

GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST 136

CONTACT



6900 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

(301) 345-0136

<http://www.greenbeltmdpost136.org>

VOLUME LXXXII

November/December 2025

ISSUE VI

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

November and December are chocked full of activities and events for our Legion Family. We start off November with the Greenbelt Concert Band performing in Hofberg Hall at 2:00 PM on Sunday, November 9th. A big "Semper Fi" to all you Marines on the 250th birthday of the Corps, which is celebrated on Monday, November 10th. Our traditional celebration of Veterans Day will take place at the Greenbelt War Memorial at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, November 11th. A light lunch and fellowship will be provided in Hofberg Hall afterwards. This year the Law Enforcement/Fire Fighter Recognition Dinner will be on Friday, November 14th and will begin at 5:00 PM. The Greenbelt American Legion Family will be working with Rolling Thunder Maryland Chapter 1, and the USO supporting the "Turkeys for Troops" event on Saturday, November 22nd, at 10:00 AM. We will be giving away complete Thanksgiving dinners to lower income enlisted military families stationed in the area. Our new parking lot will be the distribution point. I hope you and your family have a Happy Thanksgiving. Our dining room will be closed on Friday, November 27th. The members lounge will be open during regular hours. The Auxiliary Annual Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, November 29th in Hofberg Hall. Don't miss the opportunity to shop from our local artisans and vendors.

As we move into December, we start off on Friday, December 5th, with the Department Pearl Harbor Anniversary Dinner. On Sunday, December 7th, our Auxiliary, in partnership with the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Departments Ladies Auxiliary, will be hosting a breakfast with Santa. The local children love this event. Don't miss our annual Customer Appreciation Day for all the patrons of the Greenbelt Legion, on Wednesday, December 24th. Plenty of great food and holiday cheer throughout the day.

On September 26th, Past Commander Mike Moore celebrated his 80th birthday in Hofberg Hall with lots of well-wishers and family. We have included some pictures of the event and a brief biography of Mike's public service and involvement in Veterans affairs. On October 12th I was honored to say some words on behalf of our Post Chaplain Shawn Fenstermacher at his Tribute and Reflections at his Church, the New Carrollton Bible Church in Lanham where he is the Pastor. He serves in roles of ministry leadership, preaching, teaching and counseling. Shawn brings the warmth and kindness to our Legion and we are very lucky to have him as our Chaplain. On October 17th the entire Legion Family sponsored a Cancer Awareness fundraiser featuring Johnny Seaton and Bad Company. We hosted over 150 enthusiastic Elvis fans and raised nearly \$5,000.00 for cancer related charities. Julie Patterson and Kenny Hall shared their cancer journey with the attendees. I hope we can continue to support cancer research and patients with future fundraisers. Please read the Cancer Awareness event story in this edition of the Contact.

(Commander's message continued on page 2)

2025/2026

Commander:
Greg Gigliotti

1st Vice Commander:
James Hawkins

2nd 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 Post management team continues to work hard to satisfy our customers menu request. The Greenbelt American Legion restaurant has created tasty meals at a reasonable price. Please join us, the specials will be great. For more information on the Friday Night and Saturday Night specials, please refer to the Contact and Greenbelt American Legion Facebook page, or visit the restaurant in person to enjoy the food. We're open for lunch at 12:00 PM on Fridays and Saturdays and on Sundays for breakfast from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Please accept my best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa. As 2025 comes to an end, I am particularly proud of the progress that we are making in improving our facilities, expanding our dining options and providing you with a pleasant experience when you visit the Greenbelt Legion. Thanks to our great Legion Family!

God Bless America,
Greg Gigliotti

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Dear Legionnaires,

As we enter the final months of the year, we are reminded that time itself invites reflection: on our blessings, on our responsibilities, on the sacred bond between faith and freedom. In the spirit of thanksgiving and in the season of giving, we can pause to remember the men and women of our armed forces, the values of God and country they stand for, and the moments in recent military history that call us to pray, to remember, and to act. Here are two examples:

On November 13, 2023, the U.S. Department of Defense announced the tragic loss of five U.S. Army Special Operations aviation Soldiers, following a helicopter crash on November 10 in the Mediterranean Sea. We honor their sacrifice and ask God's comfort for their families.

