

Sam McGough, 79

Samuel Edward McGough, 79 of Kalispell, passed away peacefully at home on Dec. 21, 2023. He was born on Dec. 5, 1944, in Kansas, Alabama; but his mother and four siblings moved to Phoenix, Arizona, when he was ten years old.

He graduated from Mesa High School in 1963, where he was a track and field state record holder for the mile, which earned him a spot on the Mesa Arizona Hall of Fame, which he held the record for many years.

He married Donna J. McGough on June 30, 1965.

He was a skilled heavy equipment operator which later led him to



develop an Adobe block machine that turned mud into bricks under high pressure; along with an onsite concrete machine he used to build homes for people in need. He even invented a furnace, which was the first of its time to incorporate an electric fan to distribute the heat, clearly, he was a talented engineer.

After gaining experience at a gold mine, he became an entrepreneur in the jewelry business, creating Tomahawk Trading Company, where

he had multiple factories and multiple jewelry stores.

In 1980 Sam and Donna bought a cabin and property in Whitefish, Montana, and moved to Whitefish fulltime in 1986 with their family. Sam and Donna opened Tomahawk Trading Company in the Flathead Valley, now known as McGough & Co, and retired after over 30 years and kept the store in the family.

He never met a stranger and was the king of greeting you with a "one liner." He had the biggest heart and was always eager and happy to help everyone. He will be greatly missed,

but his love, kindness, and humor will live on through his family and friends.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Donna McGough; his daughters; and his grandchildren.

Sam's service will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29, at Easthaven Baptist Church in Kalispell. Please join us to celebrate the life of this amazing man.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project in Sam McGough's name as he felt very strongly about this organization.

Betty Geraldine 'Gerry' McHenry, 98

Betty Geraldine "Gerry" McHenry, 98, passed away peacefully on Nov. 15, 2023, at her lifelong home in Kalispell. She was born Nov. 6, 1925, to Raymond and Nellie Mather of Kalispell.



In 1959 Charles built a lake home on Flathead Lake, which would

become a family treasure loved by all generations. She was part of the "Greatest Generation" and graduated from Flathead High School in 1942. Her childhood was spent with her two sisters, Justine and Geneva and they were notorious for their impeccable style and sense of humor.

One thing you could always count on is that Gerry kept a clean and welcoming home.

She was a true hostess who always had the table meticulously set, your cocktail always refreshed and friends always welcome. You could always find her dressed to the nines and even into her 90's it wasn't uncommon to see her running around town in her gold heels.

Gerry married William "Bill" Hellman in 1946 following his return from serving in World War II.

One of the things that she was best known for was her Christmas cookies and candy. She would start baking batches of cookies as early as November and then send out boxes to her family and friends around the country.

They welcomed their son, Gary Hellman, in 1949. Her life was forever altered when Bill was killed in the Mann Gulch Fire of 1949 and Gary passed away unexpectedly shortly after at the age of 6 months old. It was a true testimony to Gerry's strength and character that she was able to survive this loss and eventually meet her husband of 55 years, Charles "Chuck" McHenry.

She was a truly fantastic grandmother to her seven grandchildren. Her many rules and "tight ship" mentality seemed to disappear when she became a grandmother. Her grandchildren were welcomed with a cookie, a basement full of toys, and a warm hug. All of them

Gerry met Chuck in the summer of 1951. He won her over with his determination to court her, his ability to make her laugh and his passion for keeping a clean sock drawer. They were

married in 1952 and they built their life in Montana. Although they always called Kalispell home, they also lived in Worland, Wyoming and Cutbank, where Charles was a manager/owner of Gambles stores. They were quite the pair and spent their time traveling and skiing, Gerry preferably when the sun was shining, dancing and spending time with their friends. She enjoyed ice skating and was on a bowling league, her pink ball and all. She also liked to dance and was known to be a card shark at her local bridge group.

They began their family in Kalispell, welcoming their children Geneine, Mitchell and Jami.

They raised their children with a similar love of Montana, a good card game and appreciation for family. On the weekends they would pile their kids into their 1960 Oldsmobile for a drive through Glacier National Park, skiing at Big Mountain, or camping.

warm hug. All of them were taught how to play cribbage, where she was notorious for "forgetting" how to play but would then soundly beat them.

She is survived by her sister, Justine McMenus; children, Genie Berard (Chris), Mitchell McHenry (Roxanne), and Jami Thompson (Tony); grandchildren, Britney Rains (Chris), Brook McRoberts (Josh), Morgan Beard (Jude), Wyatt McHenry, Orion McHenry, Cole Thompson (Victoria), and Levi Thompson (Abby); and great-grandchildren, Cameron Rains and Saylor Thompson.

She was preceded in death by Bill and Gary Hellman, Chuck McHenry, sister, Geneva Corbett; and niece, Kerry McMenus.

Gerry will be interred in Conrad Memorial Cemetery. A special, heartfelt thank you to Hospice and other caregivers for their help and care during her final days.

Lester McKean, 89

Lester Charles McKean, 89, passed away peacefully at home with family on July 1, 2023.

He maintained his unique sense of humor, quick wit, caring heart, and enjoyment of family and friends to his final days.

He was born April 24, 1934, at his family home in Ennis, Montana, to Charlie and Blanch McKean.

He was by all accounts the darling of the family. His sister Mildred was 22 and married, and his brother Archie was 17, when baby Lester arrived.

He was in the fourth grade when his parents, along with his grown siblings and their families, loaded all their possessions into two Model A Fords and moved to Somers.

There he made lifelong friends and met his future wife, Shirley. Les graduated from Flathead County High School in 1954.

The following year, Les and Shirley were married at Eidsvold Lutheran in Somers and moved to Anaconda.

They then settled in Libby for over 30 years where they raised three daughters.

After their girls were grown, they lived in Ketchikan, Alaska; Angel Island, Lakeside and Columbia Falls before returning to Libby.



and hunting trips that were annual happenings for more than 50 years.

He also traveled and camped with his wife Shirley, exploring on their own or meeting up with family and friends. His favorites included taking in the natural beauty of his home state of Montana and visiting historical sites across the US and Canada.

He enjoyed square-dancing, cross-country skiing, reading, playing cards and photography.

He was also an expert woodworker, making gifts and furniture. He loved working side by side with Shirley on various projects; a favorite was building the family log home on Bull Lake.

Over the years they were known for hosting many gatherings, which included boating, swimming, skating and playing games with a lot of laughter and great conversation.

He is survived by three daughters, Sherry Ryan (Donald) of Tacoma, Washington; Kathy McKean of Bonney Lake, Washington; Karen Updike (Greg) of Ketchikan, Alaska; and his six grandchildren Bethany Johnson

He started work part time at age 16 fixing track in the Somers railyard to save money to buy his first car (of many).

He worked in a logging camp in the Yaak, the smelter in Anaconda, and at the Libby lumber mill for over 25 years, completing his working life as site manager with his wife Shirley at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

He was baptized in Anaconda in 1956, and wholeheartedly embraced following Christ and living in grace.

His faith inspired him to lead Bible Studies, teach Sunday School, and organize and lead retreats at his local congregations and across Montana.

