



Sons of The American Legion



"The Pride"

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

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Commander's Corner

It is hard to believe that we have less than four months remaining in this administrative year. Time truly does fly when you are having fun and working together to serve our veterans, communities, and the mission of the Sons of The American Legion.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who attended the Mid-Winter Conference. I hope you found the meetings productive, the camaraderie meaningful, and that you enjoyed your time together as members of The American Legion Family. Events like this allow us to share ideas, strengthen our programs, and continue building a stronger Detachment of Maryland. As a reminder, 2025 membership cards have now expired. Please make sure your squadrons are actively reaching out to members who have not yet renewed and encourage them to renew for the 2026 membership year. Membership remains the foundation of everything we do, and each renewal strengthens our ability to support veterans, youth, and our communities. Members can easily renew by visiting legion.org/sal-renew.

I would also like to remind all squadrons that it is imperative to submit your Consolidated Squadron

Report (CSR). Even if your squadron did not conduct activities this year, the report still needs to be completed and submitted to National Headquarters. These reports are essential for documenting the incredible work being done by the Sons across our state. These reports need to be completed via MyLegion or the form completed and emailed to National by the Squadron. Additionally, Squadron Data Reports (SDR) should have already been received. If your squadron is making any changes to your dues structure, you must complete and return this form so the changes can be properly recorded by National Headquarters. If no changes are being made, the form does not need to be submitted. All Squadron Commanders, Adjutants, and Advisors should be receiving regular email communication from the Detachment of Maryland. If you are not receiving these messages, please contact Assistant Adjutant Michael Brison at esradjutant@gmail.com so he can ensure your email address is correct. It is also a good idea to check your spam or junk folders to make sure our messages are not being filtered.

Over the coming months, I look forward to continuing my travels across the state and seeing firsthand the great work being done by our

squadrons. The dedication, creativity, and commitment of our members continue to make a tremendous impact in communities throughout Maryland. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported this year's Commander's Project benefiting Patriot Point. Your generosity and support mean a great deal, and with your continued help I am confident the project will be a great success.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to the Sons of The American Legion and for everything you do to support veterans, their families, and our communities.

"Sons Honoring Veterans Everyday"

Jason C. Miller
Detachment Commander

Adjutant's Corner

Spring D.E.C.: The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Miller, on April 18, 2026 at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Kent Island Post 278 located at 800 Romancoke Rd, Stevensville, MD 21666

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*(Continued from page 1)***Membership Dues Increase:**

Please be advised that the per capita dues will increase by \$5.00 for a total of \$20.00 per member payable to the Detachment of Maryland for the 2027 Membership Year. The last Detachment per capita increase was influenced by the National Per capita increase and since that time the Detachment has assumed additional financial responsibilities that requires being addressed fiscally.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant

Commander's Project**"Patriot Point"**

First, I just want to say thank you to everyone who stepped up to help veterans in need at Patriot Point. The support we received in donations at winter conference has really set the bar high as we exceeded over \$50k for Commander Miller's project.

As we are all preparing for the upcoming spring and warmer weather, it is time to put a nice final addition to this project. Remember, any funds that are left over will be used to continue supporting our veterans that are in the process of healing from both physical and emotional distress. These veterans have put their lives in harm's way so we can continue to enjoy our freedom as we know it today. Our support for their services is the least we can do during a part of their life that can be extremely vulnerable. Remember, the healing begins at the gate!

We will continue to accept donations through the end of the Detachment

convention. Donations can be made out to the Detachment of Maryland and earmark the memo field of the check with 'Commanders Project.' Donations can be mailed to

Detachment of Maryland

3115 Orchard Ave

Baltimore, MD 21234

Remember, let us know of any fundraisers you may be having to support this project. If you have any additional questions regarding the Detachment Commanders Project, feel free to contact me at squadron60@verizon.net

Joe Lohman
Detachment of Maryland
Commanders Project Chairman

'Membership'

The final report on membership for 2025 is in, congratulations to the Detachment of Maryland and Commander Jason Miller for a job well done! Maryland finished with a total of 18,309 members, 12th in the nation having reached 102% of our goal in membership with a 91.55% rate of retention.

As of this writing, we are slightly ahead of last year's total membership with 15,920 members, 1,922 more than at the same time last year. Our goal, as set by National, is 18,410.

As usual, the Eastern Shore leads the Detachment having reached over 90% of their goal. The other regions are close behind. In second place is Southern Maryland having reached over 89% of goal. In third is the Western Region also with over 89% of their goal. Finally, is North Central with more than 87% of their goal. All regions are over their March 8th goal of 80% with the Eastern region having already

beaten their April goal of 90%.

At this time of year, renewals begin to slow. We have to put in more effort to get renewals. Concentrate on squadrons that are "in the red". These squadrons are in danger of staying in the red and losing membership. If your squadron is one of these, try to figure out why. Are you sitting on renewals that haven't been sent in?

Now we need to work on retention.

Maryland remains above the national renewal rate. However, our rate of retention is 0.81% less than at this time last year. Our goal will be made easily if we retain our membership.

Retaining membership is the key to a strong organization. Reach out to members in your squadron who have not yet renewed their membership. Call them, remind them that, as of January 1st, their membership has expired. Remind them how important their membership is to your squadron. Offer them some kind of a welcome back incentive, like a discounted meal or free attendance to an event.

Working on retaining membership should be a year-round effort for all of us. Get to know your members. Find out why they became members, find out what they like to do. Make sure they are involved in squadron activities. If they are involved, they will feel welcome and believe they are a part of the squadron.

