

Clarence Alfred Reed

Clarence Alfred Reed passed away on Feb. 9, 2022, in Columbia Falls at the age of 90.

Clarence was born on May 31, 1931, in Hotchkiss, Colorado to Perry and Mattie Reed. He married Betty Joan Redden ("Gram" to her grandchildren) on April 2, 1955.

Clarence was an industrious worker, mining coal and uranium during the nuclear gold rush referred to as the Uranium Frenzy in the late 40s and 50s. In 1953, Clarence joined the Army and proudly served as part Second Armored



a chicken farm, and ultimately a dairy. Clarence sold the dairy in 1972 to move his wife and four children to Kalispell, where he founded Conoco Car Care Center on Idaho Street. He took great

Cavalry in Germany from 1953-1955.

Following his service, Clarence was a successful farmer and rancher starting with a hog farm, then

pride in being one of the last full-service stations in the area.

Clarence is survived by his son Ken Reed and daughter Karen Miller; eight grandchildren, Ryan Reed, Kevin Miller, Amber Guckenberger, Nathan Miller, Brandon Miller, Marshal Reed, Clara Miller, Makaylie Reed and numerous great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife Betty Joan Redden and sons David and Ed.

Clarence was a skilled woodworker, welder, fabricator, and gardener. He was a lifelong outdoorsman, infecting

his children and grandchildren with a love of creation with decades of adventures. He explored, hunted, and fished from the cold of Alaska to the heat of Mexico where he continued to live and fish for another 25 years. Clarence worked hard, played hard, and wrung 250 years out of the 90 he was with us. No paragraph in a newspaper could capture it. You had to be there. Clarence passed peacefully with son Ken and grandson Kevin by his side.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date.

Joyce C. Reed, 93

Joyce C. Reed, 93, of Kalispell, died on Aug. 6, 2022, at Whitefish Care and Rehabilitation.

Joyce was born in 1929 in Lima, Montana. She and brother Jack were raised by parents Alma and Alice (Dowell) Clark. She graduated from Missoula County High School (now Hellgate) and the University of Montana with a Bachelor of Arts in Art degree. She married Harry Koski and they had two children, Steven and Pamela. After her divorce from Harry, she was reacquainted with high school friend Dallas Reed. They married in 1962 and moved to Pocatello, Idaho. In

1965 daughter Allison was born. As Dallas was a sociology professor, the family moved to Las Vegas in 1970 so he could teach at UNLV.

Most of her work life involved creating art in one fashion or another. Her early career involved teaching art at different student levels. She then worked for the Las Vegas Review Journal newspaper in the advertising art department. For a few years she also did advertising layout for private clients. When she stopped working, she joined the Las Vegas Art Museum and was able to spend more time painting in acrylics. Dallas

loved photography and she loved to paint from his photos. When they retired to Polson in 1994 to the home they built, they joined the Sandpiper Gallery. After Dallas died in 1998 Allison moved to Polson to live with Joyce. In 2005 they both moved to Kalispell. She joined the Epworth United Methodist Church and made friends in a JM Women's group. At this time, she started painting portraits and did quite a few portraits on commission. She had the eye to see how a person's face fit together. Joyce is a signature member of the Montana Watercolor Society. She also loved

to read fiction; especially English mysteries.

Joyce was preceded in death by her mother and father, her husband Dallas and her two eldest children Steven and Pamela.

She is survived by her daughter Allison Reed of Kalispell, brother Jack Clark of Missoula, five grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

No service is planned.

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.

Marie Katherine Sirucek Reed, 93

On May 14, 2022, our beloved mother, Marie Reed, passed peacefully from our home to her home in heaven. Marie had a deep, profound love for Jesus Christ, and because of that, we are filled with his joy knowing she made her journey safely and is in his loving arms, surrounded by family and friends.

Marie was born on Jan. 28, 1929, in Danvers, Montana. She was the fourth child in a family of 13 children. Her father, Emil Sirucek, was born in Nebraska. Her mother, Rosie Kasala, was born in Czechoslovakia. Rosie came to the United States when she was 11 years old. She and Emil married and homesteaded in Montana.

Marie graduated from high school in 1948 in St. Ignatius. She had many adventures, starting as a telephone operator in Cleveland, Ohio, and later, became a reservation agent for Midcontinent Airlines in Kansas City, Missouri.

It was there that she

met Earl Reed. He walked her home from a girlfriend's house and so began their

relationship. They were married on Aug. 3, 1952, in Kansas City, where her children, David and Susan, were born. There, they joined the Lutheran Church. Earl's job took them to Joplin, Missouri. Marie studied cosmetology and became a hair stylist. She was the owner of The Broadway Beauty Shop for three years.

Earl's job then took them to Monett, Missouri, where Marie styled hair at the LaCobra Nursing Home. What joy she brought to all the residents there.

After Earl passed in 1973, Marie moved to Kalispell, where much of her family resided. She became a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

She graduated from Flathead Valley Community College with



a degree in sociology. She began her new career with School District 5 as a traveling aide. She worked with District 5 from 1976 to 1989.

Marie was an angel on earth. She volunteered for the Literacy Program and helped adults learn to read. She also volunteered at Hope Pregnancy Center when they first opened their doors. She took in a single mother and her newborn baby for several months. Marie was an artist who loved to draw and paint with oils.

She was an avid square dancer from 1974 until she was struck with severe rheumatoid arthritis in her late 70s. Under the loving care of Dr. Roger Diegel, she was able to keep moving, and enjoying trips with her dear friends Arlene, Marianna, Robbie and Eileen.

Marie lived in her own home until August 2018. Then, she came to live with her daughter Susan and son-in-law, Ray. She was a blessing and a light to their household. In

her final years, she spent much of her time using colored pencils to beautifully color in Scripture-based adult coloring books.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents, Emil and Rosie, nine siblings, and her husband, Earl.

She is survived by her son, David and wife Bev, and her daughter, Susan and husband, Ray, her four grandchildren, Hailey, Sam, Kait and Kevin, and one great-grandchild, Arlo.

Marie's presence will be greatly missed, but she leaves with us the testament of her great faith in our Creator and her love for his creation: the earth, the plants, the animals, and the twinkling stars — all of which remind us of her beautiful, pure spirit.

There will be a celebration of her life on Monday, May 23, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell at 11 a.m. A light luncheon will be served afterwards, and a private burial will take place later.

Norman Boyd Reeder, 85

Norman Boyd Reeder passed away at St. Patrick hospital in Missoula on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022.

He was born on Jan. 1, 1937, in Whitefish to Boyd and Marian Reeder.

He graduated from Whitefish High School in 1957. On November 27th, 1964, Norm married Linda as they eloped with two carloads of friends as witnesses to Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

Norm and Linda lived in Kalispell for 35 years where Norm worked first at the plywood plant, and then the aluminum plant in Columbia Falls for 32 years where he took medical retirement. In 1999, Norm and Linda moved



to Lolo to be close to family and to take in some Griz football and basketball games.

Norm was preceded in death by his parents, several cousins, and several of his wife's family.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; three children, Tammy in Spokane, Dan (Carleene) in McKinney, Texas, and Bryan (Jalita) in Brainerd, Minnesota; nine grand-

children, Josh, Kaitlin, Sean, Jessica, Aaron, Justina, Isaac, Austin and Emma; his sister, Bobette (Bob) Brookshire; and his good friend, Jim, who was like family.

Norm's celebration of life will be on Thursday, Aug. 25, at the Garden City Funeral home in Missoula. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until the start of the service at 2 p.m.

Jesse Duane Rehard, 85

Jesse Duane Rehard, "Duane," passed away at Community Medical Center, Missoula, on Aug. 23, 2022, after a brief illness.

He was born in Billings on Sept. 5, 1936, the first of three sons of Jesse Emmett and Helen Ruth Rehard.