Many of his closest friends shared his faith and this connection was woven through fishing

(Casey), Megan Kjelland (Juno), Lucas Updike (Lauren), Isaac Updike, Samuel Ryan (Meg) and Stephanie Parton (Alex); and great-grandchildren Sofie, Tage, Eliana, Alla and Milo.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, and his wife of 65 years, Shirley Amdam McKean.

A celebration of Les' life will be at 1 p.m. on September 30, at Christ Lutheran Church in Libby.

Memorial gifts can be sent to Christ Lutheran Church or Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

Other correspondence can be mailed to the family home in Libby. Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.schnackenbergfh.com.

Roland Brooks McKinley, 81

Roland Brooks McKinley, 81, passed away on Dec. 22, 2023, at his home in Ronan, Montana, after a brief battle with lung cancer.

He was born on Nov. 23, 1942, in Dodson, Montana, the son of Lawrence and Thelma (Hart) McKinley. He lived his early years in Harlem and Savoy, Montana, with his parents and his three sisters and two brothers.

Brooks, as he was known by family and friends, ran the Pablo Bar for 23 years. He loved the bar and the people that



came in. Prior to the bar, he farmed and ranched in some of the most beautiful country in Charlo, Lost Prairie, Fort Shaw, Sun River, and Geysler, Montana; and spent three years farming in northern Minnesota.

He was a reader and history lover who always won the Trivial Pursuit

yellow pie slice immediately. He loved to meet new people and get their stories, and rarely found someone whose people he did not know, especially if they had roots in eastern Montana. An animal lover, he doted on many spoiled dogs, cats and cows over his lifetime.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Marlis Walls; and brothers, Lawrence and Ted McKinley.

He is survived by his sisters, Donna Schultz and Jetta McKinley; his wife of 56 years,

Gloria McKinley; children, Lawrence "Tater" McKinley and Rebel McKinley; and three granddaughters, one grandson, and two great-grandsons.

Brooks has chosen to be cremated, and his ashes will be spread in his beloved Montana countryside at a later date. Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at www.shridერთhompson.com.

Arrangements are under the care of Shrider - Thompson Funeral Home.

Robert McLeod 87

Robert Norman McLeod, 87, of Bozeman, passed away surrounded by family on Friday, July 21, 2023.

Robert (aka Bob) touched the lives of many and was known by endearing nicknames, including "Governor," "Coach," and "Boom." He was affectionately referred to by his grandchildren as "Dad-Bob."

Bob was born on Nov. 25, 1935, in Belt, Montana, to Albert and Norma (Nelson) McLeod. He attended Fairfield High School, where he went to Boys State his senior year and was elected governor. He was also selected to play in the Montana East-West Shrine game. Bob then went on to attend Western Montana College in Dillon on academic and athletic scholarships, where he played baseball,



basketball and football, and was known as "Big Bad Bullet Bob."

June 1, 1958, Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Eisen-

hower Peacetime Draft and stationed at the Ordnance Guided Missile School at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. Shortly after, on Aug. 31, he married Rita Mozer of Dupuyer.

After Bob left the military, he and Rita settled in Whitefish where he worked for many years at Whitefish High School (WHS) teaching biology, math, science, and driver education. He also

dedicated countless hours to coaching young athletes and brought home the first Montana Class A State Boys Basketball Championship for WHS. Bob eventually served as the athletic director for WHS and was the first athletic director to be elected as president of the Montana High School Association Board of Control. He was also proud to be inducted into the WHS Hall of Fame.

Bob loved his family and sports, and coaching and socializing. He also enjoyed a good joke and laughing. His students know this well. Bob touched countless lives of family, friends, and students, and he leaves behind a legacy that will forever be cherished by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Bob was preceded in

death by wife, Rita, his parents, and his sister, Karen Volkman and brother, Jim McLeod.

He is survived by his daughters, Sheri Rose (Frank), Sandi Cooper (Tim), and Julie Cowan (Ron). He is also survived by his son, Doug McLeod (Jennifer); brothers, Jack (Dawn) McLeod, Gene (Tena) McLeod; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held in the spring of 2024 in Whitefish. Date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Bob's honor to the Whitefish Food Bank or your favorite charity, www.north-valleyfoodbank.org.

Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service. www.dokkennelson.com

Jared Lee McManus, 47

Jared Lee McManus, 47, of Kalispell, passed away during the Independence Day holiday. He was born April 19, 1976 in Kalispell, to Jack and Janice McManus, just nine days after his sister Leisha's second birthday.

He attended Helena Flats Elementary School, Kalispell Middle School and graduated from Flathead High School in 1994. He was an avid wrestler, starting early on in his childhood and wrestled varsity throughout his high school career.

Throughout his childhood and adult life, he enjoyed the outdoors, being it at the lake, the beach, the mountains or rivers.

In 1997 he seized an opportunity with the company Alamon Inc. and moved to Hawaii. During the summer of 1999, he met the love of his life, Catherine, and her son Nohea. They were married at their home in Pahoa on May 1, 2004.

In September of that year, Jared and Cat welcomed their daughter Kailee to their family. Nohea and Kailee were joined by Jack Waylon in May of 2008, and their family was complete.

In 2011, Jared and Cat invested in some property in Puna and started developing what they had hoped would be their forever home. Tragically, the sixth fissure of the Kilauea eruption opened in their neighborhood in May of 2018 and by the end of the month the lava had taken their home.

With heavy hearts, the



McManus family made the journey back to the mainland and to Montana to start a new

life close to Jared's family.

To know Jared was to love him. His passion for adventure was evident in hunting, fishing, rafting, anything outdoors and most of all his family and friends will live on in those that loved him. He was a son, a brother, a husband, a father and a friend who will be deeply missed.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Norma and Hugh McManus; Mary Olson and Earl Highley; an uncle, Andrew Highley; and mother-in-law, Sue Allen.

Jared is survived by his wife, Catherine McManus; children Nohea, Kailee and Jack; parents, Jack and Jan; sister, Leisha (Chad) and their six children; great niece; uncle, Alan; and aunt Elaine; uncle Dick and aunt Virginia, uncle Denny and aunt Rita; numerous cousins and their extended families; and an army of friends, old and new.

Services for Jared will be held Aug. 5 at Middle Thompson at Jack and Jan's, with a celebration of life to follow at noon.

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.

Cecily Rideout McNeil, 99

Cecily Rideout McNeil, 99, died of natural causes on Oct. 5, 2023.

Cecily was born in San Francisco in 1923. Her father, Henry Milner Rideout, a novelist, was from a Maine family which came to California in the Gold Rush and ran steamboats on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and a gold dust business in the Central Valley. Her mother, Frances Reed Rideout, was the daughter of the first minister of Christ Church, Sausalito. Cecily's siblings were Clara Avery Rideout and Henty M. Rideout, Jr.

After the untimely death of the father, the family moved to Ross, Marin County, and lived there until the outbreak of World War II. Cecily and her sister attended The Katharine Branson School in that town, and later, Cecily went to Pomona College in Claremont, California, for two years and graduated from U.C. Berkeley in pre-med, in 1945. Aiming for a career in medical librarianship, she earned a second bachelor degree, in library science, at the University of Illinois in Urbana in 1948.