In December 2024, U.S. forces conducted precision air-strikes targeting militant threats in Syria and Yemen. These operations remind us that freedom does not happen by chance, but by the vigilant service of those who step into harm's way on behalf of "Our Country and our God."

As we gather around tables this Thanksgiving, let our hearts rise in gratitude. Not only for family, food, and fellowship, but for the freedoms we enjoy and the price that has been paid. In this spirit, we salute our veterans, our active-duty service members, and the families behind them whose prayers and support make service possible. Let us also lift up those wounded, the families still grieving, and the communities that continue to bear the cost of defending liberty.

As December approaches and we await the holiday season, we are invited to reflect on giving: not just of material things, but of presence, prayer, and purpose.

In that light, I encourage each of us (and our Post) to consider the following:

Reaching out to a service-member or veteran who may feel isolated during this season and/or sending a care-package or a handwritten note to a deployed troop or college-age relative, as a reminder that they are remembered and cherished.

For God and Country,
Chaplain,
Shawn Fenstermacher





SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 136



S.A.L. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Legion Family,

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we approach 2026, your squadron is diligently working to keep our missions on track, and we truly appreciate your continued support.

This fall has been bustling at the Post! Our Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.) wrapped up our third-longest Queen of Hearts game and kicked off a new search for the Queen. Join us on Wednesday nights to try your luck and enjoy our delicious food offerings. We want to thank everyone who supported the Cancer Awareness event; a great time for all who attended and the awareness provided by those fighting Cancer and their perspectives was insightful too. Thank you to our Legion Family members who spearheaded that mission

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that the S.A.L. is starting a Super Bowl Pool and looking for people interested in purchasing a square. Each square is \$150. We will hold a party where the scores will be available on January 31, 2026. Your square must be paid by December 15, 2025. Stop by on Wednesday nights to chat with members of the S.A.L. Super bowl Pool team. This pool is a new pool and not connected to the Legion's Pool.

Mark your calendars! On November 21 and 22, we will again collaborate with Rolling Thunder Maryland Chapter One's Turkey for Troops project to distribute Thanksgiving meals to active-duty service members in the DMV area. We encourage everyone to stop by the Post to show appreciation for these heroes and their families who are actively providing support to keep our military at the ready for wherever the mission takes them.

Additionally, we will be collecting unwrapped toys for the annual Toys for Tots campaign—please look for the collection boxes. Keep an eye on the bulletin boards for information on items needed by residents of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home; we will have a container set up at the Post for donations to help fill stockings for these veterans.

Membership is vital to our Legion family. Renewing your S.A.L. membership honors the service of the veteran connected to your membership. If you have not received your 2026 membership card yet, please stop by the Post one evening to renew or mail in your payment. S.A.L. 136 2026 dues are \$25 for regular members and \$15 for dual and members under 18. You can also renew online at www.mylegion.org using your membership number from your previous card. Membership cards will be mailed out or left at the back bar for locals shortly after payment is processed.

Remember, S.A.L. monthly meetings are held every third Tuesday at 7:00 PM. It's a great time to get involved with our committees—like the S.A.L. cook crew, membership, service, and fundraising. Your ideas and participation are crucial in enhancing our S.A.L. programs and creating activities for children and youth.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at the Post!

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

2025/2026

Commander:
Lenny Wertz

1st Vice Commander:
Keith Starkey

2nd Vice Commander:
Kenny Hall

Chaplain:
William Green III

Finance Officer:
Kevin Foster

Historian:
Harold Jenkins

Sgt-At-Arms:
Marty Rousseau

Adjutant:
Ray (Cory) Micallef

Advisor:
Richard Dutton

S.A.L.
MEETINGS
Every 3rd Tuesday
7:00 PM

DON'T FORGET TO
JOIN OR RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP
FOR 2026

Dues: \$25
\$15 Junior & Dual





AUXILIARY UNIT 136



2025/2026

Unit Officers

President:
Elizabeth Darnell

1st Vice President:
Dana Coleman

2nd Vice President:
Patty Rousseau

Secretary:
Mary Fava

Treasurer:
Sandi Dutton

Chaplain:
Susan Wiener

Historian:
Rusty Beeg

Sgt.at Arms:
Kathy Fominaya

Executive
Committee:
Laura Fendlay
Dora Hamm
Elizabeth Rice

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is upon us and what gorgeous weather we've been lucky enough to enjoy; hopefully it will continue. It is hard to believe the Holiday Season is upon us; let's take time to give thanks for our family, friends, and all that we have and how we are blessed. Give thanks to those who have served our country and their family's sacrifices as well.

