

# Widow of Forrest Bird dies in plane crash [Edit](#)

**Scott Maben/SR**

A small plane crash Thursday morning near Hope, Idaho, killed three friends and pilots, including the widow of Dr. Forrest Morton Bird, whose research in breathing apparatuses led to the development of the modern respirator.

Sagle resident Pamela Riddle Bird, who lost her husband Aug. 2, died in the crash along with Tookie and Don Hensley of Mohave Valley, Arizona, friends confirmed today.

They were aboard a Cessna 182 fixed-wing aircraft that went down in the Cabinet Mountains near Lake Pend Oreille on Thursday morning. Searchers found the crash site on the south side of Round Top Mountain Thursday afternoon.

Clark Fork Fire and Rescue responded to the crash site. Fire Marshal Lois John said the flight originated from the Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center in Sagle and was headed to Boise.

The museum, founded in 2007 by Forrest and Pamela Bird, has its own private airstrip. Billed as the world's only aeromedical museum, it showcases the work of inventors and displays more than unique aircraft plus rare vintage cars.

The museum includes over 100 medical inventions by Forrest Bird, including the medical respirator, inventions from the pioneering of medi-evac, anti-g suit pressure regulator and the first mass-produced worldwide respirator for babies.

After her husband died this past summer at age 94, Pamela Bird said, "He was a great man and humanitarian. He saved millions of lives, one at a time."

Pamela Bird and Tookie Hensley flew together in the Air Race Classic, a cross-country air race for women. Hensley was an instrument flight instructor and ground instructor as well as a pilot and flight school owner.

Pamela Bird was founder and CEO of Innovative Product Technologies, Inc., a product and technology-based market commercialization corporation with a branch office in Sandpoint. She worked as a liaison between inventor organizations, venture capital organizations, entrepreneurial networks and research park facilities.

She also was founder of Inventors Educational Foundation, a non-profit public charity to assist in the educational and commercialization needs of innovators and entrepreneurs.