



Recipient of the Warriors Medal of Valor
Native American Nations of the United
States



Alvin Matthews
CRB, 483rd SPS, 1971-1972
VSPA Life Member 127
January 3, 2007
Rest In Peace, Al

Information

The Day Before...

😊 *Sarge is doing OK -- Phil Carroll - LM #336, Thu, Jan 03 2008, 12:59: 16 PST (a.fws.gov/164.159.255.67)*
All,

I just talked to Sparkplug (aka "Janet Wise"). She said that Sarge (aka "Daddy", aka "Al Matthews") got through his surgery today just fine and is resting well. He's expected to spend at least tonight in the hospital, then will be evaluated tomorrow for possible release. They'll keep him there till they're sure.

Sparkplug says thanks to everybody for all your prayers and support. I told her get Sarge a Coors Light and everything will be fine.

I'll be relaying messages from this board to her by phone for anybody that wants to add anything.

Phil

And then he was gone...

ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US -- Steve Gattis, VSPA President, Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST (h72.5.172.72.ip.alltel.net/72.172.5.72)
Hello to all.

This is a sad morning for us, especially for Janet and her family. She called me earlier this morning to tell me that her father had passed away at 0400 hours this morning after a massive heart attack. She is at the hospital right now with her Mom.

Funeral and memorial information will come later after Janet and her Mom have had some time with family members who are also at the hospital.

Al did so much for the VSPA and for each of us as we had the opportunity to shake his hand and listen to his stories. He was Life Member #127 and a retired Master Sergeant. He served at Cam Ranh Bay AB in 71 - 72. Al's daughter Janet called him "Sarge" and always came to our reunions with him. He loved the VSPA and believed in the goodness of our brotherhood, so much so that he gave memberships to others, including a life membership to Jackie Kays.

Some of you may know Al as the guy who always provided great BBQ in our reunion hospitality room, others may have never met him, but he knew all of you as a brother. He stood quietly in the background, listened and observed, then extended his hand in brotherhood whenever and wherever it was needed. He was the first VSPA member to receive the Warriors Medal of Valor from the Native American Nations and later became the Chairman of our committee to present the Warriors Medal to VSPA members, something that he personally financed for the brotherhood that he loved so much.

We honored Al many times for taking care of his own and being for a great example for all of us. He received a special award from us at the 2007 Reunion named after his very dear friend, Monk, who was also from Alabama and believed with all of his heart in our brotherhood. The "Calvin 'Monk' Pope Award" was presented to Al for consistently taking care of his own.

As we think about a man who loved all of us, it may be easier to think of him without the pain that required so many surgeries,

or to smile at the reception Al received from Monk and our other brothers listed at Life Member #111 when he reported for Guardmount at the gates of Heaven - standin' tall and lookin' good wearing an Air Police Shield and his VSPA brassard, asking if anyone needed a break. Knowing Monk and Al, it would not surprise me that Monk would wrap his arms around Al and say, "Welcome Home, brother! You ain't gonna believe this, but right over here is a cloud full of beer."

We are fortunate to have known Al and blessed that he introduced his daughter, Janet, to all of us. Like Al, Janet has taken care of all of us for many years. Now, it's our turn to take care of them.

More information will come soon.

My best to all of you.

Steve

VSPA Members' Replies:

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 57: 08 PST*

Author: Phil Carroll - LM #336

Author Host/IP: a.fws.gov / 164.159.255.67

Subject: ❤️ Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

God bless you Sarge. You're my brother and you will never be forgotten. I will miss you, and treasure my memories of you forever.

Janet, please know how much we love Al, and you. Please don't hesitate to ask if there's anything we can do. You and your Daddy and all the family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Phil

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 59: 53 PST*

Author: Chaplain Jim LM442

Author Host/IP: pool-71-163-188-219.washdc.fios.verizon.net / 71.163.188.219

Subject: 🙄 Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Undoubtedly we have lost a very valuable member of the VSPA. Having attended only the last two reunions I remember Sarge as a warm hearted giving soul, who enjoyed making others feel at home in our organization. He had a sharp and funny wit; I cannot recall him ever saying an unkind word about anyone. I think of how we all enjoyed his BBQ, which he so generously provided at the reunions, and which he served so liberally on each person's plate. What we have lost here on earth has become heaven's prized addition.

May God grant to Sarge's family His great comfort during this time of their sorrow. May the presence of God's Spirit bring them peace and joy through their heartache.

Chaplain Jim ~ "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." --I Peter 5: 7

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 8: 05: 28 PST*

Author: William R Paddock VSPA LM#205

Author Host/IP: adsl-074-245-198-228.sip.cae.bellsouth.net / 74.245.198.228

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

It is with a sad heart that I write this sincere and deeply felt tribute to the "SARGE". I first met "Sarge" at the Moody AFB/Valdosta Reunion... I liked him from the very first minute." Sarge" was a tremendous asset to the VSPA... in every way you can begin to talk about him.

