THE PRIDE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION | DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND
Volume 2026 • [EDITION] • Fall – November 2026
Editor: Bill Matoska | Co-Editor: Bill Hill

Commander's Corner

Passing on a Priceless Heritage: Serving Others During the Holiday Season

Gentlemen,

We are about to enter the holiday season, a time of year that brings joy and fellowship to many, but can also bring stress, hardship, and loneliness to our veterans and fellow community members.

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with our families, we must remember that not everyone has the same blessings. Many families in our communities are struggling to put food on their Thanksgiving tables or wondering how they will afford Christmas gifts for their children. These are opportunities for the Sons of The American Legion to step forward and make a difference.

I encourage every Squadron to look around their community and identify those who may need a helping hand. Organize a food drive to help provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for families in need. Collect toys for Toys for Tots so that children can experience the joy of Christmas. Reach out to local food banks, shelters, and community organizations to discover where your Squadron can be most helpful. Even a small effort, when combined with the efforts of others, can make a tremendous difference in someone's life.

As we serve our communities, we must also remember the veterans who may be struggling silently. The holidays can be especially difficult for those dealing with loneliness, personal hardships, or emotional distress. This is why our American Legion's **"Be the One"** initiative is so important. We all have a role to play in recognizing when someone may be struggling, reaching out, and helping them find support.

If you have not yet completed the free "Be the One" training available through The American Legion website at legion.org, I encourage you to make it a priority. I also encourage you to attend one of the training sessions offered by Michael Watts, our "Be the One" Committee Chairman. His presentations are not only informative but inspiring, and they help remind us that a simple conversation or a willingness to listen can make a real difference.

My theme for this year is **"Passing on a Priceless Heritage."** That heritage is more than a tradition or a phrase in our Preamble. It is a responsibility we inherit from the generations of veterans who served our country and built the legacy we are proud to carry forward. We honor that heritage not only by remembering the past, but by serving others in the present.

As Sons of The American Legion, let us make this holiday season a time of action, compassion, and service. Reach out to a family in need. Check on a veteran. Offer a helping hand to someone who may feel forgotten. Through these simple acts, we demonstrate what our organization stands for and ensure that our priceless heritage continues to live through the good work we do.

I wish you and your families a safe, happy, and meaningful holiday season.

For God and Country,

John Davies
Commander, Detachment of Maryland
Sons of the American Legion
2026–2027



Adjutant's Corner

Fall D.E.C.: The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Davies, on November 14, 2026 at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Patrick Dailey-Mark Logsdon Memoria Service Post 17, located at 415 Edgewood Rd, Edgewood, MD 21040.

National Commander's Challenge: National Commander Thom Skelley is encouraging every Squadron to support the Four Pillars of The American Legion and earn recognition as a **National Four Pillar Squadron.** Participation is simple. Each Squadron is encourages to complete one or more tasks in each of the Four Pillars: *Children & Youth*: Donate $1 per Squadron capita to the Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF) and/or to the Children's Organ transplant Association (COTA). *Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation:* Donate $1 per Squadron capita to Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW). *Americanism:* Host a Flag Education Program. *National Security:* Host a Blood Drive and/or donate to the local Red Cross and/or donate to the National Emergency Fund (NEF). After completion submit the **Four Pillar Squadron Award Form** (attached for reference to this issue of The Pride) to National Headquarters. Once processed, the Squadron will receive a National Four Pillar Squadron Citation.

American Legion Family Regional Information Conferences: National Information Conferences have been re-established for all leaders, members, and prospective organizers within the Sons of The American Legion. The theme for the Sons of The American Legion portion of the conference is:

Building the Legion Family: Understanding, Creating, and Collaborating with the Sons of The American Legion. The presentation is broken out into 3 sessions as follows; Session 1: How an SAL squadron can benefit an American Legion post and how to organize one. Session 2: You have an SAL squadron. Now what? Session 3: Squadron Fundamentals-Duties, Responsibilities, and Membership. The event concludes with a Q&A session for attendees. The upcoming schedule for the conferences is January 30, 2027, in Albany, New York at the Marriott Albany and on February 6, 2027, in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Tuscany Hotel. If interested in attending any of these conferences the registration link is on the National American Legion web site.

Holiday Party: The Department of Maryland Holiday Party is slated for December 13, 2026 from 1:00-5:00 PM hosted at Dundalk American Legion Post No. 38 located at 3300 Dundalk Ave., Dundalk MD 21222. The cost for a ticket is $25, which includes hors d'oeuvres, fried chicken & tenders, mashed potatoes, green beans, salads, coffee and sodas. There will be a cash bar available. For questions & information contact Legion NCR Commander Lee Lewis @ (443) 965-1246 or Mark Phoebus from Post 38 @ (443) 600-3846.

Eligibility Changes for American Legion Auxiliary: The eligibility requirements to become a member of The American Legion Auxiliary was modified at the National Convention in Louisville, KY in August effective immediately. With this change we have received numerous inquires regarding these changes and how this impacts the SAL. The simple answer is that these changes do not have an impact on your membership in the Sons of The American Legion and Past National Commander JR Hall, National Chairman of the Sons of The American Legion Advisory Committee, addressed this question at the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee in Indianapolis, IN this past October. PNC JR Hall encourages the organization to focus on the value of belonging to the Sons of The American Legion. PNC Hall advocated for a "Why Would You Leave?" campaign that highlights what the organization accomplishes and demonstrates

how membership dues are put to work. He encourages the Sons to tell that story broadly through the National, Detachment, and Squadron Newsletters, social media, magazines and other means of communications while emphasizing the accomplishments and opportunities that come with being a member of the Sons of The American Legion. Be Proud of your heritage and the sacrifices that were made to make you eligible to be a member of The Sons of The American Legion. We, the proud members of the Sons of The American Legion are the only organization that can trace their lineage to those that honorably served this great nation as a member of the US military.

ALA Eligibility Changes:
What Changed?

