



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

October 2025



DAV Chapter #26 Contact Telephone Number - 240-925-5439 (8am to 5pm)

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER



Commander's Newsletter Message

DAV Chapter 26 – The Power of Volunteerism

Embracing the Spirit of Volunteerism

As Commander of DAV Chapter 26, I am honored to address our dedicated members, supporters, and friends. Our chapter's strength does not rest solely in our numbers, but in the unwavering commitment of volunteers who serve our fellow veterans and our community. Volunteerism is the heartbeat of our mission, driving positive change and building bonds that last a lifetime.

The Impact of Volunteers

Every hour you give, every act of kindness you share, makes a tangible difference in the lives of veterans and their families. Whether you're assisting at events, transporting veterans to medical appointments, providing outreach, or simply lending a listening ear, your contributions embody the values that DAV stands for—service, compassion, and advocacy.

Our volunteers have helped countless veterans access benefits, find camaraderie, and regain hope. Your dedication ensures that no veteran is left behind and that our chapter remains a beacon of support throughout the community.

Why Volunteer?

- **Personal Fulfillment:** Volunteering connects you with others, provides a sense of purpose, and allows you to give back to those who have served our nation.
- **Strengthening Community:** Our chapter thrives because individuals step forward to make a difference. Together, we foster a supportive environment for veterans and their families.
- **Shaping the Future:** Volunteers are the leaders and advocates of tomorrow. Your efforts pave the way for the next generation of DAV members and veterans.

Get Involved!

If you haven't yet volunteered, I encourage you to take that first step. There are many opportunities to contribute, whether through chapter activities, outreach programs, or simply offering your time and talents where they are needed most. Every contribution, big or small, strengthens our chapter and our mission.

Thank You!

To all our volunteers—past, present, and future—thank you for your selfless service. Your compassion and dedication are the foundation of DAV Chapter 26's success. Let us continue to lift each other up, serve those in need, and build a community rooted in respect, gratitude, and hope.

In service,
James Williams
Commander, DAV Chapter 26



Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I
will fear no evil, for You are with me.



Fellow Chapter Members,

Chaplain's Corner:

Comrades, the troubles of this world can drag us into a deep hole, however let us remember trouble don't last always. Every morning the sun rises, and every evening it sets and repeats itself each day that passes, and every day, whether we see it or not, due to the storms of life or cloudy and rainy days, it always brings a new day, with new problems and new solutions. The test is will we convince ourselves that there is no hope. In the Scripture is says that ***"Now faith"***, (***referring to right now or the moment we start to lose hope***), it goes on to say that faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen, for by it the elders obtained a good report". The elders were those in the Word of God, who had great faith in receiving what was promised to them even when they couldn't see the promise. So, like the air we breathe, we cannot see it, but we know it's there, how, because we are still breathing. Don't be so high-minded that you won't ask for help, we all need help occasionally. Therefore, let's remember our basic training; it was all geared to developing teamwork, that in times of trouble, we all come together to support one another. ***"Veterans helping Veterans"*** should be our watchword, let's keep it in the forefront of our minds daily.

PRAYER CALL: Please keep the following Comrades and their families in your prayers for healing and comfort. ***Bob Jones, Mike Bosak, Bob and Trudy Priddy, Matt Langford, and Francis "Buck" Bucklew.*** Also, keep our Chapter #26 Commander, Chapter Officers and CSOs lifted in prayer as we continually conduct our duties in a professional and supportive manner for all Veterans.

If you know of any member of the Chapter or their family members that need or wants prayer, please do not hesitate to contact me at redgeeknow@outlook.com. May you all be forever blessed.

Sincerely,

Reggie Harris
Chaplain, DAV Chapter 26

Please report all sickness to your chaplain.



🎉 Exciting Fundraiser Raffles at DAV Chapter 26! 🎉

We're thrilled to announce that DAV Chapter 26 is hosting a special raffle to support our mission of assisting Veterans, Spouses, and Dependents with VA Claims.

🌟 Grand Prize: VIZIO 75" Class 4K UHD LED HDR Smart TV

- This amazing TV will help us raise funds to purchase updated laptops for our Chapter Service Officers (CSOs), ensuring they have the tools they need to serve our community effectively.



