



Mercer Memorial Day 500!

An Affiliate of the Community Foundation of Western Pennsylvania - a Non Profit Organization

April 1, 2008

Dear U.S.S. Intrepid Veteran,

Come be a part of something special being planned to honor you! The Mercer Memorial Day 500 will be spotlighting the U.S.S. Intrepid and her veterans at a 4 hour event Monday, May 26, 2008. Our event includes a military concert at 9:30 at the Mercer County Court House Bandstand presented by the 28th Division Pennsylvania Army National Guard Band and a Veterans Reception nearby, followed by a Parade and Memorial Salute. If you plan to attend and need assistance golf carts and drivers will be available to assist you.

The Reception provides a place for veterans to sit, eat, sign up for prizes, relax, talk or listen to military music. Free drawings such as hot air balloon rides will be available plus drawings exclusively for Intrepid veterans. We are offering two framed pictures of your ship donated by the U.S. Navy Memorial, and all-expense paid trips for two to New York City to attend the Intrepid's re-dedication in November. Your parade transport will be available for boarding at the Reception. You will be riding behind a banner identifying you as a group and in front of you will be a handsome American flag-painted semi truck cab pulling a 48' box trailer that bears billboard size images on both sides of your ship. The parade hosts six bands and will be led off by an all-Navy Veteran Color Guard.

The noon Memorial Salute provides meaningful music including The Navy Hymn. Ray Stone, a highly decorated veteran, author of "My Ship, The U.S.S. Intrepid", plank owner and board member of the Former Crewmembers Association will be the keynote speaker. At the conclusion of the Salute you will be transported back to the Court House and your vehicle.

We have a beautiful venue for this event here at Mercer in Western Pennsylvania, 25 miles east of Youngstown, Ohio, midway between Erie and Pittsburgh, PA and near Routes 79 and 80. The town has an old-fashioned feel to it that will carry you back in time.

The Mercer County Court House, named one of the ten prettiest in the nation, sits on a hill and is the center of activity. 500 American Flags with dogtags attached line the parade route and cemetery. The parade winds past the Court House along a shaded Victorian street to the Memorial Salute at a cemetery reminiscent of Shenandoah.

If you plan to stay overnight we've arranged a hotel package for \$60 plus tax per night that includes room, breakfast, and reception the evening before the event

Local U.S.S. Intrepid veterans look forward to hosting you, and the organizers, Mark and Linda Brown, would consider it a great honor to be able to say thank you in person for your service to America and the world.

Patriotically,

Mark and Linda Brown



www.mercermemorialday500.homestead.com
parade500@yahoo.com 724 662 2786

Mark and Linda Brown 228 South Erie Street
Mercer, Pennsylvania 16137