

GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST 136

CONTACT

6900 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-0136 www.greenbeltmdpost136.org

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Commander's Message

Saying goodbye to friends has always been a difficult task for me. It is with mixed emotions that I am writing my final Commander's Message. After six eventful years as your commander, I have decided to step down and pass the baton to someone with a fresh perspective and new ideas to help the Post thrive in the coming years. Over the past six years we have been through some difficult times together. When we discovered that our former bookkeeper had embezzled over \$300,000 and had failed to pay our state or federal taxes for several years, we went into crisis mode. Working with the State's Attorney, we got a conviction on our former bookkeeper and recovered part of our losses from our insurance carrier. Then our talented and dedicated team of officers went to work to right the many wrongs that had occurred. We paid off our state property lien, renewed our licenses, restored employee health insurance coverage and reestablished our tax exemption. Just recently, we resolved our massive tax issues with the Internal Revenue Service by securing a mortgage. Throughout this ordeal, our Legion family members were patient and supportive. I will always remember your encouragement and kindness.

As our 2017-2018 administrative year comes to an end, I believe that we continue to make substantial progress. Thanks to a strong cadre of officers, a committed management team and many willing volunteers, we have been able to sponsor a variety of successful events that appealed to a broad spectrum of our Legion family. Whether it is celebrating national patriotic holidays, recognizing our first responders, providing support and advice to Veterans and their families, or hosting social events, your Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 continues to be a valued partner within our community, the state and our nation. We are proud to provide extensive support for community organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Miss Greenbelt Pageant, Lions Club, Greenbelt Little League, the Goddard Retirees and Alumni Association and many others. We are actively involved in supporting the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET); the University of Maryland's TerpVets Program, the Prince George's Community College's Team Vets Program and many other Veterans support groups.

We had a major transition with the retirement of long-time Post Manager Steve Messer. Steve was one of the most caring and responsive individuals that I have ever met. We were fortunate to secure the services of Jay Mayock as the new Post Manager. Jay has extensive knowledge and experience and has been doing an excellent job. Speaking of major transitions, the loss of Past Commander Sam Hofberg, a 70 year member, was felt by many at the Post and the community. His enthusiasm and optimism were inspirational and he is deeply missed. The month of May means it's time for our annual Post Elections. Thanks to the efforts of our nominating committee, we have identified a highly qualified (and willing) group of candidates for all major offices. A complete list of candidates appears elsewhere in the Contact. I urge you to vote in Hofberg Hall on Thursday, May 17th between 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. and please remember to bring your paid up 2018 membership card.

We have a full calendar of events for May and June and I urge you and your families to attend whatever may interest you. On Sunday, May 13th from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. we will serve our traditional Mother's Day Buffet. We end May with the roar of "Rolling Thunder" on Sunday May 27th and our Memorial Day ceremony on Monday May 28th in Old Greenbelt beginning at 11:00 a.m. to be followed by a buffet at the Post. We wrap up springtime with the 22nd Annual Gene Kellaher Memorial Golf Classic to be held on Friday, June 8th at Bowie Golf and Country Club. This event raises funds to support college scholarships for outstanding young men and women. Finally, I want to thank you for your support over the past six years. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your commander.

For God and Country,
Mike Moore
301 204-1377, terpmoore@msn.com

2017/2018

Commander
Michael "Mike" Moore
1st Vice Commander
Nate Calloway
2nd Vice Commander
Greg Gigliotti
Judge Advocate
Blaine "Tom" Davis
Sgt. at Arms
John W. Hill, III
Chaplain
Dennis "Mike" Duggan
Historian
Bernie Zempolich
Finance Officer
Joe Raphael
Executive Committee
Larry Buck
Ed Dwyer
Paul Durance
Butch Hicks
Adjutant
Doreen Clower

