



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



Chapter #26, Chartered April 25, 1974



Nominations for chapter officers this month.

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



February 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 Valentine's Day,

What has happened to January 2024? The days go by so fast! We got a little bit of snow and back to the warm weather, which I am not complaining. Saw plenty of motorcycles out this weekend and it seems I am not the only one looking forward to the Spring.

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.

We had two \$25.00 gift card winners that attended the Chapters Monthly Meeting. James Williams won with ticket #3898981 and Sheila Edwards with ticket #3898985. In addition, the Chapters 50/50 raffle was won by Kelly Major. Congratulations to all!!!

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 and he is our 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 Saturday, 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.

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 NLT **Friday, March 15, 2024**. More information ahead.

Thank you to the CSOs, our Intake Coordinator Bob Jones, and Cheryl Colson, which has 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 the 24th of January 2024, our Chapters cumulative CSO VA Claims is 61 in less than a month. Thank you to all involved in helping our Veterans, Spouses, and Dependents with their claims!!!

A big thank you to the following Chapter Members, Spouses, Organizations, and St. Mary's businesses that donated to the Chapter January 2024:

- Lou & Terry Dunn – Jan \$100.00 Earmarked for the Gala
- Mark Donovan – Jan \$100.00 Earmarked for the Gala
- Princilla Hunter – Jan \$200.00 Donated to the Chapter

We are very thankful for your donations and the money will be used as per your request.

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.*

We have lost more of comrades over in the Middle East. Please keep the families of our departed comrades in your prayers.

On the local front I have contacted Vaughn McCall, Lou Dunn, Adrina Allen and Ed Johnson. All are doing well and recovering.



FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Greetings Comrades.

Go figure. We are shoveling snow one day (not me actually) and sitting on the deck enjoying 80 degrees the next. I assume this is a product of global warming but not being a climatologist, who knows. I'll take the 80s but you can keep the snow.

Just in case you don't know, the Chapter is holding a raffle for a picture frame surrounded on the edges with lottery scratch off tickets and a \$100 dollar bill in the center. Tickets are \$5.00 apiece. There is an opportunity to win a great deal of money from the lottery tickets and a \$100 dollar bill ain't too shabby either! That would be enough for you to take me to lunch if you win. Just sayin'.

Once again, I failed to keep my mouth shut and ended up being elected Treasurer. But seriously, I am happy to do whatever it takes to keep our Chapter moving forward. Kudos to our Commander for helping me first and foremost get our Treasurer's report in order. I am trying to learn the Treasurer's job as well as muddle through Excel. Evidently Maira doesn't subscribe to the old saying "you can't teach an old dog new tricks". Not only that but she tricked me into doing the meetings minutes. I'm going to have to keep my eye on her from now on!

I hope we are all keeping Comrades McCall, Dunn, Allen and Johnson in our prayers for a speedy recovery. They are dealing with medical issues and I am convinced prayers help. I am also extremely delighted to have Michelle Dowleyne back after her having to address the loss of her mother. When one of our Chapter comrades' hurts, we all hurt.

Commander Callis, Kelly Major, and I, attended a virtual training class that now allows us to use DAV's Claims Management System, (CMS). This will significantly increase the speed with which we can file a veteran's claim and allow us to research the status of a claim. I have been asking Dept. to give us this ability for over two years. It's been a long time coming but we finally have the ability and the authorization to use this system. We can now almost instantly communicate with the Department NSOs and address any issues that might arise with a veteran's claim. The class was by Dept. invitation only but I can assure you the remaining CSOs will be brought up to speed on CMS in the very near future and then a request to give them authorization will be made.

I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of our Chapter's CSO work. Just this past Wednesday, Jan. 24th, we were visited on our claims day by a spouse who had just received approval of her DIC claim. This is a life changing event and the reason all of us do this work. We are proudly fulfilling DAV's promise to our veterans.

DAV's 80th annual State Convention will be held this May in Ocean City. All CSO's will attend to be recertified. There will also be classes on multiple topics allowing CSO's to expand our knowledge and better serve veterans.

February is right around the corner and we are in a Leap Year giving February an extra day. (Feb. 29th) That means I will have an extra day to sit around and do absolutely nothing. LIFE IS GREAT!

