

Mercer Memorial Day 500's ★ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ★

Monday, May 26, 2008

9:30 MILITARY CONCERT Mercer County Court House Bandstand. Military Concert performed by the 28th "Keystone" Division Pennsylvania Army National Guard Band. The 28th is the oldest division in the Armed Forces and is the most deployed Guard in the nation. The band earned distinction in the defense of Wiltz during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 and has received the Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Luxembourg Croix De Guerre. It has performed before Presidents, Governors, and foreign Heads of State. The current Keystone Band is under the command of CW2 Jeffrey A. Jaworowski. These citizen soldiers take extreme pride in their history of service to the Commonwealth and the Country.

9:30 VETERANS RECEPTION North side of Mercer County Court House. The reception provides a place for veterans to sit, eat, sign up for prizes, relax, talk or listen to band music. Free veteran drawings include gas cards, gift cards, framed art work, hand-forged clock, veteran coasters, movie tickets, hot air balloon rides, along with Lone Sailor statues for Navy veterans and 2 all-expense paid trips for two to New York City, for USS Intrepid veterans, to attend the Intrepid's rededication in November. Veterans have reserved parking places, golf cart assistance, and decorated parade transports that depart from the Reception area. Transportation is provided back to the Court House after the Memorial Salute. Parking maps are available upon request or can be downloaded from our website.

11:00 PARADE North to South Pitt Street, east side of the Court House, begins promptly at 11 with a Navy Veteran Color Guard from Franklin, PA followed by red, white and blue convertibles carrying three veteran honorees and one for a deceased honoree (see their stories on our website) with his family members walking behind. There will be five bands and a Flotilla of ship representations led by the USS Intrepid and her veterans, followed by ones for Navy Vets to ride on, and a submarine replica. 80 ship names of the riding sailors will be displayed. Though candy throwing is prohibited, patriotic items will be distributed by the military.

12:00 MEMORIAL SALUTE This is the main reason for the day, to pay respects to those who died for liberty. Citizens Cemetery at the end of the half mile parade route provides a vista reminiscent of Shenandoah. This hour-long event features 3 musical groups, one singing the Navy Hymn, 21 cannon salute, honoree awards, former prisoner of war recognition and keynote speaker, Ray Stone, author of "My Ship, The USS Intrepid", Plank Owner and member of the Board of Directors of the USS Intrepid Former Crew Members Association in New York City. Some veteran seating will be available but it is recommended that you bring your own, if possible.

- REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR RELATED TOPICS OF INTEREST -

WWW.MERCERMEMORIALDAY500.HOMESTEAD.COM