

January 2021

Smokejumper Obituary: Cowan Jr., John L. (Smokejumper Pilot 0000)

National Smokejumper Association

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Recommended Citation

National Smokejumper Association, "Smokejumper Obituary: Cowan Jr., John L. (Smokejumper Pilot 0000)" (2021). *Smokejumper Obituaries*. 244.
https://dc.ewu.edu/smokejumper_bios/244

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Smokejumper Obituary

Cowan Jr., John L. (Smokejumper Pilot 0000)

John, 65, died of liver failure May 29,1993, in a Gresham care center.

He was born June 10, 1927, in Portland and grew up on a farm on the Smith River near Reedsport.

During World War II, he served in the Marine Corps and was honorably discharged as a technical sergeant in 1949.

John was a smokejumper pilot for many years and retired in 1980 as regional air officer for the U.S. Forest Service. From 1987 to 1992, he worked as a seed certification specialist for Oregon State University and the Washington Crop Improvement Association.

(end of excerpt)