On November 22nd we will be helping the Rolling Thunder MD Chapter 1 give out over 100 Thanksgiving dinners, turkeys and all the trimmings to our enlisted Soldiers and their families, this is a great program that we help support and they are in need more than ever with the Government shutdown. It takes anyone affected a while to get back on their feet even when the shutdown ends.

School Supplies Drive for local schools is still ongoing. If you are able, please consider donating. We'd like to help restock the supplies mid-year.

At our Southern Maryland District meeting we are proud to have received awards for the 2024-2025 year in 14 categories; all 1st place.

We have been busy supporting the following:

- Donations to Vietnam Veterans & St. Hughes porch pantry
- Donation of candy for military care packages
- Buying wreaths for Wreaths Across America
- Getting gift cards to present during American Education Week.

It's back!!! We will be teaming up with the S.A.L. to bring you another Super Shotgun Bingo Night on Friday, November 7th at 7:00 PM. There will be lots of cash prizes to win, great food, door prizes, 50/50 raffles and much more. So grab your family and friends and join us for a great night of fun!

Our annual scholarship raffle is in full swing and you could win \$300! Each dollar gets you a chance to win. This raffle supports many Scholarships which we award every year. The drawing will be on Veteran's Day, November 11th.

The Annual Craft Bazaar will be Saturday, November 29th from 10:00 AM - 2:00: This is a great opportunity to get some of your holiday gift shopping completed early. If you are interested in a table, please contact Craft Bazaar Chairman, Rusty Beeg, at (301) 602-7214 or Rbeeg5908@gmail.com.

We are holding "Breakfast with Santa" along with the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary on Sunday, December 7th, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Hofberg Hall at the Post. Adults \$10.00, Children \$8.00 and under 5 years of age free. There will be food, fun, crafts and pictures with Santa. Tickets can be purchased at the door with cash for the first 100 people.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Tuesday night Shotgun Bingo will not be held during the month of December; **HOWEVER**, an exception has been made and **WE WILL** hold Bingo on December 2nd!

As always, we welcome members who would like to join us at meetings or to help with any events. Please contact me or one of our officers if you'd like more info.

God Bless America
Elizabeth Darnell,
Auxiliary President



Like our Juniors
on Facebook @
136juniorsala

AUXILIARY MEETINGS
1st & 3rd Thursdays
7:00 PM

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR'S MESSAGE

A warm welcome to newcomers Brenna Lauren, Rebecca Ferrina and Bethany Gresser.

Membership dues for 2026 are currently being accepted. Thank you to those that have already paid, keep it coming. Our 2025 membership reached 358 out of 360. Our current paid 2026 dues are 124 out of 360 so we have a way to go. Please mention to people you meet, neighbors and friends not already members about Unit 136 and what an honor it is to be a member of this great organization; they may not know they are eligible to join. Growing our membership is key to growing our Unit and helping with all the programs we support!

Checks for dues can be made out to ALA 136 and mailed to PO Box 1063, Greenbelt, MD 20768. Please include a \$1.00 scholarship donation (also known as Money Bunny) on that same check and you could win \$300...YEAH. Remember, absolutely every single dollar counts and we thank you for your generosity. If you can, include an address label(s) for your chance(s), otherwise I will be happy to fill them out for you.

Susan Wiener
Membership Chairman
301-474-0849



Join the GVFD Ladies
Auxiliary & American Legion
Auxiliary
For
*Breakfast
With*
SANTA

Sunday December 7th
Hosted at the Greenbelt American
Legion, 6900 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT
THE DOOR FOR 1ST 100 PEOPLE
Cash only at the door

SPREAD THE JOY OF THE HOLIDAYS!

Tickets include
Breakfast, Pictures
with Santa, Games &
Crafts

Adults: \$10
Kids 5+: \$8
Kids under 5: Free



Greenbelt Unit #136
American Legion Auxiliary Presents
Our Annual Craft Bazaar

Hand Made Items
Raffles
Refreshments
Bake Sale

Saturday, November 29, 2025
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

6900 Greenbelt Road
(MD Rte. 193)

*For info: Rusty Beeg @ 301-602-7214
or email: rbeeg5908@gmail.com*



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.

