



American Legion Auxiliary Department of MD, Inc
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May 2026 Bulletin

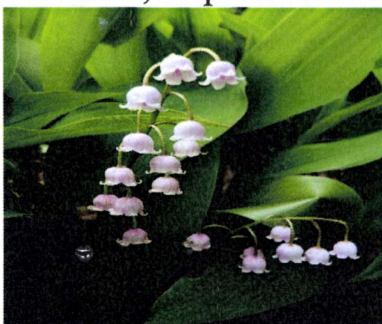
Department President Kyrese's Message.

Hello Sweet Treats!

The past few weeks have been very busy! I started with the Perryville Draw Down which is so much fun every year, especially when you win! I won \$25. The National Commander's visit was also a great time! We all met at Post 7 in Annapolis for a wonderful breakfast, we also visited the USO at BWI Airport. Post 226 hosted a spectacular banquet honoring him. The weekend ended with a delicious breakfast back at Post 226 to say farewell to the National Commander, Dan Wiley. The last weekend of the month ended with a fantastic Youth Leadership Academy hosted by our Junior's Chairman, Starr Purnell using our candy theme. What a spectacular time our youth had, learning about leadership, Americanism, Poppy, National Security, the Patch Program, and Girl's State! This is the time to get them involved as they are our future.

Remember to please support the President's Project this year which is Girl's State. We want to make sure this program remains strong and has the resources it needs to keep thriving and give the opportunity for our young ladies to learn about government and the structure of writing and passing bills that will impact their lives. I hope everyone is preparing to go to the convention in Ocean City in July! I hope to see you on May 9, our last DEC before convention at Post 226 at 10 a.m.

Kyrese Johnson
President, Department of Maryland



Chaplain's May Bulleting Report

Blessings from your Department Chaplain Paula Grimes.

Spring blessings to you all. Please keep Mayvee Smith in your prayers as she recovers from knee surgery. Also, Denise Maddox (Unit 121) who is recovering from a total knee replacement. Also, Marilyn Hembroc as she fell and broke her hip and is having surgery. Prayers and condolences for the family of Mary Riston who passed away April 11, 2026. And Condolences to the family of Rosita Dietrich who passed away April 4, 2026. She served as American Legion Auxiliary 136 President (7 terms), Vice President, Secretary, and Multiple Committee Chairmanships. She took on the challenge of Southern Maryland District President. She also served on various committees as Chairwoman, Vice Chair and committee worker within the Department of Maryland American Legion Auxiliary. And she was selected by the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary to serve as her Personal Page at the National Convention. RIP Rosita, you truly lived by our motto Service Not Self.



Paula Grimes, Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maryland

AMERICANISM May Bulletin



Americanism Essay Winners

Group 1

First Place District 4 Unit 109 Belle Gabrielle Annibal Whitaker
Second Place District 8 Unit 200 Svar Balu
Third Place District 6 Unit 274 Charleigh Dillon

Group 111

First Place District 8 Unit 168 Ruby Jones
Second Place District 6 Unit 274 Zoe Roberts
Third Place District 4 Unit 109 Joshua Needham Noltemeyer

Group V

First Place District 8 Unit 96 Sophia Smith
Second Place District 5 Unit 217 Blakely Pfaff
Third Place District 7 Unit 24 Carolyn Hughes Wyatt Hardin

Group 11

First Place District 6 Unit 221 Charlotte
Second Place District 4 Unit 109 Annabelle Hodges
Third Place District 2 Unit 166 Carter Justice

Group 1V

First Place District 7 Unit 24 Tatum Kelly
Second Place District 2 Unit 166 Elizabeth Lovell
Third Place District 6 Unit 206 Reed

Group VI

First Place District 1 Unit 278 October Blandt
Second Place District 6 Unit 255 Harlon Plummer
Third Place District 8 Unit 282

Congratulations to all the winners!! A suggestion to all Units, have a special Americanism night. Invite the American Legion Family and the public to join you all for a "CELEBRATION" of the United States 250th Birthday!! Have the children read their essays. Everyone will love them!! Give out small American Flags. Also pass out the history of the flag along with the history of the Pledge of Allegiance. I can e-mail you copies of both along with other interesting information concerning the United States. E-mail if you would like this information.

