

March 2011

Smokejumper Obituary: Higbee, Arthur E. (North Cascades 1946)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Higbee, Arthur E. (North Cascades 1946)

Art, 84, died Feb. 7, 2011, in Arvada, Colorado. He attended pre-aviation cadet training at Montana State College and became a cryptographer in the Army Air Corps (predecessor of the U.S. Air Force) in 1945, serving as a first lieutenant with a heavy-bombardment squadron. After an honorable discharge, Art jumped from Winthrop for the 1946 season. He went back to the Air Force Cadet Training Program in 1948, graduating the following year as a first lieutenant troop carrier pilot. Art served in the Korean War. Returning to civilian life in 1953, he worked for Guthrie Construction in Spokane, Washington, before joining the Washington State Patrol as an officer. Art left that position and moved to Seattle, where he began a 28-year career as a claims adjuster for Grange Insurance. The company transferred him to Denver in 1968, where he remained; he left the insurance industry in 1991 and worked for Cook Distributing, a Christian book distribution company, for two years. Art then became an associate pastor at Faith Bible Chapel, retiring in 2008.

(end of excerpt)