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- NOVEMBER 2023 -

Once again hello to the Chapter 47 members. Yes, it has been quite some time between newsletters, and I take all the blame. We'll discuss that a little later, but first let's talk about getting together at Christmas. A big change is that we will be gathering at 11:30, Wednesday afternoon, December 20th, at Connie's Restaurant, 3271 S. Harlem Ave, Berwyn. Enter the back entrance and enjoy ordering off a limited menu with our own dining room. Dinner is \$20 that includes your 50/50 raffle ticket and your door prize ticket, soup, pop and coffee included with cash bar. The Chapter has tried to make this an affordable way to enjoy being with fellow members during the Holidays. Feel free to bring a door prize so that there will be more smiles. PLEASE call our Commander, Eric Morris, 630-229-1527 letting him know if you are attending and possibly bringing a guest, a head count is most important so the restaurant can be amply prepared to serve us. No surprises, please.

The last three years we've had to use part of our savings to handle our Christmas donations. We still generously support Fisher House at Hines, Honor Flight Chicago, Hines and Jesse Brown VVAC's, with smaller donations going to St. Jude and Shriners Childrens Hospitals.

Our Chapter continues to remain strong and financially solvent because of a small corps of monthly participation. We continue to meet at Connie's on the third Wednesday every month, except July, August and January. We have approximately 400 members and would like to see more faces at the meetings if at all possible. We have a great cadre in place with our future looking promising with productive and enjoyable meetings, in my sixteen years I have never heard a cross word or argument. Our reputation at the State level is A-one and we can all be proud.

Some of the saddest words I have ever had to write is that we, and all Veterans, have lost our biggest Volunteer, Sharon McClintock. I cannot express what the loss of her spirit alone means to the members that know her and saw her strength supplying pizzas and calling Bingo for the patients at Hines RCF Unit, even while sick herself. Our largest Forget Me Not collector and Mrs. Clause passing out our gifts at Hines. Our sincerest condolences to her husband Russ and her entire family.

As I mentioned before, I take responsibility for not keeping in touch sooner. These past few years have brought a lot of change in my life that has made my participation in the Chapter somewhat difficult. I have announced that I am retiring as Adjutant and Treasurer at the end of the current term, June 30th. Commander Morris has caught on to his position so well that I have every confidence in his leadership to continue the Chapters stellar performance. He will have all my support and I will only be a call away, I look forward to a smooth transition. We have been blessed as a Chapter to have had excellent Commanders and Officers while I was Adjutant these past 17 years or so, it has been my pleasure to serve along side all of you, some in person and the rest through this newsletter. I consider it an honor to have served my Chapter and my Country.

Happy Holidays to all and may God Bless America

Eddie Marco
Eddie Marco - Adjutant