

Tracy Reed Lamb, 34



Tracy Reed Lamb, 34, died March 24, 2022, at his home in Helena, a victim of accidental overdose.

Tracy was born May 8, 1987, in Whitefish to Reed and Connie Lamb. As third and last child, he was the tie breaker, joining sister Britten and brother Will. He grew up in Kalispell, attended Stillwater Christian School, and graduated from homeschool in 2006. He was a student at the Helena College of Technology at the time of his death, just weeks from completing his training to be an aircraft mechanic, and had already received his airframe certification.

Tracy was a mechanic by nature, although his early attempts consisted mostly of lifting, lower-

ing and loudening his own vehicles. The whole street knew when he came home for the night — our neighborhood watch program. His many outdoor jobs included building, landscaping and fencing, but he mostly worked as an auto mechanic. When he wasn't working on his own projects, or helping others with theirs, he enjoyed fishing and golf. His community service was not through an organization, it was the natural product of his generous heart. Like his dad, he could fix or build almost anything. So it was not surprising

that in his 30s, he decided to become an aircraft mechanic, training at the same school in Helena his dad had.

Though he denied being a people person, Tracy was thoughtful by nature and well liked. He brought a steady supply of friends to our dinner table, and sometimes to live, in our home.

Tracy was preceded in death by his grandmother, Violet Neighbors, and grandfather Del Lamb.

His survivors are parents, Reed and Connie Lamb, sister Britten (Luke) Carlson, brother Will (Emily) Lamb and nieces Gabrielle, Renata and Jules. He is also survived by grandparents Patricia Lamb and Bill

Neighbors, many cousins and a multitude of friends.

Tracy put his trust in Christ as a young boy, drifted for a time, but God restored his faith in a powerful way, and now has called him home. We are sure he would invite you to live in that home too.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. April 9 at Glacier International Airport, big blue hangar. Enter at Gate 7, north of the main terminal, check in required.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohill.com to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Aileen Muriel (Gordon) Lancaster, 92



Aileen M. Lancaster, 92, of Fullerton, California, passed away on May 30, 2022, where she was a resident of Morningside and previously Rancho Bernardo, California.

Aileen "Nina" Lancaster, of Norwegian descent, was the daughter of Lloyd H. Gordon and Sina Emma (Vensand) Gordon of Kalispell and was born on June 18, 1929, in Mobridge, South Dakota. Her brother was Roger Gordon (wife Delores) and she had two nephews, Roger Jr. Robbin and Bobby Robbin, and niece Roxanne (Robbin) Leven. She was the loving widow of Sid C. Lancaster who

passed away in 2013 and is survived by daughter, Linda (Lancaster) Boyer and her husband Charles Chapin Boyer of Irvine, California. Aileen, who was married in Kalispell in 1948, is also survived by three grandchildren, John C. Boyer and wife Christy (Cleveland) of Mission Viejo, California; Thomas J. Boyer of Irvine, California; and Peter W. Boyer and wife Ann (Willis) of Gilbert, Arizona; and six great-grandchildren,

Elizabeth Boyer, Nathan Boyer, Emma Boyer and Sam Boyer from Mission Viejo, and Nolan Boyer and Clarie Boyer from Gilbert.

Aileen lived throughout the USA (including South Dakota, Montana, California, Washington, Oregon, New York, Texas, and also San Juan, Puerto Rico). She loved to golf, play cards and paint in oils/pastels, and especially loved traveling the world including over 37 countries. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Services held at Ascension Cemetery on June 24 in Lake Forest, California.



Gene Larsen passed peacefully on Jan. 14, 2022.

He was born in Fargo, North Dakota to Alton (Nukky) and Myrtle Larsen on March 15, 1944. He lived most of his life in the area he was born and among the mountains that he loved in the Flathead Valley of Montana. He was a wartime veteran serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Carol Halabrin, his brother Alvin (Tinker) Larsen, and his son Shawn Larsen.

He is survived by his sister Mariys Hicks of Glyndon, MN; his daughters Debra (Ron) Perry of Kingston, Washington; Carol (Tony) Gigler of Hitterdal, Minnesota; and Christy (Jeff) Downing of Tacoma, Washington; 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Sometimes a person travels this earth in such a way that we are reminded of how complex and complicated the human experience can be. Gene was one of those people.

He had a big ol' cowboy heart and a playful and humorous personality. More than one of his many exes will remember him as an excellent dancer, tearing up the dance floor of some honky-tonk bar with a skilled two-step or a polka.

His grandkids will describe him as an avid fisherman and a constant trickster and storyteller. He was quick with a joke and a sparkle in his eye while he roused and teased them relentlessly. To the friends of his daughters growing up, he was a protective and intimidating force that even the most ruffian boys dared not reckon with. He was ornery and stubborn, good hearted, generous, and kind. He thoroughly enjoyed the people that he loved and the friends and family, or "good people," that he held dear.

Gene himself would admit that he was not always an easy man to love. He struggled with addiction and the complicated realities of a person living within its grasp. In the end, we are reminded that nobody chooses a life with such an illness, and that given a choice, Gene would most certainly have taken a different deal. Those that loved him witnessed his light, and despite his darker days, they walked away as better humans for it.

Rest in peace Dad. Give em' hell up there and know that you are loved.

(The family is planning a celebration of life to be held in Hitterdal, Minnesota on June 18th. Details to follow, and all are welcome.)

James Stanley Lanktree, 87



James Stanley Lanktree was born of parents Stanley A. and Eva D. Lanktree in Baker, Montana, Dec. 1, 1934, and died in Whitefish July 27, 2022.

James was preceded in death by first wife Marilyn B. Walter, second wife Alma J. Peterson, daughters Laura and Denise Lanktree, and grandchildren Travis and Jennifer Lanktree.

Though living in this valley some 60 years, James lived and worked previously in Baker, Eureka, California and

Great Falls. He was in the Army National Guard for a short time but worked the glass business the rest of his working life, having his hand in a vast number of buildings in the valley and surrounding counties. James was a keen hunter/marksman, fisherman, outdoors man and family man. He was among the most avid of fishermen; it was the thing he missed most once his health would no

longer allow it. James is survived by his children, Robert, Scott, Keven and Theresa, as well as 13 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

There will be a graveside service held for James 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 8, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Following the graveside service there will be a gathering 11 a.m. at the main pavilion at Woodland Park. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Lawrence L. 'Peter' Larson, 84

Lawrence L. "Peter" Larson, 84, left peacefully to join his heavenly Father on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022, at home with his wife, Sallie, by his side.

Peter was born in the original Kalispell Hospital in 1938, the eldest of four sons born to Lawrence and Helen Larson. He grew up in Kalispell in the Larson family tradition of pioneer logging. With his cousin Bob Sparling, Peter spent most summers of his youth at logging camps established by his grandfather, Hans, who had emigrated from Norway in 1903 at the age of 17.

Peter graduated from Flathead County High School in 1956 with the moniker "Buckshot." He played football and basketball, and also took an interest in bridge, playing in tournaments during high school and in his adult years. Following high school, Peter joined the Army Reserves and trained at Fort Ord in California. The next year, he enrolled at Washington State University in Pullman, subsequently transferring to Principia College in Illinois, where he majored in physics.

