

Together, We Will Stand Up for What's Right

With your help, I will take the oath as Delaware's Congressman in January, 2009 and my first goal will be to end the Iraq War. My second goal will be to use the money we save to ensure that every person has the freedom, security and dignity that will allow them the "pursuit of happiness" promised by our Nation's Founders. President Bush's plan to make us safer through pre-emptive wars has failed. We must build a world based on the security that comes from a rational defensive strategy combined with a sustained effort to improve the lives of everyone on the planet.

Mohandas Gandhi once said, "you must be the change you want to see in the world." If we all work together, that change is going to start right here in Delaware.

About Jerry Northington

Jerry Northington is no ordinary or professional politician, yet he embodies many of the qualities we would like to see in our leaders. When asked to serve his country, [he went to Vietnam](#) and joined the 4th Infantry Division as a communications chief in an infantry company as they patrolled the Central Highlands. He saw firsthand the devastation that war brings to both the soldier and the civilian. He learned that fallen troops are not just statistics, but real people with friends, families, and communities that will bear the scars of loss years after the war is over.

Professional Life

Like his father, Jerry went on to earn a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, and was asked to teach neurology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine for four years. He eventually helped to establish a veterinary specialty hospital, and continues his practice as a veterinarian with a practice limited to neurology.

As a scientist and healthcare professional, Jerry has had to develop listening, problem-solving, case management and other skills that are so lacking in the halls of Congress today. As a small businessman, he has had to learn how to stretch a dollar and keep good records. As a teacher, he has learned to communicate and motivate others to work toward a goal.

Military Service

From entry in March, 1967, to exit in March, 1970, my time in the US Army was a patchwork of various experiences. Entry came at Fort Benning, Georgia, with basic training. At age 20 years I was among the oldest of my group; although in those years we were all young and all male.

After basic training came a stint at Fort Campbell, KY, for training as a tank driver. The tank of the day was a 50-ton behemoth which never managed to become my friend. A bit of time later saw me assigned to a tank battalion stationed in Gelnhausen, Germany. During a 17-month assignment in Germany I was sent to school for additional training as a communications technician and then as communications chief.

Promotions during the time in Germany led to a final grade of sergeant E-5 (Buck sergeant) and an accumulated three stripes on the sleeve. I was shipped from Germany to Vietnam in August, 1969, with a stop at home in the middle. By the time I arrived in Vietnam only about six months remained in my service obligation. In those years involuntary extensions were unheard of. We finished our time and

either reenlisted or were discharged from the service.

I came home a very changed person. That returning was the beginning of my time as an antiwar activist. The intervening years have seen increased involvement in protest until today when I stand for election to Congress in the House of Representatives. I stand as an antiwar activist and campaigner for the people. The lessons of the past are very clear. War is not the way to win hearts and minds. We must pursue more peaceful solutions if humankind is to survive. There is so much we humans can accomplish if we begin to work together for a better world. If we continue our militaristic ways we may have no future whatsoever.

Issues of Concern

Veterans' Affairs:

As a concerned citizen and veteran, I want our government to fully honor its moral obligation to provide timely and adequate health care services to all wartime service-connected disabled veterans. The men and women who serve in our nation's military deserve all the support we have to offer. We can no longer allow them to be left without full medical services and educational support.

Iraq:

The Bush administration and a Republican-controlled Congress led us into Iraq. It is now our responsibility to end the occupation and bring all the troops home as quickly as possible. Full withdrawal is the only acceptable solution. No military presence should be left in Iraq beyond that necessary to protect a diplomatic cadre. Maintaining an embassy in Iraq is necessary to keep the humanitarian and human rights contacts alive. Permanent military bases are not necessary and will provide additional reasons for the Iraqi insurgency to continue its attacks.

Healthcare:

The state of the nation's health is in crisis today. Almost 48 million people have no health insurance at all, or are underinsured in cases of serious health problems. As many as 9 million children have no health insurance at a time when the Bush administration is making efforts to reduce even further the number of children covered by government health care programs. The wealthiest nation in the world cannot afford to let people continue to die on a daily basis as a result of failures of our health care system. Every person in the nation deserves preventive and maintenance health care in a facility near their home. This care must be provided at an affordable cost, so that people are not forced to choose between food and medicine.

Environment:

Stewardship is key. We are stewards of our world. We cannot forego our responsibilities. We are caretakers, not consumers in the overall scheme of the planet. To maintain our world, we must continue to work aggressively in the search for sources of energy that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels like coal and oil. We cannot depend on steady supplies of any fossil into the distant future. In addition, those fuels contribute to pollution of the environment and to global warming. We must pursue safe and

clean alternative fuels for our future.

Military Preparedness:

A strong peacetime military is necessary as a deterrent force against invasion and a useful force in times of peace for protecting the mainland US and territories. The use of military force is acceptable only in response to direct action against the US. Pre-emptive attack and the use of military force for occupation or invasion of countries not actively attacking the United States is not acceptable.

National Security:

Maintaining national security is a prime goal of immediate importance. Insuring our country is secure from threat both from within and from without is a real need today. The task is complex and must be undertaken on many levels all at the same time if we are to be successful in the long term.

We must take away the shackles of fear that have been put in place by the Bush administration. We are a strong and vibrant country but we are in danger of losing all our freedoms. We must bring back the values of humanity and caring that once made our country strong. We have so little to fear in reality.

Education:

Education is the right of every American. Public schooling through high school must be available to all who wish to pursue an education. No child should be left out of this opportunity. Any child left without an education loses too much opportunity for a productive future. As a result, all of society suffers. We cannot afford as a country to allow our children to be uneducated through at least the high school level.

Crime:

Until and unless crime is addressed from the source and treated as the social ill it represents, we may have trouble resolving the issue. We must increase all the current programs and add new ones to relieve the problem. The country cannot continue to build and populate prisons without end. Bringing criminals back into the system for a productive life is a much better solution for all of society.