



ST MARY'S CHAPTER NO. 26
P.O. BOX 496,
PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND 20670



Chapter #26, Chartered April 25, 1974



Monthly Newsletter of the
DAV St. Mary's Chapter #26.

January 2025



DAV Chapter #26 Contact Telephone Number - 240-925-5439 (available 24/7)

Web Site: <https://www.davch26stmarysmd.com/>

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER



Happy New Year, DAV Members and Friends,

As we welcome 2025, it's the perfect time to reflect and set new goals. I wish each of you a healthy, happy, and prosperous new year filled with opportunities and success. This year, we will focus on building partnerships with local businesses to better serve our veterans and their families.

We have an exciting year ahead with several initiatives and events to support our veterans and their families. Here's what's coming up:

Upcoming VA Claims Assistance Event

In collaboration with Donny Williams of Everymind.org.

- Date: January 25, 2025
- Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Location: Lexington Park United Methodist Church, 21760 Great Mills Rd, Lexington Park, MD.

What to Expect:

- Join us for a day dedicated to supporting and celebrating service members, veterans, and their families!
- This empowering event will feature:
 - Resources: Explore services addressing behavioral health, employment, housing, and more.
 - Therapeutic Activities: Participate in activities fostering resilience and joy.
 - Community Connections: Enjoy delicious food, great company, and meaningful conversations with peers and providers.

Membership Drive

From May 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, DAV and DAV Auxiliary members have an exciting opportunity to win a trip for two to Las Vegas for the 2025 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention!

This prize includes hotel accommodation and \$2,500 in spending money. To qualify, recruit at least one new DAV member. For more details, visit: DAV Membership Recruiter Rally. For more details, visit: DAV Membership Recruiter Rally.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Chapter Meeting:

- Date: January 9, 2025
- Executive Meeting: 5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. & Regular Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting & Chapter Operations Training Session:

- Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025
- Location: Chapter 13, American Legion Post 276, 8068 Quarterfield Rd, Severn, MD 21795
- Time:
 - DEC Meeting: 10:00 a.m.
 - Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
 - Chapter Operations Training: 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

State Commander Barnes emphasizes the importance of attendance for all chapter officers. If you're unable to attend, please arrange for an alternate representative. For those interested in carpooling, meet at the PAX River Gas Station/Commissary area between 7:50 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Event Recap and Special Thanks

VA Claims Assistance in 2024:

Our dedicated CSOs and volunteers processed **662 claims** last year! Special thanks to: Kelly Major, James Williams, Thomas Ridley, Bob Jones, Cheryl Colson, Sheila Edwards, and myself. Please remember to log your LVAP hours!

Holiday Giving and Celebrations:

- Christmas Food Drive: Thanks to your incredible generosity, we provided baskets for veterans and military families in need. Special thanks to IAMAW Union Hall Local Lodge 4, which raised \$187 and donated canned goods and non-perishable items.
- Chapter Christmas Party: The Chapter's Christmas Party on December 14, 2024, was a great success! Special thanks to Lou Dunn for donating a hand-carved cheese board, which was raffled off, raising \$152 for the Chapter's fund.
- Special Contributions: We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Bob Priddy for their generous \$100.00 donation earmarked for the Christmas party & Mr. Stephen Holton for his generous contribution of \$50.00 donation. Your kindness helps us continue our mission to support veterans in need.

Closing Message

As we begin another year, let us reflect on the mission of DAV: "We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life."

May this new year bring hope, unity, and success to our DAV family. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who served.

With gratitude and warm wishes,
Maira Callis
Commander, DAV Chapter 26

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
 Pax River Commissary and the Weis Grocery store in Callaway for providing Turkey, Ham, cookies, cakes, fruit platters, Hawaiian Bread and paper products. Mission BBQ for the beef brisket, pork, sliders and sauces.

Delivering Christmas gifts to Charlotte Hall Vet Home. Gifts were donations from DAV/DAVA members, general public and MAG Aerospace. Thank you to all and a special Thank You to MAG Aerospace for donations again this year.





Our Senior Vice Commander, James, gets to know our newest member Mr. Queen.



A grateful thank you to the I.A.M.A.W, Local Lodge #4, Machinist Union Hall, for the use of their facilities for our event.



Bits and Pieces

Accidents takes seconds to happen but the suffering last a lifetime.

If you do not do stupid things while you are young, you will have nothing to smile about when you are old.

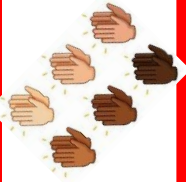


Angels don't always have wings, sometimes they have paws.



Food for Thought

Before your head hits the pillow tonight, remind yourself of the things you did right. Let go of the things you could have done better. Be patient with yourself and remember that big things are achieved not all at once, but rather one day at a time.



Matt Langford and Kelly Major delivered food donations for the Christmas food baskets to the base Chaplain. Donations included 3 large boxes of boxed and canned goods. An additional \$200 in food was purchased at the commissary.



