



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.

June 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

Greetings to all.

Our Chapter attended the DAV's 79th Convention in Ocean City, MD and I have to tell you we came back recertified as Chapter Service Officers (CSOs) as well as received a couple of awards, and lots of training. One of the awards were due to the Chapters kindness to other Chapters, especially to the Department of Puerto Rico when they got hit with a 6.4 magnitude earthquake southeast of the Island on 7 January 2020. Most of the southeast was damaged and over 150 houses were destroyed. Although, the award states it was due to Hurricane Fiona. However, when their department needed from other DAV Departments or Chapters, we stepped in to help with the Disaster relief fund that devastated the Island and took away many of our comrades' homes. We assisted as humanitarians should assist. We supported them 100%!

The 2nd award was for Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) and received a \$500.00 dollar check for the most LVAP Hours submitted in the year. So, you see, submitting your monthly LVAP hours are beneficial to the Chapter. Just know that your time is valuable when you help other veterans by mowing their grass, driving them to doctor appointments, visiting a veteran, participating in information seminars, assisting with VA claims, doing fundraisers, making a phone call to a veteran, and many more volunteers hours spent you can count as LVAP hours.

At the 79th Ocean City Convention we learned of the New Suicide & Prevention line to dial 988 and press 1 for the hotline. Remember that the 27th of June 2023 is PTSD Awareness Day. For our Comrades, PTSD is an everyday battle. Therefore, reach out to your comrades on a daily basis. You'll never know how important that call, text, visit, or email can impact their/our lives.

Finally, I cannot stress the importance of joining the Commanders Action Network (CAN). This DAV supported Legislation makes a difference in our lives and you are detrimental to making Legislation approve these bills that will benefit our Veterans. Veterans' issues are solved through Legislation. Join today at: https://dav.quorum.us/sign_in/. Want to know more about it? <https://www.dav.org/about-dav/legislation/>.

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

Happy Father's Day! Next DAV Executive & Monthly Meetings scheduled for Thursday, 15 June 2023 at the Wildwood Community Center. All elected & appointed officers please attend the Executive Meeting at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully,
Maira Callis
Chapter 26 Commander

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF



Greetings Chapter 26. As you may already know your Chapter 26 CSOs and delegates were in Ocean City for the week of May 21st through May 26th. All Chapter CSOs were once again certified and our delegates cast their votes. It was a little chilly for the week so I decided against surfing -lol. But all in all everything went very well.

The new State Commander Mattie Whitfield accepted her new office and I'm quite sure we all wish her the best. I would also like to acknowledge Michelle Sequinot who works behind the scene to keep the state running smoothly. She is the one who makes the "trains run on time" as the saying goes.

The Chapter will be presenting an award to Chesapeake PC for the extraordinary service they provided to us. They upgraded the WIFI system at Local 4 and then programed the CSO laptops to operate our new printer. The time and effort this has saved cannot be overstated. Just another feature to provide our veterans the best service we can. No effort is too great!

The CSOs are working to provide a claims seminar around the last week of July. We were asked by the Local 4 if we would once again do this and we readily accepted the invitation. We do this not only for the veterans but as a small token of appreciation for the Local 4 allowing us to use the hall on Wednesdays for claims. Most likely the seminar will be there from about 1000-1400. All Chapter members are encouraged to stop by if you have claims issues and we will help you also.

I don't usually look forward to classroom work at the State Convention but I was pleasantly surprised this year. Maira and I attended a class being taught by NSO Craig Barnes and he did a great job. Very informative and the class was fast moving. Works for me.

On a slightly more personal note. My wife Nancy and I celebrated our 34th anniversary on May 24th while at the convention. She must be a saint!

Enjoy the summer Chapter 26.

Working for you,
George Cheverton





Vaughn McCall has changed his room to room 318, B section, at Charlotte Hall. He is doing ok. **Greg Olson** has been diagnosed with Kidney Stones.

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



The Wooden Bowl

AS FATHER'S DAY APPROACHES, I REMEMBER AN OLD STORY I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU.

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year-old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. 'We must do something about father,' said the son. 'I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor.' So, the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl!

When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, 'What are you making?' Just as sweetly, the boy responded, 'Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up.' The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents so that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days, he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

On a positive note, we should learn:

No matter what happens, how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

That you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles four things:

- 1) a rainy day, the elderly, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.
- 2) making a 'living' is not the same thing as making a 'life.'
- 3) life sometimes gives you a second chance.
- 4) you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back sometimes.

If you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But, if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

Whenever we decide something with an open heart, it usually is the right decision.

Even when we have pains, do not be one.

Every day, we should reach out and touch someone.

People love the human touch -- holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

BITS AND PIECES



Flag Day



The resolution was adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The resolution was made following the report of a special committee which had been assigned to suggest the flag's design.

A flag of this design was first carried into battle on September 11, 1777, in the Battle of the Brandywine.

The American flag was first saluted by a foreign naval vessel on February 14, 1778, when the Ranger, bearing the Stars and Stripes and under the command of Captain Paul Jones, arrived in a French port.

