

The Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Washington, DC
&
The Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America

Cordially invite you to



The tournament will take place on
Saturday, March 30, 2013,
from 10 am to 6 pm,
At the **Columbia Heights Education
Campus, 3101 16th St NW Washington,
DC, 20010**
(<http://checdc.org>)

After the tournament, at 7:00 pm, the **Embassy of Lithuania (2622 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009)** invites all players and fans to participate in **the Awards ceremony**, followed by the **reception** with a **special guest – Jonas Valanciunas**, NBA (Toronto Raptors) and Lithuanian National Basketball Team player.

Registration to the “LITUANICA 80 BASKETBALL CUP” tournament is open until March 20, 2013. The order of play will be announced on March 22, 2013. Teams to be registered by e-mail: rytupakrante@yahoo.com or phone: **(203) 895-7147**. The registration fee is \$250 per team. Checks should be made payable to LAC NJ sports club and sent to: Laurynas R. Misevicius, 37 Elliot Pl., Edison NJ 08817.



*This year Lithuania commemorates the 80th anniversary of Lituanica's flight. On July 15, 1933, Lithuanian-American pilots **Steponas Darius** and **Stasys Girėnas** took off from New York on a transatlantic flight bound for Kaunas, Lithuania. Their Bellanca CH-300 Pacemaker airplane, Lituanica, covered a distance of 3,984 miles (6,411 km) – the second longest and most navigationally precise single flight of its time – before crashing in what was then German territory, just 404 miles (650 km) short of its destination. The cause of the crash was never determined. Through their heroic journey, Darius and Girenas sought to bring notoriety to Lithuania, their ancestral homeland, just fifteen years free from a century of Russian occupation. Their pre-flight declaration, or "Flight Testament," ends with a dedication: "This flight, we will devote and dedicate to you, Young Lithuania!" Historians credit Darius and Girėnas' flight as one of the most noble and unselfish deeds, performed purely out of love for their home country and without any materialistic considerations.*

*The idea to commemorate Lituanica's flight with a basketball tournament comes from the fact that **Steponas Darius is considered to have brought basketball to Lithuania.** He was also the first chairman of Lithuanian Physical Education Union, and a founder of Sporto Žurnalas (Sports magazine).*