

Bruce Allen Nelson Jr., 78

Dr. Bruce Allen Nelson Jr. passed away peacefully on Oct. 8, 2022, while surrounded by family members.

He was born in Great Falls on July 2, 1944, and only ever left Montana out of necessity. Bruce fashioned himself as an "old Montana cowboy" and regularly referred to Montana as a place "where a man is only as good as his word."

Over the years, he frequently enjoyed the movies of John Wayne and the writings of Louis L'Amour.

Bruce graduated from Great Falls High School in 1962 where he enjoyed a variety of extra-curricular activities that included skiing, rodeo, and dancing. He also loved to jokingly brag about being the third-string quarterback on the Bison football team.



After high school, Bruce served a mission in the Great Lakes Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He later joined

the Army where he spent most of his time stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

After attending Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, he returned to Great Falls to sell farms and ranches throughout Montana. Later, he attended and graduated from Life West Chiropractic College in San Lorenzo, Calif., and returned to the Flathead

Valley to begin his journey as a healer. Over the next 20 years, he touched the hearts and lives of countless patients. Bruce had the uncanny ability to find a pickup basketball game wherever he traveled and loved shooting from deep.

More than anything, he loved, and was never deterred from, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Those familiar with "uncle Bruce" know of his love of life and all those he encountered. If he met you once, he considered you a friend. Bruce was a man without guile, and while he wasn't perfect, he was close enough. Bruce will be missed, but his stories, example, and memories will bless us forever.

Bruce was preceded in death by his father, Bruce Nelson Sr., his mother, Betty Nelson, and his sis-

ter Michelle Archer.

Bruce has passed the reins to his wife, Lana, and children, Rachel Paulson, Jennifer Sullivan, Matthew Nelson, Natalie Christofferson, Courtney Allen, William Israel, David Nelson, Matthew Israel, Ashley Kimball, Adam Nelson, Whitney Fenn, Jonathan Nelson, his 46 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. His siblings, Dr. Greg Nelson, Dr. Bradley Nelson, and Noelle Lundahl continue to carry his light.

Funeral services will be held at 11am on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 121 Crestview Drive, Bigfork, MT 59911. You may also pay tribute to Bruce by leaving a message at jgfuneral-home.com/tributes/Bruce-Nelson.

Helen Nelson

Helen Nelson passed away peacefully at home on Friday, May 20, 2022.

If you met Helen then you were on the receiving end of her famous chocolate chip cookies. Mom's cookies were her expression of love for others — effortless, comforting, delicious! And, she expressed that love to everyone she met: the lifeguards at Big Mountain, the jammers in Glacier, her hiking buddies, the fourth graders on field trips to her house, the high schoolers who attended Wednesday Bible studies, her children and grandchildren, random strangers, and her many, many friends. For anyone who knew Helen, the chocolate chip cookie is the quintessential representation of her kindness and generosity.

Helen grew up on the banks of the Vedder River in Yarrow, British Columbia, the youngest child of first generation immigrants. She never wavered from the values her parents instilled: a deep love of Christ and a deep commitment to family, a passion for the outdoors, and an interest in travel and understanding other cultures. In her early 20s, she graduated with a degree in nursing and set out on her first of many life adventures — working as a young traveling pediatric nurse with stints in Kingston, Ontario, Honolulu, Hawaii, and Pasadena, California where she, with her infectious zest for life, caught the attention of a young medical resident. Helen and Van Kirke Nelson were soon married and remained the love of each other's lives — a true dynamic



duo! In 1962, they were on the move to their life-long adventure together raising their five children in the Flathead Valley and setting a course for decades of deep community involvement with a focus on the arts, education and public health. Over the years, Helen served as a trustee of the Kalispell School Board, the chair of the Alpinglow Inn board, the Montana Tramway Safety board, and the chair of the Bigfork Summer Playhouse. She and Kirke were deeply involved in supporting the Montana Historical Society, the C.M. Russell Museum, the Hockaday Museum of Art, the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, the Kalispell Regional Hospital (now Logan Health) and the Flathead Valley Community College, and many other non-profits in the Kalispell community and across the state.

generous, loving, competent and sassy. For her, it was completely within the realm of the possible on a single Sunday to organize the household, go to church, ski all afternoon with family and friends, and host dinner for 12, roasts and pies. Her hospitality was renowned — there was never an inconvenient time to stop by and there was always enough for one more person who just happened to show up. There was no task too big or too small or too uncomfortable for Mom's attention and anyone who needed help was sure to get the

support they needed from her. And, if you happened to be beyond her reach to help in person — no worries — you could count on a handwritten letter filled with encouragement, highlights of her recent comings and goings, uplifting Bible verse references and, often, a care package of chocolate chip cookies!

