



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.

March 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



Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

As we welcome March, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each of you. Your dedication, support, and service to our chapter and the veteran community make a lasting impact. Because of your commitment, DAV Chapter 26 continues to thrive, ensuring that veterans and their families receive the care and recognition they deserve. You are the heart of this organization, and I appreciate all that you do.

Spring Forward!

A quick reminder—Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9, 2025! Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour so you're on time for all the great things ahead this month.

Thank You for Your February Contributions

Whether you volunteered, supported our initiatives, or simply extended a hand to a fellow veteran, your efforts did not go unnoticed. Every act of kindness, no matter how small, strengthens our mission and reinforces the bonds of our community.

In February, several of us had the opportunity to attend the National Organization of Veterans' Advocates (NOVA) training. NOVA's sole purpose is to train and support attorneys and advocates in representing veterans and their families in disability claims and appeals before the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and federal courts. Their commitment ensures that veterans receive fair and competent representation while upholding the highest professional standards.

Our DAV team: James Williams, Reggie Harris, Cheryl Colson, Kelly Major, Thomas Ridley, and I had the privilege of attending this valuable training. This opportunity was made possible through the generosity and partnership of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) and Rich Evans (Local Lodge 4, accredited by the State of MD as a Veteran Service Officer). Rich, we are incredibly grateful for your unwavering support!

Supporting Our Members in Need

As we move into this new month, I want to send our warmest thoughts, strength, and prayers to those in our chapter who may be facing health challenges or difficult times. Bob Jones, Mike Bosak, Sheila Edwards, and any others who are struggling—please know that you are not alone. You are in our hearts and thoughts every single day. Your DAV Chapter 26 family stands with you, offering unwavering support, encouragement, and hope.

Membership Drive – Win a Trip to Las Vegas!

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

Upcoming Meetings & FY25/26 Elections

Chapter Meeting: March 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 stand together, looking out for one another with the same spirit of service, camaraderie, and compassion that defines who we are.

Honoring Women Veteran Educators

Included with this newsletter, you will find a flyer from the Women Veterans Committee of the Department of Maryland, Disabled American Veterans, celebrating Women Veteran Educators during Women's Month 2025. Let's take this opportunity to recognize and honor their contributions to both education and our country.

A Touch of Irish Luck – Happy St. Patrick's Day!

As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17, may the spirit of good fortune, camaraderie, and joy shine upon you. May your days be filled with laughter, friendship, and a little bit of Irish luck!

Reflecting on Our Mission

As we move forward, let us always keep the mission of DAV close to our hearts: "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." Wishing you all a wonderful March filled with hope, strength, and community.

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

Greetings!

All are cordially invited to join the Women Veterans Committee of the Dept of Maryland, Disabled American Veterans, as we honor and celebrate Women Veteran Educators during Women Month 2025.

If you are or know a woman vet, or their spouse who is an active, or retired educator (K-12, collegiate, military, professional career), we extend this invitation to them also.

Please submit their names to wvcofmd.dav@gmail.com

Our program will consist of guest speakers from the DMV area as well as other entertainment. This event is open to the public and we ask that you support us, not only by your attendance but sharing on your social media pages.

Since a light lunch and morning refreshments will be offered, we are requesting everyone please RSVP at the Evite link provided. This is a **FREE EVENT**. See flyer for more info and/or scan the QR Code provided as well as hit "subscribe" on our YouTube channel.

RSVP required:

Evite registration: <https://evite.me/BdDCQZdW5g>

Honoring Women Veteran Educators

<https://youtu.be/UJjXPmVsWHk?si=Hps71Zka7z2926jS>

Thanks, and we look forward to honoring our women veteran educators.

Best Regards,
Rosalind Robinson-Ambrose, DBA
Adjutant/CSO
Paul L. Thompson Memorial Chapter 1
2024-2025 Dept of MD DAV Women Veterans Committee, Chair



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



Please keep Mike Bosak (bladder cancer), yours truly and Ralph Gough (Back problems) in your prayers. Stanley Konopka (a union employee) submitted an Intent to file to increase his disability percentage and become a member of Chapter 26. Stanley passed away before he could obtain all his necessary papers. Please keep Stanleys family in your prayers.



Reggie Harris will be taking over the Chaplain's position on 1 April. Thank you all for your support during this past year.

Please report all sickness to your chaplain.

Chapter 26 Election Results



Elected Positions

Top Row Left: James Williams – Commander, Reggie Harris - 3rd Junior Vice, Matt Langford – 2nd Junior Vice, Kelly Manor - 1st Junior Vice.

Bottom Row Left: Ralph Gough – Judge Advocate, Sheila Edwards – Treasurer, Mike Jones – Senior Vice Commander.

Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor/Historian
Chaplain
Officer-of-Day

Maira Callis
Reggie Harris
Bob Priddy

There are other appointed positions available. Please check the listing of the officer's page in this newsletter and volunteer for an appointed position.



presents

Honoring Women Veteran Educators



A Brunchfest Celebration
SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

Yes!!!

We are Women Veterans!

We served too!

UWe...

Served in the United States Armed Forces.



We were about that too!



Women Veterans Committee

1:00 PM UNTIL 3:30 PM

**Severn Library
2624 Annapolis Road
Severn, Maryland 21144**

Guest Speaker: **Reverend Denise N. Ford**

Former Army Nurse; M.A (Theological Seminary); B.S (Nursing)

EVENT: Rosalind Robinson-Ambrose: robinsonambrosedav@gmail.com

CONTACTS: Marguerite C. Stubbs: mc_stubbs@yahoo.com or (404) 423-7557

Note: If you are a woman veteran, who is an educator, past or present, then please contact one of our event contacts.

**Craig Barnes
Commander**

Free: Open to the Public

**Tony Chandler
Adjutant**



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
1st Junior Vice Commander
2nd Junior Vice Commander
3rd 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

March 6
April 3

General Meeting
General Meeting

Elections
Installation of Officers



A note from our outgoing Chaplain



This is my last act as your chaplain. I would like to express my gratitude for having the opportunity to serve as Chapter 26 Chaplain. I will continue to maintain contact with members that I correspond with on a monthly basis. I appreciate having the opportunity to participate in an organization like Chapter 26 DAV. They are some of finest people I have ever met.

By the time you are 80,
you've learned all you need
to know



The trick is in
REMEMBERING IT!

Bits and Pieces

Little Reminders When Approaching 80 years of age

By the time you are 80,
you've learned all you need
to know



The trick is in
REMEMBERING IT!

It's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. Your ego will keep you aloof, whereas with relationships, you will never be alone.

Don't bother about a crease or spot on your shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearance.

Learn to live each day as if were the last. It just might be.

Do not be embarrassed by your emotions. It's our emotions that make us human.

Leave your waitress/waiter a good tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her/his face. She/he might be toiling much harder for a living than you are.

Newsletter Editor Change

I have been doing the newsletter since February 2017, and I kept a written copy of all the newsletters. The commander, at that time, was Vaughn McCall. However, it is time to retire and let someone else take over. Our, soon to be past commander, Maira Callis, has volunteered for the position. She will be an excellent editor. She has a way with words and knows how to put it together. There have been times where she has reminded me "you can't put that in the newsletter." It did not make me very happy, but she kept me and the chapter out of trouble. And she also corrected some of my grammar and punctuation (I'm not too good at that). Thank you, Maira, for all your help and advice and keeping me "clean". And thank all of you for the compliments I received throughout the years from the newsletter. Not only from our members but the auxiliary, members wives, contractors, non-members and our folks up the road. I appreciate that very much.

Red Skies

Ever heard the old sayings "Red Sky at Night, Sailors Delight" and "Red Sky at Morn, Sailors Take Warning"? It's as old as the Bible, according to Wikipedia, and was used to tell what the weather will be.

However, If you observe a red sky in the morning it suggests that a high pressure area has passed and is moving away. Lower pressure air will soon take its place, bringing rain or even storms – hence the phrase, "red sky at morning, sailors take warning." If you see a red sky at night, it means: "Red Sky at night Sailors Delight." Good weather is coming.

I think I will continue checking the Weather Channel.

Chapter #26 Officer's

<u>CHAPTER #26</u> 🇺🇸			
2024-2025			
*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.	Vacant		
*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	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

*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.

Convention: The following individuals were elected to be Chapter 26 delegates: Ralph Gough, Kelly Major, James Williams, Sheila Edwards, Reggie Harris and Maira Callis.

Installation of Officers: The installation of officers will be held at the general meeting of 3 April. The installation of officers **Potluck Dinner** date and time is pending. It will be held at the Union Hall.

Chapter Calendar

March 2025

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



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.	
12	-----	DEC Meeting	American Legion Post, 800 Romancoke Rd, Stevensville, MD 21666	
20	-----	Easter		
30	-----	Vietnam War Ended	1975	

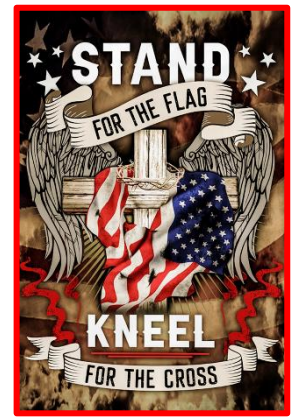
May 2025

01	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall	
01	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall	
18-23	-----	81 st DAV Convention	Ocean City	
26	-----	Memorial Day		



**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.

