



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

November 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 – November Newsletter

With Honor and Hope

 *Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2025 @ 1900 | Union Hall*

At Chapter 26, we are not only **remembering**—we are **recommitting**.

- Recommitting to **unity** within our chapter and with our Auxiliary
- Recommitting to **lifting up** our fellow veterans, especially those who feel unseen
- Recommitting to the **mission that binds us**: empowering veterans to lead lives of dignity and purpose

This November, as we honor the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters in arms, let us also renew our commitment to each other. Let our chapter be a place of welcome, strength, and celebration—a true reflection of the values we hold dear.

Together, we rise. Together, we serve. Together, we remember.

Service Officer Report

Our Chapter Service Officers have been hard at work assisting veterans and their spouses with VA claims:

- **June:** 29
- **July:** 39
- **August:** 42
- **September:** 47
- **October:** 46

Total Claims Assisted: 203

We also received a generous **\$3,000 donation from The Blue Knights, MD IV Motorcycle Club**, to assist in purchasing **new computers and supplies** to help veterans file their claims more efficiently. This contribution strengthens our mission and enhances our ability to serve. In addition, we had the following donations:

- Mr. & Mrs. Tim Fullerton \$500.00
- Mr. Bart McClade \$20.00

Veterans Day Observances

Military and Veterans Resource Day

📍 *University of Maryland at Southern Maryland*

📍 *44219 Airport Road, California, MD*

🕒 *Friday, November 7 | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM*

Connect with **veteran-focused organizations, support services, and fellow service members**. Open to **all veterans, active duty, and their families**. A powerful day of **resources, networking, and empowerment**.

Veterans Day Ceremony

📍 *Veterans Memorial Park*

🕒 *Tuesday, November 11 | 9:00 AM*

- Guest Speakers
- A solemn tribute featuring **wreath laying** and a **moment of silence** for our fallen heroes

Veterans Day Parade – Leonardtown, MD

📍 *Downtown Leonardtown*

🕒 *Tuesday, November 11 | 10:00 AM*

DAV Chapter 26 will proudly participate in this community-wide celebration of service.

Come cheer on our members and show your support for all who have served.

Let this month be a **living tribute**—where remembrance meets action, and gratitude becomes service.

🎄 **Annual Christmas Celebration**

📍 *Union Hall – St. Mary's County*

📅 *Saturday, December 13, 2025*

🕒 *1:00 PM – 4:00 PM*

Celebrate the season with **DAV Chapter 26!**

Join us for an afternoon of **fellowship, refreshments, and holiday cheer** as we reflect on a year of **service and unity**.

🎁 **Two Grand Prize Drawing Highlights:**

- 🏆 **Grand Prize:** 75" Smart TV
- 🏆 **Grand Prize:** Picture Frame with \$300.00 worth of scratch off tickets and a \$100.00 dollar bill

🎫 **Tickets are on sale now!**

See one of our staff members to purchase yours.

You do not have to be present to win.

Let's close out the year with **joy, generosity, and gratitude** for the community we've built together.

Honor. Courage. Commitment.

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, it has been a month filled with prayers and as the days get shorter and the nights longer, let us stay focused on the things that matter the most, which are our mental and physical health. On 26 October, I attended a Chaplain's Training regarding Hospice and Mental Health I will provide the information from the meeting to anyone interested in the two topics. Be sure to check yourself, your neighbors, and those around you for signs of depression, rapid weight loss, difficulty sleeping and restlessness as well as fatigue and lack of concentration. Listen closely for suicidal tendencies and signs of regret. Know that there is help available, be willing to ask for it. (James 4:2) says you have not because you ask not. Also, get to understand Hospice, it's not always the end, however, it provides all the comforts needed to get us through one day at a time, encouraging anyone you know in Hospice to continue in faith and to find that peace that surpasses all understanding. Let them know they are heard and appreciated. Listen to them intently even if they tell you the same story repeatedly, hear it each time as if it is the first time. Prayer should be our first choice to receive help.

PRAISE REPORT: Matt's surgery went well, thank you all for praying, we are our brother's and sister's keeper, so continue letting your prayers go up to the throne room of grace and mercy.

