

January 2021

Smokejumper Obituary: Peterson, Sheridan Louis "Pete" (Missoula 1953)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Peterson, Sheridan Louis "Pete" (Missoula 1953)

Pete died January 8, 2021, in Santa Rosa, California. He was born May 2, 1926, in Santa Rosa. His July 2007 D.B. Cooper story in Smokejumper was noted on a Fox News release of his death. A WWII Marine Corps vet, he was a graduate of Santa Rosa Jr. College and the University of Missouri.

"During the summer of '65, the Federation of Teachers had sent me by Greyhound bus to Mississippi to set up a freedom school in Amite County. From there, the U.S. Department of Defense had sent me to The Philippines to teach dependents at Clark Air Base. I had moved to Vietnam by June 1966."

The DB Cooper heist occurred in November 1971. Question by the FBI about his location at the time, "I was in Nepal at the time, and I can prove it handing them copies of my children's birth certificates. They were born there."

"In the early 1960s, I had been a technical editor at Boeing and on top of that, I was an experienced skydiver. I was president and founder of the Boeing Skydiving Club, and I later jumped at the Issaquah Sky Port, earning an instructor's license. Fellow jumpers remembered me as a maverick. For example, I had a penchant for experimenting with homemade bat wings."

Pete jumped at Missoula during the 1953-54 seasons.

(end of excerpt)