Mom loved to ski, hike, bike ride and read and would squeeze one of these activities into a day even if it was just a single run down Toni Matt, a short bike ride on the shores of Lake McDonald or a quick devotion with the Message. She was also up for the big stuff such as the 10-plus hunting seasons she served as head baker/cook in her son Greg's remote back country hunting camp. Big or small, her greatest enjoyment came when sharing the outdoors and her faith with others. Mom taught many a person how to downhill ski, water ski, hike and bike. And, she generously shared her faith and

Being in the open air, surrounded by God's creation, played an important role in her connection with God and was when she was her happiest.

Helen was her husband's, children's and grandchildren's biggest fan and was unwavering in her support and prayers for their many adventures. She will be forever remembered by her five children and their families — Greg Nelson and Gina, children: Vale, Forest, Echo (family: husband Brian Ham and daughters Emery and Claire); Julie Mitchell and Doug, children: Andrew and

Garrett (wife, Christine Raby); Kathy Nelson and Chris Sauvé, children: Emma and Julia; Nancy Maxwell, children: Jandi, Hanna, Sierra (husband Gavin Lommatsch); and Doug Nelson and Karen, children: Lauren Nelson, Jessica, Weston and Rachel Cassens, and Michelle Biggins (family: husband Bridger and son Jace).

Donations in Helen's memory can be made to any of the following organizations or a charity dear to you: Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, lbn.net; Imagineff Library Foundation, imaginefflibraryfoundation.org; Foy's To Blacktail Trails, foystoblacktailtrails.org; Glacier National Park Conservancy, glacier.org; or Bigfork Summer Playhouse, bigforksummerplayhouse.com/consider-a-donation/.

An informal outdoor celebration of life service will be held on Sunday, July 24, from 1 to 3 pm at the home of Greg and Gina Nelson, 264 Elmo Road, Kalispell.

Norman L. Nelson, 87

Norman L. Nelson, 87, passed away on Feb. 18, 2022, at his home in Kalispell with his loving wife and family by his side after a long and brave battle with COPD.

Norm was born March 1, 1934, in Dunseith, North Dakota, to Gunvald and Ida Nelson.

The Nelson family moved to Kalispell when Norm was young. He always enjoyed being outside and for extra money to help his family, he would hunt rabbits and sell them to local stores. Norm met the love of his life, Marilyn Meldrum in Somers. They got married and looked forward to starting a family of their own. Norm and Marilyn would have celebrated 70 years of marriage in August.

In 1951, Norm began working for the Montana Highway Department, then in 1956 he was drafted and spent two years in the United States Army. During his service he was stationed primarily in Germany and Marilyn was able to join him for 10 months. While there, they enjoyed traveling

throughout Europe. One of their high-lights was visiting Venice, Italy. Once Norm was honorably discharged from the Army, he returned to the Montana Highway Department and worked there until his retirement in 1983, after 32 years. Norm then started a second career working as the head of maintenance at the Immanuel Lutheran Home for 18 years. Norm, not one to be sitting around, started doing various maintenance jobs for the Montana Mental Health Agency. After working 75 years at many jobs, he fully retired in 2011.

In 1973, Norm was a founding member of the South Kalispell Volunteer Fire Department. He served first as a SKVED fireman and then as a District trustee for a total of 37 years. Norm was a Montana



Hunters Safety instructor for 20 years, mostly in Somers, and taught both of his children, several nephews and nieces and many other youth.

Norm was an easygoing man and always a hard worker and the first one to volunteer when someone was in need. Norm, being an avid outdoorsman, enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping in Northwest Montana with family and friends. He loved his coffee with cream and always wore cowboy boots and a Western shirt. Norm enjoyed cutting firewood with his brother Bruce to heat his home and shop. Norm was always up for a game of cards and was hard to beat him at whist and cribbage. He was very proud of his yard and garden. Norm always had a sharp pocket knife and a penny in his pocket, so he was never broke. He loved animals and had several pets and enjoyed playing with them and sneaking them treats. His eyes would light up when his kids, grandkids and great-grandson would come by for a visit.

Norm was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Alice (Jim) Wittlake and Irene (Ned) Drake.

Survivors include his loving wife, Marilyn; son, Terry Nelson (Rea Thomas) of Great Falls; daughter, Trina Thomson (Bob) of Kalispell; grandchildren, Kaylee Buswell (Ryan) of Kalispell, Justin Nelson (Kelsey) of North Tonawanda, New York and Alexis Nelson of Las Vegas; great-grandson, Broadus Buswell, of Kalispell; siblings, Bruce Nelson (Nita) of Somers, and Betty Sommers (Roy) of Whitfish; numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

The family would like to thank hospice for their valuable support over the last months.

