

# GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST 136

# CONTACT



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<http://www.greenbeltmdpost136.org>

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ISSUE IV

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> was a special day for our nation. It was Flag Day and the U.S. Army's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Many watched the parade here in Washinton DC, and I was particularly proud of our soldiers who participated in this celebration, and on a daily basis, defend our nation so well. As we greet the summer months of July and August, we have a busy schedule of events beginning with our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic, which begins at 2:00 PM on the first Friday of July. We will offer our usual selection of traditional picnic fare with lots of cold drinks. Because of the picnic, our restaurant will be closed, but will reopen for lunch and dinner on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. When the sun sets in the west members and guests will be able to enjoy the fireworks provided by the City of Greenbelt from the rear of the Legion's parking lot.

On Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of Peace Cross. A century ago, the local Hyattsville Legion Post 55 partnered with the Gold Star Mothers and a grateful community to honor the 49 brave men from Prince George's County who died in WWI. During the restoration of Peace Cross, Greenbelt Post 136 was involved in raising funds and purchasing bricks and statutes that enhanced the memorial. Please join us at the Bladensburg Memorial Park on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM to help celebrate Peace Cross. After a brief ceremony attendees are invited to a reception at Cheverly Legion Post 108.

Let's not forget the Legion Department Convention in Ocean City which will start on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July and run through the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. On Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, Post 136 will host the annual Boys Nation Dinner beginning at 5:00 PM in Hofberg Hall. National Commander James LaCoursiere, Jr. will give the keynote address, and 100 Boys Nation Senators will dine with Legionnaires from throughout Maryland.

I am delighted to announce that the Greenbelt Legion Family is supporting a major facilities improvement project - the resurfacing of our parking lot. Special thanks to the S.A.L. and Auxiliary for their generous donations. S.A.L. member Kenny Hall has taken the lead on the project and has done a great job of getting the contractor to give us a great price on the work. He has also taken on the responsibility of re-painting the parking lot, once the paving is complete. Thanks Kenny, for your dedication to the Greenbelt American Legion.

*(Commander's Message continued on page two)*

2025/2026
Commander: Greg Gigliotti
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: James Hawkins
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Timothy E. Meade
Judge Advocate: Tom Davis
Sgt. at Arms: Bill Muffley
Chaplain: Shawn Fenstermacher
Historian: Bernie Zempolich
Finance Officer: Harold Schlemmer
Members at Large: Richard Brown Larry Williams John Hardwick Kenneth Voigt
Adjutant: Mike Moore



The management staff is always working hard to meet the requests of our patrons. We are constantly changing the dinner menu with some new items while still keeping the menu at a fair price. Looking ahead, the S.A.L. and staff will put on another crab feast on September 13<sup>th</sup>, so get your tickets as soon as you can. As always, the S.A.L. will be asking for Volunteers to help. Look for more information about the feast at the Post and on social media.

Member retention in any organization is of the utmost importance. If every one of our members brought one new member into the ranks of Legionnaire, S.A.L. or AUX each year, our ranks would increase back to healthy numbers. The 2026 membership year begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>, so please "re-up" your membership and become an "Early Bird" member. Finally, I want to thank our members for their ongoing support and enthusiasm for our activities and programs. We have a great group of people and continue to make a difference in the community, state and nation.

God bless America, and God bless you.

Greg Gigliotti  
Commander,  
Greenbelt American Legion, Post 136

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Dear Legionnaires,

As we step into the summer months of July and August, we're reminded not only of warm weather and patriotic celebrations but of solemn moments in our nation's military history - moments where the ideals of **God and Country** stood firm in the hearts of brave Americans.

### July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776 – The Declaration of Independence

On Independence Day, we celebrate the birth of a nation under God. Our Founding Fathers boldly declared that all men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." The very foundation of our liberty was rooted in a deep reverence for divine authority and the belief that freedom was a God-given gift worth defending.

### July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1953 – Korean War Armistice Signed

After three years of intense conflict, the guns fell silent. The Korean War is often called "The Forgotten War," yet we must remember the brave men and women who served, many of whom carried their Bibles into battle and leaned on faith amidst harsh conditions. The peace that followed was, in many ways, a testimony to perseverance, prayer, and principle.