May God bless Al..his daughter Janet..his entire family..The good Lord has Al now... he will be missed by all of us.

Best Wishes to Janet

With Love

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 8: 34: 48 PST*

Author: Bob Mitchell LM301

Author Host/IP: ip68-14-6-65.ri.ri.cox.net / 68.14.6.65

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

My wife and I sat with Sarge at the 2005 reunion and enjoyed his CO. May he rest in peace. Our prayers go out for him, Janet and their family.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 8:41 PST*

Author: Bill Cummings - VSPA Kennel Master

Author Host/IP: c-69-244-38-235.hsd1.az.comcast.net / 69.244.38.235

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

As I write this post my heart is just breaking. MSgt Al Matthews was one of the first VSPA members that I met and got to know when I joined the VSPA. "THE" MSgt represented what the VSPA was all about - from day one! He always found the good in everyone and he always made me feel proud that I had served in the Air Force, and I always hoped that I could follow in his footsteps.

Through Al I was able to meet his wonderful daughter Janet - boy, the apple just doesn't fall far from the tree! She has poured her whole heart into a project that is supporting deployed AF troops - and "The" MSgt was right there with her.

My heart and prayers go out to the Matthews family and I know that I am a better person just to have know MSgt Al Matthews - yes, there are heroes and this is example of a true American hero.

MSgt we will make you proud of this organization and we will always remember you.

Bill

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 8: 50: 30 PST*

Author: Pat Houseworth (Rest in Peace)

Author Host/IP: cpe-76-190-67-137.woh.res.rr.com / 76.190.67.137

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Another sad sign, this group is losing members at a all too fast pace..... God rest your soul Sarge.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 8:52 PST*

Author: Ray Rash LM #229- Ubon-Tan Son Nhut 1967-1969

Author Host/IP: adsl-66-137-83-31.dsl.lgvtwx.swbell.net / 66.137.83.31

Subject: ❤️ Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

It is with a heavy heart to wake up and get a phone call concerning the passing of Sarge. My friend Bill Paddock called to inform me of this tragic news and I wouldn't accept this until I read the VSPA BB. Sarge, you were my Brother and I will truly miss you and everything you represented. Janet, may the strength of the Lord give you and your Mom comfort during this time of loss. Again, Sarge, I will dearly miss you. Also, Janet, if there is anything I can do, feel free to let me know.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 9: 07: 15 PST*

Author: Bill Marshall L/M 85

Author Host/IP: wsip-64-58-163-27.oc.oc.cox.net / 64.58.163.27

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri,*

Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST

I am very deeply saddened at the loss of our brother Al, over the course of several reunions I had the pleasure of getting to know and observe this fine man, our brother. So many kind words have been mentioned thus far in previous posts and they all ring so true. He gave of himself totally to this organization in a very graceful manner. We will all miss the SARGE and the man he was. We share our sorrow with Janet and the entire Matthews family as a member of his extended family, the VSPA brotherhood. Rest in peace brother!

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 9: 18: 58 PST*

Author: Pat Dunne/Hawk (Somber)

Author Host/IP: NoHost / 208.62.255.38

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

A Blessing to have met and known Al via VSPA. Hawk

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 10: 38: 12 PST*

Author: Sam Lewis

Author Host/IP: pool-72-66-184-77.ronkva.east.verizon.net / 72.66.184.77

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Ruth and my heart both goes out to the family. We had the opportunity to meet and spend quality time with Al and Janet at the last reunion. I remember Al approaching me and telling me that he made a special effort to meet and spend some time with Ruth and me .That meant a lot. Janet was so upbeat in her emails recently to Ruth about his successful surgery . This is indeed so sad. May God Bless Janet and the rest of the family in this great loss and may Al rest in the loving arms of our Savior . Sam

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 10: 38: 49 PST*

Author: Don Hamilton; LM #201

Author Host/IP: ip68-230-43-16.ph.ph.cox.net / 68.230.43.16

Subject: 😞 Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and our member.

Don Hamilton

LM #201

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 10: 43: 27 PST*

Author: Bill Wigginton LM#294 (Semper Woof!)

Author Host/IP: NoHost / 70.158.67.184

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Like my other brothers here, my heart is broken and sad at this moment. MSgt Alvin Matthews was one of the greatest members of the VSPA that I've ever met. He gave his all for this organization, and for the members and their families.

Janet, please convey my condolences to your family, and let me know what I can do for you and your family.

Bill Wigginton

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 11:02: 08 PST*

Author: Don Poss

Author Host/IP: cpe-76-167-248-119.socal.res.rr.com / 76.167.248.119

Subject: ❤️ Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

I just opened my email this morning and learned of Al Matthew's passing. I just don't have the words to describe my feelings

for this genuine hero suddenly leaving us all. Al is already sorely missed. He was always so concerned for VSPA fellow members. I was fortunate to work with him on the Warriors Medal of Valor from the Native American Nations for the last two years. May God receive this gentle soul, and watch over his family.

