

March 2019

Smokejumper Obituary: Petaja, Rich (Missoula 1965)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Petaja, Rich (Missoula 1965)

Rich died March, 2019. He graduated from the University of Montana before entering the Army where he was a Captain during the Vietnam War. Rich and his family moved several times during his time in the service before coming back to Missoula where he obtained a Master's Degree.

The family moved to Helena where Rich began a 30-year career with the Department of Corrections. After retirement he did volunteer work with the Red Cross and worked for FEMA in hurricane recovery.

Rich jumped at Missoula 1965-66.

(end of excerpt)