

Biographies Wanted!

Over the past few issues of the AEROGRAPH, there has been a call for NWSA members to prepare a BIO and submit it to the editor of the Aerograph. Hopefully the below comments clear up the difference between a BIO and an Obituary. The BIO should be provided to individual family members so when needed they can use it to prepare your Obituary for local purposes.

A **Biography**, or simply **BIO**, is a detailed description of a person's life. It involves more than just the basic facts like education, work, relationships, and death; it portrays a person's experience of these life events. Unlike a profile, a biography presents a subject's life story, highlighting various aspects of his or her life, including intimate details of experiences and accomplishments. It may include an analysis of the subject's personality.

An **Obituary** is a newspaper or printed article about the passing of a life. It capsulizes the life and makes reference to those left behind.

The difference here is that an obituary isn't telling a story but a biography is. Both are fact-based and an obit would be the briefer of the two. The more prose you add to it, the more story-like it becomes. There is similarity in you are telling about a person, but an obituary is short, impersonal, and to the point, just a paragraph or two, while a biography goes into more detail about the person and who they were.

Lloyd Corbett, AGCS USN RET