

## Karen Corbett Spangler, 74

PA 4 17 Feb 2021  
On Friday, Feb. 12, 2021, Karen Corbett Spangler, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend, passed away at the age of 74.

Karen was born Dec. 2, 1946, in Girard, Ohio, to Michael and Loretta Corbett. She remained in Girard throughout her childhood, where she painted and danced through the town with her sister, Marcia Corbett, and her best friend for life, Carolyn Koppel Pitman. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English degree from the University of Mount Union in 1968 and moved to Pittsburgh to begin her teaching career. On Aug. 26, 1969, she married her husband of 52 years, David Lurting Spangler. After a few years of teaching, Karen pursued and received her registered nursing degree from Allegheny County Community College, and from then on she devoted her life to nurturing and taking care of others.

In Karen's professional life she worked as nurse in several settings, but the place she felt her calling was the emergency room. When she and her family moved to Williamsburg, Virginia, in the mid '80s, Karen decided to blend her training as a teacher and her gift of being an amazing nurse, and started teaching a nursing program at Lafayette High School. Karen loved teaching and mentoring her students; her passion and energy for nursing has been transferred to many amazing students and colleagues that will continue to be harnessed into caring for others. Karen and David lived in several locations throughout their marriage, but they always knew that they would return to Whitefish in retirement, and they did so in 2006.

and that giving unto others is what life is all about. Karen's warm and welcoming smile was her signature that will never be forgotten by those who loved her. Karen's door was permanently open and there was always an extra spot at the kitchen table for family and friends. The relationships that were built and cultivated as part of Karen's open-door policy are solid like no others. Karen had a love for the outdoors and in her retirement enjoyed nothing more than a day filled with hiking with her family or friends, sitting by the lake devouring a good book, canoeing with the ladies, and just drinking in the beautiful Montana sky. Her love of dance continued throughout her life, and those that loved her will never be able to hear "Proud Mary" without thinking of her. She looked forward to her trips back east to spend time with her four amazing grandchildren, cheering them on in all their endeavors.

Karen is survived by her husband, David; her daughters, Sarah and Emily (and husband Eric Murphy); her grandchildren, Jacob, Michal, Emma and Emerson; her sister Marcia and brother-in-law Michael Silverstein; her brother and sister-in-law Scott and Sharon Spangler; her nieces and nephew, Lauren, Kaelyn, Erin and Brett; and several cousins. In addition to her biological family, Karen is survived by an amazing bouquet of friends whom she loved unconditionally.

A memorial service will be held to celebrate Karen's life at a later date.

## Robert Wilson Sparks, 68

Robert Wilson Sparks, 68, of Kalispell, died April 6, 2021, at his home in Kalispell.

Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Glacier National Park National Park Conservancy Endowment Fund through Whitefish Community Foundation (<https://whitefishcommunityfoundation.org/>).

Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Karen not only dedicated her professional life to caring for others, but did so with her family and friends as well. She and David selflessly raised their two daughters, Sarah and Emily, teaching them that they should always love unconditionally, cherish all moments with family and friends,

## Deanna Jean Spletstoser, 83



Deanna Jean Spletstoser, 83, was born on Nov. 28, 1937, in Great Falls, and passed away Dec. 25, 2020. Deanna was the first of eight children born to Gene and Margaret Leistiko, then of Power, Montana. They lived in a small cabin on the John and Hedwig Leistiko ranch near Power. Six of the eight children were born on that property.

Being the oldest child in the family, Deanna was often considered the "Boss" when the folks were gone to town or on an overnight trip to a square dance festival. Deanna was always the "Big Sister" the other siblings took seriously. She was the substitute parent they could always turn to.

Deanna attended Simms High School in Simms, Montana, where she was on the honor roll for three years, prom queen in 1955, and received the Heisey Foundation Award upon graduation in May of 1955. Her career goal was to become a certified public accountant, a career she followed for more than 40 years.

Deanna graduated from Kinman Business University in Spokane in July of 1956 with a Master of Accounts certification.

She married Jerome Spletstoser in her hometown Parish in Fort Shaw, Montana, on Oct. 11, 1956. The couple lived in Spokane where their two children, Victor and Tracy, were born. Tracy

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was born in 1958 and Victor was born in 1962.

Deanna and Jerry moved back to Montana

and lived in Kalispell where Tracy and Victor attended high school. In September of 1975, their son Victor died tragically in a trailer house fire.

Deanna worked for Pack & Company and Semitool from 1975 to 1986.

In 1986, Deanna and her husband moved to Camarillo, California, where Deanna worked as an accountant for Structural Concepts for five years while attending Ventura College to earn two more associate degrees in accounting and science, graduating in 1989. In 1991 Deanna earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of La Verne and went on to work as an accountant for Stoneware Unlimited in Oxnard, California.

After the death of her father, Gene Leistiko, in August of 1990, Deanna finally decided to return to Montana to help care for her mother who lived alone on the family ranch in Condon. A few years later her mother's health required the care of a nursing home, and she was moved to Hamilton for her care. Deanna cared for her mother while she was in the nursing home in Hamilton until her moth-

er passed away in 2000.

Deanna and Jerry moved back and forth between Arizona and Montana for the next few years until Deanna decided she wanted to stay in Montana. Deanna and her husband lived together and apart for the next two years and eventually were divorced in August 2000. Deanna and Jerry maintained a close relationship until his death in October 2019. Deanna took Jerry's death pretty hard. The loss of her only life partner was traumatic for Deanna and the onset of dementia began to surface. Her oldest living brother Fred was appointed by the court to be her guardian as her health declined. When it became apparent to her doctors that Deanna could not be left to care for herself, Fred moved her to an assisted living facility in Kalispell near him so he could watch over her. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic it became impossible to make routine visits to the assisted living home for friends and family. Fred made sure he was able to at least talk with his sister on a weekly basis. Deanna passed away on Christmas Day, 2020.

Deanna was preceded in death by her parents, Gene and Margaret Leistiko, of Condon; her oldest brother, John Bruce Leistiko; twin siblings, Patricia Ann (Leistiko) Anderson and William Paul Leistiko; and her youngest sibling, Margaret Rose (Leistiko)

Clark; son Victor and husband Jerry; and nephew, Jeff Anderson.

Deanna is survived by her three brothers, Fred Allen Leistiko (Connie) of Kalispell, Steven Gene Leistiko (Melneeta) of Helmville, and Eugene Francis Leistiko (Evelyn) of Lyons, Colorado; daughter, Tracy Miller and granddaughter Charlene Miller of California; nieces, Shannon, Sheryl, Sue, Gena, Coco, Shanna, Kay Lynn, Vicky, Shelley and Michelle; nephews, Troy, Eric, Jason, Wally, Pat, David and Steve; and many grandnieces and -nephews.

Deanna and Fred were charged with fulfilling their parents' last request to make sure the Catholic Church had the land necessary to build a new church in the Swan Valley. The land beneath Our Lady of the Swan Catholic Church was a part of the Leistiko Ranch that was donated to the Helena Diocese to build that church.

Deanna was very supportive of the De La Salle Blackfeet School at 104 First St. NW, Browning, Montana 59417. Gifts may be given to the school in her name. The school is a Catholic school associated with the University of Notre Dame and the Diocese of Helena.

Deanna will be buried next to her parents at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell.

## Sharon Marie Sparling, 82

*PAB 14 Mar 2021*

Sharon Marie Sparling was called home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Nov. 18, 2020, after a very short, but very brave, battle with pancreatic cancer.

Sharon was born on Nov. 25, 1937 — Thanksgiving Day — to Henrie and Marvel Nichol. She was raised in Libby, then Kalispell. For a while, the family lived on a farm where Sharon learned to play the piano — a skill she would carry her entire life and use to bless many, many people. When she moved to Kalispell in the third grade, she met the future love of her life, Robert “Bob” Sparling, in Sunday School. The two began dating in high school. After high school, they left Montana to attend Pacific Lutheran University. They married on June 8, 1957, just after finishing their freshman year of college. They lived for a short time in Oregon, where Bob attended school to become a civil engineer.

Sharon and Bob eventually settled back in Tacoma, Washington, where they raised their three children, Kathy, Jill and Bruce, in a home filled with love. Sharon taught piano lessons to



children in the neighborhood for many years, and played the piano on Sundays at church

when they attended St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. She made many, many friends over the years, mostly through her dedicated involvement with her church (St. Mark’s, then Life Center). She adored her Bible Study group and loved hosting monthly birthday parties to make sure each lady had their special day celebrated in the group. She also volunteered in the church’s thrift shop and was determined to be a blessing to every person who stopped in. Everyone who met her was drawn to her warm smile, and even warmer heart.

Sharon loved taking trips year-round with Bob, and often with their many friends, too. Some of their favorite travels took them fishing in Canada; visiting family in Montana; seeing the beautiful sights in California and Arizona; touring the Holy Lands; and learning more of their family history in Norway, where both their families had

originated. As with everything in her life, Sharon always enjoyed the journey just as much as the destination, and had many favorite stops and sights to see along their drives.