I haven't heard from any Unit what their Post family will be doing to celebrate the 250th birthday!! Are you decorating your post? Are you going to have a party? If so, are you inviting your community? I receive many e-mails from National asking what the American legion Families in my state will be doing to celebrate. Please e-mail me with your plans.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you would have already mailed me your Americanism report. Good luck to everyone. I'm looking forward to receiving them. I will be reading them all. I have not received any "Adult Americanism" essays. It's not too late to write one. The deadline is June 30th. The title is the same as the children. "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom". Word count is 450 to 500 words. Any questions, please e-mail me.

God Bless our COUNTRY, our AMERICAN FLAG, our VETERANS and their FAMILIES and God Bless all of YOU!

Linda Sarkisian Dept. Americanism Chairman
lindasarkisian@yahoo.com--301/602-5276

Nola Willis Dept. Americanism Vice Chairman
nolawillis@atlanticbb.net--(C) 410/490-3625

AEF report - May bulletin

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) - 2025-2026 Challenge

Reminder: Please send me a text or email on how you shared info with your unit(s) on AEF and how your donations were raised throughout the districts and units. All AEF contributions from ALA departments, units, and members that are directly received by ALA National Headquarters count toward each Division's total. The deadline for this year's FY 2025–2026 donations is May 31, 2026

Keep those donations coming to support our members in times of need. To donate online, simply click the link below or text "AEF" to 1-844-940-3450.

<https://donate.legion-aux.org/CSiDonate/Give.aspx/QPOMDNR5#c>

ATTENTION PLEASE!

The 2025-2026 National Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Program, **A challenge for the Department of Maryland** to reach a goal of \$1.00 per member between June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026.

Can you spare **\$1.00** today?

Every dollar makes a difference. Emergency Fund Starts With Helping Hands.

Your donation helps provide temporary financial assistance to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members who are facing unexpected hardship.

Please send your AEF donations to Department Headquarters by May 15, 2026 to allow time for processing before the National deadline.

2025-2026 National AEF Program Awards

All AEF awards are determined by reports generated by National Headquarters based on donations received from Departments, Districts, Units, and individual ALA members from June 1 - May 31. Units and Districts are asked to share information for the Department AEF Annual Report to National.

Please email or text the following:

- How AEF information is shared at unit or district meetings
- Fundraising activities or donations collected
- How your unit promoted AEF (flyers, events, newsletters, social media)
- Unit name and number
- Photos are welcome!

Thank you for supporting members of our Auxiliary family in times of need.

Linda P.K. Green

AEF Chairperson

ALA Dept of Maryland greenlpk@msn.com

(202) 425-7414

C&Y Program 2026

I would like to know do you have any one that has put in for the Young Hero/Good Deed Awards and/or Kids of Deployment are Heros 2. Have any Units sent these two children's programs into the main office. I need the name , phone number and Unit. Can you send them to me or call 240-418-2553. I need to know by Tuesday morning please.

I have a Children and Youth National meeting on Zoom.

Has any Units sent in money for the Maryland State Department Children and Youth project. April is Military Kids month. We are working on a Purple up program at Patuxent River Naval Base, Lexington Park, Maryland 20653.

I am still working with Pax River to finalize the date and time.

Wendy Rice-Morton
Children and Youth Chairman



COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT



American Legion Family Day April 25, 2026, is almost her. Has your Post started planning for it? Reach out to your Post, volunteer, help come up with ideas. Remember it's a Family event, meaning legion, auxiliary and sons.

Did you know Legion Day can be held anytime near April 25th? It can be held a week before or the week after or even on a Sunday.

For more information, go to the national website at [www.http://members.legion-aux.org/](http://members.legion-aux.org/) Click on Member Log In (upper right hand of page)

Enter your log in information

Click on Meetings/Trainings (upper right side of page) Click

on ALA Academy under Online Training

Click on Launch ALA Academy (box on left side of page)

Click on Browse Catalog

Click on ALA Academy Live Recording (left sidebar)

Scroll and find "Planning and Hosting a Successful American Legion Family Day"

Click on Enroll (right side blue/green box)

Click on Launch (right side, blue/green box)

On the left sidebar, you can select "Webinar Recording" to watch the webinar or select "Resources and Conclusion" to download the PowerPoint presentation.

