

## Yvonne Marie Messier Buck Kleinhans, 81

Yvonne Marie Messier Buck Kleinhans, 81, of Hall died peacefully in Missoula on Aug. 9, 2023. Given four years to live in 1994 when diagnosed with cardio myopathy, she showed her tenacity and determination to live life to its fullest, and her ability to take a prognosis with a grain of salt.

Born with certain physical limitations, she lived as an example of what can be accomplished with a positive attitude and willingness to find a way. She was a talented painter, teacher and textile artist — happily sharing her enthusiasm and joy for colors in her many beautiful quilted creations.

Yvonne was born Jan. 3, 1942, in Lewistown to Mildred Ella (Todd) Messier and Richard Messier. At age 6, her mother remarried and she was raised in and around Lewistown by her mother and father, Charles Buck, along with sister, Mona, brother, Gordon, and sister, Charlene.

Yvonne met William Kleinhans at Montana State University, and they were married for 61 years. They lived in Washington state briefly, abroad in Germany during William's deployment in the Army, and then settled in the Flathead Valley on his family farm. They



have two children (Jason and Monique) and three grandchildren (Sarah,

Nicole and Justin).

Yvonne loved supporting and encouraging others, and often took on leadership roles: chairman of Somers School Board and the Special Education Board, chairman of the tax appeal board, and deacon at the First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell. She also was a charter member of the Flathead Quilters Guild and served as guild president for a number of years.

Her legacy is in her children and grandchildren, and the countless people she encouraged and taught to explore their creativity. Her positive attitude, beautiful smile and infectious laughter are always with everyone who met her.

At Yvonne's request, there will be no funeral or memorial service. Instead, she hopes her friends and loved ones keep a sense of playful exploration in their lives, a sense of humor in their hearts, and count their many blessings each and every day.

She led by example her entire life, and the last thing she did before she passed was smile.

## Juniper Rose Knapp, 16

Juniper Rose Knapp, formerly known as Sophia Rose Knapp, died in a tragic accident on May 20, 2023. Juniper was born in Henderson, Nevada on Sept. 2, 2006. She lived in Great Falls prior to moving with her family to Kalispell.



her heart, and we have no doubt that if she had lived, she would have done great things.

Juniper loved reading, art, poetry, music, practical jokes and her family. She was a bright, vibrant, fiery, adventurous, inquisitive beautiful, funny, smart, creative young woman who was looking forward to her future.



A memorial for Juniper will take place on June 10

Juniper endured and overcame many obstacles in her short life. However, she did not let these obstacles define her. She had gone through recovery from addiction and had been sober since the end of September 2021. She was on track to receive her high school diploma a year early and would have graduated her high school program just two weeks after her death. She was also working at a job she loved as a certified nurse's assistant.

from 1-3:30 p.m. at 100 Montana 206 in Kalispell. The family has also set up a memorial website where pictures and memories can be shared at [everloved.com/life-of/sophia-knapp/](http://everloved.com/life-of/sophia-knapp/).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Juniper Knapp Memorial Fund. More details on the Fund can be found on her website.

Juniper was not done living her life when she died. She had recently been accepted into the arts program at Flathead Valley Community College and was planning multiple trips to visit her family around the world. She had many plans and ideas for making this world a better place. She had so much love and compassion in

Juniper was a daughter to Julie Knapp and Jason Knapp; a sister to Summit Knapp and Wyatt Knapp; a granddaughter to Linda Fatland, Todd Fatland, Edward Knapp and Colleen Knapp; a niece to Sarah Fatland, Cam Humphres, Kat Asher, Zack Asher, Rachel Knapp and Cory Knapp; a cousin to Otis Knapp and Lula Asher; and a friend to many other loving family and friends.

Juniper, you will always be loved, and your memory will never be forgotten. We Love you.



## Douglas Franklin Knapton, 81

Douglas Franklin Knapton, 81 of Columbia Falls, passed away in the early morning hours of Sept. 10, 2023, with his beloved wife by his side.

