

• Ordered to Vietnam for second tour January 1970 - January 1971 with Communications Company, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division

• Retired with rank of Captain July 1971 after 23 years of active duty

Included among my personal military decorations and awards are the Bronze Star Medal w/combat "V"; Combat Action Ribbon; Navy Achievement Medal; Korean Service Medal w/2\*; and the Vietnam Service Medal w/4\*.

Returning to civilian life in 1971 I became a teacher of high school students and subsequently school principal, a position I held at the time of my retirement in 1992. In 1991 I was appointed by the Governor of Indiana to the position of Judge, Aurora City Court. I was then elected and reelected as Judge and remained in office until August 1997. I currently spend my free time volunteering with various "not-for-profit" groups and staying involved with veterans organizations. I am a Life Member of KWVA as well as possessing a Life Membership in the American Legion; Marine Corps League; Disabled American Veterans; and the VFW.

My qualifications for the position of National KWVA Director include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Life member KWVA Chapter #129 since June 1996
- Served as First-Vice Commander, KWVA, Department of Indiana
- Served as interim Indiana Department Commander following the death of the Department Commander.
- Have served continuously as Commander, KWVA Chapter #129 since June 2000
- Received \$250 from National KWVA for placing third in the national KWVA recruiting contest conducted several years ago
- Proven leadership ability as a Marine and in civilian life
- Education - BS & MS Degrees, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana

As a National Director, there are many worthwhile goals to be pursued that will ultimately enhance the KWVA but my primary focus will be, when elected, to restore UNITY to our great and proud organization.

I certify, that as a Life Member, my dues are current and will be through the whole term of the office that I am seeking. I will attend each called meeting of the Directors and I understand that two unexcused absences from called meetings may result in my removal from office. I have enclosed a separate signed Official Membership Application Form showing my eligible service years and I authorize releasing the application form for verification by the Nominating Committee. I have also enclosed a current self photograph suitable for publication in the *Graybeards* magazine.

I have read the Code of Conduct and will abide by its contents.

Luther Rice – LR19674  
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## Membership Report

### Membership Gains

We have been mailing a series of "Press Releases" on the 2008 Revisit Korea Tours. They just recently hit the Providence Journal in Providence, Rhode Island and now the Gainesville Sun in Florida.

It's amazing to me how many Korean War veterans have never even heard of the KWVA! The Revisit Korea press releases are finding them in small towns across America.

According to Annelie Weber, our Executive Assistant and Membership Secretary, this has resulted in many new members since they must belong to KWVA to go on a Revisit Tour.

We are going to have Chapter #100 of Northern Virginia reactivated and up and operating in several weeks.

Warren Wiedhahn, Revisit Korea Coordinator

### Legislative Affairs

#### Status of Federal Charter

On Tuesday, March 11, 2008 Senator Benjamin L. Cardin's office called to inform the KWVA that Senate S-1692 is now in the House of Representatives awaiting a calendar spot for an up or down vote. Congressmen Sam Johnson and Steny Hoyer are attempting to find a calendar location for the vote.

Since the S-1692 has passed in the Senate, the House can now place the Senate bill on the House calendar without going through the House Judiciary Committee. Since the Co-Sponsors of the non-partisan House Bill are in agreement, we are encouraged at this time that our goal might be reached.

Ed Buckman, National Legislative Director



We apologize for errors we make in *The Graybeards*. Our hope is to publish an error-free edition. Unfortunately, that does not always turn out to be the case.

#### He is in the picture, though

The photo on page 54 of the Jan/Feb 2008 *Graybeards*, second from left, bottom row, was identified as me. Actually, it is of my close friend Sam Gann, a medic of 1st Bn., 179th of 45th, who is a "Christmas Hill Brother."

I am partly visible to Sam's right in the top row left photo.

Cordially,

Wayne Pelkey

#### Wrong picture, right caption

The bottom right photo on p.33 of the Nov/Dec 2007 issue does not match the caption. We have the right caption, but the wrong picture. We apologize to the West Virginia Chapter 156 members whose names appear, but whose picture doesn't.