

June 2013

Smokejumper Obituary: Washam, Loyle (Missoula 1951)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Washam, Loyle (Missoula 1951)

Loyle, 87, died June 17, 2013, in Boise, Idaho. He served in the Navy during World War II, mostly at Okinawa Island, and following the war joined the Army Reserve, retiring as lieutenant colonel in 1978. Loyle served in the Green Berets and was a Special Forces member.

He earned degrees from Boise Junior College (later Boise State University), College of Idaho, University of Southern California, University of Idaho and Washington State University. Loyle trained and jumped at Missoula in 1951 before jumping at McCall in 1953-54, 1956-58 and 1960-62.

Loyle spent his professional career as an educator, ranging from teaching fifth grade to high school, and serving as counselor and vice principal.

He received the Distinguished Citizen award from the Idaho Statesman newspaper in Boise in August 1987. Loyle was an avid bicyclist, logging more than 2,000 miles per year, and worked with City of Boise officials to install bike lanes there. He also worked on the Weiser River Trail project, rode the Lewis and Clark Trail and rode from Canada to Mexico. Loyle was eight states short of his goal of riding at least 50 miles in each of the 50 states, and in one calendar year logged 300 car-free days. He also remained an enthusiastic parachutist, making his final jump - in tandem - April 13, 2013.

(end of excerpt)