

## Riley Alan Kair, 75

Riley Alan Kair, 75 of Kalispell, passed away on Oct. 6, 2023, at Logan Health Medical Center. He was born on Nov. 2, 1947, to Harold and Grace (Blevins) Kair in Kalispell, and he attended school in Kalispell.

He went on to join the Army on Jan. 7, 1967, and he was congratulated for having completed the arduous Jungle Operations Course, which was conducted in the Canal Zone by the Jungle Operations Training Center, United States Army Forces Southern Command.

In 1996, he married Nancy (Davidson) Kair, and they celebrated 27 wonderful years.

He was a switchman for a manufacturing firm for 25 years. He



loved the outdoors and wood-working.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughter, Shona and family; two stepsons, Bryon and Jeffrey and their families; sisters, Anita Teneyck and JoAnn Kelsey Schwartz.

No services are currently planned at this time. Friends are encouraged to visit the website at [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Dorothy Louise Karper, 91



Dorothy L. Karper, 91, of Columbia Falls, formerly of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

Born Nov. 8, 1931, she was a member of the Fellowship Alliance Church in Columbia Falls. She was also a longtime member and Sunday School teacher of the Prince Street United Brethren church in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

Dorothy was a stay-

home mother of five children. Later she pursued one of her passions by baking sweets at a retirement home in Pennsylvania. Upon retirement, she moved to Montana and enjoyed caring for numerous little ones most of her life. As a woman who loved the Lord, she was an avid prayer warrior and dedicated to sharing that love through visitation.

She is survived by one son, Douglas, and wife,

Colleen; four daughters, Cheryl and Kevin Keller, Bev Karper, and Pam and Ed Albrite, all of Columbia Falls, Marge and Jeff Kunkleman of Shippensburg; 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. One sister, Vivian Cramer, and one brother, Kenneth Reath both of Pennsylvania.

Her loving husband of 58 years, Fred Karper, her parents, Walker and Violet Reath, along with

one brother and one sister preceded her in death.

Friends and family are welcome to join us in a celebration of life on Friday, March 31 at 11 a.m. at Fellowship Alliance Church in Columbia Falls.

We cherish everyone's love and support over the years. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the many wonderful people who cared for her at Hidden Meadows Memory Care

and Hestia Hospice.

Because of her love to share Christ with children, in lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to the children's ministry at Fellowship Alliance Church, 1025 Seventh Ave. W., Columbia Falls, MT 59912. To send online condolences, please visit [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com).

## Philip Edward Kehres, 71

Philip Edward Kehres was born in Toledo, Ohio on July 15, 1951 to Elizabeth Seibert Kehres (Betty) and Charles Joseph Kehres (Bud).

He passed away peacefully at his home in Kalispell on May 24, 2023.

He is survived by his siblings, Steve in Livonia, Michigan, Mike, (Kim) in South Lyon, Michigan, Mary in Westminster, Colorado, Jenny Schramm, Lori, and John (Genie) all residing in Toledo, Ohio. He was predeceased by his parents.

Phil's childhood days were filled with amazing adventures with his neighborhood friends, operating a bicycle repair enterprise, holding carnivals, running a day care for "younger children," cruising the record store at the Toledo Miracle Mile purchasing 45 rpm records, etc.

After high school he

enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and performed channel maintenance on the Missouri River. He was transferred to Kodiak, Alaska where he found a deep love of the outdoors and the mountains in particular. He made friends with whom he kept in contact with until his passing.

After serving his country, he attended college in Alpena, Michigan during the winter and worked for the U.S. Forest Service on the Flathead National Forest in Montana during the summer.

After graduation he moved to the Flathead



County area and was accepted to be a carrier for the U.S Postal Service, a position he held until his retirement at 55 years of age in 1996.

Phil was very active in Montana, skiing winters and climbing and hiking summers, all on his days off. The joke became "you must go back to work to get some rest." At his postal retirement party he was presented by his coworkers with a cake shaped and decorated to resemble The Big Mountain Ski Resort. A family/coworker party held one day after his 55th birthday was attended by 65 guests, and many family members traveled to Montana to celebrate.

