



Resident Gary Beard

Gary was born to William and Charlotte Beard in Canton, Illinois on December 3, 1948. He grew up in Lewistown, played baseball in High School, and graduated in 1967. He started working for Caterpillar after High School and was drafted into the US Army, in 1968, spent one year in Vietnam, serving in the 9th Infantry Division. After returning to the US, he spent five more months at Fort Hood in Texas. Gary was decorated with two Bronze Stars with V for Valor on them, two Army Commendation Medals, a Purple Heart, a Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, a Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Stars, a Vietnam Campaign Medal, and a Vietnamese Civil Action Medal.

When Gary got out of the service, he returned to work at Caterpillar for 15 years. After retiring from there, he

started working for Dollar General for ten more years, opening 200 stores in 30 different states. Gary is now enjoying his retirement and has an interest in learning history. He has traveled to almost every major Civil War battlefield and visited Little Big Horn. For a hobby, Gary enjoys watching sports.

Gary has two children, Darby Lee Beard, who lives in Havana and Brandy Strunk who lives in Macomb. He also has a 16-year-old granddaughter, Jessica, who lives in Canton.

We are very thankful that Gary decided to make the Everly House his new home. He is a welcome addition to our Everly family.



ARMED FORCES DAY

"Word to the Nation: Guard zealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard."

-- President John F. Kennedy

"This will remain the land of the free so long as it is the home of the brave."

-- Elmer Davis