He grew up in Billings. He started college at Eastern Montana College in Billings, then attended the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. He was drafted into the Army before he finished college and was sent to Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, where he met the love of his life, Yvonne Flake. They married on Sept. 13, 1961, in Waco, Texas, and Duane, Yvonne and her three little girls, Karen, Connie and Cheryl, returned to Montana. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1963 from Montana State University in Bozeman. Duane and Yvonne had three more daughters in the first few years of their marriage, Lisa, Terri and Melinda.

Duane drove truck to support his growing family while attending college and until he obtained his degree and engineering license. His first job after graduation was at the Naval shipyards in San Francisco. Later, he worked in mining, mostly in Butte and in Gillette and Rawlins, Wyoming. He was also an industrial electrician in the oil fields near Gillette for several years. He retired in 2001 and he and Yvonne moved to the Yellow Bay area of Flathead Lake. He loved the Yellow Bay community and was an active member of the Yellow Bay Community Club



for many years.

Duane loved trucks and motors and anything mechanical. He could tell you about every

truck he ever drove in excruciating detail. He joyfully drove the Bigfork Fire Department's antique fire truck in the Bigfork Fourth of July Parade for several years.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents Emmett and Ruth, and his brother Bruce.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 61 years, Yvonne; all six daughters, Karen Gonzales of Polson, Connie Jonas (Ed) of Walhalla, North Dakota, Cheryl Agan (Don) of Kalispell, Lisa Rehard (Mark Hubbard) of Polson, Terri Matson (Nathan) of Bellingham, Washington, and Melinda Hartman (Wayne) of Lakeside; many grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. He is also survived by his brother Wallace, sisters-in-law Ollie Mae Loggins (Bill) and Salina Miller and many nieces and nephews. He loved his family dearly and is loved by them in return and he will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Messages of condolence may be shared with the family online at www.lakefuneral-homeandcremation.com. Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.

Raeann "Rae-Rae" Lacey Reinhardt, 23

Rae-Rae Reinhardt, 23, was welcomed into eternal life in heaven on June 28, 2022. She passed away unexpectedly in Kalispell surrounded by family while on vacation in Bigfork. Montana had been a special place for a long time and she was so happy to be here reliving beautiful memories with her family.



life to the fullest and embracing everyone she met with open arms. She was forever true to herself and authentic in all her interactions. She led her life lifting others up and inspiring them to follow their dreams. She lit up the room and had a special way of entertaining a crowd through her humor and vibrant personality. Rae-Rae found beauty and meaning in everything around her. She was a fighter, brave and strong, and loved like no other.

Rae-Rae was born on March 12, 1999, in San Diego. Rae-Rae underwent two liver transplants before her first birthday. For the rest of her life she went through too many hospital visits, procedures and surgeries. But Rae-Rae was not known for the medical battles she faced, rather, she was known for living

Rae-Rae developed a love for cooking and

good food at a young age. She loved preparing meals for her family and friends. Rae-Rae loved music and went to as many concerts as she could. She found peace in her art and loved sharing her talents with friends and family. Rae-Rae was attending California State University Monterey Bay studying human communications with a journalism and media studies minor.

Family was everything to Rae-Rae. Her sister Riley was her best friend and her parents have been by her side making sure she was always receiving the best care. When her first liver transplant did not take, it was her dad that was

able to donate a part of his liver for her. She looked up to her parents and sister and was so grateful for their love and support. As a family, they had the opportunity for many amazing trips, their most favorite together was a trip to Paris. Growing up with her cousins during the summer in Montana were about games. Kickball in the yard and charades were some of her favorites.

Rae-Rae was the beloved first daughter to Mark and Allison Reinhardt and dearest big sister and best friend to Riley of San Diego; granddaughter to Camilla Leak of Bigfork. Donald and Sue

Stodghill of Phoenix, and Donna Reinhardt of Bellevue, Washington; niece and cousins to Brad, Leslie, Colton and Carly Stodghill of Bigfork, Mike, Sally, Maureen, Stephanie Noelle and Louisa Rinehart of Gig Harbor, Washington, Quinn and Belinda Rinehart of Des Moines, Iowa, Doug, and Elizabeth and Sophia Ugargovich of Sacramento, California.

Rae-Rae is joining in heaven her grandparents Rae Lacey Reinhardt and Phil Reinhardt.

A funeral service and celebration of life will be held Saturday, Aug. 6 in San Diego.

A GoFundMe account has been set up to help

the family with the service and celebration of life expenses and to create a foundation in Rae-Rae's honor. "Raeann aka Rae-Rae Tribute"

The family would like to thank the Flathead Valley for the services, support, and compassion they received during this difficult time.

We love you Rae-Rae and thank you for the rainbow, "Rae's" of sunshine, the butterfly, and all the ways you show that you are here with us. You inspire us to live in the moment, greet others with open arms, be our true selves, and live "The Dash."

Duane Milo Reisch

Duane Milo Reisch, 91 of Whitefish, passed away June 15, 2022, at Logan Health in Whitefish.

Duane was born in Van Hook, North Dakota, Aug. 6, 1930, to Harel Fremont Reisch and Lillian Evelyn Pederson. As a child he lived in Van Hook, Cut Bank, Montana, and Vancouver, Washington. He graduated from Cut Bank High School in 1948 and married his high school sweetheart, Dawn Hope Roule, in August of 1948. Duane began his 35-year career with



Safeway as a box boy. After two years he apprenticed as a meat cutter and worked his way up to manager of

the stores in Choteau, Great Falls and, finally, Whitefish. He managed the Whitefish store for 13 years and retired from Safeway in 1984. He and Larry Jensen partnered in the building and operating of the Pin and Cue in Whitefish. After 16 years, he bought Markus Foods and later began the Reisch Family Partnership which also owned and operated Alpine Market and the Montana Tap House.

A person with seemingly boundless energy, Duane was active in the

communities where he lived. He joined Jaycees, Lions Club, the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary. When he wasn't participating in service organizations, he was playing baseball, raising horses and cattle, calf-roping, hunting, fishing and golfing. For years, during hunting season, he could be found taking pack trips into the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

In later years, he and Dawn began traveling to California for the winters. They eventually purchased a home in Palm

Desert and Duane organized golf tournaments for the Montanans who were there for the winter. He loved to be around people and would join friends from Montana for coffee nearly every morning before a round of golf. He continued to play golf until he was well into his 80s.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents, Harel and Lillian, his wife of 69 years, Dawn, his sister, Leora Kiel, and his daughter, Darlene Trebesch.

He is survived by his

daughter Diane Kane (Stephen), his son, Dale, and his daughter, Danelle Reisch (Jack Eaton); siblings, Darrel Reisch and Verna Wilson; grandchildren, Erin Libaire (Jake), Deirdre Cook (Charlie), Brendan Kane, Alan Reisch (Michelle), Spenser Eaton, and five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Austin Funeral and Cremation Services are caring for Duane and his family.

George Leonard Reksten, 98

George Leonard Reksten, of Polson, died peacefully on June 29, 2022, of natural causes. He was 98 years old.

George was born March 14, 1924 in Polson to Gjert and Hilda Reksten who immigrated from Norway to homestead in Montana.

He married Joann Cline Reksten in 1950 and raised two daughters, Linda and Susan, in Kalispell. Living in Montana most of his life, he worked a variety of different jobs, but mainly worked for Montana Power Company. He loved living in Montana and enjoyed all it has to offer. He hunted, fished and always enjoyed a good adventure. He raced boats, flew planes and, in later life, loved to drive his car around Flathead Lake.

He was a storyteller and loved to meet new people. George never knew a stranger. George had a wicked sense of humor and enjoyed life to the fullest. George was an esteemed member of the Elks Club and was proud to have the



distinction of being the oldest living member in the state of Montana. He will be

missed but we know he is in a better place.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gjert and Hilda; as well as his siblings, Hildur Blum, Mable Elp and Donald Reksten Sr.