More family relationships eligible

Grandmother to Grandparent
Mother to Parent
Sister to Sibling
Daughter to Child
Granddaughter to Grandchild
Adopted relationships are eligible

Still not eligible

Male veterans under their own service
Nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles
Sisters-in-law and Brothers-in law
Stepchildren
Great-grandparents and great-grandchildren per IRS

What Stays the Same

Living veterans must still be members of The American Legion
A deceased veteran must have served during an applicable war era and been honorably discharged or died in service
Female veterans may join under their own service without being a member of The American Legion unless someone is joining under their service
Spouses, male or female, of veterans

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant
matoskaw@yahoo.com

Commander's Project

Heroes Ridge at Raven Rock is OSC's veterans retreat — a peaceful, nature-focused sanctuary designed to help veterans and their families relax, reconnect, and build community.

- **Established:** 2020
- **Location:** 17870 Harbaugh Valley Road, Sabillasville, MD 21780
- Activities include retreats, family time, outdoor recreation, and programs to foster healing and connection.

The Commander's project is to design and build a new and safe fire pit area. Currently there is a small fire ring overlooking the Catoctin Mountain range with no patio surround or access leading to it.

This has created a burden for those Veterans who have mobility problems due to injury. The goal is to remove the current pit and build a larger fire pit with a patio around it with sidewalks leading to it for all Veterans to enjoy safely. The goal is to raise a minimum of $80,000 for this project with any remaining funds going to other needed projects at the facility and/or the general operating cost to ensure any Veteran can continue to participate at no charge.



The Southern MD region and Squadron 116 held events which both Commander Davies and I attended. So, if you have any fund-raising events to raise

money for the project please reach out and we will try to be there.

Jerry Hudson
Commander's Project Chairman
jhudsoniii@comcast.net

Membership

As of October 23rd, we are at 31.23% for total membership, and we are at 26.92% renewal. This means we have tons of room to get those numbers up by renewing last year's members. All our regions are doing as good or better than this time last year. Keep up the pace and we will hit our marks.

For the year 2026-2027 National Membership target percentages have changed. Our new target is 45% by November 12th. This is a more aggressive schedule than we are used to, but we will meet it. We are coming up on holiday events. Those events are the times to make sure your members are renewed for this year AND last year. Halloween events, Thanksgiving dinners and food drives. All the way up to the new year and beyond, be sure to ask every member if they are renewed. Make sure to check the membership lists in Legion.org. See who isn't renewed and has contact information. Do a buddy check.

Consider this also a heads up to make sure you have active phone numbers AND email addresses for your members. Not only does this make it easier to get a hold of them but it allows you to send out messages regarding events, meetings and issues. Don't just assume everyone has heard it because it was said at a meeting or posted in the bar or Facebook.

Take the time to see what kind of process you have for onboarding a new member. Do they know who to contact with issues? When the events are? Do they know when and how to renew? We know because we have the experience. We lose a lot of members after their first or second year. It's possible they just didn't know what to do and fell off. Help make sure that doesn't happen!

Keep eye on mdsal.org for information weekly about ongoing membership.

For any information regarding membership or otherwise, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (410) 926 – 5884 or email: mdonnelly119@gmail.com

Passing on a priceless heritage,

Michael Donnelly

1st Vice Commander | 2027 Membership Chairman

COMMISSION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism Commission

Brothers,
It is both an honor and a privilege to continue serving as your **Americanism Chairman for the Detachment of Maryland, Sons of The American Legion**.

As we move forward into another year of service, I want us to remember that Americanism is much more than a commission, a report, or an event on our calendar. **Americanism is at the heart of who we are as Sons of The American Legion.**

It is our commitment to **God, Country, Veterans, our youth, and our communities.** Americanism is demonstrated every time we properly display and honor the American flag, teach a young person what patriotism means, support a veteran or military family, participate in a patriotic ceremony, invest in our youth, serve our communities, or stand beside a fellow member in a time of need.

It is found in honoring those who wore the uniform and remembering the sacrifices of the veterans through whom we earned the privilege of calling ourselves **Sons of The American Legion**.

But Americanism cannot simply be something we talk about. **We must put Americanism into action.**

Across Maryland, there are tremendous opportunities for our

Squadrons and members to do exactly that.

Investing in Maryland's Youth

Our youth remain one of the greatest investments we can make in the future of our country.

Maryland's 2026 American Legion Boys State was held at **McDaniel College in Westminster**, where young men experienced government, leadership, citizenship, and public service firsthand. Maryland was then represented at the 80th session of Boys Nation by **Will Coughlan and Evan Xin**.

Programs such as **Boys State, Boys Nation, the Oratorical Contest, Scouting, scholarships, and other youth programs** give us opportunities to teach the next generation that citizenship comes with both rights and responsibilities.

Our Detachment also continues its commitment to education through the **George Grossnickle Memorial Scholarship**, with applications for the 2027 scholarship due May 1, 2027.

I challenge every Squadron in Maryland to ask:

What are we doing to reach the next generation?

Be the One

Americanism also means standing beside the men and women who defended the freedoms we enjoy.

Here in Maryland, our Legion Family continues to support **Be the One**, The American Legion's mission to reduce veteran suicide.

This year, Overlea-Perry Hall Post 130 held its second annual **Champions of Hope Be the One event**, bringing veterans, the Legion Family, first responders, community organizations, resources, education, and families together. The event has now raised approximately **$64,000 for Maryland nonprofits supporting veterans and first responders in crisis.**

Our own Maryland SAL leadership is involved in that effort, with **Michael Watts serving as the Detachment of Maryland's Be the One Chairman.**

That is Americanism in action. It reminds us that honoring veterans cannot stop at ceremonies. We must be willing to stand beside them when they need us.

Protecting and Passing On Our Priceless Heritage

The Sons of The American Legion was founded upon a responsibility to preserve the principles of **justice, freedom, democracy, service, and citizenship** and transmit them to future generations.

That responsibility belongs to every one of us.

Whether we are replacing a worn American flag, conducting a flag-retirement ceremony, visiting a veteran, supporting a school, sponsoring a young person, participating in a patriotic observance, helping a family in need, or simply teaching someone why we stand for the flag—we are carrying out Americanism.

Our national organization continues to emphasize programs such as the **Ten Ideals** and the **Five-Point Program of Service**, which teach our younger Sons about patriotism, citizenship, discipline, leadership, faith, service, and Legionism.

