



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.

August 2023



DAV Chapter #26 Contact Telephone Number - 240-925-5439 (available 24/7)

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



FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

Hello Chapter 26,

Let me start by saying thank you to all who volunteered at the Local Lodge 4 Machinist Union Hall this past Saturday, 29 July 2023 doing VA Claims and assisting Veterans with forms, meet & greet, membership, and the Union Hall members grilling hamburgers and hotdogs for all in attendance! It truly takes a fine group of volunteers to make this event a great success! With the VA Claims from Saturday and the cumulative from 1 January through 29 July 2023 we have completed a total of 388 VA Claims in seven months. Thank you to all involved in helping our Veterans, Spouses, and Dependents with their claims!

On Tuesday, 1 August 2023 our Chapter will meet at the County Commissioners Office to receive the Forget-Me-Not proclamation to get our Chapter Fundraisers underway. If attending please adhere to the business attire of black slacks or skirts, white shirt or polo, Chapter 26 cap, and MD Tie or scarf.

In addition, our first Forget-Me-Not fundraisers start this Saturday, 5 August and Sunday 6 August 2023. Please sign up and volunteer your time for this worthy cause.

There is no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits. However, there are upcoming timelines that will require urgent action by some individuals. If you file your PACT Act claim — or submit your intent to file — by 9 August 2023, you may receive benefits backdated to 10 August 2022.

The following are some of the links we use to assist Veterans with claims. Burn Pits registration and toxic exposure <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>. DBQs https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq_publicdbqs.asp.

On Thursday, 7 September 2023 Jr. Vice CDR Joan Sabree will be visiting our Chapter at our regular DAV Chapter 26 meeting at the Wildwood Community Center where we meet for our regular monthly meetings. Please join us in welcoming her to the Chapter as a DAV State visitor.

The Chapters Picnic is scheduled for 9 September 2023 at the Base Beach House. Michelle Dowleyne and Kelly Major will be heading this event and volunteers are always welcome to assist with the preparation and set up. You will be getting an email from Michelle or Kelly requesting to RSVP or to sign up for side dishes. We could all use a fun fill day with comrades, family, and friends. Mike Jones will be joining us again this year with his BBQ wagon. Please join us! See the flyer inside this newsletter.

The Annual Department of Aging and Human Services Veterans Resource Day will take place on Friday, 3 November 2023, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the University of Maryland-Southern Maryland, located at 44219 Airport Road, California, MD. The Chapter will volunteer their time to do VA Claims and recruit new members. If you are interested in volunteering your time let me know.

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." Be Safe, Enjoy your Family and Friends & stay hydrated during these hot months.

R, Maira Callis,
Commander Chapter 26

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF



Greetings Comrades.

Oh No! The month of July has come and gone and we are left to ask how did it get away from us. Am I the only one to wonder if the months are getting shorter? But the month left a legacy of record temperatures and in my opinion a very real example of global warming. As a matter of fact, it was so hot I saw a dog chasing a rabbit and they were both walking! I know-bad joke.

I would like to recognize IAMAW Local 4 for allowing us to hold a claims seminar on Saturday for their union members. Bob Chase and some of the local's members provided hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, and potato salad. They went out of their way to make the event a total success. And obviously we did quite a few claims thanks to your chapter's CSO team. I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of Maira, Kelly, Michelle, and Bob Jones for sacrificing a Saturday to see our veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

Cheryl Colson, Mike Bosak, Bob Priddy, Corky Dunn, Thomas Ridley, Greg Olson, Lionel Sanders and other chapter members showed up to assist our efforts and collectively helped make this a very productive and rewarding event. This is exactly where our chapter's focus should be.

I would like to mention CSO Michelle Dowleyne will be dealing with some medical issues in the near future and we pray for her speedy recovery.

After the unfortunate situation that took place in March our Chapter is slowly but surely getting back on track and we are signing up new members. It is important we bring in new people with new ideas. I would encourage all chapter members to aggressively pursue new membership and highlight the advantages of DAV.

I have an idea. We should explore providing some type of reward for continuous attendance at chapter meetings. This has been batted around by your Executive Committee in the past and I would like to invite all chapter members to provide some feedback of this initiative. You can send your ideas to me directly by email and I will forward them to our Commander and the Executive Committee.

We might also recognize the chapter member that brings in the most new members. Any such rewards would be for rank-and-file chapter members and exclude the elected and appointed chapter officers. Just a thought. Enjoy the remaining summer and keep cool!