After graduating from Principia in 1961, Peter returned to Montana and started a portable sawmill, which he operated northwest of Kalispell during the 1960s. He eventually transitioned to managing the family businesses: American Timber Company (started by his grandfather in 1928), American Stud Company (started in the mid-1970s), and Glacier Gold Compost (which he initiated in the 1990s). He also continued to manage his own logging business, L. Peter Larson Company. In 1979, he was named Logger of the Year at the fourth annual Big Sky Logger Championships. In receiving this award, Peter was recognized for developing a design for logging and transporting lodgepole pine to the mill economically, thereby "assuring continuation of the timber industry as a viable business and major employer in Northwest Montana." He continued to manage the family businesses, headquartered in Olney, until the early 2000s, when the dwindling federal timber sales led to the companies' closures.



well as to numerous local families and individuals. Peter had a calm and reassuring presence with those who sought him out for advice or guidance. His special talent for listening and asking pertinent questions conveyed that he was genuinely interested and wanted to help.

Peter greatly enjoyed sharing stories, ranging from times he spent surveying land in the woods with his grandfather, to antics with his cousin Bob in the logging camps, to experiences as a businessman, to missionary trips he took abroad. He was also a bit of a local historian and particularly liked talking about his grandmother, Lillian Peterson, a young pioneer woman-homesteader who later became the Montana Superintendent of Rural Schools. He was very proud of his children as well and enjoyed introducing them to friends and associates. Peter was so widely known and well liked in the Flathead Valley that any outing with him required budgeting extra time due to the many acquaintances he would inevitably run into and want to visit with. He truly appreciated connecting with others and providing them with his legendary hugs, whether they were people he had known for years or ones he had just met.

Peter's sense of purpose in life deepened in 1984 when he gave himself to Jesus Christ. Studying Scripture, glorifying God, and serving others became his paramount goal. Over the ensuing years, Peter mentored broken families, widows and widowers, struggling entrepreneurs, and most every soul he met. Initially with his wife Donna, and later with his wife Sallie, Peter participated in and supported missionary work around the world. He joyfully swung a hammer, mixed concrete, and performed manual labor with a broad smile and comical humor. He preached, taught, and ministered to the Huorani people of Ecuador and at tribal churches in Nigeria, as well as initiating small business

Peter married Claudia Larson in 1965 and they had three children, Brent, Robin and Julie. In 1977, he married Donna Mae Larson and adopted her four children, Steve, Kelly, Michael and Tyler. After more than three decades of marriage, Peter lovingly supported Donna through years of decline due to Alzheimer's, first caring for her at home and then visiting her daily at the Immanuel Lutheran Home until her death in 2014. In 2016, Peter married Sallie Larson and welcomed Sallie's two adult children, James and Laura, into his family.

Peter was an astute businessman. In addition to managing the family businesses over three decades, he served 30 years on the board of Glacier Bancorp, nine years on the board of Kalispell Regional Medical Center (KRMCC, now Lozan Health Medical Center), and several years on the boards of Youth with a Mission (YWAM), Mission Builders International (MBI), and Semitool. In his approach to these positions, Peter believed that informed decision-making required getting to know the business inside and out. "You have to understand what's going on in the trenches," he would say. To that end, Peter would regularly visit and talk with the full range of people who were actually doing the work, from the CEO to the frontline workers and volunteers, so he could see the issues firsthand and gain insights about how to solve them. In 2015, Peter became the 44th recipient of the Great Chief Award, the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce's oldest and most prestigious honor.

Peter was a man of integrity and humility. The community benefited from his wisdom and his compassionate heart to serve others. He was personally involved with the Lighthouse Christian Home near Somers, attended Canvas Church in Kalispell (formerly The Christian Center) where he taught the adult class with his close friend, Pastor Bob Ross, and assisted his dear friend, Len Williamson, with Hineni Ministry in Bigfork. Throughout his life, Peter donated time and money to organizations, including Flathead Valley Community College, KRMCC, the Advanced Life Support and Emergency Rescue Team (A.L.E.R.T.), the Lighthouse Christian Home, the Immanuel Lutheran Communities, YWAM Montana, MBI, and multiple missionaries around the globe, as

startups. He helped establish a Christian radio station in Albania and assessed the needs for MBI in Canada, El Salvador and Sweden.

In the last seven years, Peter encouraged the YWAM campus in Battambang, Cambodia, and attended YWAM conferences in Townsville, Australia and Kansas City. Shortly after they married, Peter and Sallie attended YWAM training schools in Lakeside, followed by ministering in Ternopil, Ukraine. They also toured Israel with First Rate (Business as Missions) and visited Herrnhut, Germany, where worldwide mission work was championed in the early 1700s. Peter took great pleasure in seeing YWAM Montana and MBI prosper and grow in their calling "To Know God and To Make Him Known."

Peter was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Helen Larson, his wife Donna Mae Larson, and his brothers Paul and Jon Larson.

He is survived by his wife Sallie Larson, his brother Kurt (Carol) Larson, his former wife Claudia Larson, his children Steve (Sandi) Appgar, Kelly Appgar, Brent Larson, Michael (Gretchen) Appgar, Robin (John Lee) Larson, Julie (Martin Alkire) Larson, and Tyler (Tonla) Appgar, and his stepchildren James LaPan, Laura (Justin) White, and Sareena Day, plus 18 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, as well as numerous brothers and sisters in faith. Peter expressed gratitude and love for everyone in his life as each had blessed him mightily. Our faithful companion, friend, husband, father and grandfather is deeply missed and will live in our hearts forever — only to be greeted again in that land where there is no end, no tears, and no more goodbyes.

Services will be held at Canvas Church, 255 Summit Ridge Dr., in Kalispell on Saturday, Oct. 22, at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon in the church auditorium. A private family graveside service will be held at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

The family suggests memorial gifts be made to Flathead Warming Center, 889 North Meridian Road, P.O. Box 7142, Kalispell, MT 59904; or to Sparrow's Nest of Northwest Montana, 215 3rd Ave East, P.O. Box 8384, Kalispell, MT 59904.

A thanks to the photographer, Tim Rounds, for the wonderful photo of Peter.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Peter and his family.

Dennis Joseph "Denny" Lawrence, 72

Dennis Joseph "Denny" Lawrence passed away on June 30, 2022, at his home surrounded by family in Great Falls, from a brave battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

He was born in Kalispell on Aug. 16, 1949.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 42 years, Lori; and his brothers, Dr. Thomas Lawrence (Debbie), his twin Douglas Lawrence (Anne), and Richard "Dick" Lawrence (Robyn); and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother Mary C. Lawrence, father Lester M. Lawrence, and infant brother Robert.

