

Casey Vail, 65

Casey Dexter Vail, 65, of Kalispell, passed away on Sept. 11, 2023. He was born on June 23, 1958, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Casey was a kind person with a dry, witty sense of humor. He was the most loyal of men to his wife, his friends, and his relatives. In his quiet way, he steadfastly looked after those he loved: his wife, his cats, and his chickens. He loved to read and he loved the ocean.

Casey is survived by his beloved wife, Cathy Vail, and his sisters, Dawnlee, Barbara, and Robin.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Ilene Vail, and his father, Dexter Vail, longtime residents of Kalispell.

Casey attended Flathead High School in Kalispell. After graduating, he dedicated many years to ensuring people had safe tires on their



vehicles. Casey took pride in his work and valued the safety of others.

In his free time, Casey enjoyed bowling and reading. These hobbies brought him joy and relaxation throughout his life. He also loved spending meaningful time fishing with his grandfather, father, and nephew.

A memorial service for Casey will occur in the spring. The details of the service will be announced at a later date.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell, is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Casey Dexter Vail will be deeply missed by his loved ones and all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

Dolly Vallieres



Miriam Lee (Dolly) Vallieres, Kalispell, passed away April 26, 2023 at Logan Health due to respiratory failure, surrounded by family and friends. Dolly was born in Whitefish on Aug. 1, 1942 to Miriam and Ervin Hanson. Dolly went thru school in Whitefish, graduating in 1960. She attended Eastern Montana College, earning her B.A. in education.

She taught at Olney, Kalispell Montessori, and later substitute taught at Kalispell, Whitefish and Bissell schools.

Dolly married husband Gary on March 26, 1971. Her son Brian was born Dec. 23, 1973 and daughter Kirsten was born July 4, 1976.

Dolly was an amazing wife, mother and friend. She loved family activities, especially picnicking

and hiking. She loved to read and greatly enjoyed 20-plus years of bookclub books and many friends. She will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by daughter Kirsten, at 18 months, and parents Miriam and Ervin Hanson.

Survivors are husband Gary, son Brian, brother Jerry Hanson (Rita), Joan Hanson, Grandchildren

Tish Shears (Josh), Alyx Morgan (Cris Counsell) and Jordyn Morgan, great-grandchildren Hunter and Tristin Shears and Waylon Counsell, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 8 at Lawrence Park pavilion in Kalispell from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's a potluck so bring a dish and a chair.

Jewell Van Allen, 103

Jewell Van Allen of Columbia Falls passed away on Feb. 6, 2023 at the age of 103. She was born Jan. 9, 1920 near Amarillo, Texas, the sixth child of Edward and Mary Susan (Brooks) Rea.

She attended schools in Amarillo and Gainesville, Texas. After high school she attended college in Gainesville and Denton, Texas. At the beginning of World War II, college was interrupted for the war effort. She went to work at Camp Howze, a newly constructed Army base near Gainesville. She remained there in Personnel and later in Quartermaster as an administrative assistant

until the war ended and the base was completely dismantled, returning the land to the original farmers and ranchers.

In January of 1948, Jewell married H. E. Van Allen in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The same spring, they moved to Columbia Falls and built Rocky Mountain Lumber Co. at the edge of Columbia Falls, as well as a new home. They owned several lum-



ber mills in the area and also operated Van Allen Tax Service in later years. Traveling was always important for business and pleasure, which included every state and half of them several times. They also covered all of Canada and Mexico in their travels.

Jewell's greatest asset was her sense of humor. She spent many hours sending pages and pages of jokes to her many friends. She was full of advice and took genuine pleasure in meeting new people. She enjoyed entertaining, having visitors, hiring young people, writing letters, garden

ing, sewing and being involved in the stock market.

She was preceded in death by her husband in January of 1989, also by her parents, five brothers and her only sister. She is survived by a few nephews and nieces, great nephews and great nieces, and many close friends.