He was born May 18, 1942, in Bemidji, Minnesota, to the late William Henry and Lenora Amundson Knapton. He was the youngest of three boys. The family moved to Columbia Falls in 1945. He attended Columbia Falls High School where he played football and the trombone in band.

He graduated from high school in 1960 and went on to study at Northern Montana College in Havre, where he earned his bachelor's degree in applied sciences. While attending Northern, Doug met Janice Everett, the love of his life and wife. They were married in 1965.

He was a teacher for over 35 years, his first three years at Columbia Falls, and the next 32



years at Cut Bank Junior High. He was actively involved in student academics as well as athletics. He started the science fair program in Cut Bank, and over the years, took many students to the State Science Fair in Missoula. In class, Mr. Knapton had the privilege of teaching thousands of students about the world of science, notably the annual egg drops, dissections, and hatching ducklings and chicks. After the bell rang, he also coached junior high football, basketball, and little league baseball.

He was a devout servant of his Lord. He served actively in the St. Paul's Lutheran congregation in Cut Bank, and later in his home congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in

Columbia Falls.

One of the greatest moments in Doug's life was becoming a father to his daughter and son, Shawna and Scott. He took great pride in their accomplishments as well as those of his grandchildren. He was a mentor of life skills and integrity.

Doug and Janice enjoyed many adventures in life, traveling to different places in their retirement, often accompanied by Janice's sister Loretta and her husband Chuck Conrad.

He was an avid hunter and spent countless fall days in the Sweetgrass Hills with his close friends, son, and grandsons. He was also passionate about woodworking. His creative genius will always be remembered when admiring the numerous pieces that he created and donated or gave away as gifts. He was a life-long Green Bay Packer fan. He enjoyed his daily Mountain Dew

or Pepsi, his wife's chocolate chip cookies, and peanut butter and honey sandwiches.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Janice Knapton; daughter, Shawna Korth (Jay); son, Scott Knapton (Belinda); grandchildren, MacKenzie, Kennedy, Erik, Brandon, DJ, Jordan, and Allec; seven great-grandchildren; brother, Jim Knapton; in-Laws, Lynn and Virginia Everett, Loretta Conrad and Sandra Knapton; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Doug is preceded in death by his brother, Dick Knapton; brother-in-law, Charles Conrad; and nephew, Joel Conrad.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Fri., Sept. 22, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

## Vernon Knoll, 93

Vernon Knoll was born Oct. 18, 1929, to Anton and Albina Knoll in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The family was forced to move during the Great Depression and spent time in Oregon and Washington before settling in Kalispell when Vern was in the seventh grade. He went on to attend Flathead High School, and as a young man, worked with his father learning the building trade.

Vern loved horses and attended an auction where he watched a young gal bid on and purchase an Arabian mare. Little did he know, he would be married to that gal, Phyllis Kemna (lovingly nicknamed "Philly"), for the next 64 years — and feed the Arabian mare for the next 28 years! They shared a love of horses and together they enjoyed many trips riding through the Jewel Basin and participating in rodeo events. Vern particularly enjoyed calf roping and won many beautiful belt buckles which he took pride in wearing for the rest of his life.

As a member of the National Guard, he proudly served with the 639th Field Artillery Battalion as master sergeant. He made many lifelong friends during his service and together they won the Eisenhower Trophy for best unit in the state.

Vern became a



licensed pilot and he owned his own Cessna aircraft, fulfilling a dream of flying

after seeing his first plane at the age of 6. He enjoyed taking family and friends for scenic flights around the area.

A builder by trade, he went on to become a contractor and built many lovely homes throughout the Flathead Valley, including four homes for his family. In 1964, he and his wife purchased farm land on the east side of the valley near McWenegar Slough and raised a variety of crops throughout the years including wheat, barley, canola and peas. He was one of the first in the Flathead Valley to raise mint. He enjoyed his time farming and actively farmed until he was in his mid-'80s. Dad always said that he lived in the best of times.

Vern and Phyllis raised four children on their family farm.

He was preceded in death by his wife Phyllis and his beloved dog Carl.