### August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945 – Hiroshima and Nagasaki

These were days that marked the terrible cost of war - and the sobering responsibility of power. Yet even in the aftermath of such devastation, chaplains and missionaries entered those cities with the gospel and with compassion, bringing healing where there had been destruction. Out of ashes rose churches and conversions - reminders that God is able to bring light out of darkness.

As your chaplain, I encourage you to take time this summer not only to honor our nation but to **remember the God who has carried us through wars, trials, and victories**. Let us continue to be people of faith, integrity, and service - faithful to both **God and Country**.

May God bless you and your families.

**For God and Country,**  
*Chaplain,*  
*Shawn Fenstermacher*

# POST CHAPLAIN SHAWN FENSTERMACHER INSTALLED AS A NEW CHURCH PASTOR

*(by Past Commander Mike Moore)*

Our Post Chaplain is a very busy man. In addition to serving the counselling and ceremonial needs of many in our Legion Family, he is actively engaged as a ministry leader of a prayer and Bible study group with student athletes at the University of Maryland at College Park. On Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, Shawn was formally installed as the Senior Pastor at New Carrollton Bible Church.

The Pastoral Installation and Charges were administered by Pastor Everett Pope of the United Baptist Church of New Carrollton. He was assisted by Deacon Denis Morgan and Deacon Leroy Pointer of the New Carrollton Bible Church. The ceremony was attended by a church full of family, friends and well-wishers.

Rev. Shawn Fenstermacher is an ordained minister who earned a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry and a Master of Divinity from Liberty University. Prior to his work in ministry, he served in the U.S. Navy and in the corporate world at all levels. He and his wife Hope (an Army Veteran) are active members of Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 and our Auxiliary Unit 136. Shawn has the unique distinction of being a “triple member” of the Legion Family since he also belongs to S.A.L. Squadron 136. We wish Shawn success in his new journey.





# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 136



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

Well, we are midway through 2025, and summer is upon us. I offer up the wishes to everyone of a continued safe and pleasant summer wherever the winds take you. With thanks to our editor at the time of finishing this article the Detachment (State) S.A.L. annual convention just completed. The convention was full of moments to reflect on the past year and to look to the future. On Sunday morning, the new officers for the Detachment & Regions were officially installed for the coming year. Our own Jerry Darnell will serve as the Southern Maryland Region Commander for the second year in a row. Our Chaplain William Green will also serve as the Region Chaplain, and I will be serving as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander of the Region. Please wish all of us luck in the coming year. We do ask for your support as we work to represent not just Squadron 136 but the Region S.A.L. for the next year.

At the convention your Sons were recognized as a 3-star squadron for making 100% membership goal. Thank you to all our S.A.L. members who paid dues before May 30. This helped us make our renewal goal for the year, just in time to start over for the next. About 80 of our 2024 members still have not renewed for 2025. The 2026 Early bird dues are now being accepted. Dues are \$25 for members; \$15 for junior (under 18) and dual membership, please don't hesitate to renew. You may pay at the Post or the National Legion website that is now available to S.A.L. members (Dual and Jr. Members still need to pay in person at the Post) [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org). This site will allow you to update & renew membership information automatically online and access other Legion related information and discounts. However, if your membership has lapsed you may need to renew for lapsed years directly with the Post to keep your continuous years intact. Members with local mailing addresses, cards will be in the Members' Lounge to pick up and will be mailed out if not picked up within 2 weeks.

Our incoming Detachment Commander Jason Miller shared an operational mission and plan for the upcoming 2025/2026 year. His project is supporting Patriot Point outside Cambridge Maryland. You can learn more about Patriot Point at [www.patriotpoint.org](http://www.patriotpoint.org) The facility provides a venue for wounded, ill and injured active-duty service members, veterans, their families and caregivers who face daily struggles related to their time spent defending our great nation. This is free of charge from sponsorships by Veteran Service Organizations across the nation. We continue to support the four pillars of the American Legion: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Our support is completed through tasks such as raising funds for specific needs by organizations whose missions and services fall within these pillars like Special Olympics, Wounded Warriors, Tunnels to Towers, Scouting America, Toys for Tots, The Veterans Homes and facilities around Maryland to name a few. Sometimes we have the opportunity to provide a little more logistic support. Jason's theme for the year is "Sons Honoring Veterans Everyday" so I ask my fellow Sons, how are "we" honoring the veterans that "we" have our membership through and how do we honor our neighbors and Legion Family veterans every day? As we have already been honoring our veterans through the four pillars your Squadron received recognition for some of our work this past year, most notably The Robert Trueblood Community Affairs Award for Outstanding Achievements and participation in the Community Affairs Program. The award will be on display at the Post. Come learn a little bit more of the programs of the Legion Family and give a couple hours a month to help honor our veterans.

