

## Obituary - Michael Vincent Jones



Mick Jones a Past Chairman of the Defence Police Federation passed away on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November aged 75 years.

Mick Jones was born on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1939 and spent his childhood days growing up in Telford, Shropshire

In 1959 at age 20 years Mick was called up for National Service joining the Royal Military Police and later served as a Dog Handler with No5 Dog Company in Malaya. While serving in Malaya Mick met Chong Oi Cheung. In 1961 Mick returned home to Shropshire accompanied by Cheung and later that year they got married. Cheung became known to all as 'Dotty'.

Mick began his police career in 1963 with the Army Departmental Constabulary (ADC) at Donnington. It was around this time that Mick was diagnosed with Diabetes, a condition he had to bear for the rest of his life. Putting to good use his past experience as a RMP Dog Handler he became a police dog handler and between 1966 and 1969 went on to win top prizes with police dog Brett at the ADC and Army (UK) Dog Trials.

Promoted to Sergeant in 1968 meant a transfer to Bicester where he continued his work with the police dog section. During these early years Mick was an active member of the ADC Association at a time leading up to the formation of the Defence Police Federation and amalgamation of the departmental constabularies into a single Mod Police Force in October 1971.

Mick continued to serve at Bicester and combine his police duties with being a federation representative in the new area structure that prevailed at that time. He took on the role of 'Friend' representing members who found themselves subject to discipline investigation. Later Mick was elected on to the DPF Management Committee representing Western Area and in 1979 became National Vice-Chairman.

During his time as Vice- Chair he represented DPF at joint meetings on police clothing and equipment. Not an easy task given MoD's bureaucratic procurement system.

In 1982 Mick was elected National Chairman presiding over the Federation at a time when the very future of the Force was under real threat of reduced numbers and closure of establishments. As Chairman he soon developed his unique style of leadership representing the DPF in many appearances before the Defence Select Committee as well as when meeting with Defence and other Government Ministers. Intense parliamentary lobbying campaigns also featured heavily in his brief often resulting in long periods in the Commons sometimes late into the night. On one such occasion it was very late and while waiting to meet MP's outside one of the Committee Rooms Mick in need of something to eat dipped into his briefcase and pulled out a sandwich & flask. Suddenly a HOC police officer appeared out of the shadows to declare 'Sorry Sir No Picnicking in the Lobby allowed'.

Without doubt Mick had a strong commitment to helping others and although there were many demands on his time he would continue to be involved in legal and discipline cases and would in the more serious cases represent members at hearings before the Chief Constable.

During his 15 years at the helm Mick fostered good relations with the UK's other police federations and regularly attended their annual conferences representing the DPF. Without question he was a good ambassador.

One of Mick's enduring characteristics was his pipe. When in his company people would be enthralled with the ritual of him first cutting then the careful rolling of the tobacco usually Black Irish Twist, slowly packing it into the pipe then lighting it and moments later everyone being engulfed in a thick black plume of smoke. That was Mick.

In 1997 Mick retired and continued to live in Bicester enjoying his long time hobby of canal boating sailing the inland waterways around Oxfordshire. He had a full length narrow boat cabin cruiser 'The Empress of Blandings' but unfortunately had to give it up a few years ago owing to ill health.

Mick's wife Dotty whom he married in 1961 predeceased him in 2006. He is survived by his mother Margaret aged 95 and two sons Robert and Peter.

Mick's funeral service is on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at St Mary's Church, Ambrosden, Bicester Oxfordshire.