There is a citation for each American Legion Family Day Post, but to qualify, all parts of your Post family need to participate (legion, auxiliary and sons). The Citation will be signed by our National Commander, National President and National SAL Commander.

Here are some ideas that other units in the Eastern Division are using.

From Units of the 2nd District of Indiana, they teamed up and held a Snacks and Diapers Food Drive for their Food Pantry.

Members from Ozaukee County of Wisconsin got together and collected dog and cat food for their food pantry.

One Department made hospice bags for families staying with their loved ones. The bags contain snacks, puzzle books and pens, toothbrushes, Kleenex dry shampoos, blankets, neck pillows, travel size deodorant, etc.

National Community Service 3rd Quarterly Zoom meeting will be held on April 21, 2026 at 7:30pmEST.

Make sure that you join our National Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService Make sure you answer the 3 questions to join our group.

Joyce "Jaye" Cooper – Chrm - Jaye0713@gmail.com - 443-590-7114

Debbie Heredia -Vice Chrm - debbieheredia@comcast.net – 706-834-7500

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

See Linda Green's Parliamentary Report



CONVENTION 2026 REPORT

I have convention raffle tickets and anyone who wants them to sale please send me an email at altamarieglutfelty@gmail.com or call me at 301-334-1604. I will see that they get them. They are \$1 each and winners will be drawn at the convention on Thursday.

Sandi Dutton
Convention Chairman
301-613-7807

Alta Glutfelty
Convention Vice Chairman
301-501-6022

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OFFICE



...and now,
a word
from
our
Sponsors...

CONVENTION



...and now,
a word
from
our
Sponsors...

HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP

As we get closer to Convention, we've determined that we need help with the Credentials & Registration Committee and the Ways & Means Committee. If anyone would like to take on part or all of the committee support for either committee, please let me know.

Credentials & Registration Committee

1. The responsibilities include Delegate and Delegate-at-Large list management (the office will help create the Excel spreadsheets and be available for questions), man the station all day as well as check-in of attendees throughout the Convention, end-of-Convention pin handout, and other tasks as needed.

Ways & Means

1. Help with fundraising during Convention (Convention hats)

CREATIVE ARTS

We have THREE National winners from the Maryland VA hospitals going to the national festival! There were also some national second place winners. You can log on to this link to view all their presentations: <https://app.smores.com/n/3wz6g>

Entries for the 2027 festival will open soon. I will eblast the entry forms as soon as they are available. In the meantime, alert any creative veterans you may know about this upcoming opportunity. The deadline for entries will be June 24.

The date of the Maryland festival is Saturday, September 12. Think about coming to the State Fair this year to enjoy the offerings of our talented Maryland vets!

Rusty Beeg, Chairman

GIRLS STATE REPORT - MAY 2026

Maryland Girls State begins June 21st! Are you ready?



GIRLS STATE IS AT SALISBURY UNIVERSITY – JUNE 21-26, 2026

MADAME PRESIDENT KYRESE'S PROJECT IS MARYLAND GIRLS STATE - DONATE TODAY - WRITE "PRESIDENT'S PROJECT" IN THE MEMO LINE!

SPONSOR A GIRLS STATE CITIZEN - By now, many of you have met some outstanding young women to send to the 78th Session of Maryland Girls State. However, more prospective citizens need your help! How can you support them? We have young ladies that need sponsorship by a Unit! They have completed the application, attended an Orientation, and now they just need a Unit to step up and sponsor them for their week at Girls State. Check the Girls State Spreadsheet to see which girls do not have Unit affiliation. If your Unit, Post, or Squadron is willing to sponsor a Girls State citizen, please contact Rocky Berry at alamdgs@gmail.com or call 301-928-2421.

PLEASE DONATE - This year, we have a Cash Challenge – this replaces our former Penny Wars. It is a fun and competitive way to raise funds to offset expenses for this program. Set up a jar in your main hall, bar, or any other fundraising event to collect coins and cash for your citizens to bring to Girls State. They battle against other cities, and the winner gets bragging rights and their city banner displayed at graduation.

