

Jones, Stuart Carlisle Jr. (Stu), 3rd Platoon

16 December 1945 - 20 August 1977

Ashes scattered at base of Lizard Head Peak, near Telluride, CO



Stuart Carlisle Jones, Jr. was born 16 Dec 1945 in Boston, MA to Navy Captain Stuart Carlisle Jones Sr. and Doris Gates. Stuart's father, a USNA graduate and a 28 year career Naval Officer, served in WWII on the Battleship USS New Mexico, during the Korean Conflict, and Vietnam, from 1941 to 1968. Stuart, the oldest of three boys, was followed by Thomas H. and Michael R., both of whom were born in the San Francisco Bay area.

Living the typical Navy junior life, the Jones family was constantly on the move. Stuart went to several elementary and junior high schools (Arlington, VA). Punahou Academy in Honolulu, Hawaii was his high school— a member of the graduating class of 1963. Arriving as a sophomore, he was active in ROTC marching Band (drummer) and the student newspaper; Vice President of the Forum and Debate Team; a Carnival Booth Chairman; and on the Chapel Committee.

Stuart attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN on a NROTC scholarship from 1963 to 1967 earning a BA in History. While at Vanderbilt, Stuart was in the NROTC with a Marine Corps option and attended the 6-week Bulldog Program, between his Junior and Senior years, at MCB Quantico, VA. Stuart was also on the yearbook staff, played intramural sports – football, wrestling. He was a member and officer of the ATO fraternity.

Stuart accepted a regular commission in the USMC upon graduation from Vanderbilt and reported to Officers Basic School Class 1-68 Alpha Company 3rd Platoon, in June 1967. Upon graduation in Nov 1967 he got his orders to Vietnam arriving in Jan 1968. His first assignment was with Alpha Company 1st MP Battalion in DaNang. At some point he requested and was sent to the Philippines for Recon training. Returning to Vietnam he was assigned to the 3rd Recon Battalion 26th Regiment in Quang Tri. He returned to the States in May 1969. Achievements of note: Stuart achieved the "Master of Fitness" award.

Post-Vietnam, Stuart was assigned to a Camp Lejeune Recon Unit. Highlights were participation in NATO exercises in Europe. This was followed by a tour of duty at the Naval Weapons Station Earle, NJ. Stuart was released from the USMC in 1972.

Post USMC, Stuart was an avid outdoor adventurer. He crewed aboard a sailboat from New England to Puerto Rico and stayed on for a while in San Juan as a scuba instructor at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan.

In 1973, Stuart entered Georgetown University Dental School on a Navy scholarship, where he served as class president 3 of 4 years (including senior year). During this time, he took up the guitar and banjo and learned to play well enough to perform at local coffee houses and bars. He also pursued his love of hiking and mountain climbing - Appalachian Trail, ice-climbing school on Mt. Rainier, the summits of Nevado Chopicalqui (21,000 feet) and Nevado Huascharán (22,205 feet) in Peru. In 1977, Stuart got permission to miss his graduation to be one of two Americans to join the British Nanda Devi Expedition to climb the second highest mountain in the Indian Himalayas. After reaching the summit, a companion developed severe altitude sickness and Stuart largely carried him back to base camp. In the process, he injured a knee.

That same year, Stuart accepted a commission in the Navy and was assigned to Camp Pendleton as a dentist. Traveling cross country to take up his new post, Stuart stopped in Colorado to hike and climb with friends on Lizard Head Peak. Perhaps because of the earlier injury, Stuart fell and passed away from his injuries on 20 August 1977, at the age of 31. His family scattered his ashes at the base of the peak, and placed a plaque there in his memory.

