

MP Condon Eulogy

Michael was born in Clacton on Sea, Essex, on the 25th April 1934. The eldest child of Edith and Michael Condon. His mother was local and father, who was born in Ireland, moving to England in the late 1920's.

Michael had two sisters and three brothers, of which only one is alive, brother Brian Condon who lives in Clacton. He was married in 1953 to a local girl, Jean Mann, who lived in a house around the corner.

After more than a 30 year marriage to Jean they divorced in the mid 80's. Jean passed away in September 2019. Had one child, a daughter, Denise born 1956, who now resides in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, with husband, Peter, who had two boys, Philip and Kieran, his grandchildren. Michael had four Great Grandchildren, two boys, twins, Joshua and Noah with Philip and Anna and two boys, Zach and Henry with Kieran and Sarah.

Michael lived most of his early years in Clacton, with the family being evacuated to Peterborough for a period in WWII before returning to Clacton. He joined the Royal Air Force in January 1952 serving as a Fireman and completed 22 years service before discharge in April 1974. He served mostly on Airfields in various places in the UK and overseas in Australia and Germany. Shortly following this marriage to Jean he was posted to Iraq, this was 1953. Many years were spent in Norfolk serving at RAF Marham and West Raynham. His last station, before discharge was RAF Honnington. He was also in Christmas Island, where he served during the testing of the Hydrogen Bombs, Operation Grapple, in the late 1950's. He was one of the lucky ones who did not contract Cancer from the Nuclear Fallout, in later years. Those serving there have only recently received a medal from the government for their participation in these tests.

Following discharge from the RAF the family settled in Bury St. Edmunds, buying a house on Horringer Court Estate and lived there until 1979, later moving to Fornham All Saints. After the divorce he continued to live in Bury St Edmunds.

After leaving the RAF he was employed at Barber Greene, an engineering company who manufactured tarmac laying machines, as a fitters mate and forklift driver, their factory area is now occupied by Suffolk Council offices. He

later went to Claas Combines at Saxham followed by several different jobs before retiring.

Hobbies were gardening and the welfare of friends, he done odd jobs for friends and neighbours. The RAFA and Royal British Legion also took up many hours of his time. Served on various committees and was Standard Bearer for the RAFA Bury Branch for many years. Also on the committee at Bardwell Branch of the British Legion up until it was disbanded in 2013. Later several old members met in Stanton weekly where they played bingo, he calling the numbers. He regularly attended the Remembrance Day service on the Angel Hill until 2019.

Although he travelled to many places throughout his RAF career holiday's were not his 'thing', but he did visit his daughter and family, a couple of times, while they were working in Hong Kong. He also visited the USA, to see some of his father's family who settled in New York State.

In later life he could be seen in Greggs café in Abbeygate Street, most days of the week. He enjoyed talking to customers and the staff.

Following the death of his wife in September 2019 we noticed that his memory was not as good and wondered if this was the start of Dementia. Covid lockdown came and his memory was getting much worse, we set up home care but then he fell in his flat and was taken to hospital in April 2020. Here he contacted Covid but luckily recovered and was moved to Fornham House Care Home in May 2020 for rehabilitation as he was now unable to look after himself. He enjoyed his time there with the nursing staff who provided wonderful care through the later years of his life.

We would also like to thank the friends who visited him and kept us informed of his wellbeing.