After almost 28 years of service to the Traffic Warrant Office, veteran Ray Fuller will take a road less traveled on June 27.

Fuller, well known for his contributions to state high school athletics, will retire on that date and will be honored with a reception that will be open to the public.

The reception will be held in the Jury Assembly Room of the Justice A. A. Birch Building, starting at 10 a.m.

Fuller’s career as a traffic warrant officer began on Oct. 1, 1980 at the height of a legendary journey as a high school sports official. He would later be inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame while surpassing the 50-year mark as an official in several different prep sports, making him the dean of Tennessee officials. His latest tribute came just two years ago when he was honored by the Middle Tennessee Chapter of The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

As a public service employee, Fuller spent his entire career with the Traffic Violations Bureau’s Warrant Office. He admits that his retirement will be a bittersweet pill to swallow. But there are a number of motivating factors in his decision to leave his day job. Age is not one of them.

At 84, Fuller has the agility of a much younger man. His attendance record is near flawless and, believe it or not, he still referees girls softball and junior high football games. It goes without saying that he is the oldest active official in the state.

The main source of his concern, however, is his wife of 62 years, Anita, who suffers from Alzheimer’s and requires constant care. “I need to spend more time with her and see that she is well taken care of,” he said.

The two have been inseparable since meeting at a YWCA dance shortly after Fuller’s release from the Army in 1946. She was Anita Murray at the time. “I wouldn’t say it was love at first sight,” Fuller smiled. “We dated about eight months before deciding to get married.” It was a perfect union that produced two sons, a daughter and one grandchild.

Fuller is a native Nashvillian, born in 1924 to Edwin Ray Fuller Sr. and Josie May Fuller. His father owned a grocery store in the downtown area where the family resided. When Fuller graduated from Hume-Fogg High School in 1943, he was immediately drafted and sent to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia for what would be a 2.5 year tour of duty.

While serving with the 13th Field Artillery Observation Battalion in the European Theater, his unit received a visit from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who addressed the troops prior to the famous World War II D-Day invasion of Normandy. Fuller was among the troops photographed with Eisenhower during that occasion. He proudly displays a replica of the photograph inside his work area in the warrant office.

Upon his discharge from the Army, Fuller put his athletic talents to work. A standout baseball player in school, he signed on with the old Kitty League and played third base for the Clarksville Owls. But his pro ball days were short lived. He had become a married man now with financial responsibilities. He needed a regular job.

For the next three years, Fuller would support his family from the income he received as a clerk for American Radiator Standard. A better job opportunity presented itself in 1949 when Fuller was hired by Nashville Electric Service where he would spend the next 31 years. He worked his way up to supervisor of meter readers before taking his pension.

Along the way, Fuller would satisfy his desire for athletic competition by playing semi-pro
Wedding bells will soon be ringing for two deputy clerks in the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office. Karen Mallory and Kristen Meulpolder became engaged just weeks apart with their significant others picking special occasions to pop the question.

Karen was surprised on her birthday on April 26 when beau Billy O’Byrne chose a dinner occasion to ask her daughter’s permission to marry her mother. Both said yes, culminating a reunion of the two childhood sweethearts just a year and a half earlier. Billy is an employee of the Buford Lewis Company. No wedding date has been set.

Kristen’s proposal came on her four-year anniversary with Tim Moran, a member of the Vanderbilt Life-Flight team, who had arranged a private art viewing at the Gallery of Andy Anh Ha in the Arcade Building downtown.

While standing in front of Kristen’s favorite painting, Tim dropped to his knee and proposed. “The painting is now hanging in my living room as my engagement present,” she said.

The couple plans to have their wedding in Las Vegas sometime in the future to accommodate each one’s family, who reside in Ohio and California.

Congratulations to Faith Peach of the Traffic Violations Bureau upon becoming a grandmother for the second time. The event took place on April 18 when daughter Kristina Conyer gave birth to Landon John Conyer, much to the delight of father John Conyer. The newborn weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 20.5 inches. The Conyers reside in Gallatin.

Court of Criminal Appeals Judge David G. Hayes will retire on June 30 to become the state’s fifth senior judge, joining Nashville’s retired Fifth Circuit Court Judge Walter Kurtz, who was given status earlier this year.

Hayes, 64, has served on the appellate court since 1994. His announcement follows the recent decision by State Supreme Court Justice William Barker to retire in September after 25 years on the high court bench.

Richard ‘Shakey’ Vester, 77, a former supervisor of the Traffic Violations Bureau Warrant Office, passed away on April 26. Mr. Vester, who was best known as “Shakey,” the name of his clown character for the Al-Menah Shrine Temple, had been retired for the past 12 years. His wife Ruth Vester survives.