Best of friends: Stu Jones and Bob Hagan - Vanderbilt NROTC, ATO Fraternity brothers, TBS

USMC Resume:

Officers Basic School Class 1-68 Alpha Company, 3rd Platoon
Alpha Company 1st MP Battalion in DaNang
Philippines for and Recon training
3rd Recon Battalion 26th Regiment Quang Tri
Camp Lejeune Recon Unit
Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle, NJ.
Released from active duty 1972

Personal Reflections about Stuart Carlisle Jones Jr:

From Mike Jones, 18 April 2015: Stu Jones brother Mike, TBS 4-73, would love to hear from anyone who knew Stuart. Mike Jones, thejones5@cox.net , Mission Viejo, CA.

Cherie Mailer, 4/4/15: Stuart and I had the wonderful experience of attending Punahou Academy in Honolulu, Hawaii—as members of the graduating class of 1963. He was a Navy brat who arrived at the school as a sophomore and I arrived a year later. A large percentage of our classmates had been in school together for years (many since Kindergarten), so it wasn't surprising that latecomers found comfort in each other's company. Stu and I had classes together both years and sat next to each other in our senior English class. Even though I was "going" with another boy, it wasn't hard to develop a crush on Stuart. He was gentle, kind, intelligent and very handsome! We shared many spirited moments talking together. The quotation next to his senior photo is "Words may show a man's wit, but actions his meaning." How very fitting for the life to which Stuart fully committed himself!

Mike Jones (Stuart's younger brother): "Stuart was my oldest brother (my parents had 3 sons) and my hero. Heck, I followed him into the Marines and Dentistry and very thankful that I did (especially the former)! When he was in Vietnam, I protested the hippie protesters at my college in Ohio. An anti-Vietnam "Peace" tree they planted outside my dorm didn't last too long. A Vietnam protest, with speakers, outside of my dorm was met with a barrage of water balloons that were launched through an opened window with surgical tubing (sling shot style)! He loved the Corps but when he started spending too much time at a desk instead of in the field, he decided it was time to make a change (initially, he was going to go to Law School-I believe he was accepted to The University of Louisville?- but eventually decided on Dental School). Shortly before I got out of the Marines in California (about April of 1975), I went to Boston to run the Boston Marathon and then on the way back to Ca, I flew to Washington, D.C. to spend a day with Stuart who was at Georgetown Dental School. It was probably the only time I can remember that our roles were reversed, I impressed him instead of the other way around. We had a good visit-he took me to see one of his favorite bluegrass bands (The Seldom Scene) that night. In December of that year, Stuart came home to California for Christmas vacation (the last time I saw him). As usual, Stuart couldn't just sit around for more than a day or two without an adventure, so he planned a trip for us to hike up the trail to the top of Mount Whitney (in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, 3-4 hour drive east of Los Angeles, and the highest summit in the contiguous United States at 14,505 feet). Unfortunately, in the dark the night before we were to hike, we drove over a big rock and sustained some damage underneath our car. We slept in the car and in the morning, instead of starting our hike, we had to go to a local gas station for some repairs. We started our hike a couple hours later and had a great time and saw some great scenery but didn't have time to reach the summit (2 summers ago, in memory of Stuart and my Dad who had passed away the previous summer-also in August- I hiked the trail to the summit of Mount Whitney-probably the hardest thing ,for this old man, I have done since OCS at Quantico)! Almost 38 years since his fall, and death, have eased the pain some but I still think about Stuart all of the time. I would love to hear from any of his friends at (949)294-0596 or email at: thejones5@cox.net. I hope you have a great reunion! Semper Fi, Mike Jones"

Mike Jones: "(Just a short P.S. on Stuart) My parents used to recall this conversation between Stuart and my Dad (eventually a 28 year career Naval Officer) to show how impressed Stuart was, with the Marines, at a very early age. When Stuart was about 6 years old, my Dad was trying to teach him the different ranks in the Navy. He started with Apprentice E-1 and went all the way up through the enlisted ranks and then the officer ranks and finally "Admiral" at which point Stuart said: "And then(after Admiral) do you get to be a Marine?". A gung-ho Marine from very early on!"