



OCOQUAN RIVER MARITIME ASSOCIATION
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For Immediate Release

Occoquan Blessing of the fleet set for Saturday 10 May 2008

Occoquan, Va. – More than two hundred boats are expected to cruise into Occoquan Bay, 25 miles south of Washington DC, to take part in the area's eighth annual Blessing of the Fleet, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday 10 May 2008. The Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) is sponsoring the event, coordinating the efforts of the Prince William, Fairfax and Occoquan Yacht Clubs, with support from the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Potomac Marine-TowBOAT/US, Prince William, Hoffmasters and Belmont Bay Marinas and Fairfax and Prince William public safety agencies. The blessing is open to all boats in the area, drawing from a fleet of some 2500 boats on the Occoquan River and hundreds more in the neighboring areas.

This year will be especially memorable, as our Wounded Warriors will be embarked on several member Yacht Club boats. Captain's Ed Mason and Jay Gaston are coordinating this event. Our honored guests will also be treated to a cookout upon return from a day cruise.

Reverend Lorenzo Hill of Cranford United Methodist Church will participate in the event, invoking a blessing on each boat as it passes near the chaplains' flagship vessel provided by Occoquan Yacht Club. In the event of inclement weather the event will be cancelled.

ORMA was established in 1999 to coordinate activities of business, yacht clubs and boaters relating to navigation, ecology, commercial and recreational use of the Occoquan and Potomac Rivers, environmental preservation and boating safety/education. In addition to coordinating the annual Blessing of the Fleet, ORMA played a leadership role in eliminating hazardous shoaling of the channel, and supports numerous activities focused on improving the use of our waterways. ORMA is also proud to be an advocate for the mission of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

George M. Allen
ORMA Presiding Coordinator