The flag first flew over a foreign territory in early 1778 at Nassau, Bahama Islands, where Americans captured a British fort.

Both President Wilson, in 1916, and President Coolidge, in 1927, issued proclamations asking for June 14 to be observed as the National Flag Day. But it was not until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved the national observance, and President Harry Truman signed it into law.



HISTORY OF THE PURPLE HEART DAY



George Washington awarded the original Purple Heart, designated as a Badge of Merit, in 1782. There was a lack of funds in the Continental Army at the time so the award was a way to honor enlisted and deserving people. The honor is presented to soldiers for "any singularly meritorious action." It was designed with a piece of silk bound through it with a thin edge of silver. Washington only gave out three of the badges himself, and instead authorized subordinates to issue the badges as they saw fit.

The Badge of Merit faded from use but was revived and launched in 1932, this time as the Purple Heart. As well as honoring those wounded in combat, this iteration of the Purple Heart recognized commendable action. It was in 1944 that the policy was tweaked slightly and the Purple Heart was given the purpose we know it for today, specifically to honor those who have been wounded or died in combat.

Purple Heart Day (August 7) was first observed in 2014 and has been observed every year since. It is a chance to reflect on the bravery of those who have fought for the United States and to ensure that their courage is never forgotten. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THOSE MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 26 WHO ARE RECIPIENTS OF THE PURPLE HEART.**

Types of Military Discharges

Honorable Discharge

Honorable discharges indicate that service members performed well and completed their service obligations.

Other Than Honorable Discharge

Security violations, trouble with civilian authorities, assault, drug use or possession and other problems can motivate an OTH discharge. An OTH discharge prevents military members from reenlisting and may impact civilian employment prospects.

General Discharge

A service member who receives a general discharge may have served well in some areas but still demonstrated misconduct or an inability to adapt to the military environment

Bad Conduct Discharge

Only a court-martial can pass down a bad conduct discharge. Bad conduct discharges may accompany a prison sentence, depending on the nature and severity of the service member's conduct. They can also prevent discharged military members from re-enlisting and impact their future opportunities and benefit eligibility.

Dishonorable Discharge

A dishonorable discharge also requires a court-martial. It is the most severe punitive discharge a military member can receive. Desertion, murder, fraud and other crimes that violate the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) can lead to a dishonorable discharge. If you received a dishonorable discharge, you are ineligible for military benefits and future military or federal employment.

Entry-Level Separation

A new recruit that cannot complete basic training or their military occupational training may receive an entry-level discharge or entry-level separation. A recruit can only receive an entry-level separation if they have served for less than 180 days.

Medical Separation

Military members may receive a medical discharge if they become too sick or injured to perform their military duties. Medical discharges require a medical evaluation and a medical board review, which can be a lengthy process.

Separation for the convenience of the Government

Military branches may separate a recruit or military member **"for the convenience of the government"** due to budget constraints, force reductions or circumstances that interfere with service members' ability to perform their duties, including personal hardships.

For further information visit: [The Different Types of Military Discharges \(veteran.com\)](https://www.veteran.com/military-discharges)





Chapter #26 Officer's



<u>CHAPTER #26</u>			
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	Linda Hill	571-364-5150	lynndasrh@gmail.com
Past 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)

Veterans Crisis Hotline: New suicide and prevention line is 988 and press 1.

LVAP Coordinator: Our LVAP Coordinator is Maira Callis. Please email your hours to her. They may also be given to Maira at any meeting.

No cost American Flag: The post office in Solomons will furnish anyone who needs an American Flag for a funeral. Contact Theresa Smith (Postmaster) at 410-326-3193.

Battle of Midway Ceremony: The following individuals represented Chapter 26 at the Battle of Midway Ceremony at the Pax River Theater: Ralph Gough, James Williams, Lou Dunn, Bob Jones, Mike Bosak,

Chapter Calendar

Temporary Date Change

June

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|---|--|
| --- | ----- | Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) awareness month | |
| 14 | ----- | Happy Birthday U.S. Army | 1775 |
| 14 | ----- | Flag Day | Event in Leonardtown |
| 15 | 1745-1845 | Executive Meeting | Wildwood Community Association |
| 15 | 1900 | General Meeting | Wildwood Community Association |
| 19 | ----- | Juneteenth | Emancipation of enslaved African Americans |

July

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 04 | ----- | Independence Day | |
| 06 | 1745-1845 | Executive Meeting | Wildwood Community Association |
| 06 | 1900 | General Meeting | Wildwood Community Association |
| 27 | ----- | Korean War Ended | 1953 |

August

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|--|--------------------------------|
| 03 | 1745-1845 | Executive Meeting | Wildwood Community Association |
| 03 | 1900 | General Meeting | Wildwood Community Association |
| 04 | ----- | Happy Birthday U.S. Coast Guard | 1790 |
| 07 | ----- | General Washington established the Purple Heart decoration | 1782 |



NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

July 06

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



Disabled American Veterans
Assisting Those Who Served



Chapter 26





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.

