

# Hampton 366 Treats Veterans to Trip to Hampton Cup Regatta

## Vets at the Hampton Cup Regatta

Hampton Elks 366 hosted 2 bus loads of patients from the VA Medical Center at the 88th annual Hampton Cup Regatta on Sunday, August 11, 2013.

After talking with the racers at the last regatta meeting, they wanted to meet the Vets and Elks, and they invited us to join them in the pits for a close look at the boats. Muddy conditions kept us from getting the buses to the pits, but we have a plan to make it happen next year.



We asked the Patriot Guard Riders to join us. Patriot Riders gathered early at a staging area, roaring up together to honor the vets and lead the buses from the hospital grounds to our VIP covered area on the bridge, as Hampton Police managed traffic for the escort. It was a thrilling and emotional sight. Hampton Elk bikers were invited to ride with them, so we'll keep that in mind for next year.

We were able to include spinal cord unit vets...a first for them at the regatta. The regatta committee let me pick a vet to fire the start cannon, and also several veterans to wave the various signal flags for the racing boats.



The Veterans enjoyed pizza, sodas, juice and cold water all afternoon, while enjoying the races. Race committee members came to our VIP area and explained the various aspects of the race to our group. Hampton Councilman Donnie Tuck accepted our invitation and stopped by to shake hands with the vets.



WTKR Channel 3 News interviewed us, so Hampton Elks 366 could tell the community about bringing the vets to the regatta. If you want to see the TV clip, go to [www.wtkr.com](http://www.wtkr.com) and type Hampton cup in the search line.



It couldn't have been nicer on the bridge, in the shade, with a wonderful breeze blowing. Our vets had such a good time, and they stayed until almost 4 p.m. When they left, all of the spectators stood and applauded our Vets as their bus was escorted back to the VA center by the Patriot Riders.

It was a long and wonderful day for the vets and Elks and our new Patriot Guard friends.

Thanks to Tim Miller, PER, Dave Kelly, ER, SinCha Anderson, Tom Cooke, Stacey Cooke, JT

Cooke, Pat Richie, Shannon Richie, Don Trimarchi, Bill Tennis, PDDGER, PSP, Steve Urquhart, and Michelle Clayton for joining me in making this event possible.

Per discussion with the Regatta Committee, we're looking forward to making it bigger and better next year. The Patriot Riders said they'll gladly escort vets any time we want to take them anywhere, especially for such a joyous occasion.

Fraternally,

**Iva Miller**

**Veterans-to-Regatta Event Organizer**