Denny graduated from Flathead High School in Kalispell in 1967. He then served four years in the U.S. Navy earning a rank in the Construction Battalion as a CM3 in the Vietnam War. After the war, he began his careers as a mechanic and forest firefighter at the Swan River Youth



Forest Camp. He was highly active with the Volunteer Fire Department, Search and Rescue, and became a volunteer first responder. He went on to receive an associate's degree in biomedical electronics and worked for several years as an MRI and Cat Scan technician. He later returned

to Swan Lake and owned D&L, Excavating until he retired.

You could say Denny was a jack-of-all-trades. His "Happy Place" was with family and friends, helping his community and in the outdoors hunting and fishing, or simply visiting the critters of all kinds wherever he was. He took the time to be in nature to find an understanding of making everything better.

Denny was an exceptionally talented, yet simple man with an enormous heart! Taken from an anonymous quote shared with us

"Cross oceans for people, climb mountains ... no conditions attached. Life and Love is about what you give."

Please join us to celebrate his life on Aug. 20 at 2 p.m. at the Swan Chapel in Swan Lake. A reception will follow at the Swan Lake Community Club House.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations will be given in Denny's memory to the ALS Association (als.org) or Medallion Hospice, in Great Falls, MT 59404.

Carol Jean 'Jeannie' (Blihovde) LeDoux, 79

Carol Jean "Jeannie" (Blihovde) LeDoux, 79, of Kila, passed away on July 10, 2022, after a three-year battle with cancer.

Jeannie was born on March 9, 1943, in La Crosse, Wisconsin, to Morris and Evelyn (Larson) Blihovde. She grew up as a farm girl in Cashton, Wisconsin, and graduated from Cashton High School in 1961. Jeannie was united in marriage to David Conrad LeDoux on Nov. 14, 1975. Together they moved to the "big cities" of Milwaukee and Chicago where they raised their family and Jeannie furthered her career in accounting.

Jeannie loved her Lord and her family with an unending, ferocious heart. She enjoyed the Chicago Bears, salted caramel lattes, manicures and pedicures, and always looking "put together."

She is survived by her devoted, loyal, husband who cared for her until the very end — always honoring her wishes and spoiling her



precious; a big, beautiful, blended family of seven children (who were un-

ditionally loved despite their antics); a very special brother and always the heart of the family, Gary (Julie) Blihovde; many grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other family members. She also left over 200 pairs of shoes and a binder full of instructions.

Jeannie was preceded in death by her parents, and brother, Don Blihovde, in 2001.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 16, at Easthaven Baptist Church in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Logan Hospice Care, 275 Corporate Drive, Suite 600, Kalispell, MT 59901, without whom this journey would not have ended as she desired — in her home in Kila.

Michael Edwin La Sorte, 76

Michael Edwin La Sorte died peacefully in his sleep at home in Kalispell, on June 16, 2022, of congestive heart failure. He was born to Frank and Donna La Sorte in Cut Bank on Dec. 23, 1945, and was 76 years of age at the time of his death.

Mike graduated from Cut Bank High School in 1963. He attended U of M in Missoula and married his high school sweetheart, Jenny Lee of Cut Bank, in the First Presbyterian Church of Cut Bank on July 27, 1968. They made their home in Billings where they started a family and welcomed daughter, Jana, followed by son, Darren. Mike graduated from Army Officer Candidate School in Montana and completed helicopter pilot training at Fort Rucker, Alabama. As a member of the Montana Army National Guard, he flew helicopter missions. Because of his skill as a pilot, he saved the life of a general who was his passenger when they experienced engine failure. The general was so impressed with Mike's performance under duress that he recommended him for admission to Command and General Staff College, where he later graduated.

Mike completed his degree in management and finance by correspondence during military training. After moving to Missoula in 1973, in addition to flying part-time for the Guard, Mike served as scholarship and financial aid officer at U of M from 1975 to 1978 before moving to Duluth, Minnesota, for a command tour at the National Guard armory there. He had a number of active duty tours, including in Germany where he flew the Iron Curtain, Illinois, Washington State, and the Pentagon during Desert Storm, among them. For his service at the Pentagon, he received The Meritorious Service Medal as mobilization branch chief for "... exemplary efforts [that] contributed directly to significant improvement in the mobilization readiness of the Army National Guard ...". At the rank of lieutenant colonel, he returned to Montana for a command tour at the Kalispell armory before his final assignment at Fort McPherson, Georgia, after which he retired from the Army and went to work for Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Georgia, for 10



Lockheed.

Mike and Jenny moved to Round Rock, Texas, for five years to be closer to family members and then moved back home to Montana in 2011. At home in Kalispell, Mike volunteered for Meals on Wheels and served on the Eagle Transit and Buffalo Hill Golf Club boards. He was a certified master club builder through Golfsmith, and enjoyed golf and club building and repair, as well as gunsmithing and flying his drone.

Mike was preceded in death by his grandparents and parents.

He is survived by his wife Jenny at home in Kalispell; daughter Jana of New York City; son Darren (Hayley) of Dallas, Texas; sisters Betty (Larry) Spain of Woodridge, Illinois; Frances La Sorte of Glendale, Arizona; Karyl (Tom) Gopp of Ferriday, and Marilyn La Sorte of Columbia Falls; as well as many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Mike lived a long, full, and distinguished life of service to God, country, and community. He was a family man and kept his many friends over the years. His love and friendship were cherished by all, and he will be deeply missed by all. Toward the end of his life, he enjoyed breakfasts with his friends group, dinners and meetings with his fellow pilot friends, vacations in Hawaii, his dog Mac, and his cat Tootsie.

Cremation has taken place, and a memorial service is scheduled for July 29, at 1 p.m., at Faith Covenant Church in Kalispell. Pastor Lloyd Pierson officiating, with a reception to follow. In addition, an Honor Guard service will take place on August 1, at 1:30 p.m., at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Missoula, reception to follow. Memorial donations may be made in Mike's name to The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) at www.dav.org/donate. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home in Kalispell is caring for the family.

years. He wrote the computer training manual for the C-130J and lived in Bristol, England, for a year to train the British pilots for

Wanda Ilene Lee, 85

Wanda Ilene Lee passed away Nov. 19, 2022.

She was born on Nov. 23, 1936, to Ada and Bernice Caudle, in Lebanon, Missouri. Ilene graduated from Lebanon High School in 1954 and married her sweetheart Russell Wright in 1954. They raised one girl and three boys and moved to Wittier and Ventura, California where he was a car salesman for Cal Worthington Dodge. Russell died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1963.

Ilene and family moved

many times and were in Anchorage, Alaska for a couple of years. They moved to Kalispell to be near her brother, Albert Caudle, who lived in Bigfork. She completed beauty school and had a nice following of Kalispell women. In 1971, she met Larry O. Lee at the Lee Marine boat shop while buying pool supplies.

They became a team and were married Feb. 16, 1973 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho at the Lutheran Church. The wedding reception was the next day at the Kalispell Elks Lodge. They were married for 49 years. In addition to beauty work, Ilene decorated cakes for all occasions. Her talents also created a wonderful assortment of cookies for many families at the holidays.

Two daughters were born to Larry and Ilene; Libbe in 1975 and Elizabeth in 1978. The family lived at Hwy. 93 and Reserve Drive, with

room for animals.

