

Rodney 'Rod' Mackey, 63

Rodney "Rod" Mackey passed away July 13, 2022, in Arlee, Montana. He was born May 11, 1959, in Harlem, Montana. He was the son of Donald and Louise Mackey.



around him. He also loved music and the outdoors. He was very much an animal

Rod was raised in Kalispell and attended Pine Grove, Kalispell Jr. High and Flathead High Schools. In June of 1978 he married his soulmate Amy Ferrell. They were married until her passing in January 2017.

lover. He had the gift of gab with many stories to share.

Together they had 2 children, Christopher and Cynthia. Rod's greatest love was fishing. Followed by a close second, cooking. He was an excellent chef, always sharing with those

He was preceded in death by both parents and his wife. He is survived by his children; several grandchildren; his sister Suzan Waggener, of Kalispell; brother Roy Mackey of Billings; as well as his nieces and nephews. Rod's passing leaves an empty spot in the hearts of many.

John MacLeod, 89

John MacLeod passed away on Sunday, Jan. 15 around 3 in the afternoon. He was 89.



John was born



Sep. 4, 1933, to Duncan and Marjorie MacLeod in Chinook, Montana. He attended schools in Blaine County and graduated from Chinook High School in 1951.

John enlisted in the United States Navy in

1953, the first of two separate tours and was honorably discharged in 1957 with the rank of Damage Control Man Second Class. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1959. He retired in 1976 with the rank of Master Sergeant. He received many decorations and commendations during his tenure in the military.

After the military, John worked for 13 years at Superior Saw Mill in Columbia Falls. He worked as motel maintenance for three years and worked for seven years in the U.S.

Forest Service where he spent most of his time in cabin and building maintenance before retiring in 2000. He had many friends and acquaintances.

John is preceded in death by his father, Duncan; his mother, Marjorie; and his brother, Angus MacLeod. Also, his wife of 58 years, Myrna MacLeod.

He is survived by his sisters, May Denning, Chris Senef, Ardelle Boshe; brother, Fred MacLeod; daughters, Catherine Umber and Kyla MacLeod; granddaughter, Kaylee Umber; and many neph-

ews and nieces.

At John's request, cremation has taken place with no services given as he preferred family and friends to remember him as he was while he was alive.

Memorials can be made to Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls, MT, 59912.

A memorial reception for John will be held at the residence of Carl and Kim Anderson (406-892-0700 for any further information) at 18 Crystal Dr. in Columbia Falls on Feb. 11, at 3 in the afternoon.

Jan N. Madison, 70

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, heaven gained one of its most extraordinary angels when Jan N. Madison, went to her eternal home. An unmatched nana, mother, wife and friend, she will be incredibly missed.



Jan was born the 8th of March, 1952, to John and Dorothy Nixon of Muncy, Pennsylvania. Jan joined older sister, Judy and attended grade school and Muncy High School. At the age of 11, Jan lost her father to lung cancer due to his career as a medic in WWII. She spent her high school career as a cheerleader and playing field hockey. During this time, her mother remarried to Walter F. Smith who became a loving and doting stepfather to both girls. Jan then attended Elizabethtown and Keystone College where she earned her degree in primary education. She taught for 5 years at Lairdsville Elementary school in Hughesville as a 1st grade teacher. Jan had also spent her early adult years traveling the world and enjoying all life had to offer to her.

It was by chance that her dear friend Nancy Wallace introduced her to a tall and dark bartender working nights after graduating from Penn State. The two hit it off and dated a short time before Pete followed a friend out west in search of work in the timber industry. It was before a trip for Christmas break that Pete mentioned that maybe she should "bring a dress" with her. The two had discussed a future nuptial, to the extent of reserving a popular hall back in Pennsylvania for the wedding date. When Jan arrived to visit Pete

wants to learn," she said. She had a knack for getting kids excited about learning, from dressing up as a character from a book, to field trips, to see wild animals in person. Her efforts were recognized with receiving The Mary Francis Shreeve Award presented to Top Elementary School Educators in 2009 by the University of Montana.

After her retirement in 2017, Jan spent a majority of her time enjoying the things she loved most and volunteering every chance she got. Along with teaching Sunday school on a regular basis, she also served as a greeter before church services where no one would pass without a friendly hello or hug. She also became a Cuddler for the NICU at Montana Children's, a job she was born to do. Not only did she cuddle and sing to sweet infants still in the hospital, she became a staff favorite with her willingness to help anywhere she could. She would often spend time on the children's floor, playing games and most often, reading books. She had the power to entrance a child through a story and bring it to life. Jan also volunteered in the gift shop making flower arrangements. She cultivated this talent through her florist friend, Debbie who she often helped with weddings, events and other celebrations. It was yet another talent she became quite skilled with and enjoyed. Jan was later asked to join the Logan Health Volunteer Board where she proudly served for years. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2022, she politely attempted to resign from her position as she felt she wouldn't be able to effectively fulfill her duties as a volunteer for the foreseeable future. She was answered

Jan arrived to visit Pete in Montana, he gave her a ring and sealed the deal. Jan bought a Gunne Sax dress, Pete wore a plaid suit and after he got off work, the two met at the church. With only Pete's best friend Bob and mutual friend "Little Eddie," a "shotgun" wedding took place on New Years Eve in Kalispell. Complete with a 4-person reception at the old Paul Bunyan Bar.

Jan would relocate to Montana early that following spring. Her first teaching job in her new home would be at Mountain Brook School. There she would teach K-3rd in a tiny two-room schoolhouse. It was 2 years later that they would welcome their first child Nathan John Daniel, who would pass away just hours after birth. Their first daughter, Sarah, joined their lives a couple years later. A year and a half after that, their youngest daughter Lori, was born. During that time, Jan would be offered a teaching position at Cayuse Prairie school where she would spend 37 years teaching, making memories and changing lives of all that knew her.

Jan's life could be summed up in three words: God, Family and teaching. Jan had unshakable faith. She served for years as a Sunday school teacher, bible study leader and numerous other roles within the church. She had a contagious smile and never let anyone pass without a hello or hug.

Jan's family was her greatest joy and becoming a nana made it that much sweeter. Raising a family she said, had always been her lifelong dream and her most valued accomplishment. She was a mother to all that knew her and a nana to any child she ever met.

Teaching, however, was her passion. Jan had a career that spanned 42 years and nearly 1,000 children. "Every child

future. She was answered with an "absolutely not" but thank you for asking. She was seen as too valuable to lose and her position would be held until she felt well enough to continue. Unfortunately, she wouldn't get that chance.

She spent the last months of her life fighting breast cancer and lung disease with all she had. She did her best to still do everything she loved and be there for her family, living life to the fullest.

She is preceded in death by her father and mother, John and Dorothy; stepfather, Walter Smith; and son Nathan. She is survived by her loving husband of 42 years, Pete Madison; daughters Sarah (Josh) Peters, Lori Madison; and grandchildren Madison and Brady Peters, all of Kalispell; her sister Judy Rider of Muncy; along with a multitude of extended family and friends that have become family. A special thank you to nurse Gina and respiratory therapist Shilo for their compassion and great care for mom in her final days.

A celebration of life will be held for Jan on Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. at Canvas Church in Kalispell. All are welcome to join in celebrating her monumental life on earth. The family asks in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Cayuse Prairie School in her honor for a memorial to benefit the school at a later date.

