



“The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

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Commander’s Corner

Hello Comrades,

I want to take this time to “Thank” everyone for your support and the confidence in me to serve as your commander. My goal this year is to work hard and have fun, while working the 4 pillars of The American Legion. I’d also like to continue to grow our membership in this great detachment. The Commander’s Challenge will include donations to each of the pillars. Children & Youth, Special Olympics of Maryland, VA&R, Heroes Haven which includes a plaque to honor the Korean War Era, Americanism, donation to Boys State or Girls State and Homeland security, honoring a fireman or policeman from your community.

In addition to the Commander’s challenge, I am issuing an American Legion Family challenge to all squadrons. This challenge will require additional donations to American Legion Baseball, which is the project of choice of Department Commander for The American Legion Ms. Pat McCoy, Heroes Haven the program of my choice and “Veterans Suicide Prevention” project of choice for Department of MD Auxiliary Ms. Paulette Caron. More information to follow at the first DEC meeting in August.

The first DEC meeting will be held at American Legion Post 218 in Sharptown Maryland at noon on Saturday, August

13th. A lite lunch will be provided. The Hurlock American Legion Post 243 will be having a crab feast starting at 4pm. Anyone wanting to attend please contact me.

As you know, we will hold our annual Detachment Commander Preparatory Retreat at the Southern Maryland Youth Camp starting September 16th and ending on the 18th. All are welcomed and would like to see as many youth participate as possible. Any Squadron holding fundraisers to benefit my commander’s project, please notify me and I will invite some wounded warriors.

Once again, Thank you for your confidence in my leadership and I will do my best to make you proud.

“Serving Our Country’s Injured Heroes “

Ray Edwards

Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

rayjred@verizon.com
(410) 215-9354

Adjutant’s Corner

D.E.C. : The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Edwards, on August 13, 2016 at 12:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Dor-Wic Post 218, located at 203 State St., Sharptown, MD 21861.

Campout & Commander Retreat

We are hosting a weekend Camp Out at The American Legion’s Southern Maryland District Youth Camp, 9201 Surratts Rd., Cheltenham, MD 20623 from Friday September 16 to Sunday September 18. This is an opportunity for all to come together and gather some additional insight into this years plans, so since you’re coming for that, why not make it a weekend. There are sleeping facilities available (bring your own blankets and etc....), as well as areas for tent camping and campers (no hookups). We will have activities for our Junior members and we are providing meals all three days. Just bring your beverage of choice and your children or grandchildren.

For additional information, please contact the Detachment 1st Vice Commander, Dave Hullihen for details around lodging and events for the weekend.

Email: DaveH.195@hotmail.com

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant
matoskaw@yahoo.com
443-710-9664

Let’s go Fishing for MEMBERSHIP!

Membership! Guys every year we seem to get better and better at membership and hopefully this year will be no different. Ray has

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made it very difficult to surpass last year, but with everyone's help it is possible. I am hoping to bring some fun into membership this year, so my theme will be fishing for members. Our goal is to go to all the big oceans, to those lakes, and all the way down to the small streams and fish for those members. It is early so as of this writing I have no membership report, but I am hoping by the time of our first DEC meeting there will be.



I am thinking that every squadron should have at the very least all of their officers paid for by this time. Come on guys, as officers we need to set an example; we can't expect to get our members to pay if we have not at least paid our own. This also includes any squadrons that may have Life members. Let's see what we can do. I hope to continue with the conference calls and by the time we have our first meeting, I will have that number for you.

See you all soon!

Dave Hullihen

Membership Chairmen

1st Vice Commander

DaveH.195@hotmail.com

Americanism Report

The AMERICANISM COMMISSION of The American Legion was created in 1919 during the by the National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1919. As a Detachment, we have always been and will continue to support to all the Americanism programs. Our success this year will truly rely on our blue hats to support our *Community, State, and Nation*. Just reach out to a local organization and ask what we can do to help. Supporting local blood drives, The National Emergency Fund, Flag Replacement, Boys and Girls State and Boy Scouts are

some of the ways we can support our community.

Thank You to every member of the Detachment and all or our Legion Family members for supporting the programs, which fall under Americanism.

Yours in Service,

Joe Lohman, Americanism Chairman

Flag Replacement Program:

Start thinking about how you can help your Post out with purchasing flags for Veteran's Holidays and the laying of the flags on the graves of our veterans or out in your community. Make sure to track your efforts and keep a record of the replaced flags as indicated on the replacement form. If you are looking for a Flag Retirement Program/Ceremony, please contact me. Also, please let me know if you need Flag replacement Forms. Let's get out there and replace those worn out flags. For God and Country

Leon Miller

Flag Replacement Program Chairman

Boys State

The 2016 Boys State was held on the campus of McDaniel College, in Westminster Maryland. During that week the boys held elections for their city mayor and staff, the mayor appointed citizens to city positions and they wrote their city charter. They also hear some great speakers and asked intelligent questions during question and answer session during the week. They held elections for their governor and his staff and then elected their senior and junior senators along with their alternates.