He is survived by his family, Joann Reksten of Polson, Linda Reksten of Polson, and Susan Reksten of Bellevue, Washington.

A graveside service will be on Wednesday, July 13, at 11 a.m. at Polson Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the nonprofit Benevolent & Protective Order Of Elks Of The USA in Polson.

Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com.

Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.

Margaret Ellen Renneberg, 82

Margaret Ellen Renneberg, born to Leslie "Les" and Beatrice Holden in Prince



Albert, Saskatchewan, on Oct. 9, 1939, passed on April 6, 2022, after suffering a stroke.

Margaret and her former husband Roy Renneberg moved their family to Bigfork in 1979. They owned the Historical Bigfork Inn, for a time and operated it with their son Donald and daughter Pamela, up until they separated. She then worked as a waitress at the Old Outlaw Inn in Kalispell until she was hired on at Rosauers where she worked as a cashier for 22 years, until retirement.

Margaret was a lover of nature and animals. She was quick to take in a stray or her injured

animal and nurture and love it back to health. Yes, this meant birds, squirrels or any other critter that came across her path. She was a member of the Eagles club for many years and loved dancing and listening to accordion music. Margaret spent every chance she could camping with her family and friends.

She is survived by her son Donald Renneberg, granddaughters Crystal Long, Kathryn Sands and Amanda Frellich, along with her grandson Matthew Long and grandsons Jonah, Mikah and Elijah Oswald, Gaven and Sebastian Long and Zeko Frellich. She was a wonderful matriarch and will forever be missed by her family and friends.

No local services will be held, as her final wish was to be buried with her parents in Surrey, British Columbia.

Brenda "Brandy" Lee Rhodes, 62

Brenda "Brandy" Lee Rhodes of Whitefish died Sunday, June 26, 2022, from multiple health complications. She was 62 years of age.



Brandy was born July 4, 1959, in California.

Brandy was a homemaker and a very hard worker. She did everything she could to help family and friends. She loved to go to Oregon to visit her two sisters and family.

She loved to hang out and be with her other two sisters here in Montana, Nan and Teresa.

Brandy loved being a mother. She always made sure her children came

first and never went without. Brandy absolutely loved her grandchildren. She would do anything to be near them!

Brandy was preceded in death by her parents, Bud and Terry Evett; and her uncle, Richard, whom she dearly loved.

Brandy is survived by her husband, Calvin Leroy Rhodes, of Whitefish; her younger sisters, Shelly Evett and Vicki Rodgers, both of Sandy, Oregon; and her children, Stacy Jones, Stanley (Jesse) Appelt, and Kacey Livingston.

Brandy is also survived by countless grandchildren, cousins, nephews and nieces, which she loved and cherished very much.

She will be loved and missed forever and for always.

Carolyn 'Carlie' Kuhr Rhodes, 101



Carolyn was born on July 4, 1921, in Havre, a few minutes after her twin sister Kathlyn arrived. The fireworks, of course, were for them, and she always thought of herself as a "we."

Her parents, Marian Broadwater Kuhr and Max Paul Kuhr, were second generation of families who had arrived in Montana as early settlers. Carolyn was always proud of her heritage. The twins and their brothers Max, Paul, and John grew up in a household that honored God, country, family, music and hard work. Throughout her life, Carolyn's powerful positivity was irresistible to everyone around her.

Carolyn graduated from Havre High School, attended Northern Montana College (now MSU-Northern), and graduated with a degree in home economics from the University of Minnesota. She worked at the Mayo Clinic during a summer session, and completed her requirements in dietetics with an internship at the University of Oklahoma where she remained on staff the following year. Putting her degree to use, she taught home ec at both Havre and Bozeman high schools and then accepted

a position to manage the food service at the "Quad" at Montana State University.

During the summers when school was not in session, she worked at the Gallatin Gateway Inn and the Elkhorn Dude Ranch. She considered herself quite the career girl.

In 1949, she married Cecil Maris Rhodes ("Cece" and later "Dusty"), and it was an unwavering marriage that lasted 57 years. Magnolia Oil (later to become Mobil Oil, then Exxon Mobil) moved them nine times (Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Wyoming and California) during Cecil's 47-year career with the company. With each move, Carolyn in her organized way created beautiful homes filled with love, laughter and music with Carolyn playing the piano and harmonizing with anyone who was singing with her. Five children, Marian, Scott, Kathlyn, Janet and Julie, made for full houses, but she loved being surrounded by family and active in her children's lives, celebrating life on both ordinary days and holi-

days. She planted lovely gardens and made delicious, nutritious meals, though she readily added ice cream and French fries to the essential food groups. She made God, music and beauty part of every day. A natural leader, she was active in the Christian Science church, her children's education, P.E.O., and Daughters of the American Revolution. She and Dusty made sure their children knew their relatives, and every year took them to visit Havre as well as her aunt Tod who summered at Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park.

When Dusty retired, they built the "cabin" in Whitefish, spending summers there and creating new memories with each of their seven grandchildren. "Gomma" made them feel special, loved and supported as they grew up. In their words: "Montana was the highlight of the year." "You had her undivided attention, and there was a good chance she was holding your hand." "No one was a stranger to her, just someone she hadn't had the opportunity of meeting." "She started every meal with everyone singing grace in harmony followed by giggles." "She never took no for an answer and was

not even remotely subtle about it." "She saw the best in all of us." "She taught me how to really love others." "She was a force that filled the room with light" — and she absolutely was.

In 2011, she moved to Immanuel Lutheran Communities in Kalispell and peacefully passed on Oct. 4, 2022.

She is survived by her brother, Paul Kuhr of Havre, her children, Marian Eskridge (Jim) of Denver, Scott Rhodes of Edmond, Oklahoma, Janet Kelsey (Doug) of Langley, British Columbia, and Julie Sanderude (Scott) of Whitefish, seven grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Carolyn believed in the power of good and demonstrated it daily. Exuberance does not begin to describe her personality. She had a zest for life and for loving. What a life!

A celebration of life will be held in Whitefish on May 20, 2023.

The family suggests that memorial donations may be made to the Carolyn Kuhr Rhodes Scholarship Fund, c/o MSU-Northern Foundation, P.O. Box 1691, Havre, MT 59501.

Claude 'Sonny' Rhodes, 71

Claude "Sonny" Rhodes, 71, passed away Monday, Nov. 8, 2021, at Beaver Dam, Arizona, from a long battle of multi myeloma cancer.

He was born Jan. 17, 1950, in Kalispell to Claude and Stella Willette Rhodes. Sonny was the second child born and the only son out of 12 children. He was married to Kathleen "Kathy" Stock.

Sonny was raised and attended school to the eighth grade in Kalispell. He lived in Kalispell and St. Anthony, Idaho.

Sonny was a laborer and carpenter by trade and claimed to be a jack-of-all-trades. For the past eight years he wintered in Arizona.

He was a member of Fremont County Search and Rescue for many years until his health forced him to step down.

He loved snowmobiling, RZR riding, hunting, fishing and camping with his family and friends.

He is survived by his mother Stella, and spouse, Kathy, and children, William and Jason Rhodes residing in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Sonny played a father role to Bryce (Nikki) Airhart. He has eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He also took on the grandpa role for Bryce and Nikki's four children. He is also survived by his sisters, Judy Rhodes, Kalispell; Deanna (Pat) Grantland, Baltimore, Maryland; Terry (Clay) Anderson-Nelsen, Columbia Falls; Rhonda



Sanford, Miles City; Cheryl Benson, Kalispell; Carol Rhodes, Kalispell; Karla Fritz, Kalispell; Nancy (James) Eastman, Spokane; and Penny (Eric) Solum, Kalispell.

