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Smokejumper Obituary: Muehlethaler, Charles Joseph "Charley Joe" (Missoula 1946)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Muehlethaler, Charles Joseph "Charley Joe" (Missoula 1946)

Charles, 92, died August 31, 2014, in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He was born July 26, 1922, in Gettysburg, South Dakota, and grew up near Rathdrum, Idaho, where he graduated from high school. Charles served in the Navy during WWII and was discharged in 1946.

He graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in Forestry. While there he joined the ROTC to earn a little extra money. His service in the ROTC also earned him a tour with the U.S. Air Force in Korea as a Lieutenant and Navigator of a Lockheed F94B Interceptor. He came home after 47 missions across the DMZ.

Charles had a number of civilian jobs including working for MacDonald Douglas, Idaho Forestry Department, Diamond Match, and Weyerhaeuser where he retired from after 35 years. He jumped at Missoula during the 1946-47, 1949 seasons and got 11 practice and 12 fire jumps.

(end of excerpt)