



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.

May 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,

Acceptance Speech at Disabled American Veteran Chapter

A Grateful Moment

Introduction

Good evening, everyone,

I stand before you today with profound gratitude and immense honor as I accept the privilege of serving our cherished Disabled American Veteran Chapter. It has been a long journey that has brought us all together here, and I am humbled to be entrusted with this responsibility.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to our veterans, whose courage and sacrifices define the very essence of patriotism. Each of you has faced challenges that many can scarcely imagine, yet you have come through with unwavering determination and resilience. You are the heroes who have fought for our freedom, and it is because of you that we live in a nation that cherishes liberty and justice.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Past Commander Maira Callis and to the members of this chapter who have worked tirelessly to support our veterans. Your dedication to improving the lives of those who have served is truly commendable. To the outgoing leadership, thank you for your guidance and for laying the foundation upon which we will continue to build.

Commitment to Service

As I accept this role, I am reminded of the words of President John F. Kennedy: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is with this spirit of action that I commit myself to serving our chapter with integrity, compassion, and unwavering dedication.

We have a duty to ensure that every veteran receives the support they need in their journey towards healing and reintegration. This includes access to quality healthcare, employment opportunities, and educational resources. Together, we will advocate for policies that prioritize the well-being of our veterans, ensuring that their sacrifices are met with tangible support.

Vision for the Future

Looking ahead, there are several key areas I believe we must focus on to strengthen our chapter and extend our reach. Firstly, we must continue to build a robust network of support services that address the unique needs of disabled veterans. This includes mental health support, physical rehabilitation programs, and peer-to-peer mentoring.

Secondly, we must foster community engagement and collaboration. Our chapter is part of a larger community, and it is through partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and educational institutions that we can create a more inclusive environment for veterans. By working together, we can create opportunities for veterans to thrive in civilian life.

Empowerment and Advocacy

Empowerment is at the core of our mission. We must empower our veterans to reclaim their lives, pursue their goals, and achieve their aspirations. This involves not only providing resources but also fostering a sense of belonging and purpose. Our chapter will strive to be a place where veterans find camaraderie, support, and the encouragement to pursue their dreams.

Advocacy is equally important. We must be the voice of our veterans, ensuring that their needs are heard and addressed at all levels of government. This involves staying informed about legislative changes, participating in policy discussions, and mobilizing our community to support initiatives that benefit veterans.

Personal Reflection

On a personal note, becoming a part of this chapter is a deeply meaningful experience for me. I have seen firsthand the challenges and triumphs that come with serving our nation. It is this personal connection that drives my passion for supporting our veterans.

I am committed to listening to your stories, understanding your needs, and working tirelessly to make a difference. Every veteran has a unique journey, and it is our collective responsibility to honor that journey by providing unwavering support.

Closing Remarks

In closing, I would like to reiterate my gratitude for this opportunity. Serving our Disabled American Veteran Chapter is not just a role; it is a calling. I am inspired by the strength and resilience of our veterans, and I am dedicated to making a positive impact in their lives.

Together, we will continue to build a chapter that stands as a beacon of hope, support, and empowerment for all veterans. Let us move forward with determination, compassion, and a shared vision for a brighter future.

Thank you and may we all strive to be worthy of the sacrifices made by our heroic veterans.

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.

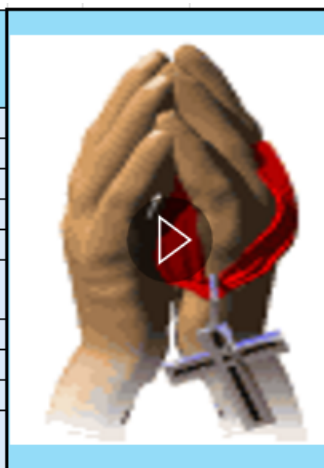


Fellow Chapter Members,

Prayer is important for each of us, and I believe that the more prayer the more power. Attached is a copy of the Chapter Prayer Board, I will update as necessary. Once I receive your prayer request, I will put it to prayer. I am associated with several Prayer Lines and Bible Study that have added prayer to our learning. DOE Men is a prayer group joined while working for the National Nuclear Security Administration at the Department of Energy as well as Dunamis which mean Power, and Noonday is a prayer group I joined since being retired. I will add each prayer request as led by the Holy Spirit, if for any reason you do not want your request associated with these groups, please let me know as I will respect your privacy. I will not mention your last names when adding you or your family member and friends to the board. On 26 April 2025 I attended a Chaplains Virtual Training Meeting discussing Estate Planning - Creating a Personal Record Book, Trusts, Wills-Establishing and Administering Wills in Maryland, Benefits and Distribution of Estate Resources, and Reverse Mortgages. I will share what I learn to the best of my ability. Thank you all for your prayers and your love of God, Country, Duty, and Honor. God bless America, its Veterans, and their families.

DAV CHAPTER 26 PRAYER BOARD

NAME	PRAYER REQUEST	DATE PRAYER BEGIN	PRAYER ANSWERED	PRAYER LINES		
				DOE MEN	NOON-DAY	DUNIMAS
Bob J.	Continual Healing	3-Apr-25				
Don G.	Health Issues	3-Apr-25				
James W.	Healing for Eyes	22-Apr-25				
Mark D.	Serious eye problems	26-Apr-25				
Mike B.	Cancer	1-Mar-25				
Bob P.	Health Issues	1-May-25				
Cheryl C.	Healing from Surgery	23-Apr-25				
Chapter 26	Success for New Installation Officers	25-Apr-25				



(Luke 18:1) - And He spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not faint

Sincerely, Reggie Harris

Please report all sickness to your chaplain.

