

**Candidate Statement**  
**For**  
**Edward Holland, Nominee for First Vice President of the**  
**Maryland Federation of NARFE**

**“Looking to NARFE MD Future – Continuing to Respect its Past as Your Pupil.”**

I am asking for your vote to remain in the high office of **NARFE MD 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**. Why do I ask for your support to continue as your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President? Not too long ago, a predecessor had an opportunity to move into the demanding position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and declined to do so forcing NARFE MD into an unnecessary election for the spot of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Thanks to you I was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. After this contested election, Dr. Gary Roundtree was elected to NARFE Region II Vice President and Dr. Sudha Haley, pursuant to our Bylaws, moved to NARFE MD President. When called upon to move into the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President position, I did not hesitate my call to duty. There is no doubt that I truly enjoy overseeing legislative matters. Besides overseeing NARFE MD’s legislative efforts, I have been fortunate to manage legislative efforts for other like-minded organizations.

**INTERACTION WITH A FELLOW NARFE MD LEGISLATIVE LEADER:** State Legislative Chair Paul Schwartz: "Having served as Chair of MD NARFE's State legislation Committee for some eight years, I have interacted with Ed Holland quite extensively on legislative issues at both the state and federal levels. I have found that interaction and coordination to be invaluable. As the first VP position is so directly related to legislation, I welcome the opportunity to continue to work with Ed Holland on legislative issues at both the federal and state levels."

**JUGGLING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** At the NARFE MD February 7 Board Meeting, a few members told me that I should try to hand off a few of my positions listed below. To that, I agreed, and offered to do so at the meeting with no takers. Except for Budget Officer, Veterans Affairs Director, and NARFE MD Biennial Planning Committee Member, all the appointed positions were assigned to me by then-NARFE MD President Dr. Gary Roundtree with the concurrence of the NARFE MD Executive Committee and the full Board. I thank Gary and the Board for giving me the opportunity to grow in NARFE MD.

**POSITIONS HELD IN NARFE NATIONAL, MARYLAND FEDERATION & CHAPTER:** NARFE National Member, Bylaws Committee; NARFE National Member, Strategic Planning Committee; NARFE MD Interim President; NARFE MD Federal Legislative Chair; NARFE MD Budget Officer; NARFE MD Program Director; NARFE MD Public Relations Director; NARFE MD Congressional District Leader #4; NARFE MD Veterans Affairs Director; NARFE MD Biennial Planning Committee Member; NARFE MD Equity Committee Chair; NARFE MD Representative to MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans; NARFE MD Representative to the Fraternal Order of Police; Chapter 1972 Waldorf-La Plata President (*Current*); Chapter Public Relations Chair (*Current*); Past NARFE MD 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Past Chapter 1972, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; and Past Chapter 1972, Program Chair.

**OTHER RELATED ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

**President, Board of Directors, HOA (13<sup>th</sup> Year as leader)** – The elected board of directors is charged with supporting the needs of nearly 150 wooded single-family homes located near the junction of Routes 228 and 229 in Charles County, Maryland. The board president is elected by his peers and

oversees day-to-day operation of the self-managed community, working with a part-time board specialist. The association's board specialist, legal counsel, and committee chairs report to the board president.

**Senior Vice Commander and Youth Scholarship Chair Post 7461, Department of Maryland, Veterans of Foreign Wars (11<sup>th</sup> Year as leader)** – The VFW mission is to “honor the dead by helping the living” through veterans’ service, community service, national security and a strong national defense. Post 7461 was suspended and in the process of being closed. Under this commander, the post was taken out of suspension and is now a thriving post in the Department of Maryland. Many of our post officers hold positions at the state and regional level.

**Pastoral Council Chair/Cantor-Lead Tenor (5<sup>th</sup> Year as leader) - St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Pomfret** – According to the parish front office, I am the longest-serving elected parish council leader of this historical church that was founded in 1763 and has approximately 750 families. Duties include fundraising and overseeing the current church’s nearly \$1M expansion. After a two-year hiatus, Pastor requested my return to take back the reigns of the Council.

**Member at Large, Military Alliance Council, Charles County (4<sup>th</sup> Year as leader)** – There are seven military alliances positioned throughout Maryland. The Charles County Military Alliance Council was established in 2015 by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce to serve as a liaison between the defense and civilian communities in recognition of the important role the defense industry and the military play in the quality of life for our citizens, as well as our local economy.

