



DATE: October 4, 2021

FROM: Pamela McVeigh, Hospital Representative
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

First I want to thank your Districts and the Units in your Districts, along with the 5th District, who have been so supportive of the Christmas Gift Shop at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans over the past many years. As you know, we were unable to hold the Gift Shop in 2020 because of the pandemic. Unfortunately the same is happening this year. That is mainly because of the logistics with the members moving into their new home over the next couple of months, finding a convenient location to hold the Gift Shop, and the timing, so it was not feasible for this year. We normally start planning for Gift Shop in June or July, get the word out to the Districts and Units who support us, get our volunteers lined up, and receive donations or allow time for shopping. We are hopeful that conditions will settle down so we can plan for next year.

One thing we have been doing during our limited access to the Home is to fill special requests from both the Volunteer Office and Physical Therapy for our veterans. These include items of comfort as well as practical needs for the members that they do not get through normal donations from organizations and the community. Many of these items were helpful during the months and weeks the veterans were confined to their rooms during the beginning of Covid. For the past 18 months, these purchases have exceeded \$10,000 and are mainly purchased through Amazon and delivered directly to the Home. That is why donations are so important.

Last year there were some Units who donated to GRHV in lieu of spending money on the Gift Shop. Therefore, we are asking that if any Units in your Districts have the funds and would like to make donations so we can continue to fill these requests for our veterans, we would appreciate it. Any checks should be made out to "ALA Department of Michigan" and sent to me at 3029 Kay Dr. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49508. If you designate it for "as needed" and not to a special program, then we can use it where the need is at the time. If you want to make your donations directly to Department, please note "Grand Rapids" in the memo section so it gets to us. However, when they are sent to Department, there may be a significant delay before it gets into our account. Be assured that any donations will receive a thank you letter from me for your records.

We would appreciate it if you could pass this information on to the Units in your Districts for consideration. We all know that we are here to support our veterans, and we do so in every way we can. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (616) 452-6311 or email p.mcveigh@comcast.net.