

VIETNAM

**WELCOME HOME
SGT BRUCE DALE JONES
VSPA MEMORIAL, OCT 5, 2012
18TH VSPA REUNION 2012
BY DON POSS., LM 37
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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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Photos submitted by:

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

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under a Sheriff's Department escort. Other organizations and individuals scheduled to participate in the event include Hillcrest High School's JROTC unit and speakers Don Poss, Larry Poss, Newell Swartz, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chaplain Michael Jackson, Vietnam Veteran and Silver Star recipient Pete Piazza, Windham, Evergreen Mayor Pete Wolff and members of Jones' family.

During the event, Wolff will read an official proclamation from the City of Evergreen in honor of Jones. In August, in preparation for tomorrow's 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.

During the event, Don Poss will also recognize VSPA member Ed Daubert, who served with Jones in

Vietnam. All active duty military and law enforcement veterans will also be recognized during the event. The event will also include a wreath-laying ceremony and a performance by bagpipe player, Howard Yates, Windham said.

Earlier this week, Windham thanked a number of people who have made Friday's event possible, including Wolff, the Evergreen City Council, Cherrie's Blossoms and Blooms, David Leach, DAV members and the Conecuh County Sheriff's Department.

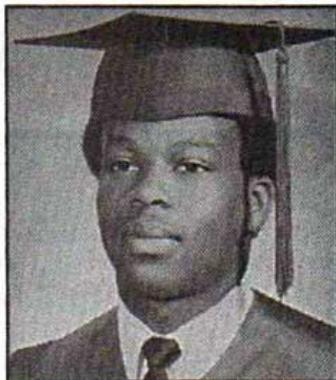
The Rabb Cemetery is located on Antioch Church Road. To reach the cemetery from Evergreen, travel east on U.S. Highway 31, then turn left on Conecuh County Road 22. Travel past the Spence McGraw Road and then turn right onto Antioch Church Road. The cemetery will be located on the right. If you reach the end of Antioch Church Road, you've gone too far.

Memorial event to honor Jones

By Lee Peacock
Courant Staff Writer

A memorial event in honor of the late Bruce Dale Jones, an Evergreen service member who was killed in Vietnam, will be held tomorrow (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, which is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., members of the Vietnam Security Police Association



Jones

and others plan to pay tribute to Jones at his gravesite in the cemetery, one of the event's organizers, James Leon Windham, said.

The event is scheduled to begin as members of the VSPA arrive at the cemetery

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Photos 2, 3: Courtesy of The Evergreen Courant (Alabama)



(5) Rabb Cemetery is a listed historical cemetery of only 4-5 acres. The Memorial is over now, and all have departed the cemetery. I stand at the gate for one last memory. VSPA's chartered bus can still be seen parked about 100 yards down the road (far left/center).

It is our hope that Sgt Bruce Dale Jones rests at peace and his spirit has drawn comfort by our Welcome Home. I know that all who attended the memorial takes comfort in knowing we did the right thing by remembering Sgt Jones' service... forty years after his death.

Conecuh County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Edwin Booker and his deputies, provided convoy escort, traffic control, and were also in attendance.



(6a) Evergreen's Hillcrest High School JROTC Color/Honor Guard, commanded by SGM Ralph Crysell, greet arriving VSPA members.



(6b) Evergreen's Hillcrest High School JROTC Color/Honor Guard, salute smartly!



(7) The Patriot Guard Ride Captain was Phil Brown of Satsuma, AL. He coordinated the PGR activity, 20 members and staff.



(8) The Patriot Guard Riders, awaiting VSPA members. High School bus is parked at entrance.



(9) VSPA members gather after walking a hundred yards through parked cars to Rabb Cemetery entrance.



9.a/b/c: VSPA members and local folk await memorial ceremony's start.



(10) Evergreen's Hillcrest High School JROTC Color/Honor Guard form up at entrance (center, near school bus).



(11) VSPA members and local folk awaiting start of memorial ceremony.



(12) Morning sun is growing hotter and locals wait under umbrellas in comfort and folding chairs.



(13) Other locals stand with gathering VSPA members.



(14) Cameras snapping photos.



(15) VSPA and Local speakers huddle for a quick discussion and review of the [Memorial Agenda](#).



(15b) Umbrellas provide late-morning shade.

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