After retirement, he continued to hike and climb and eventually purchased a 1961 Alaskan Camper to comfortably

make extended trips to Colorado, Utah and, of course, more of Montana. He drove it to Toledo in 2021 to visit his dad who was approaching his 104th birthday, yet still active and very funny despite his advanced age.

At this time no services are planned, but a picnic may be held during the summer for local friends to gather and trade stories.

Phil always had a profound sense of justice and was concerned about the less fortunate that we constantly observe in the Kalispell area, so please consider donating time or money to causes that assist with mental health issues and the food insecurity.

Phil is survived by his partner and husband of 43 years, Ted Patten, at the family home in Kalispell.

## Nell Dean (Foster) Kelly, 88

Nell Dean (Foster) Kelly, 88, the second of four children, was born in Amarillo, Texas, in 1935, to Emma Della Summerville and Charles Alonzo Foster. Emma and Charles were two tough and shrewd ranchers born near the beginning of the 20th Century.

When Nell was nine months old, the family moved to Aunsville, Oregon. She remembered her mother listening to the radio, worried about her older brother, Charles Jr., who fought in the Pacific in WWII.

She helped raise two more younger brothers, Jerry and Dan, and a variety of animals on the small family farm. She picked strawberries in the summer to buy new school clothes. She was a gifted athlete and not afraid to outshine the boys on the baseball field. They frequently chased her home in their frustration. The expression, "Run to the roundhouse, Nellie, they can't corner you there!" often rang through the neighborhood.

Her adventurous spirit made her opt to fast track her professional career and leave Oregon State after 2 years. Instead, she hopped a bus to Hollywood, California, where she passed her teletype exam and became a flight attendant for Pan Am.

The country girl traveled all over the western hemisphere and transformed herself into an independent, fun-loving, cosmopolitan woman. It wasn't long before some



of the men she was running away from caught her. In 1963, one lucky one did,

Parker Siegert Kelly, Esq. and they spent the next 60 years together.

Calling the San Francisco peninsula her home, Nell worked for many years at the AAA legal insurance firm Nagle, Vale, McDowell and Cotter as a legal secretary and juggled the kids, groceries, cooking, laundry and the whims of her husband. Selfless to a fault, her only guilty pleasures were time novels, happy hour and episodes of Perry Mason. Dutiful, unassuming and never a bother, she loved her family, her dogs and gave all that she had to them. She was a calming influence on everyone who spent time with her.

She passed peacefully on Oct. 8, with family by her side, as the golden leaves of her favorite season floated in the Montana breeze, and country music played on the radio.

She is survived by her son, Parker Jr.; her daughter, Nancy; her two grandchildren, Ashlyn and Austin; and her dog Heloise.

Austin Funeral & Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for the family. To send online condolences please visit Nell's tribute page at [www.austinfh.com](http://www.austinfh.com).

## Parker Kelly, 88

Parker Kelly, 88, passed away at home on April 5, 2023.

I grew up in northern New Jersey, driving cattle into the high country for spring and summer grazing and back to the lowlands ahead of the winter ice storms. I had a horse, old Lightning Strike, and a herd of 400 or 500 head to drive each year. Weather was a problem, but wolves were a bigger problem; we must have shot or stomped at least 250 of them over the years. Traveling light, LS and I had to live off the land. I couldn't carry much of anything, like not much ammunition, so I had to make every shot with my Sharps repeater a good one, which I did. I could make a fire in hard rain, and lived on wolf steaks served up with wild pricklyberry and prairie grass. LS and I enjoyed the country and each other's company and would have kept at it but the sod busters



showed up and ruined everything with their fences, cows and all-around dumbness. Even the wolves left, and so, a teenager at last, I headed south to Virginia where I learned to read and write, and that there was more to life than what I had been doing. Beer and girls, for example.

