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

Chapter #26, Chartered April 25, 1974

FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

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

July/October 2026



DAV Chapter #26 Contact Telephone Number - 240-925-5439 (8am to 5pm)
Web Site: https://www.davch26stmarysmd.com/

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER





Greetings Comrades,

On behalf of DAV Chapter 26, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all our members and volunteers for your continued dedication, generosity, and support. Your commitment to our mission makes a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans, their families, and survivors throughout our community.

Thank you for standing together in service and helping us continue to make a positive impact. Your contributions are valued, and your commitment to our fellow veterans is truly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Matt Langford
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:

Greetings Comrades, Life as we know is far from where we are today. We have grown "older" but not "old," and time seem to move a little faster these days. Memories of our time in service are becoming a blur but looking back at our accomplishments seem to perk us up to the point where at times we feel as if we have taken a trip back in time. As the Chaplain for Chapter #26, I would like to encourage you to Read Deuteronomy 6:5 in your bibles where it says, "And we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength." Understanding that the ***Heart*** is the core control center and truly the essence of who we are, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. We can also see that our ***Soul*** consist of our mind, our will, and our emotions that show us and others who we really are, as it displays our love, joy, happiness, sadness, grief, anger, fear, guilt and shame, and even when we are surprised about something. Then there is our ***Strength*** which is not only our physical abilities but how we manage our mental and emotional behaviors. So, let's remember to focus on the positive aspects of our life and how God has brought us through the many trials and tribulations of our extended life here on earth and if He did it before, He is more than able to do it again. So, going forward, let us smile more, read a good book or should I say, "The Good Book," and let us laugh more often, after all it is God who is in control.

PRAYER CALL: Let us all continue to take an opportunity out of our busy day to continue in prayer for our Chapter and all our fellow Comrades, our families and friends regarding each other's comfort, healing, and guidance. Let us always be willing to check on our fellow Veterans who are seeking our untiring and unwavering support. Let us also, help our CSO's to stay encouraged to provide the best service to **"ALL"** fellow Veterans who need guidance to obtain their benefits no matter where we find ourselves. Also, remember to pray for guidance for yourself, and examine yourself, rather what you are doing is helpful or hurtful. Let us also remember we want to be builders and not like those who just want to tear things down.

Remember as always, if you or anyone you know or maybe one of your family members are willing to allow me to pray for a need, please do not hesitate to contact me at **reggie.harris.dav@gmail.com.** Stay connected with the Chapter, and the mission of the DAV to understanding Veterans helping Veterans is a mind set to be respected. Once again, I encourage those of you that have not attended the Monthly Chapter Meetings to let that be an event you place on your to-do list as a member of this great nation of military Veterans. Our meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm, hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Reggie Harris
Chaplain, DAV Chapter #26

Lou “Corky” Dunn: A Life of Service - Still Answering the Call

There are people who wear a uniform, complete their assignment, and move on. Then there are people whose commitment to service becomes a part of who they are. Comrade Lou “Corky” Dunn, U.S. Coast Guard, Retired, is one of those people.

Lou’s story began in Southeast Washington, D.C., where he was born in August 1944. On May 6, 1964, Lou married Terry Uglow in La Plata, Maryland. Together, they raised two children, Yvonne Dunn-Whisler and Louis C. Dunn III.

24 Years of Service - Semper Paratus

On February 20, 1962, Lou began a Coast Guard career that would span nearly 24 years. His first assignment placed him with the deck force aboard the 205-foot Fleet Tug Cherokee. From there, his career took him across the country and into a variety of missions where the Coast Guard’s commitment to helping others was never far from the surface.

He served aboard Aids to Navigation maintenance and repair vessels Primrose and White Pine and later became Officer in Charge at Search and Rescue stations in Tilghman Island and Taylors Island, Maryland, and Dahlgren, Virginia. He also served as Executive Petty Officer at stations in Stillpond, Maryland, and Rio Vista, California.

Search and rescue were only part of the mission. These Coast Guard stations also worked alongside local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. During his time in California, Lou and his crew assisted the FBI in locating and providing armed backup for a sailing vessel on the Sacramento River suspected of carrying members of a motorcycle gang involved in drug transportation.

