

President's Desk

Sandy Rios is President of Concerned Women for America



He never dreamed he would not see Thanksgiving or Christmas this year, let alone any other

a deep sadness and loss at his passing.

But nothing in comparison to the loss his wife, Joan, and children, Sharon and Nathan, are feeling during these holidays. Who would have thought a

“Death and loss bring sorrow at the holiday season, but they also bring the perspective of eternity.”

holiday. He died of a heart attack in September at the wheel of his boat on a lake in Michigan. He was pulling his friend for life, Jim, on water skis while his wife,

Joan, and Jim's wife, Kathy, were enjoying the ride. As he collapsed, Joan, a competent and able nurse, administered CPR while the helpless Jim and Kathy looked on and their dear friend, who had raised his kids alongside theirs and loved his wife dearly in their presence, slipped from this life to the next.

Good Bye to a Friend

Pete Winchell was a wonderful father, a blessing to all who knew him. At 6'5", a big lug of a guy, with a hug as strong as a tree and a smile as encouraging as the sun after a long night, fit and trim and only 51. I remember that hug and smile well, freely given to me during the difficult days of raising my severely disabled, beautiful daughter, Sasha. Pete was an encouragement to me, and I feel

year ago that Pete would not be there to celebrate with them? Who would have thought that last year's family Thanksgiving and Christmas would have been their last? And yet, there are many Petes out there and Joans left behind who are

experiencing these holidays in a whole new way. But that whole new way is not always bad. To remember that life is short, and not to take family celebrations and times spent together for granted, can be a shadowy backdrop to cause the "living in the moment" experiences to shine more brightly.

You didn't get the present you wanted? The turkey was dry, your mother-in-law rude? In the light of eternity, what does it matter? Your husband is gone, but you still have your kids, in fact you have kids ... something to ponder and make grateful. You are divorced? But you are not hungry nor do you have cancer. You have cancer? Yes, but you are still alive, and your family loves you dearly. Your family doesn't love you dearly? But your husband's mother does or your

neighbor who called this morning to wish you a happy holiday, or your best friend who sent a card.

Moments to Cherish

You were able to buy the children all that they wanted, the table is bountiful and beautiful, your home a decorator's dream, a picture to be pondered? Drink it in, because in the light of eternity it is a moment to be cherished, a season to be savored.

Yes, death and loss bring sorrow at

the holiday season, but they also bring the perspective of eternity that can deepen the experiences and give them meaning in a way never experienced before. The joy is always deeper when the sorrow's been great.

We at CWA want to wish you and your family the richest, deepest of holiday experiences, whatever your circumstances. Seen in perspective, they all have their blessings. Remember, you never know what another year will bring! 🎉

I am taking part of my column to tell you of a new and exciting way that will enable you to support the work of CWA and, at the same time, give you great benefits!

CWA has selected a provider of local telephone service, Freedom Telecom, and we would like you to consider doing the same. This Christian-owned telephone company gives away every penny of profit it makes. It sends CWA 100% of the profits generated by our supporters.

And just listen to all the services you receive in return. For only \$49.99 monthly, the Z-LineHOME™ Unlimited Plan gives you local service including all of the following:

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Free Unlimited Long Distance means that when CWA informs you of a matter that requires you to call your elected officials in Washington, D.C., or your state capital, you can do so with no charge! The same goes for any long distance call you make.

In addition, when CWA's subscribers to Freedom Telecom reach a certain level, I will be able to send you messages of breaking news and action alerts right through your voicemail.

You can read more about Freedom Telecom on page 15 of this issue. Check it out, and please consider supporting the work of CWA in this way. Thank you.