Sonny was preceded in death by his father; Claude Rhodes Sr. and two sisters, two brothers-in-law, Mary Fortine-Fisher, her husband

Edward Fisher; and Virginia Battes, her husband Duane Battes.

A celebration of life will be held July 19 at Deer Park School, 2105 Middle Rd., Columbia Falls, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with interment at 3 p.m. at Glacier Memorial Garden Cemetery, 2659 U.S. Hwy. 93 North, Kalispell.

Gary Rhodes, 85

Gary Rhodes went to be with his Lord, while visiting with his family on Sunday, April 24, 2022.

Gary was born on May 3, 1936, to his parents James and Norah in Rupert, Idaho. He was raised on the family farm in Idaho where he learned the value of hard work.

Before high school, his family moved to the Bitterroot Valley. He held many jobs and owned various businesses, all of which involved hard work and his full dedication. Despite all of that, he always found time to slow down for a cup of coffee, time to enjoy a cordial visit with friends, or even to play a friendly game of cards. Above all things, Gary knew how precious God, life and family were; spending time with others meant a great deal to him.

Gary and his wife, Shirley built a home in Hawaii once their kids graduated from high school and chose to enjoy the sun, warmth, and flip-flop lifestyle. When Shirley got sick, he diligently tended to her and stayed by her side until the very end.

Later, Gary married Grace and they snow-birded between Arizona and his beloved Flathead Lake home. He had many friends and was well loved. He was a great listener and would share



stories about his wonderful friends and family. All in all, when asked,

Gary said that he was truly blessed.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, James and Norah; his brothers, Don and Weston; his sister, Beverly; and his wife, Shirley Skjodal Rhodes.

He is survived by his sister, Sharon; his sons, James Rhodes (Laura) and Mark Rhodes (Amy); and daughters, Angela and Robynn Rhodes. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Philip Rhodes, Bailey DelSorbo (Carter), Grace Rhodes, Tahni Baker (Samuel), Jaren Rhodes (Becca), Denille Derks (Malachi), Jayna Rhodes and Thatcher Hamilton. He also leaves behind his great-grandson, Rhodes Baker.

Funeral services will be held this Saturday, April 30, at 11 a.m. at Easthaven Baptist Church in Kalispell. He will be laid to rest next to his beloved wife, Shirley, in C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, Kalispell, Montana 59901. He was loved by many and will be sorely missed.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service are caring for the family.

Richard 'Ric' Richter, 77

Richard "Ric" Richter left this world April 21, 2022, at his home in Oro Valley, Arizona, where he lived with his loving wife, Jane, of 40 years. He was born Sept. 28, 1944, in Glasgow, Montana, in 1944, and grew up in Big Sandy and Havre. One of his favorite memories, as the sixth man on the Big Sandy High School Basketball team, was swishing the winning basket in the state championship game in the '60s. Ric went to the University of Montana, where he was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity, and graduated with a degree in pharmacy in the tradition of his father Vern and his brother Clarke. He married Georgane Edington,

and they had two sons together before divorcing.

Ric owned and operated the Chester Clinic Pharmacy for 20 years before moving to Arizona with his wife Jane and family. He worked for Bashas' Pharmacies in the Tucson area, where he opened more than five stores and was sought out by patients for his excellent counseling. Ric wore many hats including rock star, trickster, and amateur carpenter, adventurer, and outdoor enthusiast. His cabin, built with friends and family in the



Dearborn River area, has been an off-grid mecca for many years. He left a strong impression on all of us who knew him, from patients to band mates, friends and family.

An avid musician from a young age, Ric played in more than 10 different bands. In 1964, he became a member of the legendary Montana band, The Chosen Few, where he shared the front man duties with Mojo Collins. Ric was an electrifying performer, singer and musician. His band, The Chosen Few had a celebrated history playing from the beaches in North Carolina, in the "Village" in New York City and the major ballrooms in Washington

and Oregon. In the '60s there were very few performers and lead singers that could hold up on the same stage as Ric Richter. Another fond memory was performing as the front band for the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. One of his true passions was playing the "Hi-Line" in small towns in his native Montana. When Ric took the stage it was chaos and beauty combined with a style unmatched by few. Ric's fans in Montana, now in their 70s and 80s, will never forget the dances they went to celebrating the early days of rock 'n' roll. Some of his early recordings were recently released on vinyl — "Long Time Comin'"

(Lost Sounds from the Treasure State Vol. 1-1958-1969). "Roadmap" by Ric Richter and the "Double R Band" is a CD he released in 2001.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Vaughn and Vern Richter; and brothers, Clarke and Mike.

He is survived by his wife, Jane; stepmother, Helen; brothers, Rhett (Pearl) and Doug (Sarah); sister, Jan Holmquist (Stan); children, Jeremy (Maya, Amy, Kate), Jesse (Roan), Kristin Hertzog (Kerry McClellan), Liesl Norris (Stephen), and Ahren (Caitlin); grandchildren, Elliot, Tristan,

Jackson, McKenna, Augustus, Ianassa, Kya, Kruz, Caden, Ezekiel, Jayden, Jonah and Aria, numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial service was held at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Tucson, Arizona, on July 1 and can be viewed on YouTube. Celebration of life memorial parties (potluck and music) will be held in Kalispell on Sept. 17, and at the family cabin in Big Belt Mountains on Oct. 8. For more information you can contact www.flatheadvalleyblues.org, or flatheadbluesman@hotmail.com, or 520-404-9363.

Arland 'Arnie' Jay Riebe, 72

Arland "Arnie" Jay Riebe was born in Kalispell on May 31, 1950, to Martin Christian and Evelyn Grace (Burnell) Riebe. He peacefully went home to heaven on Aug. 6, 2022.

Arnie married Shirley Ann Webber in 1971, and they had three children. They settled in Kila in 1981 and have resided there since. Arnie worked multiple jobs over the years, starting as a cowboy and ending as a property manager.

Arnie loved his family and friends, and it was his earnest desire to meet them in heav-

en. Although he wasn't perfect, his life was a testimony of the grace he received through Jesus, whether it was by explanation of salvation through faith, by demonstration of undeserved forgiveness, or by personal sacrifice for another's benefit.

Arnie was predeceased by his second son, Martin Christian "Chris" Riebe II.

Arnie is survived by his wife Shirley, children and children-in-law Erik Riebe, Ana Riebe, Shannon and Brandon Rader, Erin and David Arndt, grandchildren Madison and Kurtis Nix,

Skylar, Cloei, Jessilyn, Bowen, Hannah, and Tanner Riebe, Hannah, Aidan, Kenzie, Cade, Emmy, Lilly, Ethan, and Madeleine Rader, and Finn, Leif, Emma, and Axel Arndt, and great-grandson Baby Nix.

Arnie is also survived by sisters-in-law Linda Setzer and Charlene Webber, uncle and aunt Bob and Arlene Dunluck, many nieces and nephews including Tammy, Richard, and Janasya Amaker and Jean Setzer, many cousins including Don and Rochelle Sullivan, Linda Jelleff, Shirley Ramey, Daryl

Bain, and Corinna and Mike Stone. Arnie was like a father or grandfather to many people and is further survived by Andy Gionis and family, the Josh and Shelby Cox family, the Stone girls, Cassie and Dalton Meredith, and Tracey and Jason McGuire and family, as well as by dear friends Mark and Holly Diehl and family, Fred Tai and Clare Brownlee-Tai and family, and many more too numerous to name.

A public memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Aug. 20 at Kila Country Church in Kila.

Joseph John Ries, 91

On Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, at 11:27 p.m., Joseph John Ries, 91 years old, passed away peacefully of natural causes at the BeeHive assisted living facility in Kalispell.