His career later brought him to Governors Island, New York, where he served as Chief in charge of the deck force aboard the High Endurance Cutter Dallas. During the Cold War, the Dallas carried an anti-submarine mission and was equipped with sonar, torpedo tubes, and a five-inch gun mount. The ship also had the distinction of serving as an escort vessel for the Queen of England during her visit to the United States for the Bicentennial.

Lou’s final Coast Guard assignment took him to Yorktown, Virginia, where he served as a Senior Instructor at the Boatswain’s Mate School. There, his experience placed him in some memorable moments in American history. He was among the Coast Guard personnel who helped train President George H. W. Bush’s Secret Service detachment in water rescue operations, and he was also part of the honor detail welcoming President Ronald Reagan to Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown for his scheduled meeting with French President François Mitterrand.

After 24 years of service, Lou retired from the Coast Guard on January 1, 1986, as an E-9.

But retirement did not mean the end of his service.

“The service was designed to assist people in need.”

When asked what stands out most from his Coast Guard career, Lou does not point to a title, assignment, or accomplishment.

His answer is simple:

“The service was designed to assist people in need and to help people in distress on the water.”

That statement says a great deal about the man behind the uniform.

A Second Career of Service

Lou's law enforcement experience led him to another chapter of public service as a DoD Police Officer at NAS Patuxent River. During his time as a police officer, he was also appointed Crime Prevention Officer. He later served as a Traditional Security Specialist and then as a Special Projects Security Specialist before retiring once again. Some people retire once.

Lou apparently needed the practice.

Still Answering the Call

Lou joined DAV Chapter 26 in 1987, and more than three decades later, his service to the Chapter remains part of his legacy. Over the years, he served as Newsletter Editor, Historian, and Public Information Officer. From 2016 through 2024, Lou wrote the Chapter's monthly newsletter for eight years, helping keep members connected and informed.

His Chapter service has included numerous committees and projects, along with recognition through three Appreciation Awards and one Dedication and Devotion Award.

And when Lou finally announced that he was stepping away from his position as Public Information Officer, it took nearly two years to find someone willing to take on the job.

That may say everything about how difficult it is to replace someone who has spent years simply showing up and getting the job done.

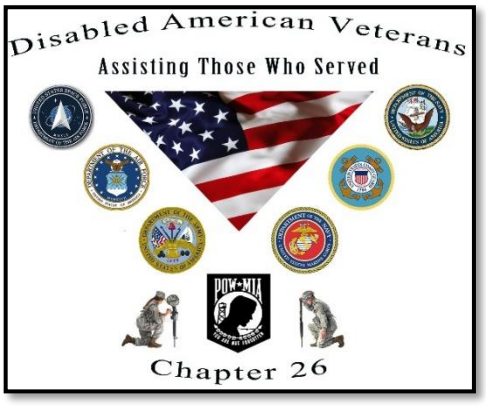
Even after stepping away from the position, Lou never truly stepped away from service. Whether it is a Chapter event, a project, or an opportunity to help another veteran, he continues to volunteer.

A Symbol of What Chapter 26 Stands For

Lou also left his mark on DAV Chapter 26 in a very visible way: he designed our Chapter logo.

His purpose was clear. He wanted the logo to communicate that Chapter 26 exists to help veterans from all branches of military service and to ensure that we never forget our comrades who are POW or MIA.

As Lou explained, sometimes a symbol can communicate what words cannot.



Giving Back - One Piece at a Time

In the summer of 2022, Lou began another creative chapter of his life: woodworking. What started as a new hobby eventually became another way for him to give back.

He began creating charcuterie boards around 2024, along with other woodworking projects. Some of his creations were donated for auction, with the proceeds benefiting the DAV Chapter 26 General Fund. To date, his woodworking has helped generate at least $400 for the Chapter.

For Lou, however, giving back has never been about recognition.

He believes people sometimes remember a tangible token of appreciation years after a piece of paper has been forgotten. More importantly, he wants those gifts to be understood as coming from the organization and from the Chapter, not from him personally.

That is Lou's way.

A Legacy That Continues

Lou Dunn's story is not simply about 24 years in the Coast Guard, another career in security and law enforcement, or the many positions he has held within DAV Chapter 26.

It is about a consistent willingness to serve, assist, teach, create, and give back.