There will be a graveside service on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 9:30 a.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens, to be followed by a memorial service at Eldsvold Lutheran Church at 1:30 p.m. Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory.

Donald D. Nerdig, 75

Donald D. Nerdig, 75, of Columbia Falls, passed away Aug. 4, 2022.

He was born Nov. 8, 1946, in Garner, Iowa, to the late Dean Henry Nerdig and Berdean Nerdig (Frandle). He was the oldest of five children and grew up primarily in Mason City, Iowa. At the age of 19 he headed west and hitchhiked to Yellowstone National Park to work at Fishing Bridge and spent the next couple summers returning there.

He entered the Army in 1968 into the 173rd Airborne (C Company) of "Sky Soldiers" and was deployed to Vietnam. He served honorably and returned to enroll at the University of Montana. He graduated in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business. He met his wife, Jeanne Yunck, during his college years and they were married in 1974 in her hometown of Cut Bank, Montana. They started their life together in Billings, as he traveled the state working a sales job, wife and dog in tow. They moved to Kalispell in 1975 where he worked for Buttreys Department Store and their first child was born in 1979. He then worked at Oneil's Copy Center and took a liking to the printing business. He started Blueprinters Ink and the Northwest Montana Plans Exchange in 1980 in downtown Kalispell. Don loved business and developed relationships with many friends over the years as Kalispell grew. His family grew as well with the addition of his daughters in 1982 and 1985. He ran the business for over 20 years until they shut it down in the late 1990s. Don then opted for a change

of pace as a park ranger at Glacier National Park, managing the Fish Creek Campground. This was a lifelong dream for Don, to be a park ranger in Montana, and it was a return to what drew him to Yellowstone so many years before. He then moved on to become an



adjunct professor at Flathead Valley Community College where his love of entrepreneurship was utilized in a culinary arts and business hybrid program.

Don loved people and was very compassionate. He loved animals, especially dogs. He always had a dog from a very young age and passed that love on to his children. Growing up in a farming community in Iowa inspired him to raise everything from chickens to cows when his family was young; teaching his kids the value of hard work and capturing his dream of having his own small farm. He was innovative and often thought "outside of the box." In his younger years, Don loved camping, hiking, backpacking and cross country skiing, traveling all over the West with his young family and in later years with his wife, Jeanne and daughter Leesa to Hawaii. He loved to cook and gather with his family. He was a fierce protector of his family and a humble, generous and loving father and husband. He is truly loved and will be greatly missed.

Don is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jeanne Nerdig; son, Matthew Nerdig (Megan); daughter, Lacey Igitol (Jon); daughter, Leesa Nerdig; grandchildren, Adeline, Ava, Savea and Kalea; and siblings, Mary Balluff, Dave Nerdig, Molly Hegenbarth and Dan Nerdig.

A celebration of life for Don's family and friends will be held at the Parsons residence, 11885 Old Highway 2 East, West Glacier, Saturday, Sept. 17, at 1 p.m.

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

Virgil Nelson, 94

On Dec. 10, 2022, Virgil Arthur Nelson passed away peacefully at his home with family by his side. He was born in Culbertson, Montana, on Feb. 18, 1928, to Oscar and Fern Nelson. Virgil grew up as a farm kid, spending his childhood years on the family farm in Homestead, Montana. He and his brothers helped build the family's house on the land where his grandparents homesteaded. He attended school in Froid where he played basketball and six-man football. He enjoyed telling the story of his basketball team going to Plentywood for a game in a bad snowstorm. The pickup truck they were travelling in could not make it up a hill and the team jumped out and pushed it up the hill before continuing on to Plentywood.

Shortly after graduating from Froid High School, Virgil was one of the first men from Sheridan County to be drafted into the Army. From 1950-1952 he was stationed at Camp Hanford Washington, where he defended the Hanford nuclear reactors during the Korean War. He spent an additional five years in the Enlisted



Reserve Corps before receiving an honorable discharge from the United States

Army.

After serving in the US Army,

Virgil moved to Hot Springs, Montana. While working for friends at the Y Service Station, he met his future bride, Gwen Meull. They married on March 28, 1955, in Butte, Montana. He was very proud of the sixty-seven years of marriage he shared with Gwen. Virgil and Gwen spent five years in Butte, where he worked at the Belmont Mine. He took significant pride in his role of running the elevator cage for the mine from 3,000-4,000 feet; which was to the bottom of the shaft. While in Butte, Virgil and Gwen had three children: Raymond, Kathy, and Betty. The family then moved to Hilger, Montana where Virgil worked on road construction and ran a land scraper. While living in Hilger they had three more children: Sharon, Alan, and Nancy, completing their family. Virgil and Gwen

moved back to Hot Springs in 1970 to raise their children and Virgil ran the family's service station. He spent twenty-eight years fixing tires and visiting with locals who became lifelong friends of the family. After many years of hard work, he was able to retire in 1998. Virgil and Gwen stayed in Hot Springs where he was able to enjoy his retirement. He spent his time growing a lush garden, supporting the Hot Springs High School sports teams, and playing turkey bingo up town. He liked to listen to the local radio scanner and always knew what was happening around town. An unfinished project in his shop was never safe. He liked to work on his cars and often carried a wrench in his pocket.

