



# GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST 136

# CONTACT



6900 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

(301) 345-0136

<http://www.greenbeltmdpost136.org>

VOLUME LXXVIII

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ISSUE XLVI

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Well, it looks like we have come through the worst of our year and a half battle with COVID-19. Almost everyone that I have spoken to at the Post has been vaccinated and I am proud of our members for being so diligent in observing the many safety protocols that were required by the state and county. Now that Governor Hogan has lifted the requirements for masks and spacing, maybe I can get some hugs from old friends and new. When we are allowed 100% capacity, we will have more latitude in sponsoring events, resuming our dining room operations, and renting Hofberg Hall to bring in much needed income. Because our facility is over 70 years old (like me!), we are experiencing a host of maintenance problems. We just completed major repairs to our sewer lines and WSSC is requiring a new and larger interceptor (grease) trap so we can resume full food operations. The estimated cost of this WSSC requirement is between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Thanks to a generous \$2,000 donation from our Auxiliary Unit and another \$2,000 from an anonymous donor, we are making headway in funding this important improvement. Because of our limited income for the last year and a half, we are asking those who can afford it to help us with this expenditure. Any amount would help.

The most frequent question that is asked around the Post is "When will the restaurant reopen?" In the Greenbelt tradition, we have established a committee to develop recommendations. Led by Past Commander Greg Gigliotti and Historian Bernie Zempolich, our Restaurant Committee has representatives from the Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, Post Management, and the Kitchen staff. When we were in full operation, much of the food service was subsidized from our other sources of income. Most of those on the committee think that we should reopen for dinner on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays and offer a Sunday breakfast. We will resume carryout service on all items listed on our modified menu that will include many of the old favorites from the past – like fried chicken, beer battered haddock, crab cake, the "Legion Burger," the Club Sandwich, etc. Details are still being worked on, to include pricing, staffing, and timing for reopening. Our preliminary target date is the weekend after Labor Day, September 9<sup>th</sup> through September 12<sup>th</sup>. We will keep you informed of our progress. Until we reopen our dining room, we will continue to offer our cookout on Fridays and "Take Out" on Saturday and Sundays.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers who will serve on the Executive Committee for Administrative Year 2021 – 2022. Their names appear in the column at the right of this message. The Department of Maryland will be hosting its convention from July 14<sup>th</sup> through July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Convention Center in Ocean City. Several members of the Executive Committee plan to attend. Our membership continues its downward trend with a total of

*(Commander's message continued on page 2)*

2021/2022
Commander Mike Moore
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Harold Bullock
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Butch Hicks
Judge Advocate Blaine "Tom" Davis
Sgt. at Arms David Johnson
Chaplain John Hill
Historian Bernie Zempolich
Finance Officer Greg Gigliotti
Executive Committee Larry Buck Ralph Bell Harold Schlemmer James Hawkins
Adjutant Dick Dutton



773 at the end of this membership year. We plan to make a strong effort to recruit and retain members for the 2022 membership year. Please consider renewing your membership and referring eligible friends and family as new members. Special thanks to Ed Dwyer for managing our membership system. Also, thanks to Russ Jones for helping us to design a permanent and personalized key card for 2022. The silver card will still be used until December 31, 2021. New cards will be mailed to all members in the local area.

Our efforts to "Restore Peace Cross" have now raised over \$18,000 through donations large and small. Many of the Legion Posts in Maryland are helping to generate funds, including Clinton, Glenarden, Laurel, the AL County Councils from Prince Georges and Anne Arundel. Our generous friends in the Bricklayer's and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) Union have donated another \$1,000, this time from BAC Local 1 in Connecticut. I was touched by an encouraging note and a \$10 cash donation from Joe Kovalyak, a retiree from Palm Coast, FL. I know that there are many competing causes for your charitable donation, but with your help, a renovated Peace Cross will be able to stand proudly for another 100 years.

For God and Country,  
Mike Moore,  
Commander

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY EVENING CARRY-OUT DINNER SPECIALS

Weekly specials are posted on our [Facebook page](#).  
You may also [sign up for email notifications here](#).



