

**Robert E. Hess**, (19 Jan 1924 – 14 May 2009), Perry County Times, Wednesday, June 03, 2009

**Robert E. Hess**, 85, of Dayville, Conn., died Thursday, May 14, 2009 at home. He was born Jan. 19, 1924 in Altoona to the late **John** and **Lulubelle (McLaughlin) Hess**.

He graduated from West High School, Columbus, Ohio, in 1941. He worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad prior to entering the military in 1943. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. He served on the U.S.S. Neches as a machinist mate and participated in the naval air cadets training. In December 1944 his ship, part of Adm. William Halsey's Third Fleet, was struck by Typhoon Cobra where several ships were capsized and many lives were lost. He was in the battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, witnessing attacks by Japanese kamikazes. His ship was invited to represent the Tanker Fleet and take part in the surrender ceremonies at Tokyo Bay. He received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with two stars, the American Campaign Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

He graduated from Ohio State University in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. He attended the Penn State campus in Altoona for certification to teach in Pennsylvania. He won a fellowship in geography at Bloomsburg University. He received a master's degree from Bucknell University in 1966. He was a teacher at Ickesburg Elementary School; Pleasant Valley Elementary School, Altoona; Chapman Union Elementary School, Port Trevorton, where he served 10 years as principal; and Selinsgrove Middle School, from which he retired after 36 years of service.

Surviving are his wife of 59 years, **Anna M. (Burkhart) Hess**; children, **Michael** of Old Saybrook, Conn., **Catherine Balliet** of Voluntown, Conn., **Debra Moyer** of Danielson, Conn., **Rebecca Zinobile** of Landisburg and **John** of Dayville, Conn.; a sister, **Eileen James** of Powell, Tenn.; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, **Katherine Wiedenhofer**.

Church and Allen Funeral Home, Norwich, Conn., handled arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Paralyzed Veterans of America, 801 18th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.