Sons Honoring Veterans Every Day,

Yours in service,

John Davies

1st Vice Commander

2026 Membership Chairman

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Americanism Report

We celebrate 250 years of America and 107 years of The American Legion this month! We are coming up on Memorial Day. Take advantage of this and host events and try to generate interest for your programs and groups in the area. Don't forget to keep track of those flags placed by entering them into flyingflagsforheroes.com!

The USA250 Challenge is still going strong coming into the end of the year. National Commander Bill Clancy III has committed to 250 workouts and encourages all of us to do something as well, either in part of a group or on our own. I am doing 250 miles this year, and I would like everyone to find something they can do. There is no challenge too small. So please check out the website at <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge>

American Legion Baseball is a program for boys age 13 to 19. However, adults can both coach and volunteer. If you have a young one who wants to play or you are considering volunteering or coaching, please reach out to your post to see about starting or finding a team for you. Find out more at www.mdlegion.org/baseball.htm

The Department of Maryland Oratorical Scholarship Competition is another program for high school students. It develops knowledge of the Constitution as well as the skills to think and speak clearly and critically. Registration has closed but you can visit the Maryland Finals at Towson Post 22 on March 22nd. Find out more at <https://www.mdlegion.org/oratorical.htm>

Boys State has opened its registration portal and the deadline for applying is

May 1, 2026. It is scheduled for June 21-27 at McDaniel College in Westminster. Find out if your Post is sponsoring someone for Boys State and investigate starting if you are not. Reach out to your local high schools to find good candidates. They know the best students for it. Find out more at <https://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate/>

A big push of the Americanism committee from the Legion side was the Junior Sports Shooting. They want to increase the number of Posts that had a shooting program. If any squadron wants to help spearhead it, they suggested just getting a \$130 rifle for practice before upgrading to the normal rifle used in competitions. If you have more questions, check out <https://mdlegion.org/JSS.htm>

Americanism encompasses all this and more. Programs such as the NEF, Scouting America and Flag Replacement are equally important. Make sure your squadron is looking out for these programs all year long. If you have any questions about any of these programs, from participation to starting your own, do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or issues.

Yours in God and Country,

Michael Donnelly
Americanism Chairman/
2nd Vice Commander
mddonnelly119@gmail.com
410-926-5584

FLAG REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The American flag represents our nation's freedom, sacrifice, and unity. Over time, weather and everyday use can cause flags to fade, tear, or become frayed. When a flag is badly faded, ripped, or no longer in good condition, it should be respectfully retired and replaced.

Replacing worn flags helps ensure our nation's symbol is always displayed with the honor and pride it deserves. Organizations like The American Legion can assist with properly retiring old flags in a respectful way.

Gabe Dorsey,
Youth Commander
443-388-6040
Gdorsey07@icloud.com

THE BOYS STATE UPDATE REPORT:

Greetings Detachment of Maryland and readers of The Pride. My name is Sawyer Cornelius, Adjutant of Squadron 228 and your SAL Boys State chairman.

Applications for Maryland Boys State are open and being accepted through May 1, 2026. Eligible students are encouraged to apply early to take advantage of this premier civic leadership experience, which brings together rising high school seniors from across the state. All applications may be completed online at mdboysgirlsstate.org, where additional details about program requirements and schedules are also available.

We continue to ask for help in your local communities to encourage current high school juniors to apply for the 2026 session. This weeklong experience is offered at no cost to the student or his family, and makes for an outstanding addition to college, military academy and career resumes.

Boys State is truly "a week that shapes a lifetime." Let's ensure the tradition continues.

Sawyer Cornelius
Chairman

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National Emergency Fund—NEF

We are over halfway through the year and are making progress towards making our goal of \$8000 for NEF.

Disasters are still occurring, from hurricanes, tornados, to lightning strikes.

Our veterans who have lost to these acts of nature can still use the help of NEF.

Please continue to give to help us reach our goal to continue to help our distressed veterans.

Send your donations to...
Detachment Adjutant
William Matoska
3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

(NEF in the Memo section)

For God and Country

Bill Stem PDC and NEF Chairman

If you need assistance, please contact... WWW.LEGION.ORG/EMERGENCY/APPLY

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

The Children & Youth Committee had a busy and rewarding period supporting several great programs that make a difference in the lives of young people and families across Maryland.

In February, members once again traveled to **Wisp Resort in McHenry, Maryland to support the Special Olympics Maryland Winter Games.** The event featured approximately **180 athletes**, supported by dozens of coaches, competing in alpine skiing and snowshoeing events over several days. I would like to say **Thank**

You to the SAL members who attended to help.

It was inspiring to see the athletes demonstrate determination, sportsmanship, and pure joy in competition. One of our members also took part in the **Deep Creek Dunk**, braving the icy waters in support of Special Olympics Maryland and helping raise funds that allow the organization to provide year-round sports training and competition opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

We would also like to thank **Commander Jason Miller** for representing the Sons of The American Legion at the **Casey Cares Gala.** Casey Cares provides ongoing support programs for critically ill children and their families, serving **thousands of families throughout the Mid-Atlantic each year** through hospital visits, family events, and special experiences that bring moments of joy during difficult times.

The Children & Youth Committee remains proud of the Detachment's continued support of these programs and the positive impact they have on young people and families in our communities.

Sean Phelan

Detachment Children & Youth
Chairman

DOUGLAS HENLEY MEMORIAL

LAPS OF LOVE

The 2026 Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love that will take place during our next convention at the Overlea Perry Hall Post on June 20th during the Detachment cookout and youth all-star games.

So while you are planning your budgets and donations as a Legion, Squadron, Unit or as an individual for the upcoming year. Please think about helping these three programs, Special Olympics, Casey Cares and CWF by donating to the Laps of Love.

