

A Gagged Hero To Leave Army

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Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Herbert, a highly decorated veteran who accused superior officers of concealing Vietnam atrocities, announced yesterday he will request his retirement from the Army today.

Herbert's statement announcing his application for retirement was issued through a civilian attorney, Morris Brown.

The attorney said Herbert will not speak with members of the news media because he is under the impression the Army has prohibited him from doing so without written permission from superiors.

Herbert cited what he termed stress on his family and personal harassment by the Army as factors contributing to his retirement.

CHARGES

The Army has since dropped the charges filed against the two senior officers by Herbert, who was America's most-decorated soldier in the Korean war and himself a Vietnam veteran.

The following statement from Herbert was issued through Brown:

"On the field of battle, both as an enlisted man and as an officer, I have served to the best of my ability. In that service I have been shot five times and bayoneted three

See Back Page

From Page 1

times, none of which was as painful to me as the decision I must now announce.

"For 2½ years I have struggled to help the Army eliminate the stigma of the concealment of war crimes which I personally saw or had knowledge of."

FUTILITY

However, he said, "the actions taken by certain members of the Army at both the local and the Pentagon level have convinced me that to continue seeking correction within the military would be useless."

He said he would advise the Army today of his intention to retire and would apply for leave "so that I may remove my wife and daughter from the strain to which, through me, they have been subjected."

Herbert said that while still in active service he has no "intention of violating those restrictions which have been placed upon me, which forbid me to state my views to the media . . ."