He is survived by his loving children, David, James, Steven (Trish) and Paula; grandchildren, Travis, Avery and Ashley; and several great-grandchildren.

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

## Jerry A. Knudson, 80

Jerry A. Knudson, 80, was born in Bécida, Minnesota.

His family moved to Columbia Falls when he was 15 years old. He graduated from Columbia Falls High School. He worked at B&B Grocery in Columbia Falls and retired from CFAC after 35 years in 2004.



He enjoyed camping, taking care of his lawn and woodworking.

Jerry will be greatly missed by his wife, siblings, children, grandchildren and anyone who knew him.

Memorial service will be held June 17, 2023, at 3 p.m. at First Church of the Nazarene in Kalispell. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Jerry's family.



## Travis J. Kohlbeck, 53

Travis J. Kohlbeck, 53, passed away on Nov. 1, 2023. He was born to parents, Bill and Terri Kohlbeck on May 23, 1970.

As a boy he grew up in the Flathead Valley where his love for the outdoors began to grow. All through his life he loved hunting, fishing, racing, snowmobiling and working. He was hard working, loyal, loving and enjoyed being around friends and family. One of his biggest passions was mud bogging. He loved everything about the sport from building the trucks to holding the trophy at the end. He made many friends along the way that he considered family.

All of his life he was engrossed in the outdoors from work to play, he loved being outside. If he wasn't working or racing, he was hunting or fishing. He cherished time with friends and family going on adventures searching for wildlife or finding the best fishing spots.

His strong work ethic propelled him through life and business. As a profession he owned and operated Kohlbeck Quality Irrigation for many years.

In 2019, he retired from sprinklers and moved to Roy, where he bought the Roy Bar. He



loved the small-town life and was very involved in the community.

He greatly influenced anyone who was in his presence. He helped and impacted so many lives from the time he was a young boy until the end. He was a leader, a best friend and role model to many. His hard-working personality was contagious, and he will be forever loved greatly missed by all that knew him.

He is survived by his parents, Bill and Terri Kohlbeck; sister, Karla Kohlbeck; uncles, Doug Kohlbeck (Darlene), Max Vercruyssen (Donna), Jim Vercruyssen (Kate) and Wayne Wick; aunts, Judy Norman (Les) and Val Johnson; nephews, Andrew Jensen and Casey Jensen; niece, Tylar Jensen; and numerous cousins.

A celebration of Travis's life will be held at noon on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, at Cayuse Prairie School, 897 Lake Blaine Road, Kalispell, Montana 59912. Family and friends may visit starting at 11 a.m.

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

## Dave Konopatzke, 83

Dave "Kono" Konopatzke, 83, of Columbia Falls passed away suddenly, July 31, 2023. He was born to Lenore Fuller and Vernon Konopatzke in Havre, on Jan. 11, 1940.

In his early years, he went to Catholic School, then to Simms High School and transferred to Columbia Falls High School for his Junior and Senior years and graduated in the Class of 1958.

His ability to help people led him to join the Columbia Falls Police Department where he worked from July 1, 1961, until he retired July 31, 1987. He worked his way up from Police Officer to Assistant Police Chief, and finally Chief of Police. He worked with one of his best friends, Kenny Bell, who was Assistant Chief for many of those years who also retired at the same time.

He married Connie DeShais in 1979. They had a wonderful and active life together for 43 years.

He was a Columbia Falls Volunteer Fireman for 20 years and also volunteered with the Ambulance Service and the North Valley Search and Rescue. He also drove a school bus for many of those years.

Dave's life was so full. Not a day went by that he wasn't busy doing



one of his many hobbies or adventures. If it had a motor he found a way to

ride it. In the winter he was an avid snowmobiler. He was involved with snowmobile oval and drag racing, hill climbs and track ATVs.

In the summer he switched over to ATVs, UTV side-by-side, motorcycles, boats, and Wave Runners along with participating in snowmobile grass drags and car racing. He was a great skier on both snow and water. His many friends who shared his adventures will surely miss his expertise and abilities.