Thank you for your continued support and everything you have already done to help with this great program. Sincerely,

Bobby Miller II

443-986-3493

bdigital262@yahoo.com

Scouting America

Squadrons and Regions—spring is when many Scouting units begin finalizing their summer plans and looking ahead to the next program year. I encourage you to reach out to your local unit leaders and ask how you can support them. These units need our engagement, but they may not always know whom to contact within the Legion Family. Be the one to reach out first.

Let them know what is happening at your Post and Squadron and that their participation is always welcome. Whether it is a ceremony, community event, or service project, these connections matter.

When the Legion Family maintains strong ties with scouting units, we keep our shared values of leadership, service, and citizenship in front of our young people. Those relationships help prepare the next generation to step forward when their community—or their country—needs them.

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If you have any questions please contact me at:
Buffalo8265@msn.com

Lenny Wertz
Chairman

George Grossnickle Memorial Scholarship

It's time again to begin the search for this year's recipient (s) of the GGM Scholarship. We've had a minor increase in applicants over the past couple of years, and this year we are looking to continue to exceed the previous year's applicants.

Below is a general outline, with additional information available on our Detachment website.

In accordance with its Americanism Program, the Detachment of Maryland Sons of The American, has established four \$2,000.00 Memorial Scholarship Grants to assist youth in furthering their education beyond high school.

The scholarships shall be offered to young men and women who are:

A citizen of the United States of America who appreciates the value of education and is willing to work hard to achieve success; and

A graduating senior or a high school graduate, by the prescribed application submittal date, who plans to attend an accredited college, university, or trade school on a full-time basis; or

A previous scholarship winner attending college full-time may re-apply (There is no implied guarantee of renewal)

These scholarships will be awarded with preference given to a recipient in the following order:

A Detachment of Maryland, Sons of

The American Legion member in good standing.

A descendant of a deceased or living Department of Maryland, American Legion Legionnaire.

The son or daughter of a Military person on active duty or of an honorably discharged, separated, or retired U.S. Military veteran.

A student from the state of Maryland environs.

Information is currently available at our website and applications for the 2024 awards are available at the website. WWW.MDSAL.ORG

All candidates must submit a formal George Grossnickle Memorial Scholarship application with the necessary information and attachments **post-marked on or before May 1, 2026** to:

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Detachment of Maryland

Sons of The American Legion

19040 Festival Drive, Boyds, MD
20841

Scholarship Committee:

Bill Hill & Jim Alexander /Co-Chair

Bill Matoska—Member

Legislative Alert!

Fellow Sons,

Our Veterans and their families need our continued help with contacting our Legislators to pass key legislation that will benefit them. We ask for your continued support for the Acts that The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion endorse. Together we can advocate for passage of these Acts and reaffirm our dedication to enhance

the quality of life for veterans through innovative and effective support mechanisms.

For your reference, here is a list of those Acts. As I'm writing this article on 3-4-26, I offer to you the latest information that is available

The "SAVES Act", (H.R. 2605 and S. 1441), Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act, based on Resolution No. 134 which is Service Dogs for Injured Service Personnel and Veterans with Mental Health Conditions. No Change since my last report and is still on the Union Calendar #264, reporting favorably per the Congress.Gov website.

The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025, (HR 1423 & S 649)

Currently, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers only earn credit toward their Post- 9/11 GI Bill benefits when they mobilize and deploy for federal missions. When they are activated under state orders, they do not accrue eligibility for Post - 9/11 GI Bill benefits. The American Legion Family firmly believes that every day in uniform counts. No Change since my last report, and the House Veterans Affairs committee has not brought this up for Vote.

Major Richard Star Act, (HR 2102 & S 1032), currently combat-injured veterans face a reduction in their retirement pay for every dollar of disability compensation they receive. This act aims to rectify this by allowing combat-injured veterans to receive both their retirement pay and disability compensation without offset. No Change since my last report, this has been referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

The SHIPS for America Act, (HR 3151 & S 1541)

The Shipbuilding and Harbor

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Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security for America Act (SHIPS) to improve maritime security of the United States of America. This crucial element needs to be address more than ever. The House has referred it to the Sub-Committee on Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation. The Senate has done nothing since my last report, this act is stalled in the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

The Love Lives on Act, (S410 & HR 1004)

Our Gold Star Spouses are currently in a predicament of an untenable choice for our widows and widowers between personal happiness and financial stability. This bill aims to correct this egregious wrong by proposing to eliminate the age limit for remarriage without loss of benefits, allow remarried surviving spouses to retain education benefits, preserve commissary and exchange benefits for remarried spouses, enable remarried spouses to regain TRICARE benefits if the subsequent marriage ends and abolish the "Hold Themselves out to be married" clause, an outdated law causing unnecessary fear and inhibiting freedom.

No Change since my last report, this bill has stalled in the Veteran's Affairs committee.

Please go to <https://www.votervoicenet/>

[AmericanLegion/home](https://www.AmericanLegion/home) and submit the auto-generated forms supporting these bills and let you Congressmen and Women know that you are holding them accountable to get these acts passed into law. I have attached a contact list of all our U.S. Congress Representatives for those that prefer to contact them

personally.

