

Commercial Review, The (Portland, IN) - Monday, September 29, 2003

Ralph L. Bechtol, 80, 503 N. First St., Fort Recovery, died early Thursday morning at his residence.

Born to William H. and Mabel M. (Bigelow) Bechtol on Feb. 2, 1923 in Coldwater, Ohio, he was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He survived the sinking of the U.S.S. Wasp in the Coral Sea during World War II.

He was married Oct. 22, 1942 in Fort Recovery to Betty Shawver, who survives.

Retiring from Reynolds & Reynolds, Celina, Ohio, he was also a cable installer.

He was a member and past commander of the V.F.W. Post 6515; the American Legion Post 345; and was a scout master for Boy Scouts, all of these in Fort Recovery. He served as honor guard member of both the V.F.W. and American Legion; was a member of the U.S.S. Wasp CV7 Stinger Club; and he attended the Fort Recovery United Methodist Church.

Survivors in addition to his wife are four sons, Danny and Larry Bechtol, both of Fort Recovery, Ron Bechtol, Wapakoneta, Ohio, and Joe Bechtol, Portland; one daughter, Mary Cohen, Fort Recovery; 17 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Services are Monday at 10:30 a.m. at Brockman and Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery, with the Rev. Robert Dungan officiating. Burial will follow in the Salamonina Cemetery, Salamonina. Military graveside rites will be conducted.

Visitation is Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m. and Monday one hour prior to services at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to St. Peter Neurological Center; State of the Heart Home Health & Hospice; the CV7 Stinger Club; or Fort Recovery United Methodist Church.

All times mentioned are Ohio times.

Contributed by Jane Edson