Shoes! Maryland Girls State will be collecting gently worn shoes just as AEF did at fall conference. It is a great excuse to clean out the closet and give to a worthwhile program! Send your shoes with your candidates, counselors, or contact Rocky and we will arrange to pick them up. The deadline for collection is June 21 - send those shoes down to Girls State!

COME SEE OUR CITIZENS IN ACTION - Support your Maryland Girls State citizens! Stop in to see a session, attend the talent show the evening of June 25, or plan to join us for graduation on June 26, 2026. It is a lovely ceremony (60 to 90 minutes) starting at 2 pm.

Reach out to Rocky Berry, Robyn Anzulis, or Kristen Barry if you would like more information!

[Rada Cutlery Fundraising Store](#) - [Shop Cutlery & Gifts](#)

Make sure your Rada page shows "Your purchase will support the fundraiser for American Legion Auxiliary Md Girls State" at the top banner.

Further questions? Contact Us! Reach out to our committee members - we are in the blue book!

Rocky Berry (293), Director - alamdgs@gmail.com, 301-928-2421;

Robyn Anzulis (191), Vice Director, Kristen Barry (191), 2nd Vice Director,

Committee: Rusty Beeg (136), Joyce Cooper (19), Brianna Jackson (38), Stephanie Maceiko (136), Jennifer Murray (11), and Briana Washington-Votho (203)

LEADERSHIP

MAY BULLETIN 2026

UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Unit Member of the Year award recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president.
2. **Units:** Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less to department (preferably by email). Describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities and include the nominee's name and address. DEADLINE is May 15, 2026.
3. **Department:** Submit only one entry. Include the unit's narrative when submitting the form. Entry is due June 1, 2026. The winning entry will be entered by the Leadership Chairman (me!). Use the electronic form to submit the Unit Member of the Year to National.

Linda M. Newsome, Chairman
Lindanewsomel995@gmail.com





American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maryland Legislative Committee **Newsletter Report**

March was recognized as Women's History Month, a time to celebrate the contributions of women throughout our nation's history including many women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Women veterans are one of the fastest growing populations within the veteran community, and it is important that we remain aware of legislation that supports their healthcare, benefits, and access to services through the Department of Veteran Affairs

Advocacy does not always require traveling to Washington, D.C. Simple actions such as staying informed, sharing legislative updates with fellow members, and communicating with elected officials can make a meaningful difference. When American Legion Auxiliary members stay informed and engaged with the legislative process, we help ensure that the voices of veterans, military families, and their caregivers are heard at every level of the government. Each email sent, phone call made, or conversation with a legislator helps protect the benefits and services our heroes have earned. Together, through awareness and action, we continue the Auxiliary's proud tradition of standing strong for those who have sacrificed for our country.

Contacting your elected officials is one of the simplest and most effective ways to advocate for veteran's issues. Legislators value hearing from their constituents, especially when members of respected organizations like the American Legion Auxiliary share concerns and support for policies that benefit veterans and their families. 1. Write a Letter or Email 2. Make a Phone Call 3. Attend Local Town Halls or Community Meetings 4. Use the American Legion Legislative Action Center

LaTia Jones Department of Maryland Legislative Chair 2025-2026 American Legion Auxiliary Clinton Unit 259

LaTia Jones | Unit 259

Department of Maryland Legislative Chair

latiajones@icloud.com

202-207-8227

MEMBERSHIP MAY 2026 REPORT

Greetings Department of Maryland Sweet Treats.



As of April 8, 2026, The Department of Maryland is still in 1st place in the Eastern Division at 96.40% and 5th place in the nation! This means we met our 95% Goal before our June date.

Hooray!!! So proud of my Sweet Treats.

Come on Sweet Treats, our next Goal is 100%. I know we can do it if we work together. If your Unit needs any assistance, please contact your District President or me so we can brainstorm how to help you move along.

“Kudos” to Unit 295 for your membership that helped with our statistics! No more Goose Egg Units in our department.

To all the Units that have made Goal/Goal Plus, I salute you with Love. Job well done.

Also, National is proud of the Department of Maryland for Membership.

