

Subj: InMemory
Date: Sunday, May 27, 2001 10:19:37 PM
From:
To:

5/27/01

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of all Vietnam veterans. I don't know how to go about this but the first Veteran that ever talked about what happened over there was a young man named Dale Jones, served in the Marine Corps, I Corp, 68. I believe he was from Philadelphia but I'm not sure. We were both in Federal Prison at the time, Robert Kennedy Youth Center, Morgantown, West Virginia. It was the summer of 1973 and I was in for drugs, he somehow got into trouble with currency in 1971. He found out I was a Marine vet and he talked to me about Vietnam and showed me a hand written packet that he had written about his tour in Vietnam. I was blown away, nobody ever talked about Nam, he talked about agent Orange, the number of Veterans that were incarcerated and many other issues which I had never thought about. I was reluctant to talk about combat and he was the first person that I met who actually recorded his experiences. He planned to publish the material when he was released from prison. I was sentenced to a adult felony, straight time, and to this day I am still considered a "Convicted Felon", Dale was given the opportunity to take a youth sentence, where you could be in prison from 6 months to 6 years, he was told that he would probably spend 9 months in prison and then be paroled. What he didn't know was that the length of his sentence would be determined by a federal parole board, made up of Nixon appointees at the time. When he went in for his initial hearing they told him he was going to have to serve at least 3 more years. Something snapped in Dale after that, the advantage of him taking the youth sentence was ~~that~~ upon completion of the six years his record would be cleared--No felony. My time ended in September of 1973 and I returned home where I began attending the University of Minnesota. I kept in contact with an inmate from Virginia, Dale Vacca, he was in for draft evasion. It was shortly

after the new year 1974 that I received word that Dale Jones and another inmate had escaped and were involved in a shoot out with Police in Connecticut on Christmas eve of 1973. Dale was killed in the shoot-out and soon after that my friend Dale Vacca was released from prison. It wasn't until I was in the PTSD program in Topeka, Kansas that it became clear to me, that Dale, probably committed suicide by escaping and getting involved in the gun battle. I have no idea what happened to his

manuscript, or any other information about him. I may have a photo, I'm going to look. I would like to attempt to see him included on this memorial, please give me some information on where I can start to find out where he came from. I'm sorry for this long rambling, poorly written email but today I saw you on TV and I knew I had to see him included. I maybe reached at

Brian J. Valento

St.Paul, Minnesota 55105-2021

or emailed.

I am sending your page to all my Veteran friends

Thank you again

Headers

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Received: from mplspop2.mpls.uswest.net (mplspop2.mpls.uswest.net [204.147.80.4]) by rly-xc05.mx.aol.com (v77_r1.36) with ESMTP; Sun, 27 May 2001 22:19:13 -0400

Received: (qmail 25177 invoked from network); 28 May 2001 02:19:14 -0000

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Date: Sun, 27 May 2001 21:19:20 -0500

Message-ID: <3B11B5A8.43EB43B0@qwest.net>

From: "Brian J. Valento"

To:

X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.76 [en] (Windows NT 5.0; U)

X-Accept-Language: en

MIME-Version: 1.0