in July, 1974, but continued in football as a Football Analyst on CBS, and later became a Colts' Consultant. In 1979, Johnny Unitas was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. His full uniform is on display at the Hall, as well as the football he threw to surpass 40,000 passing yards.

Besides being a consultant after retirement from active football, he also was involved in restaurant, air freight and retail clothing business.

According to the **National Football's Pro Football Hall of Fame**, at the time of his retirement in 1973, Johnny Unitas, the superstar quarterback of the Baltimore Colts, held virtually every career passing record that existed in the National Football League. Since that time, some of those records have been surpassed. One record, however, still remains and may be one of the NFL's few unbreakable records.

Comparable to (New York Yankees' baseball great) Joe Dimaggio's 56-game hit streak, Unitas compiled a string of 47 straight games in which he threw at least one touchdown pass. This record, which has stood for almost 40 years, has only been challenged once when Miami Dolphins' quarterback, Dan Marino, compiled a 30-game streak in the 1980's.

Unitas' remarkable feat began during his rookie campaign in a game against the Los Angeles Rams in 1956. Four years later and 11 games into the 1960 season, the streak finally ended against the same Rams' team that the streak had begun.

By completing 697 passes for 10,645 yards and 102 touchdowns during the 47 game streak, Unitas quickly became recognized as one of the greatest quarterbacks to play the game. Seven different Colts were on the receiving end of his scoring passes, but Hall of Famers Raymond Berry with 38 TD catches, and Lenny Moore, with 27, were Unitas' favorite targets.

After a record-filled 18 year career, and three championships, Unitas himself was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1979.

It is important to understand that Unitas was not just another Lithuanian American football sports figure (there have been many players on the rosters of professional football in the 1930's to

1960's, some of whom have become Hall of Fame members like Dick Butkus, Chicago Bears). He was America's most successful and popular quarterback. Described as an icon by many, Sports Illustrated's Frank Deford called Johnny Unitas "an inspiration for the entire city" of Baltimore and "the greatest ever." He described him this way: "Unitas didn't even have a quarterback's name. All by himself he rewrote the profile...Unitas was some hardscrabble Lithuanian, so what he did made a difference. He was our Lithuanian."

**Bill Curry, ESPN.com**, all pro-center with Unitas for the Colts in 1971-1972, commented, "the thing that makes him so hard to describe, even for those of us who spent years in the trenches, is that despite his natural humility, his stoic mien, and his simplicity, he really was larger than life...He would always say the same thing: "Talk is cheap...let's play." Finally, with respect, "he was just John Unitas, real man, real winner, and real American hero. God bless you, John. We will never forget you." **Because of his outstanding achievements, leadership, attitude, dedications, and perseverance, he has become the measure and standard of how quarterbacks are rated.**

Currently a petition drive has been undertaken by the Baltimore Ravens team to rename Ravens Stadium in Baltimore to Unitas Stadium. It is sad that Lithuanian American organizations and communities have never publicly recognized or awarded Johnny (Jonaitis) Unitas during his playing or retirement years. He was never approached to sign on to public efforts at restoration of Baltic or Lithuanian independence. His personal endorsements could have brought enormous weight and support to that struggle during his lifetime. Of course it is never too late to give a memorial or dedication to his great efforts and sacrifice to excellence. Who could have asked for a better American role model. He indeed serves as a true role model for young Americans and Lithuanians everywhere. My greatest hope is that his memory and achievements may inspire sports advocates to bring American football to Lithuania. He will remain the most well known Lithuanian American sports figure of all time. His premature death at 69, on the first anniversary of 9/11 is in its own way symbolic, and will not be forgotten.

**Tony Mazeika, Mission Viejo, CA**

# In Memoriam...

|       |                     |                     |          |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| C-14  | Aleksas Urbonas     | St. Pete Beach, FL  | 4/18/02  |
| C-3   | Mary Bigenis        | Philadelphia, PA    | 11/15/02 |
| C-147 | Genovaite Bakas     | So. Pasadena, FL    | 12/4/02  |
| C-147 | Regina Usvaltas     | St. Pete Beach, FL  | 11/23/02 |
| C-86  | Gertrude Amilkavich | DuBois, PA          | 11/8/02  |
| C-86  | Ann Metrovich       | DuBois, PA          | 10/28/02 |
| C-3   | Daina Kapochus      | Egg Harbor City, NJ | 11/1/02  |
| C-144 | Albert Matunis      | Pottsville, PA      | 12/19/02 |
| C-96  | George Zilinkas     | Dayton, OH          | 11/18/02 |
| C-1   | Malvina Prilgousky  | Brockton, MA        | 12/7/02  |
| C-29  | Eleanore Cavallo    | Union, NJ           | 12/8/02  |
| C-29  | Anna Miller         | Bedford, VA         | 12/1/02  |
| C-110 | Edward Barkus       | Howard Beach, NY    | 9/28/02  |
| C-10  | Beatrice Richard    | Gardner, MA         | 9/15/02  |
| C-17  | Edward Prantis      | Milton, MA          | 9/12/02  |
| C-17  | Anne White          | So. Boston, MA      | 9/26/02  |
| C-29  | Anthony Malakas     | Cranford, NJ        | 10/2/02  |
| C-110 | Peter Kalibat       | Feeport, NY         | 7/1/02   |
| C-12  | Alice Zupko         | No. Fort Myers, FL  | 6/7/02   |
| C-19  | Sister M. Alverna   | Pittsburgh, PA      | 11/6/02  |
| C-110 | Helen Jambor        | Flushing, NY        | 11/5/02  |
| C-36  | David P. Gaidas     | Knox, IN            | 5/9/02   |
| C-36  | Bernice Lenkart     | Chicago, IL         | 7/12/02  |
| C-36  | Msgr. D. Mozeris    | Chicago, IL         | 8/1/02   |

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!*

Our deepest sympathies to Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM, Supreme Council Spiritual Advisor, on the death of his father.

