

# In memoriam — Erin Savage, MD, CCFP(EM) Lieutenant Colonel, Royal Canadian Medical Service

LCol Colleen Forestier, MD

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**Correspondence to:**

C. Forestier  
257 Currell Ave.  
Ottawa ON K1Z 7J5  
Colleen.Forestier@forces.gc.ca

**Affiliations:** From Canadian Forces Health Services, Ottawa, Ont.

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## SUMMARY

This supplement is dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Erin Savage. Erin passed away peacefully on Nov. 7, 2014, surrounded by loving family and friends in Ottawa, Ont., after a lengthy battle with breast cancer.



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Erin joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1998, during her second year of medical school at Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. After completing her family medicine residency in 2002, Erin was posted to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, in Gagetown, NB, where she quickly earned a reputation as a fantastic clinician, passionate patient advocate and tough, “hard as nails”

military officer. During her 17 years of service with the CAF, she rose to become one of the most respected physicians in the Forces. While serving her country, Erin deployed to both Haiti in 2004 and Afghanistan in 2007 in support of The Royal Canadian Regiment, where she earned a Chief of Defense Staff Commendation for her outstanding work as the senior combat medical physician and leader for Battle Group’s medical company.

After returning from Afghanistan, Erin continued to work incredibly hard as an instructor and advocate for the CAF medical technicians. She ensured that they were sent to the battlefield with the skills and equipment they needed to save the lives of the soldiers they were there to support. Erin’s work in this area included published research that has garnered international attention and that will improve battlefield trauma care.

Erin’s dedication to improving battlefield care will have a lasting impact on the CAF, and has influenced a large number of CAF medical technicians and physicians. Her impact, however, is perhaps best measured in the tributes from her colleagues in the combat infantry unit with which she served overseas:

“The Royal Canadian Regiment has lost a great friend and true member of our regimental family ... She will be remembered with affection and respect as one of our own.”



LCol Erin Savage with WO Tim Ralph (retired).