Don Poss

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 11:32: 41 PST*

Author: Erlyce Pekas

Author Host/IP: VDSL-130-13-103-249.PHNX.QWEST.NET / 130.13.103.249

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

It is with a heavy heart that I write on behalf of Mom Lehman and myself to say a fond farewell to Sarge. He was such a devoted VSPA member and an inspirational person, and I can't quite believe he is gone from us. I met Sarge and his daughter, Janet, at the first reunion we attended in Tucson in 2004, and they quickly became one of our favorite friends. Always so warm and welcoming and a steadfast member who believed fervently in this organization. There is no doubt in my mind that Sarge will be singing with the angels, and will probably be serving up some of his famous barbeque as well! So long, Sarge..... this world was a better place with you in it and we will always remember you...

Erlyce and Mom Lehman

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 11: 35: 11 PST*

Author: Jim Burke 366 SPS Bakersfield CA LM 466

Author Host/IP: 216-228-26-142.wap.redshift.com / 216.228.26.142

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

I got to see Al at the reunion, but did not speak to him. Janet, I am sorry for your loss. This poem was sent to me by my daughter and I think it fits Al and what he would do for anyone. I will keep your family in my prayers.

Jim Burke

Daddy's Poem :

Her hair was up in a pony tail,
Her favorite dress tied with a bow.
Today was Daddy's Day at school,
And she couldn't wait to go.

But her mommy tried to tell her,
That she probably should stay home.
Why the kids might not understand,
If she went to school alone.

But she was not afraid;
She knew just what to say.
What to tell her classmates
Of why he wasn't there today.

But still her mother worried,
For her to face this day alone.
And that was why once again,
She tried to keep her daughter home.

But the little girl went to school
Eager to tell them all.
About a dad she never sees
A dad who never calls.

There were daddies along the wall in back,

For everyone to meet.
Children squirming impatiently,
Anxious in their seats

One by one the teacher called
A student from the class.
To introduce their daddy,
As seconds slowly passed.

At last the teacher called her name,
Every child turned to stare.
Each of them was searching,
A man who wasn't there.

"Where's her daddy at?"
She heard a boy call out.
"She probably doesn't have one,"
Another student dared to shout.

And from somewhere near the back,
She heard a daddy say,
"Looks like another deadbeat dad,
Too busy to waste his day."

The words did not offend her,
As she smiled up at her Mom.
And looked back at her teacher,
Who told her to go on.

And with hands behind her back,
Slowly she began to speak.
And out from the mouth of a child,
Came words incredibly unique.

"My Daddy couldn't be here,
Because he lives so far away.
But I know he wishes he could be,
Since this is such a special day.

And though you cannot meet him,
I wanted you to know.
All about my daddy,
And how much he loves me so.

He loved to tell me stories
He taught me to ride my bike.
He surprised me with pink roses,
And taught me to fly a kite.

We used to share fudge sundaes,
And ice cream in a cone
And though you cannot see him.
I'm not standing here alone.

"Cause my daddy's always with me,
Even though we are apart
I know because he told me,
He'll forever be in my heart"

With that, her little hand reached up,
And lay across her chest.
Feeling her own heartbeat,

Beneath her favorite dress.

And from somewhere here in the crowd of dads,
Her mother stood in tears.
Proudly watching her daughter,
Who was wise beyond her years.

For she stood up for the love
Of a man not in her life.
Doing what was best for her,
Doing what was right.

And when she dropped her hand back down,
Staring straight into the crowd.
She finished with a voice so soft,
But its message clear and loud.

"I love my daddy very much,
he's my shining star.
And if he could, he'd be here,
But heaven's just too far.

You see he was a policeman
And died just this past year
When airplanes hit the towers
And taught Americans to fear.

But sometimes when I close my eyes,
it's like he never went away."
And then she closed her eyes,
And saw him there that day.

And to her mothers amazement,
She witnessed with surprise.
A room full of daddies and children,
All starting to close their eyes.

Who knows what they saw before them,
Who knows what they felt inside.
Perhaps for merely a second,
They saw him at her side.

"I know you're with me Daddy,"
To the silence she called out.
And what happened next made believers,
Of those once filled with doubt.

Not one in that room could explain it,
For each of their eyes had been closed.
But there on the desk beside her,
Was a fragrant long-stemmed pink rose

And a child was blessed, if only for a moment,
By the love of her shining star.
And given the gift of believing,
That heaven is never too far.