Still, I always wanted to go drivin' cattle again, and killin' wolves, so I planned to go to San Francisco. Eventually, though, when I finally got there I was disappointed. SF is a good place for drivin' cattle, but all the wolves had gone to Montana, I found out, in search of bright lights and haute cuisine, so I had to settle for sod buster steaks. Worse, LS found a filly and settled down to a life of regular meals and stompin' rat-

lesnakes, but we parted BFF's.

In between Virginia and San Francisco, I was in the Air Force for three years, and, over Germany, I learned to do loops, barrel rolls and spins in a DC-3. Next was a year in New York City and then on to SF where, in between cattle drives, I finished up law school in a couple years and started practicing. That was when I discovered the most dangerous wolves of all, the ones that had Esq. after their names. It was dog-eat-dog, or I should I say wolf-eat-wolf.

Also in SF, something special happened: I found a wife, and we've stuck it out for all these years. We had kids, one of each, and dogs, lots of 'em. Even though we lived in cattle country south of SF and I was a range rider at heart, I had to adopt the ways of the Esquire wolves: clean shirt, tie, shiny shoes, briefcase; object to everything,

agree to nothing; get paid upfront. Before long I fit right in.

I worked a long time trying to keep criminals off the street but at last I discovered that in the law business wearing the white hat is way better, and easier, than wearing the black one, so I became one tough-ass prosecutor. Anyway, I preferred that view of myself, even if I wasn't.

Over time the wife and I tired of life around SF and decided to seek a sophisticated, big city setting with cultural advantages not available in cattle country. Whitefish, Montana was our first choice, of course, and that's where we are proud to be to this very day. Perhaps best of all, I have become a great golfer; no man can ask for more.

No services are held at this time. Austin Funeral & Cremation Services is caring for Parker's family.

## Ann Elizabeth Kempton, 66

Ann Kempton was born April 29, 1956 in Clinton, Iowa to Dr. Donald F. and Dorothy "Dode" L. Mirick.

She had a very active childhood and was quite a "tomboy" in her youth, spending much of her time in sports and the outdoors at the family cabin on the Mississippi River. She was an avid snow skier, played softball and volleyball, and was on her high school swim team. Ann attended Clinton High School in Clinton, Iowa, graduating in 1974. At CHS she lettered in volleyball and swimming. Ann was very popular in her class and had many friends.

In 1976, Ann moved to Glenwood Springs, Colorado to be closer to family who had relocated there. While living in



Glenwood, Ann met and married Curt Kempton on June 23, 1984. Ann and Curt have two daughters, Melissa and Lucille "Lucy." Seeking a change, Curt and Ann relocated to Mesa, AZ in 1994 and resided there until 2010, when they moved to Bigfork, Montana to care for Annie's mother Dorothy and her step-father David Sivright, Sr.

Oh how Annie loved Montana! Ann was known as the "Bingo Lady" at the Bigfork VFW and the "Poppy Lady." She had a special love of the people, horses, dogs and birds, especially her hummingbirds, geese and wildlife

that visited her home. In fact, many knew Ann by her nickname of "Bird" or "Birdie." Her brothers gave her this nickname as a child because she always ate like a bird! Annie became very active in the Bigfork VFW Auxiliary as President and easily made many lifelong friends. In the Auxiliary, Ann was able to utilize her best skills; of great organization, express her caring personality and her much love of fun. She loved her Denver Broncos!

Ann is survived by her husband Curt; daughters, Melissa Crayton (of Orlando, FL) and Lucy Hurst (of Mesa, AZ), and a step-daughter Lindsay (of Texas); as well as two granddaughters, Ava and Isabella.

Other family who

will cherish and honor Annie's memory are her only sister, Mary Fleming of Newcastle, CO; her brothers Dr. Mark (Liz) Mirick of Hopkins, MN, Erik (Phoebe) Mirick of Georgetown, TX; step-brothers David (Rita) Sivright, Jr. of Clinton, Iowa and Peter Sivright of Australia; as well as numerous nephews and nieces and her beloved special friend, Susan Brignone.

A memorial service is planned for her birthday, 3 p.m. Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the Bigfork VFW. Donations in Annie's memory may be made to: VFW Post 4042 - 8098 Montana Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911.

