

**WELCOME HOME
SGT BRUCE DALE JONES
VSPA MEMORIAL, OCT 5, 2012
18TH VSPA REUNION 2012**

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Photos submitted by:

VSPA Photographer Tony Morris; Courtesy of The Evergreen Courant Newspaper; Garry T. Lee, and other VSPA Members.

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(108) ... *We've no less days to sing God's praise... than when we've first begun....*



(109) VSPA Members exit Rabb Cemetery's gate. JROTC "Jaguars" salute members. :)



(110) Middle School "Jaguars" wave and take iPhone photos. Very polite young kids!



(110b/c.) Newell Swartz, prior VSPA President, and Mom, enjoy the JROTC's friendly spirit.



(111) Everyone is leaving for the bus and the short ride to Evergreen's new Veterans Monument where they will see Sgt Bruce Dale Jones' name listed with twelve Vietnam KIA/LOD casualties.



(112) USAF Flag was posted near Sgt Jones' tombstone with the framed Poster and signatures.



(113) Footstone was paid for by an anonymous VSPA member and placed on Sgt Jones tombslab with permission of the family.



(114) Mom and Erlyce leave the memorial Rabb Cemetery, with mixed feelings and memories of their own personal loss.



(115) As VSAP members enter/exit Rabb Cemetery, they see a Rabb Family bricked-in location, which was part of the original cemetery built in the early 1800s. One of the tombstones lists a deceased as having been age ten when our country celebrated its first 4th of July holiday.



(116) Rabb Family plots, bricked-in location, at Rabb Cemetery, Evergreen Alabama.



(117) Rabb Family plots, bricked-in location, at Rabb Cemetery, Evergreen Alabama.

50¢ **THE EVERGREEN COURANT**

VOLUME 118 Evergreen, Alabama 36401 Thursday, October 4, 2012 Number 1

Evergreen, AL Thurs., October 11, 2012

Vietnam casualty honored

By Lee Peacock
Courant Staff Writer

An estimated 200 people attended a memorial event in honor of the late Bruce Dale Jones, an Evergreen service member who was killed in Vietnam, Friday at the Rabb Cemetery, west of Evergreen.

The 20-year-old Jones, a graduate of Thurgood Marshall High School in Evergreen, was killed on March 9, 1972 at Tan Son Nhut Airbase in Gia Dinh, South Vietnam, where he was serving as a sergeant in the Air Force's 377th Security Police Squadron. During Friday's event, members of the Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) and others paid tribute to Jones at his gravesite in the cemetery.

During the event, Evergreen Mayor Pete Wolff read an official proclamation from the City of Evergreen in honor of Jones. In August, in preparation for the event, the city council unanimously voted to declare Oct. 5 "Bruce Dale Jones Day" in the City of Evergreen as a way to honor Jones.

The complete proclamation read as follows:

"To All Who See These Presents - Greetings:

"WHEREAS, inherently, the City of Evergreen has recognized their native citizens for all outstanding accomplishments, but most especially those of bravery. And,

"WHEREAS, it is well documented that Bruce Dale Jones was born, raised and came to manhood within the City of Evergreen. And,

"WHEREAS, Bruce Dale Jones is known to be a graduate of Thurgood Marshall High School, a school with a long and meaningful history linked with the City of Evergreen. And,

"WHEREAS, Bruce Dale Jones, elected to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States Military, enlisting in the United States Air Force in 1970, crediting his home of record to be the City of Evergreen. And,

"WHEREAS, Bruce Dale Jones lost his life in the line of duty, succumbing to wounds suffered in 1972 while serving with the 377th Security Police

Squadron at Tan Son Nhut Airbase, serving against enemies of the United States of America in a foreign country, to wit, the Communist Forces of North Vietnam. And,

"WHEREAS, Bruce Dale Jones' body was returned to the City of Evergreen for last rite services and interment here. And,

"WHEREAS, we are gathered today at the gravesite to pay tribute to Bruce Dale Jones and glorify his memory.

"Let it be known from now and henceforth that I, Pete Wolff III, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Evergreen, Ala., do hereby and hereon, declare that Oct. 5 be proclaimed "Bruce Dale Jones Day" for perpetuity, a fitting tribute for one who so selflessly gave their life for our freedom. Thank you for your service and 'rest in peace,' Bruce Dale Jones.