Libbe married Frank Gilbert in 1995 and Elizabeth married Jacob Andersen in 1999. Michael Tyler Lee became a family member in 1993 and is now 30 years old and a nice part of our family.

Ilene became a Realtor property manager and had her own company, Flathead Property Management. When her health began to sour,

she wanted out of the cold and wanted Arizona sunshine. They moved to Lake Havasu City in 1996. Larry sold his real estate offices and joined McCulloch Realty.

Ilene enjoyed traveling with Larry to Elks conventions and events in Montana and Grand Lodge conventions for 15 years. She met many nice people and loved her memories.

She is survived by Leshia Wright, Kyle Wright, Libbe and Frank Gilbert of Lake Havasu; Elizabeth and Jacob Andersen of Liberty Lake, Washington; Tyler Lee of Lake Havasu; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Special family members include sister-in-law Jinny Michels; Nancy and Don Lockman of Florida; brother-in-law Tom; Barbara Lee of Kalispell; and Mary Jo and Jim Wright of California.

She was preceded in

death by her parents, three brothers, her first husband Russell Wright and her sons Randall and Brad Wright.

She enjoyed her backyard, all of the birds, and the view of town. She made personalized cards for all occasions in her craft room. The cards were iris folding and embroidered. She enjoyed giving them away. She also had a love for baking pies, cookies and decorated cakes. She enjoyed playing games including ponytail cards.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 12:30 p.m. at Lietz-Fraze Funeral Home in Lake Havasu City. Graveside services will follow at 2 p.m. at Lake Havasu Memorial Gardens. A reception will follow at Lake Havasu Realtor Center.

Services were entrusted to the care of Lietz-Fraze Funeral Home. Thoughts and condolences can be sent to the family at www.lietz-fraze-funeral-home.com.



Juel 'Maurice' Leib, 81

Juel "Maurice" Leib, 81, of Columbia Falls, passed away on Oct. 5, 2022, surrounded by his family.

He was born Sept. 10, 1941, in Scooby, Montana, to Alma Hellickson and John Leib.

He spent his childhood running around the woods of Eureka. He proudly served in the Navy from 1959 to 1963. He received a commendation for outstanding performance of the USS Nitro, during the Cuban Quarantine of November 1962. In 1964 he married the love of his life, Norma Nelson. They had three children Travis, Melissa and Michael. He spent the majority of his life



working in the woods, building roads and logging. His love for the outdoors took him all across the state of Montana. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and riding his horse Lolly. He also enjoyed working in the shop, and riding in the truck with his son Mike. His wandering heart was never satisfied unless he was exploring new places. Dad was an outstanding husband, and he

loved his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren unconditionally. His family was the center of his life. We will miss him dearly and cherish the thousands of memories we have together.

Maurice was preceded in death by his father John Leib, his mother Alma Hellickson, his brother Alan Leib, and his granddaughter Gitanna Leib.

Maurice is survived by his loving wife Norma, and their three children Travis (Cristina) Leib, Melissa (Todd) Olsen and Mike (Tracy) Leib; his sister, Geri Ax; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held on Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. at the Country Inn and Suites, 4150 U.S. Hwy. 2 Kalispell, MT 59901.

Stacy Marie Leukuma, 41

Stacy Marie Leukuma, 41, was born in Kalispell, on March 18, 1981. She died in her sleep, Dec. 9, 2022 at her home in Kalispell.

Stacy attended and graduated from Flathead High School in 1999. Stacy moved to Duluth, Minnesota after graduation, and then relocated to Battleground, Washington until 2012. She held numerous jobs while living away, mainly office-type work. She began college in Washington but was unable to finish due to a traffic accident in

December of 2012. In the accident, Stacy suffered a traumatic brain injury. The traumatic brain injury was disabling and Stacy moved back to Kalispell to be closer to her parents. She spent the last 10 years of her life working odd jobs around Kalispell. Stacy loved her family and friends dearly.

Stacy was a lifelong member of the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church. Stacy is survived by her parents John and Shelley Leukuma of Kalispell; her siblings Krista (Kurt) Ruonavaara

of Kalispell, Alicia (Andy) Gillette of Chelatchie Prairie, Washington, Wendy (Andy) Lobbestael of Milford, Michigan, Bethany (Neil) Kaski of Battleground, Washington, Troy (Jennifer) Leukuma of Kalispell, Kara (Reid) Koskineniemi of Palmer, Alaska, Shannon Leukuma of Kalispell, Brian Leukuma of Battleground, and Rachelle Leukuma of Battleground, Washington; her maternal grandparents Richard and Mary Ann Rosenlund of Hancock, Michigan; numerous nieces, neph-

ews, relatives, and a host of Christian friends.

Stacy is preceded in death by her paternal grandparents Carl and Ruth Leukuma.

There will be a visitation for Stacy at the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church in Lakeside, Montana on Friday Dec. 16 from 7-9 p.m. Stacy's funeral will be held at the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. A burial will be held at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell following the funeral service. All are welcome.

Barbara B. Leerenz, 92

Barbara B. Leerenz, 92, passed away on Feb. 13, 2022, with her three daughters at her bedside.



Barbara grew up in Wilmette, Illinois, and graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder. In 1950, she married her husband, Jack, who preceded her in death. They raised their daughters, Barbara, Jane and Wendy, in Wilmette. Because of their love of the West, in 2000, they moved to Whitefish and spent many happy years as members of the community.

The family has planned a private memorial service.

The family extends their heartfelt appreciation to The Springs at Whitefish and to Encompass Health Care for their skill and many kindnesses shown to Barbara.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the North Valley Food Bank, 251 Flathead Avenue, Whitefish, Montana 59937.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Patrick Allen Libby, 76

Patrick Allen Libby, 76, passed on March 6, 2022, in Olney.



Patrick is survived by his wife, Marion Libby; children, Wanda (Dave) Sparks, LeAnn Libby, Toni Sagen and Mike (Kim) Libby; 14 grandkids

and 12 great-grandkids.

A memorial service will be held at the Olney Volunteer Fire Department on March 19 at 2 p.m.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Jeri Lea Lincoln



"You belong among the wildflowers, you belong on a boat out at sea, sail away, kill off the hours, you belong somewhere you feel free." — Tom Petty

Jeri Lea Lincoln passed away May 24, 2022, at her home in Kalispell. She was born in Missoula and was a proud fourth generation Montanan. She is survived by her son Adam Lincoln, grandchildren Dominic Valk, Cora Lincoln and Kaden Lincoln, mother Shirley Lincoln and sisters Candie and Denise Lincoln.

Throughout her working days Jeri was the first female rafting guide on

the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, she was a respiratory therapist and finally a physical therapist employed at Logan Healthcare. She was a hard core liberal who loved white wine and piaco sours, anything outdoors or travel related, good coffee and every dog she ever met. Most of all, she loved her son and three grandchildren. Jeri was 100 pounds of pure Montana badass.