To send online condolences, please visit [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com).

## Henry 'Hank' Kengerski, 87

Henry Michael Kengerski "Hank," formerly of Warren, Michigan, died peacefully surrounded by family at the age of 87 in Kalispell on Jan. 7, 2023. Hank was born on May 20, 1935, in Kennan, Wisconsin.

Hank moved to Montana in 1978 from Michigan and knew he would never leave. His passion for hunting and the great outdoors consumed his life. He was a true mountain man. Hank fulfilled his life-long dream and capped his Grand Slam with a Desert Bighorn Sheep in 2007. He was honored to join the exclusive rank of hunters as a member of the Grand Slam Club of North American wild sheep. He held a record in the prestigious Boone and Crockett Club for Bighorn Sheep and earned many competitive archery trophies throughout his lifetime.

He loved music and singing and playing the guitar. Hank also loved to dance. He used dancing to get himself in shape for hunting.

Hank was a building contractor. At one point, he owned a 36-unit motel and remodeled all the rooms himself.

Hank served two years in the Army and was stationed in Poitiers, France as an MP.

Hank was the loving husband of Virginia (Ginny) Kengerski. They were happily married for nearly forty years. Hank is survived by his daughters, Alison (Doug) Bouck, Cheryl Kengerski,



and step-son Randy (Chris) Lindsey; his grandchildren, Brent and Adam Bouck, Derik and Kelci Lindsey, and Nicole Clarke.

He is also survived by his three brothers, Donald and David Kengerski, Dennis Mefford; many nieces and nephews; and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Hedwig and Latney Mefford; sisters Frances Pleimann and Helen Spohn; and his stepdaughter and granddaughter, Brenda and Casey Clarke.

Hank's memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 20 at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

The family would like to send a heartfelt and huge thank you to the staff at Prestige Assisted Living and Hestia Hospice in Kalispell for the love, care, and attention they gave Hank in his last days.

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

## Curtis Kennedy, 79

Born Oct. 2, 1943, in Lewistown, Montana to Herb E. and Lydia S. Kennedy, Curtis Kennedy peacefully passed away on Jan. 17, 2023, in Kalispell with his wife by his side. Curtis grew up in Lewistown. He attended Lewistown High School until he received his GED. As a young boy he desired to follow in his father's footsteps working construction and he worked road construction several years with his father, until he moved into the world of concrete. He drove cement trucks in several cities in Montana, Idaho and Washington. In 1980 he was recruited into management with Pack & Co. in Kalispell, later sold to Nupak. He worked for them until being recruited by L.H.C. in 2002. He worked in management for L.H.C. until his retirement in 2016. Curtis loved working in the concrete world, he achieved many awards due to his knowledge of concrete. Curtis had two beautiful daughters: Christine and Caryn, he was also blessed with a bonus daughter Kathy Entzel. He also



gained two sons, Steven Thomson and James Gould, when he married

Connie in 2009. He is survived by wife Connie Kennedy of Kalispell; his daughter Caryn Kennedy of Kalispell; stepsons Steven Thomson (Ashley) of Kalispell and James Gould (Brittany) of Kalispell; cousins Carma Adamson of Conrad, Rita (Deedee) Stokes of Conrad; Ann Thomson (mother-in-law) of Kalispell; brother Eldon Kennedy of Summerville, North Carolina; also his former wife, Pam Carbonari of Kalispell; grandchildren: Aleksa and Mia Thomson, Nevaeh and Madilyn Gould, Tiffany Crimins, daughter Zoey, Carissa Belaribi (Zoubir), Wesley Hass (Leslie), Melissa Fletcher (Curtis); Aleisha Carlson (Evan); also 13 grandchildren.

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

I love you Curtis,  
Forever Your Mrs. Me

## Susan Mae Holmquist Kennedy, 70

Susan Mae Holmquist Kennedy, 70 of Charleston, South Carolina, passed away on Friday June 9, 2023, after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis. She was the youngest of six children, born on May 31, 1953 in Kalispell. Daughter of Ernest Holmquist and the late Mary Paine Holmquist.

