



District 8 - Florida International Order of the Blue Gavel

Yachting Customs and Courtesies

Blessing of the Fleet - Pelican Isle Yacht Club

The tradition of blessing the fleet began many centuries ago in Portugal for protection from the dangers of the sea. To this day it is performed in fishing ports all over the world.

Although we don't depend on the sea for our livelihood, we do depend on it for our enjoyment.

Like the mariners of old we respect the power of the seas. And like the mariners throughout history, we call on the supreme being to guide us and watch over us in our travels.

Bow your heads!

Any appropriate blessing may be used. An example would be: May the god of the earth, the sky and the sea watch over these vessels and all who travel on them. Guide them as they ply your waters and see them safely home at journey's end. Amen

Blessing of the Fleet - Venice Yacht Club

3:30 PM

Reverend (Name)

Father (Name)

(Name)—Master of Ceremonies (MC)

“(Name)” captained by (Name) leads the parade with Past Commodores and their spouses on board.

“Blue Aspen” heads down to D-Dock and passes in view for a blessing.

The other boats in the parade follow suit for the individual blessings.

The Master of Ceremonies will identify each boat and the participants on the boat as the boat receives the blessing.

Each crew member is furnished a carnation to be dropped in the water after each blessing.

The General Blessing of the Fleet will follow for the boats remaining in Dock.

Songs Played by VHSB
“America the Beautiful”-VHSB
“Armed Forces Salute”-VHSB
“My Country Tis of Thee” -VHSB