

**St. Mary’s Chapter & Auxiliary Unit 26**

**P. O. Box 288**

**California, Maryland 20619**

**May 2010**

**“If I cannot speak well of my Comrades, I will not speak ill of him or her.” “Serving those who served, with honor.”**

**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**Commander: Easther Locklear, (301) 862-1080 email:** **easther.locklear@navy.mil**

**SVC: Carol Reding, (301) 737-4495 email:** **cfreding@yahoo.com**

**JVC: Mike O’Rear (301) 373-5390 email: None**

**Adjutant: Edward Flynn (301) 373-4927 email:** **eflynn@olg.com**

**Chaplain: Hal Noell (301) 904-4677 email:** **vucugyac@olg.com**

**Treasurer: Bob Wilcoxen (240) 895-0058 email:** **robertwilcoxen@verizon.net**

**Judge Advocate: Ralph Gough (301) 862-1222 email:** **ralph.gough@deca.mil**

**OOD: Charles Hugg (301) 863-9486 email:** **chuckylexington@verizon.net**

**Srv. Off. Bob Wilcoxen (240) 895-0058 email:** **robertwilcoxen@verizon.net**

 **Robert Boles (301) 994-0848 email:** **bolesr@md.metrocast.net**

 **Easther Locklear (301) 872-1080 email:** **easther.locklear@navy.mil**

 **Edward Flynn (301) 373-5390 email:** **eflynn@olg.com**

**AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

**Commander: Miriam Boles (301) 994-0848 email:** **mboles@md.metrocast.com**

**SVC: Arianna Day (410) 725-9993 email:** **ahammond@msmhs.org**

**JVC: Betsy Myers (301) 872-5488 email:** **emmyers@md.comcast.net**

**Adj/Tres. Ruth Wilcoxen (240) 895-0058 email:** **ruthwilcoxen@verizon.net**

**Chaplain: Delores Kelly (301) 373-2543 email: None**

**![MCj04299150000[1]]()Sgt.-at-Arms: Christine Anthony (240) 434-2843 email: None**

**![MCj04299090000[1]]()**

**N E X T M E E T I N G**

**July 7, 2010**

**7:00 P.M. (1900)**

**VFW Post 2632**

**23282 Three Notch Road**

**California, MD 20619**

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**COMMANDERS MESSSGE**

**Dear Comrades,**

**My goal is to provide the best support possible to Disabled American Veterans less fortunate than myself, whether it be in assistance with time or financial and I hope that each of my Comrades feel the same. The Auxiliary Unit is here to assist the Chapter in this regard also. I would like to encourage everyone to do their part in providing assistance to others during these trying times of unemployment and the lengthy Enduring Freedom War. In order to do the best we can, cooperation and devotion/dedication to our cause should be foremost in our hearts and minds.**

President Signs Caregivers Bill

**President Barack Obama recently signed S. 1963 (The Caregiver's Bill) into law. The new law creates support program for veteran caregivers that will provide training, financial assistance, and improved respite service. The new law also improves health care services for America's women veterans, expands the mental health services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and expands supportive services for homeless veterans. Details of the new law can be found in the U.S. House of Representatives Speaker's** [**bill summary**](http://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/legislation?id=0367)**, the Speaker's** [**blog**](http://www.speaker.gov/blog/?p=2247)**, and the HVAC Committee** [**release**](http://veterans.house.gov/news/PRArticle.aspx)**.**

**Article from Military.Com**

**Free Internet Access comes to the VA Maryland Health Care System

Wi-Fi has come to the VA Maryland Health Care System.  Patients and visitors can now use their personal laptop computers or mobile devices to connect to a free Wi-Fi service to access the Internet at a variety of locations, also known as "Hotspots’," throughout the Baltimore VA Medical Center.

The new Wi-Fi service will allow patients and visitors to surf the Internet while they are waiting for clinic appointments and medication refills, enjoying a meal in the Canteen Dining Room, or having a cup of java at the Coffee Bar.  Inpatients at the Baltimore VA Medical Center can also keep in touch with family and friends during hospital stays by using the free Wi-Fi service to read e-mail messages and access social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.  Patients are reminded to bring their personal laptops or mobile devices with them for future clinic appointments and hospital stays to take advantage of this new service.**

**Wi-Fi Service is Available at the Following Locations at the Baltimore VA Medical Center:

1st Floor:  Lobby, Primary Care Waiting Room and the Emergency Department Waiting Room
2nd Floor: Lobby Balcony, Canteen Dining Room and the Library
3rd Floor:  3A and 3B Inpatient Units
4th Floor:  Patient Waiting Areas and the Surgical Intensive Care Unit
5th Floor:  Patient Waiting Areas, and the Cardiac and Medical Intensive Care Units
6th Floor:  6A Inpatient Unit and Trauma Recovery Unit

