



***A Desire and Commitment to Advance Patriotism and Honor U.S. Veterans
The Latest Visionary Endeavor by Morrill, Rob and Mike Worcester***

Entrepreneurialism and patriotism have been the basis for all accomplishments throughout Morrill Worcester's legacy. At just 12-years-old, he was a top-selling paper boy for the *Bangor Daily News* when he won a trip to Washington, D.C. The experience included a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, a moment that sparked a lifetime of honoring US veterans through his work.

A graduate of the University of Maine, Morrill went on to establish a series of businesses, including the Worcester Wreath Company, County Concrete and Construction and Worcester Peat Co. He even started the first professional basketball team in the state – the Maine Lumberjacks. Morrill founded Worcester Wreath Company in 1983, where he began to make fresh, hand-made wreaths using the balsam harvested from his family farm in DownEast Maine. The business made him the first mail-order wreath producer in the country, which supplied product to the national retailer L.L. Bean for 26 years. Today, it is one of the largest employers in Washington County.

In 1992, with a surplus of Maine wreaths, Morrill decided to donate those wreaths to veteran graves in Arlington Cemetery – a tradition the family quietly continued for over a decade. In 2005 after his family completed the wreath laying, a press photographer saw the beauty of the brightly colored bows resting on the headstones and took a photo that went viral. The outpouring of support for this quiet family tradition became too powerful to ignore and the non-profit *Wreaths Across America* was born. What started as 5,000 wreaths in 1992, has grown to over 2,500,000 wreaths laid at over 3,100 locations across the globe annually.

After college in the early 2000s, Morrill's sons Rob and Mike joined their father's family businesses. Mike's positions have included General Manager for Worcester Wreath Company and Worcester Peat Co., and today, he serves as CFO for the Worcester Companies. Rob continues to oversee the current management and operations for County Concrete, helped develop and currently manages all harvest operations for Worcester Holdings Balsam Fir Farm and is the volunteer Transportation and Logistics Coordinator for *Wreaths Across America*.

Sharing the same deep love of country and entrepreneurial spirit have fueled their success over the last 20 years, and that includes their latest and most visionary endeavor, the Flagpole of Freedom Park project. What started with Morrill's interest in placing a flagpole on his family's tree farm, turned into a destination to feature the largest flagpole in the world. Sitting at 1,461 feet high, it will be an unprecedented symbol of national pride and freedom that will honor all +/- 24 million deceased veterans and their service to our country over the last 250 years. A place that will include Six Halls of History offering historically accurate, immersive, tech-driven experiential learning for people of all ages.