In 2020, Virgil and Gwen moved one final time to Manhattan, Montana to be closer to family. Here he enjoyed watching the birds on his deck, seeing the elk in the pasture, and the trains in the distance. His beloved cat, Cat, had her special spot on his lap as he watched the Griz football games, the Seshawks, or the Gonzaga basketball games.

Virgil was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar and Fern Nelson; brothers Melvin Nelson, Duane Nelson, and Orland Nelson; and his only sister Rosemary Christopherson. He left behind his dear wife, Gwen Nelson; his brother Arden (Janet) Nelson; his children Raymond (Kelli) Nelson, Kathy (Kent) Dolberg, Betty Nelson, Sharon Talbot, Alan (Nedra) Nelson, and Nancy (Merle) Farrier; as well as thirteen grandchildren; and fourteen great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home; with burial and military honors to be held at the Creston Cemetery. Everyone is welcome to join the family. Friends are encouraged to visit our website at www.buffalohillfun.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

When Virgil was recently asked what it takes to live to be 94 years old, he lightheartedly responded, "A lot of time."

Sally Neumann, 89

During her 89 years, Sally was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, friend, grandmother and great-grandmother. On Sept. 7, 2022, she passed away peacefully in her sleep with family at home. We were all supported by Angel Senior Care and Hospice of Spokane.



Sally Rae Regina Kirkpatrick was born on May 19, 1933, to Warren and Pogy (Vivian O'Leary) Kirkpatrick in Kalispell. She grew up in the Flathead Valley. Sally was the valedictorian of her Flathead County High School graduating class of 1951. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Gonzaga University in 1955. Sally was recruited by multiple prestigious hospitals across the country. She declined those offers and started her 27-year career as a medical technologist at the small, local Kalispell hospital later they were married on Dec. 31, 1955. They immediately started their life together, driving through a Montana blizzard on their way to the Chincoteague, Rhode

Island Naval Base. Budd and Sally were married for 55 years, had seven children, and 20 homes scattered from coast to coast.

During her "spare time," Sally volunteered and shared her many talents with local organizations. She sewed and donated over 200 layettes for Teen-Aid. Sally was known as the "Church Linen Lady" in Priest River, Idaho, and several Catholic parishes in Colbert and North Spokane. For 12 years she and Budd provided respite care through Hospice of Spokane and in Bonner County in north Idaho.

Sally looked forward to the day God would call her to her 21st and final home. We know she will continue to watch over, listen, and hear the prayers, wishes and dreams of the Numerous Neumanns: MaryAnn Neumann (died at birth in 1957), Kayce Neumann (Scott Ballard), Reta Gibson (Ron), Ruth Nelson (Terry), Erin Montgomery (Bob), Susan Neumann (Jeff Koble) and Kirk Neumann (Lori) along with 25 grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, consider donating to Hospice of Spokane or a charity of your choice. Visit Sally's online memorial page at www.holycrossofspokane.org.

ship was overwhelming for the couple. On a short leave, Budd traveled from San Diego to Kalispell to propose to Sally. Two weeks

held Oct. 8, at 10 a.m., also at St. Aloysius. Inurnment following at Holy Cross Cemetery, (7200 N. Wall St., Spokane, WA 99208)

Larry Allan Nevidomsky, 67

Larry Allan Nevidomsky passed away on Jan. 24, 2022, at Logan Health, at the age of 67.

He was born July 5, 1954, in Auburn, New York to Theodore and Grace Tanner Nevidomsky. He came from a large family of 14 and was the last surviving sibling.

He is survived by his two children Lisa Marie Nevidomsky from Kalispell, and Todd Allan Nevidomsky (April), grandchildren Gabriel, Faith and Preston of Wasilla, Alaska, and numerous nieces and nephews. On July 21, 1979, he married Annette Cullen

Nevidomsky; they were married 26 years before they divorced.

Larry was a wild soul and lived his life unapologetically. He loved to hunt, fish and camp with family.

He would give the shirt off his back if someone needed it. He worked hard and played harder. He will be missed greatly by all who knew him.

By his request, there are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in his name to the COPD Association.

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

Vicki C. Nicholls, 73

Vicki C. Nicholls, 73, of Tomah, Wisconsin, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, at the Tomah Nursing & Rehab Center in Tomah.

