



Media Release

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A Gracious 'Thank You' to the supporters of the 7th Annual Veterans Day Wedding Giveback

GREENPORT, N.Y., November 27, 2017 — The 7th Annual Veterans Day Wedding Giveback was a heartfelt and elegant affair thanks to the support and dedication of neighboring business partners and volunteers.

U.S. Navy Lt. junior grade John Dunne, age 25, married Katie Anthony, age 28, on the steps of Brecknock Hall, Sunday, November 12 in honor of Veterans Day. John, originally of Southold, is currently serving as a U.S. Navy MH-60S helicopter pilot stationed in Norfolk, Va. The couple was notified during a surprise reveal in April.

Peconic Landing and Brecknock Hall would like to thank the 30 businesses and volunteers who joined together to make the couple's dream day a reality. Highlights of this special day can be seen on our YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/buQnmvg89Uc>.

"We are so incredibly blessed to have been given this opportunity. It was a beautiful, elegant, and picture perfect wedding. The generosity and compassion of every single vendor and volunteer are unparalleled, and we cannot ever thank them enough. The wedding exceeded our wildest dreams and was truly an incredible experience. Thank you so much for giving Katie and I the perfect wedding and memories that we will cherish for a lifetime," John said. "Watching the love of my life walking down the aisle to me, looking so incredibly beautiful, smiling at me in a way that I have never seen before. I have never felt a moment in my life more powerful and wonderful than that. It is a moment and a feeling that I will never forget."

John is a graduate of Southold High School and SUNY/Maritime College who has committed to ten years of Navy service but plans on making it his career. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and was a member of the Southold NJROTC.

Katie, of Cantonment, FL, is a graduate of Florida State University with a degree in Psychology who currently works for the Navy Federal Credit Union at their Corporate Operations Center. Katie hopes to one-day assist veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder.

“The day meant so many things to me. The start of a family, a celebration of love, and the act of appreciation for my husband's service to our country. It was the perfect beginning to our lives together,” Katie said. “I want to say THANK YOU! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Without all of you, my fairytale wedding would not have been possible. The kindness you all have shown us is overwhelming and amazing!”

Sponsored by Peconic Landing, the annual Veterans Day Wedding Giveback began in 2011 as an opportunity to thank our military personnel and recognize them for their service in honor of Veterans Day. Now in its seventh year, it has become a community affair, made possible through sponsorship and contributions from local businesses and organizations who donate the time, talents and services that help to make the dream day a reality.

“The Veterans Day Wedding Giveback is a perfect example of the community coming together to serve others. On behalf of Peconic Landing and all of the sponsors we wish John and Kate a lifetime of love and happiness moving forward,” said Robert J. Syron, President and CEO of Peconic Landing. “I would also like to thank the sponsors and business partners for their support making this unique giveback possible.”

Vendors and volunteers who contributed to the 7th Annual Veterans Day Wedding Giveback include: Allison G. Pressler Professional Skin Care, American Tent, Anchor & Lace Photography, Blue Duck Bakery, Christine Henry, Christopher Michael Catering, Duckwalk Vineyards, East End Events Catering, Fire Monkey Hair Design, Greenport Harbor Brewing Company, Greenporter Hotel, I Doll You Up ~ Stacey Peterson, Ivy League Flowers & Gifts, Councilwoman Jill Doherty, Kate Whitcomb Shoes, Kim Jon Designs, Lieb Cellars, Macari Vineyards, Major William Grigonis, DJ Phil ~ Make Some Noise DJ's, Mattituck Environmental Services, Moments in Time Floral Design, Moriches Main Street Flowers, North Fork Bridal Shoppe, North Fork Chocolate Company, Pellegrini Vineyards, Photobooth Creative, Southold Fish Market, Southold-Mattituck-Greenport ROTC, and The Suffolk Times– Times/Review Media Group.

Chris Richards of East End Events Catering and CJ's Place of Mattituck said his father and brother have both served in the military, making this a meaningful opportunity for his family.

"Our service members give so much of themselves to our country. It is an honor to have a business where you can give back to a military family and be able to do their wedding for free," Mr. Richards said. "We donated the meal and the staff – four waitresses, a chef and a busboy – donated their time. We enjoyed working so closely with Peconic Landing and all of the donors to provide a special day for someone in the military."

DJ Phil Schmitt of Make Some Noise DJ's said “I wanted to participate because John and Katie were a very deserving couple, and it was a nice way to give back to some of our service men and women Veterans Day Weekend. It was a great day with some amazing people donating their time for a good cause.”

The winning couple was chosen by a panel of Peconic Landing members with military ties, who judged the contest based on the number of years served, special military honors, and each individual couple's personal love story. Valerie Tirelli Hallock, Brecknock Hall Sales & Events Coordinator, oversees the sponsorship and application process as well as coordination of vendors and the event.

This year's member committee includes Ted Webb, chairman of the Brecknock Hall Foundation, as well as Peconic Landing members Stanley and Vivian Noble, Jan Harting-McChesney, and Denis and Patricia Bischoff. In 2017, Peconic Landing received eight applications from highly qualified candidates.

"A picture perfect bride brought tears to the groom as he waited to begin their life as man and wife under the shelter of Brecknock Hall's front porch," Ms. McChesney recalled. "The festivities continued for several hours as the guests enjoyed an atmosphere of local hospitality. Delicious food, lively music, and a breathtaking wedding cake were enjoyed by all in attendance. Well done Long Island!"

For more information about the Veterans Day Wedding Giveback or to apply for next year's 2018 Veterans Day Wedding Giveback visit www.BrecknockHall.com or contact Valerie Tirelli, Brecknock Sales & Events Coordinator at info@brecknockhall.com.

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Peconic Landing is a nationally recognized, equity-based Continuing Care Retirement Community overlooking the breathtaking Long Island Sound. Located on the North Fork of Long Island, our 144-acre campus is bordered by grapevines and golfing greens, situated on a half-mile of private Sound beach. The organization works on a mission of being the retirement community of choice for individuals age 62 and better by encouraging our members to enjoy a vibrant lifestyle and presenting ample opportunity for members to pursue their interests and passions to the fullest.