From the decks of Coast Guard cutters and search-and-rescue stations, to NAS Patuxent River, to the DAV Chapter 26 meeting room, Lou has continued to answer the call.

And perhaps that is the best way to describe Lou "Corky" Dunn:

He served his country. He served his community. He served his fellow veterans. And he is still answering the call.

Semper Paratus - Always Ready.



Lou & Terry Dunn



Lou "Corky" Dunn
US Coast Guard (Retired)

Interview & Story by: Kelly Major

With: Comrade Lou "Corky" Dunn, U.S. Coast Guard (Retired) Lou Dunn personally reviewed and edited this story to ensure the accuracy of his service history and accomplishments.

Well Done, Comrades!

VA Claims Process – Part 2

DAV Initial VA Disability Claim Process Through Decision and Appeal Options

This process focuses on the journey from the veteran's first meeting with a DAV Certified Service Officer (CSO) through the VA's decision and the options available if the claim is denied.

So, what happens after the claim is submitted?

That is where the VA claims process really begins. In this edition, we continue the journey and explain what happens while the VA reviews the claim, what Veterans should know about Compensation & Pension examinations, and what happens when a decision is finally issued.

Step 4: VA Claim Review and Development

Once the claim is submitted, the VA begins reviewing the information and evidence provided.

During this stage, the VA may:

- Review the Veteran's service and medical records.
- Review evidence submitted with the claim.
- Request additional evidence or information.
- Obtain VA medical records.
- Request records from other federal agencies when appropriate.
- Schedule the Veteran for a **Compensation & Pension (C&P) examination** when necessary.

Why is this step important?

The evidence submitted with the claim must support the Veteran's contention that a disability is related to military service. If the VA determines that additional evidence is needed, the Veteran may receive a request for information or documentation.

Important: Read every VA letter carefully and respond within the timeframe provided.

Step 5: The Compensation & Pension (C&P) Examination

Not every claim requires a C&P examination. However, when the VA schedules one, it is an important part of the claims process.

The examination may help the VA determine:

- Whether the claimed condition exists.
- The severity of the condition.
- How the condition affects the Veteran.
- Whether there is a relationship between the condition and military service.

Before the Examination

Veterans should:

- Attend the scheduled examination.
- Be honest and accurate about their symptoms and limitations.
- Explain how the condition affects everyday activities and employment.

- Describe symptoms based on their actual experience, not what they think the examiner wants to hear.
- Bring relevant information if appropriate.

Remember: A C&P examination is not the time to minimize your symptoms. Clearly explain what you experience, including the frequency, severity, and functional impact of your condition.

Step 6: VA Rating Decision

After reviewing the evidence, examination results, and other information available, the VA decides on the claim.

The VA may:

Grant Service Connection
The VA determines that the disability is related to military service.

Assign a Disability Rating
The VA assigns a percentage based on the severity of the service-connected disability.

Assign an Effective Date
The VA establishes the date from which benefits are payable, subject to applicable laws and regulations.

Deny the Claim
The VA determines that the evidence does not establish entitlement to the benefit being claimed.

Read the Decision Carefully!

A VA decision is more than just a percentage.

Veterans should review:

- What conditions were granted.
- What conditions were denied.
- The disability rating assigned.
- The effective date.
- The evidence considered.
- The VA's reasons for its decision.

This is where your DAV Certified Service Officer can help.

If you disagree with any portion of the decision, contact your DAV CSO before deciding what to do next.

Step 7: What Happens If You Disagree with the VA Decision?

A denial does **not necessarily mean the end of the road.**

Under the VA's modernized appeals system, Veterans generally have three primary review options:

1. Supplemental Claim

A Supplemental Claim may be appropriate when the Veteran has **new and relevant evidence** that could help change the prior decision.

2. Higher-Level Review

A Higher-Level Review asks the VA to have a more senior reviewer reconsider the decision based on the evidence that was already in the record.

3. Board Appeal

A Veteran may also appeal to the **Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA)**.

The Board provides different appeal options, depending on the circumstances, and Veterans should carefully consider which option best fits their situation.

The Most Important Advice: Don't Ignore the VA Decision

If you receive a VA decision and do not agree with it:

STOP. READ. REVIEW. CONTACT YOUR DAV CSO.

