

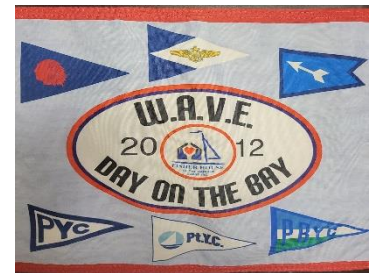


W.A.V.E. 2022, “A Day on the Bay” Overview

Pensacola Bay

August 27, 2022

In 2012, Navy Yacht Club Pensacola (NYCP) Commodore Kathy Champagne proposed the idea of creating an opportunity to thank disabled veterans who sustained physical and psychological wounds for their service and sacrifice. Knowing how to thank all the military veterans who risked life and limb in service of our country was a difficult challenge. However, the idea of a free day of sailing, barbecue, music and tokens of appreciation was not a bad place to start so The Wounded American Veterans Event (WAVE) was instituted. W.A.V.E. became a private, all volunteer initiative organized in the beginning by the Pensacola Bay Area Yacht Clubs including NYCP, Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC), Pensacola Beach Yacht Club (PBYC), Fort Walton Yacht Club (FWYC), Eglin Yacht Club (EYC) and The Point Yacht Club (PtYC). W.A.V.E 2012 became the first of what has become an annual event on Pensacola Bay.



It features a sail on private boats for wounded and disabled veterans and an adult guest of their choice. The afternoon's activities include an opening ceremony with color guard, live entertainment, guest speakers such as RADM Garvin, Commander, NETC, Naval Air Station Pensacola, and a complimentary lunch and beverages. Veterans are presented with a commemorative gift.

RADM Garvin recognized and honored the following organizers of this year's WAVE after a two-year hiatus resulting from the effects of the COVID pandemic,
NYCP Past Commodore Kathy Champagne
Commodore Ray Dewrell, Florida Commodores Association
Commodore Sandy Pyle, Navy Yacht Club Pensacola
Commodore Tom Pace, Pensacola Yacht Club (rep by PYC Vice Commodore Dr. David Chandler)
PYC/NYCP Past Commodore John Matthews, Co-Chair of WAVE
NYCP Past Commodore Ken Pyle, Co-Chair of WAVE
NYCP Past Commodore and FCA Vice Commodore, Bob Sutton, Boat Coordinator

This year, WAVE had 16 local boat owners offering their boats to take the wounded and disabled veterans for a cruise on Pensacola Bay. Several photos are provided to underscore the success of the WAVE. Each boat is given a WAVE Burgee to honor their participation and commitment to the WAVE. In addition to the boat owners, several volunteers were involved with the event including the American Legion Post 240 cooking/grilling team; six Civil Air Patrol Cadets, over 50 young Naval Officers and Enlisted and Marine Officer and Enlisted Personnel from NATTC and MATSG-21. NATTC also provided a trio of singers who sang the National Anthem and the Color Guard who posted the Colors for the event. Without these ACTIVE DUTY VOLUNTEERS the event could not have been a success.

Here are some pictures of happy veterans with their family members and other WAVE activities:



Left Photo:

NYCP Commodore Sandy Pyle welcoming RADM Garvin and his wife to the WAVE Event. NYCP Past Commodore Ken Pyle and PYC/NYCP Past Commodore John Matthews also extending a warm welcome.

Right Photo:

Color Guard from Naval Air Station Pensacola presenting the Colors at the Opening Ceremony.



RADM Garvin as Guest Speaker at the



Opening Ceremony.



Veterans, Volunteers, and special guests receiving a briefing about the schedule of boat assignments and afternoon activities.

NYCP Welcome sign of support for WAVE with Veterans and family members.

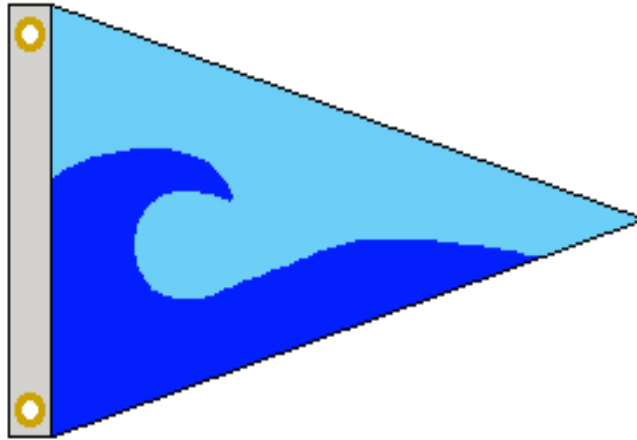


Veterans and family members on board and getting ready to board their Boats for their Day on the Bay



The Florida Commodores Association has endorsed the WAVE program to encourage other Florida yacht clubs to “Catch the W.A.V.E.” These events have also been successfully held by Fort Walton Yacht Club, Pelican Yacht Club (Fort Pierce), Platinum Point YC, and Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club (Punta Gorda).

We encourage you to “CATCH THE WAVE” and fly your own Burgee!!!!



This Burgee was created by the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club especially
For the WAVE

Photo Credits: Richard Smith and Julie Connerley