



## **VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Press Release**

(707) 651-7147

October 2, 2007 (9:13AM)

Lieutenant Rick Nichelman

[www.vallejopd.com](http://www.vallejopd.com)

### **PASSING OF VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT SENIOR CHAPLAIN REVEREND WB BARNES**

It is with great sadness that the Vallejo Police Department learned of the passing of Reverend WB Barnes this past weekend. Reverend Barnes was in his Vallejo home with his wife and family members when he succumbed after a courageous battle with cancer.

Reverend Barnes was a universally loved and respected Police Chaplain who served in the Department's Chaplain Program since its inception in 1989, and was in his second tenure as Senior Chaplain.

Reverend Barnes lived a joyous and rewarding life with his beloved wife of 55 years, Christine. He raised five children – Dwight, Christopher, Weldon, Phyllis and Kimberly, in the North Vallejo home so many grew to know over more than three decades. He was also instrumental in mentoring and helping to raise his grandchildren.

Reverend Barnes was born on February 20, 1931, in New Hebron, Mississippi. He began a 22-year Navy career in 1948, which took him into active duty around the world, through multiple campaigns. After retiring as a Chief Electrician's Mate, he received numerous recognitions for distinguished service in World War II, Korea, China, and Vietnam, including the Navy Good Conduct Medal (with 4 bronze stars) and Presidential Unit Citations.

He completed a second 17-year career as an electrician on Mare Island before retiring a Foreman assigned to supervising apprentices.

An ordained Minister, he served the community, local churches, ministries, advisory councils, and law enforcement. In addition to his service to the City of Vallejo, he also served 8 years as the Chaplain for the Solano County Sheriff's Office, reflecting his total commitment to helping others.

Additionally, in 2000, Reverend Barnes was the recipient of the prestigious John A. Price "Excellence in Chaplaincy" Award, given at the International Conference of Police Chaplains. Again in September of 2000 he was recognized by Congressman George Miller for his 30+ years of service to the recovering community as a spiritual leader, and was cited for "making the difference in the lives of countless people in his community." The following year he was also presented a Resolution from the State Assembly by Representative Patricia Wiggins.

A wake is scheduled for Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at St. Mark's Church on 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Vallejo. The following day a memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. at Union Baptist Church, located at 128 Encerti Avenue, Vallejo.



Reverend W.B. Barnes

*The Vallejo Crime Stoppers™ tip line (644-STOP) is a anonymous tip line that offers cash rewards for phone tips that solve violent and/or serious crimes committed in the greater Vallejo area.*