(The following is an obituary as it appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer):

**JOSEPH ANDERLONIS**, Oct. 22, 2002, (Joe the Baker), beloved husband of the late Ida A. (nee Krautis-Kraujutis), loving father of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis (Pastor of St. George Church), Thomas J. (Marge), Andrew C. (Christina) Anderlonis, devoted grandfather of Amy, Karie, Tim, Andrew M. and Anastasia, great grandfather of Brooke and Olivia, dear brother of John Anderlonis, Julia Bacheck and the late Peter, Andrew and Anthony. Relatives, friends, employees of Gold Medal and Kaplan Jewish Baking Co., and the Lithuanian Republican Beneficial Club are invited to attend his viewing and funeral, Friday 8:30 A.M., St. George Church, 2700 E. Venango St. Funeral Mass 10:30 A.M. Interment Immaculate Heart of Mary Cemetery, Linwood, PA. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. George Church would be appreciated.



Katalikiškos grupės auklėtoja, Veronika Bartuškienė ir auklėtiniai.

Gerbiama redakcija,

Į Jus kreipiasi Prienų m. lopšelio-darželio „Saulutė“ Katalikišdos grupės auklėtoja Veronika Bartuškienė.

Noriu nuoširdžiai padėkoti už naujausią žurnalą „Vytis“ ir pasveikinti su artėjančiomis šv. Kalėdomis bei Naujaisiais Metais. Sveikatingų ir kūrybingų Jums Naujųjų Metų.

Norėčiau parašyti, kad Jūs save žurnale išspauskintute padėką Minersvilio lietuvių angliakasių klubui C-144, kurie taip nuoširdžiai bendrauja su mūsų Katalikiška grupe. Jų dovanos skirtos vaikams taip džiugina vaikus, jų tėvelius ir auklėtojas.

Man labai patinka mokytojos B. Grižienės posmas, kuris labai tiktų šiuo atveju:

**„Netylėkim, sakykim, sakykim,  
Kaip mes mylime vieni kitus-  
Sulaikykim delne, sulaikykim  
Savo brolio, sesės pirštus...“**

Jeigu tai įmanoma išspauskinkite tai.

Su pagarba,  
Veronika Bartuškienė

P.S. Mano senelis buvo angliakasys, gyveno ir palaidotas Pensilvanijoje.

#### SUMMARY TRANSLATION

V. Bartuškis, teacher at Saulutė Pre-school in Prienai sends Christmas and New Year's wishes. She asks that we publish her thanks to C-144 of Minersville for their collaboration and gifts for which the children, parents and educators are so grateful.

A personal note in her P.S.: Her grandfather was a Pennsylvania coalminer who is buried in Pennsylvania.



## KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CHARITIES

### Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

Send to: Regina Juska-Svoba, President  
1594 Beaupre  
Madison Heights, MI 48071

### Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Šiluva Chapel Renovation Fund

Send to: Joseph Chaplick, Coordinator  
2000 F Street NW #419  
Washington, DC 20006-4229

### Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.

Send to: Loretta Stukas, HM, President  
234 Sunlit Drive  
Watchung, NJ 07060

### Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund

Send to: Irena Gecas-McCarthy, Chair  
130 Clinton Road  
Garden City, NY 11530

### Lady of Šiluva Fund

Send to: Elinor Sluzas, HM, Chair  
55 Brandt Street  
Dayton, OH 45404

### St. Casimir Guild

Send to: Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM, President  
125 South Morris Street  
St. Clair, PA 17970

*Smiles Without Wrinkles...*

Anyone who profits from his mistakes has probably sold his life's story.

A pessimist's blood type is always B negative.

Shotgun wedding: a case of wife or death.

Marriage is the mourning after the knot before.

Without geometry, life is pointless.

Do you know what the plow said to the tractor?  
"Come closer, John Deere."

The older I get the harder it is to find a decent mirror.

What's a good holiday tip? Never catch snowflakes on your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

~Leondas J. Galinskas~  
C-79 - Southfield, MI

*Special Lithuanian Christmas Exhibit...*

The Roberson Museum chose to feature the Lithuania exhibit in its main foyer as part of the International Forest exhibit, 2002. Grace and John Mankus, Irene Grikenis, Barbara Miller, C-72, Binghamton, NY, worked on the display. Other contributors were Pamela Rickeri, Delores and Hank Wasileski, Edith Missavage, Anne Marie Distin and St. Joseph's Lithuanian RC Church. As part of the program for the school children who take field trips to the museum, they learned how to make straw ornaments and hear Lithuanian folk music.

~ submitted by :  
Barbara Miller C-72~

\*\*\*\*\*



From l. to r. : Grace and John Mankus, Irene Grikenis and Barbara Miller, C-72, Binghamton, NY, working on the Roberson Museum Lithuanian Christmas exhibit.



**SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL 2003  
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA TOUR**

**JUNE 26 - JULY 8, 2002**

Prepared by:  
**VYTIS Travel**  
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Email: [pencylar@aol.com](mailto:pencylar@aol.com)



## **District & Council** **News**

### **New England District**

#### **C-10 Athol, MA** **Vincukas**



The following slate of officers was elected at the Nov. meeting: Spiritual advisor- Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis; Pres - Henry Gailiūnas; Vice Pres - William Wišniauskas; Tres - Nellie Melaika; Fin Sec- Marie Colo; Rec Sec - Pamela Bouthillieux; Marshal - David Lucas; Ritual Ch - Maryann Langlois; Cultural Ch - Brone Wišniauskas.

The annual Kučios was Dec. 15 at St. Francis Hall.

St. Casimir Day Observance will be held on March 2 and plans are being formulated to observe Lithuanian Independence Day on March 9.

The Lithuanian Club in Gardner recently observed its 75th anniversary of its founding with a Dinner-Dance. Many K of L'ers are members, officers, and worked on the event.

K of L'er Peter Molis of Shrewsbury received the highest honor the Republic of Lithuania can bestow - The Gediminas Order of the Cross - for years of dedication to the Lithuanian Scout movement in the States. He attended a celebration with other recipients in Vilnius, in July. Bravo, Petrai!

Condolences are extended to Alec and Lil Kuzmaskas, now of Orleans on the Cape, on the death of their son, Andrew. Also to Sophia Fiorentino, on the untimely death of son, Michael, of Denver, Colorado.

May they find peace in the Lord.

