



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

January 2026



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

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER



Happy New Year, Chapter 26,

As we step into 2026, I want to thank each of you for your dedication, your service, and your continued commitment to our Mission. Last year was filled with meaningful events, strong community partnerships, and renewed energy within our chapter. This year we build on that momentum.

Our focus for 2026 is simple: **service, growth, and connection**. We will continue strengthening our outreach to veterans in need, expanding our presence in the surrounding communities, and ensuring every member feels valued and included. Let's make this a year of purpose and unity.

Excerpts: Continue to serve: While we have served in different Eras, in different wars and in different ways, a single thread runs through our fabric, tying us to the men and women who have Served before and after us.

We also know that, while the vast majority of veterans are not just proud of their service but would also make the choice to serve again, the military has a way of leaving its mark-whether on our bodies or on our minds. HOOAH!

Respectfully,

James Williams
Commander, DAV Chapter 26



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



Fellow Chapter Members,

Chaplain's Corner:

Comrades, as 2025 comes to a close, take time out of your busy day and reflect back on how much God has blessed you, your family, your comrades and the Chapter, even though there have been things that was not so good or worth smiling about, and how we have overcome each and every one of them because we trusted in the Creator. I pray that you genuinely enjoyed the celebration of whatever holiday you participate in this year, if it was Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Las Posadas or if you did not celebrate at all. Well, as 2026 is unfolding, it's 365 days, it's 52 weeks, and it's 12 months. Focus on how you can better serve those who serve this country we call home. Remember the most powerful tool we have in our tool shed we call the body, is **PRAYER**. There is a scripture in the bible that emphasizes persistent, unwavering prayer, for all believers, which encourages constant communication with our Creator and perseverance in faith even when we do not get our answers immediate or receive the answer we wanted. The key is to maintain a spiritual connection with our maker and a physical connection with each other.

PRAISE REPORT: All those whom we have been praying for seem to be doing well, though there are a few who are still fighting the fight-of-faith. Therefore, keep praying as you are led to pray.

PRAYER CALL: Please continue to keep each other lifted in prayer, and keep Chapter #26 Commander, Chapter Officers and CSOs lifted in prayer as we continually conduct our duties in a professional and supportive manner for ALL Veterans. Make it a habit to send each other cards, text messages or make phone call to all those desiring to hear from their Comrades just as we did while on duty in the military.

If you or you know of any member of Chapter #26 or any of your or their family members that will allow us to pray for them, please do not hesitate to contact me at: reggie.harris.dav@gmail.com. I pray that God will bless each of you in abundance in the year 2026, as you remember the writing in **James 4:14** – **“Whereas you know not what shall be on tomorrow, for what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away,”** therefore, let us not waste time by putting off what we can do today rather than waiting for tomorrow or as sometimes we will say “one of these days”. Stay connected with the Chapter and be laser focused on mission and that is Veterans helping Veterans, we will get through each day, let us just remember to take it one day at a time. One last thing, I still want to encourage those that have not attended the Monthly Chapter Meeting, as you make plans for 2026, let that be on your list as well.

Sincerely,

Reggie Harris
DAV Chapter 26 Chaplain

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Christmas Gifts



Chapter 26 member Lou Dunn and his wife Terry (DAVA Unit 26) presenting the gifts to Activities Director Brandi Tanner.



MAG Air gifts to CHVH

Thank You very much to – MAG Air, Community with a Cause Global Methodist Church, DAV CH 26 members, the people of St. Mary's County and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), Local Lodge #4



Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Christmas Gift Additional Donations

IAMAW Local Lodge 4 Donations to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

As we celebrate this holiday week. Local 4 membership did a holiday donation drive for the Charlotte Hall veterans home. Thank you to everyone who made this a success!



The Joy of Giving

In the true spirit of the season, DAV Chapter 26 partnered with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Local Lodge #4, to once again come together in service to our veterans. Through the generosity of their veterans and staff, additional donations were collected to help bring warmth, comfort, and a little extra happiness to the residents of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH).

These heartfelt gifts arrived on Christmas Eve. A moment filled with meaning and compassion. Each donation was a reminder to our veterans that they are seen, valued, and never forgotten. Thank you to everyone involved for sharing not just gifts, but genuine kindness and hope during a special time of year.

This partnership reflects what truly matters: caring for one another, honoring those who served, and ensuring our veterans feel the love and gratitude they so deeply deserve. Together, we continue to make a difference. One act of kindness at a time.