Wendy Maechtle, 68

Wendy Jean Maechtle, born Jan. 18, 1955, in Anoka, Minnesota, died Oct. 19, 2023, at home in Columbia Falls, Montana.



She is preceded in death by father, Douglas C. Ouimette; and mother, Genevieve (Jean) Ouimette Glover.

She is survived by her husband, David; daughter, Amanda (Jerry); son, Mike (Diamond); and beloved grandchildren, Lane Landis, Macie, Brantley and Lilah Maechtle; brothers, Dan and Eddie; step-father, Larry Glover; and god mother, Christine. She is also survived by many devoted friends, you know who you are.

In 1963, after her dad

died, (she was eight years old) her family moved from Minnesota to California, and then to Colorado.

She graduated from high school and shortly after moved to Montana. There she met Dave and fell in love with him and the Mountains.

She was an energetic person, she started running at age 48 and ran many 5K races. She was an accomplished crafter and crocheter, sending her love in every stitch of an afghan to many friends and families. She

belonged to the Artist & Craftsman of Flathead County for many years. As a dedicated volunteer for Wings Regional Cancer Support, she was featured in January of 2012 telling her personal story. She helped many people in her career in the medical field.

She also kayaked the mountain lakes, snowshoed, gathered huckleberries and traveled with her friends. She was always happy to help others.

Our hearts ache for the memories that won't be made, but we look forward to reunited with her in heaven.

Arrangements will be completed this summer.

Jerome 'Jerry' Malmin, 87

Jerome Malmin, 87, passed peacefully to his Lord on Jan. 11, 2023.

Jerome was born Aug. 1, 1935 in Langdon, North Dakota, to parents Palmer and Clara Malmin. Shortly after giving birth his mother and twin sister died. Jerome's father was unable to care for his newborn son. Jerome was raised by his maternal aunt Lucy and uncle Eling Skjeveland. Jerome's father raised his brother Sonny and sisters Bea and Lois.

Jerome was raised on a farm in Edmore, North Dakota. Upon the passing of his uncle Eling, Jerome took over management of the farm. Jerome and his lifelong friend Grant Settingsgard farmed their neighboring farms together as well

as leased or rented farm land.

After selling the farm he retired to Kalispell. He drove vehicles for Kari Dodge and Enterprise. Later Jerome drove the BN transport van. He retrieved and delivered the crews all along the B.N. Route. This was one of his favorite jobs, enjoying his association with Dale Duff and BN crew members that became good friends.

Jerome desired to be cremated and did not want a memorial or funeral service. He had a good life and a great heart.

He is survived by several nieces and nephews and many good friends. Buffalo Hill is caring for the family.

Barbara Ruth Mann, 73

Barbara Ruth Barney, 73, born on Dec. 13, 1949, in Grand Forks, North



Dakota, passed away peacefully on Sept. 29, 2023, in western Montana. From the moment Barb graced this earth with her presence, she stood out as a truly unique and extraordinary individual, leaving an indelible mark on the world.

Throughout her life, she held various roles, including daughter (Bill and Ruth), sister (Mike, Diane, and Kim), wife (Don), mother (Jason, and Casey), mother-in-law (Rachel), grandma (Trent, Tom, Logan, Casey, and Joey), and cherished friends (Plethora).

She pursued higher education and earned her teaching degree from the University of North Dakota, which marked the beginning of her lifelong commitment to education.

In June of 1969, Barb

married Don Mann. They lived in Grand Forks until the early '80s, when they relocated to western Montana. Upon their arrival in Montana, Barb became an educator in the Evergreen School District, shaping the futures of countless Flathead Valley students.

Her dedication to her students extended beyond the classroom, offering unwavering support and guidance to those in her care. Her love for teaching was evident, and she found joy in her Friday afternoon happy hours with fellow educators, creating lasting memories and bonds that were cherished. It was not a coincidence she passed on a Friday afternoon.

She was a woman of strength and independent thinking. She overcame breast cancer, demonstrating her resilience and tenacity. Her life experiences, combined with her role as a teach-

er, inspired others to embrace their authentic selves. Those fortunate enough to know her were forever transformed by her direct yet caring nature. She believed in the importance of self-reliance and encouraged others to challenge the word "no" and think for themselves. She never shied away from questioning authority and relentlessly pursued her beliefs.

In accordance with Barbara's wishes, a celebration of her life will be held in the summer of 2024. Her final resting place will be a split between the serene waters of Flathead Lake in Montana and Gull Lake in Minnesota.

Barbara was loved and supported by many, and her absence leaves a void that will be deeply felt. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing her, and her enduring message of self-acceptance and resilience will continue to inspire us all.

Basilios Margaris, 89



Basilios "Bill" Margaris, 89, of Kalispell, former Havre resident and Great Falls native, passed away at his home Monday evening, Jan. 16, with his daughter Maria by his side.

Bill was born on March 14, 1933, in Great Falls, the last of 4 children born to Louis and Theodora Margaris, immigrants from Greece. Bill attended "Greek school" every afternoon and learned not only to speak but also to read and write in Greek. He graduated from Great Falls High School in 1950 and achieved his B.S. degree from the College of Great Falls in 1954, followed by Montana Deaconess Hospital School of Medical Technology in 1956. He also completed the Saint Louis University program in Hospital Executive Development in 1982. Bill was a registered Medical Technologist with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists 1956 - 1977, received the Medical Technologist of the Year Award for Montana in 1976 and was a licensed Nursing Home Administrator.

On Jan. 15, 1956, he married Despina Lourbis in Missoula. For 67 years the pair made positive impacts on so many people. Bill could often be found snow blowing the neighbors' driveways, sitting at the hospital with sick friends, delivering food, giving people rides and loaning out his car. He always put the needs of others before those of his own. With a quick wit, great sense of humor,



a gruff side and a heart of gold, he had an uncommon decency. He served at the U.S. Army

Surgical Research Unit in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, from 1956 to 1958. Bill was employed by W.W. McLaughlin, M.D., Pathologist in Great Falls, Montana from 1958 - 1962. He moved with Dr. McLaughlin to Havre to start the first hospital on the highline. He was employed by Kennedy Deaconess Hospital/Northern Montana Hospital in Havre from 1962-1995. Bill lived life to the fullest and his interests were vast. He competed in stock car races and loved to drive; he played competitive marbles; and he played pool. He was interested in art and collected coins. Bill was an avid sportsman, camping, fishing and hunting and he began golfing when his girls were young. Bill was an accomplished athlete. He was the 1945 Great Falls Recreation Department Horseshoe Champion, pitched for the Great Falls American Legion Junior baseball team, 1947-1950 and played on the Great Falls High School Bison basketball team 1947-1950, as well as the College of Great Falls Argonaut basketball team, 1951-1954.

Bill was active in his community. He was a life member of Havre Lodge No. 1201 Elks and a Lions club member, he served on Montana Society of Medical

Technologists board member, 1969-1976 and was a Montana Medical Education & Research Foundation board member, 1972-1977 where he was Vice President 1976 and 1977. Bill was a lifetime member of the Greek Orthodox Church in Great Falls, as well as President of the Greek Orthodox Community of Havre, 1975-1985.

Bill served as Hill County Chapter American Red Cross board member, 1972-1977, service to Military Families, 1975, and he was chairman of the committee that introduced the first Montana 911 emergency calling system in the state which began in Hill County. He was a member of American College of HealthCare Executives, and a Charter member and President of Northern Montana Hospital Federal Credit Union, 1969-1994.