A past member, Geneva Rimša Palchlopek, recently passed on to her eternal rest. Condolences to sister Joanna Chastneys, C-10 member.

Beatrice Jodaitis Richard, of Gardner, recently died at the ripe old age of 92. Poor health kept her from attending our gatherings of late. She was a kind friend and good and generous neighbor. She was a Charter member and past Pres. of Professional Secretaries Assoc. and Board Director of the American Red Cross, Lithuanian Club. She was a cousin of Bishop Justinas Staugaitis, first Bishop of Telšiai and as a young priest signed the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence in 1918. The K of L performed their ritual and were honor bearers at her funeral where Brone Wisniauskas placed the juosta on her casket. Rest in Peace, Bea!

We welcome a new member, Lori Redpold, daughter of Armand and Pam Bouthillier.

Armand Bouthillier won many ribbons at the Franklin County Fair for his veggies.

#### **C-26 Worcester, MA** **Ruta**

Stephen Walinsky, Jr. was honored by the Pernet Family Health Service. He received the fourth Annual Patrice O'Malley Hagen Volunteer Award. It is given to a volunteer who has shown dedication to the mission of this organization. He has been helping them for the past several years.

A collection of various food items was collected by our Council for Pernet. Money was also collected

for turkeys. There was a long table at the rear of the church hall loaded with colorful bags filled with all kinds of canned goods and boxed foods to help the needy families during the holidays.

We had another "young couple" celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary - Marion and Arthur Racicot. Their children gave them a party at the Polish Club in Grafton. There were about 60 people honoring them on this happy occasion. They had 4 children who married and increased the family with spouses and 8 grandchildren. Walter Kuras, their son-in-law, did all the cooking. At a later date, they also had their marriage blessed at St. Casimir's Church with all their family and friends in attendance. This time they went to the Holiday Inn for brunch. Marion mentioned that after the holidays, they are going to Florida for about 2 weeks for a second honeymoon.

Jenny and Paul Puris celebrated their 54th Wedding Anniversary in October. It is hard to believe that all these youthful-looking people are celebrating major anniversaries. Seeing couples staying together for these many years is a wonderful sight!

St. Casimir parish has a Ministry of the Sick organization. Many of our K of L members belong to this ministry. They are: Vivian Rodgers, Ann Leseman, Adele Degutis, Regina Barisas, Frances Grigas, and Betty O'Donnell. During the holiday season they visited the sick and brought little gifts from the parish.

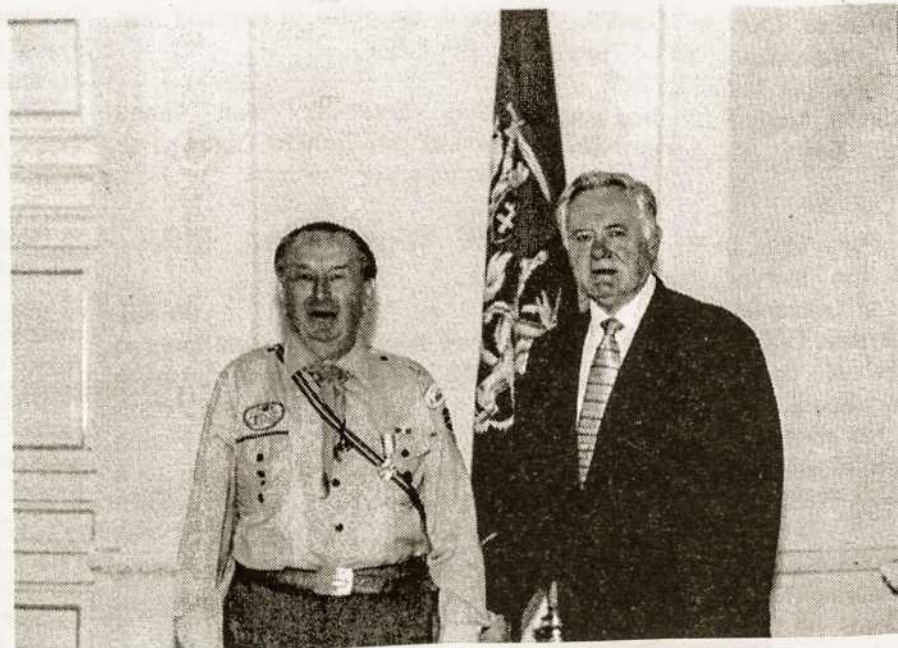
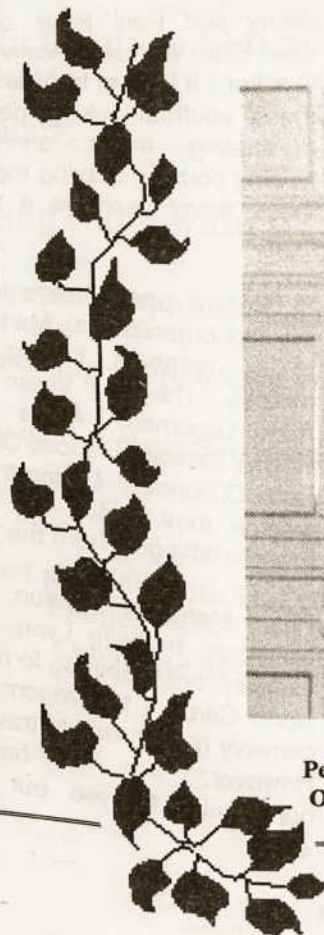
Rita Margosian's son, Joseph Karpicius, his wife Lynn, and son, Gregory, are preparing to move from North Carolina to Oregon. Rita will certainly have a way to travel to visit. However, she is having an opportunity to see our beautiful

# *Knight Life...*



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 Gardner, MA

**l.to r. :State Rep, with proclamation, Brian Knutala-MC, Bill Wisniauskas, Mayor of Gardner with proclamation, past Pres. Stanley Sargut, Gardner native, Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC, Tony Miner, Treas.**



**Petras Moles with President Valdas Adamkus on receiving the Gediminas Order of the Cross Award.**

country.

Joan Wojack went to Michigan at Thanksgiving to visit her grandchildren, Paul and Erin. For Christmas, she will see David and Connor.