Working For You,
George Cheverton



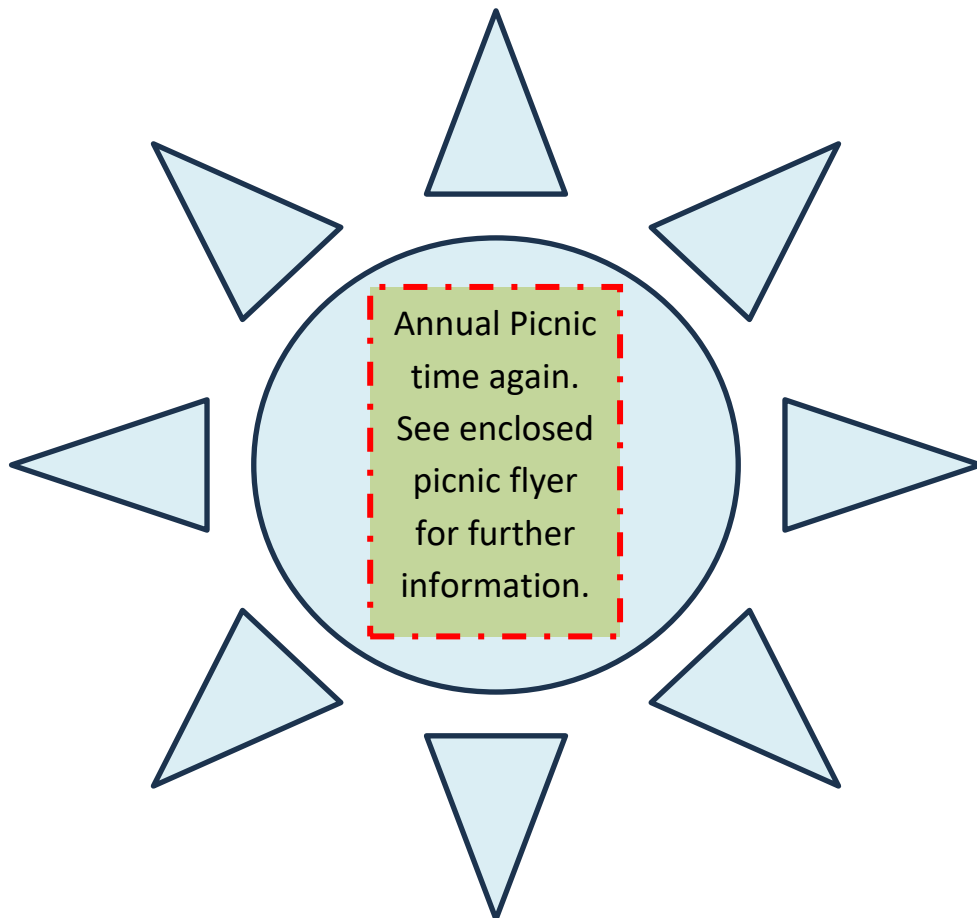
Our Chief of Staff, **George Cheverton**, is having another bout with Cancer and is back to receiving Cobalt treatments. He advises he feeling ok and has no pain so far. Please keep George and his family in your prayers.

Our Webmaster, **Wes Simpkins**, is recovering slower than expected. He can feel his feet again which is good. However, his vehicles are not so good. His lift doors on his new van are not functioning properly therefore he cannot drive. His wife takes him to his doctor's appointments and other necessary places. He is also having a problem with the VA helping him with his vehicle repairs.

Past Commander **Vaughn McCall** has Covid. If you are planning on a visit I would hold off for a while. Please keep Vaughn and his family in your prayers.

Our 2nd JVC, **Michelle Dowleyne**, will be having surgery on 14 August 2023. Please keep her in your prayers.

Note: Send your sickness and distress notifications to the Chaplain, Bob Jones, at gwebo@verizon.net





Thank you for your support of DAV Chapter #26 and our fellow veterans



James Williams



Dustin Richmond



Lou Dunn



Kelly Major



Mike Bosak



Michelle Dowleyne



Bob Priddy



George Cheverton



Ralph Gough



Bob Jones

Volunteers, God Bless Them



Commander Maira presents a Thank You Award to Cheryl for all her hours she spends almost every Wednesday helping our CSO's with veteran's claims.



Cheryl receives a homemade thank you gift (Charcuterie Board) from the Chapter Service Officers and their staff for her assistance.

Cheryl is the widow of James Colson. James was a member of Chapter 26.



BITS AND PIECES



Slugs



Those little critters that crawl around like a snail but have no shell. Plus, they leave a slime trail. What purpose would something like that have.

Well, they provide food for all sorts of mammals, birds, slow worms, earthworms, insects and, they are part of the natural balance.

However, some of them may carry diseases and parasites, such as the rat lungworm, that can be dangerous to other animals and humans. So, don't touch it and if you need to move them suggest you wear gloves or use a rag, paper towel, etc. to move the creature out of your way. If they are not in your way just leave them alone. Killing them is not the answer, so put the salt away (putting salt on them kills them) and admire what they do and the food they provide.

Yellow Jackets

Yellow jackets are a social wasp species. Yellow jackets can be found any place where humans live. They often build their nests underground or in hollow logs, tree stumps, attics, between walls, under eaves and inside recycling bins where sugars are common.



Started by a single queen, new nests can reach the size of a basketball. Unlike bees, they don't lose their stinger during the act, allowing them to sting numerous times once they decide to attack.

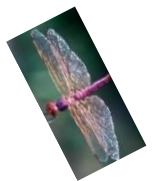
They are a danger to humans because they can sting repeatedly and trigger dangerous allergic reactions. Do not wear bright colors or sweet perfumes unless you want a yellow jacket to mistake you for a flower. And do not swat at yellow jackets because they will release a pheromone that sends other wasps into attack mode. Ground vibrations like mowing a lawn can also provoke a dangerous swarm attack.