Bill retired from Northern Montana Hospital in 1995. He and Des moved to a new home designed by her that they had built on the 6th green of Glacier Village Greens Golf Course in Kalispell. They were the last of 5 lifelong friends to make this move to Village Greens. Their new home was Des and Bill's "treasure at the end of the rainbow." They loved entertaining and Bill loved the Greek food and pastries that Des made. For the next 30 years Bill played 18 holes of golf almost every day the course was open and he had three (3) Holes-In-One at Glacier Village Greens Golf Course. When he wasn't golfing,

Des and Bill would be traveling to Michigan or Seattle to see their daughters and grandchildren. Their most memorable trips include traveling to Greece to see where their parents were born and visit relatives. In May 2022, they went to San Diego to see their grandson, Niko, graduate at San Diego State University. Bill enjoyed the trip immensely.

Survivors include his wife Despina of Kalispell; two daughters, Michelle Sloane (Mark) of Portage, Michigan; and Maria Margaris (Robert Bird) of Auburn, Washington; one granddaughter, Stephanie (Brett Pearce) of Portage, Michigan; along with three great-granddaughters Athena, Ellie and Jade Pearce; and one grandson, Nikolas (Niko) of San Diego. He is also survived by his brother, Jim Margaris of Great Falls and Sandy, Utah; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an uncle George Christ; a sister Ann Yarmey of Scobey and Missoula; and a brother Dr. John Margaris of Great Falls. The family would like to thank Loyal Care and especially Nicole for her gracious, respectful assistance with Bill's care.

A private Trisagion service was held in Kalispell. A burial service will be held this spring. Friends are encouraged to visit our website at www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

Robert C. 'Bob' Marozzo, 74

Robert Carmen "Bob" Marozzo, of Libby, passed away on Jan. 3, 2023, in Kalispell at the age of 74. At his request, he was surrounded by family and a close friend as he peacefully took his last breath, ready to join Maria in heaven.

Bob was born April 28, 1948, in Havre to Carmen Arthur and Rosanne (Mischkot) Marozzo. He grew up in the Flathead Valley attending grade school in Evergreen and graduating from Flathead High School in 1967. As an only child, "Bobby" was adored by his parents and surrounded by loving family and friends throughout his childhood. It was noted in his grade school report that "he enjoys school but is not an exceptional student; he plays too much!" He became an Eagle Scout and loved the freedom of the outdoors. He enjoyed time at the lake and helped his father build a cabin that still stands today (barely). Bob went on to attend Carroll College where he met his



wife, Maria Anna Woods and they married in November of 1969. Maria once said she knew Bob was "the one" when she witnessed him take a moment to hoist a young boy up to the drinking fountain at the grocery store while they were shopping for beer on their way to a social gathering. Bob and Maria worked hard attending college while raising two children and both went on to earn their degrees; Maria in education and Bob in accounting.

Upon completion of their degrees in 1973, Bob and Maria moved to Libby to begin their careers and ultimately raise five children. Bob worked for J. Rucker Plumbing until being hired by WR Grace as a plant accountant. He was very proud of the work he did and was committed to the company but especially enjoyed

his relationships with hard-working women and men of the Zonolite mine. Summertime at the lake with family, winter snowmobile outings, being a private pilot, watching his children play sports, and owning/operating the Dairy Queen after his retirement from WR Grace were some of the highlights for Bob. Bob liked cars, machinery, factories, and fixing things with his hands. His volunteer hours at Turner Mountain provided great comradery and purpose as there was always a project to tend to. Bob could be found many mornings at Henry's Café having coffee with the guys and solving Sudoku puzzles.

Bob is survived by his children, Angela Marozzo and her husband Todd Brinkmeyer of Post Falls, Idaho; James Marozzo and his wife Alexis of Libby; Jeffrey Marozzo and his wife Neili of Pasco, Washington and Daniel Marozzo of Libby; grandchildren, Daysha, Dylan, Allyson, and Ryan

Marozzo; and uncle, Frank Mischkot of Butte; as well as numerous brother/sisters-in-law, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Maria (1999); son, Michael (2012); parents, Carmen and Rosanne; parents-in-law, Glenn and Rose Woods.

A prayer service for Bob will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20 at Schnackenberg Funeral Home in Libby and interment of ashes will follow at Libby Cemetery. For those that wish to attend, Father Pius of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church will be holding a memorial mass at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Marozzo Memorial Fund at 6654 E. Maplewood Ave., Post Falls, ID 83854. Alternatively, consider a contribution to your local animal shelter in memory of Bob; he loved his critters!

Arrangements are under the care of Schnackenberg Funeral Home of Libby.

Richard Brent Marriott, 76

Richard "Rich" Brent Marriott, 76 of Whitefish, passed away on Sept. 4, 2023, of complications from cancer.

He was born in 1947, to Gilbert E. and Helen S. Marriott in Ogden, Utah. He was the seventh of 10 children.

He married Lindy McCluskey in 1976. They met at the Robinson Bar Ranch in Idaho. Lindy was coming to the ranch to start her first day of work, her mother dropped her off on the highway near the ranch and drove away. As Lindy started up the dirt road to the ranch, Rich, who worked for the ranch as a teamster, picked her up with the horses and wagon and dropped her off at the ranch. They worked together for a season, fell in love, and have been together ever since.



He was well known for his skill in the concrete business.

He is survived by his wife, Lindy; three brothers; three sisters; many brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; nieces; and nephews.

They all loved Rich's fun, teasing ways and tender heart. He made many friends everywhere he went.

We'd like to thank the doctors who cared for Rich through the years. The nurses were very special to him, and we appreciate their loving care and friendship.

There will be no funeral or viewing, but we will have a celebration of life at a later date.

William E. Marsh, 88

William E. Marsh, 88, of Plains passed away April 11, 2023, at Clark Fork Valley Hospital in Plains. Bill was born June 6, 1934, in Scobey. He was the 11th child of Fred and Nellie Marsh, out of seven boys and seven girls. His family moved to the Flathead Valley when he was 2 years old and made their home on "the farm" at Echo Lake.

Bill married Patsy Porter on Dec. 22, 1956, in Paradise and together they raised their own large family of six children. He had a whole lifetime of being a very gentle and kind man and we were so fortunate to be one of his kids. Thank you for being a father who provided such stability and for being a dad



who loved our mom with all his heart.

Bill work for BNRR at the tie plant in

Paradise for many years. He started out bucking ties and in time was the company's boiler operator earning his 3rd class certification. When the tie plant burned down in 1982 he found himself at Thompson River Lumber where he worked as a boiler operator until his retirement.

Bill was a man of many interests and talents. He was an excellent mechanic specializing in vintage Volkswagens. His love of cars led him to restore Model A's and

Model T's, collecting treasures from all over the country to assemble into a masterpiece. He loved playing the guitar and singing, often accompanied by Patsy on the piano. Music was a constant at home and he passed that legacy on to many of his children and grandchildren.

Bill was a beloved member of the Thompson Falls Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. He found great joy in sharing his faith with others. He also found great comfort in the scriptures, including the resurrection hope found in John 5:28, 29.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; six brothers; five sisters; his precious wife, Patsy; his beloved son, Daryn; and his grandson, Ryan.

