



# **Dutchess County Veterans Offered Third Annual Boat Ride**

**by Leslie Spencer**

**W**e would like to announce the dates for the 3rd Annual Boat Rides for Dutchess County Veterans. This year the ride followed by a picnic lunch is scheduled for June 9, 2018, originating from White's Marina in New Hamburg, NY. The rain date is June 16, 2017. Over the last two years, the number of veterans we were able to accommodate has grown from 20 vets in 2016, to 40 vets in 2017 and our goal is to take 50 vets out on boats this year.

Interested Veterans can participate by contacting the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Services. Veterans can expect to arrive around 10:30 am to coffee and doughnuts donated by Dunkin Donuts. A small service will be held that includes a bagpiper whom plays songs that represent every branch of the military, the singing of the national anthem, a prayer dedicated to the fallen, active and retired members of the military, a flag raising ceremony, boat assignments, boat rides to west point, a picnic lunch and free raffle giveaways during the picnic lunch. Please let the representative of the Dutchess County Office of Veteran Services know if you need special accommodations such as availability to a restroom while out on the boat ride because many of the smaller boats do not have such accommodations, and you will be assigned to a larger boat that meets your needs.

Following the boat ride is a picnic lunch. Many local businesses donated financial support or food that include ShopRite, Rainbow Pools, FleetFeet, My Brother Bobby's Salsa, The Sons of Italy (Joe DiMaggio Lodge #2248) and Dan Gallagher. Decorations were donated by Party City. Any business that would like to participate by donating items or money can contact George Mann at JACKRR42@AOL.COM or Leslie Spencer at res12dive@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for those who help us out.

Thank you to those who serve our country.