*(S.A.L. Commander's Message continued on page five)*

2025/2026	
Commander:	Lenny Wertz
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander:	Vacant
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander:	Kenny Hall
Chaplain:	Kenny Hall
Finance Officer:	Kevin Foster
Historian:	Ray (Cory) Micallef
Sgt-At-Arms:	Marty Rousseau
Adjutant:	Ray (Cory) Micallef
Advisor:	Richard Dutton

**S.A.L.  
MEETINGS  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
7:00 PM**

**DON'T FORGET TO  
JOIN OR RENEW  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
FOR 2025  
Dues: \$25  
\$15 Junior & Dual**



Looking ahead, tickets will be available in August for the Crab Feast, September 13, 2025. We hope to be able to keep the price at \$60 per person. Please come visit S.A.L. on Wednesday nights to get your tickets. We will be looking for some help with ticket sales, set up, serving, and tear down. To maintain some of our activities S.A.L. is looking for some additional help, especially with Wednesday night food. We have a couple items available for sale for \$25 a Green S.A.L. Polo in limited sizes. If interest increases well reorder additional sizes. As part of the Gifts of Gratitude program with the Auxiliary we are selling a drawstring backpack for \$5 to help support this cool project that provides a little token of appreciation to our active-duty service members.

Our monthly meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 PM. It's also a great time to join our committees like the S.A.L. cook crew, membership, service and fundraising committees to name a couple. Our meetings or Queen of Hearts nights are a great time to bring up new ideas and proposals. Flyers for other events and activities will be posted soon. Looking for new ideas on growing our Jr. S.A.L. program and creating and holding activities for Children & Youth. The need is here for your service, participation and ideas to help us grow our Legion Family.

Sons Honoring Veterans Every Day,  
Lenny Wertz,  
S.A.L. Commander



## Queen of Hearts Wednesday Evenings



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

**All Tickets Must Be Purchased by 7:45 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.**

One (1) ticket 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**

Hold 'em cards are available for additional prizes.

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

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



### THE CONTACT

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

Publisher: Mike Moore - Editor: Bernie Zempolich - Composing: East-West Web Solutions



## AUXILIARY UNIT 136



2025/2026

Unit Officers

President:  
Elizabeth Darnell

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:  
Dana Coleman

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:  
Patty Rousseau

Secretary:  
Mary Fava

Treasurer:  
Sandi Dutton

Chaplain:  
Susan Wiener

Historian:  
Rusty Beeg

Sgt.at Arms:  
Kathy Fomin Aya

Executive  
Committee:  
Laura Fendlay  
Dora Hamm  
Elizabeth Rice

### AUXILIARY 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greenbelt Unit #136 has had an outstanding year!! We finalized our reports to the Department and as reported in previous issues of the CONTACT, the work and donations provided by our Unit were **AMAZING**, thanks to the leadership of Kathy Gigliotti for most of the year!

We had elections of Officers at our first meeting in June and, I have the honor of being elected President for 2025-2026. I'd like to thank the members for their confidence in my ability to lead us. Although I have been President in the past for a couple of years, I ask your indulgence as I reacclimate myself to this role. I will do my best and I'm looking forward to working with the rest of our Legion Family and the elected officers as follows: First Vice President - Dana Coleman, Second Vice President - Patty Rousseau, Treasurer - Sandi Dutton, Chaplain - Susan Wiener, Historian - Rusty Beeg, Sergeant-at-Arms - Kathy Fomin Aya, and Executive Committee - Laura Fendlay, Dora Hamm & Elizabeth Rice. In addition, I've appointed the all important role of Secretary to Mary Fava.

I would like to thank Sandi Dutton and Rusty Beeg for their untiring dedication and time given to our Unit, Department and State organization. I look forward to their continued guidance as I step into this new role.

We held our shrimp feast in May. Thank you to all those who supported our event, and to our S.A.L. & Unit members who volunteered making it a success. We could never do it without you!

