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Smokejumper Obituary: Blackburn, Joe (Missoula 1951)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Blackburn, Joe (Missoula 1951)

Joe, 88, died December 17, 2019, at his home in Plummer, Idaho. He graduated from the University of Montana in 1953 and entered the Army as a Second Lieutenant assigned to the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg. Joe was later assigned to the 12th Special Forces Group and retired as a Major.

Joe then became a Conservation Officer with the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game and eventually was a regional supervisor. After retirement from that position, Joe served as an enforcement agent for the Idaho Outfitter and Guides Licensing Board. In 1996 he was elected as Benewah County Sheriff and served a four-year term.

Joe was an avid runner competing in 13 marathons and 12 triathlons. He jumped at Missoula 1951-53.

(end of excerpt)