They say it takes a minute to find a special
Person, an hour to appreciate them,
A day to love them, but then an entire
life to forget them.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 12: 00: 50 PST*

Author: **Hector Ramos VP VSPA**

Author Host/IP: pool-72-79-116-75.nwrknj.east.verizon.net / 72.79.116.75

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Words cannot express the sadness that has come over our brotherhood with the passing of Sarge and the thought of his family & especially his beloved daughter Janet who now must lay him to rest and count on the memories of the many blessings of his life. I especially admired Alvin for the respect he showed to all who met him, the sense of compassion and dignity which he exemplified and the love of family, service to community and country which was his hallmark. My heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Mathews, the Family and to our dear friend and now adopted daughter, Janet.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 12: 32: 45 PST*

Author: **Howard Yates**

Author Host/IP: 198.56.100.97.cfl.res.rr.com / 97.100.56.198

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Being a new kid on the block I never had the privilege of meeting "Sarge" but after reading all the wonderful tributes I know he was a warm and caring person. I wish I had know him personally.

Rest in Peace Brother,
Howard Yates

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 12: 38: 19 PST*

Author: **Bob Mitchell LM301**

Author Host/IP: ip68-14-6-65.ri.ri.cox.net / 68.14.6.65

Subject: 🌐 Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

If anyone has a picture of the Sarge that I can put on a button and send to the Wall to be included in the collection, please send it to me.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 15: 19: 07 PST*

Author: **Bob Mitchell LM301**

Author Host/IP: ip68-14-6-65.ri.ri.cox.net / 68.14.6.65

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Don Poss' message. Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 13: 06: 35 PST*

Thanks Don.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 13: 06: 17 PST*

Author: **Dan Vinson**

Author Host/IP: nc-71-52-139-123.dhcp.embarqhsd.net / 71.52.139.123

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Sarge Matthews was an American to honor. The men like sarge led the way. I am proud to have known him. Our Love and deepest sympathies to Janet and her family. We all share in your loss and will always be there for you. If you need us, don't fail to call out. God Bless you and your family during this time.DV

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 14: 51: 11 PST*

Author: **Claude J. Hebert**

Author Host/IP: 68-186-231-248.dhcp.thbd.la.charter.com / 68.186.231.248

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Dan Vinson's message *Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US* " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 13: 06: 17 PST*

I support your feelings about Al. I pray the lord will look over the family and give them the strength needed to bear this burden. Claude

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 13: 09: 05 PST*

Author: Phil Block

Author Host/IP: ool-457228e6.dyn.optonline.net / 69.114.40.230

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

I met Al for the first time at the 2007 reunion, thanked him for the great food he brought for us.

I only talked to him for a few minutes, glad i did.

May he rest in peace.

Till we meet again brother at the big guardmount in the sky.

Phil Block

377TH SPS TAN SON NHUT 67-68

3RD SPS Biên Hòa 65-66

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 13: 14: 02 PST*

Author: Richard Garcia

Author Host/IP: ool-18bd34de.dyn.optonline.net / 24.189.52.222

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

It is a sad day for the VSPA. We've lost another great warrior. Rest in peace Sarge. My condolence to Janet and the rest of the Matthews family.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 15: 23: 08 PST*

Author: Steve Gattis, VSPA President

Author Host/IP: h72.5.172.72.ip.alltel.net / 72.172.5.72

Subject: FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MSgt ALVIN MATTHEWS

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Hello to all.

I just spoke with Janet to see how she and her Mom are doing. They are both okay and getting better. They have just completed the arrangements for Sarge's funeral.

As we talked, Janet gave me a few moments of exactly why her Daddy was so proud of her, of why he called her his "Sparkplug" and the fact that she was so very proud of him. She laughed and said, "Hey, I cut my teeth on a Security Police shield. I can do this. He is going home to be a warrior again in his dress blues with full military honors."

We talked about the arrangements, including his love for the VSPA. He will be buried with a VSPA flag, his Life Member pin, his shield and his Warrior's Medal of Valor. Janet did not know how it happened, but felt some devine intervention from the Great Sky Cop in the sky when she was told that Sarge would be buried in plot #111 - just as he would be listed at Life Member #111 with his VSPA brothers who have attended their final Guardmount before him. His cousin, who is a Cherokee tribal chief, will play Amazing Grace on the Native American flute.

Then Janet told me that Sarge had completed the full circle of life, "Today was Daddy's birthday. He was 66 years old today. Now he's going home."

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Viewing:

1700 - 2000 hours Sunday, January 6.

Location:

Rudder Funeral Home

716 So. Broad Street

Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

Funeral:
Visitation - 1100 hours
Rudder Funeral Home
Service - 1300 hours graveside Cedar Hill Cemetery

For further information and direct contact with Rudder Funeral Home, please use the following link:

<http://rudderfuneralhomes.com/runtime.php?SiteId=-662&NavigatorId=-32178&Keywords=Alvin%20Matthews>

For those of you who may be able to attend the funeral, Janet stated that Scottsboro is in Northeast Alabama about 2 1/2 hours from Atlanta, 2 hours from Birmingham, one hour from Chattanooga TN, and about 50 miles from Huntsville.