How to Connect to the Wi-Fi Service at the Baltimore VA Medical Center:

To access the free Wi-Fi service at the Baltimore VA Medical Center, just follow these simple instructions during your next visit:
1.    Set up your wireless card to the following settings:   SSID: VA Internet     Wireless Security Level:  Open
2.    Users will be connected to the VA Maryland Health Care System Wi-Fi Internet Service.
3.    Once connected, users will be redirected to an authorization page, which will prompt them to enter their e-mail address.  After providing an e-mail address, users will be redirected to the VA Maryland Health Care System's Internet Homepage, where they can begin to surf the Internet.

Look for more information about Wi-Fi service at other facilities throughout the VA Maryland Health Care System in the near future.**

**Recent VA News Releases**

**WASHINGTO**N **(May 15, 2010) - Random acts of kindness are nice, but Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki told graduates at the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) that the world needs more "people who are regularly, habitually and deliberately kind."

"We can no more put a value on kindness than we can put a price on heroism," Shinseki told nearly 1,300 graduates.  "People who make caring for others a personal devotion, a part of their everyday lives, that's what's needed - people who are willing to serve the needs of others."**

**At the Department of Veterans Affairs, Shinseki noted, about 140,000 volunteers help Veterans at VA's hospitals, Vet Centers and cemeteries. Conservatively, VA prices their time as worth $240 million, while the volunteers also contribute more than $80 million yearly in gifts and donations.

"There are some things they do that we can't put a price on.  Not everything can be reduced to a dollar value," Shinseki added. "What's the price of a Thank you?  How about an hour of patience?  What's the going rate for dignity and respect for a combat Veteran?  Such values cannot be calculated."

The VA Secretary noted that Veterans in the class of 2010 were the first to take advantage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the largest improvement in the traditional educational program since its inception in 1944.

"By time [the original GI Bill] ended in 1956, it had profoundly transformed America economically, educationally and socially, catapulting our economy to the world's largest and our nation to a global leader and a victor in the Cold War," Shinseki said.

He saluted the UMUC staff for their programs tailored to the educational needs of the men and women on active duty.  About 60,000 of the school's 100,000 students are military personnel.  The school operates on 130 military installations, including four in Iraq and four in Afghanistan. "UMUC and the military have long shared a vital partnership in education," said Shinseki, a retired Army four-star general. "Wherever the Army went campaigning, UMUC went with us."**

**To view and download VA news release, please visit the following Internet address:** [**http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel**](http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel)

**Just a reminder that we have a Chapter Service Officer available 1 hour before each meeting to answer any questions you may have or to assist you with your claims. Our next meeting will be July 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing you there.**

**Yours in Comradeship,**

**Easther Locklear, Chapter 26 Commander E-Mail:** **easther.locklear@navy.mil** **Phone: 301-862-1080**

**Edward Flynn, Chapter Adjutant E-Mail:** **eflynn@olg.com** **Phone: 301-373-4927**

**AUXILIARY COMMANDERS MESSAGE**

**Our May meeting went very well. We missed many of you and hope you are doing well. Please let us hear from you if you have any sickness or distress. In any event, we wanted you to know that we think of you even when we don’t see or hear from you. You are what makes our organization great. Let us know of any suggestions you may have on what you would like to see our unit do under my leadership. You can call me or the unit adjutant Ruth Wilcoxen at the numbers listed below. Our organization is here for all of us not just the few who show up for the meetings. If you would like to get your newsletter, or minutes to the meeting hot-off-the-press, email the adjutant at:** **ruthwilcoxen@verizon.net** **and let her know what your email address is so we can do this.**

**There will be no June meeting as most of the officers will be at the State Convention in Ocean City, Maryland. We will have our next meeting on July 7, 2010 at the VFW in California, Maryland.**

**The August meeting will be August 11, place to be determined. This is the second Wednesday. Most of our members will be at the National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia on the regular meeting night.**

**Respectfully,**

**Miriam E. Boles, Commander: E-Mail:** **mboles@md.metrocast.net****, Phone: (301) 994-0848**

**Ruth Wilcoxen, Adjutant: E-Mail:** **ruthwilcoxen@verizon.net****, Phone: (240) 895-0058**

**CHAPLAINS CORNER**

**Members that are on the list of deceased from National are: Roy Aker, John Bousquet, David Bryant, Dennis Colie, Philip Conti, Brice Elliott, Kenneth Eshelman, Charles Famoso, John Galt, John Gray, Alan Lehman, Charles Oliver, Roland Rawlings, Guffrie Smith, John Walls, and Thomas Witt and Auxiliary member Edna Graves. May they rest in peace, and may God give comfort to their family and friends.**