Sharon celebrated everything, big and small. There was always something to be joyful or thankful for in any situation. Autumn was her favorite season, and she always looked forward to preparing her home for her family’s Christmas Eve party every year. Sharon loved her family more than any Earthly thing, and her greatest joy was being “Grammy” to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who loved and adored her.

Preceding Sharon in death were her parents, Henrie and Marvel Nichol, and her daughter, Jill Marie Scherrer (Scott “Joe” Scherrer). She leaves behind her devoted husband Bob, her brother Ron Nichol (Karen), her daughter Kathy Lumsden (Terry), son Bruce Sparling (Cindy), grandsons Sean, Tommy and Jack; granddaughters Jenny, Stephanie and Isabel; great-grandsons Zach, Alex, Cooper, Nick and Brock; and her first great-granddaughter

Lillian Marie, who is due to arrive in March. She also leaves behind many beloved cousins, nieces, and countless friends who loved her dearly. We will miss her forever, especially her big smile, warm hugs, contagious laugh and loving friendship.

As Sharon left this home and transitioned into heaven, she exclaimed “Wow!” — and we can only imagine the beauty and glory that awaited her. She was a model example of living a joyful, Christ-centered life, and we cannot wait to see her again!

At this time, we are unfortunately holding off on planning a formal service to honor her beautiful life. When one is planned, we will notify her friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Memorial donations can be sent to the Camp at 603 Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901 with a notation “For Sharon Sparling.” Memorials can be designated for Facility; Camperships (so no young campers are denied this Bible camp experience); or a Courtyard Paver.

The family of

Evan Speer,  
who passed

away

December  
3, 2020,

invites you  
to celebrate  
his life at a  
memorial



service on Thursday, June 3, at 1:00 pm at the First Baptist Church along Hwy 93 in Whitefish, MT.

A reception will follow in the

*P4* church fellowship hall.  
*16 May 2021*

## William Robert 'Bill' Spurzem, 82

*Photo 27 Apr 2021*



With great sadness we announce William Robert "Bill" Spurzem passed away peacefully at home March 3, 2021, at the age of 82. In the days and moments before he passed he was surrounded by his girls who he loved dearly, Karla Herman and granddaughter Shea Blair, who provided care for Bill in the last years of his life, granddaughters Alexah Herman and Amanda Canterbury and his much loved cat Bella.

Bill was born on May 26, 1938, to Ray "Pete" and Hazel Rodgers Spurzem of Kalispell. Raised on his grandparents farm northwest of Kalispell, he attended St. Matthew's grade school, graduated from Flathead High School in 1956 and attended Montana State University-Northern in Havre from 1956 to 1958.

Bill worked various jobs until he began a new career in the natural gas

industry. He worked in Seattle for Washington Natural Gas prior to moving back to Kalispell to work on

the family farm. He continued his career working as a gas service man for Montana Power for the 28 years retiring as a foreman in 1999.

Bill and his longtime partner Caroline Blair, once retired, spent their winter months traveling to Yuma, Arizona. Bill and Caroline spent 42 years of their life together till her passing in 2012.

Bill was preceded by his parents Ray and Hazel Spurzem, brother Pete Spurzem, and partner Caroline Blair.

He is survived by daughter-in-law Karla Herman and granddaughters Amanda Canterbury, Shea Blair and Alexah Herman;

Scott Blair (Mindi), Vanessa Munroe (Jeff), Brian Blair (Lesly) and 11 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, many close friends and cat Bella Spurzem.

Bill enjoyed spending time and talking with family, grandchildren and many friends. Bill loved people and made an impact and impression on everyone he met. Hot rods, the Glacier Street Rod Association and all of his friends in the car community were a big part of Bill's life. As many would say "Every great hot rod story started with Bill." Bill was a local historian and in his mind there was no better place than the Flathead Valley.

Bill never missed a game or event his granddaughters participated in and spent many hours in the passenger seat teaching his granddaughters how to drive. It was grandpa to the rescue

if they needed him for anything. Bill was a true icon in the valley and he knew the history of every local car, business and building around. He was one of the most knowledgeable people known when it came to the history of Montana and the Flathead Valley. The stories of his past and the knowledge that blessed us all will be told and remembered and never forgotten. Bill "Grandpa" truly made an impression on all who had the pleasure of knowing him. "Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered everyday ... No longer in our life to share, but in our hearts, you're always there."

There will be a graveside service held on Wednesday, April 28, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery at 1 p.m. A celebration of life will be held at Lyle's Man Cave in Bigfork on May 15 from 2 to 5 p.m.

## MEMORIALS

### William 'Bill' Spurzem

A celebration of life for William "Bill" Spurzem, 82, who died March 3, will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. May 15 at Lyle's Man Cave, (formerly the Flathead Ford Museum), 8020 Montana 35, Bigfork. Dessert will be served. Bring a chair.

### Shirlee St. Marie, 80

Shirlee St. Marie, 80, of Eureka, died on Jan. 7, 2021, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. Services are pending.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

### Charles David Stambaugh, 57

Charles David Stambaugh, 57, of Libby, died as a result of an automobile accident on Feb. 11, 2021.

A private family burial will take place at Fairview Cemetery, with a celebration of life service to be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, at Fairbridge Inns and Suites Convention Center. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.



A celebration of life will be held at 575 Windfield lane Columbia Falls, MT for Jeannie Stafford on Saturday, June 26th at 2pm all friends & family are welcome. This is a pot luck please bring a dish to share. If you would like to stay bring tents, campers and lawn chairs. We hope that you can join us. Thank you.

*PB5 23 June 2021*

## Roberta 'Bert' Stenberg, 89

P 87 13 APR 2021

Roberta "Bert" Stenberg, 89, of Mitchell, Nebraska, passed away on April 4, 2021, at her home.

Her memorial service will be held at 1 a.m. Saturday, May 1, at the United Methodist Church in Mitchell with Pastor Joe Schumacher officiating. Graveside services will be held this summer in Kalispell. Online condolences may be left at [www.jones-mortuary.com](http://www.jones-mortuary.com). Jones Mortuary in Mitchell is entrusted with arrangements.

Bert was born Feb. 7, 1932, in Park Rapids, Minnesota, to John and Muriel (Arrowood) Morris and they then moved to Eureka, Montana. In 1935 her father passed away and she was then raised by her much loved stepfather, Richard Bright. The family moved to Idaho, Oregon and Washington before deciding it was time to go home to Eureka where Bert finished her education at Lincoln County High School.

On Dec. 31, 1949, Bert married the love of her



life, John Stenberg, from Kalispell and they were married for 66 years. From

this union four children were born, Karen, Phillip, Janice and Suzanne. Bert loved being a mother very much. In addition, she was very active in the Kalispell community and at her church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Bert served many roles at the church, including BLCW president, council, wedding coordinator and several others. In addition, she was a charter member of West Valley School and held each office at least three separate times. Bert was also chairman of the county committee that organized the first amblyopic screening for area schools, which is now routine. Lastly, she was a 30-year member of the Three Jays Extension Homemakers and, in 1987, Bert was recognized for

her efforts and was the recipient of the Flathead County Homemaker of the Year Award.

In 1990, after 35 years of working for Grosswiler Dairy, of which John was manager and she was a bookkeeper, they retired and moved to Mitchell, Nebraska, to be close to family. She and John joined the Mitchell United Methodist Church and became active here. As she became a Nebraskan, Bert found she loved cheering for the Nebraska Cornhuskers and she also enjoyed working at Target for seven years. In her retirement she was a traveler, gardener and her big passion was genealogy and sharing her family's history with her loved ones.

Family meant everything to Bert and she is survived by son Phillip Stenberg (Susanne) of Boise, Idaho; three daughters, Karen French (Doug) of Mitchell, Janice Walsh (Frank) of Thousand Oaks, California, and Suzanne Clark of

Woodbury, Minnesota; seven grandchildren, Travis French, Hilary Kimball, Shaunda French-Collins, Annelise Walsh, Emma Walsh, Jacob Schmidt and Jessica Schmidt; in addition, three stepgrandchildren, Craig Robison, Kyle Robison and Carissa Sage, and 11 great grandchildren. Lastly, she is survived by her sister, Norma (James) Faulkner, of Tucson, Arizona, and many additional loved ones.

She was preceded in death by her beloved John, "Johnny," who passed away on July 14, 2016. She was also preceded in death by her parents, stepfather, brothers John and Chester Morris, son-in-law Timothy Clark, and grandson Zachary Schmidt.

Strong in her faith, it is only fitting that Bert passed away on Easter Sunday.

Memorials in Bert's memory and honor may be sent to the Mitchell United Methodist Church.

## James Alan Stephens, 63

James Alan Stephens, 63, of Lakeside, died May 16, 2021, at The Health Center.

Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Stan Stephens, 91

Stan Stephens passed away on April 3, 2021, in Kalispell, following an extended period of declining health. He was 91 years old.

