

History of the Terry Hackett July 4th Memorial Boat Parade

The Annual July 4th Boat Parade was renamed to the Terry Hackett Memorial Boat Parade by majority vote at the annual Little Ossipee Lake Association Annual Meeting in 2004.

Terry Hackett was a lifetime long Maine resident, who spent time on Little Ossipee from 1965 until he passed away in 1993. In 1971, Terry and his wife, Ethel, made Little Ossipee their year-round home. Terry was a military man with over 30 years of dedicated service to this county. His sense of community and fun-loving spirit gave birth to the very first boat parade as described by his son, Todd:

Words from Colonel Todd Hackett –

“The first boat parade was in 1976 (Bicentennial year). There were three boats involved in the first parade. Terry’s pontoon boat and motorboat and John Taflas’ motorboat. We paraded around the shores of Ossipee singing patriotic songs and waving people to get in their boats and join us. Over 50 boats joined in. We all ended up at John Taflas’ house with everyone asking if we were to have a parade again on the 4th to let them know. The following year Pete and Rose Thompson made signs and posted them at the post office and general stores around town. Years later the Lake Association took it over giving awards.”

“ My dad never measured true wealth in terms of material possessions, but by the quality of his friends, the love of his family, and a little place on the lake where both could gather. The 4th of July represented this vision of wealth and prosperity because it was that special time of year where his family and friends would meet to enjoy traditions of the past 4th of July celebrations, while watching the younger generation create new traditions before his eyes. Beneath it all, my Dad took special pride in the realization that “only in America” could you experience a parade of this magnitude in a little town called North Waterboro. My Dad believed in what this country stood for and proudly wore the uniform that protected those beliefs for over 30 years. *My Dad felt, the parade was not just a group of boats lining the water’s edge but an extraordinary representation of the greatness of this nation where family, close friends and community are the sole bedrocks of that greatness.*”