She was fearless, whether putting an addition on her home by herself, row-

ing through class 4 white water, riding a camel in the Indian desert or wrestling a patient three times her size who just had hip surgery. I know many people have done similar things in our action-packed Flathead Valley. It wasn't so much what Jeri did, but how she did them. She always carried herself with great kindness, a sense of adventure and respect for the people, animals and environment and an uncanny ability to stay calm in the face of danger. Her time on earth fell short, but while she was here she

took a huge bite out of life and lived well. She is missed.

When rafting down the Middle Fork, just after the Narrows you'll see a paddle on river left on a cliff. This paddle was put up over 30 years ago in honor of George Mumalo, her truest love. Wrapped around this will be a scarf Jeri was given in India. Our hope is that when you see this scarf it will inspire you to live life just a little more fully, with more grace and compassion in honor of Jeri and all the special women you know.

Carroll 'Poppy' Clyde Lindsey, 87

Carroll "Poppy" Clyde Lindsey, 87, coached his last game and turned out the gym lights. He passed away on Oct. 13, 2022, surrounded by family and friends at Logan Health Whitefish. Carroll loved to fish, hunt, play sports and converse with students of all ages. He is now disease free and resting peacefully in heaven with his father Roy and mother Murriel Lindsey.



He has a sister, Eula Ogle of Columbia Falls, and brother LeRoy Lindsey, deceased.

Carroll was born in Blount County, Tennessee, Jan. 7, 1935. He was the first child of Roy and Murriel Lindsey. As a young boy, he was never far behind his

father's footsteps be it fishing, hunting or building houses. Carroll graduated high school in 1953 in Port Lavaca, Texas. Upon graduation, he attended the University of Corpus Christi in Texas where he received degrees in education and health. He was awarded a four-year scholarship and played football for the Corpus Christi Tarpons.

While attending the University of Corpus Christi, Carroll met the love of his life, Virginia Hollingsworth. Carroll was looking out the

window of his college dorm room, saw Virginia walking down the sidewalk, and told his friend, "That's the girl I am going to marry." They married on June 21, 1958, and celebrated 64 years of marriage until his death.

A loving husband, father and grandfather, Carroll spent his professional career as a superintendent of schools, receiving his Master of Administration degree at the University of Montana in Missoula. He enjoyed coaching basketball, football and track and field for 40 years until his retirement in 2000 in Columbia Falls. Carroll and Virginia lived in seven communities across the state of Montana from

east to west.

Carroll is survived by his wife, Virginia. Together they have two children, Kyle and Donna Lindsey, with three grandchildren, Connor, Ava, and Stephen Lindsey along with his fiancée Kellie. He is also survived by his beloved niece Kathy and her husband Bill Brunett.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Carroll's wish was to be cremated and his ashes spread over the South Fork of the Flathead River, one of the most beautiful places he ever set eyes on.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please contribute to your favorite educational or sports institution/charity.



March 26, 1939 July 31, 2022

LeRoy Lindsey was born in Allensville TN, March 26, 1939. He passed away peacefully July 31, 2022 at Logan Health Medical center surrounded by his family.

LeRoy moved with his parents Roy and Muriel Lindsey to Columbia Falls in 1954 where he attended and graduated high school in 1957. LeRoy enjoyed entertaining and demonstrating his gymnastic skills during halftime games. Upon graduation LeRoy was employed at the Anaconda Aluminum Plant, soon after he married Virginia McCallister, they had a son, Randy. LeRoy was then drafted and deployed to Germany with his family for several years. Returning to the states they moved back to Columbia Falls and added a beautiful daughter, Brenda. Upon his return, LeRoy again worked at the Anaconda Aluminum Plant but soon was transferred to Sebec Kentucky. Leaving Kentucky he then went to Federal Way, Washington, where he began his career in cable installation until he retired.

LeRoy enjoyed being a Snowbird. He spent summers in Columbia Falls with his family and winters in Parker, Arizona. In 2021, LeRoy moved to Libby to be near his son Randy and daughter-in-law Chris. He enjoyed the simple pleasures in life such as camping, fishing watching western movies and NASCAR.

LeRoy was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Muriel Lindsey; daughter Brenda Clarke, granddaughter Casey Clarke. He is survived by his ex-wife Virginia McCallister of Kalispell; son Randy (Chris) Lindsey of Libby; brother Carroll (Virginia) Lindsey of Columbia Falls; sister Eula Ogle of Columbia Falls; and many loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and extended family.

Per LeRoy's request there will be no memorial service.

Jack L. Lingle, 89



Jack Lee Lingle was born on Nov. 10, 1932, to Barbara Lorene and Samuel Lee Lingle in Kalispell. He was born in his grandmother's small farmhouse at the location of the present-day Evergreen school.

Jack lived a happy childhood with his parents in a cabin on Flathead Lake in Dayton. He then moved to a farm that his parents purchased where he worked as a farmer, dairyman and rancher until his high school graduation. While attending Polson High School, Jack was a star football and track athlete who set numerous records. He went on to college at Montana State University where he was involved with ROTC.

Jack married the love of his life, Geraldine "Geri" Marie Commers at the Polson Methodist Church on Jan. 14, 1954. The marriage ceremony was held during a candlelight service due to blizzard conditions outside. Jack and Geri met in the sixth grade and were best friends ever since. They resided in Rollins where they welcomed their first two sons, Kent and Curtis. They were among the first water skiers on Flathead Lake, and even made their own skis! In January 1960, they moved to Evergreen where they still resided to this day.

Just weeks after moving to Evergreen they welcomed their first and only daughter, Pamela. Six years later, they would welcome their last son, Cameron. Jack and Geri were married 68 years.

Jack was very ethical and a dedicated hard worker. He worked as the Flathead County bridge supervisor, flood control, farming, ranching, logging, and with the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department. Working

with the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department was his most valued job for the interest of serving the people in the community.

Jack provided inspiration to all younger and older generations. He enjoyed coaching PeeWee Baseball and was instrumentally and actively involved in being a Boy Scout leader. As a Boy Scout leader, he enjoyed keeping the younger generations involved with knot tying, citizenship, leadership, camping, and hiking through the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Jack was heavily involved with high school and travel team sports including, but not limited to, football, softball and wrestling. He accompanied his children and grandchildren across the Pacific Northwest, supporting and volunteering. He was always their biggest fan!

Jack was greatly involved with fundraising for the Fire Department. This included running a food booth at the Flathead County Fair and attending the firemen water games, from which the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department came home with many trophies.

One of Jack's greatest accomplishments was being named Citizen of the Year in 1989. He also supervised and replaced over 85 worn-down wooden bridges in Flathead County with new concrete piling and driving surfaces, which many of us drive over today; the last bridge being the Old Steel Bridge on Flathead River, and the bridge out of Polebridge that crosses over into Glacier National Park after forest

fires had consumed the structure.

Safety was always Jack's first priority in the workforce, while still maintaining enjoyment in his personal life as being a family man, adventurer, lover and prankster. He was always full of lots of shenanigans.

Jack enjoyed many activities, including bowling, card playing, eight ball pool tournaments, teaching his grandkids to water ski and sitting down with his family to eat supper with occasional taco eating contests. And don't forget the big bowl of ice cream for dessert!

