



**Greenbelt American Legion Post 136
6900 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770**

Background on the “Restore Peace Cross Project”

On June 20, 2019, in a landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 7-2 to allow a Veteran’s memorial cross to continue to stand on public land in Maryland. The 40-foot-tall monument, commonly referred to as the Peace Cross, was dedicated in 1925 in the town of Bladensburg by Gold Star Mothers and The American Legion in memory of the service and sacrifice of the 49 county residents who died in World War I. In 2015, the monument was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Standing for 95 years, the Cross needs extensive restoration and refurbishment. The estimated cost of this historic restoration is approximately \$1 million.

The Legionnaires and other major Veterans Service Organizations from throughout Maryland are actively involved in helping to raise funds. The American Legion, Department of Maryland is working with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Foundation to secure sufficient resources to begin the restoration process. With the help of Governor Hogan and District 47 State Senator Malcolm Augustine, the Park and Planning Foundation has received financial commitments from the state totaling \$640,000 of the needed \$1 million.

Greenbelt Post 136 and the Marine Corps League have been leading the charge in generating community support to keep and restore Peace Cross. To date we have raised over \$19,000 with significant organizational gifts coming from the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland, the Fleet Reserve Association #24 in Annapolis, P.G. Elks Lodge 1778, Ellicott City VFW Post 7472, Laurel American Legion Post 60, Clinton American Legion Post 259, Glenarden American Legion Post 275, Greenbelt SAL Squadron 136, TAL Anne Arundel County Council, TAL Prince George’s County Council, Department of Maryland Auxiliary, American Legion Riders Gold Star Post 191 in Mt. Airy, Rolling Thunder Maryland Chapter 1, Hogs and Heroes, Inc., Bricklayer’s International Union and Bricklayer’s Local #1, which serves Maryland, DC, and Virginia. IHOP in Mt. Airy just completed a fundraiser for the Peace Cross. Several individuals have donated very generous gifts, as well. We are working with the American Legion, Department of Maryland, and National Headquarters to solicit donations on a national basis.

We are reaching out to Veterans Service Organizations, businesses, labor unions and community service organizations in Maryland to provide an opportunity to support this important endeavor. The addition of a gift from your American Legion Post on our list of donors would speak volumes to our Veteran community. We urge you to consider a donation to help restore Peace Cross. These much-needed resources will serve to keep alive the memory of those 49 Maryland veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation in World War I. For more information on how to donate, please contact Post 136 Commander Mike Moore at 301 204-1377 or at terpmoore@msn.com