We have been very fortunate to be able to support our community, veterans and active military by recognizing our local teachers for Teachers' Week at several local schools and some of our members. In addition, we donated to the WWII Women's Memorial Foundation, Camp Corral to send military children to camp, National Golden Age Games, Maryland Army National Guard baby items drive, National Guard Family Day for 400 soldiers and their families at Ft. Meade Park, water & snacks to the National Guard who were called up during the Army's birthday parade. We also stuffed bags for "Gifts of Gratitude" along side the S.A.L. and Greenbelt Fire Department Auxiliary for overseas active military.

Of course, May was Poppy Month - poppies were taken to area schools and arrangements were taken to Greenridge House and St. Hugh's Church; we distributed poppies throughout the month including the Greenbelt City Council Meeting and Memorial Day at Roosevelt Center with the help of Jordan & Taylor Hodge, our Little Miss Poppies. In addition we had placemats with the poppy story in our restaurant.

Our Unit is strong and does an excellent job supporting the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion - and we are **VERY PROUD** to do so! We are especially proud of our joint efforts with the Sons of Greenbelt Squadron 136 - a great group to work with!

*(Auxiliary President's Message continued on page seven)*



July has us off to the Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City. The opportunity to continue to learn more about the legislation and the work of the Auxiliary is amazing. I would encourage every member to attend if you have the chance.

Remember there is **no bingo** during the **month of July** due to so many summer events for our members. We will be up and running again Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please join us at our meetings, we need more volunteers and new ideas. Volunteering is our core and I'm sure you will find it very fulfilling. Help us share your ideas; our members run the auxiliary; come and have a say in how we operate the Auxiliary. Please invite eligible friends and neighbors to join our ranks. It's imperative we attract and retain our members. Our next meeting will be August 7<sup>th</sup> and thereafter every first and third Thursdays of the month.

Summer is fully upon us and I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer season. I hope to see you at the Post soon.

For God and Country,  
Elizabeth Darnell,  
Auxiliary President

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

**2025 Dues For Auxiliary Members**  
\$30.00 Regular (Sr. with 50 years or more \$26.00)  
Dual Members \$26.00, Juniors (under 18) \$6.00  
**PLEASE MAIL YOUR DUES TO:**  
ALA 136  
PO Box 1063  
Greenbelt, MD 20768  
Please make checks payable to ALA 136 and include your phone number on your payment.

Like our Juniors  
on Facebook @  
136juniorsala



### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July members, wishing all a great summer. We will be receiving our 2026 membership cards at Convention. We have 5 paid 2026 members so far. Please check to see if you have paid 2025. If not you can pay both years on the same check (and save a tree). Our membership year is January to December but we start collecting the New Year's dues because of convention. I know it's early but that is why we have the "Early Bird" dinner. That's right, the Legion puts on a FREE early bird dinner (usually the first Sunday in November- we will let you know) for everyone who has paid their 2026 dues. So let's get cracking members with a \$30.00 check made out to ALA 136, mailed to P.O. Box 1063, Greenbelt Md 20768. We will be proud with big numbers at convention this year with your help. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call me at (301-474-0849).

Susan Wiener,  
Membership Chair/Chaplain



### SHOTGUN BINGO

**Tuesday**  
**Evenings**  
**7:00 PM**

*Bring a friend,  
enjoy some food,  
friends and, maybe  
even be a **BIG** winner.*

Sponsored by the Auxiliary Unit #136

**\*(NO SHOTGUN BINGO IN JULY OR DECEMBER)\***



### MONEY BUNNY!!

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$300.00

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

Drawing Date:  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 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





*"Reach for the Stars"*

*In support of*

*National Teachers Week*  
*2025*

*Thanks for your*

*Commit-mint*

*and*

*Involve-mint*

In 2025, Teacher Appreciation Week was celebrated from May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>, with National Teacher Day falling on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This annual event is dedicated to recognizing the contributions of teachers and school staff. Schools and communities often organize events and offer special deals and discounts to show appreciation for educators during this week.

*Greenbelt Unit #136,  
American Legion Auxiliary*

NATIONAL POPPY DAY PROGRAM PRESENTATION  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #136



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 136 members and city council assemble for a group photo after the Auxiliary Unit's annual National Poppy Day program presentation.