Squadrons should start holding fund raisers now to help offset the cost to the post instead of waiting till March or April. Also you can use funding from businesses in your communities to also help offset the cost. The cost is still \$300.00 per boy. Ask your Post Commander if he has appointed a Boys State Chairperson. Remember that all male students will have completed the eleventh grade and will be in the twelfth grade when school starts in the following August. If you have any questions about Boys State, you can call, email, or text me.

Dennis J. Renehan

Committee Chairman
Boys State Staff
Fort City CIC
dawgtrucker@yahoo.com
410-330-3003

National Emergency Fund:

The National Emergency Fund continues to need our help. The current economic challenge along with the ongoing national disasters (such as the fires in the Western part of our country and hurricane season) has forced our Legion family to rely on NEF for assistance. Your continued support of this program is greatly appreciated. We are asking each squadron to donate at least \$1.00 per member. This should be a very obtainable goal.

Yours in Service,
Drain Plummer,
NEF Chairperson

Community Affairs:

As we begin the new administrative year, remember to be an integral part of your local communities. Outreach and support of local activities and youth organizations is a great way to keep our mission and our purposes in front of the communities we serve. Your involvement in local activities may be what makes the event a success, and don't forget to include the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members of your home post in your outreach programs, our Legion Family is only strong when we work together! Don't forget to let us know what you're doing in your community so we can share the good news with everyone.

Yours in service,
Leon Adkins
Chairperson

Five-Star Program:

The Five-Star award program is for all members of The Sons of The American Legion who show dedication and knowledge in the Five-Point program of service consisting of the following: Patriotism, Citizenship, Discipline, Leadership and Legionism. If you would like learn more contact PNC Bill Sparwasser.

Yours in Service,
Americanism Chairman
Joe Lohman

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CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

I look forward to a great year serving as Children and Youth Chairman for 2016-2017 under the guidance of Commander Edwards. Remember that our children are our greatest resource and with the help of every member we can make this a banner year helping the children of our community. Every Squadron should pick at least one, if not more, Children and Youth program that they can support throughout the year.

Special Olympics (Chair: JR Hall):

We are kicking off a new year and getting ready for the Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Maryland Special Olympics along with Laps of Love and the Bowling tournament. If you are interested in volunteering or need more information, please contact JR or myself.

Casey Cares (Chair: Bob Keys):

Casey Cares Foundation provides uplifting and heartwarming programs with a special touch in order to enhance the lives of critically ill children and their families. All critically ill children under the age of 18 are eligible to participate.

Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)

(Chair: Larry Ford): Child Welfare Foundation's foremost philanthropic priority is to provide other nonprofit organizations with a means to educate the public about the needs of children across this nation. Though created by The American Legion in 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is a separate 503©3 corporation. For more information about Child Welfare Foundation, visit their website at www.legion.org/cwf.

Children's Miracle Network (CMN)

(Chair, Tom Clavell): The Sons of The American Legion established a partnership with the Children's Miracle Network seeks to enhance its efforts to provide quality health-care to children. Children's Miracle Network is associated with 170 hospitals that treat children with all types of afflictions rendering treatment based on need and not just the ability to pay. For more information about Children's Miracle Network visit their website at www.cmn.org.

Toys for Tots (Chair, Joe Weik):

The Toys for Tots program collects new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community. For more information about Toy for Tots or to find a drop off location near you visit their website at www.toysfortots.org.

If you have any questions or ideas about our Children and Youth programs, please contact me or the appropriate Committee Chair.

I am looking forward to working with this team of guys this year to provide you with as much information as possible about the Children and Youth programs.

Yours in Service,

Children & Youth Chairman
Jim Alexander

Legislative Alert!

I will start off the new administrative year basically stated the same message, it is an important election year. We will elect a new President, a new Senator for first time in awhile and many other delegates and congressmen as well. Listen to your local districts also to see who is running and learn what their campaigning for and against. We need to get involved and help our country get stronger with better representatives that are for the people and our veterans. For those running for reelection you can see how they voted at the web site below but it does take a little digging. Web site for all to take a look at: www.congress.gov. The information is sometimes overwhelming however it is easily accessible and you can find any current legislation.

