

Frederick P. Johannsen

of Verplanck, NY, died on Monday, April 30, 2012. He was the owner of the Viking Boat Yard in Verplanck, NY. Mr. Johannsen graduated from Peekskill high school in 1955 and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1957-1961. He was the son of Emil and Agnes Johannsen of Peekskill, NY. He is survived by his wife Molly, son Einar (Melissa), brother Dennis (Janice), sister Peggy Anne (Gordon) Hennessy and four beautiful granddaughters, Kami, Paige, Emma and Maggie. He will be remembered as a great husband, father, brother, grandfather and most of all a hard worker who was always willing to work more than a day for a days pay. He was predeceased by his son Erik.. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Fred's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

THANKS FRED.....

From Ross's Brother

by John H. Pagliuca

As the Vice President of The Rolling Thunder New York Chapter 3, I perform many functions. One function is to honor Veteran's and their families with a final salute to the deceased Veteran usually at the funeral home during visiting hours. Perhaps the most difficult salute to execute was the one performed on behalf of the late Fred Johannsen and his family. With the help of fellow RTNY3 Chapter members, Sheldon (Skip) Cole of Buchanan and William (Bill) Kelly of Cortlandt Manor, the mission was complete. All three of us knew Fred well, and we all have great memories of him and his family. Let me share a few of mine.

As the winter of 1976 was winding down, so was the ski season and my weekly column, "Down Snowy Slopes" for the Peekskill Evening Star. The "Star's" sports editor, Ray LaPolla, seemed to like my reporting and asked if I could do some features on the recreational boating scene for the spring and summer. I jumped at the chance before realizing that I didn't have a boat or a place to keep it.

One thing I did have was a younger brother, Ross. Ross was a self appointed

Fred Johannsen



Mayor of his own boating world, but he did know two great people: Pete Napoli and Fred Johannsen. Napoli was physically large and mentally larger in the sales and service part of the marine industry, Fred Johannsen was a super giant in the boatyard operation of the same. It was great, I had people. My brother moved up to the larger boat class and left me his 15 foot runabout, Napoli installed a larger outboard engine, and Fred provided dockside space at the Viking Boat Yard for me to work from. I thought my first story should be about the Viking Boat Yard, and it was. As Fred worked his usual 19 hour day, he still had time for me as I chased him about with my pad and pen gleaning as much info. As I could for my first big splash on the printed page. Cassette recorders were bulky in those days, smartphones non-existent, so paper and pen was the only way to go. Molly Johannsen, Fred's amazing hard working wife, provided many great photos of the VBY that added a nice touch to the story. Editor Lapolla was ecstatic and gave me the full page in the Saturday edition of the Star. I was off and running, thanks Fred.

Although I was an accomplished writer, I was an un-accomplished boater at that time. Fred saw that and just happened to find a space for me right up front, as close to the shore as you could be. Thanks Fred. And then there was the time that either the boating season ended too soon, or the ski season came to quickly. But there I was atop Hunter Mountain in the Catskills, covering the World Pro Cup Races with Olympic Coach turned broadcaster Bob Beattie. A new fledgling network called Home Box Office (now called HBO) was there also, I just had to get in on that action, and I did. It was a great day, but one thing was on my mind: Did I forget to take my boat out for the season? I did. Yes people asked: who's the clown that left his boat in this long? Fred just responded, "That's Ross's brother, but we'll handle it. And they did. Captain Rossi and Fred chipped all the ice in and around it, and when I returned home well after midnight, there was the boat on the trailer in the driveway. Thanks Fred. Semper Fi, Marine, all is secure now, rest in peace. JP