He is survived by his sons, Lonnie (Cindy), Danny (Nancy) and Shaun (Veronica); his daughters, Renae (Doug) Duffield and Rachel Holland; his grandsons, Brandon (Lyndsay) Duffield, Derrin (Savannah) Holland, Kobe, Shaun Jr. and Roman; his granddaughters, Stephanie Lawrence, Shannon Main, Kloe Holland and McKenzie; his great-grandchildren, Harper, Parker, Jamison, Juniper, Aiyana and Eric; his sisters, Louceal Sinclair and JoAnn Strawn; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held May 6, 2023, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1197 Mt. Silcox Dr., Thompson Falls, MT at 2 p.m.

John William Martello, 103

John W. Martello passed away peacefully on March 3, 2023, after reaching the age of 103 years old.

John was born on Feb. 28, 1920, in Anaconda, to Joe and Mary Ann D'Angelo Martello. He was the middle child of five brothers. He graduated from Helena High School and attended the University of Montana in Missoula. Following his time at the university, he enlisted in the Army Medical Corps and served for four years as a medical laboratory technician in Alaska and Aleutian theaters. After his time in the Army, he was employed as a state sanitary inspector for the food and drug division of the Montana state board of health.

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

John married the love of his life, Jean Palmer Martello, in 1944. They were married for 74 years before Jean's passing in 2018. During the early years of their marriage, they owned the Martello's Root Beer Stand in Helena. Years later, he



continued his entrepreneurship and opened the Hofbrau Bar and Restaurant in Helena. While managing the Hofbrau, John worked full time as the chief medical technician at Fort Harrison Veteran's Hospital. He eventually retired from the Veteran's Hospital and enjoyed 30 plus years as a "snowbird" where his winters were spent Arizona.

Another large part of John's life was being a member of Helena Masonic Lodge and Algeria Shrine. John was the youngest man to be appointed as Potentate of the Algeria Shrine and lived to be the oldest past Potentate. John and his wife travelled the country representing the Algeria Shrine. One of his favorite pastimes was volunteering at the Shriner's Children's Hospital in Spokane, Wash.

John loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing, but most importantly he loved spending time with family and friends.

He lived for parties and celebrations with those he loved. He never needed an excuse to throw a party, but his favorites were anniversaries and birthdays, including his 103rd birthday party - fit with balloons, treats, and lots of love.

John was a family man and enjoyed his grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was beyond proud of them and enjoyed celebrating their accomplishments.

He was a strong patriarch of his family, a good friend to all, and a man who would offer his hand to anyone in need.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Palmer Martello; son, Jeffery Martello; and five brothers, Angelo, Edward, Albert, Fred and Joseph. An end of an era for the "Martello Boys".

He is survived by his daughter, Janie Perkins (Thomas Roe Perkins) of Whitefish; grandchildren, Drew (Desiree) Perkins and their children Kashton and Oakleigh of Benton City, Washington and Amy Perkins of Bozeman. John is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Grave side services will be held this summer in Helena.

Nancy Lee Martinson, 87

Nancy Lee Martinson, 87, passed away peacefully in Kalispell on May 28. Nancy was born Aug. 19, 1935, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was the third and youngest daughter of Charles and Helen Wolf.

After graduating from high school, she went to work in the business office at her father's wrecking ball company. It was there that a friend set her up on a blind date with the man of her dreams, Al Martinson. While they attended the same high school, she had not met him until that fateful night. He took her to a production of "Brigadoon," to this day, her favorite musical.

She waited patiently as Al served in the U.S. Army and completed his college education at University of Wisconsin. They married in April of 1959.

In the early 1960s they moved around often, for Al's work took him to Georgia and then back to numerous towns in Wisconsin. All four children were born in Wisconsin. In 1970, the Martinson family sold the family car, bought a pick-up truck and moved to Kalispell, where Nancy and Al would set down strong roots and raise their four children Barbara, Alan, Ruth and Mark.

she was the church wedding coordinator, catering to many brides.

Nancy also volunteered at Hedges grade school in the early 70s. She was affectionately known as the "Swish Swash" lady who delivered the fluoride treatments room to room as well as the "Hot Dog Days" lady. Nancy was truly everyone's mom. One time she even agreed to a last minute cast party after a high school musical. Over 100 kids showed up that rainy Sunday afternoon to our house. She didn't bat an eye, just kept bringing our dad more hamburger patties for the grill with a huge smile on her face. She lived to entertain, and loved a good party.

Nancy joined Jobs Daughters, a Masonic organization, as a young woman, and later became a member of Eastern Star, also a Masonic organization. When her daughters joined Jobs Daughters in their teen years, she jumped back in full force. She was a great asset to Bethel #14, volunteering for many fundraisers, even becoming the Bethel Guardian. When the state convention was held in Kalispell, she took the



lead in the planning of all aspects of the four day event. It went off spectacularly. She was proud of building such a wonderful Bethel full of great young women.

After Al passed away suddenly in January 1987, Nancy's new passion was learning to drive ... at the age of 52. Teaching her how to drive was left to her son in law Ricky, as he drew the short straw. He was nominated for, and received his sainthood for his bravery on the battlefield.

Nancy was a loving friend to all who knew her. She was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. She loved Kalispell and the community she raised four children in.

She will be missed by her children, Barb and Rick (Kimbell) in Beaver Dam, Arizona, Al and Diane in Kalispell, Ruth and Tim (Garrett) in Wichita Falls, Texas, and Mark and Kim in Kalispell; her grandchildren, Stacia in Ft. Worth, Texas, Brian in Kalispell and Aaron in Wichita Falls.

Her funeral will be held at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home on Tuesday June 6, 2023, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Hospice Care would be greatly appreciated.

Nancy was the glue that held the family together as Al's "summer season" with the U.S. Forest Service often kept him in the woods most of the summer months. She ran herd on a bunch of kids who were often on a mission to drive her crazy. We honestly don't know how she survived our childhood years.

Nancy was very involved in her community. The church was very important to Nancy and she dove right in at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, volunteering her services for many decades. She sang soprano in the church choir and lent her solo voice at Christmastime and Easter. She and her best friend Mavis cooked and served Wednesday meals to the youth Luther League when the kids were teenagers. Later on,

Lola Mascorella, 71

Heaven has gained a truly magnificent angel. Lola Mascorella, 71, died Oct. 28, 2023, at her home in Columbia Falls.

She is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, James Mascorella; her children, Derek Mascorella and Layla (Gene) Riffle; grandsons, Dillon and Justin Riffle;

sisters, Linda Reilly and Leta Behmerwohld; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

She will be forever loved and missed by so many.

A celebration of Lola's life will be held in the spring/summer.

Mary 'Ann' Mateka, 97

Mary "Ann" Mateka, 97 of Columbia Falls, passed away Aug. 3, 2023. She was born Feb. 12, 1926, in Havre, to the late Charles Ralph Smith and Rose Smith (Hammond).

Ann, beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother went to be with the lord on Aug. 3, 2023. Thus being a very special day to her and the family it was her late husband Elwyn (Mutt) Mateka's birthday. They are finally together again.



She was a kind loving person full of life until her last days. She was a member of

Columbia Falls United Methodist Church for many years and truly loved being a part of her church and community. She enjoyed volunteering her time and energy during the summers at the visitor's center in Columbia Falls.