Ruth and Vitty Gadilauskas will be visiting with their children, Joan and Lynn, along with their families during the holidays. They live in York and Portland, Maine, respectively.

Our December meeting included a Christmas Party at Maironis Park. The "REAL" Santa Claus visited us. He was a mystery attendee. Everyone wanted to give him their lists. We saw Fr. Jakubauskas whispering in his ear - wonder what he was asking for - 'hope he gets it. The food was excellent. The group joined in singing Christmas carols and Al Seilius led 12 "talented" volunteers in the annual 12 Days of Christmas song. It certainly is one of the highlights of the evening. Then, Santa Claus's helpers distributed gifts to all the attendees. Ann and Bill Leseman helped Santa shop for all of the gifts. Vivian Rodgers read an article about the preparation for Kučios festivities. It was a very joyful evening and everyone left with smiles and one could hear wishes of happy holidays being extended.

Worcester is home to many immigrants from every continent. The Multi-cultural Community Festival provided the opening ceremonies for "First Night Worcester 2003" for New Year's Eve. It was a great honor to have members of the Lithuanian community and K of L members, in Worcester, leading the Parade of Nations. First was the United States flag carried by Bill Leseman, followed by his wife, Ann, with the City of Worcester's flag. Ray

Jakubauskas held the Lithuanian flag high and was followed by Vivian Rodgers with the Knights of Lithuania flag; Irene Markevičius with the Lithuanian Girl Scout flag; and Gintaras Dirzauskas with the Lithuanian Boy Scout flag. Many nationalities were represented and participated in the programs that followed.

Anna Walinsky, the organist for many years at St. Casimir Church, announced her retirement at Christmas time. She will be thoroughly missed. Everyone has enjoyed the wonderful music she provided and the singing of the choir under her able direction. Her years of outstanding dedications are a credit to Anna and a bonus for the church.

However, Anna's retirement as organist will not stop her enthusiasm and work in her other parish duties. She plans to continue to be active in the Knights of Lithuania, the parish Altar Society, decorating the church, floral arrangements for parish functions, meal preparation for the parish and coordinating the "Coffee and" on Sunday mornings. For someone who is retiring, this is a very busy schedule, especially when you are over 85.

Steve Walinsky, Jr. and Carol Grigas coordinated the "Giving Tree" at St. Casimir's and presents were collected for families that would not have much at Christmas. They were brought to the Pernet Family Health Center. Steve and Carol also coordinated a "Memory Tree" for all deceased loved ones of the parish. The intentions were remembered at Midnight Mass.

With great sadness we learned of two of our members who recently passed away. Beatrice (Bea) Anton died in Topsham, Maine, while

visiting her son, Ronnie, and his family. She also leaves her husband, Anthony, and two other children, Dennis and Rosemary, along with their families. She was a 3rd degree member and was very active in the K of L.

Gregory Sokol had moved to Bourne on Cape Cod. He leaves his wife, Rita, and 2 daughters, Lynn and Karen, along with their families. He was a 1st degree member of the K of L. C-26 conducted their ritual services at both wakes. May we keep and remember them in our prayers.

## C-6 Hartford, CT Leona Sawka



The December meeting was the month for the Pot Luck Supper headed by Hospitality Chair, Judy Landers, also Leona Sawka and Florence Grigas. Delicious dishes brought in by membership complimented the buffet table and a good time was had by all.

On Sept 21, Vincent and Florence Morkus were given a surprise 85th and 80th birthday celebration by their daughter. Among many relatives and friends, they were delighted to meet - for the very first time - their new great-granddaughter, Leah, (6 weeks old) from Virginia.. Also present, from Texas, was a dear cousin, Fr. John Zabelskas, MS.

Florence Litwinas Morkus, a Navy Veteran of WWII, drove her decorated car in the Hartford Vetrans'Day Parade. Other members in uniform from Florence's Unit 42 CT Yankees WAVES National organization also rode with her while still other members marched with the WAVES Unit 42 banner. The unit has 65 members, including their "Honorary Member", M. Jodie Rell, Lt. Governor, State of

Connecticut.

## **C-27 Norwood, MA Zaibas**

C-27 plans to celebrate the New Year with a brunch at a local restaurant with members and guests. It is always a happy time.

Our Spiritual Director, Rev. Wm. Wolkavich along with accompanist Kay Perednia performed by song and violin solos at the Boston Catholic TV Telethon.

At our Dec. meeting our council Pres, Charles Trečiokas, and Ritual Chairperson, George Barton, reviewed the point system as applied to receiving degrees. It was unanimously voted not to change the process.

George presented to each member a souvenir Litas on his return from his second home in Lithuania. Ramona Gonski, as always, prepared her magical coffee brew to go along with the scones and coffee cakes provided by the Jarvises. Sandra Melish and Dorothy Ausevich will be off to Atlantic City to welcome the New Year. Louise and Paul Zukas told us of the Lithuanian trip sponsored by their son, Rev. Steve Zukas. It will be in June 2003 in time for the Music Festival.

May the New Year invigorate your spirit, strengthen your family ties, bless your loved ones, and inspire hope and peaceful resolution in the days to come.

## **Mid Atlantic District**

### **C-90 Kearny, NJ Becky Pataki**

Let me start out by wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous

New Year from C-90. It's been a busy year for us.

Our main focus has been the restoration of the Wayside Cross at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. The cross was first put up in 1966. However, time and weather have taken their toll and the cross was in bad need of fixing up towards the second half of 2002. To this end, we got busy with restoration plans and fund-raiser ideas.

A dedication plaque with names of the departed and donors is one of our fund-raisers. This project is in its last phase, and when completed, will be secured on the cross base and rededicated. We are hoping for a rededication ceremony in Spring, 2003.

We held a Barn Dance at the beginning of October as another fundraising idea. We were very fortunate to have Idaho Ed and the Cimarrons, a country band from C-29, Newark, as our entertainment. They were fantastic and people are still talking about them today. The Barn Dance was a success and plans are already underway for next year.

C-90 is planning their Feb. 16th flag-raising and luncheon to commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day and St. Casimir. We are also planning our annual potato pancake dance. It will be held in March. This event is usually a sell-out, what with the delicious potato pancakes and lively entertainment.

