

January 2017

Smokejumper Obituary: Kersh, Richard C. (La Grande 1976)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Kersh, Richard C. (La Grande 1976)

Dick, 65, died January 2, 2016, after an 18-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He attended schools in Redding and graduated from Enterprise H.S. in 1969 where he was an outstanding wrestler. Dick served 32 years with the USFS on five forests. He worked in many areas of wildland firefighting: firefighter, engine crew, helitack crew, hotshot, smokejumper and operations chief.

Dick retired from the Six Rivers N.F. in 2004 and went to work with the BIA/Hoopa Wildland Fire Program as Operations Chief until the fall of 2009. Dick is the son of Bob Kersh, the original Loft Foreman at Redding.

(end of excerpt)