We couldn't have done this without the outstanding job of all the Units Membership Chairmen.

To the other Units who haven't made it yet, you still have time.

Don't forget, we now have a National Web page set up so you all can see the stats from the other Divisions that come out every Wednesday. District Presidents and Representatives, please sign on.

This page is for Membership Only!!!!

“Be Blessed and Stay Safe”!

Patricia “Pat” Walker - Department Membership Chairman

PLEASE SEE PERSONAL EMAIL FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT PAM RAY ON MEMBERSHIP

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 11:22 AM

Subject: A Special Message From President Pam!

Hello amazing ALA members!

I know the year is on the downhill, which I can't believe, but now more than ever we need to work hard to renew those that have not renewed and recruit those new members as well! Break down your department membership numbers for each District/County and Units. It is much less intimidating than saying the huge number the Department needs!

I believe in all of you and I know reaching goal is something you all can do! With Tracy and her team, you have wonderful knowledgeable assistance. Please work hard to focus on our American Legion Family and get those members!

I have total faith in all of you,
President Pam Ray
Mission Driven and Family Focused

MUSIC

Remember, if in the Dundalk area on a Friday evening, American Legion Dundalk Post #38/Aux hosts Karaoke every Friday night 7pm to 11pm.

Let's keep singing and spreading the harmony of service and support throughout May.

Brianna Jackson

ALA Dundalk #38 Unit Member

ALA Dept. of MD Music Chair

ALA Dept. of MD Social Media Committee Member

ALA MD Girls State Committee Member

brinkyboobri@gmail.co



ALA Department of Maryland National Security Chairman Report

Bulletin: May 2026

NATIONAL SECURITY



Help Us Honor Our Active-Duty Heroes-Warrior Wednesday Needs YOU!

Help us honor them by inviting them to share their journey. We've created a simple questionnaire to make the process easy. Service members can tell their story, upload a photo, and give permission to feature them on the ALA National Security Facebook Group. **Service Member**

Questionnaire: https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/stories_of_servicemembers_and_their_families

• **ALL ALA Units**, the **National Salute to Servicemembers Award** is now open for nominations, apply online at <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>. **Deadline date is Monday, June 1, 2026**, by 5:00pm. EST and **MUST** be submitted by the Units through the online portal form. Eligibility is E-1 to E-9 for all branches of the Military, Reserves, and National Guard. ALA Units can nominate more than one service member.

Do you wear your R.E.D. Shirt on Friday's? R.E.D. - "Remember Everyone Deployed", let's show our support for our deployed Service Members.

On the **ALAMO National Security** Facebook page information is shared on upcoming events and programs, please share your ALA Unit/Post Family National Security programs, events, and activities.

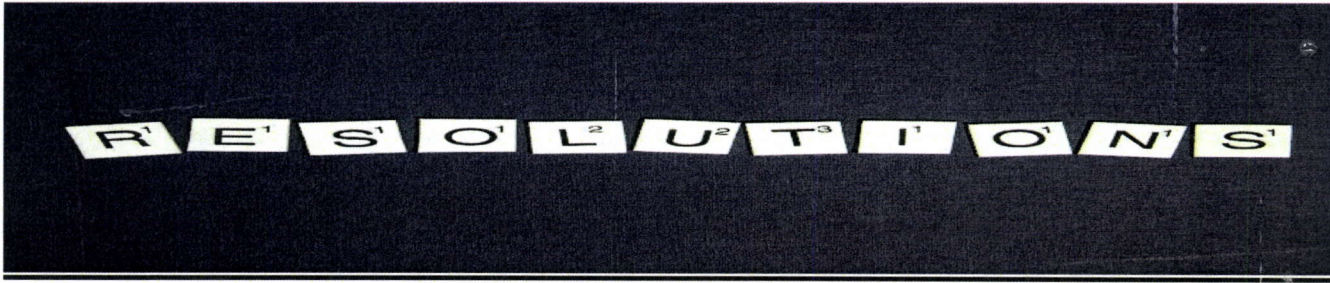
In the Spirit of Service, Not Self,

Mayvee Smith, Chair
MsMayvee@gmail.com
703-929-2334

Ethel Leffingwell, Vice Chair
elmpatriot@yahoo.com
410-259-1289

PARLIMENTARIAN REPORT – MAY 2026

Linda Green



Per our Department Constitution and By-Laws, proposed resolutions must be sent to the Resolutions Chairman twenty-five (25) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention. **The due date for resolutions this year is June 21, 2026. Any resolutions should be sent to the Department Office.**