She was born on Aug. 20, 1949, in Sparta, Wisconsin, to Victor Scholze and Ruthann Akins. She was a resident of Montana for over 50 years.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan Framness of Berlin, Germany, and Daniel A. Framness of Montana.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Victor and Ruthann; along with her husband, Francis "Frank" Nicholls in February of 2022.

According to Vicki's wishes, private family funeral services will be held at a later date.

The Torkelson Funeral Home of Tomah is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Winslow Curt Nichols

The Columbia Falls community has lost a bright star. Winslow Curt Nichols, 19, died on June 7, 2022, living the life he loved while climbing Mount Brown in Glacier National Park. He was a 2021 graduate of Columbia Falls High School and a 2022 graduate of the United States Military Academy Preparatory School at West Point, New York. He was a confirmed member of the Columbia Falls United Methodist Church.

In high school, Winslow was a competitive varsity soccer player for the Wildcats, played tenor saxophone in high bands and the Columbians Jazz Band, was a member of Model UN, and was captain of the Glacier Nordic Ski Team (three years). He



was admired by teachers and peers alike. He set his goals high for a future in the military. He joined the Montana Army National Guard at the age of 17, and he completed basic training at Fort Jackson Columbia, South Carolina, in August 2020. Winslow was not only a guy who you wanted to know, but also a guy who



would, and could, have your back.

Winslow excelled academically in his first year at the United States Military Academy Preparatory School. He was a member of the Color Guard, Sandhurst Military Skill Competition Team, the History Club, and Alpine Ski Club. His mark-

manship was a noted strength. Despite leaving the comforts of Columbia Falls for West Point, he easily made friends from across the country. He enjoyed adventures with new friends, road-tripping south to Florida and Alabama. Winslow set his sights high by accepting an appointment to the United States Military Academy to pursue a degree in engineering.

In his free time, Winslow could be found in the great outdoors. He loved Nordic, alpine and backcountry skiing. He took after his grandfather who loved to cast a line along Montana's premier fishing waters. After returning home from his first year at the preparatory school, Winslow showed a deep appreciation for his

roots. Winslow was wise beyond his years, and his maturity stemmed from a strong commitment to self and dedicated service to his country.

Winslow truly brightened all of our lives. He was hard-working, humble, dedicated, friendly, and kind. He lived life with a full heart and shone his light on everyone he encountered. His impact on this world will live on. We are all better people for knowing Winslow.

Winslow is survived by his parents, Ron and Sabrina, his brother, Walton, his grandmother, Kathy Sigler, and grand-children, Homer and Roberta Nichols.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Chuck Sigler.

He is also survived by

his aunt, Sarah Sigler; great aunts, Kris Sheldon, Julie Klontz (John), and Becky Wray; uncles, Kit Nichols (Laurie), Bryan Nichols (Kathy), and Neil Tardiff; great-uncles, Vaughn Wray (Beth) and Jim Carriger; and cousins, Kamila Ponce, Jennifer Garnsey (Brandon), Nathan Nichols (Serenity), and Jamie Bowers (Jason). He leaves behind many dear friends far and near.

His memorial service was held Monday, June 13, at the Columbia Falls High School Soccer Field at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the future Winslow Nichols Memorial Scholarship fund to P.O. Box 2225, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Holly Nickels, 70

Holly Nickels, 70, passed away Oct. 30, 2022, with her sister and brother by her side in Kalispell.

A celebration of Holly's life will be held at Darlington Funeral Home, 3408 U.S. Hwy. 2 East, in Kalispell, on Saturday, Nov. 5, at 10 a.m. A reception in her honor will immediately follow at Logan Health Medical Fitness Center "The Summit," 205 Sunnyview Lane, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

She was born on April 29, 1952, to Jack and Sharol - Peggy Nickels. The family ranched along the Missouri River in north-eastern Montana.

Holly spent her early years on the family ranch, helping around the ranch, learning to cook from her mother, and taking part in school activities such as band, chorus and pep club as well as 4-H. She won several awards in 4-H and traveled to both state and national gatherings in 4-H.

Upon graduating from high school, she went on to college and graduated from Montana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics. After college Holly's work took her to many locations throughout the western



United States, until 2000 when she returned to her much beloved Montana

and settled in Kalispell for the next 22 years. Kalispell ended up being the place where Holly called home the longest in her life. However, the family ranch in eastern Montana was always close to her heart and soul; she returned there often after moving back to Montana.

Holly cherished her family, friends, co-workers and church, while also enjoying cooking, sewing, travel, a crazy cat or two and helping so many in her professional career. Holly's greatest joy in her career was seeing her patients get better.

She was preceded in death by her father Jack, mother Peggy and brother Brett.