He was born Sept. 16, 1929, in Calgary, Alberta, to Margaret and Joseph Stephens, immigrants from Scotland and England. He was the second oldest of five remarkable boys. He grew up in a loving and musically gifted family, learning from his father to master the trumpet at an early age. By age 7, Stan was playing trumpet solos in the Calgary Symphony. Later, he played in small ensembles, musical productions, dance bands and jazz bands. Music was a lifelong passion to him, and he savored listening to a well-done performance as much as he enjoyed performing.

At age 19, Stan moved to the United States, eventually settling in Havre. Prior to seeking U.S. citizenship, he enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces Broadcast Network and served in the Korean War. Upon his return to Havre in the early 1950s, he dated and quickly proposed to the girl who captured his heart, Ann Hanson. The two were married in 1954 and raised two daughters. Only death parted them



with the passing of Ann in 2017.

Stan's 38-year career began in broadcasting and later expanded into community television.

In broadcasting and as a co-owner of radio station KOJM, he developed a policy that granted fund-raisers radio access and also allotted free air time to individuals to speak on various issues. He also broadcasted many of the local high school sports games, garnering a loyal listening audience from across the Hi-Line.

Most notable, however, were his radio editorials. From 1959 to 1984, he wrote and broadcasted radio editorials covering a broad spectrum of issues on the local, state and national fronts. In 1975, he earned national recognition by receiving the Edward R. Murrow award for journalistic excellence. This award was based on his own investigation that uncovered a scandal in Montana's Worker's Compensation program.

Regarding community television, Stan intro-

duced cable television to Havre in the 1960s. That later expanded to ownership interests in cable television stations in Glasgow and Sidney.

Then came his political career. He served as a Republican state senator from Havre for 16 years, serving in several leadership positions along the way. In 1986, the National Republican Legislators Association recognized him as one of the country's 10 most outstanding state lawmakers.

Never missing a beat, he then embarked on a two-year campaign for Montana governor. He won that election on Nov. 8, 1988, and was sworn in as Montana's 20th governor on Jan. 2, 1989.

In 1993, Stan and Ann happily retired from public life and settled in the Kalispell area. There, Stan and Ann pursued another lifelong passion, the game of golf. In particular, Stan was proud to participate in the annual Governor's Cup Golf Tournament that began during his years as governor and continues today.

Stan is survived by two daughters, Lannie (Lloyd) Gillin and Carol Donaldson, all from Kalispell; and one brother, Gerald (Mary Jane) Stephens, of Calgary. He is also survived by five grandchildren, eight

great-grandchildren, and one granddog.

The family wishes to thank the many outstanding medical professionals in the Flathead Valley who assisted Stan with his medical needs, including Dr. Chris Gill and the caring staff at Kalispell Regional Healthcare. The family also wishes to thank Immanuel Lutheran Communities, where Stan resided for the past few years. Between these two institutions, your combined services to the community are invaluable, and to our family, immeasurable.

Private services will be conducted.

The family kindly requests that memorials be sent to either ALERT (Advanced Life Support and Emergency Rescue Team) of Kalispell Regional Healthcare Foundation, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901 or Immanuel Foundation, 185 Crestline Avenue, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Stan Stephens led an impactful life with honor and grace. He made this world a better place by listening and leading by example. His parting advice to all, "Never make a snap judgment and never burn a bridge."

We will miss him dearly, and look forward to seeing him in heaven.

(Cont)

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PA1

6 APR 2017



**FORMER MONTANA Gov. Stan Stephens is seen in this Feb. 25, 1991, photo. Stephens died Saturday in Kalispell at the age of 91 after several months of ill health. (James Woodcock/Billings Gazette via AP)**

# Stan Stephens dies at age 91

## Former Montana governor was living in Kalispell

HELENA (AP) — Former Montana Gov. Stan Stephens has died. He was 91.

Stephens died Saturday in Kalispell after several months of ill health.

Stephens, a Republican, served as the state's 20th governor between 1989 and 1993.

He was born in Calgary, Canada, and moved to Montana when he was 19. During his decades-long career in broadcasting he served with the U.S. Armed Forces Broadcast Network during the Korean War.

Prior to his tenure as governor, Stephens was a member of the Montana Senate representing Havre for 16 years beginning in 1969. During that time, he served as majority leader and senate president.

He married his wife, Ann, in 1954 in Havre, where he worked at

See **STEPHENS, A8**

# STEPHENS

from A1

the radio station as a writer and announcer before buying the station in 1965 with two colleagues.

By the time he left the broadcasting business, he had received several prestigious journalism awards for his editorials and had been inducted into the Montana Broadcaster Hall of Fame, according to a 2005 Daily Inter Lake article profiling Stephens' life.

He talked about how radio helped shape his passion for public service.

"Back in my radio days, we always placed a heavy emphasis on public service," Stephens

told the Inter Lake in 2005. "We frequently did local fundraisers and always allowed free air time for citizens to speak up. We wanted to be a focal point for the community for things that needed to be done."

The governor's seat was left open when Ted Schwinden did not seek a third term. Stephens' primary opponent and the Republican frontrunner, former Secretary of State Jim Waltermire, died in a plane crash two months before the election, easing the way for Stephens to capture the party's nomination. He prevailed in the general election over former Gov. Thomas Lee Judge.

After deciding not to seek a second term to health concerns, Stephens retired to

Kalispell with his wife, according to his official biography.

In the 2005 interview with the Inter Lake, Stephens reflected on his time as governor, saying he was proud of the work he did in natural resource development, especially in the areas of timber, coal and petroleum. He also said he felt he made strides in mother-child health care, "straightening out" the workers' compensation system and education.

"Once you're governor, your time is consumed to an extent you'd never imagine," Stephens told the Inter Lake. "But the reward you get and the fulfillment of the job — it's what life is all about. You get to help other people."

Current Gov. Greg

Gianforte described Stephens as a thoughtful leader who was "a central figure in our state's politics for a quarter century" and devoted his life to public service.

"He was probably the most decent person you'd ever want to meet," said state Sen. John Brendan of Scobey, who also served as the co-chair of Stephens' gubernatorial campaign. "He brought decency and honesty back to state government while he was governor."

A private service is planned for Stephens, according to his obituary.

Stephens is survived by his two daughters Lannie Gillin and Carol Donaldson of Kalispell, along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ann Stephens died in 2017.

4593

## Louise A. Steppe, 97

PAS 8 Aug 2021

Louise A. Steppe, 97, of Columbia Falls, passed away July 28, 2021.

She was born July 18, 1924, in Wenatchee, Washington, to Walter and Edith West. She was raised in Susanville, California, and moved to Columbia Falls in 1946.

She was a faithful servant to her Lord, church and community. She was an avid reader and writer of Christian articles and poetry. She served over 70 years in the Seventh-day Adventist ministries and playing keyboards.



She was an adventurer, loved to travel and threw caution to the wind. She loved her home

and garden that grew award-winning irises. Most of all, she loved her family and will be looking down on us with all the love in her heart.

She was preceded in death by her husband Laurence Craft, and son William "Billy" Steppe,

brothers Ralph Kenyon "RK" West, and Byron "Barney" West, and sisters Lois Chapman and Ethel Janetski.

She is survived by her son, Kirk Steppe, of Tualatin, Oregon; two daughters, Anita Feland of Helena, and Shanon Dorsey of Chapin, South Carolina; 10 grandchildren, Mike, Michelle, Ashley, Tanielle, Alyssa, Kristina, Sierra, Dakota, Bridger and Jaden; and great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery

Saturday, Aug. 14, at 2 p.m., and following service there will be a celebration of life potluck starting at 3 p.m. at 291 Rogers Road, Columbia Falls. A Zoom meeting link will be set up for those unable to attend. Please RSVP for the Zoom meeting link to shanon.dorsey@yahoo.com by Friday, Aug. 13.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for Louise's family.

## Donna Jean Sterner, 79

PAS 23 Dec 2021

Donna Jean Sterner passed away Dec. 11, 2021, of cancer at the age of 79. She died peacefully at her home in Kalispell with her husband Harvey by her side. She was preceded in death by her parents Opal and Fred O'Neal.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Harvey.

Donna was born an only child Jan. 28, 1942, to Fred and Opal O'Neal



in Tulare, California. She spent her early childhood in California until the family

moved to Junction City, Oregon, where she attended school through the eighth grade. The family later moved to Renton, Washington, where Donna graduated from

high school. She worked for several years at many different companies as a receptionist, secretary and bookkeeper. She met Harvey Sterner on a blind date in 1972 and they were later married on April 7, 1973. They bought a house in Kent, Washington, and lived there until Donna's parents passed away. They both decided they wanted to move to the Flathead Valley where Harvey

grew up. They were thrilled to be out of the big city and loved life in the Flathead. Donna enjoyed furnishing and decorating her house, growing flowers in her garden, and thoroughly loved all her family and friends.