Janet stated that anyone desiring to make a memorial donation in the name of her father could make the donation to the VSPA to continue the Warriors Medal Program that Sarge had established, or to provide gift memberships as her father had in the past. She said that he loved the VSPA and everyone he met over the years, that it had helped him heal and that the VSPA had brought the two of them closer together as they both learned to deal with his time in Vietnam.

Janet will check the bulletin board after she returns home later today. Please keep her and her Mom in your prayers.

Steve

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 16: 43: 45 PST*

Author: Don Poss

Author Host/IP: cpe-76-167-248-119.socal.res.rr.com / 76.167.248.119

Subject: ❤ Re: FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MSgt ALVIN MATTHEWS

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MSgt ALVIN MATTHEWS " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 15: 23: 08 PST*

Steve:

Please let Janet and her mom know how much Al's passing impacts us. I will have to come back later to finish reading your post... my eyes are too clouded now and I couldn't get past his being buried with a VSPA flag -- I can't think of anything more fitting to show our respect and honor for him.

Don Poss

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 15: 43: 19 PST*

Author: Gary Jones, LM-363

Author Host/IP: cpe-098-025-040-241.sc.res.rr.com / 98.25.40.241

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Sarge's time here on earth was much too short but what a footprint he left behind. He was the heart and soul of what our great Association is all about... love, caring and taking care of our own. He will be sadly missed.

While reflecting on my conversations with Sarge, it occurred to me that I would never have met him if it wasn't for my VSPA membership. Likewise, I would have never met Sarge's good friend and VSPA Member, the late Ron "Monk" Pope. There are many of you out there that I wouldn't have met if not for VSPA. I am thankful for this great organization and the hard working guys that make it work. Hopefully, before I join Sarge and Monk at the next Guardmount, I will have the opportunity to meet many more of you.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 15: 56: 41 PST*

Author: Edwin Jack Smith 377thSPS 68-69 LM453 (sadness)

Author Host/IP: cache-ntc-ad04.proxy.aol.com / 207.200.116.198

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Roberta and I wish the family to know that our hearts are sad and full of pain. We met Sarge and Janet at the reunion. They are fine people. Our prayers are with the family. God bless them all. Jack and Roberta

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 16: 36: 54 PST*

Author: James Mahaffey

Author Host/IP: 71-217-151-245.hlna.qwest.net / 71.217.151.245

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

My thoughts and prayers will be with Alvin's family.

May The good Lord give them strength to bear this burden;

May He comfort them in knowing that they will all come together in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Please know you are lifted up in prayer by all. God Bless. Jim

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 17: 21: 45 PST*

Author: Dave Beckley, LM #233, TSN 1970-1971

Author Host/IP: 24-207-196-42.dhcp.stls.mo.charter.com / 24.207.196.42

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

It is with a heavy heart that I write this post after reading of the sad news about "Sarge". I only knew him for the few years that I have been a member of the VSPA, but every reunion we would get together and just talk about the past times as cops and about the present situations whatever they might have been. He was a true brother to us all and I know will be sadly missed by his family and ours.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 18: 15: 26 PST*

Author: Randy "Ramps" Stutler (Heartfelt Sorrow)

Author Host/IP: cache-dtc-ag12.proxy.aol.com / 205.188.117.140

Subject: ❤️ Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Dear Sparkplug and Mrs. Matthews,

I never got to know Sarge and your family as well as many of the guys have. I did get the pleasure of meeting you all at the 2007 reunion, and like everyone I surely enjoyed the hospitality and BBQ!

I knew that Sarge was a special guy, and that your's is a special family... It's just so hard when something like this happens to the really good ones.

God Bless you and comfort you in this time of sorrow. May you find peace in knowing that God loves Sarge even more than we do... and He Takes Care Of His Own!

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 18: 35: 56 PST*

Author: Terry Morris (Beyond sadness.)

Author Host/IP: 66-168-16-98.dhcp.mdsn.wi.charter.com / 66.168.16.98

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Words cannot express the sadness that Jean and I felt when when we heard the news of your father's passing. Al was a true Southern gentleman and brother. If there is anything we can do for you and family, you need only to ask. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you, now and in the tomorrows.