Please contact your Representatives today:

Andrew P. Harris, M.D. (R), U.S. Representative, 1st Congressional District,

Capitol Hill office 202-225-5311, Bel-Air office 410-588-5670 or Salisbury office 443-944-8624 or by email at <https://harris.house.gov/>

John A. Olszewski, Jr., (D), U.S. Representative, 2nd Congressional District,

Capitol Hill office # 202-225-3061, District office # 410- 427- 5725 or by email at <https://olszewski.house.gov/>

SARAH K. ELFRETH, (D), U.S. Representative, 3rd Congressional District,

Capitol Hill office # 202-225-4016, District Office # 410- 832-8890 or by email at <https://elfreth.house.gov/>

GLENN F. IVEY, Esq. (D) U.S. Representative, 4th Congressional District,

Capitol Hill office # 202-225-8699, P.G. Co. office # 240-906-6262 or by email at

<https://ivey.house.gov/>

STENY HAMILTON HOYER, Esq. (D), U.S. Representative, 5th Congressional District,

Capitol Hill office # 202-225-4131, Charles County office # 301-843-1577 or by email at

<https://hoyer.house.gov/>

APRIL McCLAIN DELANEY, Esq., (D), U.S. Representative, 6th Congressional District,

Capitol Hill office # 202-225-2721, Fredrick Co. office # 202-225-2721 or by email at <https://>

mcclaindelaney.house.gov/

KWEISI MFUME (D), U.S. Representative, 7th Congressional District,

Capitol Hill office # 202-225-4741, Baltimore office # 410-685-9199 or by email at

<https://mfume.house.gov/>

JAMIN B. (JAMIE) RASKIN (D), U.S. Representative, 8th Congressional District,

Capitol Hill office # 202-225-5341, Montgomery County office # 301-354-1000 or by email at

<https://raskin.house.gov/>

The 66th Annual Washington Conference was held February 28th to March 4th, 2026, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

For God and Country

Darryl English (Sq. 218),
Legislative Chairman

VAVS Variety

The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) actively support the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) through various volunteer efforts and fundraising initiatives for veterans' programs and facilities. While the SAL is a program of The American Legion, its members are dedicated to supporting veterans and their families, including contributing significant hours to VAVS programs and raising funds for VA hospitals and homes.

Key aspects of SAL's involvement with VAVS:

Volunteering in VA Hospitals:

SAL members have volunteered over 1.3 million hours in Veterans

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Hospitals nationwide, contributing directly to patient care and comfort.

Fundraising for VA Facilities:

The American Legion Department of Maryland recently donated \$7,000 to the Veterans Affairs (VA) Maryland Health Care System to benefit veteran patients throughout the state.

Programmatic Support:

SAL Squadrons assist with various Veterans programs, hospital volunteerism, and fundraising efforts, aligning with the VAVS mission to improve access to care and patient satisfaction within VA facilities.

Current events.

Fisher House : Mon 5/4

Fisher House Golf Classic 2026

In its 23rd year, the Fisher House Golf Classic is the major annual fundraising event for Fisher House Foundation, raising more than \$14 million to support military and veteran families. Leesburg , VA

VA Medical Centers and Clinics :
They need volunteers.

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home :
Please visit the web page below for their monthly calendar.

Heroes Haven Date: Annual Heroes Haven Crab Feast June 20th

Meal includes Steamed-On-Site Crabs (While Supplies Last), Corn, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Draft Beer, Sodas & Water

Tickets \$55 Each

Fun Games ~ Live/Silent Auctions ~
Cake Wheel

DJ Moonbeam Entertainment

For More info, call Chrys Gosnell
443-614-7718

Be The One : Please see the link below and get your training done.

The American Legion has partnered with the Columbia Lighthouse Project (formerly the Center for Suicide Risk Assessment) to provide valuable suicide prevention training across the Legion. The Columbia Lighthouse Project aims to save lives worldwide by making the protocol's use universal. We also help people integrate the Columbia Protocol into a broader suicide prevention program.

Visit these websites to learn more.

Fisher House Foundation <https://www.fisherhouse.org/> <https://www.fisherhouse.org/>

VA Medical and Clinic Centers <https://www.va.gov/maryland-health-care/locations/>

Charlotte House Veterans Home <https://charhall.org/>

Heros Haven <https://heroeshaven.org/>

BE THE ONE <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one>

Thank you for your time and I hope each of you follow the links and learn more about the Heros that protected our Country and how you can help them.

For GOD and Country

Mike Anderson

VAVS Chairman
443-413-9289

VA Clinics

Did you know there are 13 Community based VA Community Outpatient Clinics in Maryland? These clinics are located across the state from Pocomoke City to Cumberland and serve communities where there may not be a regular VA hospital. These clinics vary in

services provided, most have Internal Medicine doctors, pharmacy, and other medical assistance available.

In addition to the Outpatient clinics, there are also 9 Vet Centers that provide non-medical assistance such as counseling, PTSD care, Substance Abuse Care, and other great services. In most cases, you do not need to be enrolled in the VA Healthcare System to use these centers. The locations of the community Clinics and Vet Centers can be obtained by visiting the VA website@ <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?STATE=MD&dnum=ALL>

Please share this information with our veteran community.

Yours in Service,

Bob Manzo

VA Clinics Representative

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

Commander Miller, who has always been dedicated to helping our veterans, would deeply appreciate your continued commitment as well. Take a little time to visit — listen to their stories, share a few laughs, and let them know how much they're valued. I promise you, the joy and gratitude you'll see in their eyes will stay with you long after you leave

Remember Loneliness and feeling being forgotten is a silent killer of our veterans in Veterans homes, and this goes for the homeless veterans. Take time to stop by and say how are you doing.

If you are interested in donating to the CHVH, a "Wish List" is available on the website, www.charhall.org. Monetary donations are always

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welcome. If you don't have a specific program or project in mind, donations can be made to the Veterans' Assistance Fund which assists residents as needs arise such as dental and optometry costs, Final Honors arrangements, and activities both inside and outside of the Home.

Jim Alexander PDC
CHVH Representative

Heroes Haven, Inc.

Heroes Heroes Haven has just finished up another successful year and is already moving forward with 2026.