PRAYER CALL: Please continue to keep the following Comrades and their families in your prayers for healing and comfort. *Bob Jones, Mike Bosak, Bob and Trudy Priddy, Matt Langford, Mark Donovan, Francis "Buck" Bucklew, Sheila Edwards, Cheryl Colson, and Kelly Major.* 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, or now reggie.harris.dav@gmail.com May you all be forever blessed. Stay laser focus, we will get through it all on a daily basis, let's just remember to take it one day at a time.

Sincerely,

Reggie Harris
Chaplain, DAV Chapter 26

Please report any members, spouses, and volunteers who are ill to our Chaplain

If you'd like to send get-well cards to Matt and Mark, their address is listed below. They would truly appreciate your kind thoughts, prayers, and words of encouragement. All other cards for our members who are ill may be sent to our Chapter P.O. Box 496, Patuxent River, MD 20670, and we'll make sure they are delivered.

Matt Langford
20097 Manor Drive
Park Hall, MD 20667

Mark Donovan
House of St. Charles Senior Living Facility
70 Village St. Room 319
Waldorf, MD 20602



🎉 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



Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Christmas Gift Donations

It's that time of the year again where we donate gifts to our fellow veterans at Charlotte Hall. However, this year, I have had to make some changes due to my surgery schedule being changed to December the 9th. I hope it will not change again. Anyway, the pickup schedule for now is:

Saturday November the 22nd I will be at St. Mary's Square from 1200 to 1300 between Weis and McDonalds (more towards McDonalds 😊).

Friday December the 5th at 1100 I will be picking up Christmas Gifts from MAG Aerospace (these people donate every year, what a great group).

Saturday December the 6th I will be at Wildwood from 1200 to 1300 between Penny's and the Greene Turtle (more towards the Greene Turtle)

Tuesday the 16th of December I will be delivering all the gifts to the Veterans Home. The veteran's home will unload the gifts.

I will be in a Dodge 2500 pickup, brownish in color with a 5th wheel camper hitch in the bed.

The gift regs are the same this year as in the past - new gifts only, do not wrap, no alcohol (including after shave), no sharp objects (razor blades, knives, letter openers, etc. **No** gift cards please. If something is placed in the gifts that is not acceptable, Charlotte Hall will remove it.

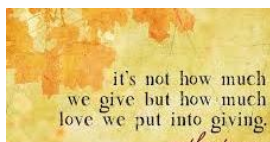
Let's see if Chapter 26 can exceed last year's collections. YA

Items to Donate

Sweat Pants (men and women all sizes), After Shave (non-alcohol), Flannel Button Up Shirts, Long Sleeve Shirts, Body Wash, Wheelchair Gloves, Belts and Suspenders Electric Razors, Diabetic Socks, Wheelchair Cup Holders, Lightweight Jackets Military Hats, Watches, Puzzles (500 piece+), Denture Adhesive, Crossword Puzzle Books, Adult Coloring Books, Wireless headphones, Shampoo, after shave, Velcro Tennis Shoes in all sizes, solid air fresheners, liquid soap, shoes, slippers with a back, full sized blankets, weighted blankets (5-12 lbs.), holiday décor, Ladies pants and sweaters, back scratchers, stuffed animals, and tide pods.

With Appreciation,

Lou Dunn



Volunteers Needed for Friday, 7 November 2025 to assist Chapter 26 with Claims as greeters, providing applications, or assisting Veterans, Spouses, and dependents with guidance. See Commander Williams.

FREE



**Lunch Will be
Provided by:**



MILITARY & VETERANS RESOURCE DAY

Connecting Veterans, Service Members &
Families to Resources in Education,
Wellness, Healthcare, Recreation & More!

