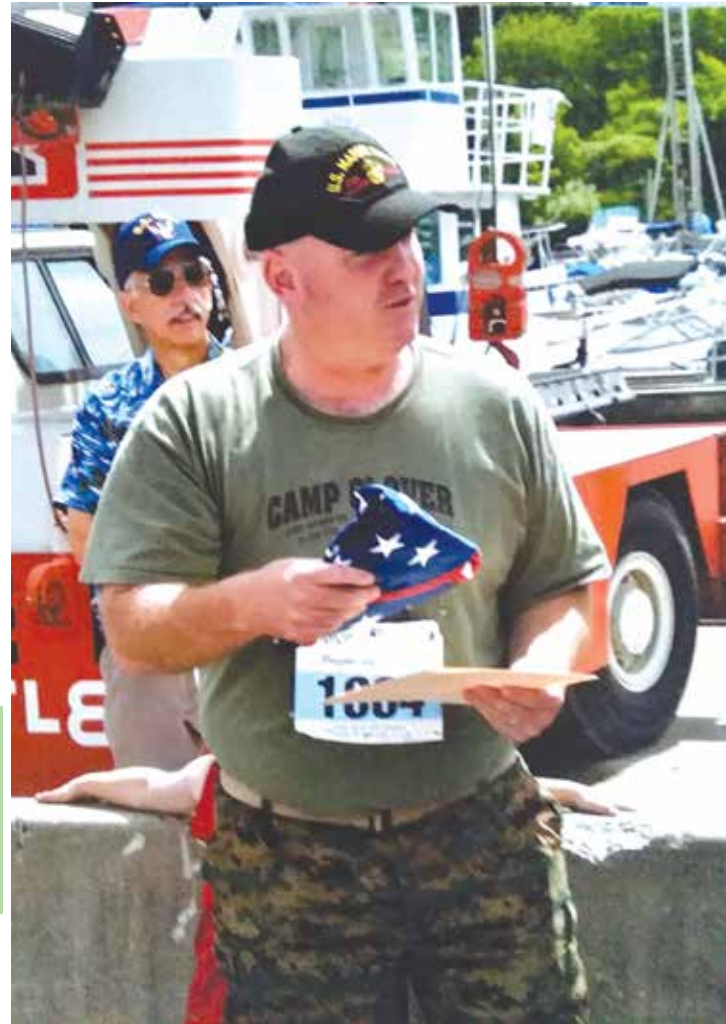


# 3rd Annual “Boat Rides for Vets” a Success!

by Leslie Spencer



The third annual boat rides for veterans was yet again a huge success. The day began as usual with coffee and donuts after signing in. The flag raising ceremony was conducted by Retired Air Force Veteran Chief Master Sergeant John Foster and Assemblyman Keiran Lalor. The National Anthem was beautifully sung by Brenda Moore-Frazier. The vets and captains were then connected and they made their way to the 16 boats that participated in the event this year. The procession, which was led and followed by Dutchess County Marine Sheriffs, headed south to West Point and back. Along for the ride was a 96-year-old WWII Navy veteran, Gino DiGregorio. Upon their return everyone was treated to a bountiful meal of a variety of foods donated by many companies and individuals. George Mann (mastermind behind the whole event), worked together The Dutchess County Office of Veterans Services to obtain the names of the veterans who would be interested in participating. We hope you all come back next year!

Thanks to Dutchess County Sheriff's (Marine Division) for the escort, White's Hudson River Marina, Thunderbird Corporation (Formula Boats-Tonya Baker Hamilton), My Brother Bobby's Salsa Robert S. Gropper, Rainbow Pools (Michael Todd), Fleet Feet of Poughkeepsie (Kim Caruso), NBCDI (Linda Melton Mann), Shop-Rite (Fishkill), Central Hudson (Denise Doring VanBuren), Dunkin Donuts (Wappingers Falls), Party City (Wappingers Falls) Tomato Café (Scott Classey), Friendly Honda (Veronica Sarles), Brian @Signal Graphics Printing & Signs, Scott Harrison, Ashley Cogan, Todd Bender, Carolyn Foreman, Jeff Bose, Drew Lanz, Chira Sukhothai of Beacon, Fast Eddies (Eddie LaBounty), and John Foster. Thank you State Senator Sue Cvijanovich Serino, Assemblyman Keiran Lalor and former Wappingers Falls Town Supervisor Lori Sucich Jiava for your presence and kind words! A great big thank you to all of the captains who volunteered the use of their boats to carry veterans and to all those who helped on the grounds. Thank you, veterans, for giving us the freedom to enjoy this event!