💰 Scratch-Off Raffle:

- \$300 Scratch-Off Raffle with a \$100 Bill in the center of the Picture Frame

Both of these exciting raffles will run until our Chapter Christmas Party on **Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 3:00 PM**, when we will draw the winners (No need to be present to win)! However, we would like to have all the money collected no later than the 10th of December 2025.

🎫 Ticket Information:

- Each ticket is just **\$5.00!**
 - \$5.00 for the Smart TV raffle
 - \$5.00 for the Scratch-Off and Picture Frame raffle



Don't miss your chance to win while supporting a great cause! Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Maira Callis
Fundraiser Raffle Chairperson

A Heartfelt Thank You for a Wonderful Chapter Picnic! 🌞

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to our Chapter's Annual Picnic at the Navy Annex Club Nine on September 27, 2025. Your efforts made this event truly special!

- **To our setup team:** Thank you for your hard work in preparing the venue. Your dedication ensured everything went smoothly.
- **To our amazing volunteers:** A huge thank you for providing delicious food and for your contributions. Special thanks to the Navy Commissary and Weis Callaway for their generous food donations and gift cards.
- **To Mike Jones, our BBQ Grill Master:** Your ribs were absolutely phenomenal! You never fail to impress, and we're grateful for your culinary talents each year.
- **To all who attended:** Thank you for bringing your scrumptious dishes to share! The variety and flavors made our picnic a feast to remember.
- **To our cleanup crew:** Your efforts to tidy up afterwards are greatly appreciated.

We had over 30 wonderful folks in attendance, creating memories together, though we wish we had captured more photos to remember the day!

Thank you once again for your participation and support. I hope everyone had a fantastic time!

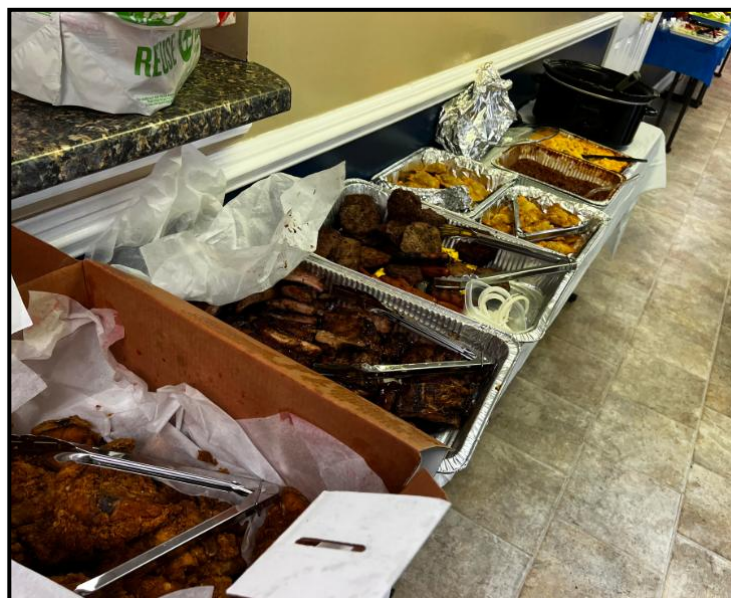
Yours in service,

Kelly Major

Chapter 26 Picnic Chairperson



Chapter Members, Volunteers, Family, and Friends enjoying an indoor picnic due to the weather not cooperating. However, the company was great!



Everyone savored delicious BBQ ribs, hamburgers, and hot dogs (donated by Pax River Commissary Director Mrs. Minerva Vargas) grilled to perfection by Mike Jones, our Chapter's Sr. Vice Commander and talented BBQ Grill Master. His food was a crowd favorite and helped make the picnic a memorable success!



Rumor has it Tom Thomas was spellbound by the cupcakes donated by Weis Callaway and after one bite, we all understood why! 😊

Support Our Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser

Help DAV Chapter 26 raise funds for Veterans in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties. Check the calendars below for available dates and times, then email Maira Callis at: macalex0077@gmail.com to sign up. Join us, meet fellow members, and make a difference for our local veterans!