These programs remind us that Americanism must be **taught, demonstrated, and lived.**

Maryland Must Lead

The American Legion Department of Maryland represents nearly **42,000 members across 123 Posts statewide**, and the Sons of The American Legion have an important responsibility within that Legion Family.

Our Detachment's own message says it clearly:

"Passing on Our Priceless Heritage."

Those words must become action.

I want to see our Squadrons across Maryland become even more visible in their communities through:

- Flag education, flag replacement, and proper flag retirement
- Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Day, and other patriotic observances
- Boys State and youth-program sponsorship
- Scouting and youth leadership
- Scholarships and educational opportunities
- Be the One and veteran-support initiatives
- Community service projects
- Support for active-duty military members and their families
- Education about the Constitution and responsible citizenship
- Partnerships with American Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, Legion Riders, schools, churches, civic organizations, and community groups

Most importantly, **tell the story of what your Squadron is doing.**

Record your hours. Take pictures. Submit your reports. Share your successes. Let the Detachment know what is happening in your communities so we can recognize it, support it, and encourage other Squadrons to follow your example.

Our Americanism Commission

I am blessed to work alongside dedicated Sons who have accepted leadership responsibilities within our Americanism Commission. Each chairman represents an important piece of our overall mission. But these programs do not belong only to the chairmen.

They belong to every Squadron and every Son in the Detachment of Maryland.
My challenge to every Squadron this year is simple:
Do one more thing.

Reach one more young person.
Help one more veteran.
Replace one more worn flag.
Attend one more patriotic ceremony.

Teach one more person about citizenship.

Support one more family.
Volunteer one more hour.
And bring one more Son into active service.

Because Americanism is not simply something we say.

Americanism is something we live.

We are Sons because of the service and sacrifice of those who came before us. It is now our responsibility to make certain their legacy—and the principles they fought to defend—are passed on to those who come after us.

Let us continue serving our communities, supporting our veterans, developing our youth, honoring our flag, strengthening our Squadrons, and carrying forward our priceless heritage.

The VA Acquisition Academy (VAAA) was created to address the growing acquisition workforce challenge facing the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Federal Government overall.

With the downsizing from the last decade and the loss of institutional knowledge resulting from baby-boomer retirements, the acquisition workforce has been strained to keep pace with the increased amount of and complexities associated with outsourced work in support of the VA mission.

Please click the link and learn more :
https://department.va.gov/acquisition-academy/

Mike Anderson – Squadron 175
Americanism Chairman
Provides leadership for the Americanism Commission while promoting patriotism, civic responsibility, respect for our nation's history, and programs that strengthen our communities.

Lenny Wertz – Squadron 136
Scouting America
Works with Scouting America units by encouraging youth leadership, citizenship, outdoor skills, and community service while strengthening the partnership between Scouting and the American Legion Family.

Sawyer Cornekius – Squadron 228
**Boys State **
Promotes the Boys State program, giving young men the opportunity to experience hands-on leadership, government, citizenship, and public service while preparing tomorrow's leaders.

Bill Stem – Squadron 116
**National Emergency Fund **
Educates members about the National Emergency Fund and assists in promoting support for Legion Family members and posts impacted by natural disasters and unforeseen emergencies.

Kaden Hall – Squadron 40
**Flag Replacement **
Leads efforts to ensure worn and damaged American flags are respectfully retired and replaced while educating communities on proper flag etiquette and the importance of honoring our nation's symbol.

As we move forward together, I encourage every Squadron to become involved in one or more of these programs. Americanism is not the responsibility of one chairman or one committee—it belongs to every member of the Sons of the American Legion. When we serve our veterans, mentor our youth, honor our flag, strengthen our communities, and live out the values of the American Legion Family, we demonstrate Americanism in action.

Together, let us continue building a stronger Detachment, a stronger Maryland, and a stronger nation through faithful service.

For God and Country,

Mike Anderson
Americanism Chairman

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 Boys State sub-committee chairman.

The Boys State committee and staff gathered at Kent Island Post 278 on Sept. 12 for our annual picnic, where we reviewed this year's program and discussed potential changes and improvements for the 2027 session. We were honored to welcome special guest Kristen Barry, Second Vice Director of Maryland Girls State, who joined us to explore ways to further connect the two programs and enhance this experience for rising high school seniors each June.

Like Girls State, Boys State attendance continues to grow as more students recognize its value and share their experience with friends. To keep pace, we need Legionnaires and SAL members alike to step up and join our staff.

We also ask for help in your local communities to encourage current high school juniors to apply for next year's program. 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. Student applications open in early November at mdboysgirlsstate.org.

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

Learn more and apply to volunteer at mdboysgirlsstate.org/volunteer. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok: @mdboysstate.

Sawyer Cornelius
Chairman | Americanism Program
rscornelius@me.com
(410) 708-8389

National Emergency Fund – NEF

Imagine having a fire, tornado, or hurricane do significant damage or destroys your home. The National Emergency Fund is there to help.

It won't replace your home, but it will provide some funds to help with lodging or personal needs.

If you are in this position, anything helps. So, donate as much as you can to help alleviate some of the suffering of our comrades that are put in that position.

I have set the goal of $9000 for this year, that is 50 cents per member. Please help us attain this goal.

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
NEF Chairman | Americanism Program

If you know someone that needs assistance, please have them contact…

WWW.LEGION.ORG/EMERGENCY/APPLY

Flag Replacement Program

First, I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as your new Youth Commander. At our next Youth Meeting, we will be handing out Flag Replacement Forms for anyone who has a flag that needs to be replaced. These forms are also available online. If anyone has questions about the Flag Replacement Program, please feel free to reach out to me. I look forward to working with everyone!

Kaden Hall
Youth Commander
410-279-4480

Children & Youth Corner

As the holiday season approaches, I want to start by thanking all the Squadrons that have already

begun their **Toys for Tots** drives, as well as those preparing to get theirs underway. Your efforts help ensure that children in our communities experience the joy of the holidays. Every toy collected and every donation made can bring a smile to a child's face.