While there, she met her future husband,



Edward Bowen McNeil, who was then a doctoral candidate in physics at the same school. They married in 1948, in Ross, California, and settled in the Urbana, Illinois, area while Edward was an instructor and worked towards his Ph. D. Their two children were born in Urbana: Alan Rideout McNeil, and Bruce Bowen McNeil.

In 1953, Edward took a teaching post at the University of Illinois in Chicago and the family moved to that city, where they lived until 1990. After the children were on their own, Cecily went back to college for several years, obtaining a Master of Arts in the History of Chinese painting from the University of Chicago. She then taught at Triton College near Chicago and later also at FVCC in Kalispell, in the Community program.

Other activities were singing alto in the choir of St Thomas the Apostle Church in Hyde Park, Chicago, and 10 years of volunteer work at the Flathead County Library. Cecily was also

a published poet (Poetry Magazine and other periodicals, plus two chapbooks).

Cecily planned, compiled and edited The North Fork Cookbook, which went through several editions. Proceeds have always been used for North Fork land use planning efforts, including postage for an early zoning petition vote of North Fork landowners.

From 1959 the McNeil family spent summers on the North Fork of the Flathead River in Montana, and came to consider the area their second home. In 1973, concerned about overdevelopment in the North Fork, Cecily and Edward helped to found the North Fork Compact, a pioneer land covenant restricting commercial development and excessive subdivision on the lands of the signatories.

In 1990, Edward and Cecily retired to Kalispell. Their grandchildren and great-grandchild visited them there and went huckleberrying and hiking. They are: Henry Chesna McNeil, Fiona Reed McNeil; Lieutenant Commander (USCG) Anna Crandall McNeil, Ellie Rideout McNeil, and Edward Bowen McNeil II; and Brooklyn Avery England.

Dorothy Arlene McVeigh, 91

Dorothy Arlene McVeigh, passed away Nov. 28, 2023, at the Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell, with her daughter Allyson by her side. She was 91.

She was born in Havre on July 22, 1932, and grew up on the family farm outside of Chinook, as the oldest sibling of four.

She graduated from the Chinook High School in 1950, and immediately pursued becoming a registered nurse, attending the Columbus School of Nursing in Great Falls.

It was while in Great Falls, that she met the love of her life, Frank, while on a blind date. They were married on Aug. 12, 1953, and began raising their family in Great Falls, eventually moving to Missoula, in 1972.

While in Missoula, Dorothy taught at the Vocational Technical Center and earned her master's degree in education from the University of Montana.

Upon retirement, they moved to Des Moines, Washington, in 1988 after their 10 children grew up and moved away from home.

She deeply loved Frank and their kids, was dedicated to the Catholic church, and had several hobbies which included crocheting hats and afghans for her grandkids, and donating thousands of her cro-



cheted hats to cancer victims and homeless shelters.

She will be forever missed by those whose life she touched.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Dec. 12, with a rosary at 10 a.m., and the funeral at 11 a.m., at the Risen Christ Catholic Church, 65 W. Evergreen Dr., Kalispell. The burial will be held on Jan. 16, at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington, so that she can forever rest with Frank.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Lucille Bressler; her husband, Frank; a brother, Richard; a sister, Kathleen; a daughter, Susan Diane; and a great-grandson, Anthony Charles Kuechmann Jr.

She is survived by her remaining sister, Shirley; as well as her children, Michael (Marge), David, Joseph (Donna), Allyson (James) Kuechmann, Kelly (Mike) Morrisette, Patrick, Janet (Mark) Foss, Scott (Barbara), Jean (Rob) Lee and Cory; 17 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

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

Valerie Marcella Merical, 77

+ Valerie Merical passed away unexpectedly Jan. 7 in Kingman, Arizona, daughter of Harold and Fern Cosner, beloved wife and mother, survived by her adoring husband of 60 years, Larry Burton Merical, and three children, Keersti Jacobson and husband Brian, Kord Merical and wife Heather, Kate Nelson and husband Eric.

Valerie was born and raised in California where she met and married her husband Larry who was serving in the military whom she then



fell in love with the Big Sky and decided to make it home and stayed raising a family and loving the community.

Valerie was kind, outgoing and strong, an exceptional cook putting love and passion in all she made, an award winning markswoman in pistol and rifle as well

followed for the next 11 years as a Naval spouse. They came to Kalispell in 1974

where they followed for the next 11 years as a Naval spouse. They came to Kalispell in 1974

as muzzle loader. She was an artist in beading, quill work and brain tanning leather. She greatly enjoyed the peace and serenity of her flower gardens. She had a loved all things ocean and Hawaii.

She had a heart for others and was always giving of herself, but above these joys were her children and many grandchildren, Jake Jacobson, Andrew Merical, Ashley Merical, Kaylee Merical, Hadley Merical, Kordel Merical, and Gabe Nelson.

There is a space in our hearts only she filled, words can never come

close to describing such loss, nothing can ever prepare you for losing someone you love, there will never have been enough time with them, there will always be words left unsaid and things uncompleted, but we also have a great hope and peace during this time of great sorrow and heartache, knowing that Jesus was her redeemer and savior and because of His great mercy and love for us we will be reunited with her for eternity never to be parted again that is our lasting hope. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-17

Denis 'Denny' Andrew Migneault, 74

Denis "Denny" Andrew Migneault, 74, was born on Jan. 31, 1949. He left this world to explore the next on June 5, 2023, after a brief encounter with cancer.

He grew up in Shelby surrounded by family and a multitude of friends who were involved in so many infamous escapades, that they could fill a book.

He was an accomplished businessman, taking over his parents' business, M&M; Electric, in Whitefish. He used his savvy and talents to expand it exponentially.

He helped many young men achieve success by enrolling them in the Electrical Apprenticeship Program, spurring them on to be productive workers.

He was doing what he loved, working. Both in his business and his personal life while at the same time making time to travel and enjoy life's pleasures.

There was never a time that he wasn't working on a project, from driving his '57 Chevy, as a teenager, to Mexico to have it rolled and pleated to planning and building his dream home in Mexico, drawing up the plans and building an exact model.

He installed, or built, a fountain at almost every house he owned. Completing the last one in Mexico just months before he returned to Kalispell for the summer. He was working on landscaping in his Kalispell yard just a few weeks before his passing.

He believed in hard work and dedication, all the while adhering to living an adventure. He could turn the impossible into reality and there was no challenge he wouldn't tackle. He had an unparalleled zest for life.



His legacy is his family, all that he has built and his generous spirit that touched

so many. Add to that his beloved blue VW bus that provided so many joyful memories for him, his friends and his family.

His passing was emblematic of how he lived. He always finished what he started no matter the outcome. His last few weeks were a challenge to his independent nature as well as his dignity. He said he was ready, and is now where he wanted to be, free.