Respectfully,

Matt Langford
DAV Chapter 26
2nd Jr. Vice Commander



With Our Deepest Sympathy and Love

Dear Nicole,

On behalf of our Chapter, we want you to know how deeply saddened we are by the passing of your beloved mother, Darlene R. Coleman. Please accept our heartfelt condolences as you and your family navigate this profound loss. There are no words that can truly ease the pain of losing a parent, but we hope you find comfort in knowing you are surrounded by love, prayers, and unwavering support.

Nicole, you are a remarkable woman. You are kind, giving, compassionate, and selfless in all that you do. You have always shown up for our Chapter with a generous heart, quiet strength, and genuine empathy for others. Your dedication to service, your humanity, and your constant willingness to support those in need speak volumes about the person you are. These qualities do not go unnoticed, and they are a true reflection of the love and values your mother instilled in you.

Today, and always, we stand with you. Just as you have stood with us time and time again. We honor your mother's life, her legacy, and the incredible family she raised. May the beautiful memories you share bring you peace, and may you feel the embrace of all who care for you now, today, and tomorrow.

Please know that our thoughts, prayers, and hearts are with you and your family. May your precious mother rest in eternal peace.

With deepest sympathy and respect,

On behalf of the Disabled American Veterans
Chapter 26 Commander and Members

Chapter Announcements:

The Judge Advocate – Ralph Gough

DAV Chapter 26 operates in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws, which provide the foundation for how we govern and conduct our business. Our meetings and decision-making processes are further guided by *Robert's Rules of Order, 12th Edition*, a respected manual of parliamentary procedure that ensures fairness, structure, and clarity in all proceedings.

In the coming month, we will share more information about *Robert's Rules of Order* and how it supports orderly discussion, respectful debate, and effective leadership within our Chapter.

Kelly Major Update

I would like to share an encouraging update regarding Kelly Major. Kelly returned home last Saturday, January 3, 2026, after completing his stay at MedStar Rehabilitation in Washington, DC. His positive spirit and determination have been truly inspiring. He has worked incredibly hard, accomplishing so much that the rehab team felt confident sending him home, trusting that he will continue his recovery journey there. While he still has a long road ahead, Kelly faces it with courage, acceptance, and a strong commitment to doing the work needed to heal and regain his strength. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. If you are able, a kind email or text of encouragement would mean more to him than you may realize. We all need that reminder of support from time to time.

Chapter 26 Christmas Party

Yes, you read that correctly. We are finally celebrating our Chapter 26 Christmas Party! Please join us on Saturday, January 31, 2026, as we come together to enjoy fellowship, laughter, and the company of one another. More details will be shared soon by Katelin Welles, our new Chapter Adjutant (acting). If you plan to attend, we kindly ask that you notify Katelin via email and let her know how many guests will be at your party. We also ask that each attendee bring a side dish to share, helping make this gathering warm, welcoming, and abundant for all.

Raffle Winners

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone who participated in our TV and Scratch-Off Raffles held on December 13, 2025. Your generosity and support truly make a difference. Congratulations to Mrs. Wanda Gough, the winner of the VIZIO 75" Class 4K UHD LED HDR Smart TV, and to Mr. Ralph Gough, the winner of the \$300 Scratch-Off Picture Frame with a \$100 bill displayed at its center. Every dollar raised will go directly toward supporting the mission of Chapter 26. Once again, thank you for your continued support, and congratulations to our winners! We are deeply grateful to each of you.

Thank You, Sheila Edwards, and Congratulations to Our Incoming Adjutant, Katelin Welles

While it is bittersweet to see Sheila step away from her role as Chapter Adjutant, we do so with immense gratitude and appreciation for all she has given to Chapter 26. Sheila served with dedication, professionalism, and heart, and her impact in this role will be felt for a long time to come. We are thankful that she will continue to serve the Chapter as our Treasurer, where her knowledge, commitment, and steady leadership remain invaluable to our success.

Speaking from personal experience, serving as an Adjutant is one of the most important and eye-opening roles within the DAV. It is where you truly learn the inner workings of the organization. The responsibility, the coordination, and the unseen effort that keeps everything moving forward. Much like military service itself, it is a humbling position that teaches respect for every role and every person who serves. Starting at this level builds a strong foundation and a deep appreciation for what it means to represent our veterans and this organization with integrity.

Katelin, congratulations as you step into this important role. I am confident you will do an outstanding job, and please know you will never walk this path alone. If you need background information, assistance with documentation, or support with personnel coordination in Baltimore, you can always reach out to Chapter Commander James Williams, Sheila Edwards, Kelly Major, or myself. We are here to support you fully and ensure this transition is as smooth and successful as possible.

Once again, thank you, Sheila, for your service and continued dedication. and congratulations, Katelin! We are grateful for both of you and the heart you bring to Chapter 26.