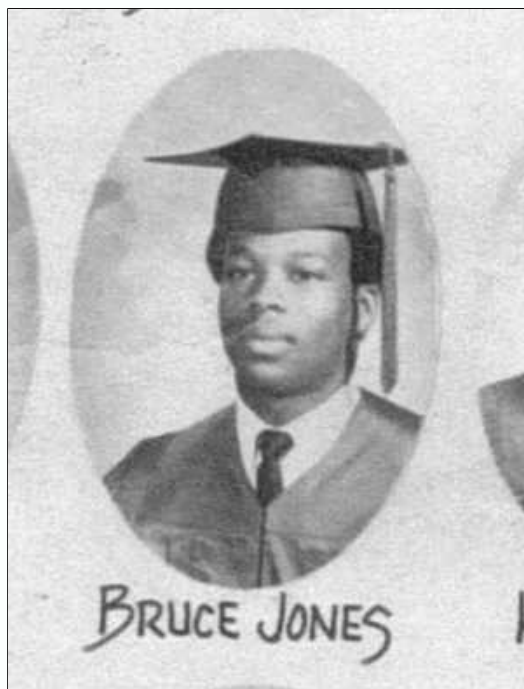
"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this city to be affixed on this the 5th day of October, 2012. (Signed) Mayor Pete Wolff III."

In addition to Wolff, other speakers at the event included Don Poss, Newell Swartz, the Rev. Michael Jackson, Ed Daubert, James Leon Windham, Pete Piazzi and Angela McGee of Evergreen, a member of Jones' family.

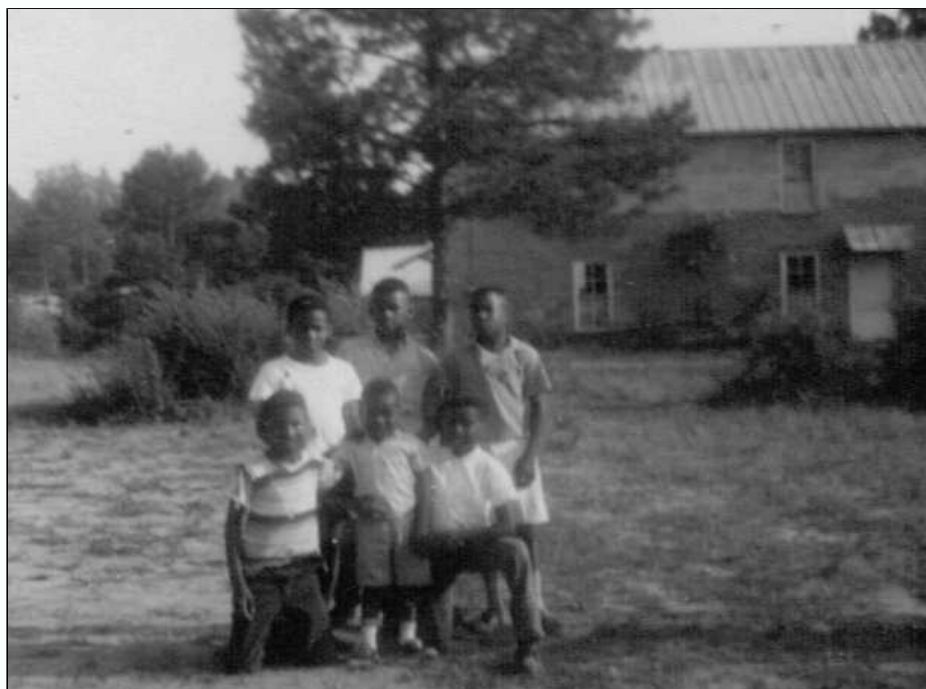
During the event, Poss recognized VSPA member Ed Daubert, who served with Jones in Vietnam. All active duty military and law enforcement veterans were also recognized during the event. Piazzi, who served in Vietnam and received a Silver Star, also read an original poem that was written especially for Friday's memorial service. The event also included a wreath-laying ceremony and a performance of "Amazing Grace" by bagpipe player, Howard Yates.

Organizers thanked the City of Evergreen, Mayor Pete Wolff, Hillcrest High School's ROTC unit and Sgt. Major Ralph Crysell, Cherrie's Blossoms and Blooms, David Leach of the Leach Monument Co., members of the Disabled American Veterans, Conecuh County Sheriff Edwin Booker and his deputies, the Patriot Riders Association and every one who attended.

(118a) Newspaper Banner - (118b) Article



(119) Bruce Dale Jones HS photo.



(120) The caption on the back of that picture declared this to be the "Knot Hole Gang."

They were further identified as:

Front Row, L-R: Tubby, Quint, Carl Back Row, L-R: Bruce, Zachery, Wendell.

(122) St. Paul United Methodist Church: Obituary Airman First Class Bruce Dale Jones (posthumously promoted).



VSPA Remembers Sgt Bruce Dale Jones *Welcome Home*

I have to say that VSPA's response was more than one could hope for. I am so proud of my brothers for showing so much support and caring for this event. I now have an even GREATER pride in our association as a result -- if that's even possible. Thank you Don for all of your work!!!! Regards, Ed Daubert

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