Do not assume that a denial means you cannot pursue the claim. Do not miss applicable deadlines. Your DAV Certified Service Officer can review the decision with you and help explain the options available.

Coming Next Month...

We are not finished yet!

In our next edition, we will take a closer look at the **VA Appeals Process** and explain the differences between a **Supplemental Claim, Higher-Level Review, and Board Appeal.**

We'll also discuss an important question every Veteran should understand:

"What happens when the VA says NO, and what can you do about it?"

More to follow in next month's edition.

Sincerely,

Maira Callis
Historian
DAV Chapter 26

Handcrafted Donation from Lou Dunn

🎄 **Win this Beautiful Handmade Tray for Just $1!** 🎄



Support the DAV Chapter 26 Christmas Party!

Looking for a unique addition to your home décor or a special gift for someone you love? **Here's your chance to win a beautiful, handmade tray generously donated by Lou Dunn!**

This stunning, handcrafted piece showcases beautiful workmanship and thoughtful detail, making it a lovely addition to any home. Whether displayed as a decorative centerpiece or used to serve and entertain guests, it is a special piece that combines beauty and functionality.

🎟️ **Raffle Tickets: Just $1.00 Each!**

Best of all, **you do not need to be present to win!**

Every ticket purchased helps DAV Chapter 26 offset the cost of our upcoming **Christmas Party on December 12, 2026**, while supporting the fellowship and camaraderie of our Chapter members.

Item Dimensions: 17½" L × 10½" W × 4½" H

How to Participate

If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket but cannot obtain one in person, please email Maira Callis to coordinate your participation. You may also send your contribution to our official Chapter mailing address:

DAV Chapter 26 – St. Mary's, MD
P.O. Box 496, Patuxent River, MD 20670

Please include your contact information so we can coordinate your raffle entry.

A Special Thank-You to Lou Dunn!

Lou, thank you for your generosity and for donating such a beautifully crafted piece to benefit our Chapter. Your kindness helps make our Christmas celebration possible!

Every dollar makes a difference! DAV Chapter 26 is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting veterans, their families, and survivors. Donations are always appreciated and help us continue our mission of serving those who served our nation.

🎄 **Buy a ticket, support our Chapter, and you could take home this beautiful handmade treasure!**

Forget-Me-Not Volunteer Schedule

Spots highlighted in yellow need to be filled

DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Volunteer Shift Schedule

Event Name	DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser – Commissary NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670		
Event Dates	Sat, 24 October 2026 / Sun, 25 October 2026	Event Time	9am – 5pm / 10am – 6pm

NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	9am – 1pm	Sat, 24 Oct 26	Phone Number & Email
Tom Thomas	X		
Reggie Harris	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	**1pm – 5pm**	**Sat, 24 Oct 26**	**Phone Number & Email**
Lou Dunn	X		
Greg Olson	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	**10am – 2pm**	**Sun, 25 Oct 26**	**Phone Number & Email**
Matt Langford	X		
Michael Jones	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	**2pm – 6pm**	**Sun, 25 Oct 26**	**Phone Number & Email**
Kelly Major	X		
Maira Callis	X		
OVERALL TOTAL			

DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Volunteer Shift Schedule

Event Name	DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser – Commissary NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670		
Event Dates	Sat, 7 November 2026 / Sun, 8 November 2026	Event Time	9am – 5pm / 10am – 6pm

NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	9am – 1pm	Sat, 7 Nov 26	Phone Number & Email
Reggie Harris	X		
Sheila Edwards	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	**1pm – 5pm**	**Sat, 7 Nov 26**	**Phone Number & Email**
Greg Olson	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	**10am – 2pm**	**Sun, 8 Nov 26**	**Phone Number & Email**
Sheila Edwards	X		
Tom Thomas	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	**2pm – 6pm**	**Sun, 8 Nov 26**	**Phone Number & Email**
OVERALL TOTAL			

Veterans Resource Day (Volunteers needed)

Greetings, Comrades!

Let's come together and make a difference in the lives of our veterans!

The Department of Aging & Human Services is proud to host the 2026 Veterans Resource Day, an excellent opportunity for veterans, service members, and their families to connect with organizations that provide valuable resources, services, and support.

