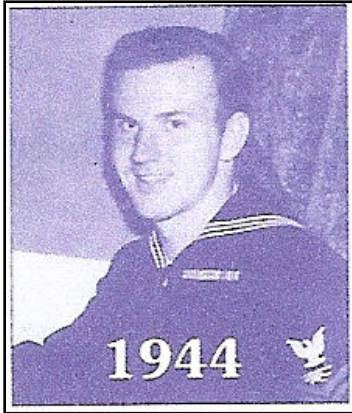


RAY STONE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER ~ MEMORIAL SALUTE
THE MERCER MEMORIAL DAY 500
MAY 26, 2008

In April of 1943 seventeen year old Ray Stone enlisted in the Navy and after boot camp he attended radar school. He then joined the precommissioning crew of the U.S.S. Intrepid, an Essex class aircraft carrier being completed at the Newport News Shipbuilding Company in Virginia. A plankowner, one of the 3,000 men in Intrepid's original crew, Stone served as a radarman in the ship's Combat Intelligence Center (CIC).



The CIC is the carrier's brain center and is responsible for airplanes from the time they took off until they landed back safely on the flight deck. Their prime radar responsibility was detecting the enemy and directing their fighter pilots to intercept and destroy them. 85 planes were attached to the Intrepid.

Stone survived one torpedo and 5 kamikaze hits on the Intrepid without a scratch, while 26 of his fellow radarmen were killed by kamikaze attacks off the Philippines.

After serving his two year hitch he left the Navy to study at the Arts Students League in New York City, worked as a magazine art director and, later, president of SSK&F Advertising.

Ray's recent book, "My Ship! The U.S.S. Intrepid" may be purchased from Amazon.com or during the Veterans Reception, North Side of the Mercer County Court House, from 9:30 to 11. He will speak during the Memorial Salute at Citizens Cemetery, at the end of the parade route four blocks south of the Court House. Your presence there validates the sacrifice of the many who perished to insure your freedom.

HIS SHIP, THE U.S.S. INTREPID

- ◆ Served in the South Pacific in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and was a NASA Recovery Ship, and now serves as a Sea, Air and Space Museum at Pier 86 on the Hudson River in New York City.
- ◆ She is 900' long, 200' tall and weighs 23,000 tons. The Essex carriers were the largest single class of ships ever built and none were ever sunk.
- ◆ 207 of her sailors were lost in Kamikaze attacks.
- ◆ She sank 80 ships and downed 650 aircraft.
- ◆ She was the most frequently hit aircraft carrier during World War II.
- ◆ Her sailors would autograph bombs they sent out "to and for the esteemed sons of Hirohito from the sons of Uncle Sam".

*We who came home are older now, but those who did not come home will
be forever young in our memory... Tony Zollo, Plankowner*

The Mercer Memorial Day 500 proudly welcomes the U.S.S. Intrepid Veterans
www.mercermemorialday500.homestead.com