Resolutions may be submitted by a Unit or group and must be signed by the Chairman of the group and two others. The following is a sample format for resolutions:

Each clause in the preamble should contain a statement of fact which is logically related to the intent of the resolution and explains and justifies the need for the resolution. Note that each clause would stand alone as a complete sentence if the **“WHEREAS”** were removed and a period were used in place of the semi-colon at the end.

The final clause of the preamble is joined to the resolving section of the resolution by a semicolon

or colon), followed usually by the phrase “now, therefore, be it ...”

“WHEREAS ... (etc.) ...; and

“WHEREAS ... (etc.) ...; and

“WHEREAS ... (etc.)....”

(NOTE: the **“WHEREAS”** may be set out in capital letters, italics, underscored, etc., depending on preference. When capitalized, it is usually followed by a comma, and then the first letter of the following word is capitalized).

There is no formula for deciding how many **“WHEREAS”** clauses a resolution should have. Generally, the fewer the better, provided that the reason or reasons for the resolution will have been stated during the debate for its adoption. Use them. It is not necessary, however, to refer in the preamble to every fact or circumstance that has a bearing on the intent of a resolution.

The resolving section of resolution begins the word **“RESOLVED,”** usually printed in capital letters and followed by a comma. Between this opening word and the statement of the resolution’s intent there should be inserted the following information:

(1) Identification of resolving authority.

(2) The circumstance and place of the action.

(3) The date of the action.

The first word after this information would be **“That”** with a capital **“T”**.

“RESOLVED, by the Department of Maryland American Legion Auxiliary, Inc., in Convention, Ocean City, Maryland July 15, 2026, That.....”

RESOLUTION No.

**SAMPLE
Constitution Change**

WHEREAS, the wording is not clear for when payment of Delegates is due
WHEREAS, some Units have sent in the List of names by the deadline but without payment,
therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maryland, Inc., in
Convention, Ocean City, Maryland on July 11, 2023, the Constitution Article VI Section 7
which currently reads

*The names of the Unit delegates to the Department Convention shall be filed with the
Department Headquarters by the close of business not less than twenty (20) days prior to the
first business session of the American Legion Auxiliary Convention*

be changed to:

**The list of names of the Unit delegates to the Department Convention along with payment
shall be received at Department Headquarters by the close of business not less than
twenty (20) days prior to the first business session of the American Legion Auxiliary
Convention.**

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this change become effective with the 2023-2024
administrative year.

Sandi Dutton, Delegate-at-Large, Greenbelt Unit #136

Rusty Beeg, Delegate-at-Large, Greenbelt Unit #136

Janice Null, Delegate-at-Large, Howard L. Turner Unit #276

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

PAST PRESIDENTS REPORT - MAY 2026

OPERATION SECOND CHANCE

The Past Presidents Parley Project for this year. Please support this worthy cause. Cindy McGraw is the founder and CEO with 20 yrs. of dedicated service to all Military Branches. Dedicated to assisting our wounded, injured and ill veterans and working hard to fill in the gaps when funding is needed.

