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National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Lungren, Edward Clarence (Ed) (McCall 1951)

Ed, 94, died June 8, 2024, in Collierville, Tennessee. He was born April 3, 1930, in Sioux City, Iowa. Ed was raised in Boise Idaho, and graduated from Boise H.S. in 1948. After High school he attended Boise Jr Collage then transferred to the University of Idaho on the GI bill—he took a year off during his high school and joined the Army, he then returned to finish high school. During his college years, 1951-52, Ed worked the summers as a smokejumper at McCall. After graduating from college, he served two years in the army then entered the Air Guard, the beginning of a long love of flying.

Once completing his pilot training, he went to work for West Coast Airlines in 1957 flying DC-3's throughout the NW. As time passed, he earned his captain status with the airlines and moved his family to Seattle, Washington. While in Seattle he became the Chief Pilot of the Seattle base. In 1976 he relocated to Phoenix Arizona where Ed assumed the Chief pilot position for the Phoenix base of operations and joined Moon Vally Country Club.

Ed lived in Phoenix until a job relocation moved him to Memphis Tennessee. Ed retired in 1990 at the age of 60, two years later he was hired by FedEx to start a training program for the MD-11, a new airplane that FedEx was bringing online. During the 13 years Ed worked for FedEx he also enjoyed building and flying RC airplanes and playing golf.

(end of excerpt)