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Smokejumper Obituary: Phillips, James R. (Missoula 1967)

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Smokejumper Obituary

Phillips, James R. (Missoula 1967)

Jim, 73, died July 17, 2016, at his home in Helena of Pancreatic Cancer. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1961 as a Hospital Corpsman assigned to the 4th Marines at Kenohe Bay, Hawaii, in the Fleet Marine Force. After his discharge he enrolled at the University of Montana and jumped four seasons while getting his degree.

Jim's professional career included 25 years as a school counselor, ten years as a civil rights contract compliance officer for the Montana Dept. of Transportation and five year in private sector management. He was very active in the NSA Trails Program and acted as the lead liaison between the USFS and the NSA in the facilitation of a completed Mann Gulch Preservation Plan and trail system.

Jim jumped at Missoula 1967 and 71, and at Grangeville during the 1968-69 seasons and was Life Member of the National Smokejumper Association. He headed up the 2015 National Reunion in Missoula celebrating 75 years of smokejumping.

(end of excerpt)