

RE: Blessing of the Fleet

Tuesday, May 12, 11 am at Fox's Dock

FROM: Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce

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PUT-IN-BAY (OH) — For nearly 30 years ferry boats, US Coast Guard vessels, water taxis, and emergency watercraft have lined up in the Spring in Put-in-Bay's picturesque harbor to participate in the small resort village's Blessing of the Fleet.

On Tuesday, May 12, at 11 am Mother Mary Staley from St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Rev. Jeremy Hollingshead from St. John's at the Bay will bestow a mariner's blessing on watercraft, aircraft and even land vehicles that will haul passengers and crew.

"Precious cargo," said Put-in-Bay Chamber Executive Director Maggie Beckford. "This annual Blessing of the Fleet is for the men and women who protect us, those who carry us to and from the island safely, and those who are there in our times of need."

Beckford said the ceremony will be held on Fox's Dock, adjacent to the Jet Dock. The Put-in-Bay School Choir will perform a selection of songs.

Blessings will be bestowed on watercraft first and then aircraft. Port Clinton Police Department and the Ottawa County Sheriff Department have confirmed they will be bringing their patrol boats, including the Sheriff Department's Bruce E. Mettler, named after Deputy Metter who was the island's EMT and died in the line of duty in 1981.

Toledo St. Vincent's Life Flight and Griffing Island Airlines have also confirmed they will attend the ceremony.

"You'll also see our island police, fire and rescue vehicles on the dock to receive a blessing," Beckford said. "And this year the National Park Service and our Island Tour Train will also bring vehicles."

Put-in-Bay's Blessing of the Fleet, started in 1986, follows a centuries old tradition of port villages and cities blessing the commercial fishing boats and other watercraft serving their citizens. You can find more information about Put-in-Bay and Put-in-Bay Chamber events and programs at visitputinbay.com.