A private service and burial took place Dec. 16 at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

## Charles R. Storkson

PAS 9 Sept 2021

Charles R. Storkson passed away on Sept. 5, 2021, in Sanders County, Montana.

He worked on a fishing boat in Alaska in the 1990s with his brother Scott. In the early 2000s the brothers started logging for Peter Busch. They then went on to the oil patches in North Dakota and later resurrected their dad's sawmill in Hot Springs, Montana, and built the beautiful Circle Saw Campground. The brothers were an amazing team.



Chuck was an avid fan of the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Mariners. He loved trout fish-

ing, harvesting shaggy mane mushrooms and grouse hunting. Chuck always had a ready smile and made everyone feel welcome. The love between Chuck and his wife Cindy was extraordinary in all ways.

He is survived by his

wife Cindy Storkson; daughter Shyla Storkson, son Anthony Sundh, his wife Sara; grandchildren, Jayden Price, Lily Anderson, Domenic Sundh and Kamber Sundh; brother, Scott Storkson; sisters, Trisha Trump and Angela Storkson; nieces Ky Weber, Victoria Ottwell, and Leya Anderson and nephews, Eddy Trump, Travis Mikesell, Steele Mikesell and Cody Mikesell.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Joan

Hutchinson Storkson; his father, Carl Storkson; his brother C.J. Storkson; and his maternal grandmother, Alice Hutchinson. Chuck's legacy will live on through his wife and brother as well as extended family.

A celebration of life will be held at the Montana Bar in Hot Springs on Saturday, Sept. 18, at noon. Services will be held on Saturday, Sept. 25, at 11 a.m. at St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish.



## Barbara Marlene Hupfer Stevens, 85

PA 5 2 Dec 2021  
Barbara Marlene Hupfer Stevens passed away peacefully on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, at her home in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, at the age of 85.

She was born Oct. 7, 1936, in Hamilton, Montana, to Simon and Hermine Hupfer. She was raised on the family ranch in Victor and attended grade and middle school in Victor. The family moved to Missoula and where she graduated from Missoula County High School in 1954. After graduation, she moved to St. Louis and studied to be a chiropractic assistant at the Logan Basic College of Chiropractic. She moved to Great Falls for a few years and then returned to the Bitterroot Valley.

Barbara married Roger Stevens in July, 1959, and they were married 58 years until his death in 2017. They were blessed with three children, Debbie, John and Polly. After living in various towns in Western Montana, the family moved to Corvallis where they resided from 1970 to 1981. She was a member of the Corvallis Community Church and served as a leader in Pioneer Girls, AWANA, youth groups and Cub Scouts. She was known for her homemade bread and cinnamon rolls and they swear they could smell it baking from the school.

After moving to Kalispell in 1981, she became a member of Central Bible Church and was involved in various groups and activities. Again, she was an AWANA leader and involved with women's



ministries. Outside the church, she helped organize and participated in activ-

ities with the South Kalispell Volunteer Fire Department and Montana National Guard Women's Auxiliaries.

After Roger's death in 2017, Barbara moved to Idaho to be closer to family. She was able to spend time and attend activities with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Debbie Cognata of Placerville, California, John Stevens residing in Polson, and Polly Caudill from Spokane; sister, Kathy Garrod, of Hamilton; sister-in-law, Myrna Doerr, of Placerville; brother-in-law, Lowell Stevens and wife Elaine, from Richland, Washington; niece, Carolyn Garrod of Hamilton; nine grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and three great-grand-grandchildren. Numerous nephews and cousins also survive her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Roger, brother-in-law Donnie Garrod, and nephew Dennis Garrod.

Burial has already taken place in the Corvallis Cemetery with celebrations of her life in Kalispell on April 28 and Corvallis on April 30, 2022.

Donations can be made in Barb's name to Central Bible Church AWANA program.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.dalyleachchcapel.com](http://www.dalyleachchcapel.com).

## LeRoy C. Stevens, 80

PA 5 5 Jan 2022  
LeRoy C. Stevens, 80, passed away in Bigfork on Dec. 20, 2021, and is now in a place of peace, calm and love.



He was born on July 7, 1941, in Billings to Mary Fox Stevens and Wally LeRoy Stevens. He grew up in Miles City and attended college in Bozeman.

In his first marriage he was blessed with two daughters (Stephanie and Lynette) whom he loved very much.

He lived most of his 80 years from east to west in his beloved Montana. As a proud Montana State University Bobcat alum, he was excited that they were going to the national championships this year.

LeRoy loved the natural beauty of the state and spent much of his time camping, fishing, hiking, skiing and exploring. Recent summer 2021 memories include fishing with his grandkids and picnicking at his favorite spot on the shores of Lake McDonald with his family. There was nothing more special to him than spending time in nature with his beloved wife (Sandra), grandkids, nieces and nephews, family and friends.

LeRoy retired from Pacific Hide and Fur in Great Falls after 30 years in the recycling business. Consequently, he often called himself a "junk man." During those years at Pacific, he made many close friends across the towns where Pacific sites were located.

After retiring, LeRoy moved to the western part of the state to start the second phase of his life. He took up golfing, made a new set of friends and found lives he could touch in the Flathead Valley.

LeRoy was very generous with his time and relationships throughout

his life. For many years, he enjoyed mentoring youth in the Columbia Falls school district and taught them to play cribbage. He also participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America in the valley. He loved taking his grandkids and the kids he mentored on a variety of activities, including golfing and fishing. He also enjoyed teaching his grandchildren to sing "The Sound of Music" song, "Do-Re-Mi."

LeRoy is survived by his wife, Sandra; his three siblings, Donna (Earl) Castle, Charlene (Jack) Regan, and John (Carolyn) Stevens; his daughters, Stephanie (Paul) Rodeghiero and Lynette (Daniel) Guevara; and his five grandchildren, Rebecca, Katherine, Mateo, Sophia and Leo. He is also survived by his stepchildren, James (Valarie) Walker, Troy (Sher) Walker and Hollee (Jake) Fuller, eight step-grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

We will deeply miss LeRoy and will remember the positive impact he had on our lives. Even though his body is no longer with us, his spirit, example, and the lessons he taught will always be a part of our lives. As we remember him, let's do what he would want: "Give loved ones an extra hug today and tell them that you love them!"

A memorial service for LeRoy will be held on Jan. 8 at 1 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 121 Crestview Drive, Bigfork.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Montana in LeRoy's name. ([bbbsnwmontana.org](http://bbbsnwmontana.org))

Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

## Judie K. Stewart, 78

PA 7 7/10/21

Judith "Judie" Katharine (Van Winkle) Stewart left this earthly life on Oct. 31, 2021, at the age of 78. She passed away at Logan Health Medical Center.

A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 13, at 10 a.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1295 Whitefish Stage, Kalispell.

She was born on June 13, 1943, to Henry Alonzo and Zeldia Matilda (Page) Van Winkle in Jamestown, North Dakota.

Judie graduated from McHenry High School in 1961. She went to Bismarck Junior College for two years and graduated from Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota, in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education degree. During this time she met the love of her life, Gordon Stewart, and they married in 1964 in Linton, North Dakota. They recently celebrated 57 years together.

Upon completion of



she taught at the Elrod, Russell and Edgerton elementary schools in the Flathead Valley. She was Teacher of the Year for Kalispell Public Schools in 1983 and she helped author an elementary textbook for children's learning.

Judie was a former member of the Epworth United Methodist Church and has been a member of the First Church of the Nazarene for the past 15-plus years. Her faith has never wavered and she spent many hours reading the Scriptures and talking to God daily.

After retirement, she began to enjoy her life by cooking up a storm. She loved hosting parties and feeding friends and family. Every person received a huge welcome into

college, she signed her first teaching contract in Kalispell. In her 30 years of teaching her and Gordon's home. People will remember her lavish Christmas parties and pies at Easter.

Judie loved living life to the fullest! Laughter and a little teasing was her natural way. Music made her world go around. Her passions were traveling the world, swimming like a fish in the water (especially the ocean), decorating her home inside and out, and being a clothes addict. Her motto was "Shop 'til you drop."

Judie was part of the Montana Educators Association, Montana Retired Educators Association and Flathead Valley Democratic Women's Association. She held various offices over the years with all of them.

She joined TOPS and during her time being a member had lost over 100 pounds. She was the Montana TOPS' State Queen in 2017. She then represented the state of Montana at the International TOPS

Convention in Montreal and was a member of the Red Hat Society.

Judie was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Zeldia; and siblings, Ruth Soma, Eugene Van Winkle and Stewart Van Winkle; and two nephews and two nieces.

Judie is survived by her husband, Gordon; and sister, Sandie (Larry Sr.) Laney

of Verona, North Dakota; and a multitude of nieces and nephews.

She leaves you with all her love.

At her request, in lieu of flowers, Judie requested donations to the First Church of the Nazarene, Humane Society of Northwest Montana, Epworth United Methodist Church or Ashley Creek Animal Clinic in her honor.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

## Alma Pearl Stickel, 97

Alma Pearl Stickel, 97, died May 29, 2021, at Hidden Meadows Assisted Living in Columbia Falls.