But let's also remember that **not every child gets to spend the holidays at home.** Some children will spend this season in hospitals or undergoing treatment for serious illnesses. While Toys for Tots is a wonderful program, I encourage our Squadrons to consider other ways to help. A fundraiser supporting **The American Legion Child Well-being Foundation (CWF)** can help organizations that serve children in need. Or consider organizing a **Casey Cares pajama drive** through its Kami's Jammies program, providing new pajamas to critically ill children in hospitals and those recovering at home. Sometimes something as simple as a comfortable pair of pajamas can bring a little happiness during a difficult time.

Fall is here, and we all know what comes next — winter! That means it's time to start thinking about the **2027 Polar Bear Plunge**, supporting Special Olympics Maryland. Whether you're brave enough to jump into the Chesapeake Bay in January or prefer to stay warm and make a donation, there is a way for everyone to participate. I invite you to join our team or support our efforts. Every dollar helps provide sports, training, and opportunities for Special Olympics athletes across Maryland.

Join our team or donate: https://support.somd.org/team/838700

I also want to shine a little light on a program that doesn't always get the attention it deserves: **The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program.** This is much more than a shooting competition. Built around four basic principles — safety, education, enjoyment, and competition — the program teaches young people responsibility, discipline, concentration, and sportsmanship through supervised air rifle marksmanship.

And here's something you may not know: **Junior Shooting Sports can lead to college or trade school scholarships!** At the national championship, the winners in both the Precision and Sporter categories receive $5,000 scholarships, while second-place finishers receive $1,000 each. These awards are another great example of how the Legion Family invests in our youth. Squadrons interested in supporting a local program or helping young shooters participate can learn more through the Department of Maryland:

https://www.mdlegion.org/JSS.htm

As we move into the holiday season, I encourage every Squadron to find at least one way to make a difference. Collect toys, gather pajamas, hold a fundraiser, support a Plunger, or introduce a young person to one of our youth programs. **Not every project needs to be big to have a big impact.**

Thank you for everything you continue to do for the children and families of Maryland. Let's keep the momentum going!

For God and Country,

Sean Phelan
Children & Youth Chairman | Americanism Committee

Casey Cares

Our support of Casey Cares is ongoing; they are always looking for donations of any kind. There are several different areas to donate like Birthday Blasts, Family Festivities, Kammis Jammies, Caring Connections, Hammy's Heart.

Maybe you would consider throwing some kind of party for some Casey Cares families. Glen Burnie holds a Halloween party and a breakfast with Santa each year for the community and Casey Cares families. If you are interested in that type of thing, you can reach out to me or Casey Cares directly. To learn more about what all Casey Cares does, check out their website (Caseycares.org).

Mark Fayer, Sr.

Casey Cares Liaison | Children & Youth Program

Toys For Tots

As I write this, we are halfway through October already! Before we know it, Christmas will be here. I hope some of our Squadrons have planned a Toys For Tots event. Please plan to attend the DEC meeting in Edgewood on November 14 and bring your toys or monetary contribution with you.

The Toys for Tots coordinator sent me this list just a few days ago for locations to obtain boxes. I know this isn't much help for Squadrons in other parts of the state, but this all I was given.

Self-Storage One Eastpoint – Baltimore County
Self Storage One Timonium – Baltimore County
Self Storage One Middle River – Baltimore County
Self Storage One White Marsh – Baltimore County
Self Storage One Westview – Baltimore County
Self Storage One Ellicott City – Howard County
Self Storage One Eldersburg – Carroll County
Runway Self Storage – Carroll County

Bob Gambill
Chairman | Children & Youth Program

Special Olympics

Exciting Special Olympics Events Are Coming Up!
There are some exciting Special Olympics Maryland events right around the corner, and we invite everyone to get involved, show their support, and help make a difference for our incredible athletes!

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY PLUNGE

Friday, January 29, 2027 | 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Plunge at 12:00 p.m.
Join law enforcement, military, fire/EMS, first responders, friends, and supporters as we take the plunge for Special Olympics Maryland!

Want to take the plunge with us? Sign up and join our team: https://support.somd.org/team/846006

DEEP CREEK DUNK

Saturday, February 20, 2027

Get ready to brave the cold again at Deep Creek! The Deep Creek Dunk brings people together for a great time and an even greater cause—supporting Special Olympics athletes and programs.
2027 SPECIAL OLYMPICS MARYLAND WINTER GAMES

February 21–23, 2027 | Wisp Resort, McHenry, Maryland

Following the Deep Creek festivities, the excitement continues at the Special Olympics Maryland Winter Games! Come out and support athletes and Unified® teammates as they compete in **alpine skiing and snowshoeing** at Wisp Resort.

These events are about much more than competition. They are about **courage, friendship, inclusion, community, and giving our Special Olympics athletes the opportunity to shine.**

Want to volunteer and be part of the excitement?
Please contact Mitchell Matoska at 410-236-5402 for more information.

Come out, get involved, and help us make these events unforgettable for our Special Olympics athletes!

Mitchell Matoska
Chairman, Special Olympics | Children & Youth Program



Campout

I believe everyone that was there had a good time, although there were not many. As someone who has been doing these campouts for many years as far as participation, this was by far the worst ever. I'm guessing it was just a weekend when a lot was going on?

We had approx. 8 to 10 kids and maybe 20 adults. Saturday was a little better, maybe because of the Southern MD Region having their meeting there at the camp.

The kids had a great time on the new playground built with the funds from PDC Mike Obrenski project. It turned out very nice. I think Sean did a very good job making sure everyone was involved and making sure there was plenty to do and plenty to eat.

Candy Bingo and the ice cream social was very nice. At the end everyone made sure we cleaned up and the camp was clean.

Thanks go out to all who were there and all who helped make it a success.

PDC Dave Hullihen
Children & Youth Program



Laps of Love

Hello To All,

The 2026 Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love event was held at Overlea Perry Hall Post 130 on June 20th at the detachment cookout. Thank you to everyone who fundraised and donated to this event. Your support is extremely appreciated for this great program.

We look forward to another great fundraising year for the 2027 Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love. The event will be held in June 2027 during the detachment cookout.

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.

Bobby Miller, II
Chairman, | Children & Youth Program



VAVS Variety

What is a Veteran?