He is survived by his significant other, Deb Bart, who worked lovingly and tirelessly by his side for the past three years; his sister, Lorraine McNamer; his three nieces, Dana Davis, Debi Thompson and Maureen Hinman and all of their children and grandchildren; his soul brother and lifelong friend, Branch (Sherry) Brady; his cousins, Della Huso Hunt, Kelly Huso and Conrad Huso; his uncle, Ramon Meek; last but not least, his cherished children, Bridgette Migneault, Cassie Migneault, Anthony (Andrea) Migneault (TJ); and his granddaughter, Isabel Migneault.

As Deb recounted from Garth Brook's song, "Dance," "I could have missed the pain but I'd have had to miss the dance", which relates to all who had the privilege of knowing him. May he rest in peace.

He will have a graveside service at 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, at the Mountain View Cemetery in Shelby followed by a celebration of life and luncheon at the Dixie Inn at 1 p.m.

Patricia Miles, 80

Patricia "Pat" Mae Miles, 80, of Columbia Falls, passed away April 18, 2023, surrounded by loved ones.

She was born Aug. 21, 1942, in Columbia Falls to the late Allan Oscar Greene and Viola Mae Greene (Warner).

Pat was born and raised in Columbia Falls. In her youth, she was involved with 4-H, loved horses and O-Mok-See, and was an avid bowler. She graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1960.

After attending Kinman Business University in Spokane, Washington, she returned to the Flathead Valley. She worked as a secretary at Canyon Logging, but most people would recognize Pat from her involvement with bowling. She and her late husband operated North Fork Lanes for many years,



she developed this love of bowling from her parents and passed it down to her children, grandchildren and others as a coach for the local junior leagues.

Pat supported her boys through their youth baseball programs by being a scorekeeper and baseball "mom," loading up the International Harvester Travelall and transporting a half dozen boys to baseball tournaments throughout Montana and Canada. Pat was a kind, loving and understanding person.

As much as she loved her family, she loved her grandchildren even more and nothing made her

she was the happier than being surrounded by them. They were her happy place. The more, the merrier.

She enjoyed gatherings on her deck but having the family together at her property at Ashley Lake was a slice of heaven for her. She was a voracious reader and enjoyed crafting, making handmade Christmas presents for her grandchildren every year. Pat had a passion for collecting angels.

They were everywhere throughout her house. It is comforting to know she is among the angels now.

Pat is survived by son, Jody Arvidson (Hallie); son, Scott Arvidson (Courtney); daughter, Rhonda Arvidson (Brian Metzger); son, Victor Miles; 10 grandchildren: Mark Arvidson, Lynda Arvidson, Kylee Arvidson, Kaitlyn Arvidson, Kirsten Dufresne, Kayla Dye,

Daniel Dufresne, Tyler Miles, Cassandra Miles, and Andrew Wilbur; 14 great-grandchildren; brother, Mike Greene (Beth); and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Pat is preceded in death by husband, Victor Miles and mother-in-law, Grace Miles.

A viewing will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2023, at Columbia Mortuary, 1010 Fourth Ave. W., Columbia Falls, MT 59912. A celebration of Pat's life will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at Columbia Mortuary.

Family and friends may begin to visit on Tuesday starting at 10 a.m. Interment to follow at Woodlawn Cemetery, 2200 Ninth St. W., Columbia Falls, MT 59912. To send online condolences, please visit www.columbiamortuary.com.

George Miletich Senior, 90

George Miletich Sr., 90, passed away at his home peacefully Dec. 5, 2023. He is now at peace and rejoined in heaven with his wife of 63 years, Shirley.

He was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, on April 2, 1933, to parents, Lazar Miletich and Augustina Miletich.

He grew up in the Holyoke/Westfield, Massachusetts, area where he met Shirley when they were teenagers and George would tell stories of how they shared dates to the roller rink, burger stands, church, traveling to see boxing matches, going to various dances at community centers, and Polish American clubs, often walking to the dates or hitching a ride as neither had a car.

On May 22, 1954, George and Shirley were married at First Lutheran Church in Holyoke, Massachusetts, where they went on to build a home together and have two children Lawrence and George Jr.

He made the choice to move westward in the late 1970s in search of a better life and after a brief stay in Boise, Idaho, he decided to move to Kalispell, Montana, and pursue building a home and establishing a life there.

He had many occupations in life from early years picking tobacco to carpentry, which he had learned much from



his father who was a carpenter, working in a brick yard, truck driver, public works,

and as a musician; playing bass guitar and singing in several bands in Massachusetts, Idaho, and Montana.

He greatly enjoyed the outdoors in many ways including hunting, fishing, motorcycle riding, camping, and later in life the sport of trapshooting, where he made many friends participating in tournaments and leagues. He shot his last round of trap on his 90th birthday with his sons, Larry and George.

He was preceded by his mother, Augustina; and father, Lazar; and wife, Shirley.

He is survived by his son's, George Jr. (wife Carol) and Lawrence (wife Serra); two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, many friends, and his companions for many years, housecats Rambo and Josie.

The Family would like to thank the many caregivers and medical staff that provided such excellent care and services for George over the years.

A funeral service will be held at 11 am on Dec. 18, at the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Denny Marvin Miller, 83

Denny Marvin Miller, 83 of Bigfork and Indian Wells, California passed away peacefully with his family by his side on June 4, 2023. Denny remained an incredibly sharp and charismatic man through his final months, with his innate quest for knowledge and storytelling abilities intact. His humor, warmth, positivity, gregariousness and love of the outdoors will never be forgotten.

Denny was born Aug. 1, 1939, in Seattle. The son of Elizabeth Eleanor and William Marvin Miller. His younger years were spent playing baseball, fishing, and working various jobs in his community. Denny graduated from Grant High School in Portland, Oregon and then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources management from Oregon State University; a Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington; and a Master of Science in water pollution biology from the University of Washington.

Denny began his career by proudly serving as an officer in the U.S.

Army at Fort Riley, Kansas. He then served on the personal staff of the late Sen. Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson (D-WA) for 16 years, the last seven years as his chief of staff. He assisted Senator Jackson in his positions as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, ranking member of the Armed Services Committee and senior member of the Governmental Affairs and Intelligence Committees. Denny also was a professional staff member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Specializing in energy policy, environmental, Native American and youth employment issues. It was in this role that he met and worked alongside Congressman Norman Dicks (D-WA) and formed a life-long friendship.

After his career in the Senate, Denny and his wife launched a successful government-relations



consulting firm, Denny Miller Associates, based in Washington, D.C., where he served as president and CEO for over 30 years. His firm's services included legislative strategies and planning, consulting and public affairs in defense and aerospace, transportation, natural resources, international trade, education, health care, Native American issues and technology.

Denny served on the board of directors for the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation, Long Live the Kings, the Council of Advisors for Forterra (formerly the Cascade Land Conservancy) and was a member of the National Leadership Council for the Communities in Schools.

Denny loved his family deeply and is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Sandra Burgess Miller. Denny is also survived by his first wife, Judy L. Miller, their three children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Daughter, Linda Diane Cahill (Vince Cahill) of Maui, Hawaii; son, Steven Denny Miller (Leslie Miller)

of Mooresville, North Carolina; daughter, Kristin Miller Burdette (Wesley Burdette) of Nashville, Tennessee. He is also survived by his brother, Richard Bruce Miller of Plains.