We are pleased that five of our members attended the National Convention in Chicago this past August. They had a wonderful time catching up with their friends and touring the city. Elena Nakrosis became the Treasurer on the Supreme Council for this year and

Becky Pataki was elected 2nd VP, Membership.

Finally, we also had five council members attend the National Pilgrimage in Washington, DC. It was a great time. The Shrine is beautiful and the Šiluva Chapel is simply exquisite. A great job was done by the organizers of this pilgrimage.

## **Amber District**

### **C-46 Forest City, PA Josephine O'Peka**

The members of C-46 are greatly saddened by the untimely passing of our President Anthony Yavorosky, in October. We offer our condolences to his family and relatives. We also offer our sympathy to Msgr. Anderlonis in the loss of his father, and to Leonard Kapochus, in the loss of his daughter, Daina.

Our November meeting was chaired by VP John Gudaitis. The following officers were elected: Pres - Frank Kwader; VP - John Gudaitis; Sec - Mary Ann McCusker; Fin Sec, Treas - Beverly Bennett; Ritual - John Morris; Lithuanian Affairs - Michael Yavorosky; PR - Mary Ann McCusker; Vytis Corresp - Josephine O'Peka; Sunshine - Amy Morris; Trustees - Dorothy Andzulis, Alice Puntar, and Josephine O'Peka.

Our Christmas Kūčios was held Dec 1 at the Crystal Pines Restaurant in Dundaff. Our Spiritual leader, Rev. Patrick Albert, offered the opening prayer. We took a monetary collection for books for St. Casimir's Guild at the Lithuanian Pontifical College. We also exchanged gifts and enjoyed visiting with our fellow

members and spouses. Our council also sent many Christmas packages to our adopted children in Lithuania.

We extend our best wishes and our prayers for good health and much happiness for the coming year!

### **C-144 Anthracite** **Ona**



Our best wishes to you for a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year....

Installation of new officers took place at Mass at St. Casimir's Church. Fr. Jankaitas installed the following officers: Pres - Larry Domalakes; VP - Ann Wargo; Treas - Peter Terescavage; Fin Sec - Elsie Kosmisky. Unfortunately, Secretary Lisa Rittle became seriously ill that morning and was hospitalized. Our prayers are with her.

Following Mass our Annual Kūčios was held. Thanks to Evelyn Prep, Chairperson, her assistants, Suzanne Domalakes, Florence Shimkus and all the members who helped prepare and serve the food. We always have the regular Kūčios foods and the attendance is huge.

Our youngest attendant, Madeline Domalakes, brought the infant Baby Jesus to the crib and laid Him in the manger. Pres. Larry Domalakes opened the dinner and Spiritual Director, Fr. Ronald Jakaitas gave the invocation, after which the plotkelės were shared by all attending.

After the delicious dinner was served, Marian Wydra gave the meaning of Kūčios, followed by Suzanne Domalakes who read the customs and superstitions. Cultural Chairman, Mary Koons, led the singing of Lithuanian and English carols. Benediction was given by

Brother Joseph Zutelis and the program was closed with a candlelight service and prayer by Elsie Kosmisky.

We now look forward to a New Year with a young and energetic Pres.!

### **C-74 Scranton** **Marie Laske**



We had our traditional Christmas Kūčios in our church hall. We had to ask invited guests to help as so many of our members are unable. Rose Stanches's daughters, Roseann and Helen, along with Margaret Clegg, our treas, Helen Cravath, my daughters Sandi and Susan, decorated the tables. Lee Bozenko and husband, Stanley, and my grandson, Nathan, decorated the tree with straw ornaments.

Our meal was prepared by Jean Kavelines, Sandi, Susan, Dick Laske, and Sandi's husband, Charles. The meal was served by my grandchildren and Rebecca's boyfriend, Mario, and Jean, Helen, Sandi, and Charles.

Sr. Elizabeth Zemaitis said a most beautiful grace, blessing both the living and deceased K of L members and all who prepared and attended this traditional meal. We broke bread and enjoyed the meal. We ended with Lithuanian and English Christmas carols. We even had 4 guests from Philadelphia.

May everyone be blessed with good health.

### **C-140 Syracuse** **Pusbrolis**



Summer was a busy time for Syracuse K of L'ers, what with traveling, vacations, weddings, picnics, parties, the usual repairs

around the house, and, of course, the K of L National Convention in Chicago.

Jack and Catherine Brandt are still doing quite a bit of traveling for the Sea Bees, even though he is no longer president. Some of the traveling is personal, especially when they go to their camp in Vermont and when they go to Atlantic City, trying to increase their fortune.

Guy and Ellie Pagano had a big wedding in July when they married off their daughter, Andrea, to Rod Morgan, in Holy Family Church. The proud parents did a beautiful job with all of the behind-the-scenes duties. The day was successful and the happy young couple are now living and working in Boston. May they have many, good yeats together.

Gerry Zutant and his brother, Dennis, who lives in Washington, DC, meet once or twice a year for a couple of days of golf. This year, they played a course near Scranton. The first day they played 36 holes under good weather conditions; the 2nd day there was a steady downpour of rain but they still played 36 holes. Needless to say, they both paid dearly, with good chest colds.

Dan and Mary Margaret Petrick took a number of bus trips with the Seniors. They enjoyed the camaraderie with their group of friends.

Frank and Irene Petrauskas attended the Chicago National Convention and reported having a good time. Frank was fortunate to serve as co chairman of the Presidium. Irene sat in all of the sessions and took notes for our council. It was good to see all of the old friends and to make new friends.

This is what this organization is about - friendships. After the convention, Frank accepted the Chairmanship of the Honorary Membership Committee.

Elections in October returned the present slate of officers and chair people back for another year. We know that they'll do a good job.

For the last few years, many people were pushing and working for Lithuania's entry into NATO. In November, Lithuania received the invitation to join NATO in 2004. Our Syracuse Post Standard newspaper, Nov 24, had a big headline, Ačiu, Ačiu, Ačiu! and underneath, in small letters, Lithuanian crowd chants, Thank you, thank you, thank you! Also, a large picture of a Lithuanian lady, Joana Salguniene, 69, waving American and Lithuanian flags, while listening to President Bush speak in Rotuse Square, in Vilnius. He was very warmly accepted by the Lithuanian people.