The annual Car & Truck Show will be held on April 11th, 2026, hosted by Johnny's Tavern in East New Market, registration starts 9a. Our annual Golf Tournament will be held on April 25th, 2026, at Great Hope Golf Course in Westover, MD. Shotgun start at 9am, golf, cart and lunch included. Poker Run on May 9th, registration at 9am, kick stands up at 11am, cars are also welcome. Crab Feast will be held on June 20th at Mardela Springs Volunteer Fire Department in Mardela Springs, MD.

Please visit our website at www.heroeshaven.org for more information on all our upcoming event. Golf team and sponsorships can be done online, and Tickets for the Crab Feast can be purchased online.

Please, follow us on Facebook at, Heroes Haven, Inc. to learn more about our organization and stay informed with upcoming events and fundraisers.

It's because of you, our supporters, that we can continue helping our injured veterans and 1st responders

in a multitude of ways.

Thank You for all your support!

Darryl English

Heroes Haven, Inc.
Executive Committee Member

Perry Point VA Medical Center for Development & Civic Engagement.

Thank you to everyone who participated in National Salute to Hospitalized Veteran Patients Week in February. Celebrations included: BINGO, musical groups, and LOTS of visits. If you want to plan a visit, host a party or just talk to our veterans, If you were not able to make a donation to the holiday acct you can still make a donation. The donations will be used throughout the year for special occasions. Let's not forget our Veterans, March, April and May are great months to have a function or visit. These seem like slow months for volunteers visiting. Take the time and make a difference to a Veteran. Contact Brandi Sima at 410-642-1038.

You can see more about volunteering and working with us and donating at the link below.

<https://www.va.gov/maryland-health-care/work-with-us/#volunteer-or-donate>

Perry Point volunteers needed:

Red Coat Ambassadors, Wednesday and/or Thursday mornings 8:00 a.m. – Noon, Coffee Volunteer Monday or Fridays 8 a.m. – Noon Sunday 9 a.m. Protestant Service escorts

Perry Point items needs: Full size toiletries: - Body wash, Shampoo, Body wash/shampoo combo bottles, Lotion (whole body)

Follow VA Maryland on Facebook

for VA Maryland volunteer updates!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vamhcsvolunteers>

PDC Tom Deal
Perry Point VA Rep.

Fisher House

Hello Detachment of Maryland,

Did you know that Fisher House offers “a home away from home” at no cost for families of patients receiving medical care at military treatment facilities. Each Fisher House offers comfortable accommodations that allow military families to focus on the medical care and recovery of their loved one. The houses have well-stocked community kitchens and inviting living rooms with libraries. Other features include a playroom with toys for children at select houses, laundry facilities, housekeeping services, and common area computers with internet access.

However, Fisher House still needs help with support not only in monetary donations but also that of non-perishable items and I know that the Detachment of Maryland and the rest of The American Legion Family can help step up. A full WISH LIST will be available at the upcoming DEC for all in attendance to take back to their home post / squadron. But I did wish to list some items right now as a priority on their list and since everyone goes shopping, I ask for any and all for assistance to pick up any of the items and set up a collection spot at your post home. Arrangements will then be made to collect the items collected. Paper towels, Cleaning Masks, Cleaning Gloves Medium & Large (Nitrile Latex Free), Dryer Fabric Softener Sheets, Keurig K Cups, Toilet Paper.

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Again, the full list of items will be available at the DEC meeting for all. Let's all get together as a Legion Family and help support that families of the Veterans who have done so much for us and show we are Sons Honoring Veterans Everywhere.

Respectfully,
PDC Mike Obremski
Community Affairs - Fisher House

BE THE ONE

VETERAN'S SUICIDE PREVENTION

As we are into the first quarter of this year, the BE THE ONE program continues to be a long-term success, with Maryland leading the way on every front. Great strides are being made with our posts in the state as we are training more and more members within our ranks. In addition, we are now seeing our fire and police departments in the state, requesting to participate in our training to learning the signs to help both our veterans and first responders in helping preventing and dealing with suicides.

"BE THE ONE, at its core, is The American Legion's top priority, a mission to reduce the number of veterans and service members who die by suicide. It involves everyone throughout the entire American Legion Family.

Be the One, a concentrated effort to save the lives of veterans and service members with the Be the One mission by fostering a culture that encourages seeking help for mental health issues, raising awareness of available resources,

and equipping community members with suicide prevention training". It's "okay to not be okay" and empowers individuals to "Be the One". To check in on veterans, listen when they need to talk and reach out to the veterans".

I wanted to make you aware of two major events coming. The first, is our second annual BE THE ONE event being held on September 12, 2026 at Post 130 in Perry Hall, Maryland. Last year was a great success and this year will be even bigger! With 5 bands, a variety show, food and other entertainment for the BE THE ONE event starting at 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Watch for the flyers coming your way. I am also look for support from other American Legion Post in our state.

In addition, I have arranged with Carnival Cruise Line for a "BE THE ONE CRUISE" on April 11, 2027 to April 18, 2027. The BE THE ONE program will benefit from the trip and the funds will go to support the BE THE ONE. Please join us for a great fun and worthy cruise. Please get your cabin on the ship now for this event. Please see the information flyer on the Detachment web site (www.mdsal.org) for your convenience that can be downloaded and duplicated as needed. The cruise informational flyer will also be published in the upcoming Detachment Convention Program.

If you want to find out what you can do to help veterans with the Be the One program at your post. Reach out to me and I be glad to help you.

Michael Watts
Be The One Chairman
Detachment of Maryland

Time and Place Committee

That's right, our 53rd Convention is just around the corner. Specific dates are June 19 to 21, 2026. May seem like it's a way off, but my recommendation is to start to making plans to be there....