Denny will always be remembered for being a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and friend. He was a huge sports fan, fisherman, golfer, history buff, reader and nature lover, and found great joy in helping others. With all he did in life, personally and professionally, he lived by the motto "Press on. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence and determination."

A celebration of Life will take place in Bigfork the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend (Oct. 7) and his remains will be spread in his beloved trout pond where he shared his joy of fly-fishing with his family and friends. Memorial contributions may be made to Long Live the Kings in Seattle, Washington in support of his life-long passion for environmental conservation in the Pacific Northwest.

Marcy A Mills, 70

We lost an amazing sister, aunt, mother and friend on April 1, 2023. Marcy Ann Mills was born in Kalispell on Dec. 5, 1952, to Andy and Marge (Gorton) Mills. Marcy grew up in Evergreen – an amazing place to spend a childhood. She graduated from Flathead High School in 1971. Classmates from Evergreen Elementary School and Flathead High School remain lifelong friends.

Marcy attended Montana State University and became a lifelong Bobcat fan. She received her degree in education, but after a brief stint of student teaching, decided spending her days with youngsters was not her life course. She went back to school and graduated (again) with a degree in construction engineering. Her career took her to Oklahoma, Arizona, Seattle and all over the state of Montana. She landed in Missoula and spent 21 years building homes for Edgell Building. Retirement brought her back to Kalispell, and a renewal of old high school friendships.

Marcy was an athlete – water skiing at 5 years old, on the Flathead ski team in high school, riding and showing horses, and a trip to the national softball finals. Golf – not so much.

Marcy is survived by her son Jim (Blair) Ivey



in Dallas, Georgia; grandchildren Carolyn and Garrett Ivey; sister

Andrea (Bill) Bailey; and her nieces Tara Bailey and partner Mikiel Dubin of Eugene, Oregon, and Maren and Jeff Schuman of Kalispell and their children Logan, Daytona, Andrew and Silas. She so loved all of those kiddos. She is also survived by her beloved Mr. Bean.

Marcy's sphere of friends extends across the country. Whether from grade school, high school, college, softball, or work, every memory shared by her friends recalls her sense of humor, her quick wit and her ability to tell a story. She touched so many lives and will remain in our hearts. We miss your uplifting spirit, your humor, your laugh. Too well loved to be forgotten.

A celebration of Marcy's life will be held July 29, 2023, at Bonelli's Bistro in Kalispell at 2 p.m.

As a lover of all animals (especially all of her fur-babies) Marcy would love to have donations made to the Humane Society of Northwest Montana, 100 Adopt A Pet Way, Kalispell, MT 59901; humanesocietypets.com.

Judy Delmoe Mohrenweiser, 83

Judy Delmoe Mohrenweiser, 83 of Kalispell, left us on Aug. 5, 2023, surrounded by her family and a beautiful sunrise over Flathead River.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Catherine and Frank; and her sister, Barbara.

She is survived by



her loving husband, Richard of 63 years; her four children, Tony, Vicki, Terri and Barb; her seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

her loving husband, Richard of 63 years; her four children, Tony, Vicki, Terri

Judy, a Montana native, was a part of the Kalispell community since 1977. She and Richard owned the Credit Bureau of Kalispell and supported many local charities.

A lifelong quilter, she displayed many of her quilts in the Northwest Montana Fair. She also supported the Montana

Hope Project, the charity of the Association of Montana Troopers, by creating individual flannel quilts for many of the participating Montana children.

Judy will be remembered for her quick wit, her love of knowledge, and her passion for the arts.

Janice Moonen, 76

Janice Moonen, 76, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, after a long battle with cancer, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on Aug. 1, 1947, in Minnesota.

In 1965, she met her beloved husband and life partner, Alvin.

Alvin and Janice married in 1966 and began their 57 year journey together, which included moving to Montana and building a family of nine

children, 16 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two daughters-in-law, and one son-in-law.

Janice was a fiercely devout, loving, loyal, and cheerful person who always put everyone else's well-being as her highest priority.

She will be desperately missed by all who knew and loved her.

A private family memorial will be held in lieu of a service.

Bob Moore, 87

Bob Moore passed away on Nov. 19, 2022. He was surrounded by love

and passed peacefully, eager to reunite with his wife and best friend, Jean.

Bob is survived by his two daughters, Julie and Jenny, their families, and countless other relatives, friends and neighbors.

Bob was deeply loved by many and he is deeply missed.

We know you loved



this poem, Dad, and believed its words with all your heart.

"Do not stand at my grave

and weep. I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn rain.

Do not stand at my grave and cry. I am not there. I did not die."

Safe home, Dad. Give Mom a hug for us. Love you so.

John L. Moore Jr., 59

John L. Moore Jr., 59, passed away peacefully on May 20 at Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell. John is survived by his loving wife, Tracy Moore; parents, John and Pat Moore; and brothers Reece Moore (Amy Sturm) and Cory Moore.



IBEW 768, performing underground electrical work.

John enjoyed hunting,

fishing, camping and spending time with his friends in the outdoors.

John was a very giving person, and would always lend a helping hand to anybody that needed it. His boisterous laugh and smile would light up a room with cheer. John also loved his animals, the horses, dogs and cats, as these were his children. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at Birch Grove Community Center in Kalispell on Saturday, June 10 at 1 p.m. with a reception to follow.

Always in our hearts and loved forever.

John was born July 2, 1963, in Charleston, South Carolina. His family moved to California when he was young. It was in California that John met the love of his life Tracy. John and Tracy moved to Kalispell 30 years ago and have been here ever since.

John worked for Rocky Mountain Contractors, Cole Strip Electric and Mountain Power. His work often kept him away from home for long periods of time, working in many parts of Montana, the Dakotas and Wyoming, to name a few. John was a journeyman heavy equipment operator with

Delilah Moran, 68



Delilah Moran, 68, of Erskine, Minnesota, lost her battle to long term cancer on Sunday Oct. 22, 2023 in her home. Celebration of Life will be held at a later date to be determined. www.carlinfuneral.com.

Delilah Dawn Jasper Moran was born Aug. 22, 1955 to Bryce and Clarice (Business) Jasper in

Waukon, Iowa. She was baptized in the Lutheran faith. Delilah attended and graduated Valley High School in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1973. She worked at Pioneer Memorial Care Center for many years.

Delilah enjoyed her boys David and Justin and all her grandkids. She enjoyed being outside in the yard and tending to her flowers, she took great pride in the presentation of the yard.

She is survived by her son David (Efimia) Moran and granddaughters, Kristina (22) and Marianna (20) of Woodburn, Oregon and son Justin Moran; grandkids, Corbin (12), Fuller (11), Hudson (4), Oakleigh (1) and baby boy Moran (due any day) of Erskine, Minnesota; sister Cheryl (Ken) Mitchell of Pahrump, Nevada; brother Mike (Julie) Jasper of Reno, Nevada; and many nieces nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her son Darren Kyle Moran, parents Bryce and Clarice (Business) Jasper, and brother Bruce Jasper. Blessed be her memory.

