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Smokejumper Obituary: Lynch, John D. (Pilot 0000)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Lynch, John D. (Pilot 0000)

Denny passed away Friday, Dec. 30, 2005, at St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings due to heart complications. He was born in Shelby, November 21, 1935, the second of six children. He attended Central Catholic High School and grew up with a passion for flying.

Earning his private pilot license in 1952, he began a long and adventurous career in aviation.

Denny flew for Johnson Flying Service, Morrison-Knudsen and Fuller Webb flying on the Minute Man Missile sites throughout Montana and Wyoming. Pioneers in aviation, his father and Uncle, TW Lynch, founded Lynch Flying Service in 1940 and Denny went to work for them in the late 50s. In 1964, Denny founded Lynch Air Tankers and purchased his first B-26. For the next 30 years, his reputation for quality and safety in forest firefighting was renown in the "Tanker" industry. One of his career highlights was joining the Screen Actors Guild and flying his B-26's "Tankers 57 & 59" as a stunt pilot in the movie "Always" by Steven Spielberg.

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