He is survived by his wife, Connie; son, Steve and his wife Colleen Konopatzke; sister, Susie (Lee) Smith; brother, Dan (Linda) Konopatzke; brother-in-law, Ron (Deb) DeShais; granddaughter, Stephani; and great-grandson, Eathon.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Kyle; and two infant daughters, Lisa and Nancy, from a previous marriage.

There was a private graveside service Aug. 3, at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Columbia Mortuary handled the service and online tribute.



## Kay Koster, 97

Kay Koster was born in March 1925 in San Pedro, California to Zatha and Jennings Bryant Cook. She passed away in January 2023, at home in Kalispell.

Kay lived through very hard times during the Great Depression but these challenges only strengthened her character — she was always looking at the positive side of life. During World War II, Kay was a “Rosie the Riveter,” earning a good wage building aircraft for the military. Some of the planes that she built and named were, “B-17”, “B-24”, “P-38” and “P-51 Mustang.” During January of 1943, Kay also met her future husband, William R. Koster. William was on active

duty in the U.S. Coast Guard at the time. William remembered the great-great-grandson of frontiersman Bridger telling him to marry Kay because she was a “great girl and a true lady.” For Kay and William, it was love at first sight. They married after a courtship lasting only a few weeks and they remained married for the rest of their lives, 73 years.

Kay was a Baptist Christian, her faith was very important to her and she raised her sons with the same values. She loved to do silk flower arrangements



and she was an expert seamstress. Most of all though, Kay loved her family more than anything else. Her true love was for taking care of her family. She created and managed a beautiful home with energy and vibrancy. She was a true visionary when it came to using nutrition to treat poor health. She did everything to make sure that her family was eating the best, healthiest food possible by making delicious, natural and non-processed homemade food. In addition, she was also a trained nurse and she saved her son’s lives many times.

Many excited, new brides in the Flathead Valley will remember “Kay’s Bridal Boutique” by Woodland Park. It

was a one-stop shop for everything that brides needed: invitations, bridal dresses, limousine rentals and more. There was even a horse-drawn carriage that would come to the shop to pick up the bride-to-be.

Kay is survived by her children Rick, a Vietnam War combat veteran, and Lee; grandkids, Kit, Dusty, Matt, Brian, Brandy and Jessica; great-grandkids, Raevin, Shade, Carson, Billy, Bailey Rae and Dally Gene.

Kay is predeceased by her husband William, a Coast Guard veteran of World War II; her parents; and her brother, Jennings “Bud” Bryant Cook Jr., a Purple Heart recipient during World War II.



## Alven Emil Krantz, 97

On March 12, 1926, at the Pearson Farm west of Kalispell (Smith Valley) in a little dirt floor log cabin, Alven Emil Krantz was born to John Emil and Mayme Pearson Krantz. On April 24, 2023, Alven passed away at his home in Evergreen of natural causes at the age of 97.

When Alven was less than 2 months old his mother, Mayme, passed and he grew up with several "host" families during his early childhood. He had two older sisters, Mamie Marie "Minnie" and Ellen (Schend) Merle. Dad always told me he had "lots of mamas" growing up.

At the age of 11, he met Dan Lynch. They had a conflict over a girl and after it was over they talked it out, traded pocket knives, and became special lifelong friends. They fished and hunted together and even worked together driving taxis after World War II.

On Aug. 16, 1944, Alven was inducted into the U.S. Army and served in the European theater as an infantryman with Company B, 313th Infantry Regiment, 79th Division under combat conditions in the Battle of the Bulge and at the crossing of the Rhine.

After the war ended, he volunteered as a cook and was a mess sergeant until his discharge on July 2, 1946. He was one great cook and his spaghetti was second to none. He returned to the Flathead and drove a taxi for the Yellow Cab Company run by Dan Lynch.

