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Wilbur D. Jones, Jr.

Wilmington, N. C., native who grew up there during World War II, he holds a University of North Carolina history degree (1955), is a retired Navy captain, and a former White House assistant and advance representative to President Gerald Ford.

An author and military historian, he is dedicated to preserving North Carolina history, particularly on World War II, through his books and periodical pieces, speeches, media appearances, tours, and volunteer accomplishments.

- In 2014 North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory appointed him as Chairman of the USS North Carolina Battleship Commission, after serving as vice chairman since 2013. The Commission monitors operations, maintenance, and planning of the state's WWII memorial. He served until 2017.

- Works closely with North Carolina U.S. Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis and U.S. Representative David Rouzer (NC, 7th) in seeking national congressional recognition for Wilmington as the first "American World War II Heritage City" - a 10-year project Jones initiated. He worked closely with U.S. Rep. Mike McIntyre prior to his 2015 retirement.

- Chairs the World War II Wilmington Home Front Heritage Coalition, a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer preservation group he founded in 2000. Its mission is to identify, preserve, and interpret Southeastern North Carolina's rich WWII legacy.

- Wrote two popular, award-winning books about wartime Wilmington-SENC:
A Sentimental Journey: Memoirs of a Wartime Boomtown (2003, White Mane)
The Journey Continues: The World War II Home Front (2005, White Mane).

- Given some 700 presentations and media interviews including on the Queen Mary 2 and the cruise ship Clipper Adventurer; National Archives; CSPAN; John Locke Foundation; and national WWII conferences. Interviewed in national, state, and regional media as decision maker, achiever, and informed source.

- Either wrote or was a principal source for nearly 300 pieces on military history and defense issues appearing in national and regional newspapers, magazines, and journals, and earned statewide awards, including In 2005, North Carolina Historian of the Year (East), 2005.

- In 2007, UNC-TV (PBS) interviewed him about the North Carolina wartime home front for episode three of Ken Burns' classic, *The War*. He also contributed to

DUNC-TV's *North Carolina's WWII Experience* documentary.

- Since 1997, he played a significant role with the City of Wilmington in saving, preserving, and restoring the WWII Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Art Center, and establishing a museum of the home front in this building.

- In 2006, received the Award of Merit for Leadership in History preservation (in North Carolina) from the American Association for State and Local History.

oing business as Wilbur Jones Compositions, L.L.C. he writes, lectures, consults, and is a media source on WWII and national defense issues. He has led WWII battlefield tours to Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Pacific, and WWII site tours in Southeastern N. C. He has visited 32 countries and major islands and some 40 of the world's major cities.

Jones served the Department of Defense for nearly 41 years, including seven in The Pentagon as an assistant and speechwriter to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition), and in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. The last 12 years were as a professor and associate dean at the Defense Acquisition University where he retired in 1996 before returning home. During a 28-year naval career, he served on six ships and commanded two Navy Reserve units.

Books

Jones has authored 18 books on military history and national defense issues. His recently completed memoir, now being marketed to publishers, would be the 19th. Besides the Wilmington wartime books, since 1997:

- *"She Shot Her Way to Success": How China's Empress Dowager Ci Xi Launched a Photographer's Trailblazing Career*, with Carroll Robbins Jones (2016, CreateSpace-Amazon);
- *Football! Navy! War!: How Military "Lend-Lease" Players Saved the College Game and Helped Win World War II* (2009, McFarland)
- *Forget That You Have Been Hitler Soldiers: A Youth's Service to the Reich*, with Hermann O. Pfrengle (2001, White Mane);
- *Hawaii Goes to War: The Aftermath of Pearl Harbor*, with Carroll Robbins Jones (2001, White Mane);
- *Condemned to Live: A Panzer Artilleryman's Five-Front War*, with Franz A. P. Frisch (2000, White Mane);
- *Arming the Eagle: A History of U.S. Weapons Acquisition Since 1775* (1999, U.S.

- Government Printing Office and Defense Systems Management College Press);
- *Gyrene: The World War II United States Marine** (1998, White Mane); and
 - *Giants in the Cornfield: The 27th Indiana Infantry* (1997, White Mane).
 - *A Brief History of St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church*, a monograph (2008)

*** The Steven Spielberg production crew used *Gyrene* as a “technical reference manual” to train actors for “The Pacific” HBO mini-series production (2010).**

Other Recognition and Service

- The Wilmington StarNews Media Lifetime Achievement Award (2012).
- Tribute in the Congressional Record for public and community service (McIntyre, 2012).
- Awards for preservation accomplishments and community volunteer service from the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and others.
- Wilmington Rotary Club (Director), since 1998; New Hanover County Public Library Advisory Board; Salvation Army Advisory Board; Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center Advisory Board (Chairman); Museum of the Marine (Jacksonville, N. C., Director).
- He is a retired NCAA Division I, high school, and Little League baseball umpire; and NCAA, high school, and youth basketball official.

Personal

Wilbur was married to Carroll Robbins Jones for 54 years until her 2013 death. He has three children, 2 granddaughters (they raised their first), and 2 great-grandchildren. His avocations are learning, reading, physical fitness, and global travel.

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