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Other DAVers Join National Office Race

Three more DAV members have announced their candidacy for national office.

They are Albert W. Jardine of Boise, Idaho; William Parker of Manchester, Tenn.; and D. Ray Wilson of Dundee, Ill.

Albert W. Jardine

Jardine, a disabled veteran of the Korean and Vietnam War eras, has served as chairman of the DAV's 13th District Constitution and Bylaws Committee. He was elected to several vice commander posts in the DAV Department of Idaho before being elected commander in 1981-82. He is an active member of DAV Chapter 22 in Boise.

Jardine was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve before he joined the U.S. Air Force. He held the rank of master sergeant, and was serving as first sergeant of Headquarters Squadron at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., when his service-connected disability forced his retirement in 1977.



Jardine

The DAV life member earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Boise State University in 1979, and a master's degree in public administration in 1981.

Jardine and his wife, Sheila, live in Boise with their children, Dena, Wayne, Danny, and Toni.

William Parker

A combat-disabled veteran of the Vietnam War, Parker is completing his second term on the DAV National Interim Membership and Volunteer Service Committee.

The life member of DAV Chapter 90, Manchester, Tenn., has served in several offices at the chapter and state levels, including four years as department adjutant.

Parker was assigned to the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 10th Air Cavalry, as a scout platoon leader, operations officer, executive officer, and he was commanding the unit when he was wounded. His military decorations include the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and 38 awards of the Air Medal.

Parker, who has attended the University of Tennessee and Middle Tennessee State University, is employed by the DAV Department of Tennessee.

He and his wife, Agnes, live in Manchester with their daughter, Sheila.

D. Ray Wilson

Wilson, a combat-disabled World War II veteran, served on several DAV national convention committees. He has held several positions in the DAV Department of Illinois, including judge advocate and senior vice commander, and he served as department commander from 1980-82. He is the founder and editor of the *Illinois DAV News*.

The life member of DAV Chapter 54, Elgin, Ill., was assigned as hospital corpsman on a destroyer when he joined the U.S. Navy in 1944. Two years later, Wilson joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. He transferred into the newly formed U.S. Air Force in 1947 and served as a public information specialist.

Wilson earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in journalism from Northern Illinois University.



Parker



Wilson

He is the editor and publisher of the *Daily Courier-News* in Elgin, Ill., the *Daily Journal* in Wheaton, Ill., and several weekly newspapers in DuPage and Cook Counties.

Wilson lives with his wife, Bea, and their daughters Jeri, Vicky, Juli, and Margaret in Dundee.

No Volunteers Needed for Agent Orange Study, CDC Officials State

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said recently that volunteer participants cannot be accepted for research it is conducting on the health-related effects of exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

The VA turned over responsibility for this epidemiological research to CDC Jan. 14. In addition to its attempts to pin down the effects of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides during the war, CDC will study possible health effects of service in the war zone generally.

"As more veterans become aware of CDC's role in connection with Agent Orange," said J. David Erickson, D.D.S., Ph.D., "we expect to be receiving still more requests and offers from individuals and groups who would like to become participants in our epidemiologic investigations."

However, acceptance of volunteer participants could jeopardize the scientific validity of the studies, according to Dr. Erickson, who heads the Cancer Branch of CDC's Chronic Diseases Division.

Dr. Erickson explained that this type of research requires "careful selection of candidates... as potential cohort participants, and random selection of actual participants from among these candidates."

"This process," he said "is intended to minimize the possibility of statistical biases which can endanger the accuracy of findings. Thus, although we appreciate veterans' interest in our investigations, we cannot accept volunteer participants."

"We are very interested in the health of veterans who served in Vietnam, and we will continue to study the health effects of Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the war."

understood the need for [CDC] to decline requests," Dr. Erickson added.

In related news, it has been discovered that scientists from four chemical companies attended a secret meeting in 1965 to discuss possible hazards of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides containing the trace contaminant, dioxin. Several documents resulting from the meeting, held at the headquarters of Dow Chemical Company, have been uncovered, principally due to a class action suit filed against several chemical companies by a number of Vietnam veterans.

"While these documents pointed to no definitive proof of links between dioxin and human disease, they make it clear that these scientists were concerned about possible links," said Charles A. Thompson. A combat veteran of the Vietnam War, Thompson represents the DAV on the VA Advisory Committee on the Health-Related Effects of Herbicide.

The existence of these documents was made public in a *New York Times* article by David Burnham.

"The memorandums," wrote Burnham, "raise the possibility that Dow scientists have been saying one thing in private while the company's management has said something else in public."

The possible inconsistency, stated the DAV's Thompson, "disturbs our organization very deeply. At the time Dow was holding the meeting in question, these chemicals were being sprayed over Vietnam. And our people were being exposed to them. We will continue to study the health effects of Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the war."

Dr Young