Alven started driving trucks at the age of 14 and pretty much made a career of truck driving. He hauled logs, grain, ore from the Flathead Mine, drove lowboy, and drove



dump and plow trucks for Flathead County until he retired at age 65. He earned an admirable reputation as a trucker and was very

proud of it. In between some of his driving jobs he found other types of employment to fill in. He worked at the Anaconda Aluminum Plant at Columbia Falls in the early '50s for a short time, ran the Farmer's Union in Kremlin, as well as helped his brother-in-law Charlie Schend on the farm.

In 1948, he wed Isle Edgman and they had two children, Kimmie Jean and Rodney Edward. That union ended in a divorce a few years later.

In August of 1952, he married Kathleen "Kathy" M. Tennant in Havre. Kathy had one child, Theran "Teri" Rose who Alven later adopted. By 1964 they added three more children to the family, Richard "Rick" Allen, Debra "Debbie" Kay and Brenda Lee.

After Debbie was born in 1955, the family moved back to the Flathead Valley where he continued his career driving trucks. Alven made many lifelong friends from his work and activities before retiring in 1991. Gordon Heindel (Mary Jane) and Bob Ellesch (Liz) are two of those special lifelong friends that are still with us.

Alven loved fishing, hunting and camping with his family and friends. One of his favorite areas was Hungry Horse Reservoir, but he also loved going out west of Kalispell to recreate.

He enjoyed doing mechanic work in his shop and during spring break-up he would usually work maintenance on his employer's trucks and equipment. He was a good provider for his family and if a friend needed some help, he was there.

Alven was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Kathy; daughter, Debbie; three sisters, Mamie Marie, Ellen Merle, Mildred (aged 13 days); stepbrother, Victor Hoppus; stepsister, Martha Hoppus Anderson (Kermit); nephew, Fred Bullman (Mary); and niece, Jackie Donovan (Earl).

He is survived by two sons, Rod Miller (Sandy), Rick Krantz (Debbi); three daughters, Kim Bauch (Dennis), Terri Grigg (Rex), Brenda Krantz (George); Nephew, Terry Schend (Cindy); grandsons, Ben Krantz (Rachel), Tyler Krantz, Ryan Krantz, Cory Miller, Jesse Miller; granddaughters Tammy Zeller, Cassie Kiern, Heidi Ewing; cousins Jewell Sykes (Robert), Irvin Olsen (JoAnn), several great-grandchildren and great-nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 13 at the Buffalo Hills Funeral Home with Pastor Jim Holman officiating. There will be a reception afterward at the Moose Lodge, 2158 U.S. 2 E., in Kalispell.

The family suggests that memorial gifts or donations be given to the American Legion or a charity of your choosing. Friends are encouraged to visit [www.buffalohill-fh.com](http://www.buffalohill-fh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Lois Lorraine Krause, 83

Lois Lorraine Krause, 83, passed away peacefully April 25, 2023, at Rising Mountain Assisted Living.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Bob Krause; children, Edward Hedlund (Lana), Joseph Hedlund (Darcie) and Rita Cadena; stepchildren Ron Krause Krause, Darla Thompson (Dale); and many grand,



great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Lois loved the lord and left a little

bit of sparkle everywhere she went!

A memorial service will be held in August.

## Thomas Kreber, 68

Thomas "Tom" Stevens Kreber, 68, died on June 11,



2023, at his home in Columbia Falls. Tom was born Nov. 23, 1954, to the late John and Sylvia Kreber.

Tom was a caring, realist, hippie, rock 'n' roll, NASCAR fan. He worked professionally

at Plum Creek and road construction in Glacier Park. His favorite color was red. He was loud and outspoken but also a good listener.

Services will be held privately at the convenience of the family.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family. To send online condolences, visit [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com).

## Evan Curtis Krebsbach, 71

Evan Curtis Krebsbach was born April 14, 1951, to Clair and Wilma Poth Krebsbach in Williston, North Dakota. He joined sisters Suzanne, Pamela and Toni, and was followed by Mary, Christopher, Jennifer and Sara. Curt was always boisterous and busy with a mind of his own. Mom took Curt to his first day of school and he sneaked out of the school, ran home and beat mom home.