**Please keep our military in your prayers as they continue to serve around the world to keep us safe from harm and protect our freedoms. May God continue to bless each of you, and GOD BLESS AMERICA.**

**Yours in Service,**

**Hall Noell, Chaplain, E-mail:** **vucugyac@olg.com****, Phone: (301) 904-4677**

**Delores Kelly, Aux. Chaplain, Phone: (301) 373-2543**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**This is a great website with a lot of great information.... How long can you keep fresh/frozen food in your fridge before it goes bad?   If you want an expert opinion, go to the web site below.  If you have a question click on the particular picture, and a whole list of stuff appears. WHAT A GREAT SITE!!!!!  CLICK ON LINK:** [**www.stilltasty.com**](http://www.stilltasty.com)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**JUNE 2010**

 **2 DAV Chapter/Unit 26 NO MEETING**

**2-5 DAV Dept. 66th Dept. Convention &**

 **DAVA 65th State Convention**

**14 Flag Day**

 **U.S. Army Birthday**

**20 Fathers Day**

**21 Summer Begins**

**JULY 2010**

**7 Chapter/Unit 26 Meeting, VFW Post 2632, California, MD 7:00 PM**

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

807 Maine Ave., SW • Washington, D.C. 20024 • Phone (202) 554-3501 • Fax (202) 863-0233

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 4, 2010

**DAV Tells Joint Chiefs Chairman Government is Responsible to Disabled Veterans**

**WASHINGTON—Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen’s suggestion that our nation’s philanthropic community should take care of veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan suffering from substance abuse, mental illness and homelessness is clearly out to sea, according to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).**

**In his April 26th address to The Council on Foundations, Adm. Mullen said veterans returning home today need help with education, training, medical care, substance abuse and mental health, saying community non-profit groups are the answer to meeting veterans needs. “I am not arguing in any way, shape or form that this should be the purview of our government because what I would like to see happen is community outreach to [service members] and the government just be out of it,” Mullen said.**

**The DAV sharply disagrees with Adm. Mullen and that his idea is both naive and harmful to the very service members he seeks to help. He diminishes the quality care and treatment provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and its system of medical centers and thousands of clinics across the nation.**

**“It is the exclusive responsibility of the federal government because it creates disabled veterans,” said DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman. “It is the government’s solemn duty to care for and treat all veterans who are wounded and disabled in America’s wars. It is unfathomable that Adm. Mullen would suggest such a plan, asking charities to provide the care now given so compassionately by the VA.”**

**“The VA has been providing care for disabled veterans for more than 80 years and today offers the finest medical care in our nation,” Gorman said. “The VA doesn’t dismiss veterans who need care. It cares for veterans the rest of their lives. It makes one wonder if Adm. Mullen believes it is best to return to the days when disabled veterans sold pencils on street corners and relied on the support of charitable organizations.”**

**“Ignoring the professional care of the VA and the responsibility of the federal government to honor the promise to care for disabled veterans shows a great lack of understanding about the needs of our newest generation of veterans,” Gorman said. “Our veterans have a place to turn, and that’s the VA. Veterans service organizations like the DAV lend its support to veterans, but no philanthropic organization, nor all of them united, could undertake the health care services of the VA, which are budgeted at almost $50 billion in fiscal year 2010.”**

**VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki has provided extraordinary vision and skillful leadership in developing new programs for the veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has also reformed VA programs to deal with the hallmark injuries of the wars – traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and amputations. Secretary Shinseki’s proven leadership is providing the very program that Adm. Mullen seeks to put on the shoulders of charities.**

**Adm. Mullen’s comments dismiss the programs, services and contributions of the VA, Congress, and the administration in support of our nation’s wounded warriors. Veterans are not the sole responsibility of charities. The responsibility falls to the Department of Defense (DoD) while they are in uniform and the VA when they leave military service.**

**“The DAV has the greatest respect for Adm. Mullen and commend his remarkable service to our country, but one must wonder what he was thinking,” said Gorman. “Is it that the DoD cannot provide sufficient care for our disabled service members, or that the VA cannot provide the professional and compassionate care it has been providing since these wars have begun. We urge Adm. Mullen to add www.va.gov and www.dav.org to his favorite Web pages to learn and better understand what the VA and committed Veterans Service Organizations do.”**

**The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation’s disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation’s disabled veterans and their families. For more information, visit the organization’s Web site www.dav.org.**