

A Salute to Veterans To Remember

by John H. Vargo, Publisher



Marines in salute to fleet of boats at Riverfront Marina



The Cortlandt Yacht Club, Montrose, NY and the Riverfront Marina, Newburgh, NY have honed their skills individually, and collectively, to put on a "Salute To Freedom" flotilla dedicated to our veterans and Gold Star Families that will be hard to beat in future years.

WW 1 fighter plane, one of a group from the West Point Aviation Detachment.



Army helicopter with man waving from door to fleet.



Twenty seven beautiful yachts donated their time and money to bring a huge selection of veterans and their wives and friends as well as a number of Gold Star Families on a cruise from the Cortlandt Yacht Club up river to the Newburgh riverfront where they passed in review of a marine color guard and a crowd of well wishers.

The majority of invites began their day event with breakfast at the Cortlandt Yacht Club. Afterwards each person was assigned to a boat. At the same time another group of veterans were treated the same way at Stewart Airport.



Salute to veteran's fleet approaching the Bear Mountain Bridge 12 PM



Three World War Two fighters fly overhead as the fleet of boats passed in review at Riverfront Marina, Newburgh, NY. Planes are from the West Point Aviation Detachment

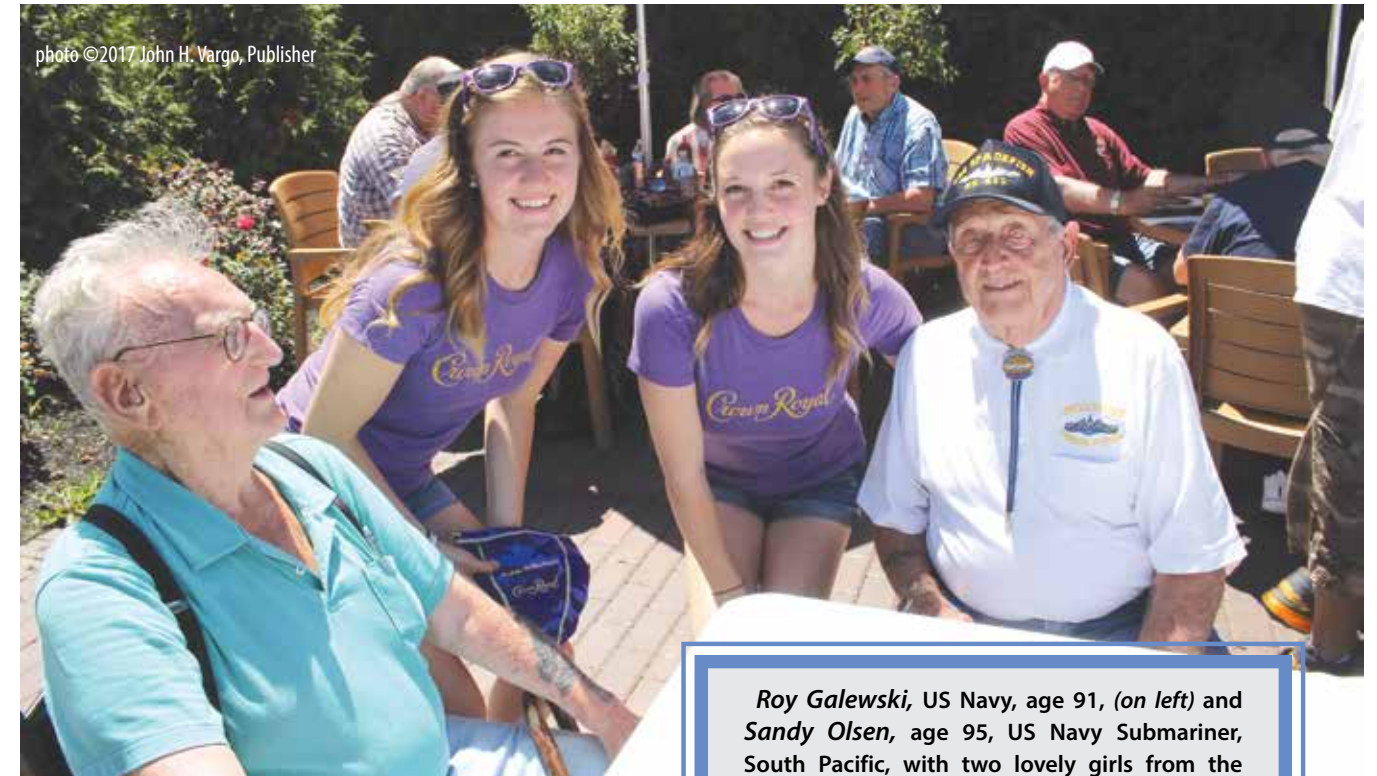


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Roy Galewski, US Navy, age 91, (on left) and Sandy Olsen, age 95, US Navy Submariner, South Pacific, with two lovely girls from the Empire North Company representing Crown Royal. World War 11 history of each of the men in the photo:

At roughly 11:00 AM the boats left the Cortlandt Yacht Club and began their parade upriver. At almost the same time, **Jim Williams**, the organizer of the group from Newburgh, was assigning veterans from the Newburgh area to 11 local yachts for the trip down river to meet the Cortlandt Yacht Club group at the Cold Spring, NY across from West Point. Included in this group were NY State Senator Larken and his wife.

To the surprise of both fleets of boats there was a "fly over" by a group of vintage World War 1 and World War 11 planes. Included in this group was a helicopter from the Air National Guard unit at Stewart Airport.

The weather turned out to be perfect, in spite of the forecasts, and the day's events were filled with emotion and comradely with great fun for all.

Once the huge fleet of boats reached Newburgh they circled past a marine color guard stationed on the outside breakwater dock of Riverfront Marina. There, with horns blaring, a flyover of WW 11 aircraft surprised everyone with a disk jockey playing, and plenty of cheering and flag waving the group again.

As the fleet began their trip south to the Cortlandt Yacht Club, the portion that loaded at Riverfront Marina in Newburgh off loaded and were treated to hamburgers, hotdogs, and a very special gift from Empire Merchants North and their representative, Ms. Jennifer Pingelski, (sales representative lower Hudson Valley). Representing Crown Royal, each veteran who asked for one received a beautiful Crown Royal bag. All this while enjoying the huge deck of Billy Joe's Rib Works and their exceptional staff. Free Crown Royal cocktails and Crown Royal sunglasses were also distributed to the marine color guard and all the veterans who were on the deck of Billy Joe's Rib Works!

Roy Galewski was seventeen the US Navy. He served on a troop landing ship that was eventually converted to a rocket firing ship. He made 15 landings in the South Pacific. You can imagine the sheer terror that his family must have felt, as did most families as their men and women went off to war!

Sandy Olsen, Olaf P. Olson, age 95, TME (SS) went into the submarine service at age 20, in 1943, served aboard the USS Spadefish out of Pearl Harbor. He did three wartime patrols, with the last one being in the Sea of Japan.

There were other veterans at Billy Joe's Rib Works party as well. One, Stanley Bernstein, age 101, who went into the army at age 26, and served in the European theater, including D Day, Omaha Beach as an infantryman, then worked his way across Europe, receiving the Bronze Star and many other citations.

While all this was going on at the after trip salute in Newburgh, the Cortlandt Yacht Club held a luncheon at their beautiful Cortlandt Yacht Clubhouse.

A barbecue, giveaways, and short messages ended a beautiful day of remembrance on the Hudson River.

God Bless America and the men and women who served and are now serving!