FRIDAY

November 7, 2025
09:00 AM - 2:00 PM



University of Maryland at Southern Maryland
44219 Airport Road, California, MD



MORE INFO

301-475-4200, ext. 1074



nicoletta.pollice@stmaryscountymd.gov



PRE-REGISTER

stmaryscountymd.gov/Aging/veterans

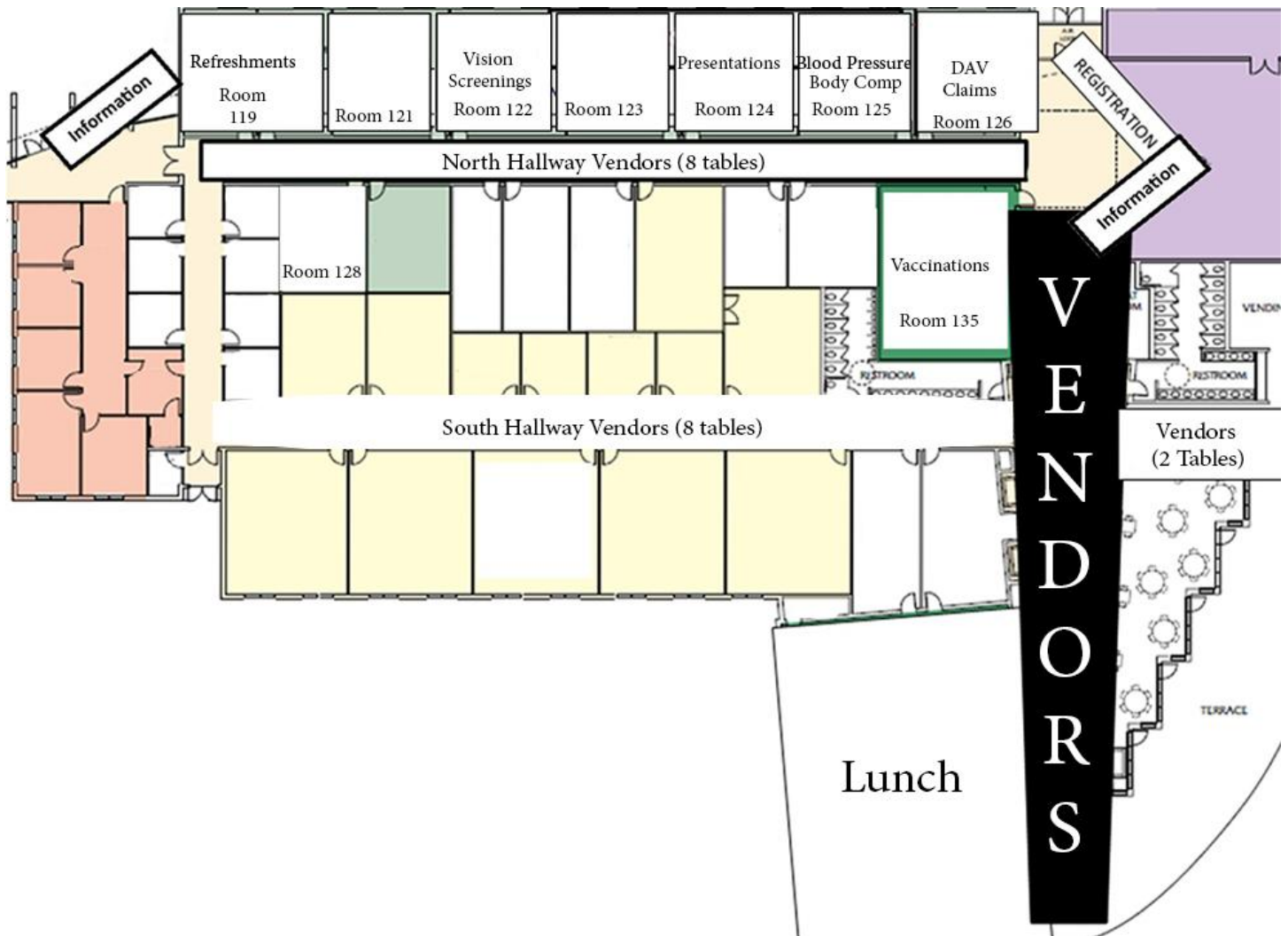


**Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County
and the Department of Aging & Human Services**

Resource Day Map



Resource Day Location and Room 126 assigned to DAV for VA Claims.



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



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 19, 2025. Your commitment to this cause has made a remarkable impact.

Special thanks to:

- Kelly Major
- Maira Callis
- CDR James Williams
- Sheila Edwards



Maira Callis, Debie Sisler,
& Kelly Major



Sheila Edwards &
CDR James Williams



Maira Callis, Minerva Vargas,
& Kelly Major

Together, we raised an incredible **\$323.40** in 1/2 day! 🎉 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!

Due to the cold weather will resume our Forget-Me-Not March 2026, please check out the schedule in the February 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

If you'd like to donate 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

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!



January 2026

01	-----	New Years Day	Happy New Year!
08	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
08	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
10	1100-1300	DEC Meeting	8068 Quarterfield Rd, Severn, MD
19	-----	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day	Holiday



**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.