Joe was born March 16, 1931, in Iowa City, Iowa, to Bertha Kollman Ries and Joseph Elzear Ries. Thus began Joe's life of adventure and love of the outdoors. His early years were spent ice skating, bird hunting, and golfing with his dad. He learned his love of music from his mom. During his teen years he enjoyed sailing at Door County on the Wisconsin upper peninsula. He helped his father at the Ries Book Store, which was also the bookstore for the University of Iowa at that time. Joe graduated from the University of Iowa with a bachelor's degree in business. During his college years he began skiing and mountain climbing with the Iowa Mountaineers. In fact, his club hosted Warren Miller, of ski movie fame, back in the 1950s before Warren became famous. Joe also loved canoeing and would frequently get up to canoe in the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota. A memorable trip during his time with the Iowa Mountaineers was a trip to the Bugaboo Mountains in British Columbia. He learned many of his hiking songs, which his children frequently heard on his later hikes with them, while with the Mountaineers. After college he entered a Benedictine monastery in Canyon City, Colorado, for five years. Before final vows, the future father of six children changed direction and chose not to become a Catholic priest. He then took a job with the Food and Drug Administration in Denver. He joined the Colorado Mountaineers and enjoyed many climbing expeditions and adventures during his years with them. Later



he returned for graduate school to study archaeology and anthropology in the late 1950s. He spent a solitary summer manning a remote fire lookout outside of Stanley, Idaho, in the Sawtooth Mountains. He joined the National Park Service in 1962 and was assigned to Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina. He met the future love of his life, Ellen Burke, at a church choir practice in 1963. In 1964, Joe spent eight weeks with the Colorado Mountaineers climbing peaks in Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Austria. A few of the mountains they climbed were the Matterhorn, Mont Blanc, and the Dolomites in Italy.

Dec. 18, 1965, he married Ellen Burke Ries at Christ the King church in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, where they had met two years earlier. During the spring of 1967, Joe and Ellen were transferred to St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands National Park. They sailed, snorkeled, danced, and loved their two years in paradise. Joe was transferred in the spring of 1969 to Glacier National Park as the subdistrict ranger for Many Glacier, Belly River and Goat Haunt. Their first child, John, was born in Cardston, Alberta, where the nearest hospital was located. Joe questioned his decision to move north when he was standing on the bitterly cold and wind-swept frozen Waterton Lake that winter during a mission to rescue missing mountain climbers. By next fall, the family had moved to Polebridge, on the west side of Glacier Park, where their second child, Elizabeth, was born in the fall. The next year, the family was transferred to St. Mary, where sons Justin

and Matthew would also be born in Canada. In 1973, the family spent six weeks traveling through the Netherlands, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Germany and Switzerland. In 1975, Joe was transferred to East Glacier National Park, where he became the subdistrict ranger for the Two Medicine and Cut Bank valleys. The family would live during the summers in Two Medicine and spend the winters in East Glacier on the Blackfeet Reservation where the oldest children attended school. During these years, the fifth and sixth children, Mary and Margaret, were born in Kalispell. In the fall of 1980, Joe and Ellen bought a house in Kalispell so the children could attend school there. Joe continued to work at the ranger station in East Glacier during the winter months and commute home to Kalispell on his days off. The whole family would spend their summers in Two Medicine together. Joe retired from the Park Service in 1995.

Not wanting to be a retiree who focused on lawn maintenance to keep busy, Joe promptly applied to the Peace Corps and received a position with an environmental agency in Falmouth, Jamaica, just a few miles from Montego Bay where Ellen and he had spent their honeymoon. After that stint, Joe and Ellen enjoyed many more trips and adventures together. They loved spending time with their six children and their families, which

includes 19 grandchildren. At 6 feet, 7 inches tall, he was humble and disliked talking about himself. He was often referred to as the "gentle giant." He loved singing and dancing throughout his life. Prayer was always his foundation and center. Joe's legacy was a love for the mountains and the outdoors, a strong faith that sustained him through hard times, a keen intelligence and passion for reading, a sharp sense of humor, and an overriding love for his family.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Margaret Coder and Marian Anciaux, and his granddaughter Abigail Hope Ries.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen; and his six children, John Ries (Susannah) and children Violet and Gavin; Elizabeth Ries and children Maxwell and Lucinda Simpson; Justin Ries (Linda) and children Megan and William Ries; Matthew Ries (Alicia) and children Sarah, Katie, Sophia, Rebecca, David and Thomas; Mary Ries Nguyen (Frank) and children Joshua, Emily and Madeline; and Margaret Ries Frohlich (Joseph) and children Elise, Lily and James. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

A rosary will be said at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell. A funeral Mass to celebrate Joe's life will begin at 11 a.m. A luncheon will follow downstairs in the fellowship hall.

Richard 'Rick' Riley, 95

Richard Darrell Riley, 95, passed away on Jan. 4, 2022, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Rick Riley was born on March 28, 1926, in Kalispell to Val Jean and Charlotte Dryer Riley. He was the last of five children, the "baby" of the family.

Rick graduated from Flathead County High School and served in the Army Air Corps during the 1940s. After his honorable discharge, he attended college at Gonzaga University in Spokane, and completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Southern California. In later years he completed his master's degree.

As a young man, Rick converted to the Roman Catholic faith. He was a very devout and longtime member of St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell.

In 1955, Richard and Virginia "Peggy" Williams of Kalispell were married. Many people let Peggy know that she "caught" the most eligible bachelor in Kalispell. Rick immediately gained two children, Sandy and Mike. Rick and Peggy made their

home in Libby while Rick worked in sales for J. Neils Lumber Company. During their time in Libby, the Rileys adopted Don and Charlotte. Rick and Peggy also fostered two Cuban refugee children, Maria and Frank and their mother Aleida while in Libby. As Dad fondly said, he never knew who would be seated at the supper table. In 1964, the family moved to



Mankato, Minnesota, and then to Waterloo, Iowa, before returning to Kalispell where Rick continued his lumber sales career. After 17 years of

employment with F.H. Stoltze Lumber Company, Rick entered retirement. Rick enjoyed his time at Stoltze, and the company treated him well long after his retirement.

In 1989, Rick married Patty Duval. They made their home in Kalispell until her death in 2007. Rick welcomed Patty's children, Jack, David, Terri and Lisa, into his life. Terri lives in Kalispell and has been a very close, loving and supportive daughter to Rick.

Since Patty's death, Rick has shared his home with his son Don Riley. Don and Rick had a wonderful companionship, stronger than that of many fathers and sons. They traveled together and helped each other through the years. They enjoyed many meals at Bojangles restaurant where the staff treated them with tender care. They were a true team. Rick will be very dearly missed by his son Don. During the last months of Rick's life, his older son, Mike Riley, lived with Rick and Don. He was a big support to them both during bouts of ill health and eventually during

Rick's stay at Brendan House.

Rick loved his home state of Montana and was proud of his heritage as a son of an early Flathead County pioneer and Kalispell businessman, Valjean Riley.

Rick was a very devoted son to both Valjean and Charlotte Riley. His daughter Charlotte Jean was named for his parents. He was an avid reader, a great conversationalist, student of the Bible, skilled downhill skier, amateur sculptor, admirer of Western and Flathead Valley artists, a student of Lewis and Clark and a staunch Republican.

Rick made friends wherever he went. Whether it be the grocery store or family gatherings, he always took interest in the lives of others and made time to make everyone feel important.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents Valjean and Charlotte Dryer Riley, sisters Laura Endicott of Libby, Phyllis Lupo of Kalispell, brother Don Riley of Boise, Idaho, daughter Charlotte Riley of Thompson Falls, and wife Patty Riley.

He is survived by children, Sandy Lehman (Chuck) of Arizona, and Mike and Don Riley of Kalispell; bonus children, Jack (Janet) Denton of Arizona, David (Susan) Denton of Idaho, Terri (Andy) Loudermilk of Kalispell, and Lisa (Dale) Duval of Missoula; and his sister, Betty Stockard, a very youthful 103 years of age, of Kirkland, Washington. In addition, he was a devoted and loving grandfather to many grand- and great-grandchildren. He is fondly remembered by his very many loving nieces and nephews and their families.