If you want to get rid of a yellow jacket nest, you can spray their nests with soap and water or pour soapy water into an underground nest to kill the whole colony. Treat nests only at night when yellow jackets are drowsy and don't see very well.

With all that I mention above what good are they? Many of the meat sources yellow jackets feed on are pest species, therefore yellow jackets are considered beneficial to agriculture.

Dragonflies

Dragonflies are insects belonging to the order *Odonata*, which also includes Damselflies. There are over 5,000 species of dragonflies, each with different colors and patterns. Dragonflies are typically brightly colored, with iridescent hues of blue, green, or red. They have six legs that are held together in a forward-pointing position when they are at rest. Their wings are held perpendicular to their body when they are at rest, which is a distinguishing characteristic that differentiates them from damselflies.



The name "dragonfly" is thought to come from the Old English word "draggefloege," which means "dragon fly." This is likely a reference to the dragon-like appearance of the insects and their ability to fly. Some species of dragonflies are also known for their bright and colorful bodies, which could have contributed to their association with dragons. The Dragonfly has been a symbol of happiness, new beginnings and change for many centuries. The Dragonfly means hope, change, and love.

The diet of Dragonflies is mosquitoes, gnats, mayflies, beetles, flies, moths, butterflies, and even bees. So long as their prey is smaller, an adult dragonfly will eat just about anything it can catch. So, the next time you see a Dragonfly put your sword away and admire its beauty and appreciate what they eat which helps us get rid of those nasty biting bugs.



BUGS – SOME FRIENDLY, SOME NOT.





Our hosts are
Michelle and Kelly



Chapter 26 Annual Picnic

September 9, 2023

1100-1600

NAS Patuxent River



Mike Jones will be
bringing his Grill Wagon.

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #26, annual picnic will be held at the same place as last year – the Beach House aboard Patuxent River Naval Air Station. The Beach House has a large covered patio, a building with running water and bathrooms, plenty of parking and a beautiful view of the river.

The chapter will furnish the meat (hot dogs, hamburgers), rolls, condiments, plates, napkins, utensils, drinks (soda and water), and some games. Mike (our chef) will be bringing some of his own specially prepared meats to cook.

Please bring a covered dish and
(lorimaj1983@yahoo.com) of



notify Kelly via email at
what dish you are bringing.

The picnic is open to Chapter 26 members and family, and their friends. We need a head count to purchase the correct amount of meat, drinks, etc. So, please email Kelly on the number in your party prior to 1 September.





Chapter #26 Officer's



CHAPTER #26 🇺🇸			
2022-2023			
* Commander	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.com
* Senior Vice Commander	George Cheverton	410-610-0983	georgecheverton@comcast.net
* 1 st Junior Vice Cdr.	James Williams	301-741-6846	james-wms42@outlook.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	Vacant		
+ Acting Treasurer	Dustin Richmond	808-341-8333	dustin.richmond6@gmail.com
+ 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

* 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 Picnic: Set for September the 9th, 1100 to 1600 at the Beach House aboard Pax River. Our chairpersons are Michelle Dowleyne and Kelly Major.

Veterans Resource Day: Will be held on 3 November from 0900 to 1400 at the Southern Maryland Educational Center on Airport Road. This is a yearly event and is sponsored by the Office on Aging. There is a lot of information for veterans at this seminar – well worth attending. Chapter 26 will be available if VA claim assistance is needed. A lunch is available at minimul cost. No cost for volunteers.

Chapter Calendar

August

03	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Wildwood Community Association
03	1900	General Meeting	Wildwood Community Association
04	-----	Happy Birthday U.S. Coast Guard	1790
05	0900-1800	Forget-me-Not	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)
06	1000-1800	Forget-me-Not	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)
07	-----	General Washington established the Purple Heart decoration	1782
19	0900-1800	Forget-me-Not	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)
20	1000-1800	Forget-me-Not	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)



September

02	-----	WWII Ended	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)
02	0900-1800	Forget-me-Not	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)
03	1000-1800	Forget-me-Not	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)
04	-----	Labor Day	
07	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Wildwood Community Association
07	1900	General Meeting	Wildwood Community Association
09	-----	Chapter Picnic	NAS Pax Beach House
15	-----	POW/MIA Day	1945
16	0900-1800	Forget-me-Not	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)
17	1000-1800	Forget-me-Not (back up date)	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)
18	-----	Happy Birthday U.S. Air Force	1947
21-24	-----	St. Mary's County Fair	Fairgrounds

October

05	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Wildwood Community Association
05	1900	General Meeting	Wildwood Community Association
13	-----	Happy Birthday U.S. Navy	1775
12/22	-----	St. Mary's County Oyster Festival	Fairgrounds\
21	0900-1800	Forget-me-Not (back up date)	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)
22	1000-1800	Forget-me-Not (back up date)	NAS Commissary (4 hour shifts)

Note: 3 of the Forget-Me-Not fundraiser dates are back up dates.

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

September 07

**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 AND
SAILOR WHO DIED PROTECTING IT.