When introducing the Auxiliary team Mayor Jordan said, "The American Legion Post 136 has a highly esteemed place in the state of Maryland." He shared that Ms. Dutton is a former National Auxiliary President. Photo (front) Rusty Beeg; (rear, left to right) Dora Hamm; Elizabeth Darnell; Sandi Dutton; Chris Beeg; Silke Pope (city council and Auxiliary member)

(Council from left) Amy Knesel; Rodney Roberts; Jenni Pompei; Mayor Emmett V. Jordan; Danielle McKinney



Greenbelt city council members (from far left) Amy Knesel; Rodney Roberts; Jenni Pompei; Mayor Jordan. Kristen L.K. Weaver offers donations for the National Poppy Day fund to American Legion Auxiliary members (from left) Elizabeth Darnell; Dora Hamm.

# GREENBELT HONORS FALLEN HEROS ON MEMORIAL DAY

By Butch Hicks

Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 officers joined Greenbelt City Council and county and state government representatives on May 26 at the city's War Memorial for a solemn Memorial Day ceremony honoring those who died during the nation's wars. An audience of about 100 attended, including veterans wearing emblems of prior military service.

Ingrid Watson, District 4 Prince George's County Councilmember, presented a proclamation recognizing fallen service members who "served with courage, distinction and bravery to preserve and protect the value of America's democracy" and proclaiming Monday, May 26, 2025, a countywide day of observance in recognition of Memorial Day and mourning in solidarity with the families and loved ones of those who sacrificed their lives to protect the United States of America and its people.

Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan was joined by Councilmembers Silke Pope, Jenni Pompei, Rodney Roberts and Kristen Weaver, along with Maryland District 22 Delegates Nicole Williams and Anne Healey. Jordan expressed gratitude to American Legion Post 136 members for their exceptional leadership and service to Greenbelt and surrounding communities. Jordan asked Post 136's commander, leaders of the Sons of the American Legion and Unit 136 Auxiliary to accept a proclamation from Greenbelt.

"We gather here today at the Greenbelt War Memorial to honor and remember those who served in our nation's military and their ultimate sacrifice," Jordan said. "We lay wreaths in their memory and acknowledge their three-fold service: to community, to country, and to family...So, on this Memorial Day 2025, may we unite to realize the enduring peace that our fallen heroes envisioned when they made that ultimate sacrifice."

Post 136 Commander, Greg Gigliotti's presentation described individual's final acts of courage and bravery and illustrated why on Memorial Day we are strongly reminded about the cost of freedom.

Gigliotti said, "Society likes to use the word hero. There are sports heroes, action heroes and political heroes. But is there any group more deserving of the title than the more than one million men and women who have sacrificed their lives in defense of this nation?"

Gigliotti highlighted a gridiron hero named named Jack Lummus, an All-American football star, and terrific centerfielder for Baylor University.

"On February 19, 1945, Jack Lummus was among the first to land at Iwo Jima. A leader of a rifle platoon, First Lieutenant Lummus slowly but relentlessly advanced with his men against entrenched enemy forces. He disregarded wounds inflicted upon him by grenade shrapnel and other small arms fire. He neutralized enemy soldiers positioned in three pillboxes before eventually stepping on a landmine," recounted Gigliotti.

"Jack attempted to stand even though his legs and lower torso were badly mangled. Rushed to surgeons who attempted to save his life, Lieutenant Lummus said, "Well, Doc, the New York Giants lost a mighty good end today." He died on March 8, 1945 and America lost a mighty good hero. For his actions at Iwo Jima 80 years ago, Jack Lummus was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

"Lieutenant Jack Lummus was one of the most famous heroes of one of history's most famous battles. But there are so many others that we can also remember...People who died while fulfilling their military missions," said Gigliotti.

He spoke of Navy Lieutenant Commander Lyndsay Evans and Lieutenant Serena Wileman aviators who both earned multiple combat medals for their actions in the Middle East and conducted multiple 2023 and 2024 combat missions against Houthi terrorists.

"On October 15, 2024, the two trailblazing pilots lost their lives when their EA-18G Growler jet crashed during a training exercise near Washington's Mount Rainier. Even within the safety of the United States, the military is an inherently dangerous profession comprising professionals willing to sacrifice for us," said Gigliotti.