It begins with an individual deciding to join a branch of military service. Or in years past, participating in the Selective Service Program known as The Draft.

Next comes the Oath.

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

Then, onto Basic training or better known as “Boot Camp”. This is where each person is ingrained with the chain of command. They are physically and mentally challenged and molded into a fighting machine. Pride, Honor and Teamwork are all part of this training and development.

Many then move on to specific and intensive training. This prepares them for career positions within the military. After this comes Unit assignments or deployment.

During these assignments or deployments, direct contact with family and friends is not normally possible. Sometimes there is virtually no contact with the outside world. We often miss those we love, when separated for a few days. Multiply that feeling by months or even years.

Through their time of service, these brave souls encounter extreme conditions and experiences that most people cannot even imagine. Some of those experiences are so severe that many will not discuss them even with family members.

Some portion of these men and women, during their time of service also experience physical and/or mental scars. In many cases, those injuries cannot be fully repaired. These men and women are never able to return to a normal life after their service. At times, these mental scars later lead to critical decisions resulting in drug or alcohol abuse or even taking their own life.

Every military member signs a proverbial blank check the day they enter service, the amount to be filled in later. Too many of these checks were cashed. Cemeteries throughout the world are the resting place of those who paid the ultimate price.

Finally, there comes a time when their military duty is recognized as complete. The portion of their life dedicated to serving their country through their active duty is fulfilled. They close out this chapter, lay down their arms and put away their uniform.

After completing active duty, many Veterans continue to serve the community where they live in various ways. Some go onto careers in community service. Others have gone into political positions. You will find some of them at a nearby American Legion Post, volunteering at events to raise funds for programs to benefit those in need. You may see them active with a Scout Program or coaching an American Legion Baseball team. Brother Veterans, going through a tough stretch in life will find comrades standing by ready to help as needed.

Veteran is not just a title. It represents someone that puts their life on the line to protect you and me. A veteran is an individual that stepped forward to preserve the freedoms that we all enjoy. Their charge was to provide security for each of us now and for future generations. And, even after completing active military duty, most continue to serve their community, state and nation.

What is a veteran? This is a "VETERAN".

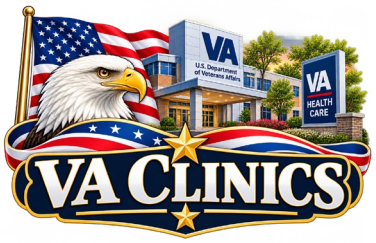
Fellow Sons,

With the holiday season quickly approaching, I wish each of you Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Great New Year.

We, as sons, should be thinking about what we are able to do to help our veterans at this time. In both VA Facilities and own communities. You can check with your Post Commander or Service Officer to see if they are aware of anyone that may require assistance. We should keep in mind that during the holiday season suicide rates increase, not only for the members of our community, but especially for veterans. The current rate of suicide for veterans now stands at seventeen per day.

Please remember to give your Veteran and Sons friends a Buddy Check simply to let them know you care. We can make a difference. Please consider donating now to the Veterans Centers, Hospitals, Homes and Veteran programs. Together, We can make a difference.

Thank you,
Bill Dawson
VAVS Chairman



VA Clinics

Greetings,

I will highlight different VA Clinics throughout the year, below are the services available at the Cambridge VA Clinic:
Cambridge Clinic
830 Chesapeake Drive
Cambridge MD 21613
410-228-6243
Hours: M-F 8AM to 4:30PM
Services provided:

Audiology and Speech
Mental Health
Military Sexual Trama Care
Optometry
Podiatry
Primary Care
Prosthetics and Rehabilitation
Pulmonary Medicine
Social Work
Telehealth
Urology
Woman Veteran Care
Please let your veteran population know about this clinic & services.

Bob Manzo
VA Clinics Representative | VAVS Progra

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

Our priceless Heritage at Charlotte

Hall Veterans Home continues to need our support and assistance. With the holidays coming a lot of our veterans don't have families or they live too far away to visit them so please make time to stop by and thank them for their service.

Plan a visit and listen to their stories, I promise you that you and the veterans will find enjoyment in your conversations. Your squadron or have the Community like schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts can write them or send holiday cards. If you would like to make a monetary donation so the staff could continue planning activities for the veterans. Send your donation directly to Charlotte Hall. Work with your Squadrons to plan a visit or sponsor an event . Remember a lot of our veterans don't have family or friends to come and visit them, help reassure them that they are not forgotten.

Check their website to see the wish list of items needed.

Jim Alexander, PDC
CHVH Representative | VAVS Program

Heroes Haven, Inc.

Welcome to Fall, our busy season here at Heroes Haven.

I wanted to give everyone an update on what all we do throughout the year. Here are a few

ways we help…

We truly care about our Heroes and tend to help them out in various ways

- Mobility and assistive devices such as access ramps, track chairs, and service dogs.
- Starting a new business.
- Helping with manpower for relocations.
- Receiving needed services and treatments
- Providing transportation to doctor visits, hospital stays, court dates, PTS clinics, and more.
- Financial opportunities for educational purposes to our Alumni and their families.

Your support is greatly appreciated to assist us with our mission of helping our "Nations Heroes"

We just hosted a Poker Run on October 10th with 38 supporters taking a scoot to some of our local American Legions in Delaware and Maryland. This event helps us raise funds needed to continue our support of Injured Heroes. We appreciate all that attended, Rommel Harley-Davidson of Salisbury for the assembly point, all the American Legions, the riders and Dor-Wic Post 218 in Sharptown, MD for the end stop and after party.

and all the par Keep checking our website and Facebook page.

Please keep checking our website and Facebook page.

We have just hosted new injured Heroes and a few alumni (Repeat Offenders) for the annual deer hunt during the 1st Muzzle Loading Season of the Maryland DNR Deer Hunting season. Thank You to all the property owners for allowing our heroes to hunt your property. We are always looking for new hunting and fishing opportunities for our Heroes. If you have a hunting property, fishing opportunity or know someone that can help, please have them contact us. Any support you can offer is greatly appreciated as this is 1 of the biggest expenses we have each year. For some, this may be the only time they have ever been able to get back outdoors for recreational hunting or fishing since a life changing injury.