**JESUS IS THE KEY TO HEAVEN,
BUT FAITH UNLOCKS THE DOOR.**



Trudy is doing well and working on her breathing. Her husband, Bob, wishes to thank all who sent cards and offered prayers for her recovery and Bob is very proud to say: "What a great bunch of people we have in this chapter".

If you are aware of anyone in need of prayer due to illness, please don't hesitate to report it to me.

Please report all sickness to me – your chaplain Bob Jones.

Disabled American Veterans
Assisting Those Who Served



Chapter 26

2025



January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							
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April 2025							May 2025							June 2025							
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						
July 2025							August 2025							September 2025							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					
							31														
October 2025							November 2025							December 2025							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				
							30														

Chapter #26 Officer's

<u>CHAPTER #26</u>			
2023-2024			
*Commander	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.com
*Senior Vice Commander	James Williams	301-741-6846	james-wms42@outlook.com
*1 st Junior Vice Cdr.	Mike Jones	253-606-4408	shotgroup@hotmail.com
*2 nd Junior Vice Cdr.	Michelle Dowleyne	910-644-2348	michelle.dowleyne@gmail.com
*3 rd Junior Vice Cdr.	Kelly Major	240-818-1410	lorimaj1983@yahoo.com
* Treasurer	Sheila Edwards	240-216-4013	sedinards101461@gmail.com
+ Chief of Staff	Vacant		
+Adjutant	Sheila Edwards	240-216-4013	sedinards101461@gmail.com
+Chaplain	Robert "Bob" Jones	301-481-1339	gwebo@verizon.net
*Judge Advocate	Ralph Gough	301-862-1222	regoughsr.151@gmail.com
+Sgt.-At-Arms	Reggie Harris	443-538-4138	redg.harris@earthlink.net
+Officer of the Day (OOD)	Bob Priddy	410-326-2228	Priddy425@comcast.net
+Public Information Officer	Lou Dunn	301-481-7953	dunnlc20653@gmail.com
+LVAP Coordinator	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.com
+Lead Chapter Service Officer	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Kelly Major	240-818-1410	lorimaj1983@yahoo.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Michelle Dowleyne	910-644-2348	michelle.dowleyne@gmail.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Adrina Allen	757-348-5123	allensjireh@gmail.com
+Chapter Service Officer	James Williams	301-741-6846	James-wms42@outlook.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Thomas Ridley	Intentionally left blank	Tek_wear@hotmail.com

*Elected +Appointed

Editors Notes

(Lou Dunn, dunnlc20653@gmail.com)

National Crisis Hotline: New suicide and prevention line is 988.

St. Mary's County Crisis Support: St. Mary's also has a crisis help line. Visit the web site at smchd.org/crisis for information on local crisis support and mental health services as well as a variety of tips on talking with children, self-care and more.

LVAP Coordinator: Our LVAP Coordinator is Maira Callis. At the end of each month please email your hours to her. They may also be given to Maira at any meeting.

Chapter Elections: Yep, it's time again. In the month of **February – nominations for offices**, **March – voting/elections**, **April - installation**. On the roster of officers listed at the top of this page you will see a red * by the officer billet title. Those officer billets are elected. Think about running for one of those offices. If you would like to help out with a committee or non-elected office look at the one's with a + symbol. Those offices are appointed by the commander. Either way pitch in and help your chapter.

Chapter Calendar

January 2025

01 ----- New Years Day
 *09 1745-1845 Executive Meeting
 *09 1900 General Meeting
 15 ----- Martin Luther King

Union Hall
 Union Hall
 Birthday



February 2025

06 1745-1845 Executive Meeting
 06 1900 General Meeting
 14 ----- Valentines Day
 17 ----- George (NMN) Washingtons birthday

Union Hall
 Union Hall **(Nominations for 2025-2026 Officers)**
 Time to present a special gift to those who care for us →
 First American president (commander of the Continental Army)



March 2025

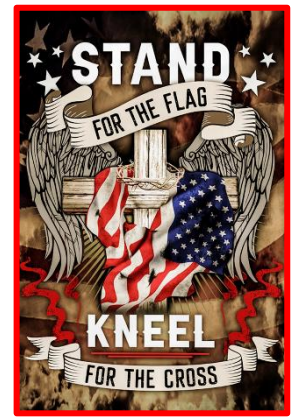
06 1745-1845 Executive Meeting
 06 1900 General Meeting

Union Hall
 Union Hall **(Voting on 2025-2026 Officers)**

* Date changed due to Holiday (New Years)

**THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS' ORGANIZATION IS CHARTERED TO
 FULFILL OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED.**





OUR FLAG DOES NOT FLY BECAUSE THE WIND MOVES IT.
IT FLIES WITH THE LAST BREATH OF EACH SOLDIER, SAILOR,
AIRMAN OR MARINE WHO DIED PROTECTING IT.