Our Christmas brunch was a success with most of our local members participating. There was plenty of food and drink for all to enjoy. Our members look forward to the brunch, as it affords them a chance to eat and visit in a nice, relaxed atmosphere. They catch up on the news from each other and depart, wishing one another a very Merry Christmas.

Mary Nowak, our member from Niagara Falls had nice Christmas visits from her nieces and nephews.

### **C-146 Harrisburg** **Helen Grabauskas**



Our council met at the Harrisburg library for our Kučios. There was plenty to eat, because our members all bring a meatless dish to

share. We are a small council without the use of a church hall and so we appreciate that the Dauphin Library allows us the use of one of their rooms. We started with a prayer and passing the Christmas wafer so we could each have some. Then it was time to taste the delicious fish and vegetable dishes that people brought. We also had many deserts to enjoy.

We pray for better health for all members in the New Year so we can have better attendance at our meetings.

We congratulate Stephany Suders on being one of the winners of this year's scholarships. Her parents, Daniel and Joan Suders, are both teachers and are also proud of her. It was nice to see them all at Kučios and that her grandmother, Stephany Povilaitis, was also able to attend.

We formed as a council on April 30, 1978, and will be celebrating our 25th anniversary. Our council owed a great deal of gratitude to Joanna Gilbert for serving as president for so many years. Without her and her husband, George, we would have folded; thankfully, when we had elections, Lorraine Grabauskas was voted to serve as president for the ensuing year. Also elected was Joan Suders, VP; Vity Grabauskas, Treas/Fin Sec; Lithuanian Affairs, Stephany Suders; Lithuanian cultural - Stan Brazinskas; PR-Michael Grabauskas; Lithuanian language- Jean Hallam; Ritual-Joseph Unitis; Trustees- Daniel Suders and Edward Zemaitis; Vytsis Corresp-Helen Grabauskas. Without means of any money-making projects, we still managed to send donations to Lithuanian Children's Hope and to Msgr. Bartkus for his Pont. College/Rome. God grant us all Good Health in 2003 so we may continue to

contribute to the Good Works of the Knights of Lithuania.

### **Mid Central District**



### **C-25 Cleveland, Ohio** **Ursula Kunsitis**

WHEW! Our prayers have been answered! For awhile we thought C-25 would have no choice but to disband (difficulty getting a new president)!

C-25 owes a great deal of appreciation and thanks to Richard Marks, our president for 10 years, and to his wife, Jean Marks, Recording Sec for 14+ years. Their faithful and willing service to keep our council active and alive is awesome! We also thank Joe Ivoska, VP, and Jim Thompson, Treas, and Steve and Lil Yurkovic, Coffee Hour Chairmen, for their years of service. Sirdingai aciui!

New and continuing officers: Theresa Capuria - Pres; Dolly Oberaitis, VP; Jean Marks-Rec. Sec; Kathy Kaczmarek- Fin Sec; Ursula Kunsitis-Bulletin Sec and Vytsis Corresp; Vic Staskus- Treas; Joan Ortman-Ritual; Ed. Pranckus-Lithuanian Affairs; Nellie Samas-Sunshine Lady. Thank you and good luck to all the new and past officers.

A number of our members attended the Nov 9 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church's Exultate Choir's 20th religious concert and banquet commemorating the choir's 20th anniversary celebration. The concert was beautiful and the banquet, tasty and fun. Congratulations to Rita Kliorys - Choir Director for a job well done!

On Dec 15, our annual Christmas party was celebrated by attending the concert by Lakeland Community

College Civic Chorus. 31 members and guests attended. After the concert, we dined at the Kirtlander for a delicious dinner and festivities and where Dick Marks gave the happy news that we now have a new president, Theresa Capuria! Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas was the lucky winner of our 50/50 raffle. What, again? Just kidding, Father! It was great to have snowbirds Bill and Helen Jakubs in town so that they were able to join us.

Good News: Stella Sankal is back home after 4 months in the hospital and rehab. Agnes Bartkus is also recovering at home.

A big "hello" to our ailing and shut-ins: Betty August, Nellie Arunski, John and Helen Garnis, Adelle Tanner, Jack and Helen Valley and Al Wallis. You are all in our prayers and thoughts.

Dates to keep in mind: Mar 2-our annual St. Casimir Day at OLPH - 10:00 A.M. Mass- Luncheon at Finamore's. Our monthly meetings resume April 7, 2003.

We wish everyone Laimingu, Nauju Metu!!

## **C-96 Dayton, Ohio** **Frances Petkus HM**

C-96 hosted the MCD Fall Pilgrimage on the weekend of Oct 5-6, 2002. Because of the good turnout from the members of the district, the weekend was most successful. After all business was covered, election of officers for the coming term was held. Members of C-96 on the board are Anne Louise Tucker, MCD President; Michael Petkus, 1st VP; Laretta Pant, Ritual Chair; George A. Mikalauskas, MCD Recognition Award Chair! Thanks must go to Anne Louise Tucker who chaired the weekend

along with her committee- Robert/Laretta Pant, Elaine Pacovsky, Michael/Norma Petkus, George/Elena Mikalauskas, Fran Petkus, and Connie Geiger. There were a few surprises. Anne Louise/Ronald Tucker had a special birthday cake for their son Danny who turned 14! Michael/Norma Petkus brought in a very special Barber Shop Quartet to share with the delegates and guest on the occasion of their 20th wedding anniversary!

Highlight of the weekend was Fr. Michael Holloran as moderator for our spiritual program on Saturday by sharing the history of Holy Cross Church, the meaning of the symbols in the windows, etc. On Sunday following the 10:30 AM Mass, candles were lit and prayers said dedicated to the deceased in the district. A very memorable weekend!