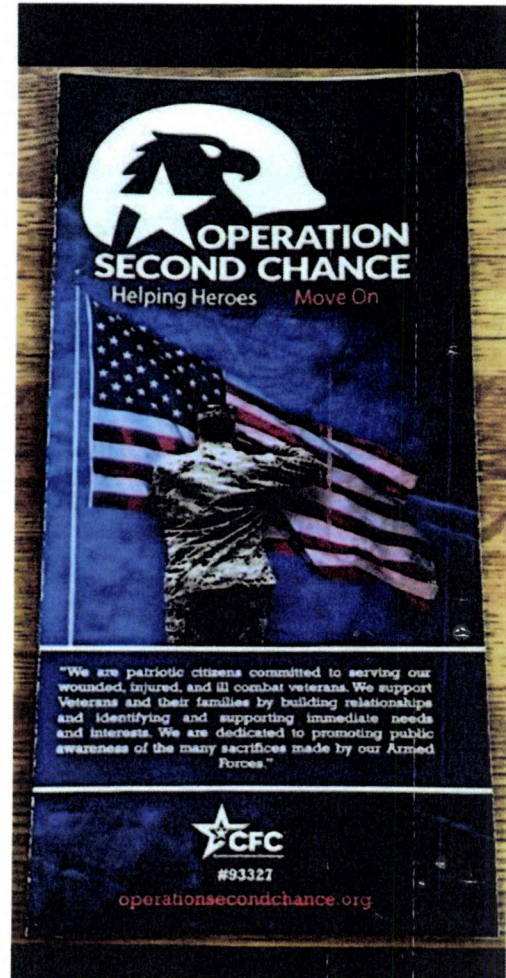
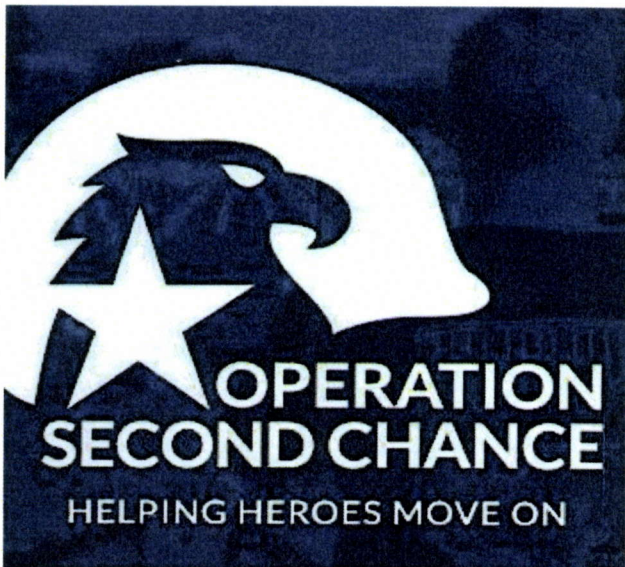
Operationsecondchance.org

Go on line and check this out, it is very interesting.

Joanne Weis

410-200-5640

chickiejo@hughes.net





Poppy Report - May Bulletin 2026

Hello all you sweet candies

The Posters are starting to come into the Units, and I am excited to see them. Units need to pick up and judge the Groups in April, as the 1st place winners of each group need to be in the hands of Dept Poppy Chairman by May 1, 2026 (which is me, if you didn't know 😊). After judged at the office the 1st place winners of each group will be sent to the Eastern Division Poppy Chairman, by June 1, 2026. She will judge all the posters from her 12 states that she represents, and the 1st place winners will go to the National Poppy Chairman where they will be judged again. So that means I must mail them on April 23-24, 2026, as she lives in Maine.

Come on ladies, I need that one girl to be Maryland's Little Miss Poppy! I am hoping that at least one of the Units or moms will do a scrape book for a Little Miss Poppy to turn into National. Who knows, maybe we will have us a winner. So, mom's, let's get creative and complete the most perfect scrape books to present to National (along with the application) - cut off date for this is 5:00pm June 1, 2026

Here are the Units that have not ordered their poppy's:

Units: 16/ 17/ 34/ 38/ 41/ 55/ 87/ 91/ 93/ 123/ 132/ 145/ 148/ 193/ 194/ 218/ 220/ 227/ 231/ 233/ 235/ 238/ 243/ 248/ 263/ 293/ 295.

There are four that have ordered poppy's but have not paid their poppy% yet:

Units: 40/ 64/ 86/ 237 - (remember I cannot send Poppy's without the % paid)

There are two that have paid their%, but have not ordered their poppy's

Units: 189/ 226

YOU MUST ORDER POPPY'S AND PAY YOUR POPPY % FOR AWARDS AT CONV.

God Bless our Veterans, their families, and the United States of America.