Services are pending.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Rodney Stickney, 92

Rodney Stickney, 92, of Kalispell, died Monday Feb. 15, 2021.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy, and his children Guy Stickney and Mike Stickney.

No services are being planned at this time.

Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory.

## Ralph C. 'Charlie' Stokes, 78

Ralph C. "Charlie" Stokes, 78, of Kalispell, died Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021, in Kalispell.

A service will be announced at a later date this spring.

Darlington Cremation & Burial Service is assisting the family.

## Betty Bronwyn Stinger, 81

PAS 30 Nov 2021

Betty Bronwyn Stinger, 81, of Trego, passed away on Nov. 5, 2021, with her daughters by her side.

Betty was born to John and Charlotte Hice on Oct. 30, 1940, in Pittsburgh. She was an only child and graduated from Mount Lebanon High School and began her life adventures which took her first to Arizona where she and husband Howard Breinig had a son, Mark Breinig.

She later married Philip Lozier and together they had three more children, whom first son Mark loved to torment, Libertie, Chloe and Rex.

Betty's heart led her to Montana in 1980 where she eventually married Nelson Westwood and for the next 20 years raised her children, acquired grandchildren, and ran multiple businesses together, including Westwood Christmas Trees, the Trego and Fortine Mercantiles, and a ranch with Tennessee Walking Horses, mules and cattle. After Nelson passed, Betty continued her legacy with the Fortine Mercantile still in the family today. She found loving companion and husband Kelvin Stinger and for 17 years they raised pure-bred Black Angus and enjoyed developing property together.

She was probably best known by most as the silver-haired lady that was wandering the aisles at the Fortine and Trego Mercantiles for the last 38 years. Betty was one



hell of a classy lady; strong, independent, proud and steady with a

dry sense of humor and intelligent wit. Her longest-standing passion was horses; she was raised taking lessons and had horses for almost the rest of her life. Her children and grandchildren best remember her as a leader; she encouraged independence and individualism.

"You can do whatever you set your mind to."  
— Mom

She is survived by husband Kelvin and his grown children and their families; her legacy includes daughter Libertie (Rod) Barkley, daughter Chloe Westwood (Rob Miller), son Rex Westwood; daughters by marriage Jessie Breinig and Carrie Gorda; grandchildren Nathan Breinig and Megan Cuellar; Ashton Sands; Victoria and Jace Mrgich; Kayla Westwood; their respective spouses, and five (plus one on the way) great-grandchildren.

Betty was preceded in death by her son, Mark Breinig; and her granddaughter, Alexa Mrgich.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, Nov. 21, at noon at the Trego Community Hall in Trego. She will have a memorial headstone in the Fortine Community Cemetery in Fortine.

## Elaine Quam Strand, 87

PAG 22 Sept 2021

On Sept 18, 2021, our mom and wife danced her last dance through the gates as she entered heaven.



Elaine was born on July 3, 1934, in Westby, Montana.

After dating for two years, Elaine married Earl Strand on July 22, 1951.

Elaine is survived by her husband, Earl; their three children, Tim of Boise, Idaho, Teri and Wayne Beatty of Kalispell, and Todd now in Kalispell. They have six grandkids, Jeff and Penny Strand of Boise, Jason and Amber Beatty, Trista and BJ Arentz, Adam and Kelly Strand and Zachary Strand, all of Kalispell, and Jake Strand of Indiana; and great-grandchildren, Kelsey and Cooper Strand, Easton Arentz, Ryder and Ridge Beatty.

They lived in Westby until 1965 when Earl was fortunate to be hired by Plum Creek Lumber.

They were thrilled when the opportunity arose to move to beautiful Kalispell. Elaine worked at Montgomery Ward's fashion floor where she made many wonderful longtime friends. In 1971 she was hired as corporate bookkeeper for Western Building Center where she worked until retiring.

Elaine and Earl worked hard and played hard. They loved to dance, round dancing, square dancing and ballroom dancing, and also taught dance classes. Great memories were made. Dancing on airplanes and ships was great fun. In their many travels they renewed their wedding vows three times and now celebrate 70 years of marriage. At a young age a family friend taught Elaine to sew; she was blessed with a natural talent to sew, and with this she was able to make extra money after they married.

Funeral services will be Friday, Sept. 24, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

## Terrence C. Strand, 73

*PA5 24 Mar 2021*  
With great sadness we announce, Terry Strand, age 73, passed away peacefully March 18, 2021, in Kalispell surrounded by his girls.

He was born on April 14, 1947, to Mel and Hilda Strand. He was born and raised in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead High School.

Terry met Loretta Stokes in 1972 and six months later were married. They had two daughters, Tara and Tana.

For most of his adult life Terry worked for Plum Creek Lumber Co. until retiring in 2016. He was a kind and gentle soul that could carry on a conversation with anyone. He was his girls' and grandchildren's number one fan attending any event they participated in. He was a master with his hands enjoying painting cars, yard work, and working in his shop. He also enjoyed a game of golf. He was a sports fanatic and loved watch-



ing games on TV especially his favorite football team the Oakland Raiders.

Terry was preceded in death by his grandparents and parents.

He is survived by his wife Loretta; daughters Tara Measure (Buck), Tana Werner (Tom); four grandchildren Rhett, Maggie, Thorin and Tova; sister Regina Houston, and many relatives.

A private memorial service will be held by his family. He was one of a kind and will always be in our hearts. He will be greatly missed.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

## Serena Streeter, 80

Serena Streeter, 80, of Kalispell, died Wednesday, May 5, 2021

She is survived by her daughters, Serena Pierce and Teresa Little.

No services are being planned at this time. Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory.

*PA6 19 Sept 2021*

*Serena Streeter*  
September 22, 1940 - May 5, 2021



On May 5, 2021

we lost our tiny but fierce Mom, Gramie, Aunt, sister-in-law, & friend.

There will be a memorial to celebrate and remember her life on her birthday,

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 2 pm at Crossroads Christian Fellowship in Bigfork.

## Laurel D. Stratton, 74

Laurel D. Stratton, 74, of Martin City, died at Logan Health Medical Whitefish on Monday, Oct. 25, 2021.

Funeral services are being planned.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## Joyce Street

*PA7 15 Aug 2021*  
A celebration of life for Joyce Street, 82, who died Nov. 25, 2019, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at her son's place at 2500 Whitefish Stage Road. A lunch will follow.

## Warren Dale Streit, 84

PA7 19 Dec 2021

Beloved father, grandfather and pastor, Warren Dale Streit, known to thousands simply as "Brother Streit," was safely gathered home on Thursday morning, Oct. 14, 2021, in Missoula, with his daughter Becky and son Michael beside him.

Dale Streit was born in Kalispell on Feb. 17, 1937, son of Rudolph and Eileen Kirkelie Streit. He was the older brother of Judy (Ron) Bronson (deceased 2015) and Kirk (Sandy) Streit, both of Kalispell.

After joining, then retiring from the U.S. Air Force, he married Dianna Lynn Robb (of Rapid City, South Dakota) in 1960 and they lived in Oakland, California, while starting their family. They moved back to Kalispell from 1968 to 1970, where his parents and siblings still lived. Dale worked at a lumber mill, hung drywall and textured ceilings with his father and also created and hand painted many iconic signs displayed in Kalispell for many years thereafter, including the "Welcome to Kalispell" sign and the giant snow-



flake on the Ski Haus sporting goods store.

Dale was preceded in death by Dianna, his loving wife of 54 years, on

Nov. 25, 2014.

He is survived by his four children, Becky (John) Carlson of Missoula, David (Julie) Streit of Beaverton, Oregon, Mark (Katherine) Streit of Kelowna, British Columbia, and Michael (Briana) Streit of Missoula, and 15 grandchildren.

An online memorial and virtual guest book has been set up at <https://kudoboard.com/boards/KQcFg3mC> for those who would like to leave memories or read his story.

Missoula Gospel Assembly will host an online, interactive Zoom memorial on Sunday, Dec. 26, at 2 p.m. Please email [gospelassembly@telus.net](mailto:gospelassembly@telus.net) to request the code to attend.

## Jeanette J. Strobbe, 89

PA8 23 Dec 2021

Jeanette J. Strobbe was born Feb. 18, 1932, in Billings to Jacob and Violet Schessler. She joined her husband August in heaven Dec. 19, 2021, on their 71st wedding anniversary.

One of her joys in life was traveling with August to Arizona and the southern states after retirement where they met many lifelong friends.

She was a loving wife to August, mother to Debbie Hoerner (Larry), Jeanie Fee, Keith Strobbe (Jenn) and Greg Strobbe. She was grandma to 11, great-grandma to 19, great-great-grand-



ma to two, and had many loving nieces and nephews. Jeanette came from a family of five children and is survived by her sisters, June Keach and Dona

Schessler.

A celebration of life will be held at a future date.