No funeral services are planned at this time. At a later date, when Montana soil thaws, the family will gather at Rick's final resting place in the Riley family plot at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery to bury his ashes.

Dad would be the first to say he fully lived and loved his life and now he is reunited with many family members and friends, all at rest in the arms of Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior.

RIP

James Marvin Rishoff, 74

James Marvin Rishoff, also known as J.R., was born on Sept. 5, 1947, in Shelby, Montana, to parents Marvin Edward Rishoff and Irene (Gustina) Rishoff. J.R. graduated from Chester High School in 1966. After he graduated he went to auto mechanic school in Fargo, North Dakota.

He married Nancy Marie Clark June 13, 1970, in Chester, Montana, where they lived.

Shortly after, the couple moved to Havre where James took a job at the Ford Motor Company. Their son Marvin James Rishoff was born April 5, 1973 in Havre Hospital.



The couple lived in Havre from 1971 to '75. The couple sold their house and bought a tool route, and moved to Kalispell. On Oct. 7, 1976, Cindy Carol Rishoff was born. In 1982 J.R. moved his family back to Havre and continued to sell Matco tools. While back in Havre, he was well liked by the community, and he was even a Boy Scout troop leader. Jim was known for his good sense of humor and mechanical skills, for he could

fix anything. In 1987 Jim moved his family back to Kalispell into his dream home. He taught his children useful skills and the value of hard work.

On Jan. 18, 1997, Nancy and Jim divorced. J.R. married Martha Beth Hensley on Sept. 1, 2002. James gained two step-children from Martha's previous marriages, a daughter, Deborah Harpine, and a son, William Chilton.

On April 14, 2022, James passed away in Albany, Oregon, at age 74. If his family could share what he would be remembered for the most, it would be his strong mind,

and his sense of humor.

He was preceded in death by his father, Marvin; his mother, Irene; his sister, Jeane; his brother, Claude Jr., who passed in the line of duty during the Korean War, and his late wife, Marti.

He is survived by his children, Marvin and Cindy Rishoff, Deborah Harpine, William Chilton, his grandchild, Ariel, and his great-grandchild Milly.

May James Marvin Rishoff rest in peace, for he will be missed.

Brandon Eric Roberts

Brandon or known to some as "Brando," was born in the fall of 1976 in Kalispell as the second child of Beth and Danny. He joined his big brother Ryan and eight years later, almost to the day, his sister Brittney came along. From that point on he was quick to remind everyone that he was now the middle child. Even so, he was an incredibly loving brother and enjoyed hanging out with his siblings. Throughout his childhood Brandon's sense of humor and easygoing personality brought delight to anyone who was around him. In school he was voted "funniest kid" and was extremely well-liked by all his peers.

In the spring of 1995, Brandon graduated from Flathead High School and married Corylene, a girl he had known since childhood. In November of that same year they wel-

comed their first child, Hayden. Two years later their daughter Emilee was born, completing their family.

Brandon soon learned that it would take discipline and hard work to provide for his young family and went to work for Roberts' Logging. After many years working for the family business, he decided to take a leap of faith and ventured out to start his own concrete business, Fox Foundations. He learned the trade by working alongside his older brother in high school. Always known for being an extremely hard worker, he was never willing to give up on his dream of being his own boss even up to his death on Nov. 15, 2021.



As a fifth generation Flathead Valley resident, Brandon truly appreciated where he was born and raised. Throughout his life, Brandon always took time to enjoy floating the river and being in the woods surrounded by the beauty of the mountains. He loved to go fishing with his buddies, hunting with his uncles, camping with family up at Hungry Horse Reservoir and going to Missoula to cheer on the Griz.

The past few years of his life he shared many happy adventures with his wife, Alli. He loved their home and enjoyed the peace and tranquility it gave him. The two of them loved to watch sunsets from their deck, listen to music and were constantly planning on more adventures together.

Brandon was one of a kind with a heart of gold. He was quick to make

friends with his sense of humor, his contagious laugh and for a smile that could light up a room. He always prided himself for giving the best hugs and made sure to say, "No one else could do it better and that's a fact." We will miss those hugs, the funny stories he told, and his megawatt smile. The memories we have of him will be cherished for Brandon will always be loved and will remain in our hearts forever.

Brandon is survived by his wife, Alli; children, Hayden and Emilee Roberts; parents, Beth Tkachyk and Danny (Shirley) Roberts; his siblings, Ryan (Billie) Roberts and Brittney (Jesse) Johnson; along with several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, at the Elks Lodge.

Duane Roberts, 91

Duane Roberts, 91, passed away peacefully at home on Aug. 19, 2022.

He was born in Michigan and came to the Flathead Valley as a young boy. He met his wife Frankie in high school and they were married shortly after graduation.

They moved away briefly, but returned to the Flathead where they worked and raised their family.

Duane loved camping, fishing, woodworking and teasing his friends and family. After retiring, Frankie and Duane moved to Arizona where they lived for many years.

Duane moved back to the Flathead a few years ago.

The family feels very blessed to have been



able to spend the last years with him and we truly enjoyed having him near.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Frankie, and his son Don. He is survived by his son John (Terry), his daughter Mary (Tom) and his youngest daughter Cathy (Eddie), and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be truly missed.

The family is planning a celebration of life for family and friends on Sept. 17.

Donations to the Diabetes Association would be appreciated in lieu of flowers.

Mary Linda Rogers, 79

"There are people who take the heart out of you, and then there are people that put it back." Mary Linda Rogers entered eternal life on Sunday, March 13, 2022, surrounded by her family.

She was born on March 3, 1943 in Douglas, Arizona, to Charles and Mary Ruby Strunk. She was no stranger to grief from an early age, yet she always managed to find joy in the little things. An aspiring actress and singer, her big dream was to perform on Broadway. However, her life's journey led her to work as a kindergarten teacher, music teacher, and advocate for children as the director of Justice for Children. She instilled a love of music in others and found joy in being an active part of her church and community. With a heart the size of Montana,



she was devoted to her husband, Joe Rogers, of 40 years. Her memory is carried

on by her eight children, 23 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, one surviving sister, and an extended "family" of friends from every walk of life. Linda and Joe owned and operated Heartwood Guest Ranch in Coram.

They wed on June 26, 1982. Their home was full of adventure, a menagerie of animals, visitors from all walks of life, campfires and stories. A razor sharp wit, talent for storytelling and great sense of humor, she was able to provide life lessons through narrative. She was often known to not mince words, in

hopes of helping you see a new perspective. Every member of her family has sat around "the butcher block" listening to her tell many wild, sad and joyful stories of her journey through life. One particular story that comes to mind is the time she snuck a baby goat into a fairly upscale hotel, under her jacket, up the elevator, and eventually into her room! Her rule was to "always follow the rules until you need to break them!" A woman of deep faith, she advocated for people and animals, and had a unique gift for seeing the passion, talents, and contributions of others. This was evident in the encouragement and "knowing" wisdom she provided to her children and grandchildren to pursue their passions. Always a teacher, she pushed her family to

develop their individual talents — even if it meant dragging some of them to piano, guitar or voice lessons. Even though she lived "a full life" as she described it, for her family, it felt as though her journey ended far too soon. She believed that "when life has other plans, sometimes you just have to go with it and go with God." She loved her entire family. She worried about them, rooted for them, protected them, forgave them, and always kept on loving them.

A service to honor her memory will be held at Canyon Community Church on Saturday, June 18, at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you would donate to Hope Pregnancy Ministries (Kalispell, Montana) or Canyon Community Church.

Thomas 'Tom' Edward Rogers, 82

Thomas "Tom" Edward Rogers, 82, of Bigfork, passed away on July 28, 2022, at his home.