Upcoming Officer Nominations, Elections, and Installation Schedule

Each DAV Chapter conducts annual officer nominations, elections, and installations in accordance with established procedures. For Fiscal Years 2026-2027, DAV Chapter 26 will hold officer nominations on **February 5, 2026**, elections on **March 5, 2026**, and the installation of newly elected officers in **April 2026**.

As we look to the future, our Chapter is seeking members who bring new ideas, fresh perspectives, and an understanding of emerging technologies. Leaders who are willing to make a meaningful difference and inspire others to get involved. We need motivated individuals who will engage, lead, and help strengthen our Chapter.

We also encourage you to network with fellow veterans, with whom you share a unique bond built on comradeship, camaraderie, brotherhood, and sisterhood. Your experiences, voice, and leadership matter to our organization. This is not just about joining an organization. It is about being active, offering a helping hand, and serving one another.

If you are a member in good standing, we invite you to attend these meetings. Come meet us. We have so much to share, and there is a place for you here.

Donations

With heartfelt gratitude, thank you to **Mr. and Mrs. Tim Fullerton** for their incredibly generous **\$1,000 donation**. Your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the veterans and families we serve.

Because of donations and fundraisers like yours, our Chapter is able to continue its mission and remain active within the community. Your kindness and generosity are vital to our ability to move forward, grow, and provide continued support to those who have sacrificed so much.

If others are interested in supporting DAV Chapter 26, donations may be made by check payable to **DAV Chapter 26, St. Mary's MD**, and mailed to **P.O. Box 496, Patuxent River, MD 20670**. All donations are tax-deductible.

Once again, thank you for your compassion, generosity, and unwavering support. It is truly appreciated and never taken for granted.

Respectfully,

Maira Callis
DAV Chapter 26 Historian

Chapter #26 Officer's

CHAPTER #26			
2025-2026			
*Commander	James Williams	301-741-6846	james-wms42@outlook.com
*Senior Vice Commander	Mike Jones	253-606-4408	shotgroup@hotmail.com
*1 st Junior Vice Cdr.	Kelly Major	240-818-1410	lorimaj1983@yahoo.com
*2 nd Junior Vice Cdr.	Matt Langford	240-925-6285	Itaircraftsar@gmail.com
*3 rd Junior Vice Cdr.	Reggie Harris	443-538-4138	redgeeknow@outlook.com
* Treasurer	Sheila Edwards	240-216-4013	sedinards101461@gmail.com
+ Chief of Staff	Mike Jones	253-606-4408	shotgroup@hotmail.com
+Adjutant (Acting)	Katelin Welles		ctips@comcast.net
+Chaplain	Reggie Harris	443-538-4138	redgeeknow@outlook.com
*Judge Advocate	Ralph Gough	301-904-0582	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	James Williams	301-741-6846	james-wms42@outlook.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	Ralph Gough	301-904-0582	regoughsr.151@gmail.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Reggie Harris	443-538-4138	redgeeknow@outlook.com
+Chapter Service Officer	Matt Langford	240-925-6285	Itaircraftsar@gmail.com

*Elected +Appointed

Editors Notes

(Maira Callis, macalex0077@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.

Annual Chapter 26 Members, Volunteers, Family, & Friends Christmas Party: Event scheduled for Saturday, January 31, 2026.

VA claims services resumed on 7 January 2026

Our February Chapter meeting will be held on the first Thursday of the month – 5 February 2026.

- **Executive Committee Meeting:** 5:45 PM
- **Regular Chapter Membership Meeting:** 7:00 PM

Location: Local Lodge 4 Machinists Union Hall

Chapter Calendar

January 2026

01	-----	New Years Day	Happy New Year!
08	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
08	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
10	1100-1300	DEC Meeting	8068 Quarterfield Rd, Severn, MD
19	-----	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day	Holiday
31	-----	Chapters Christmas Party	Union Hall (21795 Suite C, N. Shangri-La Drive, Lex Park, MD)



February 2026

02	Ground Hog Day	Union Hall	
05	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
05	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
05	1900	Chapter Nominations	Union Hall
14	Valentine's Day	Cupid Day	
16	Presidents Day	Washington Birthday - Federal Holiday	
18	Ash Wednesday	Start of Lent	



March 2026

05	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
05	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
05	1900	Chapter Elections	Union Hall
17	Luck of the Irish	St. Patrick's Day	
20	Spring Equinox	First day of Spring	
29	-----	Vietnam Veterans Day	



THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS' ORGANIZATION IS CHARTERED TO
FULFILL OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED.

Happy New Year!!!



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.