MONEY BUNNY!!

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$300.00

Please support our Merit
Scholarship Program

TICKETS ARE \$1.00 EACH

Drawing Date:

November 11th, 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



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)



Tuesday, December 24, 2025
In the Members Lounge at 3:00 PM



Friday, November, 14 2025
In the Members Lounge at 5:00 PM



TURKEYS FOR TROOPS

Saturday, November 22, 2025
10:00 AM

Michael G. Moore



Past Commander Mike Moore celebrated his 80th birthday in Hofberg Hall on Friday, September 26th. He was joined by many friends and family. Below is a bio about Mike's involvement in Veterans issues and his public service activities.

Michael Moore was born in Washington, D.C. in 1945. He grew up in Langley Park, MD, and has been a resident of Prince George's County since 1951. He has been actively involved in Veterans issues since 2010. He has served eight terms as the Commander of Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 and has served as Post Adjutant for three years. In 2018 he was made an Honorary Life Member of The American Legion. Mike joined the Fleet Reserve Club in Annapolis in 2023. He is currently serving his eleventh year as a Commissioner on the Maryland Veterans Commission and was elected by his colleagues in 2023 as Vice-Chairman of the Commission. He chaired the American Legion's Statewide Veterans Employment and Education Committee for four years and has been a member of the American Legion for over 45 years. He has served since 2017 on U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen's Uniformed Services Academy Advisory Board, which interviews and recommends candidates for appointment to the several Service Academies. In March of 2024, Mike was appointed to U.S. Representative Glen Ivey's Military Advisory Board serving Maryland's 4th Congressional District.

After working with other concerned Veterans for several years to raise public awareness about the legal threat to the Peace Cross, he engaged with state and local community organizations and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to raise funds to restore the Peace Cross Memorial.

Mike is an accomplished change manager with demonstrated expertise in organizational transformation across the federal government and the many volunteer organizations that he has led. He is noted for an ability to generate creative ideas and innovative approaches designed to solve complex problems. He is an adept communicator experienced in working with top-level organizational officials, key stakeholders, and the media. During the American Legion's effort to "Save the Peace Cross," Mike was actively engaged as a voice for Veterans with several major media outlets including Fox News, CNN, The New York Times, WUSA-TV, WRC-TV and WTTG-TV in Washington, D.C., and WJZ-TV in Baltimore. In 2021, the American Legion Magazine published a feature article on his work for Peace Cross.

Mike is a retired senior Federal career professional with more than 38 years of public service with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), three and a half years of active military service in the U.S. Army and, over twelve years as a Veteran Advocate. From 1990 through 1995, he served as EPA's Director of Technology Transfer, and represented the Agency on the Federal Laboratory Consortium. From 1996 through 2000 he was the Director of Human Resources and Infrastructure for EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD). Mike served as the ORD Communications and Outreach Director from 2001 through 2003. He completed his EPA career as a Senior Advisor in ORD from 2004 through 2012. In 2010, he was recognized by EPA with the Distinguished Career Service Award. Over his career at the Agency, he received four Bronze Medals for Commendable Service, the Statesmanship Award, and the Teamwork Award. In 2015, he was inducted as a "Companion" in the Military Order of the World Wars, and in 2016, Mike was named the University of Maryland's Distinguished Veteran Alumnus of the Year for his work with the TerpVets.

Mike is a 1968 graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park, where he received a B.A. in Government and Politics. In 1969, he graduated from the U.S. Army Infantry Officers Candidate School in Ft. Benning, GA, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was assigned to the 2/48th Infantry in Gehlhausen, Germany

(Article continued on page 7)

In 1975, Mike earned a Graduate Certificate in Federal Administration from the University of Southern California's Washington Public Affairs Center. In 1980, Mike went on a one year detail from EPA to the U.S. House of Representatives as a research analyst for the Energy and Commerce Committee. In 1984, he attended the Colorado School of Mines Energy and Minerals Field Institute in Golden, CO. In 2000, he graduated from the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, VA. From 2016 until 2023, Mike served as a volunteer at the Goddard Space Flight Center's Visitor Center where he greeted guests and familiarized them with the displays offered at the museum. His other community service activities include 10 years as president of the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club, 6 years as a Big Brother and 6 years on the City of Greenbelt's Employee Relations Board. He is a life member of the University of Maryland Alumni Association and Greenbelt American Legion Post 136.

