The Review

VETERANS HALL OF FAME



Navy veteran Robert H. Bertschy, 89, of East Liverpool, stands as WWII veterans are acknowledged during a ceremony Wednesday to unveil the plaque bearing the names of all 19 Class of 2016 inductees into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame at the Riffe Center in Columbus. The Ohio Department of Veterans Services and Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Foundation hosted an enshrinement

ceremony for the recently inducted members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. (Photo courtesy of Jonathan Quilter/Columbus Dispatch)

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Local veteran recognized for service, volunteer work

By STEVE RAPPACH

srappach@reviewonline.com

EAST LIVERPOOL – A local veteran is being recognized for several years of dedication and volunteer work helping disabled veterans.

Robert Bertschy of East Liverpool has served as a volunteer driver for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), where he logged more than 200,000 miles and 10,000 hours of volunteered work time as he provided fellow disabled veterans with rides to hospitals and VA centers in Cleveland, Youngstown and Brecksville to name a few.

And following 11 years of volunteering his time, Bertschy has decided to wrap up his services. His last day as a volunteer driver was Dec. 31.

An East Liverpool native, Bertschy, 88, is a veteran, who himself served in two wars, both in which he was a radioman and gunner. He first joined the U.S. Navy in 1944, when he was age 17, serving on the USS Gamble DM 15 during World War II. After the war, Bertschy, who had to leave school to serve in the



Robert Bertschy

Navy, returned to East Liverpool High School, where he received his diploma.

Not too long after earning his diploma, Bertschy returned to the Navy, this time serving on the USS NOA DD 841 during the Korean War.

After the Korean War, Bertschy became heavily involved with work in veteran's organizations, including the DAV Chapter 47, which he has been a member since 1947, and the VFW Post 66, where he holds lifetime membership. He was also a mem-

ber of the Drill Team representing VFW Post 66, where it won the state championship five years in a row from 1955-59. During that time, his drill team also won two national championships — 1958, in New York, and 1959, in Los Angeles.

He has also held every office possible with the DAV Chapter 47 including secretary, treasurer, and state commander. For 2015-16, he also became a National Executive Committee member, and is a member of the POW-MIA Committee.

In 2007, Bertschy received the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch prior to a Cleveland Indians game at Jacobs Field (the stadium has since been renamed Progressive Field).

Bertschy has been a part of a long line of military service tradition with several family members also serving in the Armed Forces. He is a father of five children, four currently living; a grandfather of 12, with 11 currently living; and a great-grandfather of 11, with a 12th great-grandchild on the way. r d g E

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