Suzzette Reid
Dept Poppy Chairman
410-242-9519

Chris McKay
Dept Poppy Vice Chairman
443-994-9402



VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION (VA&R)- MAY 2026

Thank you to all the Units that completed reports. Whether you did a lot, or just a little, every bit of information that we receive helps build future programs, provide ideas for what works and what doesn't. and gives us information to tell our legislators why these programs are important to our veterans, active-duty military and their families.

We still have much more to do! Using your report, determine what worked and what didn't. Was there a way that your Unit could have enhanced a project? Could you expand a program to include a larger group – including a larger number of veterans or having the public become involved.

Use your time at Convention to ask other Units what works for them. Are there ideas that would work regionally with multiple Units. This year's President's Project is a good example. Our Unit members brought in bags of shoes, and some were in very good condition. We pulled these shoes and took them to our local shelter, and we still had enough shoes to fill multiple bags of shoes for the project. Don't be afraid to ask that Unit that consistently wins - "What's your secret?"

Do you have members who are caring for elderly parents or a spouse? Are there opportunities for your Unit to have weekend events – dinners, bingo, card games – that older members could enjoy allowing their caretakers a few hours to themselves.

It's America's 250th Anniversary. Come up with ideas to honor our veterans and have a great time. Begin collecting your veterans stories and put them into a binder for future members to read.

Our Veterans lost a very good friend this year when Brenda Francis passed away. Brenda worked very hard on programs in Western Maryland, always looking for new ideas. I asked her if there was one thing she would want to see done, her answer was "More programs and services for female veterans." Brenda believed in what she was doing. She was always coming up with new ideas and projects. We need to follow her example and go the extra mile.

I have a new email. If you have ideas you would like to see featured or a question to ask, please email me at Joyce.Baki@yahoo.com.

Have a safe and happy Memorial Day!

Joyce Baki

410-449-9515

Joyce.Baki@yahoo.com

Have a safe and happy Memorial Day!

Martinsburg VA Hospital

Districts 7 & 8 continue to support the Martinsburg VA Hospital needs in every way.

Monthly bingo is sponsored by Units and managed by the VAVS Representative. Donations from Units in District 8 provide the Canteen Books as prizes and a treat bag each month to each veteran.

Hospital needs at this time are body lotion, body wash and men's boxers, sizes large and up.

The Food Pantry for Veterans is always in need of wheat pastas, Sugar Free Fruit Cups and low salt canned items.

The Women's Boutique is switching over from fall /winter to summer items. Needed items are summer pj's.

The West Mar House continues to provide a "home away from home" for families of critically ill Veterans for \$10 a night. Auxiliary volunteers continue to update supplies in the house.

Many hours are spent helping at the hospital, and many trips taken when items are needed for the veterans.

Diane Lowe

VAVS Representative Martinsburg VA



VAVS - Washington DC VA Medical Center

In my previous notifications, the VA portal for sending donations was incorrect. Please note this corrected one: The Center still cannot accept donations in the form of checks or cash.

To make a monetary contribution, please use the secure Pay.gov portal:

https://www.cdceportal.va.gov/donate_online/

When donating, you may select the Washington D.C., VA Medical Center and choose from the available General Post Fund (GPF) options within the facility.

As a reminder, the Baby Shower 2026 for homeless women veterans is being held on May 2, 2026. The Center will be inviting around 30-40 veterans.

Linda Green



MAY 25, 2026

**ATTEND A MEMORIAL SERVICE (MAY 24)
PLACE FLAGS ON VETERAN GRAVES
HELP AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY
MOURN OUR DECEASED, LOVE OUR LIVING!!**



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

AUXILIARY

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Maryland, Inc

Federal Unit 19

Unanimously Endorses

PATRICIA 'PAT' WALKER

For

Department President

For the 2026-2027 Administrative Year

and her name will be presented at

the 2026 Department Convention

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

The Officers and
members of Kent Island Unit 278

Eastern Shore Region, District 1

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Maryland, Inc.

endorse

Paula Grimes

for the office of

Department Chaplain

for the 2026-2027 Administrative Year

and will present her name at

the 2026 Department Convention

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
COLLEGE PARK UNIT 217**

Proudly announces the candidacy of

Angela Rodriguez

For

Department of Maryland

Historian

For Administrative Year

2026-2027

**Will present her at the
2026 Department Convention**