Event Details

- **Date:** Friday, November 6, 2026
- **Event Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- **Volunteer Arrival:** 8:00 a.m. for setup and to discuss assignments and determine where everyone is needed.
- **Location:** University of Maryland – Southern Maryland
- **Address:** 44219 Airport Road, California, MD (Park in the Back)

What to Expect

- **DAV Chapter 26 will be on-site** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to answer questions and assist veterans with VA claims.
- More than **20 organizations** will be available to support veterans and service members.
- **Free lunch** will be provided by Mission BBQ at noon.
- The event is **free and open to the public**. Veterans, service members, friends, and family members are all welcome!

DAV Chapter 26 Needs Your Support!

Comrades, this is an opportunity to put our mission into action! We need volunteers to help represent DAV Chapter 26 and spread the word about the services we provide to veterans and their families.

Volunteers are encouraged to arrive at **8:00 a.m.** to help set up, review the day's activities, and discuss assignments so we can determine where each person is needed most.

You do not have to be a Certified Service Officer to make a difference. You can help by welcoming attendees, talking with fellow veterans, answering general questions about DAV, and directing those who need assistance to our Claims Service Officers.

Every conversation matters. Every veteran we reach matters. Every volunteer makes a difference. Your presence could help connect a veteran or family member with benefits, resources, and assistance they may not know are available.

Please consider volunteering your time, even if you can only assist for part of the event. Let's show our community what DAV Chapter 26 stands for: **Veterans helping veterans!**

Thank you for your continued dedication, generosity, and commitment to serving those who served our country.

Respectfully,

Maira Callis
DAV Chapter 26 Historian

Veteran Resource Day (VRD) Volunteers
6 Nov 26 – 0800 to 1400 (Free Continental Breakfast & @ 1200 Lunch)

Name	Position (CSO, Greeter, Runner, etc.)
Maira Callis	DAV Chapter 26 VRD Volunteer Chairperson
Matt Langford	Greeter
Kelly Major	CSO
Lou Dunn	Runner / Gopher
Reggie Harris	CSO
Bob Priddy	Greeter
Sheila Edwards	CSO
Thomas Ridley	Greeter / Runner

Veterans Day Parade

DAV Chapter 26 to Participate in the 2026 St. Mary's County Veterans Day Parade!

Comrades,

DAV Chapter 26 is proud to participate in the **St. Mary's County Veterans Day Parade** on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, in Leonardtown, Maryland! This is a wonderful opportunity to come together, honor our nation's veterans, and proudly represent DAV Chapter 26 in our community.

Lou Dunn, DAV Chapter 26 Parade Chairperson, and Kelly Major, Co-Chairperson, will coordinate our participation. The Chapter will have **two trucks in the parade, with space for six additional participants!** Spots will be filled on a **first-come, first-served basis**, so don't wait to reserve your place.

Interested in participating? Please RSVP directly to Lou Dunn at: dunnlc20653@gmail.com or Kelly Major at: lorimaj1983@yahoo.com as soon as possible to secure your spot. Let's show our community the pride, dedication, and unity that make DAV Chapter 26 strong!

Parade Details

- **Date:** Wednesday, November 11, 2026
- **Parade Start Time:** 10:00 a.m. (If participating be there before 0800)
- **Location:** Leonardtown, Maryland
- **Route:** Begins at St. Mary's Ryken High School and proceeds into Leonardtown Square.
- **Ceremony:** A Memorial Wreath-Laying Ceremony will follow the parade in the Town Square.
- **Admission:** Free and open to the public.

The parade will feature local high school marching bands, military units, color guards, classic cars, fire and emergency vehicles, and community organizations coming together to honor those who have served our country.

Parking and Traffic Information

Spectator parking will be available at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, the St. Mary's County Governmental Center near the Carter State Office Building, and College of Southern Maryland parking lots. Free shuttle service will operate between designated parking areas and downtown Leonardtown.

Please plan ahead: Washington Street and Fenwick Street leading into downtown Leonardtown will be closed to traffic from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Let's make DAV Chapter 26 visible and proud as we honor our veterans! We look forward to seeing our Comrades come together for this special Veterans Day celebration.

For participation and reservations, please contact Lou Dunn, Parade Chairperson.