**LIMITED SUPPLIES AVAILABLE, PLEASE...  
CALL IN YOUR ORDER AHEAD OF TIME  
FROM MONDAY - THURSDAY  
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
(301) 345-0136 EXT. 7  
TO GO MEALS ONLY**

**\*\*No orders will be accepted after 7:00 PM on Thursday evenings\*\***

You may pick up your dinner in the restaurant and choose from four different arrival times: 4:00 PM, 4:30 PM, 5:00 PM or 5:30 PM

## RESTAURANT REOPENING STATUS



Over the past several months, members of our Legion Family have asked Post Officers, Management Team members and our bartenders when will the restaurant be reopened. A quick answer is that we hope to reopen the restaurant soon. But we cannot provide a definite answer as to when because the reopening is dependent on the relaxation of the COVID-19 regulation as to how many patrons we can have in the restaurant at any given time. To read a more in-depth explanation, see the Commander's message on page 1, paragraph 2.

We will put all future information about the reopening of the restaurant on our Facebook page, our master Legion Family email list and place flyers around the Post.



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 136



## S.A.L. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Summer is here and I want to wish everyone a safe and pleasant one under whatever circumstances you find yourself. Collectively we stood strong together during the last year and our officers are using the summer to gear up our support of the activities and operations at our Post. We invite you to come join us by attending or volunteering time to help during the coming administrative year.

The weekly Queen of Hearts drawing has moved to Wednesday with drawings for a chance to find the Queen at 8:00 PM. Do not forget the first Wednesday of every month is also Shrimp Night from 5:30 to 8 PM. Come out and enjoy a break to end the day, relax and connect with Legion Family members. The SAL offers other food items on other Wednesday nights during the month.

We missed our 100% renewal goal for 2021 by 19 members. If you have not paid your 2021 dues, please do so soon and include your 2022 dues. The 2022 renewal dues are now being accepted as well. Dues are \$20 and \$15 for junior (under 18) and dual memberships, so please do not hesitate to renew. The national Legion organization has a website for SAL members. [www.mySAL.org](http://www.mySAL.org) This site will allow you to update & renew membership information automatically online and access other Legion related information and discounts.

Our monthly meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 PM. The SAL Squadron committees are looking for volunteers. It is also a great time to join our committees such as the: cook crew, membership, service, and fundraising committees to name a few. The committees are looking for additional members to help during the current administrative year. Watch for information about the joint Super Shotgun Bingo with the Auxiliary later in the fall.

Serving Those Who Served,  
Lenny Wertz,  
S.A.L. Commander



## HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!

2021/2022	
Officers	
Commander	Lenny Wertz
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Jim Harbaugh
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	David Fendlay
Chaplain	Robert Snyder
Finance Officer	Bill Cornelius
Historian	Joshua Stewart
Sgt-At-Arms	Chris Field
Adjutant	Ray "Cory" Micallef
Advisor	Jay Mayock

**S.A.L.  
MEETINGS**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
of the month  
@ 7:00 PM**

### THE CONTACT

The Contact is a bi-monthly newsletter published by The American Legion, Greenbelt Post 136

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# AUXILIARY UNIT 136



<b>2021/2022</b>
<b>Unit Officers</b>
President Dana Coleman
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Kathy Gigliotti
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President Patty Rousseau
Secretary Mary Fava
Treasurer Sandi Dutton
Chaplain Susan Wiener
Historian Rusty Beeg
Sgt-At-Arms Elizabeth Darnell
Executive Committee Dora Hamm Laura Fendlay Elizabeth Rice

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is here and it is time to celebrate! Restrictions have been lifted, the majority of people have been vaccinated and we are back with family and friends.

We restarted shotgun bingo and I want to thank everyone who has attended and made it successful. As requested, we are currently working with the SAL on a date to host a Super Shotgun Bingo. More details to come at a later date.

In true fashion, the Auxiliary has worked tirelessly to provide for our veterans near and far. We have sent comfort supplies to veterans in Martinsburg VAMC, Perry Point VAMC, and Charlotte Hall. We sent flowers to Green Ridge House and St. Hughes to provide some cheer.

Home is where the heart is and we donated funds to the Post to help with needed repairs to get it up and running and at full capacity. The Legion Family is working together to get the Post fully operational for all to enjoy again.

