

Going out with a bang: Former Royal Marine fulfils his wife's dying wish by having her ashes turned into FIREWORKS

- Annette Maunder came up with unusual idea before her death aged 55
- Husband Gary fulfilled her wish by having her ashes piped into fireworks
- Couple had been married for 13 years before Annette lost her cancer battle
- Friends and family watched spectacular firework display at memorial service

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This is the moment a widower made sure his late wife went out with a bang - after turning her ashes into fireworks and blasting her into the sky.

Mother-of-one Annette Maunder, from Plymouth in Devon, came up with the idea with her husband Gary before she died aged 55 from cancer.

Former Royal Marine, Gary, also 55, then fulfilled his soul mate's dying wish by having her ashes piped into rockets and firecrackers. The couple from Plymouth, Devon, had been married for 13 years before Annette died on September 11 following a long battle with cancer.

After she was cremated Mr Maunder commissioned the £250 firework from Essex-based firm, Heavenly Stars Fireworks.

Her ashes were then fed into gold tails, green peonies, crackling dragon eggs and red and blue chrysanthemum bursts before being launched at Devonport Park in Plymouth. Annette's friends and family joined him for a special memorial service on Saturday night - culminating with a spectacular three-minute firework display. Mr Maunder said: 'She would have loved it. It's a good way to send her off.'

'Our 13 years of marriage was the best 13 years of my life. We won the battle but lost the war. She was a keeper.'

Co-op funeral arranger Hayley Pell, who helped organise the display, said: 'In many cultures the funeral is an occasion that brings the whole community together in a grand celebration of a person's life.'

'Gary decided to do just that and, with the help of myself, Annette's ashes have been incorporated into a firework.'

'This is a fitting tribute and a great final farewell to Annette.'



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