At her request, no services are planned. In her memory, she asks that you take someone you love to dinner, hug a friend and be good to your family.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for Jewell.

William Wallace Vance, 79

William Wallace Vance passed away in Whitefish on Jan. 22. Born in Chicago on March 23, 1943, Bill spent his early years in South Bend, Indiana, where his father was president of Studebaker Motors and then in Washington, D.C., where his dad served as a Commissioner of the Atomic Energy Committee (AEC).

While living in the D.C. area, Bill attended the Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland, graduating in 1962. There he had a reputation as a fiercely competitive wrestler and earned all-Metropolitan honors in that sport. He then went to the University of South Carolina to begin his college education; however, his time there was interrupted by the war in Vietnam, so Bill joined the Navy and served on board the USS Monticello off the coast of Vietnam.

After completing his college education at American University, Bill worked for the historic Riggs Bank in D.C. where he rose to the position of Senior Trust Officer. It was there that he met and married Landis Fielding and they remained together until she died in 2016.

Bill had several hobbies during his life. Though Studebaker stopped making cars in the late 1950s, a private group continued to manufacture the Avanti, one of Studebaker's most iconic models and one that captivated Bill for the rest of his life. He served for many years as president of the Avanti Club in DC.

Perhaps his second love was skiing, which



he pursued with as much intensity and enthusiasm as he did wrestling.

Being a superb athlete, he competed in and won multiple NASTAR races throughout the U.S. and Canada. Like

so many displaced Washington types, Bill retained his love of the Redskins. He spent many Sundays watching the 'Skins game at the bar at Fatt Boys.

Later in life Bill turned his backyard hobby into somewhat of a passion, growing every kind of pepper imaginable, hot and otherwise. He became much in demand as a certified judge of chili recipes and in that capacity he and Landis visited chili festivals around the Northeast whenever he served as a judge.

Bill always had a love of animals, especially dogs. He volunteered for many years at the Humane Society in D.C. and adopted several rescue canines, including his most recent "best friend", Loki.

In retirement Bill and Landis moved to Montana. Bill is survived by his brother John Gordon Vance of Charlottesville, Virginia and two nieces, Eleanor Towers and Hilary Archibald.

Dylan Van Elzen-Schleifer, 40

Dylan Thomas Van Elzen-Schleifer, Jan. 15, 1983 — Dec. 3, 2023

Dylan Van Elzen-Schleifer, our beautiful, amazing son left his earthly home on Dec. 3, 2023. He is now on his true path to ultimate enlightenment.

His parents, Lucy Van Elzen and William "Pops" Schleifer, are comforted to know that Dylan was in a very happy, good place in this life when he passed.

He truly believed in a spiritual afterlife embodied by, the Law of One, embracing the concept of love and light. With his love and understanding, he brought light into darkness.

He was born in Whitefish, and lived most of his life in Kalispell, graduating from Flathead High School in 2001. He also lived in Missoula, San Diego, and Seattle, for short times but was very proud to be a Montana boy. He believed that when living in Montana there were, "no bad days," and by being positive, good things come to pass. "You have to believe."

He was a soothing soul who loved all creatures great and small especially his two Scottish Folds; his "sons," Nike and Birdy.

"Dill boy," or "Dill Pickle," as he was lovingly known by his friends, was a fashionista. He loved all the finer things and always dressed his best matching outfit.

He was also a collector of fine art, clothing and especially shoes. A



true shoe dog, with Nike Air Maxx prominent in his vast collection.

He started skateboarding when he was 5 years old. At that age, he couldn't stand on his board very well, so he would sit to make his turns going down the hill. In his 20s, he opened Premiere skateboard shop, in Missoula that featured and fed his shoe and art collections along with skateboards. He especially loved helping young kids get started in the sport.

He is remembered by his friends and family for his gentle heart, happy smile, and infectious laugh. Luck followed him, but we were the lucky ones.

His parents are grateful and honored to have been given this most wonder-filled gift. While knowing Dylan was only on loan for a time, they will always share eternal love and pride in their beloved son.

