

# GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST 136

# CONTACT

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## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The summer started off with a bang. The Fourth of July picnic went well for all the adults that patronized the event. There was an issue with the use of pyrotechnics that was unauthorized which resulted in a city council member calling the legion with a complaint and a lot of unwanted trash in the back parking lot. Next year only members of the Greenbelt American Legion family will be permitted in the parking lot for 2 to 3 hours before the fireworks kick off. A couple of red cones blocking the parking lot with a volunteer member checking membership cards should do the trick. Here's another reason to keep your membership current.

The Department Convention was very interesting as it was my first time I attended the event. I recognized a couple of familiar faces and met a couple of new Legionnaires. The Legion College was very informative and I walked away with a better understanding of how the Legion works and the present issues that the American Legion Southern Maryland District are concerned about.

The Boys Nation was a great success as it went off without a hitch. The National Commander, Denise H. Rohan, was a little late but made up for it by holding off on her speech until after dinner. Her message was inspirational to all that attended. She must have really enjoyed the food; she complimented Jerry Darnell and the staff a couple of times. Like always the meal was great.

On August 4<sup>th</sup> two of our family members celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on the front lawn of the post with about 100 guests. The food was great, the weather was warm and the crowd enjoyed all of the entertainment. Even the disheartening act of vandalism and robbery to three member's cars didn't break down the bond the true Legionnaires have within our family. I saw the entire guests and patrons stop everything and join together and console the victims of the petty crime and clean up all the broken glass in the cars and on the parking lot. It was an act of true friendship that bonds these young Americans together in time of need. It demonstrated the true family values that the Greenbelt American Legion family instills in our culture. This unwanted event didn't stop the celebration. It made a group of friends come together and get a little stronger. To see all of this unfold it made me proud to be their Commander. Now let's hope the police catch the thieves, but in the meantime, we all must be aware that the population and demographics are changing and with that change creates the unwanted crime that is associated with this growing area. Greenbelt's not tucked away on the outskirts of the Washington Metropolitan Area as we are part of the metro area. We must maintain situational awareness and look out for each other.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead Greenbelt Post 136.

For God and Country,  
Greg Gigliotti

## 2018/2019

Commander Greg Gigliotti
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Ed Young
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Butch Hicks
Judge Advocate Blaine "Tom" Davis
Sgt. at Arms Danny Stange
Chaplain Harold Bullock
Historian Bernie Zempolich
Finance Officer Doreen Clower
Executive Committee Laurence M. Buck G. Paul Durance Edward Dwyer Mike Moore, J.P.C.
Adjutant Mike Moore