Please visit our website www.heroeshaven.org and on Facebook at Heroes Haven, Inc. to learn more about our organization and stay informed of our upcoming events.

Thank you for all your support so we can continue our mission to provide outdoor activities and

support for various needs to our Nations Injured Veterans and 1st Responders.

Darryl English
Heroes Haven, Inc. Executive Committee Member | VAVS Program

Perry Point VA Medical Center ~ *Center for Development & Civic Engagement*

Perrypoint is open to all volunteers and is having a momentous week of events during Veterans Day. It's not too early to get on our December calendars either!

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, all donations are accepted and donations will be used throughout the year for special occasions. 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

Thank you to everyone who volunteers, donates and/or participates in any of the activities for our Veterans.

Perry Point volunteers needed:

Coffee Station: Monday and/or Friday mornings, Red Coat: Monday and/or Fridays 8am-noon, Protestant Service Escorts: Sunday mornings, Museum: 10am-2pm Thursdays, 1st & 3rd Saturday March-November & as needed for special tours.

Long Term Care: weekdays, flexible

Perry Point items needs: Coffee cart supplies, Coffee: Folgers Classic (prepackaged filters/grounds) 10 oz. Coffee & sleeves, New hats, gloves, scarves and socks, New and/or gently used coats.

Follow VA Maryland on Facebook for VA Maryland volunteer updates!

https://wwhttps://www.facebook.com/groups/vamhcsvolunteersw.facebook.com/groups/vamhcsvolunteers

Tell a friend about volunteering for Veterans at the VA Maryland Health Care System. You can contribute to the Veteran community. Meeting interesting people. Develop job skills. Earn community service hours towards school requirements. Explore career & educational opportunities. Gain valuable experience in a health care setting. Make a difference by giving back to others. Serve those who served our Nation's Veterans.

PDC Tom Deal
Perry Point VA Representative | VAVS Program

Be The One
Veterans Suicide Prevention

I write this article today about our Be The One program in Maryland, which has been a success in its ability to reach so many American Legion Members, Veterans, Active Military, First Responders, Certified Nurses, Clinicians in the medical field and our communities throughout Maryland, some who have experienced a loss of a loved one from suicide. With 132 suicides per day with an estimate of 22 veterans and active military as part of that 132 per day, there is very high interest from all walks of life in this endeavor to reach our goal to prevent suicides. We still have a lot of work ahead of us. However, the groundwork has been laid with the foundational work in place.

I want to personal thank Greg Burton from American Legion Post 130, who is my assistant in the training we do around the State of Maryland. Also, I would like to thank Michael Obremski who is my vice chairman for the work Michael is doing both on the websites and training. These two men have put their heart and soul into this program. Also, a thanks goes out to the VA of Maryland for their support in our training program.

On September 12, 2026, we had our 2nd annual Champions of

Hope-United for Life Music Festival

at American Legion Post 130, Perry Hall, Maryland. In attendance was our very own Detachment Commander, John Davies, along with 80 volunteers from our post. In addition to our community and veterans who attended this event. With five bands who performed free of charge, along with the VA staff, and all different types of entertainment, we raised a substantial sum of money to support our veterans in need here in Maryland. I personal would like to send out a thank you to everyone, including the American Legion Posts in Maryland and the businesses for their support, along with all who contributed their time, money and energy. A special thank you to my wonderful staff committee volunteers-over thirty strong—without whom this would not be possible.

Next up is our own BE THE ONE cruise, coming up on April 11, 2027, to April 18, 2027. The ship sails from Baltimore for 7 days to the Bahama Islands. We have sold 64 cabins so far out of the 89 cabins set aside for the BE THE ONE cruise. You still have time to book until the end of December 2026. We will have our own cocktail party along with events on the Carnival Cruise, Ship, the Pride for the group traveling with BE THE ONE. There are two great things that will happen on this cruise. First, you will have a great vacation in the sun on the ship to and from the islands, along with a wonderful visit to the Bahama Islands. This is an excellent cost for the cruise package offered to you by program, BE THE ONE. Second, this will help us raise additional funds to support the BE THE ONE program in Maryland. Carnival Cruise Lines will be providing funds back to us from the sale of the cruise, So it's a WIN WIN for everyone!

I look forward to moving forward with our BE THE ONE training throughout the year and into next year. So have your post request a training class and my staff, and I will be there to provide this most important training for you.

Kind Wishes,

Michael Watts
Be The One Chairman | Veterans Suicide Prevention | VAVS Program
amcricanlegionophbetheone@yahoo.com | 667-494-2667

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 and rely heavily on community donations. There is a total of 100 houses nationwide with approximately 570,000+ families served so far. Each Fisher House offers comfortable accommodation that allows 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. Fisher House also has a beautiful library where guests can simply relax or enjoy some private conversations. 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.

To Donate: Contact the Bethesda team at (301) 857-9494 or bring your donation to our Detachment DEC meetings.

Specific Needs: For Bethesda Fisher House. https://www.navymarinecorpsfisherhouses.com/locations/bethesd

Other Locations: To find other regional houses or browse their registries, use the Fisher House Foundation location finder please visit: https://www.fisherhouse.org/

Just to name a few of the most needed items:

Gift Cards: Walmart, Target, grocery stores, Visa/Mastercard, or gas

Individually Wrapped Snacks: Granola bars, trail mix, crackers, fruit cups, and bottled water.

Household Supplies: Paper towels, disposable coffee cups, laundry detergent, toilet paper and Lysol wipes.

Personal Care: Unopened/new toiletries, travel-sized body lotion, and dental floss.

Let's all get together as a Legion Family and help with "Building a place for Heroes to Gather, Share and Heal " for our Veterans and their families,

Respectfully,

PDC Mike Obremski
Fisher House | VAVS Program



Legislative Alert!