Her younger years included riding her horse bareback through town, swimming in the creek, fishing and being outdoors. In recent years she enjoyed cooking her family's favorite meals, loving on her grandchildren, playing cards and reading her Bible. She was a woman of great faith and a prayer warrior for her family and friends. Her family and faith were extremely important to her.

She is survived by



her four children, Angie, Sarah, Rob and Josh; nine grandchildren; Meagan,

Kayla, Zachary, Liam, Amaya, Annabelle, Ashlynn, Mira and Lillian; two great-granddaughters, Emory and Lilah; her sister, Sandra; three brothers, Carl, Steve and Ernie; and her father, Ernest Holmquist.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Hamilton; two brothers, Clinton and Clement; and sister, Eileen.

She will be missed greatly on this earth, but we have no doubt that she is rejoicing in heaven and casting her crowns at Jesus' feet.



## Debra Vae Engebretson Kent, 73

Debra Vae Kent passed away peacefully in her sleep on Oct. 24, 2022, after an extended battle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and congestive heart failure.

Debra Vae Buxton was born on July 20, 1949, to Bruce and Norma Jeane Buxton in Ewing, Nebraska. She moved to Montana in 1961, when she was adopted by her stepfather, John Engebretson.

Debby graduated from Flathead High School, later attending Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) when it was located in various buildings in downtown Kalispell. John, Norma Jeane and Debby lived in the "big house" on Third Avenue East in Kalispell before moving out to Swan River Road in 1973. Debby worked for Engebretson Gravel and later Billmayer Drilling.

In the 1980s Debby moved to Arizona where she met and married Thomas Kent. Tom and Debby were married for 40 years, until her passing. She retired from the Arizona Department of Transportation in 2018 and was actively involved with the High Desert Humane Society



in Globe.

Debby enjoyed her summer trips to Montana, where she would

spend many days in Glacier National Park taking pictures and exploring.

Debby was preceded in death by her mother, Norma Jeane Latzel, biological father Bruce Buxton and her adopted father John Engebretson. She is survived by her husband, Thomas Kent, of Globe, Arizona; sister Jami (Daniel) Erickson of Kalispell; along with her nephews Jake Andrews, Scott Andrews; her niece Marci (Zane) Brown; and her great-nephew Odin Brown of Kalispell; as well as cousins around the country.

There was no memorial service, per Debby's request. In lieu of cards or flowers, donations may be made to the High Desert Humane Society in Globe, Arizona at 393 North Broad Street, Globe, AZ 85501, phone (928) 362-9961, or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA.)

## Debra 'Debbie' Kerouac, 68

On Dec. 15, 2022, Debra "Debbie" Alex Kerouac took her last breath



and her first breath in heaven. We can all assume she has already been dancing in circles since her arrival. Those that knew her, loved her. She lit up any room she walked into with her beautiful smile and kind heart.

Debbie was born on July 30, 1954, in Cut Bank. She worked in banking many years and made friends wherever she went. She was a long-standing member of the Moose Lodge where she held many positions. Debbie loved to bowl and dance and brag about her two beautiful granddaughters. She loved hard and unconditionally. Her family meant everything to her.

Many loved ones went before her including her parents, Harry G. Alex, Helen Johnson and Elvira Alex, siblings Gene

Alex, Clara Henderson, Bonnie Freed, Nancy Waldenburg, Linda Flynn, Linda Stoffel and niece Renee Dobson.

Debbie is survived by her significant other, Leon Ostrowski of the home, daughter Shyla (Jim) Allers, and granddaughters Madeline and Mackenzie of Comstock Park, Michigan, siblings Shirley Dobson of Payson, AZ, Darlene (Doug) Kohlbeck of Kalispell, Jeri Alex of Kalispell, Dick (Annie) Alex of Kalispell, RJ (Carol) Alex of Castle Rock, CO, Estelle Birza of Highland Ranch, CO; Carol Sanford of Bozeman; Sharon Wollan of Laurel, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was an amazing wife, mother, grandmother, sister, auntie, and friend to so many and will be dearly missed. A graveside interment will take place in Cut Bank at The Crown Hill Cemetery at 1 p.m. on June 10, 2023 with a luncheon immediately following at the Moose Lodge.



