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DAV Department of Ohio Newsletter

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Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Selects Eight DAV Members

Eight (8) DAV members were selected for induction to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in September of 2020. These new Hall of Fame honorees were: **Paul Butler** (Chapter #59 Warren County); **Timothy Espich** (Chapter #13 Clark County); **Kimberly Felton** (Chapter #9 Dayton); **William Graybill** (Chapter #63 Clermont County); **Kenneth Jakubiec** (Chapter #2 Youngstown); **James Kauter** (Chapter #72 Willie Marcum); **Daniel Kelpatriek** (Chapter #9 Dayton); and **Dwight Bidgenour** (Chapter 77 Putnam County).

A total of twenty (20) inductees were selected for the Class of 2020. The selection of these inductees was made by the 13 members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Executive Committee. Past Department Commander James Bailey is the DAV representative on the Executive Committee.

Over 350 applications were initially submitted for consideration and after screening, 136 packets were forwarded to the Executive Committee for grading. Ohio Department Veterans Services Director Deborah Ashenbunt, commended the recipients by honoring their achievements by stating, "You are amongst Ohio's Finest Citizens in this distinction."

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is not strictly a military hall of fame. These twenty (20) inductees are veterans who have honorably served their country and they will continue to serve and inspire their communities with their noble deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetimes.

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be a formal Banquet honoring the Class of 2020, nor an Induction Ceremony. The DAV Department of Ohio has always participated in both the Banquet and the Induction Ceremony in the past.

"On behalf of the DAV Department of Ohio, I would like to formally commend all eight recipients for their achieving this truly outstanding honor," said Department