The Mateka family built and lived in the second oldest homestead in Glacier National Park. Ann and her late husband "Mutt" were also members of the local Lions Club. She had a passion for her church and family, she loved family events and cooking all the family favorites.

Ann is survived by daughter, Bonnie Ratterman (Greg); grandson, Terry Mateka (Stacey); great-grandchildren, Ashlee and Melissa

Mateka; and sister, Peggy Martin.

In addition to her parents, Ann is preceded in death by husband, Elwyn Mateka; and son, Gary Mateka.

Graveside inurnment for Mary "Ann" Mateka and Elwyn Mateka, will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at Glacier Memorial Gardens, 2659 U.S. Highway 93 N., Kalispell.

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

Jacob Mathwig, 58

Pastor Jake Mathwig, 58 of Bigfork, born on Sept. 25, 1965, went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Oct. 28, 2023, leaving behind a legacy of love, grace and dedication.



He is survived by his beloved wife, Kay Mathwig; his four children, Chloe,

He was a devoted pastor in Marion, who touched the lives of many people in his communities of Marion and Bigfork. He was known for his kind and compassionate nature, and his unwavering faith in God. He was a true servant of the Lord Jesus, who dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel and helping others no matter what. His passing is a great loss to his family, friends and community, but his memory will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew him.

Josiah, Caleb, Lydia, and their spouses; as well as his mother, Shirley Mathwig; and his brothers, Walter, Everett and Lonnie Mathwig.

Due to the sudden loss there are some unanticipated expenses and the family would greatly appreciate anyone who feels led to give. You can make payments out to Kay Mathwig or donate to the go fund me account at <https://gofund.me/90ec3df6>.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lloyd Mathwig; and his sister, Peggy Thompson.

Jake's celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at the First Baptist of Bigfork.

Holly Virginia McAllister, 81

Holly Virginia McAllister, 81, passed away at her home in Hungry Horse on Oct. 3, 2023. Holly was born on May 15, 1942 to the late Robert and Dorothy (Todd) Henderson in Seattle.



Henderson and Dorothy Henderson; brother, Peter; sisters, Wendy and Joyce;

Holly was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She attended the Columbia Falls ward and would send birthday cards to everyone in her ward.

and her late husband, Jerry Q. McAllister. She is survived by her half-sister, Robbin; and many close friends.

She enjoyed cooking, baking Christmas candies for others, reading Bible verses, and loved shopping; while out and about she would always eat at the Asian Buffet. She loved unicorns, she also loved genealogy and cared a lot about other people, even "adopting" kids into her circle and would become everyone's second mom.

Funeral services for Holly will be held at 11 a.m. on Oct. 20, 2023 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1780 Talbot Rd., Columbia Falls, MT 59912. Graveside services will be held immediately after at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Holly was preceded in death by parents, Robert

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for Holly's family. To send online condolences please visit Holly's tribute page at www.columbiamortuary.com.

Jeffrey Fred McAtee, 57

Jeffrey Fred McAtee, 57, was born Jan. 5, 1966, in Browning.

Jeff was adopted at the age of 11 months by Robert (Bob) McAtee and Leona Kay Ness McAtee, who lived in Kalispell. After the adoption was finalized, upon entering the home of Kay's parents, Bob and Kay were asked, "uh, who's baby is that?" Kay proudly said, "this is MY baby."

Jeff loved the time with his Grandpa and Grandma Ness in Fortine, and Grandma Mac (McAtee) in Kalispell. Never one to take the easy route, Jeff never actually crawled, preferring instead to scoot across the floor on his butt until walking and eventually running.

Jeff attended Flathead High School in Kalispell. Jeff excelled in mechanic's class, discovering a passion that would feed his interests and career path including welding, engine maintenance, fab-

rication and skilled labor.

After high school, Jeff moved to California, settling in the Desert Hot Springs area of Southern California. He worked in the windmill fields there, becoming a go-to climber for maintenance, with no fear of heights and nerves of steel. He worked in the industry for many years, meeting his first wife Misty Wallace and starting his family, before moving back to Kalispell in the late 1990s.

He worked at different times at the aluminum plant in Columbia Falls, Pierce Manufacturing, wind farms across southwestern Washington and Alaska, as well as for himself under the name FBI Energy. Most recently he managed the Island Noodles franchise across Montana, Arizona and Washington. Jeff was



a volunteer EMT and attended and graduated nursing school from Salish Kootenai College in Pablo. Jeff worked to play, loving to travel with his kids Austin and Kyrstin.

Jeff absolutely loved his kids Austin and Kyrstin, traveling and exploring new places. He loved any adventure and encouraged others to seek new experiences as well. Jeff lived life to the fullest and in the now.

His was preceded in death by grandpa Clarence Ness, grandma Effie Ness, mother Kay Ness, grandma Mac (Esther McAtee), father Robert McAtee, step-grandparents Leonard and Helen Kaeding, and uncle Larry McAtee.

His is survived by son Austin McAtee and girlfriend Becki Sullens; daughter Kyrstin McAtee and boyfriend Tommy Kramer; brother David McAtee and his wife

Heidi McAtee, and their kids Brady, Parker and Cooper; step-brother Robert McMannamy and his husband Tim Chase; step-sister Pamela McMannamy her son Darin Owens; and many extended family members and loving friends.

Jeff lived his life at full speed at all times. He would often say "travel, make memories, see and experience new things. Live in the moment and live as many new adventures as you can." As he got older, this became more and more important to him.

Jeff wasn't one for funerals. He wanted to give his friends and family an excuse to share stories, laugh and have one more party in his honor. A celebration of life will be held at the Rainbow Bar in Kalispell, on Friday, April 28, beginning at 4 p.m. Please come and share your favorite Jeff memories.

Mike McAuliffe, 81

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved Dad, Mike McAuliffe. Dad passed away on April 1, 2023, at his home overlooking Flathead Lake in Somers.

Dad was born June 28, 1941, in Minneapolis to Homer and Gladys McAuliffe. He was raised in Cheyenne, Wyoming. In his youth, Mike loved to play baseball. And he was not just a one-sport star, in high school Mike was the free-throw champ of Cheyenne, making an incredible 48-50!

Mike was astute with numbers and early on he knew he wanted to pursue a career in finance. In 1964 he graduated from the University of Wyoming with a master of science in business administration. During this time, he also married Joyce Chapman and had two children, Mandy and



Mike Jr. Mike received an offer from the Shell corporation and the family moved

to Los Angeles. He and Joyce had a third child, Mary Alice.

In 1969, Mike's entrepreneurial spirit came out and he, Joyce and three children moved to Kalispell and acquired Western Business and Tax Service which he owned and operated for over 40 years. Mike had a loyal client base that not only considered him to be an exceptional tax accountant, but also a true friend. Mike was always willing to take trades in lieu of payment from clients in need.

However, as much as Mike appreciated business, he loved home

life even more. The family enjoyed weekend trips to Spokane and Missoula, fishing at Lake Kooacanusa and Lake Mary Ronan, and drives to Glacier National Park.

As the kids grew older Mike continued to stay involved. He was active in youth sports for all his children. He also was instrumental in making sure all his kids graduated from college.