Great Falls - Douglas Roy Kickbusch, 69, of Great Falls passed away on Jan. 26th, 2023 after battling brain cancer. He is at peace and home with the Lord.

Doug was born on Nov. 26th, 1953 to Lucille Kardell and Roy Kickbusch in Havre.

He grew up in Coram and after graduating high school returned to Havre where he eventually worked as a mechanic at Heltne's Servicer.

Later in life he moved to Great Falls where he started his career as a long-time truck driver.

He retired from trucking in 2021 after faithfully exploring America's open roads, befriending waitresses everywhere he went, and giving out his favorite keylime candies to anyone he met for 30 years. In retirement, he was unable to fully quit driving and instead volunteered to drive for the local Helping Hands Ministry.

He leaves behind a wake of people who loved him. He was blessed to have the Bethel Lutheran Church of Great Falls as his family in faith. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Jola and brother Larry. He is survived by his two children Kela Bergren and Michael Floren; sisters Judy and husband Jeff, Pauline; nephews Phillip and wife Kortni, Nathan and wife Shaylyn; nieces Augusta, Brittney, Irene, Sheila and Shelley; several grand-nieces and nephews,

the Kardell family, the Moore family, and many dear friends.

His funeral will be held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls, on March 18th at 10:30 a.m. Per Doug's wishes, a separate celebration of life will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Great Falls for his church family and those who are unable to travel at this time.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Helping Hands Ministry of First English Lutheran Church in Great Falls, an organization that helps to feed and house those in need.

## Leo Allen King, 68

Leo Allen King, 68, of Hot Springs passed away Sept. 20, 2023, in Plains. He was born on Feb. 26, 1955, in Lonepine to Tom and Rosie King.

As Leo endured sickness in his last years, his dedication to his mother, Rosie, gave his life purpose.

To many, he was a figure of immense strength, both mentally and physically. However, as a child, to me, he wasn't just a father — he was superman. While I called him dad, many knew him by various legendary nicknames, from "The Brush Ape" to "The Bull of the Woods," and finally, "Leo the Lion."

Beyond his legendary strength, he had a caring heart. He consistently went out of his way to help those in need and had a love for children, cherishing every moment they spent by the creek or in the woods with, "Papa Leo."

Living life on his terms, he shunned convention. He was a man who wouldn't be confined to a traditional indoor job. With a deep-seated passion for the outdoors, he made the woods "his office." He absolutely loved deer and elk hunting, and my



adventures in the woods with dad will always remain etched in my heart.

He is survived by his son, Travis King; and daughter-in-law, Becca.

He was incredibly fond of his grandsons, Logan, Luke and Ben King. His siblings, Betty Stickel, Mike King, and Clancy King, also survive him. Additionally, his best friend, Patti Ilac, her children, and grandchildren were like family and held a special place in his heart.

He was preceded in death by his son, Larry King; his parents, Rosie and Tom; and his sister, Linda.

Leo King will be deeply missed. His legacy of strength, kindness, and laughter will endure and be forever cherished. May his mind, body and soul rest in eternal peace.

He will be laid to rest at the Lonepine Cemetery. In lieu of a funeral service, we ask that you leave a comment or share a favorite memory on his online obituary.

## Joan Hickey Kinzel, 96

Joan Hickey Kinzel, 96, passed away on Jan. 8, 2023, at Maryville Nursing Home with her family at her side.

Joan was born on Nov. 23, 1926, in Portland, Oregon. She was the third of three children born to James S. and Anne (Boutin) Hickey. She was raised in Portland and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1944. She told stories of summers spent swimming at Reed College and riding on roller skates down the hills of her Eastmorland neighborhood.

