

December 2022

Smokejumper Obituary: Owen, David L. "Dave" (Missoula 1951)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Owen, David L. "Dave" (Missoula 1951)

Dave, 92, died November 28, 2022. He was born March 18, 1930, in Madison, Wisconsin, where he grew up and graduated from high school. Dave spent a year in the Army and then moved to Montana where he earned his degree in Rangeland Management from the University of Montana. He jumped at Missoula 1951, 53, 54 and at Grangeville in 1952.

Following college, Dave began a career with the USFS working on several Ranger Districts in Idaho, and in 1958, started his first job as a District Ranger on Big Prairie Ranger District. He went on to serve as ranger at Ninemile Ranger District. At that time, he met a young biology teacher named Kay. They started their family at Ninemile and continued to raise them while Dave worked at Superior and then Spotted Bear Ranger Districts.

(end of excerpt)