She is survived by her brother Jack, sister Sally Jo Nickels Elde and brother-in-law Jim Elde.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Montana State University School of Dietetics Scholarship Program.

John Stanley Niles, 94

John Stanley Niles, 94, of Hungry Horse, went to his heavenly home on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022. He was a beloved father and grandfather, and a devout Christian.

John was born April 29, 1927, to Mabel and Stanley Niles in Carbondale Pennsylvania. He lived in Berkshire, New York, until moving his family to Whitefish in 1968.

John was predeceased by his older brother Carl



Niles and son John M. Niles.

He is survived by his loving wife, Bonita "Nita" Niles; son, Gregory H. Niles, grandchildren, Daniel Niles, Timothy Niles and Christina Niles, all of Portland, Seth Niles, Matthew Niles (Katherine), Joel Niles and Sean Niles, all of Whitefish, and Noelle (Oliver) Bailey of New York; and eight great-grandchildren, Hailey, Isaiah, Esther, Caleb, Natalie, Asher, Felix and Ewa.

Services will be held at Whitefish Assembly of God on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 11 a.m.

Cecil Leroy Noble, 83

Cecil Leroy Noble moved onto greener pastures on March 16, 2022. He was 83.

Cecil was preceded in death by his wife Isabel Noble, and his brother Bob Noble.

Cecil is survived by his sister Barbara Couture and his brother Michael Frellich; his son, Jeffrey Noble; daughters, Laurie Merrick (Roger), Stacia McAdams (Mike) and Kelly Pogorelec (David); grandchildren, Khristian Noble (Laura); Spencer Noble (Beth); and stepchildren, Alison Barnes (Dan) and Jonathan Bruce (Cathy) and their families.

Cecil was a fourth-generation Montana cowboy, born and raised in Polson. Cecil was born with horses in his blood and rode horses everywhere as a kid. He and his brother, Bob, would ride their horses a mile or



so each way to the one-room Valley View School every day, no matter the weather.

As a young man, he enlisted in the United States Armed Forces and spent two years in France while serving in the Army. He traveled to seven foreign countries. Upon his return, he married Sandra (Schiele) Noble and they spent a couple years in Great Falls. Cecil's dream was to return to the Flathead area, build a herd of horses, and own his own construction company. By the age of 26, he checked all of these off his list.

After returning to

the Flathead Valley, Cecil and his family lived in Somers and Lakeside before settling in Creston on an 80-acre horse ranch. This was the family home until the 1980s, when he and Sandra parted ways.

Cecil spent his early years as a custom home builder in the Flathead Valley and was part owner of Tri-City Lumber Company. Life was good as a home builder, but Cecil's real passion was horses and the outdoors. In 1972, he quit the home building business and established Lion Creek Outfitters. Cecil spent years outfitting in the Bob Marshall Wilderness guiding people on big game hunts and on summer trips. In 1993, he met and married Isabel Bruce, who left her teaching career and joined Cecil in the outfitting business. In 2005, they sold the out-

fitting business hoping to retire to a less rugged lifestyle. They purchased property on Patrick Creek and together built their dream business, Artemis Acres Paint Horse Guest Ranch. Isabel passed in 2009 and Cecil continued to build upon their dream by expanding the ranch operations and facilities each year until his passing. He put his heart and soul into each day on the ranch and his soul will remain there in perpetuity.

Services will be held at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, 525 S. Main Street, Kalispell, Montana 59901 on Thursday, March 24, at 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or the American Heart Association.

Julie Thompson Norby, 74

Julie Norby passed away peacefully Sept. 6, 2022, at home with her children by her side.

Julie was born in 1948 in Kalispell to Walt and Mae Thompson, joining siblings Don and Karen. Julie was raised in Whitefish and spent her entire life there.

Julie and Gary Norby married and together they had two children, Matt and Jill. Julie lived in the family home for 49 years where she raised her children after Gary passed away. Julie had an open door for all her children's friends.

A hot meal and a place to hang out made for many large gatherings. A friend or cousin was even known to live with Julie after her kids had moved out of the house.

Julie enjoyed gardening, doing puzzles and was an avid reader. Her large collection of books was donated to the Whitefish Community Library. Her favorite activity was playing golf with the "Friday Girls" and having lunch with her friends. Julie kept in touch with many of her



childhood friends over the years and miles.

Julie was preceded in death by her husband Gary, father Walt, and mother Mae.

Julie is survived by her son Matt, wife Holly and grandson Leroy, and daughter Jill and her husband Nathan and grandson Colin. She is also survived by brother Don (Val), sister Karen (Ken), brother-in-law Gene (Kay), sisters-in-law Carol and Jan and multiple nieces and nephews.