R,

Maira Callis
Forget-Me-Not Chairperson



DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Volunteer Shift Schedule

Event Name	DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser – Commissary NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670		
Event Dates	Sat, 4 October 2025 / Sun, 5 October 2025	Event Time	9am – 5pm / 10am – 6pm
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	9am – 1pm	Sat, 4 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
Ralph Gough	X	\$307.76	
Cheryl Colson	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	1pm – 5pm	Sat, 4 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
Bob Priddy	X	\$291.00	
Kelly Major	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	10am – 2pm	Sun, 5 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
Nicole Dunn (Dept of MD State 1 st Jr. Vice CDR	X	\$282.00	
Kelly Major	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	2pm – 6pm	Sun, 5 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
Matt Langford	X	\$142.14	
Maira Callis	X		
OVERALL TOTAL		\$1,023.21	

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Incredible Volunteers! ❤️

I would like to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to the wonderful volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to the Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser held on October 4-5, 2025. Your commitment to this cause has made a remarkable impact.

Special thanks to:

- Ralph Gough – member since 1974 (51 Years with DAV)
- Cheryl Colson (Volunteering since 2022)
- Bob Priddy – (88 beautiful years and a DAV member since 1985 (40 years with DAV)
- Kelly Major (who generously volunteered twice!)
- Nicole Dunn (Department of MD State 1st Jr. Vice Commander)
- Matt Langford (recently had brain surgery) keep him in your prayers
- Maira Callis

Together, we raised an incredible **\$1,023.21** in just two days! 🇺🇸 This achievement is a testament to your passion and dedication to supporting our community.

Bravo and kudos to each of you for volunteering your precious time for such a worthy cause. Your kindness and selflessness are truly inspiring!

If you're interested in joining us for the next Forget-Me-Not Day, please check out the schedule on the following pages of this newsletter. We would love to have more helping hands!

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity and volunteer spirit. You are all truly appreciated!

With warm regards,

Maira Callis
Forget-Me-Not Chairperson



Cheryl Colson & Ralph Gough
collected \$307.76



Kelly Major & Bob Priddy
collected \$291.00



Kelly Major & Nicole Dunn
collected \$282.00
Mrs. Vargas Director of Pax
River Commissary



Maira Callis, Nicole Dunn, &
Minerva Vargas



Matt Langford & Maira
Callis collected \$142.14



Ralph Gough enjoying the
day!



DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Volunteer Shift Schedule

Event Name **DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser – Commissary NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670**

Event Dates **██████████** Sun, 19 October 2025

Event Time 9am – 5pm / 10am – 6pm

NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	9am – 1pm	Sat, 18 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
CANCELED (CNX)		CNX	
CANCELED (CNX)			
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	1pm – 5pm	Sat, 18 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
CANCELED (CNX)		CNX	
CANCELED (CNX)			
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	10am – 2pm	Sat, 19 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
Maira Callis	X		
Tom Thomas	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	2pm – 6pm	Sat, 19 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
Sheila Edwards	X		
James Williams	X		
OVERALL TOTAL			



DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Volunteer Shift Schedule

Event Name **DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser – Veterans Day, Leonardtown, MD**

Event Dates Sat, 25 October 2025 / Sun, 26 October 2025

Event Time 9am – 5pm / 10am – 6pm

NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	9am – 1pm	Sat, 25 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
Reggie Harris	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	1pm – 5pm	Sat, 25 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
Lou Dunn	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	10am – 2pm	Sat, 26 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	2pm – 6pm	Sat, 26 Oct 25	Phone Number & Email
OVERALL TOTAL			



DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Volunteer Shift Schedule

Event Name	DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser – Commissary NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670		
Event Dates	Sat, 8 November 2025 / Sun, 9 November 2025	Event Time	9am – 5pm / 10am – 6pm
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	9am – 1pm	Sat, 8 Nov 25	Phone Number & Email
Reggie Harris	X		
James Williams	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	1pm – 5pm	Sat, 8 Nov 25	Phone Number & Email
Bob Jones / Mike Jones	1-3pm / 3-5pm		
Katelin Welles	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	10am – 2pm	Sun, 9 Nov 25	Phone Number & Email
Sheila Edwards	X		240-216-4013
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	2pm – 6pm	Sun, 9 Nov 25	Phone Number & Email
OVERALL TOTAL			

If you'd like to make a donation to support our Chapter, please make your checks payable to **“DAV Chapter 26, St. Mary's County, MD.”**

Checks made out simply to “DAV” are supposed to be sent directly to our DAV National Headquarters in Kentucky, not to the Chapter. Let's keep our contributions local. Every dollar helps us better serve veterans right here in our community.