One Caution on supporting candidates or campaigning. As published in National Update:

The Sons is a program of The American Legion and is bound by the same rules as our parent organization. The following information was prepared by the National Headquarters and, although written for dissemination to Legion Posts, applies equally to the S.A.L. The National Charter of The American Legion, approved by Congress, stipulates that the organization is nonpolitical, which has been interpreted by the National Judge Advocate as "nonpartisan" in modern lingo. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is prohibited from

contributing, helping or endorsing a candidate. However, a member, as a private citizen, and not representing the organization, can employ whatever legal and ethical means to advance his or her candidate. The Legion cap is considered the official Legion uniform. It is not an individual Legion member's decision on the appropriate usage of the cap and emblem. If attending a political event,

The American Legion cap, or any clothing with the emblem visible, should be removed so as not to imply endorsement by The American Legion. The problem is the assumption of endorsement by those who see the emblem or name worn at an improper location, such as a partisan rally. When using post facilities to host candidates, post should remove emblem and Legion flag to avoid any impression of endorsements. Candidates for all parties must be presented equal opportunity at the same time to use the facilities on the same terms and conditions as other competing candidates. The American Legion must avoid any perception of supporting any candidate or political party. The American Legion values its independence and effectiveness on veterans' issues. This stance is best maintained by neutrality on individual candidates or political parties. The American Legion by legal definition is non-partisan and supports only issues which impact your Four Pillars. "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." - *American Legion Constitution Article II, Section 2*

<http://www.legion.org/legislative> scroll down to LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER and go to the Take Action page. I will still send out e-mails when I get them but most of the time we need to act fast and e-mails are not the way to do business.

For God and Country

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

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VAVS Variety

Greetings fellow Sons, as we start off on a new year, I look forward to serving as your VAVS Commission Chairman. Stay active in your local VA hospitals, your good work helps make a Veteran's Day brighter.

This year the following are the VAVS representatives:

Baltimore VA

Kraig Dean- Representative (22);

William Matoska- Deputy Rep. (183)

Perry Point VA

Tom Deal-Representative (135); William Sparwasser-Deputy Representative (47)

Loch Raven VA

Bob Filippi-Liaison (183)

MCVET

Bill Hill- Liaison (191)

Cambridge Clinic

Ray Edwards Jr. - Liaison (218)

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Dave Tatman- Liaison (82)

These gentlemen will be providing updates on what is going on at these sites, and are the Point of Contact for anyone interested in getting involved in events.

Some information to pass on:

Charlotte Hall has recently started a Veterans reading program in conjunction with the local library. Children visited the Home and interact with the veterans; reading, singing and lifting spirits

Maryland State Parks is offering discounts to Active Duty and Veterans on admissions. On Veterans Day the park system is waiving the use fee for veterans who visit a state park that day.

Perryville Post 135 held a Vietnam Veterans Ceremony at the post on July 29th.

Platoon 22 held a Rally in the Valley on July 30 to raise funds for Veteran/Active Duty Suicide awareness. Department Auxiliary President Paulette Caron has named Platoon 22 as her project this year. Her fundraising goal is 10,000. Platoon 22 is so named because every 22 minutes a veteran commits suicide in this nation. This is a worthwhile program and you should

consider making a donation.

As the year progresses we will have updates and news of upcoming events, if you have a VAVS related event you are planning or that you have already completed, pass the information along so it can be shared in the Pride. Until next time, thank a veteran!

Yours in Service,
Bob Manzo
Chairman

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

The Charlotte Hall Veterans Home has been "Serving Those Who Served" since 1985. If you would like to find out more about opportunities to help, contact me or visit their website, www.charhall.org.

For God and Country,
Dave Tatman
CHVH Representative
tatman_david@comcast.net
301-645-1537

Maryland Center for Veteran's Training & Education (MCVET)

Their mission is to provide homeless veterans and other veterans in need with comprehensive services that will enable them to rejoin their communities as productive citizens.

Here are the five distinct programs within The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET)

- ◆ Day Drop-In Program
- ◆ Emergency Program (13 weeks)
- ◆ Transitional Housing Program (up to two years)
- ◆ Follow-up Program, and 80 Single Room Occupancy apartments (SRO).

A natural progression will be to go from the Day Drop-in Program, to the Emergency Program, to the Transitional Housing Program, to the SRO.

If anyone is interested in more

information or a setting up a group tour of MC VET, please contact me.

For God and Country,
Bill Hill
MCVET
Detachment Liaison

Chaplin's Corner

Please let me know if anybody is sick or has passed away. If anybody would like a service at the funeral home or at the grave site, also let me know.



Gracious Father, grant us The strength and courage to "from the heart" just give it a start to set new goals and achieve greater heights. Be with us as we go in Thy Name to work in Service for God and Country and programs of The American Legion and The Sons Of The American Legion.

In Thy Name we pray. Amen.

For God and Country

In His Service,

Mark Fayer

Email: markfayersr@outlook.com

Cell: 443-413-4710

Commander's Project Heroes Haven

Heroes Haven Inc., is a 501 © (3) corporation organized by members of the Sharptown community for the purpose of bringing severely injured military personnel, police officers and firefighters to the Eastern Shore for a good hunting experience as well as some good ole Eastern Shore hospitality. 100% of all money raised and donated goes towards the aid, comfort and support for these injured heroes. More details around how you may help support this project will be provided during our first DEC and throughout the year.

Thank you in advance, to the members of the Legion Family for your support. Serving Our Country's Injured Heroes"

Yours in Service,
Don "JR" Hall
Project Chairman

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Time and Place Committee

We're heading back to Laurel for the 44th Annual Convention!

However this time, we will hold the Convention at the DoubleTree, by Hilton. This was our guest hotel last year. All meetings and convention registration will be at the hotel.

Details for the DoubleTree hotel, bowling and other events will be detailed in the upcoming months as well as part of the convention packages being distributed shortly after the new year and will be updated on our website www.mdsal.org.

We want to extend our Thanks and appreciation to Laurel Post 60 Commander Lee Luby and her group for putting together a great convention this past June.

We're looking forward to being able to come back to Post 60 to have our; Horseshoe & Kornhole tournaments there next year, as well as our annual convention cookout.

For God and Country,
Bill Hill
Chairman

District Updates

Please check back here in our next edition of the Pride for updates on how your District is supporting the Four Pillars of the American Legion, and specific Detachment programs.

Commanders

Southern Maryland:
Mike Obremski (60)
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usnavybb62@aol.com

Baltimore:
Drain Plummer-El (19)
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drain540@gmail.com

Northern Central:
Bob Keyes (195)
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North Eastern Shore:
Fred Taylor (77)
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ftaylor5558@gmail.com

South Eastern Shore:
Howard Miller (231)
443-359-4506

Western Maryland:
Tom Clavell (200)
410-598-3168
clavell276@gmail.com
NEC NEWS

I bring you greetings from National Commander Kevin Collier. Remember Commander Kevin's theme is "R.O.C.K.E.D." **Remembering Our Commitment Keeping it Every Day**, through duty, honor and service to The American Legions programs.

This year is coming to a close with the National Convention being held August 26,27,28 in Cincinnati Ohio. This is the time when all of the Squadron, Districts and Detachment reports are judged and turned in to National Headquarters to be consolidated with The American Legion's reports. The totals from all of these reports are used when the National Commander of The American Legion testifies before congress. Congress knows exactly what The American Legion Family does for our Veterans, Children & Youth. This is why the consolidated report is important and needs to be sent in.

We will be electing a new National Commander along with 5 National Vice Commanders. Commander Kevin will be giving his year-end report on his travels across the country. We had the honor of having Commander Kevin at our Winter DEC which was held in Ocean City 2016.

Membership for National stands at 99.336%. The East is in 3rd place at 98.910%. Maryland is 28th in the Nation and 5th in the East at 98.967%. We can still reach 100% by convention.

National Vice Commander Bill Hill's term will end at the conclusion of the National Convention. Vice Commander Bill has done a great job at representing our National Organization as he traveled through the East. Here are some dates

to remember;

National Convention –

Cincinnati, OH – 2016

August 26-28, 2016

The American Legion Day

September 16, 2016

National Children & Youth Conference

September 16-18, 2016

National Americanism Conference

September 23-25, 2016

Fall NEC & Detachment Commanders Conference

October 8-9, 2016

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)

Public Relations Advisory

We want to brag about you!

If you are hosting an event, or have had 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. One article will be published in each upcoming Pride in this section and will highlight the event, those who supported/hosted it and whatever final goal was achieved. Let's get the word out around the fantastic things this great Detachment of Maryland does to support the Four Pillars of the American Legion. A good pat on the back for your local Squadron or District in print is always a great way to say "Thanks"!

Please send all articles to:

Bill Hill (PDC)

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland Commander's Challenge

All

Commander Edwards has issued a Challenge this year and I want to explain what *every* Squadron needs to do to “*Serving our Country's Injured Heroes*”. Commander Edwards is continuing to raise awareness for the Four Pillars of The American Legion. And to those who don't know what they are: *VA&R, Children and Youth, Americanism, and National Security* are the Four Pillars.

The challenge is fairly simple, *Children and Youth; Squadrons need to make a donation for Maryland Special Olympics for \$200.00. VA&R; Donation to Commanders Project Hero's Haven for a minimum of \$200.00 and Squadrons need to purchase a plaque for \$100.00 through the Detachment that will honor our Veterans that served during the Korea War era and dedicate it to their post. Americanism; Squadrons are asked to sponsor a participant for Boys State or Girls State for at least \$200.00. National Security; Squadrons will Honor a Police Officer or Fire Fighter in your area for their service to the community. One entry per Squadron. One winner will be chosen from each District and sent to Detachment where one winner will be selected for Police Officer/Fire Fighter of the Year and presented at Detachment convention in June. The winner will receive the Dave Barr Jr. Memorial Trophy: This can be done for \$100.00. This Challenge can be met by raising as little as \$700.00.*

Plain and Simple:

1. VA&R: Donation of \$200 to Hero's Haven and Purchase a Plaque from Detachment \$100
2. C & Y: Donation of \$200 to Maryland Special Olympics
3. Americanism: Sponsor Boy or Girl to State Program \$200.
4. National Security: Submit a Police Officer/Firefighter of the year.

The four pillars are what The American Legion is based on and we need to make sure we are doing our part to teach more about these four pillars.

For each Squadron, District, or others meeting the Commanders Challenge they will be honored for “*Serving our Country's Injured Heroes*” at the Commanders banquet at the end of the year. When you have met the requirements of the Challenge for all four pillars you will need to fill out the attached form and submit with copies of checks or other documentation needed to verify to PDC Tom Deal. When verified you will receive around the end of May two tickets per Squadron meeting the Challenge to the Commanders Banquet at Glen Burnie Post 40 on June 10, 2017. Awards and Honors will be handed out there. Do not wait until end of the year to submit, when you have completed the challenge send in the information and you will be notified you have met the challenge.

For Posts and Auxiliary Units who want to help “*Serving our Country's Injured Heroes*” The only difference will be the Plaque to donate to the Post can be any war or conflict you want to recognize. If a Squadron wants to donate a second plaque you can also specify what the second plaque will be presented in honor of.

On behalf of Commander Edwards I want to Thank You for participating in the “Commanders Challenge”

Challenge Chairman PDC Tom Deal
tom.deal@verizon.net 443-206-0402



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Maryland

Commanders Challenge
4 Pillars of The American Legion

Squadron/Post/Aux _____

Children and Youth

Donation to Maryland Special Olympics of \$200.00

Please list check number and when turned in:

VAVS

Donation to Commanders Project "Hero's Haven" for \$200.00 and purchase a plaque for \$100.00 from Detachment to honor those who served during Korea War Era, Please list check number and when turned in:

Americanism

Make a donation to sponsor an individual for at least \$200.00 to boy or girls state. Please list check and when turned in.

Homeland Security

Honor a police or firefighter in your area for their work in the community. This name should be forwarded to your district and to the detachment with a narrative about the individual.

Print Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____

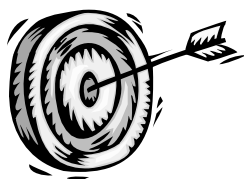
Sign By: _____ Tom Deal



“Serving Our Country’s Injured Heroes “

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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



2016 Membership Target Date:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| <i>September 14, 2016</i> | <i>10%</i> |
| <i>October 12, 2016</i> | <i>25%</i> |
| <i>November 16, 2016</i> | <i>35%</i> |
| <i>December 14, 2016</i> | <i>45%</i> |
| <i>January 19, 2017</i> | <i>60%</i> |
| <i>February 8, 2017</i> | <i>75%</i> |
| <i>March 8, 2017</i> | <i>80%</i> |
| <i>April 12, 2017</i> | <i>90%</i> |
| <i>May 10, 2017</i> | <i>100%</i> |
| <i>* July 19, 2017</i> | <i>105%</i> |

Delegate Strength Target Date

Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2016—2017

Campout / Commander Preparatory Retreat

September 16th — 18th, 2016

Southern Maryland Youth Camp

Fall D.E.C. Meeting

November 19th, 2016 / Glen Burnie Post 40 @ 1pm

Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel

Special Olympics Maryland Draw Down @ Post 166

January 28th, 2017

Winter D.E.C. Meeting & Training Session

January 29th, 2017 / Synepuxent Post 166 @ 12pm

Detachment Commander’s Project Drawdown

March 4th, 2017 / Susquehanna Post 135 @ 5pm

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 2nd, 2017 / Rockville Post 86 @ 1pm

44th Annual Detachment Convention

June 23rd to 25th, 2017