If you choose to donate in Julie's memory the family suggests The Gary Norby Jr. Golf Foundation, P.O. Box 1888, Whitefish, MT 59937.

Rest in peace, Mom, we love you very much. No services are planned at this time.

Darlington Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Dennis Michael Northburg

Dennis "Denny" Michael Northburg, age 77, of Brainerd, Minnesota passed away on June 10, 2022.

He was born on March 10, 1945, in Crosby, Minnesota and is the son of Clarence "Bud" and Irene Northburg. He grew up in Crosby, Minnesota and graduated from Crosby high school. Shortly after graduating, he moved to Whitefish, Montana, where he met and "shot-gunned" married his best friend Kathy "Katie" McClintock and they moved to Brainerd, Minnesota.

Denny worked over 45 years as a mechanic most of which was spent at Tanners in Brainerd. Denny loved working on and driving his Jeeps, as well as road tripping on his Harleys. Upon retiring, Denny volunteered riding his Harley as an Honor guard, Patriot guard, and escorting returning soldiers home.



Denny held the time spent with his family close to his heart along with taking road trips with his buddies on his Harleys, muskie fishing and teaching gun safety. The winters felt long to him, but cribbage and playing card games helped to pass the time. He held the State of Montana close to his heart because of his love for the mountains, elk hunting, dirt biking, and

visiting family out west. He was an incredible musician, playing in several bands and teaching his gift to many people, including his daughters and granddaughters.

Denny loved his family who include: his wife Kathy Marie Northburg of Brainerd, Minnesota; son Craig Allen Watson (Melissa) of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; daughters Sandra Anderson (Jason) of Florence, Montana, and Deborah Northburg (Guillermo) of Anchorage, Alaska; nine grandchildren, two great-granddaughters; and several nieces and nephews; brother Gordon Northburg of Brainerd, Minnesota, and sister Janyce Tormanen. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Gary Northburg.

A celebration of Denny's life will be held at St. Mathias Park, Minnesota, on Saturday, July 30. All are welcome

to help celebrate this legendary man. A 'ride' in honor of Denny is being planned to arrive at the celebration with more information forthcoming through Mark at Maximum Motor Sports.

Denny's kind, loving and quiet nature will be tremendously missed by all who knew him.



Emmitt Duane Northup

26 June 1945 - 26 Aug. 2022

"I have lived a full and wonderful life." Emmitt

Emmitt Duane Northup was born 26 June 1945 to Simeon Emmitt and Ila Slattum Northup, in Glasgow. He was promoted to happy big brother two years later when Daryl Dean was born. He became a caregiver very young and that became an ingrained part of his personality. He loved helping friends and family and knew how to do everything!

Emmitt and Terry Pugh married 19 September 1967 and began building their family - welcoming Adam, Holly and Casey and loving every minute fishing, hunting, camping, playing ball, working on cars just all of it.

Emmitt was active in Boy Scouts as a youth, and when his sons and grandsons were busy in Scouts, it was still a favorite activity. He was also an adopted Girl Scout Always ready to join with Terry, Holly and Hayden in the Girl Scout activities.

He was a huge Scottie fan and went to football, basketball, volleyball games Knew all the players and celebrated each of their successes.

The 11 plus years Terry ran Scottie Day Care, he was the volunteer plumber, electrician, mouse catcher, flood drainer, playground maintainer, painter and swing pusher.

All these activities brought young people into his world that he took time to get to know and kept as cherished friends. That has continued with his grandkids and their friends through Fort Peck Summer Theater Camp, Columbia Falls Swim Team and Boy Scout Troop 62 of Idaho. He loved to travel and was up for any adventure.

Emmitt was a railroad conductor for 45 years, starting with Great Northern Railway and ending with BNSF in 2008. Nobody was a stranger. The friends he made, the people he worked with and his Methodist Church friends, all became family. They worked, played, hunted, fished together and helped each other with projects. The "Brothers" you choose.

He gave his time and talents to his cherished United Methodist Church, Ft. Peck Credit Union, Walleyes Unlimited, Montana Bowhunters, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Montana Fish and Wildlife Spawn, Flatland Cruisers, and many years as Brakemen's Local Chairman, Union Auditor for the UTU and the Railroad Benevolent Association Secretary.

Emmitt was welcomed into heaven on 26 August 2022 by his parents Ila and Simeon; Terry's parents Tom and Rachel Pugh; his brother-in-law Tommy Pugh; and sister-in-law Wendy Pugh.

