

## MEMORIAL DAY

*Who do you Remember this Day?*

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"What are we celebrating?"

I suppose many are just coming of age who were not taught about our nation's history. I recently saw the rear windshield of a High Schooler's car and handwritten on the glass in large letters was: "JUST *GRATUATED*." [Graduated]

Funny... but not really. It's simple. Memorial Day is the day veterans and the nation remember those who fell in combat (KIA) or line of duty (LOD). As Vietnam War veterans who served in the Vietnam War, as Air Police and Security Police, in Vietnam and Thailand, we know the meaning of KIA and LOD well.

As members of the Vietnam Security Association, Inc. (USAF), we remember our 112 KIA or LOD. We know their names. We knew them personally.

As members of VSPA, we are in the process of fundraising to build a Memorial to remember the eighteen (18) Security Policemen and five (5) Aircrewmen who were killed in Line of Duty on 13 May 2023, in a helicopter crash en route to join with the forming USMC assault force to rescue the US Merchant ship, SS Mayaguez, and crew. The successful Mayaguez Rescue Operation was the last Battle of the Vietnam War, and the first ship to ship boarding since the Civil War. The eighteen (18) and five (5) Aircrewmen are the Last Names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in D.C.

The Air Force KNIFE-13 CH-53C Sea Stallion crashed in dense jungle and was the single greatest loss for Security Police in Air Force history.

I have donated from the homepage at [VSPA.com](https://www.vspa.com) (by clicking the Donate button) to help build the Memorial honoring them. I hope you will consider doing so now.

What is the Name of the Air/Security Policeman you are remembering today... and frankly, most days?

For me, three Air Police died at Da Nang AB (Rocket City) within seven months. I was a K9 handler (Blackie 129) there in 1965-1966:

- SSgt Terrance Jensen (the first AP/SP KIA/Sappers, 1 July 1965),
- A3C James Bruce Jones (JB, the second AP/SP KIA/mortars), a friend and tentmate, KIA 25 Jan 1966), and
- Richard R. Woodward (the 3rd LOD/Illness, 8 Feb 1966), died within a few days of arrival at Da Nang, with an unknown disease, and was transferred to one the hospital ships in Da Nang Harbor—no Squadron member ever knew, him that we know of).

*It is a rare day I don't remember JB. Don Poss*