We've worked hard to ensure a fantastic weekend of events are enjoyed by all, so please attend.

Each notification within the "Time and Place Committee", which outlines the location, date, and times for the convention, are considered "Official Announcements" to all eligible members in good standing within the Detachment of Maryland.

Therefore, you have been advised if you are reading this article.

Now with that said, let the planning begin. Each squadron should begin to look at their accomplishments to-date, so they may capture them on their "Consolidated Report Form", along with determining who is attending as a delegate from their squadron.

NOTE: All squadrons must register and **pay the Detachment for their eligible delegate strength** to the Convention, in accordance with the membership cutoff, also May 29th.

Delegate Allowance: Article V – Legislative Body

Section 3. -- In the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maryland Convention, each Squadron in good standing with at least ten (10) active members shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one additional delegate for each additional twenty-five (25) members.

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Reminder, that a “Delegate at Large from your Squadron is only a member who is either a; Detachment Officer, Region Commander, Region Vice Commander, or a Past Detachment Commander.

Each squadron is required to pay for their “full delegate fees” in order to receive their “delegate credentials, as well as “new” membership cards. Additional conditions are outlined below for each as well. “No Exceptions” to the conditions outlined below.

Conditions to receive convention delegate credentials:

Convention delegate registration form completed and submitted.

Printed with name & squadron, the delegate registration must be submitted by May 29, 2026.

Convention delegate fees paid for all.

The distribution of each squadrons delegate badges and convention books must be signed for by an appropriate representative of the squadron. The signatory must clearly print and sign their name as to insure we’re able to verify the recipient if any questions occur.

On behalf of the Convention Committee, we look forward to seeing you at the convention and if there are any questions, please let us know.

Convention packages have been distributed to all squadrons within the Detachment.

For God and Country,

Bill Hill ~ Chairman

Chaplin's Corner

In loving memory for a fallen Son of The American Legion.

Karl Bernard Kibler of Denton, MD

passed away at his home on Saturday, February 28, 2026. He was 74 years old.

Karl was born on July 29, 1951. He was brought home by his adoptive parents, Bernard Hammer Kibler and Julia Ann Norman Kibler.

Growing up on Kent Island, Karl spent his life enjoying soft crabbing, playing music, and sports. Karl moved to Caroline County in 1973 and in 1977 he founded Kibler Sheet Metal. In addition, he was dedicated to the S.A.L. (Sons of the American Legion).

In 1979 he married Brenda L. Pinder. He is survived by his wife of 46 years; his son, Kurt; his daughter, Kasey; and his two grandsons, Karson and Kolt.

Your family is in out Prayers.

Every please let the Chaplain know what other Fallen Sons you may have at your Squadron, so they want be forgotten.

To all the Sons of The American Legion that have been through any hardship let me give you a prayer.

Father God,

We come before You today with humble hearts, lifting up our fallen brothers of the Sons of the American Legion. Lord, You see every man who has stood in loyalty, service, and brotherhood. You know their strength, and You know their silent battles.

For those walking through illness in this season of life, we ask for Your healing hand. Bring comfort to their bodies, peace to their minds, and endurance to their spirits. When the days feel long and the nights feel heavy, remind them they are not forgotten and never alone.

For the brothers facing loneliness,

surround them with Your presence. Fill the quiet places with Your peace. Stir within us the courage to reach out, to call, to visit, and to stand shoulder to shoulder the way true brothers do.

For those carrying hardship — financial strain, family burdens, grief, or uncertainty — we ask that You be their provider, their defender, and their hope. Strengthen their faith when it wavers. Restore their joy when it feels distant.

Lord, we also remember those we have lost. We thank You for their lives, their service, and the bond of brotherhood that does not fade with time. May we honor them not just in word, but in how we care for one another.

Unite us as men of courage, compassion, and conviction. Let no brother fall through the cracks. Teach us to carry each other’s burdens with honor and humility.

We place all of this in Your hands, trusting that You are near to the brokenhearted and faithful to those who call upon You.

In Your holy name we pray,

Amen.

Mike Anderson

Chaplain

Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Maryland

Western Maryland Region

I have a save the date for you. April 18th 2026, is the date of the Western Maryland region reception. It will be held at Post 10 Boonsboro. I hope to see all that can make it there. We will have more info to follow once the

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committee starts meeting.

We are hunting for Membership which is key to keep the great work going. If you have not received your membership cards, please reach out to me so that we can get that straight. Some still owe for delegate fees so that could be the reason why.

Elections for the 2026-2027 administrative year are right around the corner, They will be held at the May 9th meeting at Barton Post 189. If anyone is interested, please come out and become part of the election process. We will elect a Region Commander, Vice Commander and DEC members. If you or anyone you know who is interested, please reach out to me. We are looking and hoping to get more participation throughout the region.

The Detachment Commander Jason Miller has a new theme for this year and that is ***Sons Honoring Veterans Every Day!*** Please contribute to his Project at Patriot Point build a larger Fire pit and patio as well as the walkways down to the pit so that all veterans can enjoy the comradery and discussions around the fire pit!!

Please look for the assessment fees, we found some clerical errors, so we will be resending soon.

The next Detachment meeting will be April 19th at the Kent island post 278 at 1pm. The next Regional meeting will be May 9th, 1:00 PM at The Barton post 189 at 1pm.

Thank you and hope to see you there,

Jerry Hudson
WMR Commander

Eastern Shore Region

Hello Comrades

I would first like to take a few moments and give thanks to God for being able to have been friends to Karl Kibler who transitioned to Squadron Everlasting. His dedication to our organization will never be forgotten. R.I.P. my friends and please keep his family in your prayers.