## John 'Jack' King Strode, 79

John "Jack" King Strode, of Kalispell, passed away peacefully on Dec. 11, 2020, at the age of 79. He will be sadly missed by his family and the many friends whose lives he touched.

Jack grew up in Avondale, Pennsylvania, the son of the late Tom and Louise Strode and a member of the Avondale Presbyterian Church. In his youth, Jack was involved in the Boy Scouts of America where his dedication earned him the honored Eagle Scout award. Starting with Little League baseball as a young boy, Jack's love of sports followed him throughout his lifetime. A stellar athlete, he played baseball, soccer and basketball at Avon Grove High School and went on to play Division



*PAC 28 Feb 2021*  
I athletics at West Chester University where he was a member of the national championship soccer team. Jack was inducted

into the West Chester University Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduating college with a degree in education, Jack's athleticism carried on to his professional life. He played semi-professional baseball in Wilmington, Delaware, then taught physical education and coached athletic teams at Oxford High School in Oxford, Pennsylvania. Challenging and inspiring young athletes was Jack's dream job!

Multi-talented, Jack honed his carpentry and woodcarving hobbies

as well. Gifted with a sharp eye for design, he had an ability to create something beautiful from something ordinary. He even built his first home, which his family fondly dubbed "the house that Jack built." He also won awards for his bird carvings, well-known for their beauty and precision to detail.

Jack's passion for meeting people, sparked a career change as a car salesman in Wilmington. Later, his love of nature and wildlife called him westward to the mountains of Montana. He marveled daily at his view of Flathead Lake and the mountains of Glacier National Park. His final days were spent connecting with loved ones and expressing gratitude for the natural

beauty surrounding him. Jack's spirit rests in peace within that beauty.

Jack Strode is survived by his four children, Mark Strode (and wife Lisa) of California, Amyla Lavric of North Carolina, Scott Strode (and wife Kaitlin) of Colorado, and Emily Ng (and husband James) of New York; as well as seven grandchildren; his sister, Judy Strode Young (and husband Tommy) of Pennsylvania; brother Tom Strode (and wife Peggy) of Pennsylvania; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, kindly consider a donation to the National Alliance on Mental Illness ([nami.org](http://nami.org)) in support of those with mental health needs — a cause meaningful to Jack and his family.

## Dennis Raymond Strong, 70

Dennis Raymond Strong, 70, of Whitefish, died on Sept. 2, 2021, at Logan Health.

Services are pending.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Scott Roy Storey, 59

Scott Roy Storey, 59, died Feb. 9, 2021, at his home in Kalispell. Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Isaiah Jacob Strong, 41

Isaiah Jacob Strong, 41, born Jan. 22, 1980, in Petoskey, Michigan, to Robert and Cindy Strong, residing in Columbia Falls, departed this world for his heavenly home on Feb. 26, 2021, in Kalispell.

He was a graduate of Pellston High School. He spent most of his adulthood on fishing boats in Alaska, or logging in the mountains of Montana. He was the boy from "Into the Wild," living life as free as he could, playing his guitar, creat-



*PAS 10 Mar 2021*  
ing beautiful gardens, and sleeping on a cot in the wilderness under the stars.

He was an athlete, running 10 miles on mountain trails, doing handstand push-ups, accomplishing the work of three men. He often would come home to Michigan at Christmas and split his parents winter wood by hand.

He was a man of few words, but deep thoughts. He lived life to the fullest, not pressed into anyone else's mold. He followed his heart, humble, kind and generous, with a strong faith in God. He was not afraid of death, but knew he would meet his maker in heaven.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Strong; grandparents, William and Violet Strong; and uncles, Bill Strong and David Byard. He is survived by his

mother, Cindy Strong; daughter, Abigail Strong; brother, Seth Strong; sisters, Jaimee (Brian) Metzger and Kassia Strong; nephews, Isaac, Micah and Silas Metzger; grandparents, Philip and Leona Byard; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Go rest high on that mountain, Isaiah. You will be forever in our hearts, 'til we meet again.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Eddie K. Stubblefield, 85

*PAS 24 Mar 2021*  
The Rev. Eddie K. Stubblefield died on March 19, 2021, at the age of 85 years.

He was born on Sept. 12, 1935, to Kenneth Stiddard and Frances Louise (Hendricks) Stubblefield in Jeffersonville, Indiana, the eldest of four boys. A graduate of Jeffersonville High School, he earned his B.A. degree from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky and the B.D. degree from Lexington (KY) Theological Seminary. He was ordained into the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Oct. 20, 1957.

He married Ruth Carolyn Smith on Sept. 7, 1957, in Lexington, Kentucky. She died of Hodgkin's disease in August 1961. On Dec. 29, 1962, he married Norma Jean Lewis in Louisville, Kentucky, a union that resulted in 56 years of marriage. They had two children, Kenneth Lewis Stubblefield and Melora Ann Stubblefield.

The Rev. Stubblefield served in the Christian ministry for 45 years in a variety of services. He served as campus minister at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and at Ohio University. He was an assistant regional minister in the Upper Midwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He also served as the director of Evangelism Program Services for the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church. In addition, he served as pastor in Virginia, Iowa, Minnesota, Ontario, Canada and Montana and in his latter years of ministry was an intentional interim minister. He retired from active ministry in 1999 but continued to serve congregations in the Flathead Valley for almost three years after retirement.



Eddie loved Montana and the Pacific Northwest. He and his wife never missed a

chance to attend a grandchild's music concert, theatrical performance, birthday, or graduation.

They loved cruising and especially enjoyed country music cruises in the Caribbean. Their adventures took them to the far corners of the globe; the Great Wall of China, Kapama Game Reserve in South Africa, around the Cape of South America, Oktoberfest, and Western Europe. Though they traveled the world, stateside trips to see their closest friends and family brought them the most joy. You could find them at the Chateau Rodeo on the Fourth of July, dining in their favorite restaurants in Seattle or at Chico Hot Springs, enjoying fine wine, or savoring an exceptional Bourbon/Scotch at the end of the bar at Nectar Lounge.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Norma; his parents; and two brothers, Donald and Robert.

He is survived by a son, Kenneth and his wife, Christine, of Seattle; daughter, Melora Ann Williams and her husband, Jim, of Whitefish; and brother, David, of Pekin, Indiana. He is also survived by one grandson, Jake Williams and three granddaughters, Mackenzie Williams, Hailey Stubblefield and Alaina Stubblefield.

At his request no services will be held. Cremation has taken place. Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohill-fh.com](http://www.buffalohill-fh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

## Darcee Lee Trumbo-Suek, 73

Darcee Lee Trumbo-Suek, 73, of Creston, died at her home on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

Arrangements are pending. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## James A. Suek, 90

*PAS 24 Aug 2021*  
James A. Suek, 90, died of pneumonia Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021, in Kalispell.

James "Jim" was born Jan. 28, 1931, in Great Falls. He was raised in Dutton and graduated from high school there in 1949. After graduation, Jim served in the Air Force and then joined the Montana Air National Guard until his honorable discharge in 1955. Upon his return to Dutton, he worked at the Farmer's Mercantile until 1966, when he moved his family to Conrad. In Conrad, Jim worked for Cenex for 25 years, first as a truck driver delivering propane, and then finishing his Cenex career as the manager of the Conrad propane plant.

He married Barbara Fleshman in Dutton in 1953. After raising their family together in Conrad, Jim and Barbara moved to Lincoln where they enjoyed their retirement together. Jim was an avid sports fan. He also enjoyed bowling, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, camping and following his children's, grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's



sports and activities.

Jim's wife preceded him in death in 2004, as well as two children, Mark Suek (1964) and James R.

Suek (2014).

Survivors include his daughters, Renee (Lynn) Nordahl of Missoula and Jamie (Jason) Guice of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; sons, Paul Suek (spouse Darcee Trumbo Suek deceased May 2021) of Kalispell, Mike (Mitzi) Suek of Windsor, Colorado, and Phil (Julie) Suek of Olympia, Washington; sisters, Donna Sanders and Ann Ramsey of Great Falls; brother, Bob (Carol) Suek, of Dutton; 11 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

A graveside memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Dutton Cemetery with a reception to follow.

Cremation has taken place under the direction of Darlington Cremation and Burial Services in Kalispell.

## Alan Lee Sullenger, 71

Alan Lee Sullenger, 71, of Kalispell, died Sept. 18, 2021, in Billings due to complications from Covid-19.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters, Amber of Montana and Dawn of Oregon; and sons, Zak of Oregon and Jake of Montana.

A memorial service will be held at the Whitefish Assembly of God, 150 Lamb Lane, Whitefish at noon Oct. 16, officiated by the Rev. Shawn Madsen. A reception lunch will follow the service at Amber's home, 2648 Trumble Creek Road, Kalispell.

## Thomas Wayne Sunell, 66

Thomas Wayne Sunell, 66, of Kalispell, died July 16, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Carol E. Sutter, 74

Carol E. Sutter, 74, of Kalispell, died Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

She is survived by her husband Michael, and her daughters Shawntel Hatch and Christy Wiese.