Chapter #26 Officer's

CHAPTER #26 2025-2026			
* Commander	James Williams	301-741-6846	james-wms42@outlook.com
* Senior Vice Commander	Mike Jones	253-606-4408	shotgroup@hotmail.com
* 1 st Junior Vice Cdr.	Kelly Major	240-818-1410	lorimaj1983@yahoo.com
* 2 nd Junior Vice Cdr.	Matt Langford	240-925-6285	ltaircraftsar@gmail.com
* 3 rd Junior Vice Cdr.	Reggie Harris	443-538-4138	redgeeknow@outlook.com
* Treasurer	Sheila Edwards	240-216-4013	sedinards101461@gmail.com
+ Chief of Staff	Mike Jones	253-606-4408	shotgroup@hotmail.com
+Adjutant	Sheila Edwards	240-216-4013	sedinards101461@gmail.com
+Chaplain	Reggie Harris	443-538-4138	redgeeknow@outlook.com
* Judge Advocate	Ralph Gough	301-904-0582	regoughsr.151@gmail.com
+Sgt.-At-Arms	Greg Olson	240-538-4212	gpolson@verison.net
+Officer of the Day (OOD)	Bob Priddy	410-326-2228	Priddy425@comcast.net
+Public Information Officer	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.com
+LVAP Coordinator	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.com
+Lead Chapter Service Officer	James Williams	301-741-6846	james-wms42@outlook.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Sheila Edwards	240-216-4013	sedinards101461@gmail.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Kelly Major	240-818-1410	lorimaj1983@yahoo.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@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
+Chapter Service Officer	Ralph Gough	301-904-0582	regoughsr.151@gmail.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Reggie Harris	443-538-4138	redgeeknow@outlook.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Matt Langford	240-925-6285	ltaircraftsar@gmail.com

*Elected +Appointed

Editors Notes

(Maira Callis, macalex0077@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.

Annual Chapter 26 Members, Volunteers, Family, & Friends Christmas Party: Mark your calendars! Our DAV Chapter 26 Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at the Local Lodge 4 Union Hall. The same location where we host our meetings and assist veterans with claims.

📍 21795 Suite C, North Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park, MD 20653

If you're interested in chairing this event, please contact Commander James Williams at the following e-mail: james-wms42@outlook.com.

We look forward to celebrating the season together!

Chapter Calendar

October 2025

02	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall	
02	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall	
13	-----	Columbus Day	Holiday	
13	-----	1775 US Navy Official Birthday	Continental Congress forms a committee in Philadelphia to establish a navy	
18	-----	DEC Meeting	Stevensville, MD – 1000 to 1400	
25	-----	DAV Dept of MD Picnic	Picnic at Burba Park Ft. Meade, MD – 1200 to 1600	

November 2025

02	-----	Daylight Savings Time	End of Daylight Savings Time - Fall Back 1 hour	
06	-----	CSO Recertification	Baltimore, MD	
06	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall	
06	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall	
07	0900-1400	Veterans Resource Day	University of MD, 44219 Airport Rd, California, MD https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/veterans/	
11	-----	Veterans Day	Veterans Day Parade Leonardtown, MD	
27	-----	Thanksgiving Day	Grateful hearts gather, share, celebrate, & give thanks	

December 2025

4	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall	
4	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall	
13	1200	Chapter 26 Christmas Party	Chapter Christmas Party at Local Lodge 4 Union Hall	
21	-----	Winter Solstice	First day of Winter	
25	-----	Christmas Day	A Day to celebrate with your loved ones	
31	-----	New Years Eve	New Years Eve!	

**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.**

