

June 2021

Smokejumper Obituary: Kase, Charles Jeffrey "Chuck" (La Grande 1974)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Kase, Charles Jeffrey "Chuck" (La Grande 1974)

Chuck, 67, died June 11, 2021. He was born August 8, 1953, in Berkeley, California and grew up in Puyallup, Washington, where he graduated from Rogers H.S. in 1971. Chuck graduated with a degree in Zoology from the University of Washington. He then went through medical school as a Naval officer at Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland (1979-84). Chuck did his internship at the Naval Hospital in Oakland (1984-85) and was Medical Officer aboard the USS Sacramento.

He was head of the Emergency Dept. at Bremerton Naval Hospital 1985-88, did his Orthopedic Surgery Residency at Oakland 1988-92, and was Head of the Orthopedic Surgery Dept. at 29 Palms Naval Hospital 1992-93. Chuck then went into private practice in Wasilla, Alaska, 1994-2014, when he retired. He was an avid skier, bike rider, pilot and even built his own airplane. Chuck jumped at La Grande 1974-76 and at Fairbanks 1977-79.

(end of excerpt)