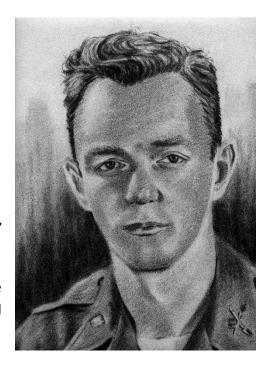
Star 18

Captain Luther James Pickrel

Luther James Pickrel (1917-1984) was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. He attended Hargrave Military Academy and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute before enlisting in the Army in June, 1942. Following his service he began post-graduate studies at Michigan State University. During his assignments in World War II, he received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. His combat service began in the Ardennes (Second Infantry Division). He led his company from the Battle of the Bulge to the end of the war in Germany and Central Europe. When combat ended in Europe, he was in transit to the Asian Theater when the war with Japan



ended. He immediately entered Military Government training and returned to Europe to serve in the European Command working in the US Occupation Headquarters as a Civil Affairs Officer in Nuremberg, and then in Munich. After receiving an Honorable Discharge in 1948 he went on to serve in the State Department, founding an agricultural extension service in Germany. One focus of his service after the war was re-starting agricultural production; he wrote a book titled "The Problem of Fragmented Farm Holdings in Bavaria, Germany", which was published by Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1952. He was particularly proud of his post-combat service working to rebuild the economy of Germany, and assisting war survivors. The star in remembrance of him was incised by his daughter, Patricia Pickrel, who was born in Munich during her father's work there under the European Command.

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