With the isolation of the pandemic, the Auxiliary decided to reach out to all our members by sending a card and poppy to let you all know we are thinking of you. While we may not see you every day or talk to you all the time, please know you are important to us. We are grateful to you and are here to support you.

The Money Bunny Raffle is full steam ahead. This fundraiser provides support for our scholarship fund. This scholarship has helped many young people pursue their dreams of obtaining higher education. We have given out several scholarships during the pandemic and hope to continue this important work for the community. Your generous participation in this raffle helps keep this scholarship going strong. Tickets are \$1.00 each and you have a chance to win \$300. The drawing will be November 11. Get your tickets today.

I want to thank every one of the ladies for all of their hard work to get bingo up and running again. You are all so amazing. With that said, the Auxiliary will be taking the month of July off from shotgun bingo to get some much needed rest and vacation. Bingo will restart on the first Tuesday in August.

Thank you for your support.

For God and Country,  
Dana Coleman,  
Auxiliary President

## MEMBERSHIP

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to the newest members; Joyce Mercott, Victoria Shackett, Jessica Mason ...and rejoin Betty Burk Hammer

The unit is so very glad to be receiving calls from past members due to the "we haven't heard from you" notes recently mailed and hoping to hear from more of you!

Our current paid dues is 404 out of 461. We wish everyone a safe summer. We have already received 2022 dues from 10 very early members. Thank you all.

Susan Wiener  
Membership Chairman  
(301) 474-0849

**2021 Dues For Auxiliary Members**  
 \$30.00 Regular (Seniors), \$20.00 Seniors with 50 yrs. or more  
 and Dual Members \$6.00 Juniors (Members under 18)



**AUXILIARY MEETINGS**  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
 @ 7:00 PM

Like our Juniors on Facebook @ 136juniorsala





# Queen of Hearts is Back on Wednesday Evenings



A New Drawing Will Be Held Every Wednesday Until the Queen of Hearts is Drawn

**All Tickets Must Be Purchased by 7:15 PM the Night of the Drawing**

Drawing Held: 8:00 PM - Tickets: \$5.00 each/3 for \$10.00 - Pot Starts at: \$1000.00

**This is a progressive raffle open to the public.**

Two (2) tickets drawn every Wednesday

**Your full name must be on your ticket(s) to be valid.**

If your ticket is drawn, you may pick a card from the Queen of Hearts Board.

The amount of money won depends on the card drawn.

### ATTENTION ALL QUEEN OF HEARTS PLAYERS

The Queen of Hearts will now be offering Hold' em Cards \$1.00 each on Wednesday evenings to win various cash prizes. (Up to \$100.00 prizes)

Also, when getting 10 Hold' em Cards, **ONE FREE** Queen of Hearts ticket is yours as well!

**\*\*This offer good until further notice\*\***

*Sponsored by The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 136*

**\*\*PLEASE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ALL SOCIAL DISTANCING AND FACE COVERING GUIDELINES\*\***

## MONEY BUNNY!!

**YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$300.00**

Please support our Merit Scholarship Program  
**TICKETS ARE \$1.00 EACH**

**Drawing Date:**

**November 11, 2021 - Veterans Day**

Please send your address labels and checks (made payable to Greenbelt Unit #136) to:



Greenbelt Unit #136  
ATTN: Sandi Dutton  
P.O. Box 1063  
Greenbelt, MD 20768



**The Auxiliary will be taking the month of July off from Shotgun Bingo to get some much needed rest and vacation.**

**Bingo will restart on the first Tuesday in August.**

# GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST 136

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament October 1, 2021



Bowie Country Club  
7420 Laurel Bowie Rd.  
Bowie, MD 20715



**Registration Begins:**

**8:00 AM**

**Shotgun Start:**

**9:00 AM**

### **Banquet to follow at the Post...**

Greenbelt American Legion Post 136  
6900 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Door prizes will be awarded, and a 50/50 raffle will be held back at the Post during the banquet.

**Refreshments will be provided on the course!  
Hope you can come and join us for a fun-filled day!**

**For more information contact:**

**Brian Crabill at (301) 345-0136, ext. 1 or, [managerpost136@comcast.net](mailto:managerpost136@comcast.net)**



**\$100.00 per Golfer - \$400.00 per Team**

#### **We are only taking 128 golfers**

Get your team in early to guarantee your spot and get yourself a goodie bag!