A celebration of Dylan's incredible life will be held this summer on the beautiful Flathead Lake that he loved.

Dylan: Gone too soon; too loved, to ever be forgotten.

To send online condolences to the family please visit Dylan's tribute page at www.columbiamortuary.com.

Gary Van Frachen, 81

Gary Van Frachen went home to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Feb. 5 at home surrounded by loved ones. He was born on July 30, 1941, in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Growing up the family lived above his parents' bakery in Two Rivers. Go Packers. As a child he wanted to move to Montana and buy a ranch. Gary served in the Air Force which brought him to Lakeside Radar Base. He ventured down to Woodland Park for some ice skating where he says Lois pushed him down several times to get his attention. He pulled her girls around on the ice rink which won Lois' heart. Gary was sent to Japan and Lakeside then Vietnam before returning to Montana to marry Lois. A year later they welcomed Mark. Lois spent 56 years saying "oh Gary" because he was such a tease. He passed that sense of humor on to Mark and grandkids. Gary loved hanging out at Sykes, drinking coffee, talking politics and shooting the breeze with the other old guys. Gary enjoyed watching "The Chosen" in the last few weeks of his life and was rebaptized five days before his death. Gary was preceded in death by his parents Albert and Margaret Van Frachen; brother Ernie Van Frachen; mother-in-law Nina Jones; father-in-law Harry Jones; daughter Connie Van Frachen; brothers-in-law Hector Rodela and Jim Barrett;



son Mark Van Frachen(Candy); grandchildren Kiel Fauske (Jenna) Mason Van Frachen (Kimi), Richard Dilka, Desirae Westenskow (Matt), Megan Gluyas, Jolee Van Frachen and Austin Van Frachen; great-grandchildren Riley Shelton, Caroline Van Frachen, Lynleigh Fauske and Gabe Westenskow; sisters Jackie Barrett, Sharon Herzog and Pauline Rodela; sister-in-law Pat Van Frachen and many nieces and nephews. He was loved by all.

Funeral services will be held Monday, Feb. 13, 1 p.m. at the Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with burial to follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens, with Military Honors by U.S. Airforce Honor Guard and United Veterans of the Flathead Valley. A reception will follow at Canvas Church. 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.

son-in-law Casey Griffin; and grandson Joseph Mickels-Silva. Gary is survived by his wife Lois; daughter Cheryl Griffin;

Marie Elodia Terrazas Vasquez, 89

Marie Elodia Terrazas Vasquez, 89, received her heavenly wings on July 7, 2023, while under the amazing care of the wonderful staff at Immanuel Lutheran Home.

She was born July 20, 1933, in San Antonio, Texas, the daughter of Medardo Terrazas and Alberta (Yanez) Terrazas. She met her future husband Cipriano (Cip) Vasquez while living in Rotan, Texas. They eloped on August 4, 1951. They moved to Montana in 1954, with their children Carmen and George. While farming in Hamilton, they had another daughter, Adelina (Addie). The family adopted their son, Don in 1967.

Her life was all about family. As a stay-at-home mom she was always there for her children and their many friends, her entire family, neighbors, and her church family. She made sure no one ever went hungry at her home. Even when all three high schoolers would bring home one or two friends for lunch, she just made more soup and sandwiches, and of course, her tortillas and tamales were renowned.

Marie and Cip enjoyed traveling and no matter where their travels took them, Cip always found a favorite spot to fish and Marie had her cast iron skillet and cornmeal on hand to fry them up. Many a traveler enjoyed meals with them as once again, Marie had to make sure everyone was fed.

She was a talented



seamstress and made clothes for her children and grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

She sewed many, many, dolls for so many. A three-foot Annie doll and wardrobe for her granddaughter Michelle who has since passed this down to her daughter Olivia. She was an amazing quilter. Whenever a new baby was born to the family, they always received a quilt from Marie. She crocheted the most beautiful tablecloths, doilies, table runners and even Barbie clothes. She was so talented. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, godmother, aunt, and a great friend to many.