In 2001, Mike and his wife Jeannie moved to Somers overlooking the majestic Flathead Lake. Over the years the Somers home became a frequent place for family visits. Mike's children and grandchildren will always remember with fondness "Papa Bear" and Jeannie's love and hospitality during those magical summer and winter vacations. Sweet memories of picking Flathead cherries, attending

Bigfork plays, drinking malts, enjoying Dad's barbecues and "God Moving Over the Face of Waters" will always be with us.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents Homer and Gladys; his brother Patrick; his nephew Pat Jr, his children's mother Joyce Williams, and his wife Jeannie. He is survived by his sister, Sandy Behles; daughters, Amanda Gamache (Mitch), Mary Alice Maloncon (Gary); son Michael McAuliffe Jr. (Carolyn); and five grandchildren (Erika, Julia, Gary, Mariah, and Michael).

Dad will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by all that knew him, and we know we will see him again.

Donations can be made to the Lakeside Quick Response Unit at lakesideqru.org/donate

Dylan Curtis McClain, 29

Our beloved Dylan Curtis McClain, 29, has sadly passed away April 30, 2023, due to a motorcycle accident near his home in Lehigh Acres, Florida.

Services will be held by Pastor Jim Davey at Adventure Church, 348 Second Avenue West, Kalispell, at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday May 13, 2023. United Veterans of Flathead Valley will be presenting the honors of Taps, gun salute and a flag folding ceremony.

Dylan is survived by his mother, Jessica Renee Hale and her loving companion, Steve Hoffman; his father, Timothy and Dawn McClain; his grandparents, Thomas and Charlotte McClain; his grandmother, Kathie Hale; his younger brother, Erick Serra; his step-father, Raymond Serra; and grandmother, Ingrid Serra. He was preceded in death by his younger brother, Filip Serra; and grandfather, Raymond Serra Sr.

Dylan was loved by many and touched boundless lives.

He loved music and skillfully played cello,



an array of guitars and his piano. He had a passion for motorcycles. He enjoyed competing in the Scottish Irish games. Dylan excelled in everything he applied himself to.

On April 9, 2013 Dylan enlisted into the U.S. Army National Guard and received an honorable discharge on April 9, 2021. Dylan had been employed with Spliggitty Fiber Optics, Applied Materials and Allied Restoration, all located in Kalispell.

Dylan recently moved to Lehigh, Florida with his girlfriend Samantha Davis and her children in 2021. Continuing his adventures with his longtime friend Brodie Huber. He was employed as Maintenance Manager of Solid Surface Tops of SW Florida.

A potluck will follow at the Adventure Church. Please coordinate dishes with Deb Lee by calling Dawn McClain at 406-309-1478. RSVP please.

Floyd 'Red' McClanahan, 84

Floyd "Red" McClanahan, of Columbia Falls, passed away on March 2, 2023, at the age of 84. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to so many who will miss him dearly.

Floyd was born on Jan. 1, 1939, in Lewistown, to Kenneth and Phyllis McClanahan. He spent his childhood working on the family farm and causing mischief with his many brothers and sisters.

During his late teens and early 20s Floyd worked at various farms in central Montana and served in the National Guard. During this time Floyd met and married the love of his life Rita Fenner. Floyd and Rita moved to Columbia Falls in 1965.

Floyd worked for the Plum Creek plywood mill from 1965-2000 as a forklift operator and earned his nickname "Red" due to the red jacket he commonly wore. Red and Rita were blessed with three incredible children of whom they are exceptionally proud. Above all else Red was devoted to his family and loved watching his kids and grandkids play sports, attending art shows, teaching



them to fish/hunt and building/fixing things.

Red was an avid fan of his University of Montana Grizzlies and Columbia Falls High

School and football and basketball even after his own kids and grandkids no longer attended CFHS. He loved fishing and was a fixture on the bridge over the Flathead River as he spent many hours catching whitefish and Kokanee salmon. Red also had a passion for wood-working. His works now grace many of his family and friends' homes and his signs still hang in local businesses, including, The Night Owl/Back Room restaurant. Another of his favorite hobbies included playfully giving The Nite Owl wait staff a hard time and spending time with his friends in the Keno room.

Red is preceded in death by his parents, his siblings, Lloyd, Rick, and Donna, and his eldest son Jay. He is survived by his loving wife of over 60 1/2 years, Rita; brothers Bob

and Earl McClanahan; sisters Joyce Ahlgren, and Linda McClanahan; daughter Jody (Kevin) Wolf; son Russell (Kara) McClanahan; daughter-in-law Merida McClanahan; grandchildren Kalee(Tydess) Revilla, Derek (Autumn) Wolf, McKenzie (Skyler) Pardue, Kyle McClanahan, Connor McClanhana and Kellen McClanahan; step-grandchildren Breanna Schaefer and William Steppe. He is also survived by great-grandchildren Kimber and Brady Wolf, Gwenn and Giaa Revilla, Macee Bell and Klyer McClanahan.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes to ask that donations be made to the Flathead County Agency on Aging, which has provided so much support and guidance. Contact them at 406-758-5730 or 406-752-5737. Their address is 40 11th St. W. Ste 100 Kalispell, MT 59901. The family would also like to extend our gratitude to the kind and dedicated staff at Hidden Meadow Memory Care.

A celebration of Red's life will take place at a later date this summer. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for Red's family.

Shirley Elizabeth McClarty, 95

Shirley "Shy" Elizabeth (Kirkpatrick) McClarty, 95, was born on July 9, 1927, to Ross and Rosemary Kirkpatrick. Entering this world with a servant's heart she gained eternal life on March 9, 2023, passing peacefully on eagles wings into the arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

She graduated from Flathead High School in 1944, and married her high school sweetheart, Elwood McClarty.

Along with working side by side with Elwood in the McClarty Well Drilling business, she raised four children: Bill McClarty, Karin McClarty (Jeff Ammon), Gary McClarty (Mary)



and Rob McClarty (Jana). As if that wasn't enough, add 10 grandkids, 24 great-grandkids, as well as their spouses. Family joyful noise that she cherished so much.

She was a familiar face in the community, always hard working with her mom Rose at the Temple Tea Room and Kirkpatrick Court. You might have met her at Montgomery Wards, Harmon's, Hwy. 2 West Motel and Elrod School (where she was known as the lunch lady).

An active member of

St Matthew's Church, she served her parish with love and devotion. In her spare time, she was a wiz with card games including bridge and pinochle.

She was a remarkable woman known for her kind heart and selfless nature. She touched the lives of many through her generosity, kindness and infectious laugh.

She is survived by her sister, Barbara Roche; her children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

We will miss having the room brighten up with her passing. However his beautiful wife, mom, daughter, sister and friend was able to join Elwood; Ross and Rose Kirkpatrick; Ted; Lois; Mick; Helen; Kyrol;

and many other family members, and lifelong friends.

We are celebrating Shirley's life this summer with the knowledge that she has gained her heavenly wings. A private family graveside service will be held at Conrad Cemetery.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, July 8, at Bitterroot Lake. With a memorial mass at 7 a.m. on Sunday, July 9, at St. Matthews Catholic Parish.

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

James E. McCreedy, 87

Jim McCreedy, 87, passed away peacefully with his family near his side on Dec. 15, 2023. He was born March 9, 1936, in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania to James S McCreedy and Charlotte McCreedy.

Although his name was James or Jim, to his friends and colleagues, he was more commonly known as just "McCreedy."

He was born in a small town outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was the product of the outdoors, hunting, fishing and adventuring, in the Pennsylvania woods. His upbringing instilled self-confidence, independence, and a belief that anything was possible with hard work, determination, and high standards.