God bless that amazing man!

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, Lorene and Sam Lingle, stepfather Thomas Lanway, brother Eugene Haggerty, niece Cheri Barnes, father and mother-in-law Roy and Esther Commers, and brother-in-law Donald Commers.

He is survived by his wife Geraldine M. Lingle, sons Kent, Curt, and Cameron Lingle and Sheri, daughter Pamela Moser, son-in-law Chris Moser, sister-in-law Norma Commers, nephew Chris, niece Ginger, grandchildren Brianne LaCroix, Chris LaCroix, Brittany and Casey Cook, Kalin and Zach Brosten, Zach and Bobi Jo Lingle, Alisha Lingle, Jed and Cristina Moser, Christina Moser, Catherine Moser, Nicki Moser, Josh, Grace Lingle and 17 great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home on Monday, July 11, at 2 p.m., with burial to follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery and luncheon from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Moose Lodge in Evergreen.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Jack and his family.

Milton Eugene Littlefield, 50



Milton Eugene Littlefield, 50, passed away on Sept. 7, 2022, in Kalispell. Milton was born on April 19, 1972, in Sandpoint, Idaho, to Steven and Elsie (Inman) Littlefield.

Milton graduated from Sandpoint High School. He married Michele Price in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in 1997; they were married for 25 years. In the '90s he logged around Sandpoint. In 1997 he moved his family to Libby where he did some skyline logging and worked a couple years doing mechanic work for the Pioneer Auto and Wrecking in Libby. He then moved his family to Kalispell and went to work for American

Towing in Columbia Falls for 10 years as a mechanic and sometimes towing vehicles before his heart attack. He enjoyed working on vehicles and fixing them. Milton enjoyed working on trucks, fishing, driving country roads and mountains, cooking, baking with his daughter Tessa, and spending time with his two dogs Rosie and Daisy; they were his grandpups. He enjoyed spending time with his brother-in-law Ron Price and having a few beers with him. He also enjoyed watching

movies and cartoons with his kids, and every morning he would have coffee outside together with his wife. He mostly enjoyed being with his family. He enjoyed barbecues and camping and visiting with his neighbor Bill.

Milton was preceded in death by his son Tyler James Littlefield of Columbia Falls, parents Steven and Elsie Littlefield of Sandpoint, grandparents Milton and Carol Inman of Sandpoint, and grandparents Joe and Evelyn of Sandpoint.

He is survived by his loving wife of 25 years, Michele Littlefield, of Kalispell; son, Samuel Price, of Columbia Falls; daughters, Tessa Littlefield of Columbia

Falls, Trisha Price of Columbia Falls, and Breanne Kluesner of Spokane; sister, Stevie King, of Kalispell; brother-in-law, Ronald Price, of Columbia Falls; and grandchildren, Jayden Price and Lilly.

Funeral services will be held for Milton at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Memorials or contributions can be made to Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, 1890 Highway 93 N., Kalispell MT 59901. Friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohillfun.com to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

James 'Jim' Eugene Love, 85



James "Jim" Eugene Love, 85, of Swan Lake, passed away July 15, 2022. He was born Nov. 19, 1937, in Billings to Thomas Napoleon Love and Carolyn Lucie (Taroo) Love.

Jim was a retired sergeant in the Kalispell Police Department. He also served in the Army. Some of Jim's hobbies included hunting, fly

fishing and wood-working. He had a passion for yard maintenance as well, and kept the yard looking immaculate. Jim was a man of faith



and attended Swan Lake Church.

Jim is survived by his wife of 55 years, Margaret Love; daughter, Paulette Estey (Dan); son, Monte Love (Cindy); son, Tony Love (Paulette); nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; sisters, Carol and Sharon; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his par-

ents, Jim was preceded in death by daughter, Holly Brown and six brothers.

Services for James "Jim" Eugene Love will be held at the Love residence on July 30 at 1 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish for a potluck.

To send online condolences, please visit www.columbiamortuary.com.

Laura S. Long, 63

Laura S. Long, of Bigfork, died peacefully on Sept. 16, 2022, after several years of battling cancer. She was 63 years old.

Laura was born on Feb. 20, 1959, in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, joining her parents and two sisters. As the daughter of a Naval aviator, Laura lived in many locations, but was always surrounded by her close knit family. Sunnyvale, California, was her home for many years and, after graduating from high school, she decided to stay in the area for college. She graduated from Menlo College in 1981 and went to work in Silicon Valley.

Laura moved to Santa Barbara, California, when she married James H. Long Jr. in 1988. Many of her lifelong friendships were made there.

In the early 1990s Laura and Jim came to Montana on vacation and, after experiencing a moose close-up, decided the Flathead Valley was the place they were meant to be. They purchased a home and beautiful property in Columbia Falls and lived there happily, while getting immersed in the community.

After Jim's tragic death in 2004, Laura moved closer to civilization, doubting her ability to put the snow plow on the front of the pickup truck by herself. Although she always missed her home against the Swan Mountains, she loved living in Bigfork and considered it home.

Laura's contributions to our community were substantial. She served on the Flathead County Library board and oversaw the annual book sale for years. She was president of the local chapter of the American



Association of University Women.

However, the longest charitable commitment she made, and the nearest to her heart, was to Angel Flight West, an organization that matches volunteer pilots and people in need of transport for medical care. She served as president of the board of directors and only resigned from the board the week before her death. She originally joined the board to honor her deceased husband Jim Long, who had been a volunteer pilot and member of the board of Angel Flight for many years.

Laura is survived by her father, Ronald Stone, of San Diego; her sister, Kay Stone, of Bigfork; her brother, Chris Stone and his family, of Poulso, Washington; and her stepsons, Rob and Chris Long, of Houston and New York.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Jim Long, her mother Betty Stone, and her sister Sallie Jacobsen.

Those who knew Laura will always remember her intelligence, her sparkling wit, her warm smile and the gleam in her eyes when she was up to something mischievous.

Laura specifically asked that no memorial service be held, but for those who wish to honor her memory, two organizations signify the things that were important to her: Angel Flight West (angelflightwest.org) and Imagine If Library Foundation for the benefit of the new Bigfork library (imagineiflibraryfoundation.org) to continue the work she supported during her life.

Orletta Louise Loveall, 95

Orletta Louise Loveall passed away on Jan. 23, 2022, 12 miles from where she was born in Kalispell.

On Feb. 15, 1926, Orletta was born to Lillie Mae Lauman and Oscar E. Anderson. She was delivered by her grandmother in a small cabin near Lake Blaine.

Orletta met Ronald Elton Loveall while still a teenager. The two married on Oct. 6, 1942. The couple worked hard and enjoyed life to the fullest. Their favorite activities included camping, fishing, swimming in Lake Blaine, traveling in their RV, and taking care of their spacious yard and garden.

Orletta volunteered for many local groups, including the fire department, the grange, local 4-H, and the Fairview Cemetery. Orletta was a dedicated volunteer at the regional hospital. She also had a passion for growing flowers and baked a "damn good apple pie." Orletta would meet a group of friends each week at a local coffee shop. These gatherings kept her "young" and engaged socially.