My fellow Sons, Welcome to Fall. Be sure to get those warm coats ready, winter is just around the bend. "Urgent update"

The American Legion family needs our help to get key Legislation passed in Washington DC. We must continue to contact our legislators to get these acts moving forward. Together we can advocate for passage of these Acts and reaffirm our dedication of enhancing the quality of life for our veterans through innovative support mechanisms. Here is the latest:

- "Pay our Troops Act of 2026" H.R. 5401, was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations. No change.
- The "Saves act", Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act, H.R. 2605 has been placed on the union calendar #264, & S.1441 (2025 version) has been placed on the legislative calendar #342. No change.
- The "Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025" H.R.1423 has now stalled in Veteran Affairs Committee and S.649 is in mark up for an amendment per the "Committee on Veterans Affairs". No change.
- The "Major Richard Star Act", No change, H.R. 2102 has stalled in the committee on "Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs" and the Senate version, S. 1032 has stalled in the "Committee on Armed Services"
  No Change
- The "Ships for America Act" H.R. 3151 is in the sub-committee for Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, S. 1541 is in the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. No change.
- The "Love Lives on Act" House H.R. 1004, Referred to the full committee on Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs, Senate version S.410, ordered by the Veterans Affairs Committee to be reported without amendments favorably. No change.

New acts to follow:

- Take Care of Americas' Veterans Act: HR9237/ S4744, this rare opportunity to pass 62 bipartisan bills that would improve the lives of over 32 million servicemembers, veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. The VA is set to change disability ratings independently, regardless of TCAVA. Without action, the savings from those changes will be returned to the Treasury instead of going to veterans. By passing TCAVA, Congress ensures those funds are reinvested in benefits for combat-injured veterans, surviving spouses, and the broader veteran community who have waited years for these benefits they are entitled to.
- Veterans Transition to Trucking Act, HR2954/ S1537 has passed out of the House and is now in the Senate awaiting progress.

Please go to https://www.votervoice.net/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, please contact them 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/

Please continue to support of our Veterans

"Yours in Service"

Darryl English (Sq. 218)
Detachment Legislative Chairman



Finance Committee

The Detachment Finance Committee continues to provide guidance, oversight, and recommendations regarding financial planning, budgeting, reporting, policies, and procedures to support the effective operation of the Detachment and the achievement of its organizational objectives. Through collaboration, transparency, and consistent financial practices, the Committee works to strengthen financial governance, promote informed decision-making, and ensure the continued financial stability of the Detachment.

The committee has had five work sessions via zoom and continues to work hard to meet current goals. They will continue to learn current processes, recommending new procedures and controls, evaluating these controls, and making modifications, as necessary. Finally, we will use the new procedures and controls to adopt a standing rules document that will lead us to the implementation of the new controls and audit readiness.

Joe Lohman
Finance Officer/Chairman

Convention Committee

54th Annual Convention!

We're continuing our plans for another great Convention! More information will be available after January 1, 2027. The dates will be June 25 to 27, 2027.

We also look forward to working with those responsible for our Convention-Related Activities – Golf Tournament & Picnic, as we coordinate efforts in support of the overall Convention. Additional information regarding

these activities and their planning will be provided before the end of the year.

Hotel information will be available on our website after January 1st. Details regarding Convention events and activities will also be included in the Convention packages distributed shortly after the new year, with updates posted on our website at www.mdsal.org.

On behalf of the Convention Committee, we look forward to seeing everyone at the Convention. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Bill Hill
Chairman

Eastern Shore Region

Members,

Please continue to press forward on the 2027 Membership renewals and don't forget to reach out to those who may be behind a year or two. Remember "No Squadron member left behind". You can renew online at legion.org/sal-renew or at your squadron.

Please call on your ESR Officers for any help, guidance and advise this year. My phone is always on, and my emails are checked frequently. Here are your newly elected Officers for 2026/ 2027 are:

Commander- Darryl English (218), cell, 410-430-2019, email is Englishsta14@msn.com

Vice Commander- Michael Brison (18), cell 484-753-3628, email is esradjutant@gmail.com

Adjutant- Jason Miller (18), cell 410-490-2550, email is Jasoncmiller@gmail.com

Finance Officer – Tom Deal (135) cell 443-206-0402, email is tom.deal@verizon.net

SGT at Arms- Tyrone Bailey (77) cell 410-725-5101, email is baileytyron78@gmail.com

Chaplain – Micheal (Mike) Fayer (135) cell 423-539-4423, email is jmfayer@gmail.com

Historian – Freddie Taylor (77) cell 410-690-1950, email is bentay1455@gmail.com

Get your upcoming events to us early so we can post on our Facebook page and help pass the word and attend when available.

I look forward to helping you all in continuing our mission supporting The American Legion and its pillars.

If you haven't seen or spoken to your DEC since July 1, 2026, please reach out to them. They are assigned as follows:

Walt Ragan - Sq's 194, 135 & 15

Michael Brison - Sq's 18 & 278

Hal Hopkins - Sq's 228, 246 & 36

Tyrone Bailey - Sq's 77, 296 & 29

Charles Jenkins - Sq's 243, 91, 87 & 269

Leon Miller- Sq's - 145, 64, 166 &123

Avery Purnell- Sq's - 231, 94, 93, 16

Commander English – Sq's 218 & 237

Our next ESR meeting will be on November 22, 2026 @ Blake Blackston Post 77 in Easton, MD. Meeting at 1p, lunch to follow. A complete list is online at esrmdsal.org

The next DEC meeting is November 14th at Post 17, Edgewood, MD. at 2pm.

Everyone is encouraged to attend our ESR meetings and the DEC meeting. You can find an updated list of the DEC meeting online at mdsal.org.

Again "Thank You" to every Blue Cap member for your hard work to make the ESR the best it can be. Please reach out with any questions to any of your Eastern Shore Region leadership team if we can be of any assistance.

Please be sure to forward us your event fliers for your squadron or post. We will help pass the word and place it on our website if possible.