Re: Alvin Matthews A sad morning for all -- John Risse, *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 19: 49: 52 PST (cpe-68-201-107-109.rgv.res.rr.com/68.201.107.109)*

Janet, you and your family are in our prayers, sarge was a wonderful brother to all of us in the vspa. he will be missed. May your memories of your Dad stay in your heart, and guild you through this difficult time. John

Date Posted: *Sat, Jan 05 2008, 8: 06: 24 PST*

Author: Tima Elmore Brown (A SAD DAY FOR ALL)

Author Host/IP: unknown.al.charter.com / 75.138.44.215

Subject: ❤️ Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD DAY FOR ALL

In reply to: Janet Matthews-Wise 's message Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri,*

Jan 04 2008, 20: 00: 47 PST

I am Janet's long time friend from Hueytown, Alabama. She and I call ourselves "Sisters" so that meant that I got a second daddy. I called him "Daddy-O". Daddy-O was a wonderful man! He was always thinking of others before he even considered thinking of himself. I have the up most respect for Daddy-O and will miss him dearly. I know that he is in a great and fabulous place in HEAVEN and that he is not hurting anymore. Thank you guys of the VSPA for honoring Daddy-O and being in their family.

Date Posted: *Sat, Jan 05 2008, 8: 20: 48 PST*

Author: **Chaplain Jim LM#442**

Author Host/IP: pool-71-163-188-219.washdc.fios.verizon.net / 71.163.188.219

Subject: ❤️ Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Janet Matthews-Wise 's message, *Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US "* on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 20: 00: 47 PST*

Sparkplug,

Know that you and yours are in our constant thoughts and prayers. I wish I could be there for the services to honor Sarge. I'm so glad that at this time you find your comfort in the arms of the Savior, knowing that Sarge is before Him being welcomed into the Security Forces of heaven.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 20: 40: 23 PST*

Author: **Andy Latham,Ubon, Thailand 8th SPS,K-9,1968-1969 LM#191** (Feel your sadness)

Author Host/IP: 68-95-120-28.ded.swbell.net / 68.95.120.28

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

SOORY,to hear of AL passing,I didn't know him personally but have saw many pictures of him in the reunion pictures.This is a wake up call for all of us that are in our 60's.It is good to know that AL was a saved man,Gods word says that Absent from the body Present with the Lord. A Big Welcome Home Brother.GOD BLESS.

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 20: 49: 26 PST*

Author: **Newell M. Swartz**

Author Host/IP: 71-37-202-88.phnx.qwest.net / 71.37.202.88

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

May God Bless and console you Janet and your family. You and Sarge were obviously much closer than many dads are with their daughters. I am sure that you being with him at the VSPA re-unions helping him serve that special barbeque were very special times for him and you that you will cherish forever. You could tell he was bursting with pride serving us that barbeque with you helping. Your dad was a class act and a man that will be greatly missed by his family, friends and bothers in the VSPA. Newell

Date Posted: *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 21: 15: 34 PST*

Author: **Greg Cain** (Sad, Sad Day)

Author Host/IP: cpe-74-77-51-188.buffalo.res.rr.com / 74.77.51.188

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

It has taken some time to get myself back together after getting the news to post a message. Sheila and I are heartbroken. Sarge was without equal in my eyes and Sheila called him Daddy. The time I spent with him at the last reunion was far beyond words. We are making travel arrangements for Scottsboro. Janet we love you and grieve with you.
Greg and Sheila Cain

Date Posted: *Sat, Jan 05 2008, 4: 56: 42 PST*

Author: **Bill Wigginton**

Author Host/IP: user-1120rr1.dsl.mindspring.com / 66.32.111.97

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

I live about two and a half hours south of Scottsboro, Alabama, and I'm working on making arrangements to make it to the funeral on Monday.

GOD Bless you Sparkplug, and your family. "Sarge" will be missed greatly by all of us. Let's work on insuring that Janet can be at this year's reunion in her father's absence.

Sad Woof!

Date Posted: *Sat, Jan 05 2008, 9: 18: 08 PST*

Author: Ed Warr

Author Host/IP: 71-208-123-37.hlrn.qwest.net / 71.208.123.37

Subject: Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Sparkplug,

Me and my family will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. Al was the best. Sorry, I didn't get a chance to know him better. He'll be greatly missed by all of us.

God Bless,

Ed

Date Posted: *Sat, Jan 05 2008, 14: 37: 17 PST*

Author: Al Habercorn (Life Member #24)

Author Host/IP: 63-227-47-115.hlrn.qwest.net / 63.227.47.115

Subject: ☹ Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Steve Gattis, VSPA President's message. ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Fri, Jan 04 2008, 7: 46: 24 PST*

Janet, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. You and Sarge have been such a positive institution over the years at the Reunions. I feel really blessed we had time to talk and laugh in Washington this December, please know that I will not soon forget him.

Date Posted: *Sat, Jan 05 2008, 17: 24: 51 PST*

Author: Terry Sasek (So Sadden !)

