



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

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**Page-5**

Photos submitted by:

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

[Page-1](#) \* [Page-2](#) \* [Page-3](#) \* [Page-4](#) \* **[Page-5](#)** \* [Page-6](#) \* [Page-7](#) \* [Page-8](#) \* [Homepage](#)



An estimated 200 people attended a memorial event in honor of the late Bruce Dale Jones, an Evergreen serviceman who was killed in Vietnam, Friday morning at the Rabb Cemetery, west of Evergreen. In the photo above, Angela McGee of Evergreen, a member of Jones' family, addresses the crowd, which included members of Jones' former Air Force unit and members of the Vietnam Security Police Association. (Photo by Robert Bozeman)

(61) The Evergreen Courant Newspaper (Evergreen Alabama) photographer records the moment.



(62) James Windham appreciates Aunt Angela McGee's words.



(63) James Windham comments on photo as Aunt Angela McGee displays framed photo and proclamation. Rev. Michael Jackson, Don Poss, and Newell Swartz look on.



(64) James Windham's photograph, taken the day after being contacted by VSPA. Composite by Don Poss.



(65) James Windham has just introduced Thurgood Marshall Middle School Principal, Ms. Lyons, from Sgt Jones former alma mater.



(65b.) Thurgood Marshall Middle School Principal, Ms. Lyons talks about Bruce Dale Jones' life goal to join the U.S. Air Force.



(66) School Principal, Ms. Lyons, talks about Bruce Jones' early school days, where his vocation never changed and always said that he wanted to join the United States Air Force.



(67) Pete Piazza, Silver Star recipient, and next VSPA President, reads an original poem by VSPA member [Howard Yates: And Now We Say Goodbye](#), © 2006.



(68) Pete Piazza, Silver Star recipient, reads Howard Yates' poem.



(68b.) VSPA members listen as Pete Piazza reads Howard Yates' poem.



(69) Patriot Guard Riders and crew stand at ease, listening to Pete Piazza reading Howard Yates' poem.



(70) Pete Piazza comments on Howard Yates poem, and calls Aunt Angela McGee to receive framed poem.



(71) Pete Piazza presents Howard Yates' framed poem to Aunt Angela McGee, as everyone applauds.



(72) Aunt Angela McGee hugs Pete Piazza, unable to publicly comment.



**And Now We Say Goodbye**

***Great sadness fills our hearts today |  
as pipes and drums, in slow march play.  
A comrade's fallen by the way,  
And now we say goodbye.***

***This hero to the very end  
Was more than just a casual friend,  
Who would a stranger's life defend,  
And now we say goodbye***

***But we shall cherish, all our days,  
The character this life portrayed  
With sacrifice so freely made,  
And now we say goodbye.***

***The hand salute, o'er Stars and Stripes,  
And distant skirl of highland pipes,  
Give last farewell with hero's rights,  
And now we say goodbye.***

***While here on Earth, you gave your best.  
Now in the Master's arms you rest.  
T'is by your memory we are blessed.  
And now we say goodbye.***

***Howard Garrison Yates  
@ July 2006***

(73) Howard Yates poem: [And Now We Say Goodbye](#), © 2006.



(74) Newell Swartz comments on the memorial and the meaningful remarks that have so far caused speakers to pause momentarily to regain composure, and tears to flow by many present. Newell Swartz then recognizes the moment we have gathered for is at hand ... VSPA placing of a floral Welcome Home Sgt Jones Wreath.



(75) Patriot Guard Riders guard the processions' perimeter within Rabb Cemetery, although this day only family, friends and veterans are present.

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