Gary Morken, 81

It is with great sadness that we announce Gary Ernest Morken, 81, passed away from dementia at the Montana Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls on April 30, 2023.

Born in Conrad to Archie and Mollie (Island) Morken on June 2, 1941, Gary grew up in Cut Bank and Polson. He spent summers farming with cousins Vernon and Gerald Burger in Cut Bank and went to school and helped at the family owned Grandview Grocery Store in Polson.

Gary enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1961 and was honorably discharged due to family hardships. His father had MS and died at a young age. Gary returned home to help take care of his family. While serving, he received the Marksman (rifle M-1) and Expert (pistol .45) badges. Gary was PVE-1.

Gary's mother married his stepfather, William Winter, in 1965. Gary married Janice Anderson in 1965 and they had two sons, Garrett and Gavin. He later married Karen Harshman/Oehmcke on Sept. 26, 1998.

Gary was kind, caring and generous, all the while being a humble man. You could feel Gary's good nature and positive energy wherever he went. He had many talents and interests: fishing, boating, skiing,

bowling, hunting, scuba diving, golf and avid bike riding (early morning rides with buddies). He loved the outdoors! There was never a job too big for him to tackle: electrical, construction, etc., all the way to a professional jeweler.

He was partner/owner of John Stockhill Jewelers in Sidney and Miles City for 54 years. He was dedicated, loyal and thankful to all of his costumers; absolutely loved his profession! His whistling talents were beyond belief; you could hear his happiness. He had an awesome singing voice as well.

Gary earned profound



respect from his community and family which was recognized by his many achievements and awards:

*Gemologist Institute of America Education (interestingly enough, Gary's initials are "GEM," a reflection of his lifelong profession).

*Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate of Proficiency Award

Kiwanis Club of Sidney 30-year Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding Service to our Club Award, Top Apple Sales Award... "Selling 150+ cases of apples is pretty well Gary's standard." You could say Gary was the apple of our eye. Member of Board of Directors and Kiwanis International Award. Of all the relationships he formed in Kiwanis, one stands out among them all. In 1968, Gary and fellow Kiwanian, Jacque Best, teamed up to form a lifelong friendship. Gary and Jacque served on numerous committees and projects through the years. They remained close personal friends; their families shared many activities together.

*Grand Master Masons Masonic Lodge of Montana Award

*Jaycees Boss of the Year Award and Distinguished Service Award

*Member of National Rifle Association

*Chamber of Commerce - Board of Directors & Outstanding/ Dedicated Service Award and Chairman of Publicity and Public Relations

*Outstanding Young Men of America Award (a President Nixon recognition of service to community)

*Member of the Elks and Moose clubs

*Advisor to the

Rainbow Girls

*Hole-in-one at the Miles City 2006 golf tournament

Gary worked hard every day of his life and was honest and fair. He had a deep respect for his fellow man and profound gratitude to GOD!

The family deeply appreciates the excellent service, support and loving care given to Gary these past few months. A sincere thank you to the nurses and all the staff of our Montana Veteran's Home. You are all Heaven-sent. Thank you!

He is preceded in death by parents, Mollie and Archie Morken, and Bill Winter (stepfather); sister, Marilyn Morken (interestingly, also died on April 30, five years ago to the day); nephew, Kevin Baker; several uncles and cousins.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Morken of Kalispell; brother, Earvin (Beverly) Morken of Kalispell; sons, Garrett Morken (Angie Frost) of Glasgow (grandson, Grant), Gavin (Jennifer) Morken of Sidney (grandchildren, Ryan and Addison); stepchildren, Shane Oehmcke (April West) of Great Falls (granddaughter, Hope), Michelle (Jeff) Carda of Lambert/Richey (grandchildren, Colter and Paige), Paul Oehmcke (Aby) of Lolo (grandson, Riplee).

Gary always carried this poem in his shirt pocket:

"The clock of life is wound but once and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the time you own; live, love toil with a will. Place no faith in tomorrow, for the hands may then be still."

— Author unknown
Cremation has taken place under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. A celebration of life to be held at a later date.

Carol Morris, 88

Carol Coleen (Wade) Morris, 88, passed away peacefully in her Kalispell home on Jan. 9, 2023, following complications from dementia. She was surrounded by and enveloped in the love of her family.



to Montana in 1954 and has made her home here since.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Jerry Lee and Kenneth Wade; sisters Virginia Ashbaugh and Edna Usoff, all of Pennsylvania; and two grandchildren, Lindsey Rose Morris and Jennifer Starr Dalton. She is survived by her husband Buck; her children: Danny Morris (Debbie) of Bigfork, Sherry Morris,

Carol was born Nov. 19, 1934, in Dempseytown, Pennsylvania, daughter of the late Morris Curtis Wade and Helen Coe Wade. She graduated from Oil City High School in 1950 and married her husband of 71 years, Arnold "Buck" Morris, on March 9, 1952. She moved from Pennsylvania

and Janet Holter (Ross) of Kalispell and Linda Pete of Polson; grandchildren: Danae White, Laryssa Morgan, Khena Bullshields, ShiNaasha Pete, Sierra Pete, Mack Holter, and Dillon Holter; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, at Bigfork Christian Church, 110 Shawnee Drive, Bigfork, with Pastor Mike Steenson officiating. Interment will follow at Lone Pine Cemetery, Bigfork.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions

may be directed to Hestia Hospice Foundation, 700 SW Higgins Suite 102, Missoula MT 59803. Our family is forever grateful to the nurses from Hestia who lovingly and with grace took care of our mom to the end — they are true angels.

Please visit Buffalo Hill Funeral Home www.buffalohillfh.com for complete information and to leave condolences. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Darcy Morris, 57

Darcy Inez Morris, 57 of Whitefish, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Nov. 18, 2023.



Mark and Donna Noyes; and her brother Curtis Stasso.

She is preceded in death by her mom, Patricia Morris (Crumley); her ex-husband, Stoney Shipp; and her biological parents, Pete and Marie Stasso.

She was born in Polson, Montana on Dec. 19, 1965 to Pete and Marie Stasso. She was adopted at age five by Bob and Patty Morris. She was raised in Whitefish, MT.

She is survived by her dad, Bob Morris; her brother, Dave and Wendy Morris; her brother, Mark and Sheril Morris; sister, Yvette and Bruce Holler; her sister, Sandra and Mike Andrews; her sister, Debbie and Rick Dennison; her brother,

A celebration of life will be held at 4 p.m. on Nov. 25, at the First Baptist Church in Whitefish, Montana. Dinner will be served after the service.

Carole Lee (Gibson) Moseley, 77



Carole was born Sept. 1, 1945, in Conrad,

Montana, the youngest of Wayne and Lily Gibson's four children. A Montana horse-girl at heart, she never had horses of her own, but she and her childhood friends spent weekends sneaking into neighbors' fields to find gentle old mares to ride. In high school, she was an enthusiastic cheerleader and sports fan.