A memorial service will be planned at a later date.

## Bea Swan, 82

*PAT 13 June 2021*



real estate license.

She was an agent at Stan Wiley Realty in Oak Grove, Oregon,

when she met the love of her life, Steven Swan. Mom and Steve enjoyed many life changing trips



with family and friends. Ecuador, Mexico, Hawaii, New Brunswick, British Virgin Islands and China. After leaving real estate, Mom went back to school for her certified nurse assistant certification. She worked at Damasch, Oregon State Mental Hospital. She absolutely loved that work and helping people. Later mom worked in a nursing home until her retirement.

In 2010 her beloved Steve passed away. Mom returned to Eureka, Montana, where her heart healed while living with June at Carpenter Lake. It made her happy

being with family. Bea had lived in Kalispell for the past few years. Helping care for Roger, Karen, and Richard, getting to spend time with Dean and his family were special times.

Bea is survived by Mervin (91), Billie (85), Janet (74), and June (73); her children, Cindy and John of Portland, Dean and Terryl of Kalispell, and Joan and Kevin of Portland; eight grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews too many to name. She loved you all. She wanted you to know how much she loves you and Jesus loves you.

Bea was preceded in death by her parents, both husbands, five brothers, two sisters, several brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces.

Our mom was an extraordinary example of tenacity and perseverance. She was a mom everyone wanted. She was fun loving, positive, joyful, kind and generous. Mom had a beautiful smile! She loved her family fiercely. Bea was extremely proud of her

“Little Shell Chippewa” heritage. She expressed how the “pow wows” were spiritual for her! Her love of knowledge made her read everything she could get her hands on. Mom had a deep love for all animals and nature. She was a collector and lover of history. She loved driving on a long road trip. She enjoyed her meals out with family and friends, and a good martini or glass of wine on Friday night. Our mother has left a legacy of love, laughter, and an amazing faith in God! We're grateful to Kalispell Regional for their compassion. Aunt June, Kendra, Amy and Anna, you were there when we weren't able to be, and we're forever grateful and blessed.

A graveside Mass will be held July 23 at 1 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. There will be a luncheon at St. Matthew's cafeteria following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the cancer society, St. Jude for Children, or Native American Children's Schools.

Rejoice! Our beautiful mother joined her heavenly family May 11, 2021.

Born Merilee Ann Herbold to William and Mary Herbold, April 17, 1939. She was number eight of 12 children, number three of six daughters. Most knew her as Bea or Bebe'; she was born in Lewistown, Montana. The family moved to Helena Flats in 1948 and to Kalispell in 1953.

In 1955 Bea and Roger eloped to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and a few months later had their marriage blessed in the Catholic church. They had three children while living in Kalispell. In 1960 they moved to “Old Rexford” and later to the “Cole homestead” on West Kootenai. Mom loved her home and raising her family on West Kootenai, but was forced to sell after the divorce in 1974. Bea earned her GED and, in 1975, she and Joan moved to Oregon, staying with Cliff and Betty Voorhees for a time. This started her life's adventure. Bea worked at Thriftway grocery while studying for her

## Carol Swan, 80

Carol Swan, 80, of Somers, died Oct. 26, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.



## Isaac Swan, 32

PA5 21 Jan 2021  
Isaac Swan was born wanting to fly. He was a natural athlete and artist. Whether filling a room with piano music, painting "S" turns on a ski hill or casting to rising trout while knee deep in a river, his effortlessness in acquiring new skills and achieving excellence was to the awe and envy of those who knew him. As a teen, he picked up guitar by ear. In recent years, he used those skills and became a self-taught paraglider, and he flew.

Isaac W. Swan was born June 5, 1988, to Karen and Mac Swan. He is survived by them, and his sister Mariah Swan, and her fiancé Nevill Wilder. He brought untold energy and joy to our lives. He was inquisitive, tenacious and insatiably curious, which led him to become an expert on many topics.

He attended Polson High School and Montana State University in Bozeman, until he was sidelined by bipolar disorder, a diagnosis that would afflict him with challenges that he struggled courageously to overcome. On Jan. 13, 2021, the disease became stronger than Isaac, and he took his own life. He will be



remembered for his intensity, his brilliance, and the unrelenting honesty

that he approached the world with. He led us on a journey that stretched us emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. His illness and his struggle with it made us more humble, kinder and more compassionate people. Isaac, we have learned so much from you. We will carry you with us always and love you to the end of time.

Isaac is also survived by his aunts and uncles, Mary Swan of Bozeman, Carol Conn of Butte, Libby and Bob Starks of Kalispell, Sandra Hodgson and John Chally of Portland, and Shirley and Kevin Twillman of Washington, D.C.; and five cousins.

A celebration of life is tentatively planned for the summer, or whenever people are able to gather safely.

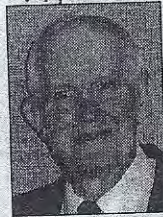
The family suggests that memorial donations be made to the Montana Chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness, the Flathead Lakers or the North Lake County Library Foundation.

# Theodore 'Ted' Thomas Swanberg, 82

Theodore "Ted" Thomas Swanberg passed away peacefully on March 3, 2021, at his home in Smithfield, Utah, after a long battle with COPD.

Ted was born July 6, 1938, in Kalispell to Charles Sidney Swanberg and Vivian Grace (Gaffney) Swanberg. He was the youngest child and was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings, brothers, Donald (Connie), Clifford (Margaret), and his sisters Betty Jo (Art) Gillett and Bonnie Jean Wheeler. Ted was the last living member of his family. He is survived by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well numerous nieces and nephews and several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. He called himself the "Patriarch" of the family!

Ted attended elementary school at Edgerton Elementary School in Kalispell. He lived across the street from Edgerton and during recess he would go home because he thought school was out. Ultimately, his parents and teacher decided that maybe he should wait one more year to begin his education. Several of his friends he started school with remained his close friends his entire life.



and get to watch movies in the reel room.

Ted joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1963 and found many, many friends. He held many callings and thoroughly enjoyed any job he was called to do. He loved the fact that the Gospel answered many questions for him and he found comfort in knowing his Savior loved him greatly and was in charge. He found peace in knowing that his family would be his family eternally.

Ted worked for 41 years at Plum Creek Lumber Company. He made many lifelong friends whom he still talked to the last week of his life. Ted would come home with all kinds of stories of jokes played on not only co-workers but also on managers and office personnel. His coworkers were a close, loving bunch of men and one day they sent his lunch box home with a surprise for his wife, who would get up and pack his lunch before he left for work, early in the morning. When she opened his lunch box, a small bird flew out and scared her so much that she refused to ever pack his lunch again! From that day on, Ted made his own lunches. Ted loved his gang at Plum Creek and kept track of each of his fellow workers. He loved to golf with his work buddies, and participated in many Plum Creek golf tournaments.

Company. On many occasions his children would accompany him to the different theaters later, Ted was told he was in remission where he remained throughout the rest of his life. When his chemo was finished Ted and Pat built their retirement home at Lake Five. They spent 11 wonderful years enjoying Glacier National Park in their backyard with family and friends coming and going. This was their heaven on earth.

After they moved to Lake Five, Ted worked in Glacier National Park driving shuttle buses. He loved his boss and his co-workers. He would come home and tell Pat about all the wonderful and different people he had met, many of whom had traveled from around the world to see his "backyard."

After they retired they had the opportunity to work at the Cardston, Alberta Temple, which was a highlight of their life. They made many friends and enjoyed the serenity that working in the Temple gave them.

When Ted's health started to get the best of him, Ted and Pat moved to Smithfield, Utah, to be closer to family that could help care for him.

If you were a friend of Ted or Ted's family then you were "Family" to him. Ted taught his family to love, be kind, charitable, honest and how to belly laugh. The light of his life were his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Over the years he would rock many of them to sleep and show up to support them at their many activities. He was so proud of each and every one of them. Ted always said he was so blessed that he could live by some of his "Greats" and enjoy them, make paper airplanes, build gingerbread houses and do things that many great-grandparents do not get to do! Ted and Pat always said they had the best life ever.

Ted is survived by his wife Pat Swanberg, along with his four children David Swanberg, Kelly (Mike) Kopitzke,

Jan Swanberg and Melodee Swanberg Curtis; ex-daughter-in-law, Tamara Olivas; grandchildren, Paige Swanberg, Andrea (Randy) Bostwick, Lindsey (Ibrahime) Annab, Dylan Kopitzke, Megan (Cody) Wiberg, Lauren (Aaron) Gwin, Devin (AJ) Bitton, Alexander (Laura) Swanberg, Lucas Kopitzke and Ivy Curtis; great-grandchildren, Sirae Swanberg, Pierce Swanberg, Jaden Swanberg, Alaura Bostwick, Amirah Annab, LaNiyah Annab, Adalyn Bostwick, Avery Bostwick, Jessa Wiberg, Kooper Bitton, Ted's namesake Theodore "Teddy" Bostwick, and soon to be 12th great-grandchild, baby Girl Wiberg.

