

## JOHN'S EULOGY

- John was born in Blayney, NSW, on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1940. His father was Arthur Samuel Rowe, an Anglican Minister, born in Burwood, Sydney. John's mother, Mona Blackett, was from Dubbo, NSW, and was originally his father's housekeeper. They fell in love and were married. John was unexpectedly born when his mother was 37 years and his father 52 years.
- John went to boarding school from the age six years and only went home on Christmas holidays. Hence, he had a fairly regimented life from an early age. His father died when he was quite young so, because his mum was a widow, trying to earn a living, John continued at boarding school, (apart from holidays) until he joined the RAAF when he was 17 years of age.
- John married my mum, Julie in 1973, and they loved each other very much. They were married for 37 years until my Mum died in 2010, aged 70 years. She was also John's carer since 1995 when John had his first major stroke.
- Even though I was John's stepdaughter he loved and treated me as his own daughter.
- After joining the Air Force, John served in the RAAF for 38 years (1957-1995) and also as a UN Peacekeeper. He worked in airfield maintenance, air movements, training and development, stores and as loadmaster, particularly with the C130A Hercules aircraft. He was a member of the 2000 hours flying club. (in particular, 36 Squadron).
- Very sociable and likeable man and was Chairman of the Mess Committee in the Sergeants' Mess Chester Hill. He is fondly remembered, particularly those at the Richmond Air Base in NSW.
- Dedicated to his work in the RAAF and was the recipient of a number of medals (which I was finally able to find) including

the 'Conspicuous Service Cross' which is a category in the 'Order of Australia'.

- After leaving the RAAF, John passed-on his skills and knowledge to the next generation and was very involved with the RAAF Air Training Corps, particularly 210 Squadron in Toowoomba, and he became their Commanding Officer. There is a Certificate of Appreciation from them on the table with his medals.
- John was a member of the RSL Queensland Branch and attended as many ANZAC Memorial Services as he could.
- John and Mum had many loves including animals, especially cats, and natural wildlife, and were very generous to the RSPCA. They enjoyed travelling the world together and particularly loved restoring classic Sunbeam cars. They were very involved members in the Sunbeam Owners Car Club and won many awards for their cars, in particular, the Sunbeam Alpine Series, of which they have four. (cars made famous by Sean Connery, Elizabeth Taylor and the TV series Get Smart).
- Both John and my mum, Julie, were Justices of the Peace in New South Wales and in Queensland.
- John carried-on the service to our country, initiated by his uncle, Lance Corporal Reginald Lewis, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Infantry who was killed in action in 1915, aged 19 years. He was the son of Henry Earnest and Mary Rowe, from Burwood, NSW.
- John had a beautiful smile and blue eyes. He loved his vanilla ice cream, with or without topping, and his war and western movies. He was very generous to those who were poor and in need. He was kind, gentle and humble and loved my mother dearly. He served his country 'above and beyond the call of duty', and passed-on that love of service and of country to the next generation.

- John will be sadly missed by all who knew him and loved him. I thank all those who cared for him, with all my heart, particularly when I was unable to do so. I pray that God will richly bless each one of you.
- I thank God for His grace towards each one of us through Jesus His Son, and that John received His gift of forgiveness and eternal life, by faith, before he died. John is with God our Father and Jesus in Heaven, and I know all who believe will see him in Heaven and share Eternal Life, with God. My prayer is that everyone who knew John and Mum will come to that same faith.
- Thank you to all who have come to honour John today. I know there are many more who would like to have done so but were unable to come for various reasons. God bless you all. We love you John.