Our Kugelis Sale was once again a tremendous success! We were sold out before the first potato was peeled. Co-chairing were Laretta Pant and Elinor Sluzas. Thanks go to the members of the committee - Anne Scott, Henry/Roberta/Linda Pant, Mary A. Petkus, Michael/Norma/Fran Petkus, Jim/Connie Geiger, George/Frances Mikalauskaas, Elaine Pacovsky and Junior Knights Robert/Erin Petkus. Preparing the kugelis in late November had many people freezing it with Christmas in mind. Comments -delicious, wonderful!!!

Sunday, Dec, 8 the council held its Annual Christmas caroling. We visited 5 nursing-assisted living facilities and one home shut-in. Flowers were given to all and also to many of the parishoners of Holy Cross Church. With voices raised on high, led by Mary Agnes Mikalauskas accompanying the

carolers with her guitar, and our parish choir, everyone sounded great. Many of the shut-ins sang along with us. Seeing the faces of those we visited made us feel we received as much as we gave. Thanks go to Frances Mikalauskas who helped put this project together.

We ended our day with a warm supper thanks to our social chair, Elaine Pacovsky and our monthly meeting. A wonderful day filled with the spirit of Christmas.

Thanks to George and Frances Mikalauskas who chaired the council's Annual Christmas dinner on Dec. 11. It was held at the Milton Athletic Club. Food was good and prices, also. Instead of having a gift exchange, donations were made to Aid to Lithuania, Inc. Our members were most generous!

On Dec. 15 our parish's Cultural Committee held its annual Kučios. Attendance was great, as usual. Elinor Sluzas headed this project along with many C-96 members and Juniors helping. Fr. Michael Holloran led the participants in prayer and reading from the Gospels. Wafers and apples were shared with all asking each forgiveness for any wrongdoing we may have done the past year. Admission to the affair was canned goods or monetary donation to Old North Dayton Food Pantry.

Congratulations to JoAnn and Gary Thiele who have volunteered to chair our Religious Committee and to Kristina Dambrauskas volunteering to be the council's photographer. Joining Telephone Squad Chair, Joyce Berczelly are Christine, Fletcher, Joan Kavalauskas, Frances Mikalauskas, Susan Keivel, Ann Gitzinger, Laretta Pant and Linda Pant! In

town for the holidays Michael E. Pant took time to attend our January meeting. Michael, a member of C-96, is living and going to school in Lake Worth, FL!

Our deepest sympathies go to Josephine Zilinkas on the sudden passing of her brother, George. Josephine and George were members in the 30's-50's. They recently rejoined the council. May George rest in the peace of the Lord!

### Mid America District

#### **C-16 Chicago, IL** **Rob Martin**

The members of C-16 continue to be active. With the close of the convention we were honored to be able to make donations to several of the K of L's worthy charities.

Our annual election of officers was held in September and we congratulate the entire board.

We were happy to host the MAMD Meeting in December and hope everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

We look forward to the coming year and are currently planning a Dumpling Dinner for the end of March.

We wish to extend get well wishes to member Donna Zajauskas. Donna hasn't been feeling her best and is recovering from her recent illness. 'Hope you're up and around soon, Donna.

We would also like to congratulate member Meghan Rudmin on making the Dean's List. Way to Go!

#### **C-82 Gary, IN** **Daisy Talley**

Our January meeting at the Public Library was called by President Joanna Rudzevičius and opened with a prayer by Sr. Janine.

Plans were finalized for our Celebration of Lithuanian Independence, Its Renewal and NATO Invitation on Feb 9 at the American Legion #430 in Merrillville, IN. Congressman Peter Visclosky attended last year and was invited, again. His encouraging letter for passing NATO expansion with Lithuania was read, as was Senator Richard Lugar's promise of leading efforts to pass acceptance in the Senate. Our deceased member, Vince Gumulauskis, will also be honored for his work in behalf of Lithuania.

Those that attended the Kūčios with C-157 in Lemont cheered the success of the event and those who heard the Knights of Lithuania Choir at Holy Family Villa in Lemont were impressed. Msgr. Prunskis called out a "Puiku!" in appreciation.

We grieve the loss of our young past treasurer, Elaine Petrites. Gravely ill, she went to her eternal reward on January 17. Having been a consistent "A" honor-roll student, branch manager for Bank One, she was also a devoted daughter, genuinely kind to all, and advisor to K of L C-82 and its members. We extend sincere sympathy to her father, Frank.

#### **C-112 Chicago, IL** **J.M.Shainauskas**

Council 112 held its Christmas Party/meeting on

December 17<sup>th</sup>. People were most generous that evening, so much so that Sister Theresa, collected \$175.00 in donation for three different charities for Lithuania. Members then voted whether they preferred the newly suggested "time" system or the presently used point system for recording the participation of its members in various Vytis activities. Members unanimously voted for the "time" system.

Ellie Kasputis, membership chairperson, acknowledged Estelle Rogers and Anele Pocius with special gifts for signing up the most new members for our Council.

Estelle Rogers reported that 70 members attended the Memorial Mass for deceased members on November 10. Everyone thanked her for her special efforts in helping to make this event a success.

Terri Vaitkus, Treasurer, announced that 124 members have already paid their dues. The meeting session of the evening ended at about 7:00 p.m, and the "good times" began. Mickey Petrosius and Adele Lietuvninkas, had worked in the kitchen all day, and the result was a most delicious Lithuanian meal of kugelis, kopustai, desros, etc. Congratulations and a "didelis, didelis, aciui, to these two wonderful chefs. After the delicious dinner, special entertainment was provided by the "Little Flower Catholic Girls Club," under the direction of Simona(Giedraitis), daughter of C-112 members, Anthony and Alvina Giedraits.



*Jubilee Year ~ Where it all began!*

*Dear Vyčiai:*

*2003 arrived with a bolt!*

*Announcing, this is the year ~ NOW~*

*BROCKTON is hosting the 90<sup>th</sup> National  
Convention*

*Plans are already in full swing,  
BUT - we need YOUR HELP!*

*North, South East and West -  
All are welcome, very welcome!*



*Hence proclaim this wonderful news:*

*August 14<sup>th</sup> - August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003*

*Brockton is having "The" Convention, and it will  
be great - BUT Only if you're part of it!*

*Anxiously waiting to see you!*

*Vytiškai,*

*Council 1 - Brockton, MA*

## *Blessings for the New Year*

Lord, You who live outside of time  
and reside in the imperishable moment,  
we ask your blessing at this start of the new year  
for we are grateful for your gift of time to us.