Author Host/IP: d192-24-39-214.try.wideopenwest.com / 24.192.214.39

Subject: ❤ Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US

In reply to: Al Habercorn (Life Member #24) message. Re: ALVIN MATTHEWS - A SAD MORNING FOR ALL OF US " on *Sat, Jan 05 2008, 14: 37: 17 PST*

Janet & Family, Ellie & I are very saddened to hear the news this evening when we came home, To many of our brothers are passing on now due to age and illnesses some we know are from our service in Vietnam. There are so many guys here we have looked forward to meeting and then suddenly they are taken from us to soon. We were talking last week about how everyone raved how great your Dad's barbecues were and how great this man was with his brothers. I was heart broken to find out that we had lost Monk, he and I e-mailed each other all the time especially in 2007, He always talked highly of your Dad and said that once you meet him you too will be lifetime friends, it is with great regret that I will never have that opportunity now, and that really saddens both of us. My wife has said to everyone up here who will listen, that me finding my VSPA brothers and their families has done more to help me deal with Vietnam than all the efforts of the VA to help me. We will pray for your Dad and you and your family, and please know in your heart the love and respect all of us had for SARGE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Please make sure you still come to the reunions, I for one truly would like to meet you SPARKPLUG, We're all your family here and always will be. May God Bless You and Your family, and give you the Peace in your Heart that SARGE will always be there watching over you guys and us his Brothers. God Bless You, Terry & Ellie Sasek

❤ **A Minute of Reflection -- Sam Lewis, Mon, Jan 07 2008, 9: 30: 07 PST (pool-72-66-184-77.ronkva.east.verizon.net/72.66.184.77)**

As we go along during our day I think it would be fitting to take a minute or two around 1300 hrs. if possible, the time of Al's funeral, to reflect on the lives and the brotherhood of our two recently departed brothers. They will indeed be missed . Rest in Peace brothers , Rest in Peace. sam

Date Posted: *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 11: 03: 08 PST*

Author: don poss

Author Host/IP: cpe-76-167-248-119.socal.res.rr.com / 76.167.248.119

Subject: Re: A Minute of Reflection

In reply to: Sam Lewis's message. A Minute of Reflection " on *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 9: 30: 07 PST*

... Amen, Sam.

Don Poss

Date Posted: *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 11:15: 28 PST*

Author: Claude J. Hebert LM # 34

Author Host/IP: 68-191-90-99.dhcp.thbd.la.charter.com / 68.191.90.99

Subject: Re: A Minute of Reflection

In reply to: Sam Lewis's message. A Minute of Reflection " on *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 9: 30: 07 PST*

I also say a big "Amen" to your suggestion. We will always remember those listed in LM #111 May the Good Lord Bless them all!

Claude

Date Posted: *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 14: 38: 03 PST*

Author: Bill Marshall L/M 85

Author Host/IP: wsip-64-58-163-27.oc.oc.cox.net / 64.58.163.27

Subject: Re: A Minute of Reflection

In reply to: Sam Lewis 's message *A Minute of Reflection* " on *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 9: 30: 07 PST*

Sam, THANKS a great idea! These men who we served with (our brothers) earned this respect and we will never forget them.

Date Posted: *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 16: 52: 51 PST*

Author: Chaplain Jim LM#442

Author Host/IP: pool-71-163-188-219.washdc.fios.verizon.net / 71.163.188.219

Subject: Re: A Minute of Reflection

In reply to: Sam Lewis 's message *A Minute of Reflection* " on *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 9: 30: 07 PST*

Thanks for the idea Sam

MSgt ALVIN MATTHEWS MEMORIAL FUND -- Steve Gattis, VSPA President, Mon, Jan 07 2008, 22: 07: 20 PST
(h72.5.172.72.ip.alltel.net/72.172.5.72)

Hello to all.

Last Saturday I posted information concerning a discussion I had with Al's daughter, Janet, regarding potential donations to a memorial fund for he Dad. She told me that anyone desiring to make a memorial donation in the name of her father could make the donation to the VSPA to continue the Warriors Medal of Valor Program that Sarge had established, or to provide gift memberships as her father had in the past. She added that if anybody had a personal charity or some other cause that would benefit by a donation in her father's name, that would be absolutely fine, too. It's up to each individual.

Since the original post, Phil Carroll and I have received several questions from members, and strong support for a fund to continue the Native American Warriors Medal of Valor with our existing selection committee and an annual presentation of awards at our reunion banquet.

It occurred to Phil that many of you who have not been able to attend reunions may not have been aware of this program that was personally funded by Al Matthews. Take a look at the VSPA website memorial page to Sarge:

http://www.vspa.com/t_al-matthews_01-03-2007.htm

Next to Sarge's picture is an elegant looking medal called the "Warriors Medal of Valor." Sarge was our first recipient and received his at a Native American PowWow from a Cherokee tribal Chief. As someone who was a Native American, Sarge was a strong proponent of the award and secured approval from the Native American Nations to present the Warriors Medal to

VSPA members. Sarge was the Chairman of our committee to select recipients after receiving and reviewing nominations for the award. He personally paid for the medals and certificates and had each medal engraved with the recipient's name. He loved this program, and spent untold hours guiding the committee that selected nine VSPA recipients over the last two years.

