

# *The History of the 500 Flags*

## **IN JULY OF 2003**

MARK BROWN, CO-FOUNDER, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE, LINDA, OF

**THE MERCER MEMORIAL DAY 500, DECIDED TO CREATE A**

permanent salute to veterans every Memorial Day by installing 500 flags along

South Pitt Street, the parade route, every Memorial Day weekend in Mercer, Pennsylvania. Mark,

Dave King and Pat Brown devised a way to install 500 PVC sleeves in the ground and went through several

drilling tools to complete the task. A flag package was sold to the public for \$25 that included the in-ground sleeve,

10' PVC pole, red or blue dogtag and chain, inscribed with the purchaser's name and whom they chose to honor. The sale of

all 500 flags took a year. All 500 were first displayed together Memorial Day 2005 with a weekend of programs. The 500 flags grace not

only Pitt Street but also a portion of Venango, 12' apart, and the north end of Citizens Cemetery, 6'. A donor/recipient list may be viewed

on this website and a book listing these names may be found at the Mercer County Historical Society along with a CD of the 2005 event.