



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



Chapter #26, Chartered April 25, 1974



Elections for chapter officers this month.

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



March 2024

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 & Happy St. Patrick's Day,

Ready for the Spring and for the days to be longer? Well, let's not forget that the US clocks and electronic devices will officially Spring forward at 2:00 am on **Sunday, 10 March 2024**.

Before I forget, I want to write about something dear to my heart. The Disabled American Veterans Department of Maryland, Women Veterans Committee (yours truly included) is hosting the Rosie Trailblazers or better known as "**Rosie the Riveters**" (Women who advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) event on **Saturday, 16 March 2024 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. At Omaha Beach Chapter No. 7 - 8205 Laurel Bowie Road Bowie, MD 20715.** We will have a panelist of about 5 Rosie the Riveters to tell their stories. Rosie the Riveters is part of our American History. They are a cultural icon in the US who represent the women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II, many of whom produced weapons and war supplies. These women took entirely new jobs replacing the male workers who joined the military. Have you heard the expression "We can do it"? There is a poster with that expression. Be proud of your history! I will be attending and if you want to carpool, please send me an email at macalex0077@gmail.com.

Our current raffle is underway and we have a 24x36 Picture Frame with \$250 Scratch off tickets and a crisp \$100.00 dollar bill in the center. Yes, a \$350.00 raffle for \$5.00 dollars a ticket. Drawing will take place at the Local Lodge 4 Union Hall on **Wednesday, 3 April 2024 at 9:30 am** prior to our volunteer time. You do not need to be present to win.

Our time to celebrate our Chapters 50th Anniversary is fast approaching and volunteers are always welcome and needed. We are celebrating this milestone with a 50th Anniversary Gala to honor our Chapter members and the Charter. Our Special guest and honoree that will also be celebrating 50 years as a DAV Chapter Member is Judge Advocate Ralph Gough. Other Chapter members will be celebrated as well. Our celebration will take place at the Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown on **27 April 2024**. The event is being chaired by Adrina Allen. If you are interested in being part of the committee, please let Adrina know via email at allensjireh@gmail.com. Seats and tables are going fast. And if you need to reserve and paid for the event contact Lou Dunn at dunnlc20653@gmail.com.

To further commemorate this event, we would love to feature you in our Digital Souvenir Journal. The Digital Souvenir Journal information sheet detailing prices, deadlines, and submission instructions are enclosed in the newsletter. We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to having you as one of our supporters. If you'd like to show your support by purchasing an ad Souvenir, please reach out to our Souvenir Chairperson Michelle Dowleyne at: 910-644-2348 or @ michelle.dowleyne@gmail.com. If possible, we ask that you provide your ad by **Friday, March 15, 2024**. More information ahead.

Thanks to all the CSO's – George Cheverton, Kelly Major, Michelle Dowlenye, Adrina Allen, James Williams and yours truly, our Intake Coordinator Bob Jones, and Cheryl Colson, which have made processing VA Claims easier and faster while talking to our Veterans, Spouses, and Dependents. Thanks to all who continue to dedicate their volunteer time to our folks!!! As of 29 February 2024, our Chapters cumulative CSO VA Claims was 54 and covered only three Wednesday's because we didn't do claims on 14 February 2024. Thank you to all involved in helping our Veterans, Spouses, and Dependents with their claims!!!

Do you know about military active-duty Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) VA Claims? You can start this process within 180 & 90 days prior to military separation. Service member filing a disability compensation claim online through the BDD program must submit a Separation Health Assessment - Part A Self-Assessment form. This requirement started April 1, 2023. To know more about this program, go to the following link, <https://www.va.gov/resources/separation-health-assessment-for-service-members/>. Complete form 21-526EZ, check the BDD box, & complete the Separation Health Assessment for Service Members. Any questions, come and see us at the Union Hall on Wednesdays where we do claims and speak to one of our six (6) Certified Chapter Service Officers (CSOs). And they are George Cheverton, Maira Callis, Kelly Major, Michelle Dowleyne, Adrina Allen, and James Williams. These are the "ONLY" DAV Chapter 26 Certified CSO'S.

The DAV Dept of MD Polo Shirts **deadline is 4 March 2024**. If you want a Polo shirt let me know ASAP! We can talk about the money later but I need you to confirm you want the polo. Chapter 26 will be having its Officer Elections this coming **7 March 2024**.

A big thank you to Lou Dunn (our Chapters Public Information Officer/Historian) for putting together this informative newsletter! Thank you to all the Chapter Officers elected or appointed and thank you for being part of our Chapter.

