

Paul L. Bitting, (22 Feb 1927 – 26 Jan 2012), Perry County Times, 9 February 2012

Master Sgt. Paul L. “Buckshot” Bitting, 84, of Newport died Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012 at Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation, Carlisle.

He was born Feb. 12, 1927 in Newport to **Jonathan W.** and **Vera (Murphy) Bitting**.

He was a 1944 graduate of Newport High School and entered the Army in July 1945 after serving for one year in the Merchant Marines with duty in the Mediterranean and North Atlantic. He received the Combat Bar, Atlantic War Zone Bar and the Mediterranean-Middle East War Zone Bar for his Merchant Marine service.

During the Korean War, he served as a platoon sergeant with the Second Infantry Division.

In 1964, he graduated from a military assistance training adviser course at the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare at Fort Bragg, N.C., and a Vietnamese language course at the Defense Department Language School in Presidio of Monterey, Calif.

He served two tours in Vietnam as an adviser with a Vietnamese infantry unit in combat. His awards and decorations included the Combat Infantry Badge with Star, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, American Expeditionary Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Citations and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star.

He was a member of Millerstown Moose and VFW 5049, Liverpool American Legion 364, DAV and Newport Social Order of Owls; a volunteer of the Wings of Kindness and Bread of Life Outreach; and a member of the former Newport United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his wife, **Ruth Daughenbaugh Bitting**; three sons, **Harold** of Orangeville, Pa., **Michael** of Mechanicsburg and **David** of New York; two daughters, **Susan Bair** of Harrisburg and **Laurie Rudy** of Newport; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, **Audrey Fogle**.

Services were held Jan. 30 in Newport Family Life Center with the Rev. Tony Hill officiating. Burial was Jan. 31 in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville. David Myers Funeral Home, Newport, handled arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bread of Life Outreach, 253 N. Sixth St., Newport 17074, or Wings of Kindness, P.O. Box 225, Thompsontown.

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