After Elton passed away, Orletta found her passion for music. She and her friends followed many local bands who played traditional jazz. They also participated in jazz music-themed trips and cruises. On Tuesdays, you could find Orletta at Snappy's, smiling, tapping her foot, and even dancing to the music.

Orletta loved her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. She loved making sewn treasures and meaningful crafts for her grandkids. A few of her grandkids still have preclois quilts she created over 45 years ago. Most



afternoons, you could find her working at her sewing machine, creating

treasures for family and friends, or sewing for the 4-H, with country radio quietly playing in the background; or she would be baking cookies, working in her garden, or cleaning each nook and cranny of the house located near Lake Blaine.

Orletta was independent, living on her own until her early 90s. She was a feisty and strong Scandinavian. We will all miss her greatly.

Orletta was preceded in death by her husband of almost 50 years, Elton Ronald Loveall. She was also preceded in death by her sisters Vanetta Kimbrall and Dela-ve Anderson (12 years old), brother Oscar Anderson, Jr., and brother-in-law Louis Kimbrall.

Orletta is survived by her children, Sharron Loveall, Ron Loveall (Janice) and Debbi Loveall Hanson (Dick); grandchildren, Lissa Marshall, Rhonda Walters (Les), Jill Marshall, Derek Hanson (Mina), Darcy Timmerman (Erik), Shane and Jodi; and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

There will be a funeral service held for Orletta at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home Friday, Jan. 28, at 11 a.m., with visitation one hour prior to services. Burial will follow service at Fairview Cemetery.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Ryan Wayne Loveless, 65

Ryan Wayne Loveless, 65, passed away unexpectedly Sept. 16, 2022, at Logan Health Medical Center from complications of diabetes.



Ryan was born in Kalispell on Sept. 30, 1956, the second of three sons to Donald and Ruth (Kinniburgh) Loveless. He grew up and attended school in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead High School in 1975. His early working years were spent in the woods on a logging crew. Soon after, he began his life's work as a journeyman meat cutter. He worked most of his career at Meats Supply, but also was part of the crew at Rosauters and Harvest Foods. He ran his own mobile butchering company and during hunting season provided cutting services to the valley in his meat shop he set up in his parents' garage. In his semi-retirement, along with working at Harvest Foods in Bigfork, he started his own lawn care and snow removal business. Ryan was a very hard worker and provided his children Josh, Jessica, Jake and Jeff with a great childhood. Ryan took great pride in his work and the way he ran all of his businesses, which he dubbed C and R Enterprises.

In his very little down time, Ryan loved spending time at his cabin in the woods, watching the wildlife and even firing up the generator to turn on all the Christmas lights he had strung up outside of it. He also enjoyed hunting, hosting Loveless family spending parties, and spending time with his close friends and family. He loved helping people and making anyone laugh with his corny jokes. He was always smiling and had the best, most infectious laugh. He was truly one of the best and will be missed greatly by all that knew him.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Ruth; his aunt and uncle, Merle and Don Komenda; and his cousin and very close friend, Bob Komenda.

He is survived by his father Don and his wife Faye; his sons, Josh, Jake (Andi) and Jeff (Tiffany) Loveless; and his daughter, Jessica (Chad) Hendershott; as well as his beloved grandkids, Unity, Winston, Victor, Estella, Oakley, Fynnley, Yazmin, Zoey, Anastazia and Willow Loveless; Kiya Hendershott and Aria Calderon; and his brothers, Randy (Kris) and Robin Loveless; as well as his step-grandkids, Eli, Vance and Mya Hendershott and Skyler Warner.

A short graveside service is being held at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery on Oct. 7 at 11 a.m.

Mary E. Low, 95



Mary E. Low, 95, went home to be with the Lord on April 18, 2022, at the Whitefish Care and Rehab.

Mary was born May 26, 1926, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

She went on to work for the U.S. Navy in Washington, D.C. and this is where she met her future husband who was a radarman for the U.S. Navy. She married Ed Low on June 22, 1947, in Washington, D.C.

Mary and Ed raised four children. They lived in numerous places from Billings to Alaska, to Florida, back to Alaska, and then finally to Kalispell, in 1974.

Mary was an avid bowler until the age of 85. She loved her many friends. She taught chil-

dren at Awana Club for several years. She enjoyed working in her yard. She loved dogs and had many pets over her lifetime. She was a busy, stay-at-home mom. Her family is blessed to have had her.

Mary will be remembered by her kind heart, gentle nature, and unconditional love.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Terry Ellis and Evelyn Martin; her beloved husband, Ed Low; her uncle, Howard Dixon; and her son-in-law, Steven Anderson.

Mary is survived by her children, Karen

Anderson of Paris, Tennessee, Valerie Nordtome of Kalispell, Martin (Leslie) Low, of Eureka, and Jennifer Kenney of Camden, Tennessee; her brother, Robert "Bob" E. Martin, of Chattanooga; 10 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, April 25, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, followed by a luncheon at Central Bible Church in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Central Bible Church.

Friends are encouraged to leave notes of condolences for the family at the website buffalohillfh.com. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Gary Luce, 76

Gary was born April 2, 1946, grew up in Columbia Falls and passed away Nov. 25, 2022, surrounded by loved ones; wife, Elaine Luce; and son, Robert Luce. He was preceded in death by his parents Albert and Maxine Luce; and Lori Luce. Gary had two brothers Don and Jerry Luce, sister Barbara Smith and seven grandchildren.



Gary lived in Washington for 39 years, where he worked for Boeing over 30 years, he worked on the AWACS program. After retiring from Boeing, he moved back to Columbia Falls, to be back with family and friends.

Gary graduated from Glacier High School in 1964, where he played in sports: track, football, and basketball. Gary played in the high school band, was part of the Columbians, and was inducted into the Columbia Falls High

Gary did volunteer work with the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts in Lynnwood, Washington from 1973 to 1986 he

was heavily involved in both organizations and became a Scoutmaster in troop p 24, Martha Lake Community Club.

Gary, after moving back to Columbia Falls, involved himself in numerous volunteer activities: Columbia Falls Senior Center, Heritage Days, organizing the golf tournament up at Glacier Golf course. He played on the Seahawks senior softball team, loved bowling, and also volunteered at the elementary school teaching fourth grade students how to play cribbage.

Gary supported and attended Wildcats games

— football, and basketball — he took his notepad and would record stats on the players and post them on Facebook. Gary was a member of the Columbia Falls Methodist Church and was the administrator for Columbia Falls Woodland Cemetery.

Memorial services will be held at Columbia Fall United Methodist Church on Friday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. Services will also be live-streamed: go to columbiafallsUMC.org. In lieu of flowers you can send donations to Columbia Falls Senior Center. Call Columbia Falls UMC, 406-892-5811.