Lastly, never forget our DAV Mission Statement: "We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity."

Respectfully,

Maira Callis

Commander Chapter 26



*Prayer doesn't mean anything
until it means everything to you.*



Past Chapter 26 Chaplain, Don Gellar, has some medical issues, Kelly Major will be having surgery in the near future, Wanda Gough has some medical issues.



The five marines from the recent helo crash have been found – deceased. Please remember all in your thoughts and prayers especially the families of our deceased comrades. A tribute to them is in this newsletter.



From the Desk of the Chief of Staff

Greetings Comrades.

I think I will have to change the title of this article to From the Desk of the Chief of Staff, Treasurer, and CSO. And I will no longer be answering the phone when Commander Callis calls or I'll be adding Janitor and Probably Chief trash removal agent.

I told Corky I didn't have time to do an article this month. He called Maira and here I am. She badgered me to the point where I said it's easier to do the article then listen to this #&^\$%! My suggestion, when she calls – don't answer. I'm going to keep my eye on Corky in the future also. He's a crafty one!

When I first became a CSO we were doing claims entirely on paper and then having to make a trip to the Post Office and mail them at an expense to the Chapter between \$10.00 and sometimes \$25.00. It was labor intensive and quite frankly a pain in the neck.

At that time, I was I believe the 2nd JR Vice. I went to an Executive Committee Meeting and requested and was granted permission to buy computers and printers for all CSOs. I attended the convention at that time and caught wind of a program for CSO's named CMS. I approached Lamar Coussar and ask him to turn the CSOs on in that system.

Fast forward four years and we are now beginning to use that program. It is a perfect example of be careful what you wish for. Maira, Kelly, and I are now trained and activated and it has been a nightmare for me so far. I have spoken with Craig Barnes so often when he has called me about my mistakes it's like he is my BFF. He is probably having second thoughts about activating my account. Oh well, that's what he gets for putting IT in the hands of someone born in the 40s. lol

And Maira has been attempting to bring me up to speed on Excel to enhance my performance as your treasurer. She probably hasn't had a night's sleep since she began. That will teach her to call me!

I highly suggest you attend our Chapter meeting scheduled for March 7th. You will see the Picture Frame she designed for the raffle. If you buy a \$5.00 ticket, which you should, there is a possibility to win a great deal of money. The board is covered with lottery tickets and the law of averages says one of them has to be worth some dough. You gotta play to win.

Well, it's spring. I took the dog out this morning in a pair of sweats and a tee shirt. It was about 70 degrees yesterday so I figured how bad could it be. When we got outside the dog looked at me and was like "oh hell no". At 36 degrees it doesn't take him long to potty. Lol

We have a new Adjutant coming onboard. Sheila Edwards has been appointed to that position and will begin duties when she returns from her trip. Her first mission I believe will be to take over Chapter Meeting's minutes. I hope she can eventually assume tracking LVAP hours to remove some of the Commander's duties. It is a time-consuming task, especially for someone with a full-time job.

I will be taking the cover off our grill in the next few days. It's becoming steak, chicken, and hot dog grilling season. I can't wait. I cannot say it's been a brutal winter but not being a cold weather guy it was all I could take.

That's all I have. And remember, if Comrade Callis calls let it go to voicemail!

Working For You,
George

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

CHAPTER #26
St. Mary's County

DAV CHAPTER 26 SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD FORM

Digital Souvenir Journal

NAME: _____
(Point of Contact for this AD)

Address: _____ (To return photos
used in Advertisements)

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail Address: _____

Wording for AD (*as you would like it to appear in the AD*)

Advertisement Prices:

The commemorative souvenir journal will be in Word format. Digital format.

Ads must be submitted electronically ready to: michelle.dowleyne@gmail.com

*Photographs should be high resolution prepared via e-mail in Microsoft Word format to (at least 300 dpi)

****Ads will not be printed without receipt of money.** The rate for all ads is \$50

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ADS IS
Friday, 15 March 2024

Amount Enclosed \$50.00

Please email your advertisements to michelle.dowleyne@gmail.com – indicate **DAV Souvenir Journal in Subject line.**

Make Checks and or Money orders Payable to:

**DAV Chapter #26
P.O. Box 496
Patuxent River, MD 20670**

Disabled American Veterans
Assisting Those Who Served



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER 26 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

You are Invited to attend the DAV Chapter 26 50th Anniversary Gala.