"Yours in Service"

Darryl English (Sq. 218)
Eastern Shore Region Commander

Northern Central Region

Greetings from the Northern Central Region. We are currently in our Fall season and in consideration of the Detachment and Regions getting off to a slow start with our 2027 membership cards, I think the NCR is moving in a positive direction regarding membership renewals. Based on the date of this message, the NCR was in 1st place in its membership drive. We should be encouraged to not only support the NCR Commander Roscoe Holley's Project; "The Baltimore V.A. Medical Center's Homeless Veterans' Program #1098", but we should also get behind the Detachment Commander John Davie's Project also which is "Operation Second Chance, Heroes Ridge at Raven Rock". Please know that our next NCR meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 28, 2026 at Liberty Post #122 at 1 pm, 4424 Painters Mill Road, Owings Mills, MD. The NCR is actively seeking the support of all squadrons in its footprint to actively participate in the upcoming 4th Annual Shrimp & Bull Roast to be held Saturday, Dec. 5th, 2026 at Superior Catering, 1010 Oldham St., Balt., MD 21224 from 1 pm until 5 pm, tickets have been distributed to all Regional Squadrons for a donation of $65 each and more tickets are available if needed. There is a February 2027 Pick-3 Lottery Raffle scheduled for that entire month. All DECMen are requested to turn in your DEC Reports after the completion of your scheduled Squadron visits this administrative year, so please continue to encourage Squadron membership growth, Form submissions and the continued support of all other Programs taking place within our Region. It has been confirmed that Squadrons #130 & #183 have been combined into one, congrats on this strong merger.

"STRONG SQUADRONS MAKE AN INCREDIBLE REGION"

Yours in Service,

Roscoe Holley

Northern Central Region Commander

Western Maryland Region

I look forward to working with all of you in Western Maryland region to move this region into where I know it can be. We are coming up with some fund-raising ideas to help support things we need to do throughout the year. Like fund raising and admin things that come up. If you have any ideas or would like to hold an event, please bring them to the meeting to be voted on.

We are holding a daily raffle that goes off the evening pick 3, in February. So please look for them, we would like all the squadrons to support. Tickets will be distributed for sale soon.

The next Detachment meeting will be November 14th at Post 17 Edgewood at 2pm. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

The first Western Maryland region meeting will be December 5th, 1pm at Squadron 42 Morris Frock. The following meetings will be on February 21st at 191 Gold star Mt. Airy, May 15th 189 Barton.

Everyone should have received their membership cards by now. WE need to get our members renewed to keep up the strong effort that we did last year. Some squadrons have fallen behind but I know that we will right the ship.

The Detachment Commander Western Maryland's own; John Davies has a new theme for this year and that is ***Passing on our Priceless Heritage!*** Please contribute to his Project at Heros Ridge at Ravens Rock to build a covered Fire pit and patio as well as the walkways down so that all veterans can enjoy the comradery and discussions around the fire pit!!

Thank you and hope to see you there,

Jerry Hudson

Western Maryland Region Commander

jhudsoniii@comcast.net

NEC Update!

I bring you greetings from our SAL National Commander Thom Skelley from Texas. Commander

Skelley was elected at the National Convention in Louisville, KY on August 30th.

BE THE ONE, IS STILL THE FOCUS TO HELP END VETERAN SUICIDE. National Commander Shelley has a commander's project this year to promote The American Legion family and to bring awareness to the thousands of American POW/MIA's still unaccounted for; a commander's appreciation certificate will be awarded to squadrons that are able to place a POW/MIA table or a customizable POW/MIA poster in a local restaurant. The criteria: place a POW/MIA table or poster, have a dedication ceremony, document the ceremony with time, date, location and photos (while wearing sons branded apparel) submit the documentation to national liaison Mark Woodsmall via email mwoodsmall@legion.org and submit pictures and details to the millennium rusty.myers@ymail.com.

The POW/MIA table kit can be purchased through emblem sales. Members can renew their dues online at Https://mylegion.org/personifyebusiness/Membership/SAL-Renew as long as your email is registered with you member number. Agenda and more info is available online.

For more information about our organization go to www.legion.org/sons and check out all of the great programs of the Sons of The American Legion we support and get a glimpse into how others across the country support the Sons.

Washington Conference is February 27-March 3, 2027, with the wreath laying on Sunday February 28th. This year's wreath laying will stop at WWII, Korea/Vietnam, Pentagon and Arlington National Ceremony. If you want to attend the wreath laying ceremony, contact Legislative Chairman Darryl English.

If you would like to know more about The American Legion organization, you can sign up for online Basic Training course. The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online. The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. Course available at Legion Web site; https://register.legion.org/alei

Tom Deal
National Executive Committeeman | Detachment of Maryland



Public Relations Advisory

We want to brag about you!
If you are hosting an event, or have had a successful one which you just want to brag about, please send an outline. It may be about either what's taking place or what has taken place. Provide some details around what the event may be supporting, such as a Draw Down to raise funds for a scholarship program, or a Dance to support the Detachment Commanders Project and an event, which may be purely held in your community to support a local program such as a food bank, or children's clothing drive. We'll do our best to publish them on the Detachment website in advance of the event and we'll help get the word out to the Detachment and Legion Family. Please send all articles to:

Bill Hill, PDC
Article submissions | Hill1062@MSN.COM

We want to brag about you!

THE PRIDE

Passing on Our Priceless Heritage

DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND | 2026–2027 MEETING SCHEDULE

Fall D.E.C. Meeting
November 14, 2026 | Edgewood Post 17 | 1:00 PM

Mid-Winter Events — Friday
January 29, 2027 | Ft. McHenry Visit & Polar Bear Plunge with **SAL National Commander**

Mid-Winter Events — Saturday
January 30, 2027 | Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training | Glen Burnie Post 40

Winter D.E.C. Meeting
January 31, 2027 | Glen Burnie Post 40 | 11:00 AM

Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown
March 6, 2027 | Perryville

Spring D.E.C. Meeting
April 3, 2027 | Fort Cumberland Post 13 | 12:00 PM

2027 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026	*25%*
OCTOBER 14, 2026	*35%*
NOVEMBER 12, 2026	*45%*
DECEMBER 9, 2026	55%
JANUARY 13, 2027	65%
FEBRUARY 10, 2027	85%
MARCH 10, 2027	90%
APRIL 14, 2027	95%
MAY 12, 2027	100%
****JULY 29, 2027**	**105%**

** Delegate Strength Target Date — 30 days prior to National Convention

3115 Orchard Avenue • Baltimore, MD 21234
www.mdsal.org | Facebook: Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland