

Mike “Maddog” Sater Maryland DAV Veteran of the Year



Sometimes you are lucky in life to meet people who really make a difference in the lives of others. Recently that happened for the American Legion Auxiliary when we had the pleasure of talking to Mike “Maddog” Sater. Mike is a member of our own American Legion Post 200 as well as a life member of the DAV and the VFW. He also holds offices at many other organizations. Upon his graduation from North Carroll High School he enlisted in the United States Army from 1967 to 1970 and was stationed in Vietnam. As a child Mike grew up in Hampden and later in 1957 moved to a farm in Upperco. He still lives in the area and is married to Barbara Rill and they have two daughters, Holly and Heather. He also has two grandchildren, Connor and Caitlin. Mike is a genuinely nice guy that just happens to be extremely dedicated to our country’s veterans. He worked for 33 years as a Production Supervisor in the Paint Shop for General Motors and retired in 2005. Mike thought he needed something to fill his time after he retired. So how does 60-70 hours a week sound? Well, according to Mike that is what he volunteers as a DAV Chapter Service Officer.

The role Mike plays is essential to the lives of those he helps. He won't take credit for that but it is certainly a huge helping hand. Mike said he gives guidance to vets so they can get help for their needs. There are forms that are confusing to many vets seeking help and different contact channels to go through that may be unknown to veterans and their families. A Service Officer is the first point of contact for a veteran. The Service Officer lets veterans know what help is out there. The help is mainly based on compensation to vets that often is free and sometimes involves a pension. The DAV does not have a physical building so they handle services from other facilities. Mike made it clear that he works with a great network of people who also assist in the needs of the veterans. He mentioned Tammy Black from Access Carroll County that provides care for low-income, uninsured residents of Carroll County. He also mentioned Frank Valenti, Director of Social Services and Jeff Collins, a Service Officer for the Carroll County Veterans Council. Commissioner Doug Howard has also been instrumental in helping to bring transportation for veterans to health facilities in Baltimore, Frederick and Martinsburg, W.Va.

Mike said one of the present goals is to try to establish a satellite health care service here in Carroll County. He is truly a wealth of information for help, advice, and contact information. Mike wanted to let us know there is also help for the spouses of vets too. He recommended again to begin with the help of a service officer like himself. Remember, he is a volunteer who works those long hours for free with such passion and commitment. He was adamant about telling us that this is not his cause, but the causes and needs of the veterans that he assists. What a rarity and pleasure to have spent time with this dedicated man. He is going to be honored, and rightfully so, as Maryland Veteran of the Year for the Joint Veterans Committee in March of this year. Mike left us with advice to veterans and their families to seek out the benefits that they may be entitled to. Mike, we whole heartedly thank you and wish you great strength in all you do. God Bless You.

Below is a list of possible helpful contacts and information:

Carroll County Veterans Council: 410-386-3812 Works at the Bureau of Aging, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster
Jeff Collins email: jcollins@ccg.carr.org

Dottie Hough, Social Director at Martinsburg, WV, VA Hospital: 1-304-263-0811x3310 (For ways you can help the vets there)

Carroll County CATS: Louise Tinkler, 410-875-5555 or 410-857-0080 info@gobycats.org

Access Carroll: 410-871-1478 info@accesscarroll.org