Stay warm and God Bless.

Working for you,
George Cheverton



UNITED STATES NAVY SEALS



Navy SEALs are named after the environment in which they operate, the Sea, Air and Land, and are the foundation of Naval Special Warfare combat forces. They are organized, trained, and equipped to conduct a variety of Special Operations missions in all operational environments.

Although not formally founded until 1962, the modern-day U.S. Navy SEALs trace their roots to World War II. The United States Military recognized the need for the covert reconnaissance of landing beaches and coastal defenses.

The SEALs trace their heritage to various elite units in World War II, particularly to naval combat demolition units (NCDUs) and underwater demolition teams (UDTs) whose "frogmen" were trained to destroy obstacles on enemy-held beaches prior to amphibious landings in Europe and the Pacific.



Navy Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Christopher J. Chambers
Navy Special Warfare Operator 2nd Class Nathan "Gage" Ingram





DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND, INC.
Building better lives for America's Disabled Veterans
DAV Chapter 26 PO Box 496 Patuxent River, MD 20670

DAV Chapter 26
PO Box 496
Patuxent River, MD 2067

January 18, 2024

Greetings:

The Officers and Members of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 26 are excited to announce our upcoming 50th Anniversary Gala event scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024. Therefore, it is befitting that a celebration of 50 years is celebrated with a Gala to celebrate the DAV Chapter members with Dignity, Honor, and Respect! Our honorees & VIP for this event will also be celebrating 50 years with the DAV, and one of our honorees/VIPS is Judge Advocate Ralph Gough.

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. This mission is carried forward by providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government.

To further commemorate this event, we would love to feature you in our Digital Souvenir Journal. The attached Digital Souvenir Journal information sheet detailing prices, deadlines, and submission instructions are enclosed. 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 Digital Souvenir Chairperson Michelle Dowleyne at: 910-644-2348 or at: michelle.dowleyne@gmail.com. If possible, we ask that you provide your ad by Friday, March 15, 2024.

DAV Chapter 26 is a 501(c)(4) non-profit, Federal Tax ID number 23-7429227. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for more information about our organization, please visit our website @ www.davch26stmarysmd.com.

Kind regards,
Maira Callis
DAV Chapter 26 Commander

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

CHAPTER #26
St. Mary's County

DAV CHAPTER 26 SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD FORM

Digital Souvenir Journal

NAME Lou Dunn _____
(Point of Contact for this AD)

Address N/A _____ (To return photos
used in Advertisements)

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone 381-481-7953 _____ E-mail Address dunnlc20653@gmail.com _____

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

The Uglow sisters congratulates Chapter 26 on your 50th anniversary on providing assistance to our veterans. Most of us are married to veterans and our father was also a veteran.

Advertisement Prices:

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

Ads must be submitted electronically ready to davchapter26events@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 davchapter26events@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**

Chapter #26 Officer's

CHAPTER #26			
2022-2023			
*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

February 2024

01	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
01	1900	General Meeting & Nominations	Union Hall
14	-----	Valentines Day	Do not forget those who care for us so much
19	-----	George Washington's Birthday	



March 2024

07	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
07	1900	General Meeting & Elections	Union Hall
15	-----	Deadline for purchasing an AD for our Digital Souvenir Journal	
19	-----	Deadline for purchasing tickets for the GALA Celebration	
31	-----	Easter	

April 2024

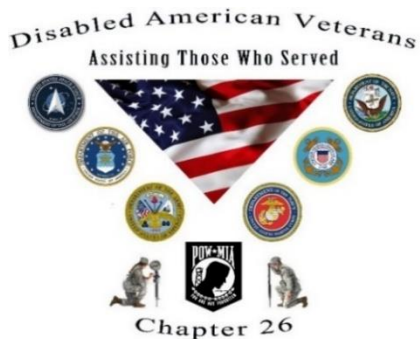
03	0930	Picture Frame Scratch Off Drawing	Union Hall
04	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
04	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
05	-----	Gold Star Spouse Day	Honors spouses who lost their military significant other in the line of duty or because of their military service.
27	1800	GALA Celebration	Olde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

NEXT EXECUTIVE AND CHAPTER MEETINGS

March 07

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.

