

PEACE CROSS SURVIVES SUPREME COURT BATTLE



For seven years the American Legion has been fighting an ongoing court battle against the American Humanist Association (AHA) to keep the Bladensburg World War I Memorial. The AHA claimed that the memorial's shape in the form of a cross made it a Christian symbol on public land, therefore violating the "Establishment of Religion" clause of the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. After being adjudicated in Federal District Court in Greenbelt where we won, the AHA appealed to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond which reversed the decision and said that Peace Cross had to be modified or removed. The American Legion and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) appealed the case to our nation's highest court. On February 27, 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments and rendered a decision on June 20, 2019. In a striking 7-2 decision the Supreme Court ruled in our favor and Peace Cross was saved for posterity. Justice Alito, writing for the majority stated "The cross is undoubtedly a Christian symbol, but that fact should not blind us to everything else that the Bladensburg Cross has come to represent." Further, he wrote "that context, specifically history and tradition, should be taken into account when assessing the constitutionality of displays on public property that include religious imagery." This is a landmark victory for the American Legion and for religious freedom in this nation. Thanks to Legionnaires from the Post, Department and National Headquarters for their patience and support. Thanks to our friends at the MNCPPC who are committed to restoring the memorial to its original condition and a special thanks to our crack legal team from First Liberty Institute and the high powered law firm of Jones Day. Finally, the 49 men remembered on the Peace Cross can rest in peace.

Mike Moore,
Past Post Commander



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Greetings to the Post 136 Legion Family,

Soon our hot summer weather will turn into the cool months of the fall season and "school bells" will be ringing once again. Your Management Team hopes that one and all had a safe and enjoyable summer.

Over the past few months we have had a marked increase in the number of Legion Family patrons and new patrons using our Post restaurant. We believe that the increase is due to the additional advertising that we have undertaken and the large number of outstanding food selections that we offer.

On several occasions however, the increased number of patrons has led to the kitchen running out of popular selections such as: Jumbo Lump Crab Cake, Fried Chicken and BBQ Ribs. We regret that patrons were disappointed in not being able to purchase their favorite food item. However, we want to ensure all of our old and new patrons that we are taking new purchasing steps to minimize these occasions of food item shortages. We hope that we can count on you for understanding as we make these adjustments to our food purchasing program.

Once again, I want to make sure that all of our patrons fully understand that your Management Team is ready to address any concern, problem, or recommendation concerning the restaurant operation. If you have an issue, we need to hear about it so we can address it and reach a good solution.

Have a great Fall season.

Regards,

Jay Mayock
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THE CONTACT

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