

The Richelieu Leger Family Association, Inc. Familiar Faces

Who is "Ray"

John R. "Ray" Lege, currently a board member and treasurer of the Richelieu Leger Family Association, was born on a farm near Abbeville, La. He is the oldest of three children born to Percey "Kaplan" Lege and Zoie L. Lege, who were tenant farmers residing near Abbeville on Coulee Kinney.



Ray grew up on the farm and attended Abbeville High School, graduating with honors. During high school, he played varsity basketball and baseball and was selected "All District" in both sports. Ray continued his love of sports after high school by participating in adult softball leagues for several years. Ray married his high school classmate, Clara Joyce Hebert (Currently our membership chairperson), and they had eight children. One of their oldest Bonnie (one of twin girls) died at the age of ten. The other twin has served as the Assoc.'s secretary and newsletter editor as well as on numerous reunion committees. All seven living children graduated from Vermillion Catholic High School and all are college graduates -- three of which have masters degrees -- and all seven are current members of the Richelieu Leger Family Association. Ray, an accountant who is semi-retired, has worked as controller of the C. S. Steen Syrup Mill in Abbeville since 1986. Prior to that, he worked his way up from assistant payroll clerk to office manager for the Diamond Crystal Salt Company at Jefferson Island, La. from 1952 until 1986. Ironically, it was on his birthday, November 20, 1980, when the salt dome was pierced by a drilling rig and Lake Pigneur emptied into the salt mine, causing the plant to eventually close in 1986. Ray is a past president of both the Mt. Carmel Elementary School Board and the Vermillion Catholic High School Board, Past president of the Mt. Carmel-Vermillion Catholic Home and School Association and past vice-president of the Vermillion Catholic Athletic Association. He was also an

assistant coach in Little League and Babe Ruth baseball for several years. Ray has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for the past 48 years and has been a lector at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church for 36 years.

When he is not working or babysitting one of his sixteen grandchildren or his great grandson, Ray spends his time playing golf, dancing, playing cards and watching sports and news programs on TV. Ray and Joyce presently live in Abbeville on Coulee Kinny Drive, only about five miles from his birthplace.