



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.

**February 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**



Greetings to all,

As we step into February, I'd like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your continued dedication, support, and service to our chapter and the veteran community. Your commitment to our mission has a lasting impact, and it's because of members like you that DAV Chapter 26 continues to thrive.

Thank you for all you've done throughout January—whether it was volunteering your time, supporting our initiatives, or simply being there for a fellow veteran. Your contributions do not go unnoticed, and together, we make a difference.

In collaboration with Donny Williams of EveryMind.org, an organization dedicated to serving veterans and their families, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Bob Priddy, Bob Jones, Cheryl Colson, Thomas Ridley, James Williams, Reggie Harris, Kelly Major, and Maira Callis for their outstanding support in assisting with VA claims and delivering an informative presentation on the Do's and Don'ts of Filing a VA Claim.

Thanks to their dedication, we were able to assist numerous veterans and their families with a variety of claims, including first-time claims (Intent to File), Supplemental Claims, Higher-Level Review Claims, and Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claims.

It was an incredibly successful day at Lexington Park United Methodist Church, where we worked from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, making a significant difference in the lives of those we served. I am deeply grateful to each volunteer who contributed their time, expertise, and compassion to this meaningful effort.

As we continue into this new month, I want to take a moment to send our warmest thoughts and heartfelt prayers to our fellow members who may be facing health challenges or difficult times. To Bob Jones, Mike Bosak, Trudy Priddy, and anyone else navigating personal struggles, please know that you are not alone. You are in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers every day. We care deeply for every one of you, and your DAV Chapter 26 family stands with you, offering strength, support, and hope.

### **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: February 6, 2025

Executive Meeting: 5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m., Regular Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 21795 C, North Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Let's continue to look out for one another, embodying the spirit of service, camaraderie, and compassion that defines who we are.

Lastly, 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."

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



"IF WE MEET AND YOU FORGET ME, YOU HAVE LOST NOTHING. BUT, IF YOU MEET JESUS CHRIST AND FORGET HIM, YOU HAVE LOST EVERYTHING"



Trudy Priddy, the wife of Bob Priddy, is home now recovering from surgery. Mike Bozak has come down with bladder cancer. Please keep Mike in your prayers.



I am sure we all have heard about the two aircraft accidents. A lot of people were lost. A lot of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and others (including our fellow veterans), are with us no longer. A lot of prayers are needed for all that lost their loved ones. If you have not been to church in a long time – now is the time to pay Him a visit.

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.

## February – Black History Month

(Wikipedia) Black History Month, celebrated in February, originated from the efforts of historian Carter G. Woodson who, in 1926, established "Negro History Week" to highlight the often overlooked achievements of African Americans; this later evolved into Black History Month, with President Gerald Ford officially recognizing it in 1976 during the U.S. Bicentennial celebration, encouraging Americans to honor the contributions of Black Americans throughout history.





# NOMINATIONS, VOTING, ELECTIONS AND INSTALLING OF CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026



Comrades - it is that time of year for the nomination/election of officers for the 2025-2026 year. This year's nominating committee members are, Reggie Harris, Lou Dunn and Greg Olson.

The newsletter lists the listing of the officers of the chapter. The elected officer positions are marked by this symbol: \*. The appointed officer positions are marked by this symbol: +. The appointed officers are appointed by the Commander. Please consider running for an elected position or volunteering for one of the appointed positions.

Contact one of the committee members or reply to this email if you wish to run for an elected officer position or would like to be considered for an appointed officer position. Your help is needed and appreciated. Let's keep this chapter running effectively.

## ELECTED POSITIONS

- Commander
- Senior Vice Commander
- 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Junior Vice Commander
- Treasurer
- Judge Advocate

## APPOINTED POSITIONS

- Chief of Staff
- Adjutant
- Chaplain
- Sgt-at-Arms
- Officer of the Day (OOD)
- Public Information Officer
- LVAP Coordinator
- Lead Chapter Service Officer
- Chapter Service Officers

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- February 6
- March 6
- April (Date TBD)

- General Meeting
- General Meeting
- Union Hall

- Nominations
- Elections
- Installation of Officers



# Bits and Pieces

Accidents take seconds to happen, but the suffering lasts 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 do not always have wings, sometimes they have paws.