Tom was born on April 11, 1940, to Orville and Esther (Clark) Rogers in St. Ignatius. He graduated from Charlo High School and was in the National Guard at Fort. Ord, California. Tom met and married Beverly Grogan and they celebrated 58 years together. He worked as a logger with Royal

Logging and was a co-owner and hunting guide with Rogers Guest Ranch in Swan Lake, as well as a logger with Schlegel and Sons.

His hobbies included ranching, Quarter



Horse racing and fishing in Alaska.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Kathy and Dan.

He is survived by his wife Beverly Rogers, children Cindy (Tom) Countryman and Jason (Dawn) Rogers, brothers Ken, Bob and Joe, and grandson Carter.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 5, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with

urn burial to follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations to go to the Abbie Shelter, P.O. Box 1401, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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.

Timothy Dean Rowland, 68

Timothy Dean Rowland was born Dec. 26, 1953. He passed away Sept. 30, 2022.



Tim was raised and graduated in Geraldine, Montana. He has been an established business man in the Flathead Valley since 1984. Businesses he has owned include Super Wash, Mobile Wash and Super Fresh.

He and his wife Judy have spent the last 17 years operating Evergreen Acres where he is known as "Mr. Tim." Tim married his wife, Judy, of 35 years, in 1987. Together they raised their children, Roddy Gadeberg Jr. of Columbia Falls and Rachel Slayden Herrera

of Texas. They have been blessed by seven grandchildren, Roddy Ray Gadeberg III, Wyatt Dalten Gadeberg, Clay Dalton Ray Gadeberg, David Smith-Mullenix, Arista Mullenix, Monequa Mullenix and Walker Mullenix, all of Texas; along with two grandchildren, Brysen and J.J.

A viewing will be held at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home on Thursday, Oct. 6, between 2 and 4 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Friday, Oct. 7, at 2 p.m. Matt Christiansen of South Carolina and Pastor Clint Theline of Faith Baptist Church in Kalispell will be officiating. A potluck reception will follow at the Rowland residence, 154 W. Reserve Drive in Kalispell, at 5 p.m.

Alice Elizabeth Rufenach (Mower), 94

Alice Elizabeth Rufenach (Mower), 94, passed away July 6, 2022, at her daughter's ranch in Lakeside where she had lived for the last four years.



Alice was a homemaker, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She found much delight in watching all her grand- and great-grandchildren grow. Born in Burley, Idaho, she grew up in the Twin Falls and Boise area. She later moved to Sacramento, California, where she married Albino Azevedo and started a family.

After this marriage dissolved, she moved to Montana, and met and married Alfred Rufenach in 1954. They lived on their farm together and raised their family until his death in June of 2004, just shy of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Alice continued to live on the farm north of Kalispell into her 90s. In 2018 she moved in with her daughter, Sandie, but still loved going back to her farm occasionally to stay and make sure things were all right.

Alice was a Jehovah's Witness and shared her faith with others whenever she could. She loved people and especially her spiritual family. She had a big heart and always had a big smile and hug.

Alice was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Marie, Betty Lou and Diane from California; and her husband, Alfred.

She is survived by sister Shirley Mayhew in Reno, Nevada; her five

children, Bonnie Azevedo, (Modesto, California) David Azevedo, (Knights Ferry, California), Albert Daniel Rufenach, (Whitefish), Tina Hood (Edward) (Dalton Gardens, Idaho) and Sandie Lenz, (Lakeside); nine grandchildren, Karen Hansen, Colby (Jessica) Lenz, Rick (Lori) Lenz, Kate (Dan) Sharon, Kelsey (Ashley) Hood, Kinsy (Robin Mardeusz) Hood, Jamie, Amanda and Daniel Shane Rufenach; 11 great-grandchildren, Abalisha Hansen, Colton (Kendra) Lenz, Shawna Lenz, Jenny (Mike) Hawthorne, Zack (Taisha) Sharon, Jacob (Amanda) Sharon, Jade Ware, Trace Lenz, Madison Gilchrist, Bristol and Chance Lenz and Casmir Mardeusz; three great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at a later date this summer.

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

Velma Ruff-Lauman, 89

Velma Ruff-Lauman, 89, passed away peacefully June 21, 2022, in Oologah, Oklahoma.

Velma was born in Columbia Falls to Albert and Prudence Lewis, Aug. 12, 1932. She helped out on the family homestead and attended school in Badrock Canyon. Velma then married Warren Ruff on Dec. 19, 1955. They had two children Alan Ruff of Chandler, Arizona, and Connie Ruff-Beckler of Oologah, Oklahoma.

Velma was always involved with her community and children's school activities. Velma was active in Ladies Aid, PTA, Somers Volunteer Fire Department and was a 4-H leader. Velma loved to cook including canning and baking. Velma even sold her pies to a local restaurant in Somers.

Velma married Clayton Lauman Sept. 14, 1991. They enjoyed camping

and the outdoors, hunting for gemstones such as sapphires. They were active members of the Kalispell Rock Hound Club.

Velma and Clayton moved to Oologah, Oklahoma, in 2006, wanting to spend time in a warmer climate.

Velma is survived by her son Alan Ruff, his wife Lori and their two children Thomas and

Audrey, and Alan's daughter Kristina. She is also survived by Connie Ruff-Beckler, her husband Scott, and their two children Tyler and Shelby.

Velma was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands Warren and Clayton; her brothers Albert Lewis, Sam Lewis, Bob Lewis and her sister Evelyn Smithson.

Funeral services will be held at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell Thursday, June 30, at 2 p.m.

Linda Russell, 72

Linda Russell passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 5, 2022, at her home near Bigfork, with her love of Jesus Christ in her heart.

Linda was born Oct. 9, 1949, in Kent, California, and became a "service brat," living on many military bases in the United States and in Germany. She graduated from Montgomery High School in Santa Rosa, California.

Linda was married to David Russell on Oct. 12, 1968, and for the next 53 years, they enjoyed one another and an incredibly great friendship working together and giving to every cause imaginable, spending time with their family and friends.

Before moving to Bigfork with Dave and their two sons, Linda ran her own daycare. She was a Cub Scout mother and was involved with many other activities while the boys were growing up. Linda worked for City Service, managing their convenience store in Kalispell for many



years, and then the Echo Lake Store. Then she ran the snack shack at Eagle Bend Golf Course.

Linda was an avid quilter with the Bigfork Quilt Guild, involved with the Pioneer Auto Club, served on the board for the Swan River Community Hall, and volunteered at the Bigfork Food Bank for many years. And, believe it or not, she loved to hunt, and was a damn good shot!

Linda seemed to know everyone and helped anybody that needed help. She was a naturally kind and compassionate person, known for her constant giving and generosity. She loved to cook for folks, whether it was a special occasion, a celebration or a fundraiser, or just some special item she knew someone happened to love and she was

thinking of them. She will always be remembered as the "gal that was small in stature but had a huge heart." Linda was often called the "Energizer Bunny" because she was constantly taking care of folks and organizing people to help someone in need. (She also holds the record for the most expensive pie ever sold at the Swan River Community Hall auction!)

Linda was a very loving wife, proud mother and grandmother, and an incredibly loyal friend to so many folks it would be impossible to acknowledge each of those people that called her "one of their best friends." Linda filled a gaping hole for so many folks that found themselves needing a mother, best friend, or simply a sounding board. The evidence of that was reflected every Mother's Day with her receiving calls from so many of the kids that had frequented Dave and Linda's table when they were growing up with David and

Matthew.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Tom and Marium Roche. She is survived by her husband, Dave, of 53 years; son David Jr. and companion Katie, and son Matthew and daughter-in-law, Melisa, all of Bigfork; daughter, Tammy and husband Tom Lafond, of Havre; grandchildren, Andy and Zachary Russell of Bigfork, Kayla and Kelsy Burns of Kalispell, and Jessen and Josie LaFond in Helena and Billings, respectively; and two great-grandchildren, Judd and Ophelia.

