

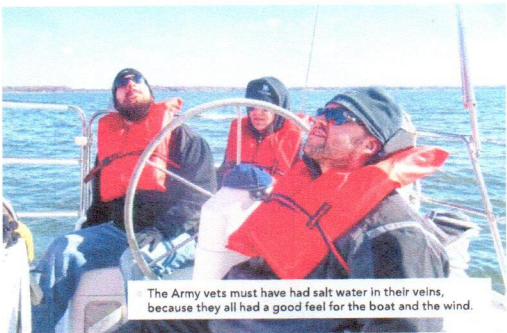


Warriors on the Water

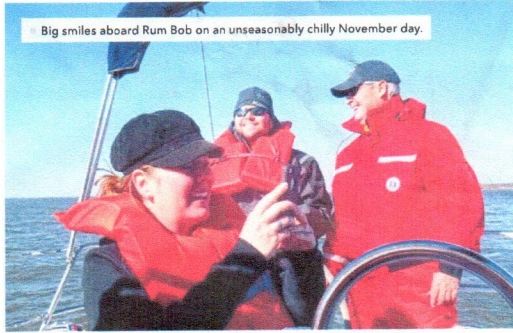
by Francis X. McKee



The Inn at Osprey Point in Rock Hall, MD, recently sponsored 10 wounded warrior families from the Wounded Warrior Project for a weekend of lodging, meals, and activities.



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Big smiles aboard Rum Bob on an unseasonably chilly November day.

Terry Nelson has a soft spot in her heart for wounded warriors. But then, who wouldn't?

The Inn at Osprey Point in Rock Hall, MD, recently sponsored 10 wounded warrior families from the Wounded Warrior Project for a weekend of lodging, meals, and activities. Nelson, the Innkeeper and Chris Messina, Inn Proprietor, both were excited about offering the heroes and their families a chance to experience sailing as part of the program.

"This program means so much to Terry," said Messina as we met in the Inn office. "She organizes everything and helps fund much of the extracurricular activities by selling her pumpkin rolls, which are dangerously addictive."

The sailing was held aboard the donated Catalina 40 *Rum Bob* owned by Bob McFarland. The warriors and their families were wise to bundle up for an unseasonably chilly November day on the water. Brandi Hall, the Wounded Warrior Project regional coordinator, herds the cats — and even one warrior's service dog — and makes all the logistics happen. One warrior, she shared with us, hadn't ventured outside for close to a year and chose the weekend activity as his reintroduction to the world. His smile could be seen all the way to Annapolis.

The crew consisted entirely of Army veterans, so my Navy Sailing hat drew some interesting stares and a few lighthearted comments. "Hey," I

said. "We're on the water. Would you feel better if it said Army Sailing?" The Army vets must have had salt water in their veins though, because they all had a good feel for the boat and the wind.

Hall, Messina, and Nelson were excited about holding the event next year, hopefully in a little warmer weather. The Warriors beamed as they came ashore. As they departed, I could not help but think about and be grateful for the many freedoms we enjoy because of them and other service women and men who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

It was fun to crew for them, and next year's event can't come soon enough.

woundedwarrior.org