After attending beauty school in the early '60s in Great Falls, she began her trade and worked as a waitress at the Chat

and Chew in Shelby. After serving coffee to a handsome young highway patrolman named Jim Moseley, he asked her out dancing at the Sports Club. She must have had some fine moves, because they married shortly after in 1965. Carole and Jim had three children - Christy, Scott and Kyle - with whom they moved to Whitefish in 1976.

In Whitefish, Carole worked as a beautician at the Hair Hut, and for several years ran her

own salon - Carole's Cuts & Nails - where she practiced all the latest techniques on her teenage sons. She was deeply involved in the local crafts scene as a member of the Quilting Guild, and a frequent presence at all the crafting seminars. Given any scrap of fabric or length of yarn, she could create a work of art in a matter of minutes, and loved sharing her skills with her granddaughters. She enjoyed playing canasta,

often cheating, always playing coy when caught. She loved fishing and was perfectly content to spend whole days on the reservoir doing nothing else. Her rose garden was spectacular, and she spent many evenings relaxing in her backyard pergola with friends and family, a cool glass of beer on ice in hand.

Carole passed away on Jan. 11, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Jackie and Shirley, and

brother Wayne. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Jim; children Christy (Kevin) Roberts, Scott (Kate) Moseley, and Kyle Moseley; grandchildren Kelsey, Kacie (Matt), and Erin; and four great-grandchildren: Ava, Zoe, Kennedy, and Liam.

A celebration of life will be held this summer. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Whitefish Food Bank or try putting maple syrup on your grilled cheese sandwich.

John Wesley Muffley, 67



John Wesley Muffley, a beautiful soul weighed

down by decades of earthly turmoil, and yet still larger-than-life, left behind the shackles of gravity and electric bills on Jan. 23, 2023. He was 67, and that was almost long enough for him to give the world all the Muffley they could handle.

If you were sad, he made you laugh. If you were hungry, he made you food. If you were

mad, he made you even madder. If you were lost, he reminded you how to find your way.

He loved. He loved Jesus, his kids, his friends, and all the herb and spices he could find. Sometimes he forgot how to show it, but he never forgot how to say it.

He leaves his three children - Joshua (Heather), Rachel and Caleb (Lena) - and five

grandchildren, Nathan, Izabella, Noah, Anne Marie and Harper, to keep his memory alive by befriending the marginalized, holding every door open, and talking to store cashiers in the most embarrassingly goofy voices you've ever heard.

Daddy, You are finally free to be all that you were created to be. No more trials. No more wounds. Your soul called

home to where you've always felt the deep love of our divine Creator. Able to weep in the arms of Jesus, eternally cleansed of the pain of this world.

Sure to be our fiercest guardian angel, he will always live in our hearts, be seen in our memories and visit us in our dreams. He's finally free to explore the realm that always called his gypsy

soul to find rest in his forever home.

We love you, Daddy. Rest in Peace. We will see you when we get there. Thank you for all you have taught us and shared with us in this world.

There will be a private celebration of life service held at a later date, but let's be honest, he's more alive now than he ever was.

Lorenz H. Muhlhauser, 75

Lorenz H. Muhlhauser, 75, of Great Falls, passed away May 20, 2023. He was born May 7, 1948 in Lakeport,



California.

Lorenz is survived by his wife of 48 years, Mary Muhlhauser; his daughter, Diana Muhlhauser of Willits, California; his son, John Muhlhauser of Kalispell; and his brother, Harry (Kati) Muhlhauser of Willits, California.



Lorenz proudly served in the U.S. Army for three years.

He will be remembered as a wonderful husband, father and brother.



Jack Mullins, 76

Jack Mullins, 76, passed away on March 7, 2023, after losing a brief battle with cancer. He was born in West Virginia in 1946, to parents Kenneth and Dainty Mullins.



He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1966 and served his country in various locations including Washington, Guam and Alaska. Jack came to Montana in 1970, opening an auto repair business in Whitefish and continued his career for 40 years. His passion was rebuilding engines in his hot rods and soon became the "go to guy" for advice on getting better performance

from cars. He enjoyed NASCAR, snowmobiling, camping, traveling the back roads of Montana and a good game of pool.

Jack is survived by his wife, Darlene; daughter, Christine and son, Derek (Kim); seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; brothers, Jimmie, Rick and Mike Mullins; and sister Sharon Vickers. Jack was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

The family gathered to celebrate his life and share special memories of Jack. He was certainly one of a kind who will be missed by his friends and family. No other services are planned per his wishes.

George E. Mumm, 90

George Edward Peter Mumm passed away at Immanuel Lutheran Communities in Kalispell on March 21 of natural causes, surrounded by family.

He was born February 19, 1933, at his family's farm near Lidgerwood, North Dakota, to George and Evelyn (Thorson) Mumm. He grew up the eldest of six children on the farm, attended school in Lidgerwood, and in 1953, entered the U.S. Army. Following his honorable discharge, he enrolled at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota, and graduated in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

While attending college, he met the love of his life, Theora Svalstad, at a country dance. They married August 30, 1958, at Grace Lutheran Church in Sisseton, South Dakota. Following his graduation in 1959, he accepted a job with the U.S. Forest Service in Great Falls. Four years later, he was transferred to Billings. While living there, he acquired several quarter horses and pack mules for trips into the wilderness in the summer and for autumn hunting. He has always been an avid hunter and was a very friendly and generous host of many hunting pack trips for friends and



relatives who shared his love of the sport. He also got his beloved wife interested in big game hunting so she could go with him when his buddies weren't available.

In 1969, he transferred to the regional Forest Service office in Missoula. Soon after, he and Theora purchased an old homestead with acreage for their horses and mules at Rollins, Montana. They quickly made fast friends of folks in the Rollins community.

In 1972, he transferred to Anchorage with a job in the U.S. Public Health Service. His work took him to numerous Alaskan villages from Barrow to the Arctic Ocean to the Aleutian Islands, Kenai and Sitka. The years of hunting and fishing in Alaska were a dream come true for him. It was also during this time both his children were born.

After retirement in 1982, the family settled in the Flathead Valley, where he worked as a part-time engineer with FEMA, called to help in times of natural disas-

ters. He started hobby ranching and had Texas longhorn cattle, saddle horses and pack mules at the acreage in Rollins. He resumed pack trips in the summer and hunting in the fall, and this time, on many of those trips, he had his children in tow.

George was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a registered land surveyor, and was active in social organizations, such as American Legion, Toastmasters, Back Country Horsemen and square dance clubs.

He was a lifetime member of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, and for the last 40 years, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell, where he served on various boards and committees.

George was preceded in death by his parents, George and Evelyn; his parents-in-law, Adolph and Cassie Svalstad; two sisters and three brothers-in-law, Connie (Art Waswick), LaVon (Hal Juba) and Fred Paul.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Theora; a daughter, Torri (Jonathan Lifland) of Falls Church, Virginia; a son, George Tyone (Anne Thorne) of Kalispell; as well as two sisters, Berdelle (Ken) Boobar of Great Falls and Goldie Paul of Cottage Grove,

Minnesota; and a brother, Greg (Irene) Mumm of Hankinson, North Dakota; two brothers-in-law, Carmen and Barb Svalstad of Traverse City, Michigan and Curtis and Linda Svalstad of Solon, Iowa; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was a devoted and loving husband and father. He will be greatly missed by all. A viewing will be held on Monday, March 27, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Tuesday, March 28, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Trinity Lutheran Camp, 400 West California Street, Kalispell, MT 59901, or to Immanuel Foundation Chaplaincy, 185 Crestview Avenue, Kalispell, MT 59901.