Curt loved living on the edge. He loved to travel the world and regaled everyone with his tales. One of his greatest pleasures in later years was stopping people in the grocery store who looked sad

and trying to cheer them up with a joke or funny story to get a smile on their face.

Curt passed away Nov. 29, 2022, in Kalispell leaving sisters Suzanne, Toni, Jennifer, Sara and brother Chris.

Curt's funeral service is 11 a.m. on Monday, May 15, 2023, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Whitefish. A private burial will follow.

Rest in peace, Curt, and keep making people smile. Messages of condolences may be shared with the family online at [www.lakefuneralhome-andcremation.com](http://www.lakefuneralhome-andcremation.com).

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



## Angeline Kruckenberg, 91

Angeline Kruckenberg, 91, passed peacefully to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, at home.

Angie was born to Harry and Bernadine Kunda in Wibaux County, Montana, on March 27, 1932. She moved with her parents and little sister, Elizabeth, to Kalispell by an invitation from her aunt, Agnes Weisz, Harry's sister. Later the family moved to Olalla, Washington, then back to Kalispell where Angie and her siblings attended St. Matthew's School.

She worked at Norm's News in her teens, meeting her husband, Norm Kruckenberg. They owned Western Business and Tax, and NK Trucking Company in Kalispell and managed Husky Truck Stop. They moved to Alaska to work on the Alaskan Pipeline, then they bought OK Lumber Company and franchised with Ace Hardware to expand the merchandise side of the business. When they retired in 1996, they went on the road in their beautiful motor home while building a house near Norm's brother, Rubert 'Butch' Kruckenberg. It was a labor of love to build a home big enough for family to visit, play pool and enjoy the delicious meals prepared by Angie.

She had many adventures throughout her life with her family, doing accountant work, doing Tupperware sales, selling Pfaff machines, running a chicken farm, and raising her children. She loved to travel, swim, fly, cook and even garden. She knew how to get every-



one to participate in the list of activities and work that she had in mind. She had a strong faith and loved welcoming friends and family to her home.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Bernadine Kunda; siblings, Elizabeth Schaeffer, Ralph Kunda, Pearl Nolan and Michael Kunda; daughters, Rita Kruckenberg and Rosanne Lyford; her husband, Norman; nephews, Michael Wayne Kunda and Robert Nolan; and many other relatives and friends.

She is survived by sister, Anne Stewart; her children, Ray (Mona), Richard (Sandi), Regina (Bill Kegley) and Ron (Katya) Kruckenberg; many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews.

Services for Angie will begin at 7 p.m. on Nov. 19, with a Rosary and Vigil at the Buffalo Funeral Home, followed by a mass at St. Matthew's Catholic church at 11 a.m. on Nov. 20. You may honor Angie with donations to St. Matthew's School, Kalispell.

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

## Jennifer Lee Krueger, 62

Jennifer Lee Krueger, age 62, of Columbia Falls, passed away Oct. 4, 2023. She was born July 17, 1961, in Whitefish to the late DeWayne Krueger and Jean Krueger (Cockrell).

Jenny was born and raised in Columbia Falls and was a graduate of Columbia Falls High School. She held an associate degree from Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri, and attended Montana State University, majoring in statistics.

Her return to Columbia Falls began almost four decades in the lumber industry, first with Superior Lumber, then American Stud in Olney, Plum Creek, and finally as the transportation manager for Weyerhaeuser MDF. In addition to her career, she became very invested in the Columbia Falls community. She headed up the Heritage Days parade for 17 years, was



involved in both Coming Alive and Night of Lights, and served a six-year term on

the Columbia Falls City Council from 1993 to 1999.

In high school, Jenny played flute and piccolo with both the Columbia Falls High School band and Flathead Valley Community Band, continuing for many years with the community band. She was active in her church, All Saints Episcopal.

One of the biggest impacts Jenny had in her life was with the PEO Sisterhood, a philanthropic organization that raises money to fund women's education. Jenny was initiated into her local chapter of PEO in 1979 and served the organization for 44 years, including a seven-year term as a state officer.