After High School, he entered Westminster College New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. While at Westminster he played and lettered in multiple sports and excelled in football as a quarterback. He also quickly adapted to the lifestyle of a free thinker and director of mischief. One Christmas Jim and his friends felt that their dormitory needed a Christmas tree. In the night, he and his buddies wandered over to the President's home where a beautiful Spruce tree stood. They cut it down and dragged it back to the dorm through the snow. They were subsequently summoned to the President's office where he was told, "Young man, you will never amount to a hill of beans!" But, it was only the start of a stellar career. Many years later he started his own Christmas tree farm.

loss of so many under his command. It was for the young doctor, a never-forgotten moment of his early career and fixed within him both a profound commitment to those under his care and a love of country. Admiral Nimitz personally gave Jim a signed and framed picture of the signing of the peace treaty on the deck of the USS Missouri which he kept throughout his career.

McCreedy married Kaye, a recent widow with three young boys, in the late 60s. He adopted the three boys who proudly carried the McCreedy name and became the joy of his life.

After serving eight years in the Navy Jim resigned his commission to go into private practice in Internal Medicine and Pulmonology. Enamored with Montana, he and his young family moved to Kalispell in 1970. He was part of a growing wave of specialist physicians and was the first Board Certified Internist in the Valley. His background in Pulmonology and Cardiology brought new skills to a growing medical community and began to grow lasting friendships as more doctors arrived with new skills. Along with Jack Davis, McCreedy continued to grow the practice, bringing in Ben Rossetto, and Bill Boehme. New physicians were bringing new skills to a then new hospital and the "hospital on the hill" continued to grow.

He was not only a fine Internist, but also active in every aspect of the growth of the medical center. Along with Dr. Jack Davis, a state-of-



one to sit around, he also began coaching High School javelin. For the next 20 years, with Donna at his side, the two of them

found joy in the activities of rural Montana, spending time with their boys, and maintaining contact with all his old friends. As the years passed and age took its toll, Jim and Donna made the decision to return to Kalispell and moved into a new home in town.

The Logan Health Library has been renamed the James E. McCreedy Library not only for his contributions to medicine and to the growth of the medical community, but also his recognition of the necessity of continuing medical education for the medical staff. Jim was the perfect example of that necessity and continuous education was a hallmark of his practice. He was a voracious reader, and, on any given day, could be found in the library reading books and journals, constantly improving his patient care.

Like so many, Dr. McCreedy honored the Hippocratic tradition of Medicine, and was both mentor and example of compassionate and knowledgeable care. He was an outstanding physician, wonderful dad, lover of every Springer Spaniel who ever barked, world's greatest storyteller; friend to all, and to his loving wife. He was preceded in

Every year, as a thank you for hunting access, he hauled dozens of trees to eastern Montana farmers and ranchers, forging longtime friendships in the process.

He moved on to Medical School at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Due to lack of funds, he moved into an apartment with three other students, and as night would fall, one slept in the bedroom, one in the bathroom, one on the couch, and one in the closet. Despite the inconvenience, he excelled as a student, beginning a profession he loved and cherished. He was a life-long student of medicine, maintaining this level of commitment to his medical practice throughout his career.

He joined the Navy as a Senior Medical Student and served at Naval Hospitals in Bethesda, Maryland; Kodiak, Alaska; Oakland, California; and Bremerton, Washington. As a young physician he had the privilege of serving as a naval physician for Admiral Nimitz. Once, upon entering the Admiral's room, he found him watching an early television documentary film of the Battle of Midway and weeping over the

the-art intensive care unit was developed with advanced personnel and new technology, and a first-class pulmonology service grew to meet the need. The faculty of the hospital grew quickly in the 70s and 80s, and deep friendships were formed. There was a close comradery among the many physicians, and all were focused on growing the needed additions to Kalispell's healthcare. They fished, hunted, visited, chased mountain lions, climbed mountains, floated rivers, knew the families, and respected one another, all the while keeping medicine at the forefront of their effort. They shared lunch daily at the "Dr's Dining Room" where there was meaningful conversation, raucous laughter, and serious planning. He was often the source of endless and wonderful stories. He retired in 1998.

Jim and Kaye divorced, but Jim remained close to his now grown sons. In February 2000, he married Donna Bolton, and they moved east of the mountains settling in Highwood, Montana where he became deeply involved with breeding, training, and field trialing English Springer Spaniels. Not being

death by his parents, James, and Charlotte McCreedy; his brother, Jack McCreedy; sister, Nancy MacLeod; brother-in-law, David Juran; and nephew, James Juran

He is survived by his wife, Donna; sons, Clark (Christine), Phil (Elena) and Chris (Tara); his first wife, Kaye McCreedy; sister, Prudence Juran; and grandchildren, Rebecca (John), Erin (Nate) Scout and Zebediah; as well as stepchildren, Mark (Rhonda), Gary (Carolyn) and Lindsey (Jon); grandsons, Justin (Samantha) and Ben (Paula); granddaughter, Shelley (Dennis); and great-grandchildren, William, Adalynn, Rylee and George

A celebration of Jim's life will be held in the spring or summer of 2024.

The family would especially like to thank Logan Health Hospice Care and Veterans Administration (Loyal Care) for all the care and support they provided to Jim and his family at the end of his life.

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

Kay Sands McDonald, 71

Kay Sands McDonald, 71 of Columbia Falls, was born to Bill and Lois Sands. Kay, a loving sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, joined her loving husband Jerry in heaven Sept. 26, 2023.

She was born and raised in Nyack, Montana, with her brothers, Bill and Tom Sands. She attended Columbia Falls High School where she participated in drill team and choir.

In 1970, she married Jerry McDonald and together they raised their two boys, Jason and Chris.

She was always doing something, whether it was traveling with family and friends or playing Bunco with the girls. She worked hard to support her family and spent the majority of her career working for MARLS. Faith and family were the cornerstones of her life. She continued to enjoy her busy days supporting her grandchildren, Jacey, Quinn, Josiah, and Xander and great-grandchild Kallum.

She always enjoyed hunting, fishing, and



skiing with family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband,

Jerry McDonald; her parents, William and Lois Sands; step-father, Harold Yaeger; and brother, William Sands.

She is survived by her two sons, Jason McDonald (Sharon) and Chris McDonald (Paula); grandchildren, Jacey Kohler (Jayson), Quinn, Josiah, and Xander; great-grandchild, Kallum; her brother, Tom Sands (Reta); her aunt, Meridith Wilson; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of Kay's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Oct. 7, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Columbia Falls. The service will also be live streamed by the church via, oslcmt.org.

In lieu of flowers please consider donations in Kay's name to the Montana Hope Project, PO Box 5927, Helena, Montana 59604, or montanahope.org.

Charles Eugene McDowell, 69

It is with much sadness that we say goodbye to Charles Eugene McDowell, 69. He passed away on April 26, 2023. Charlie was born on Sept. 2, 1953 in Kalispell, to LeRoy McDowell and Beverly Parker-Schwarz. He went to Flathead High School and graduated in 1971.