The family would like to extend their gratitude and appreciation to the Logan Health Hospice team and the staff at The Retreat at Buffalo Hill Terrace for their dedicated and loving care. Friends are encouraged to visit the website at www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

Loyal Murer, 88

Loyal "Pinky" Murer, of Bigfork, passed away Feb. 21, 2023. He was the eldest of four children born to Marion "Cy" and Florence Murer in 1934. He lived all his nearly 89 years in the Flathead Valley.

Pinky grew up in Mountain Brook helping on the family farm, hunting and fishing with his friends, and playing songs he and his family learned while listening to the Grand Ole Opry every Saturday night on the radio. He was the first in his family to graduate from high school even after quitting his senior year to work at Krause's Sawmill while his father recovered from a serious illness. Pinky returned to graduate the following year.

Pinky sang and played guitar for dances, house parties, and at the Dixie Inn and the Blue Moon. It was at a house party in Bigfork that he met his future wife Joelyn Wells. They married in 1955 and made their home in Mountain Brook, in the house Pinky built for them. There they raised their three children, Kayleen, John, and Keith.

Early in their marriage, Pinky worked at Kalispell Lumber



Company "riding the carriage," a dangerous occupation in the sawmill. After a few years, he

left that job to work as a carpenter. Over the next forty years, he built many homes throughout the valley. Pinky was known for his integrity and craftsmanship, qualities he passed on to his sons and grandsons.

Pinky and Joelyn were always involved in their children's activities — 4-H, sports, music lessons, plays and concerts. Many great family memories were made around camping, hunting and fishing. Pinky was an avid fisherman, and rarely left a fishing hole without his limit! Pinky's flower gardens were always showpieces boasting dinner plate-sized dahlias and massive begonias. In later years he also took up golf and bowling, sharing both with his grandchildren.

A new dimension entered Pinky and Joelyn's lives in the 1980s when they both received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. They regularly attended the Christian Center and gained a love

for God's word which became the source of their strength and peace.

After living over 30 years in Mountain Brook, Pinky and Joelyn moved to Ferndale, next door to her childhood home. In 1998 Joelyn passed away after a lengthy illness. They were married 43 years. Also, that year Pinky lost a lung to cancer, but God blessed him with 25 more years.

In 2000 Pinky married Marilyn Nylander of Bigfork, a longtime family friend. They enjoyed attending church and Bible Study, going on picnics in Glacier Park and camping with Pinky's brother Jack and wife Diane at Thompson Lakes. They also had endless games of cribbage and pinochle. They were married 22 years when Marilyn passed away in 2022.

All his life Pinky never knew a stranger and later in years loved telling others what Jesus meant to him. He was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. A man true to his given name — Loyal.

Pinky was preceded in death by his parents; wife Joelyn; wife Marilyn; sister Arlene and her husband Wayne Hulford

of Columbia Falls; brother Jack Murer of Libby; brother-in-law Bruce Barney of Missoula; and granddaughter Madison Murer of Kalispell.

He is survived by his brother Ted Murer (Dianne) of Kalispell; sister-in-law Diane Murer of Libby; sister-in-law Donetta Barney of Missoula; brother-in-law Doug Wells (Lori) of Kalispell; daughter Kayleen Kennedy (Steve) of Shelbyville, Tennessee; John Murer (Debbie) of Bigfork; and Keith Murer (Connie) of Kalispell; grandchildren Doc Kenney (Rebecca), Elise Erickson (Kurt), Ryan Murer (Tiffany), Cy Murer (Kendra), Alexis Murer, Micheala Goodson (Austin), Mackenna Parks (Shane), McKinlie Murer, and McCall Murer; along with 10 great-grandchildren.

We would like to thank Kamron and all the staff and residents of Rising Mountain Assisted Living Center for the love, care and friendship that Pinky and Marilyn received during their final years. It proved to be a wonderful home that they both enjoyed and appreciated. Thank you so very much.

A celebration of life will be held this summer.

Leland A. Murphy, 90

Leland A. "Lee" Murphy, 90 of Bigfork and Kalispell, died peacefully at his apartment home at the Buffalo Hill Terrace on Sept. 11, 2023, while in the loving care of his family and BHT staff.



ed administration and was a principal.

Lee and his family returned to Montana

He was born Aug. 21, 1933, on the family ranch in Spion Kop, near Belt, Montana, to James and Emma Murphy. He spent his early years on the ranch with his parents and six siblings, graduating from Belt High School. After attending the College of Great Falls for a year, Lee was granted an emergency teaching certificate and began his almost 40-year teaching career at the age of 18 at a rural school near the family ranch. He then attended Valparaiso University (Indiana), graduating in 1956.

After teaching in Valparaiso for two years, he embarked on an adventure with friends to Las Vegas, where he was an elementary teacher again. There, Lee met and married the love of his life, Laurene "Larry" Walker, a fellow teacher and Montana native. Lee and Larry moved to Orange County, California in 1960 to continue their careers and start a family. While there, Lee completed his master's in elementary

in 1972 and settled in Ferndale. He taught fifth and sixth grades at Ferndale School for three years, then sixth grade in Bigfork. Subsequently, he worked in curriculum development and outreach in Flathead County rural schools. He ended his career as an elementary principal in Columbia Falls, retiring in 1988. Throughout his career, Lee was known as an extraordinary teacher, administrator, and mentor. He was devoted to his students and delighted in their success and well-being. Former students still fondly remember the daily classroom music and singalongs with Lee on his guitar.

He spent his "retirement" years at home in Woods Bay, where he pursued his many passions such as furniture restoration, stained glass, tole painting, and gardening. His yard and garden on Sylvan Drive were labors of love, and he was always generous with gardening advice, plantings, and his bounty. He was a 40-year

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church member and Bigfork area volunteer, especially at the Bigfork Food Bank and Bigfork Art and Cultural Center. He was a devoted husband, dad, grandpa, and friend, always willing to help, and share his expertise freely.

He is survived by his son, Scott (Lisa) Murphy of Helena; daughter, Beth (Paul) Schomber of Bigfork; brother Larry (Linda) Murphy of Belt; numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews; and six grandchildren who were his pride and joy- Christopher, Andrew, Lewis, and Nina Murphy; and Kip and Orion Schomber.

He was preceded in death by his parents; five siblings; and his beloved wife, Larry.

A service and celebration will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Sat. Nov. 4, at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Ferndale, 30631 Montana Highway 209, Bigfork, followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you plant something beautiful in Lee's honor. Memorials in Lee's name are suggested to the Bigfork Food Bank, P.O. Box 850, Bigfork 59911, or St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 431, Bigfork.