Steve Luckey, 82



Steve Luckey, 82, warrior extraordinaire, has won his final battle on Oct. 2, 2022, and is now resting peacefully and comfortably in the hands of our Lord God. Not only was Steve the ultimate warrior, but his life was exceptional in ways that most of us will never experience. An expert marksman, a Marine fighter pilot, commercial airline pioneer, and an international aviation security expert were just some of the roles he played and the talents he had during his extraordinary life. Almost anyone who spent time with Steve could attest to his humor, his charm, his charisma and much more. He was famous for his "Luckeyism's" as he had an appropriate and witty response for everything. Stephen A. Luckey was born on March 8, 1940, in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, the son of Alvin W. and Mabel Luckey. He grew up in the beautiful Pocono Mountains where, much like his father, he developed a love for the outdoors; hunting, fishing, exploring and all things that led to adventure. He graduated from Pocono High School in East Stroudsburg and later focused on physics and mathematics while attending the University of Pennsylvania. Steve's military career began in

the Marine Corps, becoming an officer and earning his Naval aviator wings in Pensacola, Florida. He flew the A-4 Skyhawk (his favorite jet), the U-10 Helio Courier, and became aircraft carrier qualified. He proudly served in the Vietnam War in 1966 and 1967, both on the ground and in the air. Steve was selected for duty as a psychological warfare specialist and counterinsurgency operative, founding the Kit Carson Scout Program, ultimately earning the Bronze Star. Steve's professional journey took him into the world of commercial aviation as a pilot for Northwest Airlines. He became chairman of the Air Line Pilots Association Security Committee, designing and influencing security strategies that continue today. An unyielding patriot, even after retirement he continued to chair ALPA security, worked closely with the FBI on aviation security, owned his own security consulting business and was an expert firearms consultant for

NEMO Arms. In 2010, and in honor of his aviation security career, Steve was presented with the ALPA David L. Behncke Lifetime Achievement Award, which has only been given four times in ALPA's 90-year history. Steve could often be found in the Tobacco Root Mountains of Montana riding his favorite horse Judd where he owned and operated a successful outdoor guide and outfitting business. These adventures combined Steve's interest in guns with his love of the outdoors, and gave his children many fond memories spending time with their Dad on backpacking and hiking trips. Steve's love of life extended to his personal life, where his relationships were both passionate and loving. His children unquestionably carry on his legacy of hard work, drive for accomplishment and a belief in living life to its fullest. Steve met his match and soulmate, Jeannie, later in life, and as he often said, "I married my best friend" in 2004. Living in Kalspell, they had many of the same passions, shared so many adventures together, and traveled constantly, including a honeymoon trip to Tasmania. There was never a dull moment until the late in

life diagnosis of MS began to interfere with the fun. Nonetheless, Steve always considered himself a "lucky man" as evidenced in his own autobiography. Even in his final days he remained positive and could still bring a beautiful smile to his face. Steve is survived by his wife, Jeannie; and all of his loving family, Stephanie Luckey Fehr and Eric (Matthew, Ashley and Erika), Judd Luckey and Kelly (Benjamin), Sara Luckey Hendrickson and Daryn (Parker and Preslee), Megan Luckey Santos and Jefferson (Harrison and Livingston), and stepchildren, Jennifer Parson, Bill Parson Jr., Chris Parson and Stephanie (Hailey). A memorial service will be held at Saint Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalspell on Friday, Oct. 14, at 1 p.m., followed immediately by burial with military honors at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery and a celebration of life at the Buffalo Hill Golf Club beginning at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Semper Fi and America's Fund, ALERT Endowment, or any charity of your choice.

Joan Bruce Lundy

Joan Corrine Galland Bruce Lundy, 91, died peacefully on Nov. 6, 2022, in Kalispell, Montana.

She was born in Lubbock, Texas on March 10, 1931, to Joseph and Zenobia Galland, who moved to Cave Junction, Oregon when Joan was in elementary school.

In 1950, Joan married Gerald (Jerry) Bruce while attending Southern Oregon State College in Ashland, Oregon. After Jerry graduated from dental school in Portland, Oregon, they moved to Caldwell, Idaho to open a dental practice. Joan continued her education and graduated with a teaching degree from Boise State University.

In Caldwell, Jerry and Joan settled into career and family life with their four children: Kathleen (Kathi), Christine (Chris), Margaret (Peggy), and Greg.

In 1962 Jerry died suddenly in a car accident, and Joan stepped into the role of single parent. Even as a full-time teacher, she was active in her children's lives, leading a girl scout troop, sewing their clothes, and taking them to church. Most importantly, she taught them to love God, love each other, and serve others well.

Joan married Robert (Bob) Lundy in 1973 and moved to Kalispell to build their lives together. Blending 10 children into one family wasn't easy, but Bob and Joan diligently worked to create



a dynamic and loving family. Joan continued her teaching career at Somers Lakeside School District until retirement. Not only did Joan love teaching, and spending hours exploring new methods to help students learn quickly, she also loved learning. Until her death, she was buying books to learn new ideas and skills.

Joan's mother was a pianist, so Joan developed a deep love for music. After moving to Kalispell, Joan joined Valley Voices, a Flathead Valley performance choral group, and spent decades performing with them. When Valley Voices was invited to sing at Carnegie Hall, Joan, at 85, jumped at the opportunity.

Local charities Joan diligently supported were Orphan's Lifeline International, Samaritan House, and Meals on Wheels, along with national charities such as St. Jude Hospital, police and veteran organizations, and St. Joseph Hospital.

Outside of family and teaching, the Kalispell

Church of Christ was where Joan served the longest. As you can imagine, she was a devoted Sunday School and Bible Study teacher. She gave her heart to building up the congregation, which was family to her. When COVID made social interaction risky, she attended church services from the parking lot, listening on the car radio to the sermon being preached inside.

Joan believed in stretching her mind, spirit, and body consistently to become a better person, gifted teacher, gracious wife and mother, and humble servant. She left a robust and bountiful legacy for family, friends, and community. We will miss her dearly and the example she set for us.

Joan is preceded in death by her first husband, Dr. Gerald Bruce, their daughters Kathleen Lamm and Christine Merrick, and her second husband, Robert Lundy.

Joan is survived by daughter Margaret (Peggy) Bruce Engel and son Greg (Lynn) Bruce, as well as step-children Jack (C.J.) Lundy, Robert (Bob) Lundy, Rebecca (Becky) Lundy West, Renee Lundy Yarbrough, Craig Lundy, and Gayle (Dave) Lundy Blount. Her grandchildren are Alissa (Brian) Engel-Blankenship, Kyle (Kaylene) Engel, Jonathan (Nikki) Bruce, Kristine Bruce Unger, Jessica (Jeffrey) Bruce Lueken, and

David (Meaghan) Bruce, Leslie (Keith) Yarbrough Fletcher, Rebecca Yarbrough, Charles Yarbrough, John (Hannah) Yarbrough, Joseph Yarbrough, and Adam Blount. She also leaves behind nine great-grandchildren.

Friends are encouraged to visit www.buffalohill.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

The memorial service for Joan Bruce Lundy is Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Kalispell Church of Christ, 241 Stillwater Road, Kalispell, Montana.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a favorite charity of Joan's, Orphan's Lifeline International, 135 Kelly Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.