Respectfully,

DAV Chapter 26
Lou Dunn
Kelly Major



DAV Chapter 26 Extends Our Sincere Appreciation to Donny Williams

DAV Chapter 26 would like to extend our sincere appreciation to **Donny Williams, Program and Initiatives Specialist with ServingTogether, a program of EveryMind**, for joining us at our monthly meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2026.

Donny provided an informative and engaging presentation about the many ways ServingTogether supports veterans, service members, and their families by connecting them with valuable resources and services. His presentation helped our members better understand how ServingTogether works to address the diverse needs of the military and veteran community.

ServingTogether helps individuals navigate available resources, connect with community organizations, and access support in areas such as mental health, caregiver assistance, and other essential services. Through regional collaborations, resource events, and training opportunities, the organization strengthens partnerships among providers to ensure veterans and their families receive the assistance they need.

We also appreciate learning about the **Calvert County Veteran Services Program**, which provides veterans with opportunities to connect with local resources and receive assistance within their community.

Donny's time, knowledge, and dedication to serving those who have served our country reflect the importance of collaboration and community support. His presentation gave DAV Chapter 26 members valuable insight into additional resources we can share with the veterans and families we assist.

Thank you, Donny, for your time, your commitment to our veteran community, and your continued efforts to ensure that those who serve our nation know where to turn for support. DAV Chapter 26 appreciates the work you and ServingTogether do to make a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans and their families.

To learn more about ServingTogether and its available resources, visit www.EveryMind.org/ServingTogether or www.EveryMind.org





Michael Jones (Sr. Vice Commander) & Donny Williams (Program & Initiatives Specialist)

DAV Chapter 26 Supports Farmers Feeding St. Mary's

From local farmers to our community's tables!

DAV Chapter 26 was proud to support the annual **Farmers Feeding St. Mary's** program, hosted by Nicoletta Pollice and her dedicated staff, providing fresh produce and meat to community members in need.

Our Comrades went the extra mile to ensure food reached those unable to travel to the distribution sites. **Kelly Major, Matt Langford, Greg Olson, and Maira Callis** volunteered as drivers and delivery runners, bringing food to Cedar Lane Senior Living Community, veterans without transportation, Three Oaks Center shelters, local food pantries, and other senior citizens.

This outreach was a truly rewarding experience, reminding us that serving others goes beyond our regular Chapter activities. Every delivery represented an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our dedicated volunteers for their time and compassion, and to Nicoletta Pollice and her staff for providing the food and helping make this initiative a success. Your generosity embodies the spirit of community service!

2026 Food Distribution Events

- **August 13, 2026:** Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, 46900 S. Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park, MD | 2:00–7:00 p.m.
- **September 12, 2026:** U-Haul Parking Lot, 46041 Signature Lane, Lexington Park, MD | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

The events offered seasonal produce, including corn, tomatoes, squash, and more. Distribution continued until closing time or while supplies lasted, with one box of produce per family unit.

This community initiative was supported by St. Mary's County government departments, the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Feed St. Mary's.

DAV Chapter 26 is proud to serve our veterans and our community. One delivery and one act of kindness at a time!



DAV Chapter 26 Installation Luncheon:
Celebrating Leadership, Service, & Comradeship - FY2026-2027

DAV Chapter 26 extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make our **Installation Luncheon on Saturday, July 11, 2026**, a wonderful and memorable celebration!

We proudly welcomed our newly installed Commander, **Matt Langford**, and honored our outgoing Commander, **James Williams**, for his dedicated service, leadership, and commitment to our Chapter and the veterans we serve. We thank both Commanders for their contributions and continued dedication to the DAV mission.

A special thank-you goes to **IAMAW Local Lodge 4 (International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers)** for graciously providing the venue for our event and for its valued partnership with DAV Chapter 26. Your continued support and commitment to serving those who have served our nation are deeply appreciated. Partnerships like yours strengthen our mission and help us make a lasting difference in the lives of veterans, their families, and survivors in our community.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the luncheon's success by bringing a dish, helping with setup, assisting with cleanup, or volunteering their time. Your generosity and teamwork truly reflect the spirit of DAV Chapter 26.