Forget-Me-Not Volunteers 17 May 25



DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Volunteer Shift Schedule

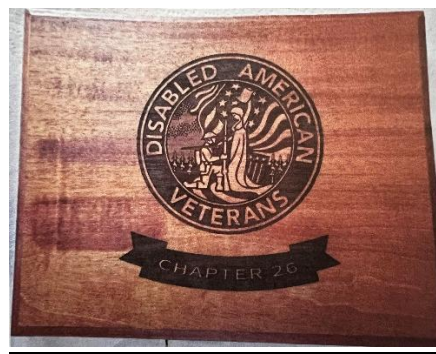
Event Name	DAV Chapter 26 Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser – Commissary NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670		
Event Dates	Sat, 17 May 2025	Event Time	9am – 6pm

NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	9am – 12pm	Sat, 17 May 25	Phone Number & Email
Tom Thomas	X		
James Williams	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	12pm – 3pm	Sat, 17 May 25	Phone Number & Email
Bob Priddy	X		
Reggie Harris	X		
NAS Pax River Commissary Volunteer	3pm – 6pm	Sat, 17 May 25	Phone Number & Email
Kelly Major	X		
Maira Callis	X		
Chapter 26 Back-up Volunteers		Sat, 17 May 25	Phone Number & Email
OVERALL TOTAL			

DAV Chapter 26 – Forget-Me-Not



***If you want to volunteer as back-up contact Maira Callis at: macalex0077@gmail.com**



**Many thanks to Lou & Carl Dunn for donating this stunning
11x14 cutting board – Your generosity is truly appreciated**

Chapter 26 Past/Present Officers and Members Installation Dinner



Stronger Together – United in Service & Friendship

**Chapter
Members,
Family, &
Friends**



**Bob &
Gwen
Jones**



Ralph & Wanda Gough



Bob & Trudy Priddy



CDR James Williams

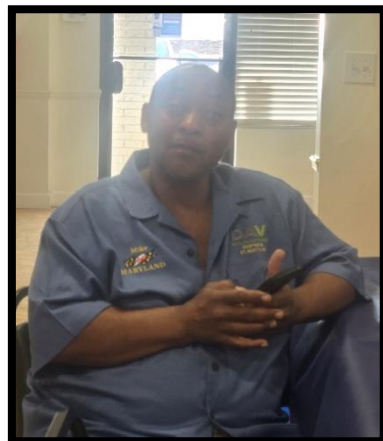
Celebrating connection, laughter, and friendship with our DAV Chapter family



Sheila Edwards



Nettie McCall, Terry Dunn & Family



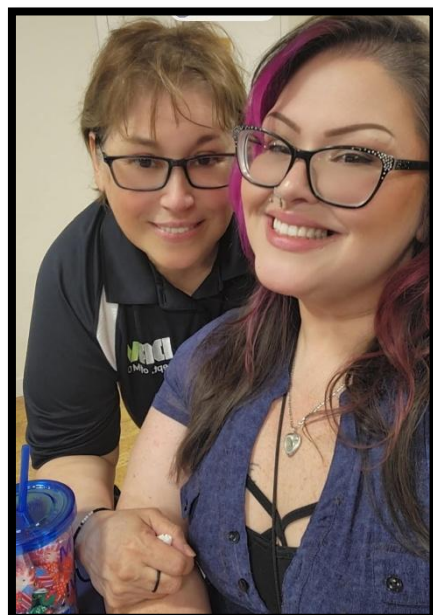
Mike Jones



Major Kelly



**Mia Williams Winner of the 11x14
Cutting Board created &
donated by Lou & Carl Dunn**



**Maira Callis & Daughter
Jessica Hernandez**



Greg Olson



Jessie Williams & Sons



Chaplain Reggie Harris

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	ltaircraftsar@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	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.com
+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	Maira Callis	240-577-4330	macalex0077@gmail.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	Thomas Ridley	Intentionally left blank	Tek_wear@hotmail.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.

Convention: The following individuals were elected to be Chapter 26 delegates: Ralph Gough, Kelly Major, James Williams, Sheila Edwards, Reggie Harris and Maira Callis.

NAS Pax River Sidewalk Sale: A sidewalk sale at the Navy Commissary means a special shopping event where eligible patrons can find extra savings on a variety of everyday products. Sidewalk sale is schedule for 15-18 May 2025.

Forget-Me-Not: Event scheduled for Saturday, 17 May 2025. While you are shopping at the Commissary for sidewalk sales stop on by and donate to the Chapter.

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

May 2025

01	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
01	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
03	1600-1900	Installation Dinner (Potluck)	Union Hall
15-18	0900-1800	NAS Pax River Sidewalk Sale	Base Commissary
*17	0900-1800	Forget Me Not	Base Commissary
18-23	-----	81 st 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	Union Hall
14	-----	Happy Birthday United States Army	1775
14	-----	Flag Day	Respect our Flag
15	-----	Father's Day	Time to remember Dad
19	-----	Juneteenth	



July 2025

01	1745-1845	Executive Meeting	Union Hall
01	1900	General Meeting	Union Hall
04		Independence Day	National Independence Day



***Forget-me-Not:** We still have time left to collect donations. The shifts will be three hours long 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.

