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Veterans barbecue was a success

Christ Church celebrated its third annual Veterans Salute Barbecue on July 15. Attendance has grown yearly and my husband, John, (retired Coast Guard) and I were first-time attendees. Rector John Miller welcomed us all into the lovely new church. The guests-of honor were excited to represent their various services. The marvelous lunch was topped off with a patriotic, delicious cherry pie a la mode.

I was seated next to a World War II Navy vet. An engineering graduate of Notre Dame, he left his job building ships and joined the war effort. Stationed at Pearl Harbor he used his skills repairing damaged ships. At the other end of the spectrum we were privileged to hear from Doy Demsick, from the Indian River Veterans Council, who lit up the room with thanks from Iraq/Afghanistan vets. Vietnam era veterans had the most representation in the room. God bless all of them.

Christ Church is very sincere in the effort to reward the nearby veterans by providing this amazing occasion to gather and enjoy the thanks of the community. Connie Boyter gets accolades for organizing the event. She, with church members, served the meal, but more importantly made everyone feel appreciated. You could feel the care encircling the gathering. As she explained the event germinated in a silent prayer asking for guidance on what would be a community need. Veteran appreciation was the response and this barbecue came about. Vero Beach is blessed in having Christ Church serving the community.

Peggy Pitta, Vero Beach