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## Smokejumper Obituary: Roosa, Stuart Allen (Cave Junction 1953)

National Smokejumper Association

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# Smokejumper Obituary

## Roosa, Stuart Allen (Cave Junction 1953)

Stuart, 61, died December 12, 1994, in Falls Church, Virginia, and is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. He was born August 16, 1933, in Durango, Colorado, and grew up in Claremore, Oklahoma, where he graduated from Claremore H.S. in 1951. He earned his bachelor's in Aeronautical Engineering with honors from the University of Colorado in 1960.

He jumped at Cave Junction in 1953 and had four fire jumps before going into the USAF. Stuart received his flight training at Williams AFB, Arizona. He attended USAF Aerospace Research Pilot School and was an experimental test pilot at Edwards AFB before being selected for the astronaut class of 1966.

He was the Command Module Pilot for the Apollo 14 mission to the moon in 1971 and spent 33 hours conducting an extensive series of experiments in his solo orbit. He remained in orbit while Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell walked on the moon. Stuart carried tree seeds as part of a joint USFS/NASA project. The seeds were germinated and planted upon his return to earth becoming known as "Moon Trees." One of the "Moon Trees" was planted at the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base (CJ) where he jumped in 1953.

Stuart was backup Command Module Pilot for Apollo 16 and Apollo 17 and would have commanded one of the last Apollo missions had they not been cancelled.

After remaining with the Space Shuttle Program, he retired in 1976 with rank of colonel. He logged 5,500 of flying time, 5,000 jet aircraft time, and 217 hours in space.

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