Jenny is survived by sister, Paige Walker (Scott); nephews, Graydon and Logan; an uncle Richard Cockrell, and many cousins. Jenny will always be remembered for her diligent work ethic, generosity, and infectious laugh.

A celebration of Jennifer Lee Krueger's life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 2048 Conn Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. A reception and inurnment to follow at the adjacent cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the P.E.O. Sisterhood, checks payable to Chapter BI, P.E.O. and mailed to Paige Walker, P.O. Box 624, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 or to All Saints' Episcopal Church, sent to P.O. Box 1923, Whitefish, MT 59937. To send online condolences, please visit [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com).



## William Eric Kuehn, 91

William Eric Kuehn, known to his loved ones as Bill, passed away on April 11, 2023, in Sandy, Utah, at the age of 91.

Bill was born on Aug. 12, 1931, in Ishpeming, Michigan, Marquette County.

He was a beloved husband to Carole, wife of 68 years, and a devoted father to his children Mark Kuehn, wife Beth, Scott Kuehn, wife Joan, and Laurie Cullen, husband Tom. He was also a cherished grandfather to Dax Kuehn, wife Jennifer, Brant Kuehn, wife Alice, Dillon Kuehn, wife Pilar, Tyner Kuehn, Rye Cech, husband Ryan, Holly Burns, husband Joshua, and McCara Cullen, and great-grandfather to Summit, Aquinnah, Sofia, Hewitt, Atlas, Porter, Carlota, Asher and Olivia.

Bill was a man of many interests and talents. He was a graduate of Gwinn High School in Gwinn, Michigan, and received a basketball scholarship to attend

University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. After college, he taught and coached high school in Ohio before embarking on a successful career in business.

He began working for Montgomery Wards and Company before moving on to Hollister Incorporated, where he started as the assistant to the president and worked his way up to vice president of operations and eventually president. Under his leadership, Hollister became an international company and invented several important medical products, including the Ident-A-Band, the umbilical cord clamp and the colostomy bag. Bill believed that people were the most important factor in a



business and always put his employees first.

In addition to his professional achievements, Bill was a man who loved his family, his community and his country. He served in the Army in 1955 and spent a year in Germany. He was named Volunteer of the Year by The United Way for his many contributions to his community. He was also an active member of the Whitefish Presbyterian Church and never took anything for granted in his life. He felt truly grateful and blessed for every aspect of his life and bowed his head in thanks for every sustenance, whether it was a soda or an entire meal.

Bill had many hobbies and interests, including playing basketball, skiing, fishing and playing solitaire on the computer. Cats were a deep passion for Bill, from his first as a youth, Snowball, to the six he rescued and gave a wonderful life to with enormous love. For 30

years Bill enjoyed going to lunch on Fridays with his friend Jerry Hanson, jokingly said they solved all the world's problems during their Dairy Queen lunches.

Bill had an entrepreneurial spirit. He started restaurants in Montana and assisted others with inventions and patents. Bill never met a stranger, he always enjoyed meeting people, telling stories and had a joke for every occasion. He was a man who loved life and lived it to the fullest.

The family would like to thank Enhabit Hospice team for their dedicated loving care.

No services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the University of Mount Union, 1972 Clark Ave., Alliance, OH 44601.

Bill will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his legacy of kindness, generosity and hard work will live on.



## Diana Muriel Kyle, 79

Diana Muriel Kyle was born in Danville, Ohio on Oct. 2, 1943, and passed Monday morning, Jan. 23, at the age of 79 after a short illness.



She grew up in Kalispell where she took tap and ballet dance lessons. She received her B.S. degree in dance from the University of Utah, where she also danced at Ballet West. She then received her master's degree in theater from the University of Montana. She taught dance at FVCC for 20



years. She also performed many years with the Northwest Ballet Company productions dancing famously as Puck in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Upon retirement she volunteered as a citizen scientist in GNP which gave her the opportunity to continue hiking and camping in the park.

She is survived by her husband, John.

A celebration of life gathering will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers or gifts, please donate to the Glacier National Park Fund in her name.