



**Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.
National Board
Established 1894**

**Committee on Veteran and Military Affairs
Committee Chair Cathie Norton Doherty**

August 1, 2020

Dear Sisters,

The Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs is a new position for the National LAOH and I am proud and incredibly honored to serve as the first appointee. Truly grateful for our newly installed LAOH National President Karen Keane for seeing a need for this committee. My goal for this position is to build a committee for the LAOH dedicated to serving not just our members who currently serve in the United States Armed Forces and our Veterans who have served, but all veterans and active military in this country and their families, building our own network of support and will offer many ideas on how to do that. I would like to help guide our LAOH members across the country in advocating and supporting women veterans and support legislative issues that can help to improve the support and resources available to those women who have so bravely stood up at one time to defend our rights and freedoms as Catholic Irish American women. I would like to keep our LAOH Veterans informed as to resources and support services available to them.

This committee will also look to further our organizations historical documentation started by our National Vice President Marilyn Madigan when she was our National Secretary, of our LAOH members who have served or are still serving in the Armed Forces. I would ask all of our members who are veterans or active duty to please contact me just to let me know who you are and what Division you are a part of and if you would also like to share any of your military history. I would like to hear from Veterans of any branch, any era, for any length of time with any type of discharge.

Hopefully by now all of our LAOH members who are veterans have been presented one of our LAOH VETERAN pins, if you have not, they can be acquired through our national supply chair. Following the lead of our AOH brothers, many divisions across the country have presented their LAOH members a pin acknowledging and appreciating their service during a Veterans Day ceremony or just a division meeting. If you have a member in your division who is a veteran and has not received their pin, you may consider presenting it in that way.

After serving in the Navy myself, I left active duty to take on the role of Navy wife, serving for several years in that role. Years later as my son started his journey in the Navy, I added the role of proud Navy mom. I work as a Women Veterans Advocate and represent women veterans in my county as Secretary on my counties first Legislature Women Veterans Advisory board, I also facilitate a peer group for women veterans. I have worn a few hats within the military community and feel I can offer a few different perspectives to issues and needed support for military families and veterans and I hope to bring that background to this committee for the LAOH and further our organizations support in these social justice issues.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with anything regarding this committee at laohnationalveterans@gmail.com.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Cathie Norton Doherty