A special thank-you to **Lou Dunn for donating a beautiful charcuterie board as a raffle prize to benefit our Chapter**. This thoughtful contribution was greatly appreciated and helps support our ongoing efforts to serve veterans and their families.

Thank you to everyone who came together to celebrate, serve, and support DAV Chapter 26! Your involvement makes our Chapter stronger and allows us to continue fulfilling our mission in the community.

Below are a few photos capturing special moments from this memorable afternoon of fellowship, appreciation, and a shared commitment to our veterans.

Together, we honor our leaders, celebrate our Comrades, and continue serving those who served us.










I.A.M.A.W.
Local Lodge No. 4
Proudly Serving

















Chapter #26 Officer's

Chapter #26 2026-2027	Officer Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address
*Commander	Matt Langford	240-925-6285	ltaircraftsar@gmail.com
*Senior Vice Commander	Mike Jones	253-606-4408	shotgroup@hotmail.com
*1st Junior Vice Cdr.	Kelly Major	240-818-1410	lorimaj1983@yahoo.com
*2nd Junior Vice Cdr.	Tom Thomas	281-744-3924	Tomthom48@hotmail.com
*3rd Junior Vice Cdr.	Reggie Harris	443-538-4138	redgeeknow@outlook.com
* Treasurer	Sheila Edwards	240-216-4013	sedinards101461@gmail.com
+ Chief of Staff	Vacant		
+Adjutant	Sheila Edwards	240-216-4013	sedinards101461@gmail.com
+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	Vacant		
+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	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	ltaircraftsar@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.

VA claims services every Wednesday from 0930 to 1230

- VA Claims this FY (1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027) = 101 claims – Bravo Zulu

Our October & subsequent Chapter meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

- Executive Committee Meeting: 5:45 PM
- Chapter Membership Meeting: Starts at 7:00 PM - Location: Local Lodge 4 Machinists Union Hall

LVAPS (Volunteer Hours)

- Please turn in by the 7th of each month

Veterans Day Parade 11 November 2026

- Lou Dunn – Chairperson
- Kelly Major – Co Chair

Chapter Calendar

October 2026

08	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
08	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
10	-------	DEC Meeting	War Memorial, Baltimore
12	-------	Indigenous People's Day	Federal Holiday
13	-------	US Navy Birthday	251st Anniversary of the US Navy
22-29	-------	Early Voting	Early Voting in St. Mary's (See Locations Below)
24-25	-------	Forget-Me-Not	NAS Pax River Commissary Fundraiser
26	-------	National day of the Deployed	Honors deployed service members & their Families
27	-------	Navy Day	Honors Navy Day
31	-------	Halloween	Trick or Treats

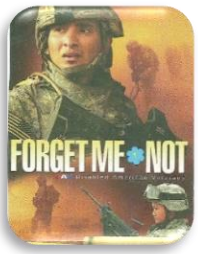
November 2026

01	-------	Daylight Savings Time Ends	When clocks fall back one hour
03	-------	Election Day	2026 US Elections
06	-------	Veterans Resource Day	University of MD 44219 Airport Road, California, MD
7-8	-------	Forget-Me-Not	NAS Pax River Commissary Fundraiser
10	-------	US Marine Corps Birthday	251st Anniversary of the US Marine Corps
11	-------	Veterans Day	Federal Holiday
11	-------	Veterans Day Parade	Chapter 26 will represent (POC's, Lou Dunn & Kelly Major)
12	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
12	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
26	-------	Thanksgiving Day	Federal Holiday

December 2026

07	-------	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Flag flown at half-staff until sunset
10	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
10	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
12	-------	Chapter 26 Christmas Party	Location TBD
13	-------	National Guard Birthday	
19	-------	National Wreaths Across America Day	
25	-------	Christmas Day	Federal Holiday
31	-------	New Year's Eve	Federal Holiday

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



St. Mary's Early Voting Locations:

Saint Mary's County (3 centers)

- Bay District Firehouse 46900 South Shangri-La Drive Lexington Park, MD 20653
- Hollywood Firehouse Main Bldg. 24801 Three Notch Road Hollywood, MD 20636
- Mechanicsville Firehouse 28165 Hills Club Road Mechanicsville, MD 20659



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, SAILOR, AIRMAN OR MARINE WHO DIED PROTECTING IT.