Henry D. Honey, 90, grandfather of Chief Probate Clerk Kyle Sowell, succumbed on April 23 in his home town of Fayetteville from heart complications.

Anna Margaret Bolljack, 69, sister of Traffic Warrant Officer Roy Bohannon, passed away on May 7 in Indianapolis where she resided.

John David Scohey, 85, who served as Nashville’s Vice Mayor under four mayors following an outstanding career in athletics, passed away on May 11. His term as Vice Mayor spanned 24 years, ending in 1995 when he returned to his private accounting business. Described as a “mover and a shaker” in every respect, he was a member of the TSSAA Sports Hall of Fame for his contribution as an official in both basketball and football.

Reception to Honor Retiring Warrant Officer Ray Fuller

basketball on an independent team whose roster included the late Circuit Court Clerk George L. Rooker. The two became friends both on and off the court—mostly on the hardwood as basketball officials.

When Fuller became bored with retirement life after NES, the late clerk offered him a job in the traffic warrant office. It would be Fuller’s last working career assignment, but certainly not his last as an official.

It seems only appropriate that his last boss would be the son of the man who hired him and that he, too, would be a sports official. Richard Rooker serves as a football official for the Southeastern Conference.

“I truly appreciate Mr. Fuller’s dedicated service throughout the years,” Rooker said. “He has been dependable and his positive attitude and pleasant disposition have carried over to his fellow workers. I wish him the very best in the retirement years he so richly deserves.”

On the playing field, Fuller is seen in zebra stripes, distinguishing him as an official. In the warrant office, he is just as distinguishable by the full assemblage of an officer’s uniform, replete with starched white shirt and official gold badge. It is not required attire for warrant officers because they no longer work in the field since service of process was placed under the sheriff’s department a few years ago, but Fuller says he is a creature of habit. “I would feel out of place by not wearing the uniform after 28 years,” he said.

Indeed, the uniform adds an air of authority to the distinguished six-foot-one gentleman with snow-white hair, who remembers the early days when warrant officers actually were required to go out and collect fines from traffic violators. With the sheriff’s department now handling those duties, Fuller and fellow warrant officers now perform their duties on computers and telephones.

High school sports enthusiasts reading this story probably need the photograph to identify Fuller. The name “Ray” would not ring a bell. For in that circle of his illustrious career, he is known only by “Hoss,” a nickname given to him by his father when he was a child.

“A couple of guys were discussing high school officiating the other day,” Fuller recalled. “One of them asked the other if he knew Ray Fuller. The guy scratched his head and said, ‘No, I know a Hoss Fuller.’”

For everything he has accomplished, he deserves to be called “Mister Fuller.”
### April Trial Verdicts

#### Circuits Court

**Week of March 31**

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<tr>
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*--Directed Verdict

**Week of April 7**

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#### General Sessions

**Soft Tissue**

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#### Non-Jury

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### Appeals

**General Sessions**

**Glenn Balletto Completes Certification Program**

Glenn Balletto, chief deputy clerk of the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, has earned certification as a public administrator.

Balletto received his certificate in graduation ceremonies at Montgomery Bell State Park on April 25 following completion of a 115-hour course administered by the University of Tennessee’s County Official Training Program.

He becomes the eighth member of Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker’s current staff to complete the program, which fosters creative leadership, managerial effectiveness, professional skills enhancement and lifelong development.

Rooker himself is among those completing the program, along with Karen Brown (Chief Deputy Clerk of the General Sessions Civil Division), Bill Cartwright (Chief Deputy Clerk of the Traffic Violations Bureau), Tracy Cartwright (Rooker’s Director of Operations), Becky Dye (Internal Auditor), Margaret Larobardiere (Public Information Director) and Steve Rose (Traffic Warrant Office Supervisor.)

Those completing the course must take an additional 16 hours of training per year to retain their certification.

Balletto joined the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office in 2001 and has served as chief deputy for the past three years.
Civil Trial Recap By Class

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Data Bank
April 2008

Case Analyses

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Total Awards: $94,384

Auto Accident Cases

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Soft Tissue Auto Cases

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General Sessions Auto Appeals

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Rooker Report

Published by the Davidson County
Circuit Court Clerk’s Office
1 Public Square, Suite 302, Nashville, TN 37201
Internet @www.nashville.gov/circuit
Established by George L. Rooker (1929-1993)
(Circuit Court Clerk, 1968-1993)

Richard R. Rooker.........Circuit Court Clerk
Gene Baker ......................... Editor

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