I'll never be "Over the Hill" because I'm too tired to climb it.

As you get older your secrets are safe with your friends. They can't remember them either.

Being happy does not mean you have it all. It means you're happy with all that you do have.

## "Black" Boxes in Aircraft

The term "black box" for aircraft flight recorders originated from the British military during World War II. The term was used to describe electronic devices that were often secret and housed in black boxes. The first devices that recorded aircraft data were developed in the 1930s and 1950s by French and Australian scientists. These devices were designed to help investigators understand what happened during a crash and how to prevent similar accidents.

Black boxes aren't really black; most designed with a black color, but investigators led to the advent of orange-colored black color for these devices which made them



of them are orange. In the past, black boxes were complained that they were difficult to spot. This boxes, which has since become the universal easier to find.



## **A SPECIAL THANKS**



### To all from Bob Priddy, Officer of the Day (OOD) DAV Chapter #26

The last 6 to 8 months my wife Trudy has had a rough health condition with her heart, lung, breathing & more. She had 4 hospital stays & having her Mitral heart valve replaced (w/a pig valve non-invasive robotic) through her ribs at Washington MedStar was the real turn around. This procedure was in late November. Recovery was a bit slow, however as she turned 85 and we slid into the New Year, she just got stronger each day. Today I feel I am a man with a new wife. She is my life...having taking care of me for 65+ years.

This is where each one of you come in. Your steadfast support with thoughts & prayers has been wonderful. Not expected, however well received and was singing Happy Birthday to Trudy from our DAV Chapter 26's Christmas Party.

God is GREAT + All of You are too... Trudy & I wish you a Healthy, Happy & Prosperous 2025

Our & God's Blessings  
The Priddy's

## Chapter #26 Officer's

CHAPTER #26 🇺🇸			
2024-2025			
*Commander	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.com
*Senior Vice Commander	James Williams	301-741-6846	james-wms42@outlook.com
*1 <sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Cdr.	Mike Jones	253-606-4408	shotgroup@hotmail.com
*2 <sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Cdr.	Vacant		
*3 <sup>rd</sup> 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	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

\*Elected +Appointed

### *Editors Notes*

(Lou Dunn, [dunnlc20653@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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.

**For Your Info:** (1) Convention at Ocean City May 18-23 (2) The old Brass Rail is now a Soup Kitchen (3) Pax River now has a Food Pantry at the Religious Activity Center, Chapter 26 POC is Kelly Major (4) Chapter 26 completed 662 VA claims for our fellow veterans in 2024.



# Chapter Calendar

## February 2025

06	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall	
06	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall	(Nominations for 2025-2026 Officers)
14	-----	Valentines Day	Time to present a special gift to those who care for us	→ 
17	-----	George (NMN) Washingtons birthday	First American president	(commander of the Continental Army)

## March 2025

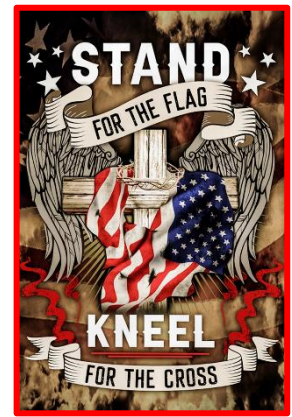
06	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall	
06	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall	(Voting on 2025-2026 Officers)

## April 2025

03	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall	
03	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall	
05	-----	Gold Star Spouse Day	Recognizes the sacrifices made by the surviving spouses of our fallen service members.	
20	-----	Easter		
30	-----	Vietnam War Ended	1975	

**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.