Bless our clocks and watches  
You, who kindly direct us,  
to observe the passing of minutes and hours.

May they make us aware of the miracle  
of each second of life we experience.

May these our ticking servants  
help us not to miss that which is important  
while you keep us from machine-like routine.  
May we ever be free from being clock watchers.  
Instead, help us to become time lovers.

Bless our calendars,  
these ordered lists of days, weeks and months,  
of holidays and holy days, fasts and feasts -  
all our special days of remembering.

May these servants, our calendars,  
once reserved for the royal few,  
for magi and pyramid priests  
now grace our homes and our lives.  
May they remind us of birthdays and other gift-days,  
as they teach us the secret  
that all life is meant  
for celebration and contemplation.

Bless, God, this New Year,  
each of its 365 days and nights.

Bless us with full moons and new moons.  
Bless us with happy seasons and a long life.

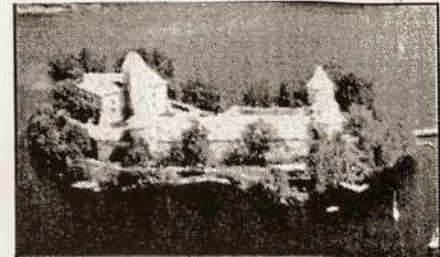
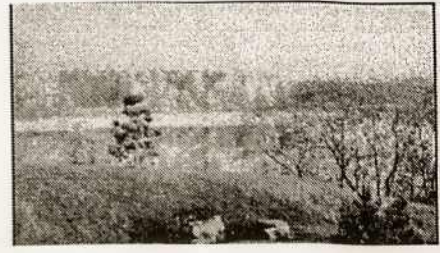
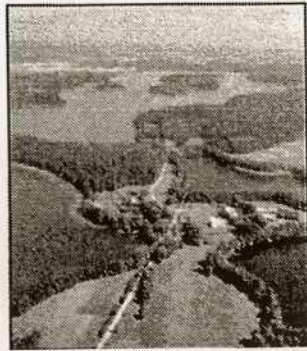
Grant us, God, the greatest gift of all,  
a year of your love.

Now and always in all time we pray.  
Amen.

...Paraphrase of Ed Hayes by Margie Klein  
(Used with permission)

from: [www.raised to the light.com](http://www.raised to the light.com)  
(Log on for inspirational weekly reflections)

The National Parks of Lithuania

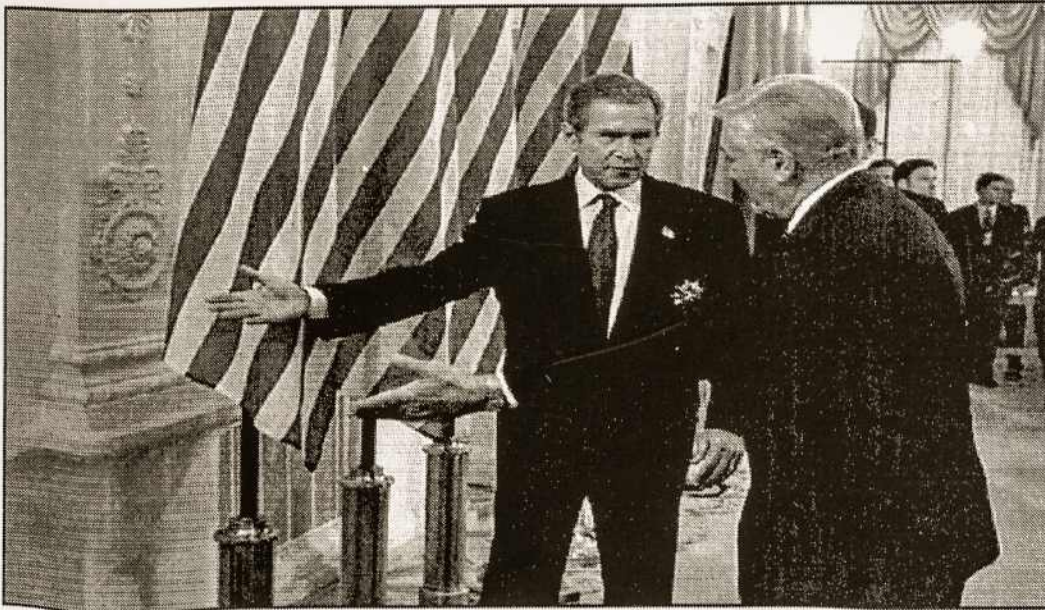


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| <p><b>Gegužė</b></p> <p><u>S</u> <u>P</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>K</u> <u>P</u> <u>Š</u></p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p> | <p><b>Birželis</b></p> <p><u>S</u> <u>P</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>K</u> <u>P</u> <u>Š</u></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30</p>  | <p><b>Liepa</b></p> <p><u>S</u> <u>P</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>K</u> <u>P</u> <u>Š</u></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>         | <p><b>Rugpjūtis</b></p> <p><u>S</u> <u>P</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>K</u> <u>P</u> <u>Š</u></p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p> |
| <p><b>Rugsėjis</b></p> <p><u>S</u> <u>P</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>K</u> <u>P</u> <u>Š</u></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>  | <p><b>Spalis</b></p> <p><u>S</u> <u>P</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>K</u> <u>P</u> <u>Š</u></p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p> | <p><b>Lapkritis</b></p> <p><u>S</u> <u>P</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>K</u> <u>P</u> <u>Š</u></p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p> | <p><b>Gruodis</b></p> <p><u>S</u> <u>P</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>K</u> <u>P</u> <u>Š</u></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>          |

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**Presidents Bush and Adamkus at the Lithuanian White House after presentation of Lithuanian Order of Gediminas to President Bush**



← President Bush meets with the crowds in Vilnius, Lithuania

→ President Bush address' those gathered outside of St. Casimir's Church, Vilnius, Lithuania

Cover Photos: Presidents of NATO Member Nations and Invitee Nations. Presidents Bush and Adamkus receive the crowds awaiting them in Vilnius, Lithuania