As of 3/6/26 the ESR is in first place for membership @ 90.502% just slightly ahead of the Southern Maryland Region @ 89.440%. There is still 5 squadrons that have achieved the 75% at this time. Commanders and DEC Men, please get the membership submitted. As of this date there is 338 unpaid members who's membership is now delinquent. We only have two months to reach out goal of 100%. Right hand salute to the five squadrons that have already reached the goal.

UPCOMING EVENT

Saturday April 25th, 2026 @ 2:00pm
ESR Regional Reception, Dorchester Post 91

HONOREES:

Dept. Commander Nikki Randolph,
Dept. Auxiliary President Kyrese Johnson, Dept. Auxiliary Jr.
President Tabatha Davage
Detachment Commander Jason Miller
Detachment Youth Commander Gabe Dorsey
COST- 25.00
RSVP BY APRIL 15TH
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND
EASTERN SHORE REGION AND
MAIL TO:
ERIC BROUSSARD
PO BOX 304
GALENA,MD
21635
ESR Commander
Freddie Taylor

Southern Maryland Region

Greetings and best wishes from the SAL's Southern Maryland Region of our magnificent "Old Line" state. I hope this newsletter finds you all hale and hearty.

As we transition out of an unusually cold winter that saw many of us struggling under two feet of snow capped by a sheet of thick ice, I ask that we all remember that it is incumbent on us to "Be The One's" for our local veterans by maintaining effective levels of contact with them throughout the year. The problems that this harsh winter has brought our way piled on top of the "normal" challenges of life can easily become a dreaded tipping point that leads to dark days for many unsupported veterans. We must reach out and engage these good people as regularly as possible on terms they can live with. Being left to sit at home, all alone, in trouble and barely hanging on in quiet desperation is not the American way. I would ask all that can to reach out your local veterans, initiate conversations, hear them out and follow up with them. Let them know you are there as a friend and that their well-being is paramount. If you're not aware of local veterans who may be in need of some human kindness, then reach out to your local A.L. Post Commanders and ask them for information.

As to our planned Winter Southern Maryland Region Committee meeting, my apologies for having to do a last-minute cancellation. Date changes with other key events and miscommunications on our part made for a lack of attendees and thus the short-notice cancellation. Our next meeting is to be held on April 26th at John B Latimer Post 217 in College Park, Maryland at 1:00 p.m.

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Our Caucus Meeting event will be held at the Southern Maryland Youth Camp on June 6th just prior to the start of Districts 5 & 6 Reception event also being held at the Youth Camp. The Detachment's Robert "Hoss" Neal golf tournament is June 19th at Fox Hall Golf Course and SMR's duffers plan to be out in numbers for the cause.

Unfortunately, SMR find ourselves holding the third place slot this cycle in the membership drive. A hat tip to Easter Shore and North Central but beware as we do endeavor to persevere and take that lead away.

Below are some important calendar events we wish to share with you:

Oyster Bowl – Saturday Apr 18th @ 4:00 pm – Laurel Post 60

SMR DEC Meeting – Spring – Sunday Apr 26th @ 1:00 pm – College Park Post 217

Spring NEC – Monday May 4th → 7th – Indianapolis

SMR Shrimp & Bull Feast – Saturday May 9th @ 3:30 pm – Lusby Post 274

SQUADRON FORMS SUBMISSION - Cut Off Date – Friday May 29th

SMR DEC Caucus – Saturday Jun 6th @ 2:00 pm – Youth Camp, Cheltenham

AL/Unit/SAL Southern Reg. Recept. – Saturday Jun 6th @ 3:00 pm – Youth Camp, Cheltenham

Detachment Convention – Friday Jun 19th → 21st – Hilton Garden White Marsh

SAL Robert "Hoss" Neal Golf Classic – June 19th @ 7:15 am – Fox Hollow G.C.

For God & Country
Commander Jerry Darnell

NEC Update!

I bring you greetings from our SAL National Commander William "Bill" Clancy from New York. BE THE

ONE, IS STILL THE FOCUS TO HELP END VETERAN SUICIDE. The American Legion created a 250 Challenge to celebrate the nation's semi-quincentennial celebration. With this being 250th anniversary of our country they are asking all Americans to get involved in one of three things: physical fitness, service or mental health. We're asking everybody to create some activity centering around the idea of 250. Commander Clancy's plan is to do 250 workouts as he travels the country and a second component to plant 250 trees this year around the country and have them named after local veterans in the local communities. The challenge is very simple, just do something to add up to 250. Do 250 hours of volunteer service, Walk or run 250 hours or miles, anything to equal 250. You can register at USA 250 Challenge or at legion.myeventscenter.com. There are so many programs within The American Legion, surely you can find one of interest to you. From Children and Youth to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation to Americanism to National Security the list is almost endless. The SAL membership nationwide went over the 400,000-member mark for 2025, and we are looking to exceed that in 2026 and are currently collecting for 2026 year. We need any and all volunteers to join us and lend a hand. The Sons support The American Legion by providing money, manpower, personnel to volunteer and help do what needs to be done. There is so much joy in working together on a fundraiser for veterans, children or the Community. We work hard to raise funds then the comradeship from working together is great and the feeling is like no other to see what you have helped many others in need. To see more information about what we are doing you can go to the Sons of The American Legion

web site for a full list of what we do.