We have already had a strong response, and will continue the selection and presentation in Al Matthews' name. If you're interested in contributing to this fund, please make a check payable to VSPA, note on it that it's for the "Al Matthews Memorial Fund," and send it to VSPA treasurer Denis Cook (RIP: 21 May 2017).

Thanks for caring so much.

Steve Gattis and Phil Carroll

MSgt Alvin Matthews Funeral -- Greg and Sheila Cain (words aren't sufficient), *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 19: 28: 47 PST*
(newsquid.scottsboro.org/12.21.132.22)

Brothers and Sisters

The "Sarge" was laid to rest today in Scottsboro Al in proper and solemn military fashion. The family was comforted by the attendants from VSPA including Steve Ray, Jack and Lorraine Roberts, Richard Holstein and his brother Steve and Sheila and I. Richard in Native American dress performed a most touching and emotional song and prayer and VSPA members came to attention in front of the casket and gave him a final slow hand salute. The Maxwell AFB provided a splendid Honor Guard burial detail. The family wanted the membership to know how Al loved the organization and it was certainly a top priority with him. I'm sure he has reported for duty roster assignment and warmly welcomed by his predecessors. God Bless him and his family.

Greg and Sheila Cain

Date Posted: *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 19: 38: 23 PST*

Author: Bill Morris

Author Host/IP: 66-169-164-127.dhcp.ftwo.tx.charter.com / 66.169.164.127

Subject: Re: MSgt Alvin Matthews Funeral

In reply to: Greg and Sheila Cain's message. MSgt Alvin Matthews Funeral " on *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 19: 28: 47 PST*

Thank you for sharing that with the members. I greatly appreciate the information. Your heartfelt words to describe Alvin's funeral touched me when you wrote: "I'm sure he has reported for duty roster assignment and warmly welcomed by his predecessors."

Date Posted: *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 19: 41:03 PST*

Author: Terry Sasek (Thanks)

Author Host/IP: d192-24-39-214.try.wideopenwest.com / 24.192.214.39

Subject: ❤ Re: MSgt Alvin Matthews Funeral

In reply to: Greg and Sheila Cain's message. MSgt Alvin Matthews Funeral " on *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 19: 28: 47 PST*

Greg, thanks to all of you for being there and representing all of us at Sarge's Funeral. It is nice to know he was given a most Proper and Honored sent off by his VSPA & Air Force Families and I sure it comforted his family to see such respect for Sarge. Thanks for the update. Terry Sasek

Date Posted: *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 20: 42: 29 PST*

Author: Don Poss

Author Host/IP: cpe-76-167-248-119.socal.res.rr.com / 76.167.248.119

Subject: ❤ Re: MSgt Alvin Matthews Funeral

In reply to: Greg and Sheila Cain's message. MSgt Alvin Matthews Funeral " on *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 19: 28: 47 PST*

Thank you all for representing VSPA membership at Al's funeral. I am certain he is at peace now.

Don Poss

Date Posted: *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 21:32: 05 PST*

Author: Steve Gattis, VSPA President

Author Host/IP: h72.5.172.72.ip.alltel.net / 72.172.5.72

Subject: ❤ Thank you!

In reply to: Don Poss' message *Re: MSgt Alvin Matthews Funeral "* on *Mon, Jan 07 2008, 20:42 PST*

Dear Sheila,

Thank you for posting this information and for being at the funeral to assist Janet and to say goodbye to her Dad, our brother and great friend, Al. Richard Holstein called me and told me how wonderful the services were and how moving it was when the VSPA brothers rendered the hand salute.

As the funeral began today, I know there were many of us who were there in spirit, aching that we could not be there and intensely proud of all of you, knowing that within the VSPA we will always have people like you and Greg and those who could make the funeral as our representatives.

As I stood under a tree looking at the same sky that sheltered all of you during the funeral, I thought of Al and Janet and suddenly remembered not being able to go to the funeral of a friend when I was in Vietnam. It was painful and only made the grief worse. Today was very much like being in Vietnam and losing a wonderful friend back home. I looked at the clouds with an ache in my heart, unable to say goodbye to Al in person, unable to give Janet a hug, but deeply thankful that we could all trust someone to be there for us. Like Monk's funeral when Al and Janet represented us, all of you have given us a sense of peace knowing that you were there.

Thank you for taking care of our own... for taking care of us as you took care of Janet and Sarge. Our motto "We take care of our own" and the motto of the Sisterhood "Taking care of those who take care of their own" were never more true than today.

May God bless you and keep you safe as you travel home.

Steve

We Take Care of Our Own

[Click to Report BROKEN LINKS or Photos, or Comment](#)