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PRESS RELEASE

Obituary - Adult Warrant Officer Sue Andrews ATC CFM Bar

It is very sad to report the death of serving AWO Suzanne Andrews from 2524 (Oakington) Squadron, Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Wing. She died in Addenbrookes Hospital in March. Her funeral took place at Cambridge Crematorium on 29th March.

Sue was born in Bournemouth in 1953. Her life was filled with the sight of Air Force Blue even then as her father was OC of 2330 (Homefield School) Squadron.

From the age of 3 she wanted to be a nurse in the RAF – showing that desire to serve others from an early age. At the age of 12 with no prospect of joining the ATC (they didn't admit girls in those days!) and no GVC (the Girl's Venture Corps) nearby, Sue joined the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, where she reached the rank of Cadet Sergeant.

She was still able to join in some activities with her father's Squadron, and joined the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at school, and with the help of school and the ATC she achieved the Gold award. Later helping to run the scheme at local level and was the school nurse.

In 1970 Sue applied to join the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, unfortunately she was turned down as a result of the open heart surgery she had undergone when she was 7 years old – which hadn't prevented her from leading an active life through her childhood and teenage years.

Not deterred Sue pursued a nursing career in Civvie Street and found herself training at Addenbrookes from 1971 until 1973. She remained at Addenbrookes until 1987 when she had to retire early due to a slipped disc

In 1981 her father informed her that the ATC would be taking in girl cadets and Sue joined 104(City of Cambridge) Squadron, where she became a Warrant Officer in 1983. Sue transferred to 2461 (Sawston) in 1989 and then to 2524 (Oakington) in 1995. Where she has remained. She was well known throughout Beds & Cambs Wing taking part in a large number of Wing activities.

In 1988 Sue's father died whilst still serving in the ATC and Sue was presented with the 3rd bar to his Cadet Forces Medal at his funeral.



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Her sister is also associated with RAF blue and is Officer Commanding 2358 (Ferndown) ATC Squadron, Dorset & Wilts Wing. Her partner Dinos is also a Civilian Instructor.

Those who came into contact with Sue always found a caring person and her involvement with the Royal Air force Association and Royal British Legion was typical of that.

A band concert, featuring the Minden Band, held on 19th May at the University Centre, organised by the Milton Branch of RAFA, was dedicated to Sue.

Sue's funeral was attended by a very large number of her friends and colleges from within the local community.

Our sympathy is with her family friends and colleagues who have had Sue taken away from them prematurely.

by Flt. Lt. Philip Starling OC 2524 (Oakington) Squadron

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