

## DEDICATION

### JUNE ELIZABETH SCAMMAN SAWYER

**June Elizabeth Scamman Sawyer** is somewhat of a Stratham history maven, with ancestral roots that date back to the founders of the town. She is also an advanced EMT, a pioneer in her field, an educator, mentor, volunteer, mother, grandmother, and friend to many.



June was born October 17, 1946 to Barbara and Richard Scamman. She and her brother Donald and sisters Linda and Shirley grew up at the family dairy farm, next to her grandparents, Walter and Elizabeth Scamman, on Willowbrook

Ave in Stratham, NH. She graduated from Exeter High school in 1964 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree in accounting from Plymouth State University. June married her husband, Paul Sawyer in March 1967 and celebrated 52 years before Paul's passing in December of 2019. She has 2 sons, Paul, Jr. and Rick, and 4 grandchildren.

In 1951, June's father joined the organizational committee for the Stratham Fire Department and thus began June's relationship with the department at 5 years old. In the 1960's, June became certified in Advanced First Aid through the Office of Civil Defense and was sometimes called to assist with police and fire calls. Her supervisor, who was also a deputy chief at the Stratham Fire Department, decided that due to the nature of their work, it was in June's and the town's best interest to have her become part of the Fire Department so her work was covered by insurance. In 1972, June officially joined the SVFD and became its first female member. Not everyone on the department was ready for a female member, but June was never one to be deterred from her goals.

In 1971, the U.S. Dept. of Transportation published the National Curriculum for EMT's, the first national standard for the education of EMS professionals which was followed by the administration of the first basic NREMT-Ambulance exam. June Sawyer graduated in the second class offered in New Hampshire and was the first female to hold this licensure in New Hampshire.

June went on to earn her firefighter certification in 1974, her intermediate EMT certification in 1991 and her advanced EMT (AEMT) certification in 2015. She held the rank of EMS Captain at SVFD for 13 years, served on the emergency management team, and in 2022, she celebrated her 50th year of service to the Stratham Volunteer Fire Department. June is now the oldest living active responder to retain her certifications in New Hampshire.

She is also recognized for her association with Exeter Hospital where she served as an EMT on their first paramedic truck, providing advanced care to all towns in our region. In addition, she

taught EMT courses for the State of NH Fire Academy in Concord, and still administers the EMR and EMT tests.

In addition to her service to the Fire Department, June serves on the town's Budget Advisory Committee and the Curbside Collection Advisory Committee. She also served on the Ladies Auxiliary for decades, as a Cemetery Trustee for 15 years, from 2008 to 2022, on the Conservation Commission from 1993-96, and assisted in the planning and execution of the Stratham Fair since its inception in 1966. June was also instrumental in the reformation of Stratham Boy Scout Troop 185 in the early 1980s.

June Sawyer is the epitome of service before self and the town of Stratham owes her an enormous debt of gratitude for her service and dedication.



Captain June Sawyer receiving the keys to the new town ambulance on Sept. 12, 1984.



Captain June Sawyer with the Jaws of Life