We are pleased to invite you to the DAV Chapter 26 50th Anniversary Gala, taking place 27 April 2024 from 6pm (doors open; dinner at 7pm) to 10pm at the Olde Breton Inn, in Leonardtown, Maryland. The gala will recognize 50 years of DAV Chapter 26's dedicated efforts towards empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. Will you be among those celebrating this landmark occasion? RSVP now to hold your place:

Guest Speaker: DAV Department of Maryland Commander Mattie Whitfield

- Chicken / Beef au jus / Vegan
- Vegetables / Potatoes / Rolls / Salad / Dessert / Water, Iced Tea, & coffee

Cash bar available

Attire: Semi-formal

RSVP Date: 18 March 2024

Cost: \$50.00 per person

----- Detach below and send in with your remittance -----

Amount of remittance: number of attendees ___ X \$50.00 = ___

Name: _____; Phone: _____; Email: _____.

Please mail remittance to: PO Box 496; Patuxent River, MD 20670



Rosie the Riveter

Disabled American Veterans
Department of Maryland
Women Veterans Committee

Presents
**“Rosie”
Trailblazers**

Saturday, March 16, 2024
Omaha Beach No. 7
8205 Laurel Bowie Road
Bowie, MD 20715
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

DAV, Department of Maryland
Commander Mattie Whitfield

RSVP:
Comrade Marguerite Stubbs
mc_stubbs@yahoo.com

Comrade Nicole Dunn
davofmdwvc@gmail.com

A circular graphic with a blue-to-yellow gradient background. The text 'Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion' is written in a white, cursive font across the center. Several colorful arrows (purple, orange, green, pink) point towards the center from the bottom right. The text is partially overlaid by the arrows.

Women
Who Advocate
for Equity,
Diversity, and
Inclusion

Behind the scene WWII Heroes



Adrina Allen receiving the Quilt of Valor



Chapter 26 and Unit 26 pay last respects to comrade Norm Phillips

DoD dependent I.D. Card Pilot Program

Dependent I.D. cards can be renewed on line as long as the card has not expired.

For further info contact DEERS (800-538-9552) or the Pax River Pass and I.D. (301-342-4911).



Rest in Peace our fellow comrades.

Lance Cpl. Donovan Davis, 21; Sgt. Alec Langen, 23; Capt. Benjamin Moulton, 27; Capt. Jack Casey, 26 and Capt. Miguel Nava, 28.

STAR TREK

All you Star Trek lovers out there here is a bit of trivia for ya. On the original Enterprise what did the NCC 1701 stand for?.....give up? Well NCC stood for Naval Construction Contract and the 1701 stood for the Enterprise was the first vessel of Starfleet's 17th starship design, hence 1701.



Chapter #26 Officer's

<u>CHAPTER #26</u>			
<u>2022-2023</u>			
*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.	Robert "Bob" Jones	301-481-1339	gwebo@verizon.net
+ Treasurer	George Cheverton	410-610-0983	georgecheverton@comcast.net
+ Chief of Staff	George Cheverton	410-610-0983	georgecheverton@comcast.net
+ Adjutant	Kelly Major	240-818-1410	lorimaj1983@yahoo.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	Mike Bosak	301-481-3382	ekim@md.metrocast.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	George Cheverton	410-610-0983	georgecheverton@comcast.net
+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

*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

March 2024

07	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
07	1900	General Meeting & Elections	Union Hall
10	0200	Daylight Savings Time Starts	
15	-----	Deadline for purchasing an AD for our Digital Souvenir Journal	
19	-----	Deadline for purchasing tickets for the GALA Celebration	
27	-----	Last Date to get chances on the scratch off picture frame	
31	-----	Easter	

April 2024

03	0930	Picture Frame Scratch Off Drawing	Union Hall
04	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
04	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
05	-----	Gold Star Spouse Day	Honors spouses who lost their military significant other in the line of duty or because of their military service.
27	1800	GALA Celebration	Olde Breton Bay Inn
30	-----	Vietnam War Ends	April 1975

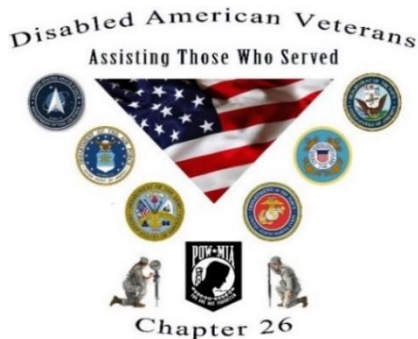
May 2024

02	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
02	1900	General Meeting & Elections	Union Hall
02-09	-----	Primary Early Voting Days	
14	-----	Primary Election Day	
27	-----	Memorial Day	



April – Chapter Installation – Date and Time TBD

**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.