Mike has been happily married to Audrey Ann Moore for over 35 years. They have three adult children, John, Danny and Kelly, all of whom graduated from the University of Maryland.



Jennifer Jones (daughter-in-law), Kelly Ronayne (daughter), August Ronayne (great grandson), Jorin Vincent (grandson), (Sarah Ronayne (granddaughter), John Ronayne (son), Mike (birthday boy), Dan Ronayne (son), and Audrey Moore (wife).



(more photos on pages 10 & 11)





HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIKE!!

Thank You For Your Contributions to Our Country



AMERICAN LEGION POST 136

VETERANS DAY

11/11/2025

WHAT IS THE EVENT?

A video montage of service pictures from Post 136 veterans.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Submit a service picture to: veteransdaypost136@gmail.com

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Post 136 veteran members SAL/Auxiliary family sponsors (please limit to 1 per household.)

WHERE IS THE EVENT?

We will be showing the video throughout Post 136 on veterans day.

Veteransdaypost136@gmail.com

Service pictures should be in png or jpg format.

Please include name of service member and branch of military.

Submissions due by October 11, 2025

Veterans Day
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



JOIN US FOR THE ARMY/NAVY GAME

Saturday, December 13, 2025

in the Members Lounge - 3:00 PM



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



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



American Legion Post 136 Evening in Support of Cancer Awareness

On October 17, 2025, American Legion Post 136, Greenbelt, Maryland held an Evening in Support of Cancer Awareness. Well over 200 guests showed awareness, support, love and hope on the special evening that generated over \$5000 with proceeds being forwarded to Cancer Research and Support entities.

Members of the American Legion and guests were greeted with warm welcoming remarks from Post 136 leadership group of Mr. Greg Gilotti, Ms. Elizabeth Darnell and Mr. Lennie Wertz. Following welcoming remarks, heartfelt, emotional and steadfast words of battling the disease were shared from Ms. Julie Patterson, Ms. Sandi Dutton and Mr. Kenny Hall. Each guest speaker shared inspirational words on how cancer has affected them personally and their families' lives. With both emotional and challenging words to hear, each speaker used the time to create, and foster an uplifting environment. Their words served as the catalyst in cultivating an atmosphere of both support, love and fighting the battle to cure cancer.

Following their words, musical guest and local artist, Johnny Seaton and Bad Behavior Rock and Roll Show gave an electrifying two-and-a-half-hour performance that both gave joy and further codified the tenor of this special evening. Mr. Seaton's words of encouragement and stories of how the disease has affected his life added to a memorable evening of support.

Guests finished the evening touting the event and remarking the effort made by the American Legion Post 136 Family.





MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025



Wednesday, December 24, 2025
In the Members Lounge at 3:00 PM

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
Greenbelt War Memorial
11:00 AM

Attendees will be invited back to the Post after the event for a light luncheon.



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, November 3rd
Sunday, November 9th
Monday, November 10th
Tuesday, November 11th
Friday, November 14th
Thursday, November 20th
Thursday, November 27th
Saturday, November 29th

Post 136 Executive Committee Meeting: 6:30 PM
Greenbelt Concert Band 2:00 PM (Hofberg Hall)
U.S. Marine Corps 250th Birthday
Veterans Day
Law Enforcement/Fire Fighters Recognition Dinner: 5:00 PM
Post 136 General Meeting: 7:00 PM
Thanksgiving (Dining Room Closed)
Auxiliary Annual Craft Fair

Monday, December 1st
Friday, December 5th
Sunday, December 7th
Saturday, December 13th
Sunday, December 14th
Thursday, December 18th
Wednesday, December 24th
Thursday, December 25th
Wednesday, December 31st

Post 136 Executive Committee Meeting: 6:30 PM
Pearl Harbor Anniversary Dinner
Breakfast With Santa: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Navy - Army Game
Employees Christmas Party
Post 136 General Meeting: 7:00 PM
Post 136 Customer Appreciation Day
Christmas
New Year's Eve

