March 26, 2010

PCC scholarship to honor fallen hero Richie Jones

Person County citizens are coming together to endow a Piedmont Community College Scholarship in memory of a young Person County man who died while serving his country in Afghanistan. The “Forever Remembering Richard “Richie” Jones Memorial Scholarship Endowment” is being established as a memorial to Richie Jones.

Jones, who graduated from Person High School in 2006, joined the U.S. Army in September 2008 and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, and 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Carson, Colo. He lost his life in Mushan Village, Afghanistan in 2009 after his patrol was attacked with bombs and rocket-propelled grenades. He is the first and only soldier from Person County to die in combat since the Vietnam War.

On Saturday, August 8, 2009 Person County citizens lined Madison Boulevard to offer their respect to the fallen soldier and his family. Yellow ribbons displayed in his memory still along the highway, serving as a reminder of Jones’ sacrifice.

The scholarship endowment was initiated by several ministers, including retired minister Rev. Ben Gault; Providence Baptist Church pastor Rev. Dennis McDonald, who was Jones’ pastor; and former Providence Baptist youth minister Rev. Raymond Wooten.

“The ministers believe the scholarship endowment provides a way that Person County residents may express their heartfelt appreciation to Richie and the many veterans who have given of themselves to make our world a better place to live,” said Shady
Terrell, President of the PCC Foundation. “The endowment provides an opportunity for citizens to exercise their responsibility for enhancing the lives of others in our community through higher education.”

The scholarship will be awarded based on the following priorities:

1. Preference will be given to a graduate of a Person County high school or local GED program; second preference will be given to individuals from Halifax County, VA.
2. Preference will be given to an athlete (wrestling team/athletic team).
3. Preference will be given to a veteran.
4. Demonstrate financial need and not be a recipient of a Federal grant.
5. Scholastic achievement, moral character, and the individual’s potential to achieve established academic goals.

Donations are being accepted through the PCC Foundation at P.O. Box 1101, Roxboro, NC 27573 and are tax deductible.