Joan attended the University of Oregon where she studied journalism and history and served as editor of the school yearbook. She was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority and graduat-



ed with a bachelor's degree in history in 1948. After college graduation she moved to San Francisco with several college friends and worked at Dow Chemical as a bookkeeper. In 1957, Joan met her future husband, Stephen Kinzel through mutual friends. They were married on Feb. 15, 1958, and made their home together in LaGrande, Oregon where they started their family. Following the death of Stephen in 1979, Joan returned to the Portland area, which she always considered her home.

She enjoyed spending time in the outdoors

whether hiking, golfing or snow skiing in her younger years. She enjoyed listening to classical music, playing bridge and taking trips to Hawaii or to the family cabin at Wallowa Lake, Oregon. After her return to Portland in 1981 she served as a docent at the Portland Art Museum and enjoyed traveling to Greece, Turkey, Scandinavia and Japan.

Joan is preceded in death by her husband; Stephen J. Kinzel; her parents, James S. and Anne Hickey; siblings, James S. Hickey Jr and Louise Hamilton; and four nephews.

She is survived by her two children and their spouses: Charles and Dawn Kinzel of Portland, Helen and Neil Hammer

of Kalispell; four grandchildren: Kellie Kinzel, Benjamin (Catherine) Kinzel, Justin Hammer, Nathan Hammer; one great-grandchild Genevieve Kinzel; and six nieces.

Funeral mass will be Monday at 11 a.m. on Jan. 30 at St. Pius X Church in Portland with a reception luncheon immediately following. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Hillcrest Cemetery, LaGrande Oregon.

Memorial donations may be made to Benedictine Foundation of Oregon - Benedictine Sisters of Mount Angel, Mount Angel, Oregon or St. Francis of Assisi Dining Hall, Portland Oregon.

## James Kirby, 82

James Kirby passed away peacefully at his home in Ferndale surrounded by loved ones on March 30, 2023.

He was born Feb. 1, 1941, to Roy and Thelma Kirby and raised in Bigfork. He married Connie Wood on Feb. 24, 1979.

Jim owned and operated Kirby Tree Removal for decades. Prior to this, he worked in the Timber Industry in Montana and Alaska.

At the young age of 10, he was mauled by a bear in the area of Bear Creek, requiring only stitches! His grandkids took him for show and tell so he could tell his story and show off the clothes he wore during the attack.

In 1990 he won first place in the Craig/Klawock, Alaska fishing derby by hauling in a 69-pound, 8-ounce king salmon, and with his prize money took Connie to New Zealand!

Jim was a member of St. John Paul II Catholic Church where he was an usher and member of the Knights of Columbus.



Jim was preceded in death by his parents and his daughter, Kelly.

He is survived

by his wife, Connie of Ferndale; daughters, Julie (Kirk) Wilson of Glennallen, AK, and Tammy Ganz of Bigfork; sons, Jeremy Kirby of Bigfork, Paul (Lisa) Kirby of Bigfork; sister, Pat Zachary; brothers, Bill (Marion), Don (Marlene) of Bigfork and Allen of Alaska; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at Saint John Paul II Catholic Church in Bigfork at 11 a.m., Monday, April 10. Reception to follow.

A special thank you to Katie Borges at MT Mobile Medical and Hestia Hospice; Aimee, Debbie, Niki, Dani, Julie and Lisa. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations go to The Hope for Harlee Foundation at [hopeforharlee.org](http://hopeforharlee.org).

## Marion Kirby, 82

Marion Pauline (Rolston) Kirby, 82, passed away peacefully on July 21, 2023.

Marion was born on February 15, 1941, in Kalispell to Ceryil "Bill" and Ruella (Bishop) Rolston. Marion was raised in Ferndale, where she also met and married her husband of 62 years, Bill Kirby of Bigfork, and raised her three children. Marion will be missed deeply.

Marion was preceded

in death by her parents; her brother, Rai Rolston; and her daughter, Robin Rae (Kirby) Swaim.

Marion will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Bill; son, Bill and his wife Debbie of O'Fallon, Missouri; daughter, Shannon of Bigfork; six grandchildren, five great grandchildren, numerous other relatives, and her beloved cat, Foster.

At Marion's request, no service will be held.