Emmitt is survived by Terry, his wife of 55 years; son Adam, his wife Deaun and their sons Ethan and Aaron; daughter Holly, her husband Ben and their children Hayden, Samuel and Zachary Emmitt; son Casey, his sons Ryan Simeon and Andrew, and their mother Daisy. Also surviving is sister-in-law Valerie Pugh; brother Daryl and his wife Paulette; nephew Levi (Jennifer) and his children Madison and Cole and their mother, Melanie; nephew Sky (Karen) and their children Tregg, Kavyn, and Kensley; nephew Jerry Pugh; nephew Dustin Pugh and his children Breeanne and Thomas Pugh IV; countless close friends, classmates and extended family.

He will be missed.

Services for Emmitt Northup will be Saturday, 17 September 2022 at Glasgow's First United Methodist Church at noon. Please join the family immediately afterwards for a full barbecue lunch at the Valley Ridgerunner's Saddle Club.

Ellen Noziska, 91

Ellen Noziska, 91, passed away on Jan. 21, 2022.

She was born in Burke, South Dakota, to Gus and Ida Martin on Feb. 16, 1930. She grew up with six other siblings in Gregory, South Dakota. Soon after graduating high school, Ellen worked as an administrator for a downtown business in Gregory. She met Robert "Bob" Noziska, and they started a family. In 1960, the family moved farther west when Bob transferred to Kalispell to fill a manager's role at the local Gambles department store. Ellen and Bob made Kalispell their home for the long-haul. They became parishioners of St. Matthew's Catholic Church. All nine of their children attended and graduated from St. Matthew's School that spanned a total of 23 consecutive years.

Ellen was a long-time member of the Daughters of Isabella where she was involved in several Catholic community outreach activities over the years. She enjoyed watching plays and musicals that included dancing



and choreography. Ellen also enjoyed the occasions to dance the waltz and polka at social events. She loved watching the big band and champagne time music of "The Lawrence Welk Show."

Ellen and Bob were married for 43 years until Bob's passing in 1992.

Ellen is survived by three of her siblings, her nine children, several grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Ellen will be dearly missed.

There will be a rosary held for Ellen at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home (525 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901) on May 5 at 5 p.m. and a funeral Mass held at St. Matthew's Catholic Church (602 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901) on May 6 at 11 a.m. with the burial ceremony immediately following. A reception will then be held in the basement of St. Matthew's Catholic Church following the burial ceremony.

Jean Elizabeth Nye, 95

Jean Elizabeth Nye, 95, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of Sept. 11, 2022, at Tranquil Gardens Adult Family Home in Bellevue, Washington.

Jean (aka "Grandma Jesus") was born Christmas Eve, 1926, in Hopkins, Minnesota to John and Heiga Lovberg. The family moved to Montana when Jean was a young girl, finally settling in Missoula, where she graduated from high school and attended university.

In 1946 she married Howard Nye of Dixon, Montana. The couple had two children, Linda Nye of Seattle, and Paul Nye (Tammy Nye) of Redmond, Washington. They moved to Kalispell in 1952 where they ran Nye Hardware and later the Marshall Wells Store with their friends Bayliss and Rausie Cummings. The years in Kalispell were rich, surrounded by



an extended "family" of 40 or so of dear and like-spirited friends, water skiing, camping, sharing holidays. It was a remarkable time. Jean was active in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, serving various leadership roles over the years. She was (and continued to be) fascinated with politics and the just use of political power, serving on the Flathead County Republican Central Committee and organizing several Flathead county campaigns.

The couple moved to Bozeman in 1964 and Jean graduated from Montana State University in 1974 with a degree in accounting. She received her CPA that same year and moved to Seattle where she was the controller and financial officer for insurance brokerage firms.

After retiring, she moved for a year to the Washington coast (Nahcotta) and then returned to Kalispell for several years, renewing old friendships and her ties to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Jean met Jim Mebust during those last years in Kalispell. In 2001 she moved back to Seattle, drawn by the pull of family, and accompanied by Jim who remained her friend and partner for nearly 20 years. Jean loved literature and for many years enjoyed the literary camaraderie of her beloved book club.

In 2017 she and Jim moved to Merrill Gardens in Auburn, Washington, and in 2019 she moved to Merrill Gardens in Burien, Washington. Tranquil Gardens Adult Family Home took loving care of Jean for the last year of

her life. Jean is survived by her son Paul Nye and daughter Linda Nye, grandchildren Michael Sabol, Cindy Sabol, Christine Nye, great-grandchildren Sam Sabol and Sebastian Sabol, as well as her beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her former husband, Howard Nye; her partner, Jim Mebust; her granddaughter, Suzan Jean Sabol; her brother, Ralph Lovberg; sister, Marjorie (Bibben) Lovberg Carroll; and nephew, John Lovborg.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Oct. 22 at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Seattle (Ballard-2400 NW 85th Street, Seattle, WA). The service will also be streamed via Zoom and Facebook Live. (ourredeemers.net for the links).