

SGT DAVE L ADAMS

by Terry Millership

A true friend Crew commander and ex serving brother to the fire service.

Dave started his RAF service doing his basic fire training at Sutton on Hull. He then served at a variety of postings, including Malta where he met his wife to be Jess. Jess went on to give him five wonderful children; Terry, Angela, Melissa, Martin, and the youngest Darren. In between making his family, Dave served at Sharjah, Wildenrath, Bishops Court, Ternhill.

Then Dave got posted to RAF Oakington and that's how I got to know him. I met Dave the day he arrived as a SGT on posting to Oakington. He took over as a crew commander and served in that role until the station closed in the mid-seventies. Happy days had by all with many funny stories still fresh in the mind. One that readily springs to mind is the day Ted Doran tried to barrel roll a Mk6 on the rough ground driving area. He almost made it, getting over 3/4 of the way around when the ground stopped him. That was when Dave called a "crash crash crash" over the radio, "Mk6 five POB rough driving area". Everyone thought it was a practice until we arrived to see the Mk6 on its roof, I could name the crew on board, But they will have there own stories to tell about that.

On being posted from Oakington Dave found himself back at Wildenrath, working with Harriers and Lightnings. I his time there he had two major incidents with Harriers, for which he was given high praise for his actions.

I visited Germany several times and stayed with the family. This is when Dave introduced me to country music, as he had formed a group called Country Jade. The group played in most of the clubs and messes in the area, plus many local bars like Uncle Pauls, and Smitty,s to name two.

On return to the UK Dave got a posting to High Wycombe. Again, it was a job he relished and work hard doing, but the main thing he did when their was to arrange a wedding reception.

I phoned him to say I was getting married, and his reply was "ok leave the reception to me". After the wedding, my wife Barbara and I arrived at Dave's to find everything sorted, and a great party was had by all. (The cost was zero) Dave had arranged it all through friends in the messes. Again thanks to everyone for that day, and thanks to Jess for the bedroom that night..!!!

At the end of this posting Dave left the RAF for a quiet life as a freeman, or so he thought. On leaving Dave found adjusting to life outside hard, having worked with people that had a pride in their work and the thing they did. So Dave being Dave, he set about starting his own driving school down in Whitstable and Herne Bay, which he did very successfully. On top of that he reformed the group Country Jade, which once again became a very popular group. With Dave as lead, Jess as backing, Terry on Bass,(his eldest son) and a friend on key boards, they did gigs all around the south coast and south London.

But not only did he manage to do all of this, he did Standard Bearer duties for RAFA from the early eighties until ill health in late twenty-sixteen, and

coastal watch for Herne Bay which he did on weekends. Dave finally slowed down when he was given the sad news he had cancer, and after a long battle he finally lost the fight on 30 March 2018 at 0021 hrs.

But as with everything Dave did, he took this posting to a higher place by the horns, and left us head held high and his duties down here completed.

RIP DAVE L ADAMS. A friend and a hero to the many that knew him, plus a brother to the RAF Fire Service.

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