A memorial service will be held next spring at Crossroads Christian Fellowship Church in Bigfork, on a date yet to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations in Linda's name to the Bigfork Food Bank or Veneration Church, P.O. Box 10433, Kalispell, MT 59904.

Jennifer 'Jiff' Denise Ruther, 64

Jennifer "Jiff" Denise Ruther was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister and daughter. She left this world to be in the arms of Jesus on Feb. 3, 2022, at age 64 after a courageous, eight-month battle with aggressive lymphoma.



House on the Prairie"

dedicated stay-at-home mom — her greatest ambition was to create an idyllic "Little

dream home in the country in 2020 just down the road from her grandchildren. Nana's house was frequented by her five grandchildren who knew they could always find a cookie in the pantry or an ice cream bar in the freezer. She taught her grand-

faith in Christ. She spent much of her free time listening to sermons and studying Scripture. She was fervent in her prayers for her family. She had a quiet, gentle spirit. She offered others grace and forgiveness. Throughout her battle with cancer, she

Adeline; step-grandchildren, Isaac, Kacey, Chloe, Christian and Xavier; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends. Happy Trails, Jiff, until we meet again. A memorial service is

scheduled for 1 p.m. on Feb. 24 at the First Baptist Church in Columbia Falls with a light reception to follow. Flowers will be brought to the Montana Veterans Home after the service.

She was born to James Cox and Hazel Hamilton on June 15, 1957, in Modesto, California. She often reminisced about her childhood spent next door to her beloved Grannie and Granddad. She fondly recalled listening to the Oakland A's baseball team under the Chinaberry tree out in the yard with her Granddad or snitching pie crust from her Grannie's kitchen. At age 10, her family moved to Columbia Falls where her father worked for the city police department.

After graduating from Columbia Falls High School in 1975, Jennifer married Dale Orem. Together, they had three children, Sarah, Alyson and Beau. Jennifer was a

childhood on the farm for her kids and for them to follow Jesus. Jennifer especially enjoyed playing the piano, gardening and sewing. Later, she happily cared for her sister, Anita's, eldest children, Justin and Travis, out on the farm as well, and was delighted to bring her Granddad to Montana to spend his last years near her at the Montana Veterans Home.

She worked for many years at First Citizens and Glacier Bank in Columbia Falls where she met her husband, Rich Ruther. They married in 2008. She retired in 2019, excited to once again devote her time to keeping house. She and her husband Rich designed and built their beautiful

Jennifer was a romantic. She loved beautiful, feminine things like pink roses and dainty ballet slippers, pretty perfume bottles and sparkly jewelry. And she enjoyed creating beauty too. She often found joy in the beauty around her — in the colors of the sunset or the way the wind moved the trees outside her kitchen window. She loved the "Andy Griffith Show," Roy Rogers, and songs from the '40s. She collected antiques and enjoyed hunting for treasures. She couldn't resist kittens.

Most of all, Jennifer's life was defined by her

Jennifer was preceded in death by her grandparents; her sister, Cyd; and her stepbrothers Randy, Michael and Daniel. She is survived by her husband Rich of Columbia Falls and his three children, Krista, Luke and Elisha; her mother Hazel Curtis (husband Jack); father James Cox (Louise); brother Jim Cox (wife Debra); sister Anita Kauffman (husband Dave); daughter Sarah O'Rourke (husband Ryan); daughter Alyson Dorr (husband Casey); son Beau Orem (wife Amy); her grandchildren, Elaina, Evelynne, Henry, Madison and

Agnes 'Butchie' Butchkosky Ryan

Agnes "Butchie" Butchkosky Ryan passed away Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at Logan Health Whitefish.

Agnes Butchkosky was raised in Jeddo, Pennsylvania, daughter of a hard rock miner who'd emigrated from Austria as a teenager. Butchie's mother managed to care for the family of seven in spite of labor strikes. Butchie's father brought home empty wooden charge boxes for the children to play with. "I turned mine into a desk for my nurse's station," she recalled, and following that passion, she graduated from nursing school in 1944.

She was determined to join the Army Nurse Corps, even though she was too short. She piled her hair on top of her head with plenty of hair-



of his P-38, possibly something they talked about during that blind date that changed their lives forever.

After the war, Butchie was stationed at the Army Hospital in Aurora, Colorado, to treat tuberculosis patients. The Ryans were married in a Denver hospital chapel on June 8, 1946.

Ben was honorably discharged and roughnecked or an oil well near Livingston.

Stanford was their home for the next three years where Ben earned his petroleum engineer-

hit. The whole house pitched and swayed, and they hurried to high ground in the car to avoid a possible tsunami wave.

Ben was responsible for Alaska oil exploration. When his field crew reported promising oil sands near Prudhoe Bay, Ben agreed that Richfield should invest in it, and he and his crew were credited with the discovery of the North Slope oil field.

After retiring, they bought a quarter section of forest near West Glacier, Montana, in 1966. They built an A-frame home, and Ben designed and built a sawmill from which he sawed lumber to build a shop, outbuildings, and hangar where he built several aircraft.

Their land could accommodate a 2,500-foot

low spots with a one-and-a-half-yard front loader to create meadow-like Ryan Field, at the base of Strawberry Mountain.

In 2005, the Ryans began incrementally donating their property to the Recreational Aviation Foundation so the airfield would remain available for public use in perpetuity.

Ben and Butchie moved to the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls, in 2012, and Ben passed away in July of 2017.

A graveside service including military honors for Agnes "Butchie" Ryan will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 22, at the Montana Veterans Home Cemetery, Talbot Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

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

Donna Jo Ryan, 85

Donna Jo Ryan, 85, passed away peacefully on March 22, 2022, at her home in Columbia Falls.

Donna was born Aug. 3, 1936, in Spokane to Theo and Alice McNall. Donna attended schools in Washington, California, and graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1954. She married Terrance Grilley soon after high school and they had four energetic boys.

After divorcing Terrance, Donna worked for a number of years as a secretary at Superior Lumber and American Timber. She bumped into an old classmate, Jim Ryan, during Columbia Falls Heritage Days celebration. He asked her to the evening's street dance and the rest was history. They were married in Columbia Falls on July 22, 1994, and remained each other's soulmate until her passing. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Spokane where Donna Jo worked as a secretary for the International Iron Workers Union. Jim and Donna Jo enjoyed each others' company and especially their evenings out dancing. After working in Spokane for a few years they returned to



Columbia Falls. Donna Jo continued work for the Iron Workers until her retirement.

After retiring, Donna and Jim enjoyed traveling, going to Alaska for fishing and meeting Jim's extended family in Norway. Donna was involved in the Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Round Up for Safety, Meals on Wheels and enjoyed attending numerous Wildcat events, earning her and Jim the honor of being "Super Fans."

Donna Jo was preceded in death by her parents Theo and Alice McNall.

She is survived by her loving husband Jim Ryan of Columbia Falls, brother Theo McNall (Diane) of Chatsworth, California, her four sons and wives, Les and Lori Grilley, Bill and Mary Grilley of Columbia Falls, Paul and Suzee Grilley of Ashland, Oregon, and Mike and Lori Grilley of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, stepson Mike and Debbie Ryan of Florida, Jana Ryan of Columbia Falls, and Terry and Andy Barr of Colorado, sister-in-law Doreen and Gordon Shiffman of Arizona and

brother-in-law Pat and Betty Ryan of Portland and brother-in-law Roger Halden of Columbia Falls, as well as 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Services for Donna Jo will be at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 29, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials to Meals on Wheels of Columbia Falls in care of the North Valley Senior Center, or the Montana American Cancer Society.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.