Charles, also known as "Charlie Mac" began playing drums at age 13. He had a solid reputation as being a "pocket drummer." His early influences were Cream, Deep Purple, Steppenwolf, Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels, Wilson Pickett, Sam and Dave and BB King just to name a few. The music genres he loved to play were rock n roll, soul, "Sam and Dave, Wilson Pickett," and R&B.; Charlie played both country and western over



the years and did a three-year stint from 1974 to 1977 playing disco at a large venue named "Uncle Sam's" in Houston. In the 80s he joined a classic rock band called the "Average Brothers Band" and played all on Montana's fair circuit, corporate functions and special concerts. The band had theme specific sets and changed stage clothes to reflect the music era. While living in Seattle, he and his friends formed a band called the "Astro Cats."

Charlie got his start in the insurance business while working at Sears. Around 1987 he was employed by the

Ellingson Agency in Kalispell, and around 1990 he met the love of his life and whom he referred to as "Baby Face," Kathryn in Sun Valley, Idaho. That was the beginning of a beautiful new chapter in his life. He moved to Seattle and became employed by Liberty Mutual Insurance in Bellevue, Washington. He retired after 24 years in 2014 and in 2016 Charlie and Kathryn moved back to Kalispell to be closer to family.

Charlie loved numerous sports and competed in downhill snow skiing and water skiing. One of his passions was fast cars and a good golf swing.

Charlie was preceded in death by his father, LeRoy McDowell, and mother, Beverly Parker-Schwarz, as well as the love of his life, Kathryn

Haws McDowell, who passed away on April 26, 2019.

He is survived by his stepmother, Landa McDowell; two sons, Justin (Scarlett) Sherman, Ryan Suarez; siblings, Sherry Stewart, Christy (Steve) Doty, Debbie (Steve) Haegele, Belinda (Don) Doty, Paul Jackson; grandchildren, Hayden and Mia Sherman, Lexia Suarez; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. on June 17, 2023, at Conrad Memorial Cemetery followed by a celebration of life at Buffalo Hill Golf Course in Kalispell.

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

Geraldine McElroy, 78

Geraldine (Geri) McElroy, 78, loving daughter, wife, mother and grandmother passed into the Lord's Kingdom on June 23, 2023, with her family at her side.

She was born May 29, 1945, to Blanche and Monte Garrett, the eldest of three daughters.

She attended grade school in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead High in 1963.

Shortly after graduation she married Ole Carlon, of Whitefish. Geri and Ole had two children, Jonna and Kameron.

She worked at the B&B; grocery store in Kalispell, in the bakery department.



She went on to own and operate, with Ole, The Bowl Pen bowling alley in downtown

Whitefish, where she managed the lanes and ran the lunch counter.

After she and Ole divorced, she got her real estate license and made her career selling manufactured homes for the Marlette dealership in Kalispell.

In 1981, Geri married Jim McElroy. They enjoyed over 40 years together, raising children, grandchildren and

great-grandchildren.

Their home was open to everyone and everyone was well loved. Geri loved cooking and baking and always took it upon herself to make the birthday cakes — and pretty much everything else.

She and Jimmy loved camping, fishing and Honky Tonkin' with their best "buds."

She is preceded in death by her father, Monte Garrett; her sister, Pamela Nadvornick; and her son, Kameron Carlon.

She is survived by her mother, Blanche Garret; her husband, Jim McElroy; her sister, Kitty Young, her daughter, Jonna and husband Mark

Salansky. Her grandchildren, Shea Clayton, Kortney Moss, Garrett Role and Kameron James Carlon; her great-grandson, Michael Kameron Moss; nieces, nephews and their families. Much extended family, and great friends.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at 12 p.m., on June 30, at St. Matthew's Parish, in Kalispell, followed by a graveside committal, at Conrad Cemetery, and reception.

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

Ardis Tweedy McFarland, 93

Ardis Tweedy McFarland passed away peacefully June 12, 2023, surrounded by family.

She was born Jan. 12, 1930, in Niobrara, Nebraska. Born to Albert and Iva Tweedy, joining her 1-year-old sister Lorraine. Her parents later purchased a farm near Hartington, Nebraska. Sisters Doretha and Phyllis and brother Ronnie were born there. The children attended a one room schoolhouse. Ardis graduated from Liberty High School in Hartington, later attended a teaching college to earn a teaching certificate. She taught in a rural one-room school. She married Thomas McFarland Sept. 27, 1951. She continued teaching while he was drafted into the Marine Corps and deployed to Korea. When he returned to the states in 1953, she joined him in California until his honorable discharge six months later.

Returning to Nebraska, Ardis continued teaching while her husband farmed with his brothers a few years. Their first child Michael was born during this time. They moved to Denver, working in home construction and Ardis was a "stay-at-home" mom as Jeannie and Jeffrey were born there. Wishing to leave the city, they moved to Kalispell in 1969.

Tom continued his construction work, and Ardis substitute taught occasionally. In 1980 they returned to their farming roots and started McFarland Dairy. A career they continued together, milking 50 to 80 head of Holsteins, until their retirement until 1997.

After Tom passed in 2018, she lived alone still cooking and baking. She



enjoyed reading her Bible, daily devotionals, completing the crossword and

sudoku puzzles every day in the paper. There was nothing she enjoyed more than time spent with family and friends that she loved like family.

Ardis was preceded in death by her parents Albert and Iva Tweedy; grandparents James and Grace Wade; father and mother-in-law Roy and Sylvia McFarland; her husband of 67 years; two brothers-in-law and their spouses; five sisters-in-law and their spouses; her sister Doretha Tweedy; Lorraine Wockman and husband Raymond; and sister Phyllis Weslow and husband Julian.

She is survived by her brother Ron Tweedy and wife Judy; her children, Mike (Mary), Jeannie, and Jeffrey (Jackie); grandchildren, Mandi (John) Cole, Dylan (Allie) McFarland, and Jesse (Jennifer Stebbins) McFarland; Olivia (Austin) Root; Nicole, Jesse, Ashley and Jeffrey McFarland; great-grandchildren, Greta, Thomas and Vaida Cole, Addison, William and Benjamin McFarland, Drew and Devin McFarland, and Rylee Evans; and a great-great grandson due in September.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on July 1, 2023, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

Enid McFarland, 81

On Saturday, Jan. 28, Enid McFarland, beloved mother, passed away after a sudden illness. She was 81 years old. Born to Anson and Beatrice Gerrie, Enid was a much-loved first grade teacher at Muldown Elementary School in Whitefish, Montana for nearly 30

years before retiring to winter over in Mexico with her husband Paul who died in 2005. She continued to winter over in Mexico, traveling with her Yorkshire terrier Georgie.

Enid loved mysteries and always had at least one book at hand. She

wore out several Kindles and read on them, her computer, her iPad and her phone, as well as physical books. She remained active until the very end, going on miles-long walks with Georgie daily. One of her great joys over the years was boogie boarding in

Mexico and kayaking. She was delighted to regularly see whales and dolphins up close on the bay in her favorite town, La Manzanilla.

She is survived by her two children, Mary Raichle of Seattle, Washington, and Tim McFarland of Oregon,

Missouri, as well as her three grandchildren Maverick, Kal and Maelae.

Donations in her name can be sent to Yorkshire Terrier Club of America's Rescue, Inc. <http://www.theyorkshireterrierclubo->

www.yorkshireterrierclubofamerica.org/aboutYorkies-Rescue or to CHEW Dog Rescue <https://www.chewdogrescue.org/index.php/donate>.

A memorial service will be held during the summer at a to-be-determined date and time.