No services are planned at this time. He has been cremated and a memorial is planned for summer 2021 in Montana for his family and friends.

Condolences may be sent to: 15 East 200 South, Smithfield, UT 84335.

Ted will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. We all hope the memory of his life and the kind of person he was will inspire you to be like him.

(Cont)

Ted Swanberg, 82

Cont

In 1955 Ted met a girl who became his best friend and forever girlfriend, Patty Riedinger. According to Pat, Ted was the best dancer at Flathead County High School and that was one of the reasons she agreed to go out with him. Ted loved music and was a drummer for the Flathead County High School band. He and Pat, who was a member of the baton twirling part of the band, had the opportunity to travel to many places in the United States as well as Canada and march with the band. After high school he was a drummer in a local dance band "The Flamingos."

Nov. 4, 1956, Ted and Pat were married in Kalispell. They had four children David, Kelly, Jan and Melodee. They also raised their oldest granddaughter, Andrea.

When his children were young Ted worked part-time for Anderson Theater

In his spare time Ted was a woodworker who over the years made many special pieces of woodwork for his family and friends. He built wooden toys for "Toys for Tots." He and his wife built two homes and remodeled nearly every home they ever lived in.

Ted retired from Plum Creek in 2004 and began another journey. This one was fighting colon cancer, which he did with all of his might. Two surgeries and six months of chemo



Please join us for a Celebration of Life In memory of Theodore Swanberg Saturday, July 10, 2021 1:00-3:00 pm LDS Church Pavilion 1780 Talbot Rd, Columbia Falls Light luncheon provided

PAC 4 July 2021

### Stuart William Swenson, 84

Stuart William Swenson, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away quietly Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021. He was just shy of his 85th birthday.

Stu was born on Dec. 23, 1936, to Everett and Ruth Swenson in Kalispell. He graduated from Flathead County High School and attended and graduated from the University of Montana. He moved to Libby shortly thereafter to work for the J. Niels Lumber Company. He later owned a successful realty and insurance agency.

In Libby, Stu raised two of his sons, David Swenson of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Matthew Swenson of Missoula. He moved to Coeur d'Alene, where his



youngest son, Mitchell Swenson of Hayden, Idaho, graduated. Stuart finally

retired to Whitefish where he taught skiing at Big Mountain. He married his longtime friend, Joyce Black, on March 16, 1994.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce; stepson, Micah Black; three sons, David, Matt and Mitch; four grandchildren, Adrian, Brittney, Colin and Nickolaus; and two great-grandchildren, Sharon and Heide.

Because of Stu's success as a businessman, he was able to retire relatively young to enjoy his favorite pastimes — play-

ing tennis, hunting and especially fly fishing. He, Joyce, and many fishing buddies, especially Joe Cline of Libby, enjoyed Stu's "wisdom" from how to throw the fly to how to row the boat (and everything in between!). But still, no one could do it as well as he could. All enjoyed many hours discussing the day's fishing sitting on Stu and Joyce's St. Regis cabin deck overlooking the Clark Fork River.

We invite everyone to share in celebrating Stu's life at 2 p.m Nov. 27 at the Whitefish United Methodist Church at 1150 Wisconsin Avenue, Whitefish.

Arrangements under the direction of Garden City Funeral Home and Crematory in Missoula.

PAC 14 Nov 2021

## Carol Swimley, 64

Carol Swimley, 64, of Libby passed away on Feb. 9, 2021, after a short battle with brain cancer.

Carol was born in Los Angeles on Nov. 9, 1956, and was adopted into the loving family of Francis and June Young. Carol moved with her family to Libby in 1969. Her father Fran, was a concrete worker and was the supervisor for the sidewalks that were to be installed during the construction of the four lane highway that was done during the dam years. They made Libby their permanent home. Carol graduated in 1974 from Libby High School. She attended one year of college at the University of Montana. She began a banking career in 1974, working part time at First National Bank in Libby and spent 20 years there before moving to Glacier Bank in 1993. She spent 47 years in the banking business.

Carol married the love of her life, Robin Swimley, and began her life with him on Dec. 17, 1983.

For all who know Carol, you are familiar with her planning and organizational skills, and as her time grew short, she wanted to express her feelings to the people who brought joy to her life, so no one should be surprised that she decided to write her own farewell.

"It is with all my soul, my heart and my love that I say goodbye to the many people that have touched my life.

To my husband, the love of my life, you have been the one who provided for us, who created a wonderful life for us, and who has always taken care of us. There are no words to say how much I will miss you or to explain the depth with which I love you other than I will love and miss you forever.



and for hiring me; your belief in me was appreciated.

To  
Glacier

Bank in Libby, you were more like family than co-workers. Thank you for your friendship and being a part of my life. I love you all.

To Greg Wilcox and Tony Harrah, you are loved.

Lisa Hassett-Kaplanian and Sheryl Underwood, friends, I appreciate all you have done for me ... love you both.

To Mike and Dori Munro, Jessica and Molly, our second family whom we love very much, you will be missed.

To our friends Kirby and Sue Kulbeck, Corey and Alex, we shared many great times together. You mean so much to me,

To all the people I worked with in the many groups and organizations I have belonged to over the years, it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with you and we accomplished many things to improve the lives of the people in our community. I am proud of the work we did, and I think of you all fondly.

And finally, to all my customers whom I have enjoyed working with for the many years, I am pleased to have been able to help you realize your dreams and share in that process.

To my family, Bruce and Arlene Swimley, Billings, Robert and Kathy Swimley, Spring Creek, Nevada, Keith and Linda Swimley, Troy, Brian and Sabrina Swimley, Troy, and Linda Lundin, Troy, also my nieces and nephews. Joshua, Elizabeth, Daniel, Nicole, Andrea, Melissa, Kevin, Michael, Tyson, Vincent, William, Spencer, and Adam, I also love you so much; I was hoping retirement would give us more time together to boat, barbecue, and to fish. I am sorry that dream is not going to happen.

To Don Cherry, thank you for your friendship,

Even though the time for me to go has come, I take comfort in knowing that my goal in life of helping people has been met in the many affiliations with organizations I have worked with over the years, as well as all the loans I have been able to process. Some final advice: life is short and unexpected. Plan for retirement but never forget to live, love, and have fun with family and friends along the way. With much love and difficulty, I say goodbye. Carol.

A celebration of Carol's life will be held on Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. It will be held at Robin and Carol's home at 1247 ACM Road South, Libby MT 59923. It is located on the back side of Middle Thompson Lake. It is halfway between Libby and Kalispell. Please make any memorial donation to the Fisher River Valley Fire/Rescue.

## Susan Jean Swisher, 78

*PAL 22 Aug 2021*  
Susan Jean Swisher was born on March 29, 1943, in Walsenburg, Colorado, and was welcomed into the arms of our Lord on Aug. 5, 2021, after she unexpectedly passed away in a hospital near Eagle, Idaho.



Susan spent her childhood in Butte where she graduated from high school. She married her first husband and had three sons.

In the early 1970s, she moved to Southern California to study interior design. She had a successful career working for several design businesses. It was through her work and passion for design that she met her beloved husband, Norm.

With the support of her husband, Susan took her passion for design and mind for business, and started her own company in 1988, Susan Swisher Interiors Inc. Soon after, the couple decided to draft their own plans to build a house together in Bigfork along the banks of the Swan River. The Swishers meticulously reviewed every detail, ensuring it would be their perfect home.

Norm passed before the couple could move in together, but Susan called it home for 30 years, with her cocker spaniels by her side. It was in this house, nestled between the spruces and ponderosas that she spent countless hours laughing with her sons, granddaughters and great-grandsons, visiting with friends on the deck, waving at passing floaters, dancing to French music, and doing her daily crossword puzzle. Although she was

retired, she filled her time exercising her passion for design any way that she could; painting

bears, designing condos, redecorating her home, or marveling at the unique trees while walking the wild mile along the Swan.

Her last 10 years were spent with her partner George and were filled with love. The two rekindled their friendship after they met by chance in Bigfork. From then on, Susan split her time between Bigfork, and George's home, Eagle. In 2020, Susan sold her home in Bigfork to design, build and decorate what would be her last project, a final custom home near George in Eagle.

Susan was preceded in death by her mother, Nina Dikerson Krier; father, Charles Krier; brother, Bill (Thelma) Krier; and husband Norm Swisher.

She is survived by her partner, George Rife; sister, Jeanie White; sons, Greg (Valerie) Smith, Mark Smith, and Jeff (Beth) Smith; granddaughters, Shalane Smith, Ashley (Brian) Abbott, Jessica Smith, Shyleigh Smith, Leanne Smith, Annabelle Smith, and Mary Jo Smith; great-grandsons, Aidan Fuentez, and Hudson Abbott; and nieces and nephews.

Susan's ashes will be spread by family members on Oct. 2, with a celebration of life to be held for friends and family in the spring.