**DC Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge #1 Chair, Legislative Committee (3<sup>rd</sup> Year as leader)** – Serve as the Lodge’s representative as it pertains to legislative issues for nearly 9,000 sworn members. For February’s “Day on the Hill” met with several Federal legislative offices. In addition, authorized to interact with D.C. City Councilpersons and their staff. On Feb. 6, I held a teleconference with a National FOP representative to discuss WEP/GPO a few hours before a NARFE MD Executive Committee Meeting.

**DC FOP Lodge #1 Chair, Veterans Committee (3<sup>rd</sup> Year as leader)** – Serve as the Lodge’s representative as it pertains to veteran issues for nearly 9,000 sworn members.

**Director & Chair, Military/Veterans/Public Safety Subcommittee, Legislative Committee, Charles County Chamber of Commerce (3<sup>rd</sup> Year as leader)** – With the approval of Chapter 1972, was elected to a contested seat on the Chamber’s board of directors. Taking this seat has informed the public of NARFE, resulting in an increase in the chapter’s membership. In addition, I oversee the Chamber’s efforts as it pertains to the Maryland General Assembly’s proposed legislation affecting active-duty military personnel, veterans, active and retired public safety personnel.

**Maryland State Legislative Director, Montford Point Marines of America (MPAM) (2<sup>nd</sup> Year as leader)** – African Americans were the last ethnic group to be admitted to the U.S. Marine Corps. Rather than allow them to train with all Marine recruits, the Corps assigned them to a second-class facility ... Montford Point. As an MPAM representative to the Maryland Military Coalition, I routinely interact with Maryland elected officials and their staff.

**Board Member, Architectural Review Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Year as leader)** – Serve on a four-person committee charged with the approval or disapproval of routine to complex home improvements in a shore community with over 4,000 homes located in Southern Maryland.

**Past Chair, Ethics Panel, Charles County Public Schools (4<sup>th</sup> Year as leader)** – Board-appointed committee members were charged with reviewing and making recommendations on ethics complaints. The committee chair is elected by his peers. Oversaw ethics complaints filed against individuals employed by or affiliated with the school system. The panel was empowered to interact with senior staff and hired independent counsel who reported directly to the ethics chair.

**Past Chair, Education Committee, Charles County Branch NAACP (2<sup>nd</sup> Year as leader)** – With chapter president, met with Charles County Public Schools superintendent and central office senior staff to discuss strategy for monitoring the suspension rates of ethnic minority students. Worked with senior CCPS staff to ensure fair testing for all Charles County students.

**WHY I WANT TO SERVE AS AN OFFICER IN THE MARYLAND FEDERATION OF NARFE:** As the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Maryland Federation, I truly enjoy the legislative process. Having presided over numerous legislative operations, nothing compares to working with friends in NARFE MD. Even before becoming 1<sup>st</sup> VP, I served and continue to serve as the NARFE MD Federal Legislative Chair. There is nothing like schmoozing with Congressional leaders and their aides. Surely, all appreciate engaging with their member of Congress. I continue to have fun with NARFE MD's legislative process, so there is no reason to move out of this role. Hopefully you will agree to keep me in this position.

**ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE:**

**Retired Unit Chief/Supervisory Special Agent, Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce (15 Years as leader)** – Managed special agents, intelligence analysts, and support staff in overseas and domestic offices throughout nine states in the U.S. Presided over complex nuclear, biological, and chemical investigations simultaneously in the different states. Served as the agency's deciding official to four State Department interdiction working groups requiring significant international travel. Oversaw staff that prepared Congressional 'Red Books' and briefed political appointees for hearings on Capitol Hill. Requested and managed a multi-million-dollar budget. Served as the agency's deciding official to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

**Former Marine Corps Platoon Sergeant (6 Years as leader)** – Led my women and men honorably in a combat-theater. Although forced to perform the duties of an infantryman, I was by trade a utilities chief. So, in addition to overseeing the securing of numerous prisoners of war, I oversaw reverse osmosis, maintaining electrical supply, issuance of weapons, 'on spot' attention to grievances, assistant intelligence officer, etc., all before my 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

**COMMENTS:** When I first saw a recruitment poster, I had a calling to serve this great Nation as a U.S. Marine. Years later, I bumped into my first NARFE mentor then-Chapter 1972 President Neil McGrath – whilst grabbing a hotdog at the Charles County Fair. I heard Neil say that he needed a few good men/women. I've been hooked ever since and took Neil's place as chapter president. Without a doubt, NARFE MD is my second family. I still have much to learn. Let me to continue to grow under your tutelage.