Sacrifice for others. This was the final act of yet another hero, Army medic Calvin Bouknight (boke night). "He died so others could live," said a eulogizer at a ceremony last year at Arlington National Cemetery.

Specialist Bouknight was killed in 1965, shielding four of his fellow soldiers in Vietnam. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

*(Article continued on page 11)*

Approval for the award was slow, said Gigliotti, as is common, to which many familiar with the military medal process attest. As a result, his original gravestone did not acknowledge his Silver Star. It was through the determination of other veterans that the injustice was finally corrected, and his gravestone updated in 2024.

“Fifty years ago, the Vietnam war ended,” said Gigliotti. “Much like our withdrawal from Afghanistan, history will be kinder to those who fought the war than it will be to the policymakers who managed it. For it is the veterans – not the politicians— who give us our freedom.

“The heroes that we honor today are not exclusive to any gender, race or religion. They come from all economic classes and backgrounds. They hail from all 50 states, and some have immigrated from other countries. They are a diverse group wedded to the belief that America is a nation worth dying for.

“The heroes that I mentioned had earned prestigious awards and military decorations. But just like the soldiers known only to God, countless veterans have not been recognized for their bravery due to a lack of surviving witnesses who could document their final acts.

“They are no less heroic. We are gathered so that we can remember their sacrifices and celebrate the fact that throughout our history, this great country produces such men and women of honor. We must not forget them.”



Photo by Butch Hicks - The Post 136 Memorial Day firing team fires a salute during the 2025 Memorial Day program held at Greenbelt War Memorial Park. About 100 onlookers comprising veterans viewed the presentations by Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 officers and city, county, and state government representatives. Team members from left: Brian Fletcher, Keith Starke, Steve Hamrich, Barry Bordas.



Photo by Jamarie Smith - Greenbelt News Review

Mayor Emmett Jordan, center, presents a Memorial Day Proclamation to Sons of the American Legion Commander Lenny Wertz, left. Also pictured are, from left, City Councilmember Jenni Pompei (back), American Legion Post 136 Auxiliary Treasurer Sandi Dutton and American Legion Post 136 Commander Greg Gigliotti.



During the 2025 Memorial Day event held at Greenbelt's War Memorial in Roosevelt Center, sisters Jordan (8) and Taylor (4) Hodges distributed Poppys to veterans and other onlookers during the American Legion Post 136 and city of Greenbelt 2025 Memorial Day event.

# REDEDICATION OF UPGRADED REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR MARKER

*Article by Ed Day*

On Memorial Day, the Town of Bladensburg pays tribute to our servicemembers in the Bladensburg Memorial Park. This year included the rededication of the upgraded Remember Pearl Harbor marker.

Eagle Scout candidate Ethan Mendoza of Troop 257, Cheverly, MD had an idea to enhance the small marker for his Service Project. The plaque had been overgrown with vegetation; however, he inspired quite a few people with his idea to improve it! Working with the Historic Preservation Unit, the Park Rangers, as well as Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 and preservation specialists Worcester Eisenbrandt Inc., who donated time and resources, the improved monument was completed for Memorial Day. An amazing transformation, and a fitting tribute to those lost on December 7, 1941. Great job Ethan and team!

The next time you are at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, visit the memorial area. Take a moment, reflect, and appreciate the freedoms we enjoy through the sacrifice of our service members.

Check out these \*wild\* before and after shots!



# 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PICNIC

Friday, July 4, 2025

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Come and enjoy the music, cold beverages and great food!!

Fried Chicken

Burgers

Hot Dogs

Italian Sausages

Baked Beans

Corn on the Cob

Assorted Cold Salads

## MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ONLY

Stay and watch the fireworks from the parking lot.

**ATTN:** The parking lot is not available to the general public for fireworks viewing.



## JULY/AUGUST UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

Fourth of July Family Picnic - 2:00 PM (See ad above)  
Restaurant Will Be Closed

Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>

Post 136 Executive Committee Meeting: 6:30 PM

Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

Peace Cross 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - At Peace Cross,  
Bladensburg Memorial Park - Followed by a  
Reception at Cheverly American Legion

July 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>

Department of Maryland Convention at Ocean City

Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

Boys Nation Dinner, Hofberg Hall, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

Post 136 Executive Committee Meeting: 6:30 PM

Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

Post 136 General Meeting 7:00 PM