

## LETTER OF APPRECIATION

To: Mr. Greg Brown,  
Assistant State Captain, Southern Alabama,  
Patriot Guard Riders  
State of Alabama

October 23, 2012

Dear Sir,

The Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc. (USAF) would like to express our profound appreciation to Ride Captain Phil Brown and the Patriot Guard Riders of Mobile, Alabama and the surrounding area who supported our graveside tribute to Sergeant Bruce Dale Jones on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Evergreen, Alabama.

Approximately two hundred people gathered to hear the mayor of Evergreen issue a written proclamation that October 5<sup>th</sup> this year and every year forward would be known as *Sgt Bruce Dale Jones Day*. Sgt Jones was one of 12 young men from that community who died in Vietnam during a short five year period of the war. Those in attendance included various citizens from the town of Evergreen and Conecuh County. In addition to the mayor, there were members of the city council, the county commissioner's office, the sheriff and his deputies to provide an escort, the principal of Sgt Jones school, Sgt Jones' church pastor, the JROTC Color Guard, members of Sgt Jones family, members of the Vietnam Security Police Association and the Patriot Guard Riders.

The Patriot Guard Riders added greatly to the dignity and respect of the ceremony. Their powerful display of tribute and support for Sgt Jones was a moment of camaraderie we are proud to have shared with them. Their motto, "Standing for Those Who Stood for Us" reflects their dedication to the principle that every veteran should have someone in attendance to honor their service to our country and that the final farewell to a veteran not be desecrated by a hate group.

As 1968 Vietnam Veteran Tim Craft so eloquently stated, "For those who fought for it, life has a different flavor the protected will never know". The Patriot Guard Riders live those words each and every time they ride to stand guard at a veteran's gravesite to honor the veteran and offer comfort to the family and friends by their presence. That is patriotism at it's finest.

In conclusion, we again offer our thanks and appreciation to Phil Brown and the Patriot Guard Riders for their camaraderie and support as we all came together to honor Sgt Jones. Camaraderie is not something you can plan for, buy or ask for. It is either there or it isn't. We, the members of the Vietnam Security Police Association, sure felt it that day with the Patriot Guard Riders. By this letter, we hope to convey the thanks we wanted to pass on to you that day. Problem is, as with most people who do good deeds, you don't wait around for the thanks. But we do remember and we do thank you for your service and camaraderie.

With respect to our brothers in arms,

***William Piazza, President of the VSPA***

*Don Poss, Communications Director VSPA/Event Coordinator*



*Ride Captain Phil Brown and the Patriot Guard Riders of Mobile, Alabama and the surrounding area: graveside tribute to Sergeant Bruce Dale Jones on 5 Oct 2012, Evergreen, Alabama.*