

# Rock Harbor News

October 2016

## Chip Connelly

By Misty Fields:

For the past 12 1/2 years Chip has woke up with one thought and one very important decision to make..... "What color RH shirt will I wear today?" On October 29, 2016 Chip will do this for the last time.

10/29/16 is Chips last day as a full-time employee with Rock Harbor. He's not looking forward to the day as something to leave behind but a time of new beginnings. Chip Connelly, Food and Beverage Manager for The Grill at Rock Harbor Golf Course. This is what most people know about Chip, but there is so much more.

Chip was born in Washington DC (a Redskin fan by birth, a Virginian by the grace of God) and raised in Northern Va. He attended elementary school in Fairfax County and Junior & Senior High School in Arlington. After high school (1972), college was not an option as he going to be drafted. When that did not occur, he attended community college to study music, but continued to work at his high school job as a janitor

for two years until one day he and his boss had a

major disagreement and he quit (he's thankful today that happened because he may have still been a janitor). He finished the summer working for a moving company, and in the fall of 1974 he enrolled in Shenandoah Conservatory (not a University, yet), he wanted to be a high school band teacher, then he thought maybe a high school chorus teacher, and then he thought, no teaching at all, and changed his major (third time) to Vocal performance. When he was half way through his second senior year (no need to rush higher education, he said) an opening came up in the U.S. Navy Band for a tenor vocalist and he enlisted. This is what he wanted to do—sing. He was a tenor in the Navy Sea Chanters from 1979 -1988. Then he moved into more of an administrative position with the Navy Band until he re-

tired from the Navy in 2003 as Administrative Chief. In 1988 he decided to go back to school to finish his degree, and he changed his major (again) to complete a degree of B.S. in Arts Management. He was voted *Outstanding Senior* in his final year and received the *Cecilia Award* for Outstanding Vocalist.

In his senior year of high school, Chip became a member of the Redskins Marching Band where he played the baritone horn for three years, and also spent two summers while in college singing at Kings Dominion in their barber shop quartet, and two summers driving a moving truck.

After retiring from the Navy in 2003, Chip opened a Daily Grind with the hopes of selling his BBQ to all the Daily Grinds, when that didn't work out he closed up shop and visited the Want Ads. He saw an opening for Pro Shop help and thought—why

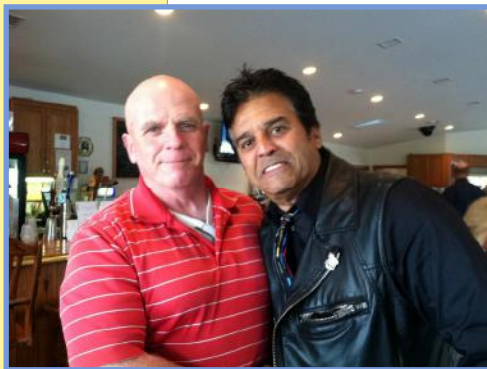


*"A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be ultimately at peace with himself."*  
-Abraham Maslow

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not, sounds like fun, work a little, and play a little? Things don't always go as planned. He started at RH in March of 2004, by June he was running the Food & Beverage side.

Looking back over the past 12 1/2 years for Chip brings a smile to his face. He's seen the food and beverage side grow from just a snack bar to a full service restaurant. He has watched many different people come and go through the doors and he has watched the course grow from 18 to 36 holes. He was there for all the construction and development of the business. He said, "It has been a unique opportunity to be a part of Rock Harbor and watch a developing business grow."



Chip and his wife of 30 years, Judy, have a few plans after he retires, but mainly it's to just enjoy

life, spend time with family and travel. All the things you are supposed to do when you retire. I am sure there will be a few rounds of golf in his future. It would not be wise to disappoint the in-laws who purchased his first set of clubs at a yard sale over 20 years ago.

Of all the jobs and positions Chip has held over the years, one thing has been constant—every position had a mop (swab) or broom in it. But of all the jobs and positions his favorite has always been performing. He hopes to continue singing in local churches and return to at least one of the many community groups in our area. If you are a musician, you will understand this feeling, if you are not, you might not understand; some people hear the music, while others feel it.

Chip is one of our unsung heroes here at Rock Harbor spending more time behind the scenes than out-front. Many of you may not realize that Chip opens The Grill everyday and he closes The Grill each night, seven days a week, without a day off. He also does jobs that he could easily ask other employees to do but he prefers to do himself, like taking water

coolers out on the course for fresh drinking water, hauling food and drinks up to the pavilion for tournaments, cooking BBQ for hours in the smoker, cleaning the bathrooms, filling in at the pro shop.....



How do we say good-bye? How do we say thank you? I don't think we say good-bye, I think we say, "see ya around". Chip is not going to a retirement home to watch TV for the rest of his days, he will be living the life, playing golf, traveling, playing with grandkids. We will see him, often, I hope. But how do you say thank you to someone for their constant, faithful service? I'm not sure it is possible.





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## Pictorial Diary

This picture was taken in September of 2013. Anyone know what hole number it grew up to be?



## Harbor Cup 2016





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## Parting Shots



Robert sneaks a breeze from Lynn & Ed Speilman's cart fan, during those hot, dry days back in July.



Catherine Habicht, working on the hot days of summer to keep the course beautiful



Friday, September 23, an early morning bachelor party.



More Harbor Cup

