



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.

**April 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



To all,

April showers bring May flowers—just as transitions bring new opportunities for growth and renewal. As I step down and welcome our incoming Commander, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you.

Serving as Commander of DAV Chapter 26 from October 2022 to April 2025 has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Together, we have upheld the mission of our Chapter, supported one another, and made a lasting impact on our community. The strength of this Chapter is not in any one leader, but in the dedication, resilience, and camaraderie of its members—you are the heart of DAV Chapter 26.

As the Navy says, “Hooyah!”—this is my final farewell as your Commander, but it is not goodbye. I am incredibly thankful for your support, trust, and commitment over the years. I have offered my assistance to our new Commander, James Williams, and will continue to stand by this Chapter in any way I can.

I also want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our new officers as they step into their roles. May your leadership bring fresh ideas and continued success to our Chapter. To my fellow outgoing officers who have stood by me and supported our mission—thank you. Your dedication has made all the difference, and I deeply appreciate each of you.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you. It has truly been an honor.

With gratitude and respect,

Maira Callis

Outgoing Commander, DAV Chapter 26



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



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



Past Chaplain Don Geller is having health issues. Don is the pastor of Community With A Cause Global Methodist Church here in St. Mary's. Please keep Pastor Don in your prayers.

Cheryl Colson, our Chapter volunteer, is out of the hospital and home recovering from surgery. Please keep Cheryl in your prayers also.

It is with great pleasure, to be appointed the Chaplain for DAV Chapter 26. I want to thank Commander Maira Callis and Chaplain Bob Jones for this impressive opportunity.

A little bit about me, I have been Ministering in the Jail System from 1997 to present day, beginning in Fairbanks Christian Center located in Fairbanks Alaska all while being a member of the United States Army, then moving to Sumter South Carolina before retiring.

I was task to start a Jail Ministry as a member of Victory Christian Center, from there after retirement and moving to Maryland, I was task to take over the Crossroad Christian Center Jail Ministry in St. Leonard, Md, and am now a Lead in the Covenant Ministries Jail Ministry in Lusby, Md., as well as the Nursing Home Ministry.

I am also on several Bible Studies and Prayer Groups where we pray for those in need of prayer and will surely place all in need of prayer on our prayer board/line. Being a member of the Christian community, I have a passion for this position. It does not matter what religion a veteran may be or may not be, I have compassion for all who need a kind word, and a listening ear.

I learned a lot from Chaplain Bob and am grateful for his council and am pleased to fill his shoes. Therefore, to continue with what Bob has set in place, please keep Bob in your prayers concerning the medical issues he is facing. Our new commander, James, is also facing some health problems. Please keep James in your prayers also.

If you know of any member of the Chapter or their family members that are in need of prayer, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redgeeknow@outlook.com](mailto:redgeeknow@outlook.com). God bless you All.

Sincerely, Reggie Harris  
Chaplain, DAV Chapter 26

Please report all sickness to your chaplain.

# Installation of Officers for the 2025 – 2026 Chapter Year



Installing officer was Ralph Gough, the nominated Department 3<sup>rd</sup> Junior Vice Commander



# Installation of Officers for the 2025 – 2026 Chapter Year

## Flowers Were Presented to the Ladies



Bob Priddy accepts flowers for his wife Trudy. She was unable to attend.



Our new commander, James Williams, presents flowers to his wife Jessie



Commander Williams presents Past Commander Maira with a gavel.



Mrs. Becky Elledge, manager of the Weis Store in Callaway, is presented with a gift from Chapter 26 in appreciation for all her donations to the chapter.

## Chapter #26 Officer's

<u>CHAPTER #26</u> 			
2025-2026			
*Commander	James Williams	301-741-6846	james-wms42@outlook.com
*Senior Vice Commander	Mike Jones	253-606-4408	shotgroup@hotmail.com
*1 <sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Cdr.	Kelly Major	240-818-1410	lorimaj1983@yahoo.com
*2 <sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Cdr.	Matt Langford	240-925-6285	ltaircraftsar@gmail.com
*3 <sup>rd</sup> Junior Vice Cdr.	Reggie Harris	443-538-4138	redgeeknow@outlook.com
* Treasurer	Sheila Edwards	240-216-4013	sedinars101461@gmail.com
+ Chief of Staff	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.com
+Adjutant	Sheila Edwards	240-216-4013	sedinars101461@gmail.com
+Chaplain	Reggie Harris	443-538-4138	redgeeknow@outlook.com
*Judge Advocate	Ralph Gough	301-862-1222	regoughsr.151@gmail.com
+Sgt.-At-Arms	Greg Olson	240-538-4212	gpolson@verison.net
+Officer of the Day (OOD)	Bob Priddy	410-326-2228	Priddy425@comcast.net
+Public Information Officer	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@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	sedinars101461@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.

**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 Dinner:** The Potluck Dinner date is scheduled for Saturday, 3 May 2025 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. It will be held at the Union Hall. Lou Dunn will be leading this event.

**VA Claims Assistance Day:** Beginning Friday, April 18, 2025, VA Claims assistance will be available every other Friday by appointment only with Maira Callis and other CSOs. We will continue offering Wednesday appointments for the next six months during the transition. Weekly schedules will be posted every Wednesday for advance sign-ups. Thank you for your support and understanding.

# Chapter Calendar

## 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	He has risen
30	-----	Vietnam War Ended	1975

## May 2025

01	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
01	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
03	1600-1900	Installation Dinner (Potluck)	Union Hall
*17	0900-1800	Forget Me Not	Base Commissary
18-23	-----	81 <sup>st</sup> DAV Convention	Ocean City
**26	-----	Memorial Day Ceremony	Ridge



## June 2025

### June is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Month

15	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
15	1900	General Meeting	1775
14	-----	Happy Birthday United States Army	Respect our Flag
14	-----	Flag Day	Time to remember Dad
15	-----	Father's Day	National Independence Day
19	-----	Juneteenth	

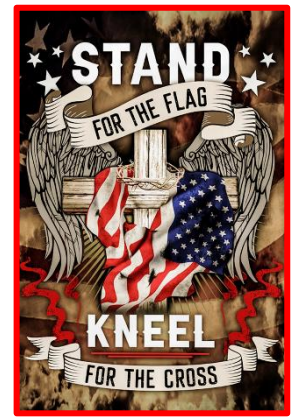


**\*Forget-me-Not:** We still have time left to collect donations. The shifts will be four hours and we need 2 people per shift.

**\*\*Just a reminder** – Our chapter participates in the Memorial Day Ceremonies at the American Legion in Ridge. Chapter Point of Contact is Lou Dunn. Uniform is chapter hat and shirt. Further info will be sent out via email.

**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.





## *The Meaning of our Symbol*

Disabled American Veterans  
Assisting Those Who Served



Chapter 26

The symbols of each of the Armed Forces are laid out in a V indicating Veterans and Chapter 26 assists all veterans of all branches

The American Flag, pointing downwards, indicates this country will Never forget those Missing in Action or Prisoners of War

The two kneeling soldiers indicate the sorrow we feel for our departed comrades