**Please fill out the form on the right and either bring it in to the Post or mail it in.**

**Make checks payable to:  
Greenbelt American Legion Post 136  
6900 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

Golfer 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Prizes Awarded To...

1st place  
2nd place  
3rd place  
Last place teams

Long Drive Hole  
Putting Competition  
Closest to the Pin  
On Every Par 3



**\$100.00**

Name on sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Greenbelt City Council, American Legion Honor Fallen Heroes

By Butch Hicks

The Greenbelt City Council and the American Legion Post 136 Family held a Memorial Day ceremony at the city's War Memorial to honor the more than one million men and women who have lost their lives defending America since the Revolutionary War. The solemn memorial, which followed assembly and communications constraints caused by the COVID-19 virus, featured commentary, the Star Spangle Banner, Pledge of Allegiance, taps and wreath placements.

Post 136 Commander Mike Moore said, "This day is sacred with the almost visible presence of those who have gone before us. We are here to honor the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of our country. May the ceremonies of today deepen our reverence for our departed family members and friends whose selfless service and sacrifice has helped us to preserve our nation. Because this is a day of remembrance I ask that you remember the 22 veterans from our Post and keep them in your thoughts and prayers."

Mayor Colin Byrd addressed the cost of war saying no one wants to lose their lives but the Memorial Day ceremony allows us to honor those who did. Byrd read the annual Memorial Day proclamation which acknowledged the brave men and women who gave their lives to protect our country. "We are saddened by the deaths of America's sons and daughters and the hardship endured by their families...we are gathered at the Greenbelt War Memorial to once again remember and honor those from our own community. This proclamation expresses deep gratitude to the women and men who have given their lives in the service of the United States of America who are remembered not just this day but every day the ultimate sacrifice they made so that we may enjoy peace, prosperity and the freedom we all cherish."



PHOTO BY JENNIFER STERLING

*At the Greenbelt Memorial Day Observance on May 31, Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers, Dana Coleman, Butch Hicks and Jim Harbaugh face the camera while John Hill, Commissioner Mike Moore, Mayor Colin Byrd and Councilmember Judith Davis face Crescent Road during the wreath ceremony.*



PHOTO BY JENNIFER STERLING

*John Hill (back to camera) and Police Chief Richard Bowers stand during Memorial Day Observance on May 31.*

understood the reality of today's world. "History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid," he said.

Studies have showed that war is often not the best policy, but the heroes that wars produce are America's best. The veterans we mourn today no longer celebrate life. But when their country called, they neither emigrated elsewhere to avoid serving nor did they experience a sudden military-deferment affliction. Those who sacrificed their lives could not question the politics of the war nor could they question their leaders' orders sending them in harm's way.

Eleanor Roosevelt, the city's sponsor, said, "When all is said and done, and statesmen discuss the future of the world, the fact remains that people fight these wars." And war veterans are the last to lionize war and its devastating results. Former President and Commander of allied forces in Europe during World War II, Dwight D. Eisenhower, agreed. "I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity." But he also

The Memorial Day event was recorded for community presentation on Facebook and local cable channels.



# Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!

The Post will be offering  
the following selections on  
Sunday, July 4, 2021  
from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM:

Fried Chicken	Baked Beans
Burgers	Coleslaw
Hot Dogs	Corn of the Cob
Potato Salad	



Stay and watch the fireworks  
from our parking lot!!



## WHERE DOES THE TERM “THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER” ORIGINATE FROM?



The phrase is actually a reference to the fact that, during this time, the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth and part of the constellation Canis Major, the Greater Dog. This is why Sirius is sometimes called the Dog Star.

In the summer, Sirius rises and sets with the Sun. On July 23rd, specifically, it is in conjunction with the Sun, and because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the Sun’s warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather. They referred to this time as *diēs caniculārēs*, or “dog days.”

Thus, the term Dog Days of Summer came to mean the 20 days before and 20 days after this alignment of Sirius with the Sun—July 3 to August 11 each year.

A little trivia taken from the Farmers’ Almanac website. Read the entire article [here](#).