Tom Deal, NEC
Detachment of Maryland

Special Olympics Maryland:

Gentlemen, these past couple of months have been nothing short of exciting! We kicked things off with the polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park, where we had a fantastic turn out. Even our National Commander, Bill Clancey from the Detachment of New York, joined us in taking the plunge into the icy waters—a true show of dedication and spirit! The National Commander was rewarded later that evening with a much warmer plunge in the pool at the Grand Hotel sponsored by the Detachment of Maryland Youth Group where Youth Commander Gabe Dorsey presented a donation to SOM on behalf of the Youth Group. Together, The American Legion Family proudly stood as the top donors for the Special Olympics' Plunges. Next, we headed to the Winter Games at Wisp Resort, where athletes, volunteers, and supporters came together for an incredible weekend of competition and camaraderie. A heartfelt *thank you* goes out to all the volunteers who showed up to make the event such a success—your energy and kindness helped make it memorable for everyone involved.

And we're not slowing down! The 2026 Special Olympics Basketball State Championships will be held at the University of Maryland in College Park. We're looking forward to another exciting opportunity to show our support for these amazing athletes and the spirit of the Special Olympics movement. Together, we continue to make a difference—One event, one athlete, one moment at a time!

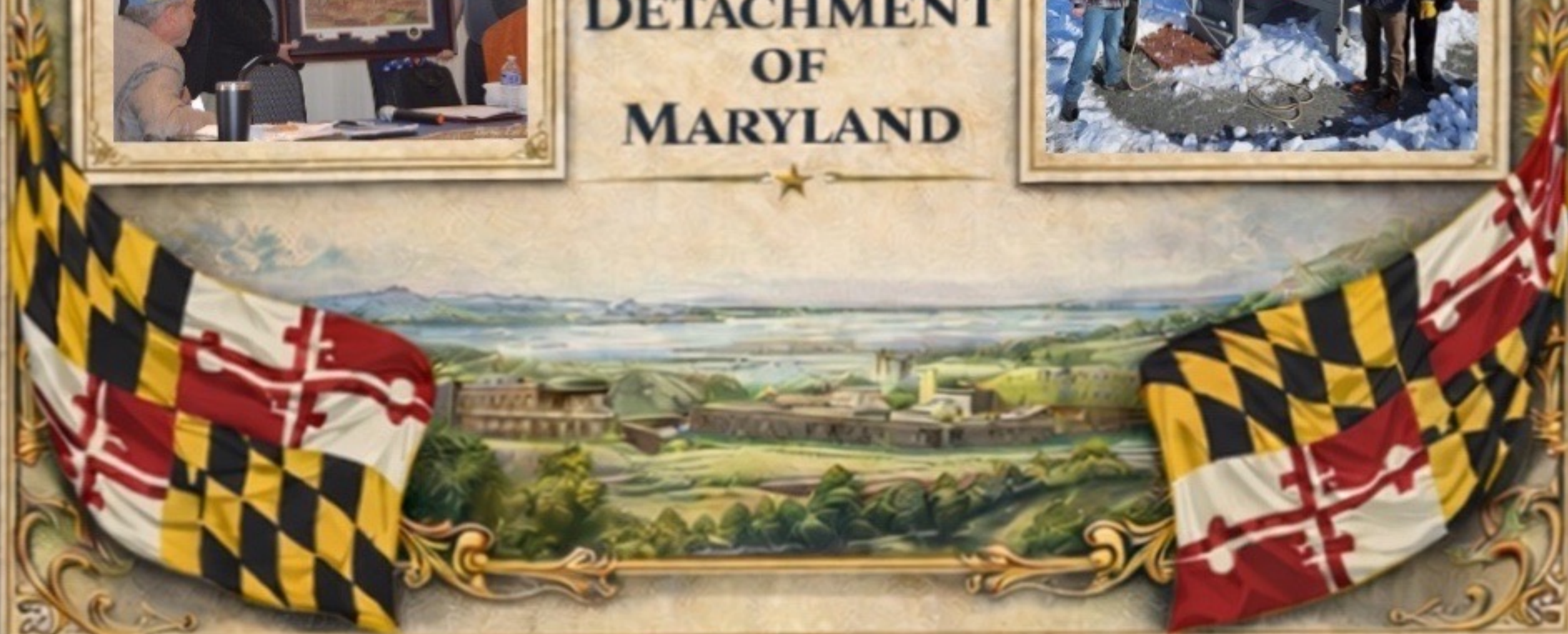
Mitch Matoska, Chairman
Special Olympics Maryland



Maryland Welcomed
NATIONAL COMMANDER
WILLIAM CLANCY



★ *Tributes* ★
from
DETACHMENT
OF
MARYLAND





“Sons Honoring Veterans Everyday”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

We're On The Web Visit Us At www.mdsal.org

Follow us on Facebook:

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2025—2026

2026 Membership Target Date:

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025	10%
OCTOBER 15, 2025	25%
NOVEMBER 13, 2025	35%
DECEMBER 10, 2025	45%
JANUARY 14, 2026	60%
FEBRUARY 11, 2026	75%
MARCH 11, 2026	80%
APRIL 8, 2026	90%
MAY 13, 2026	100%
**JULY 29, 2026	105%

** Delegate Strength Target Date

30 days prior to National Convention

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 19, 2026 / Kent Island Post 278 @ 1pm

53rd Annual Detachment Convention

June 19th to 21st, 2026

HILTON GARDEN INN BALTIMORE/WHITE MARSH

5015 CAMPBELL BOULEVARD , BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21236

*****Membership Dues Will Increase \$5.00***
for the 2027 Membership Year**

**The Total Amount Due Will Be \$20.00 per Member
Payable to the Detachment of Maryland
Beginning with the Distribution of the 2027
Membership Cards**

**If Your Squadron Decides to Raise Their Squadron Dues
Please be Advised to Complete a Squadron Data Report and
Submit to Detachment Headquarters by April 9, 2026.**