She was a member of St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish and was always there at the Parish Hall for any Church event. She gave her time whenever needed at the Church and was always there to pour a cup of coffee for everyone and say hello.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Cip in 2004; her father, Medardo, in 1936; her mother, Alberta in 2005; her sisters, Andrea in 1972, and Modesta in 2014.

She is survived by daughter, Carmen Finch (Tom Forler) of Yakima, Washington; son, George of Whitefish; daughter, Adelina (Roy Testa) of Whitefish; and son,

Donald of Kalispell; her sister, Mary (Bill) Cheevers of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; brother, Joe (Tammy) Terrazas of Baker, Idaho; sister, Nettie (Alfredo) Gamez of Phoenix, Arizona; brother, Pedro Vasquez of Eureka; sister, Janie Fountain of Houston, Texas; brother, Ramon Vasquez of Kalispell; her grandchildren, Dena (Vince) Byrne of Texas; Gregory (Teri) Finch of Washington; Michelle Brown (Cody Lay) of Chandler, Arizona; Rhiannon (Kurtis) Samuel of Columbia Falls; Patrick Vasquez of Great Falls; and Jessica Testa-Hewitt of Kalispell; great-grandchildren Sydney, Gregory and Madeline Byrne, Jude (Sabine) Samuel, Ridley Samuel; Taren and Kiera Horner; and Jessica, Elizabeth, Ryan, Peyton, Connor and Olivia Lay. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews, and godchildren, all who loved her dearly.

Mass of Christian burial will be held at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, and will be conducted at St. Charles Catholic Church, 230 Baker Ave., Whitefish. A luncheon will immediately follow the service. Internment services for the family to follow at Glacier Memorial Park in Kalispell.

Memorial contributions are suggested to a charity of your choice. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, Kalispell.

Al (Bo) Edward Vega, 89

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Al (Bo) Edward Vega who passed away Sunday morning, Feb. 19, 2023, at his home in Columbia Falls. Bo was born in Butte, the fifth of 10 children and the first son born to Elizabeth (McDonald) Vega and Alfonso Vega.

Raised on the East Side, he began his education at The Grant Elementary School, graduated from Butte High School, attended Western Montana College in Dillon.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army as an MP (Military Police) in Japan. He was so proud of his Butte heritage and especially proud of his success on the football field at Butte High.

Bo was looking forward to becoming a Diamond Bee in just two years. He was a very successful business man working on major commercial and industrial projects, traveling all over the country.

Bo was a loving son, father, husband, brother, uncle, grandfather and friend, who always had a story to tell. He retired to the Flathead Valley where he and his late wife,



Phyllis Robinson, built a beautiful home. Phyllis passed away in August 2021. Also preceding him in death grand-daughter

Tandy and her husband Nick Ainsworth.

Bo is survived by his daughter Alesandra Vega, granddaughter Tara and great-granddaughter Jaylynn, and great-grandsons Clyde and Isaac Ainsworth. Surviving siblings Christina, Theresa, Elizabeth, Kenneth (Sandra), Tom Pat, and sister-in-law Carol Vega. Numerous nieces, nephews, family members and friends.

"Do not grieve for me I am not gone, I'm just away"

Dear Bo, you will be forever missed, no one can tell a story like you did.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Mary Lou Carol Venard, 70

Mary Lou Carol Whitney Venard of Bonners Ferry, Idaho passed away on April 6, 2023, surrounded by family. Mary Lou was born in Sheridan, Montana on May 21, 1952, to Charles Edward and Mary Gerlean Whitney and raised in Twin Bridges with her siblings, Charles, Ellen (Susanne), George (Michael) and John.

She graduated from Twin Bridges High School in 1970. Mary Lou married Robert Milsaps in 1970 but they divorced soon after. Mary Lou's first daughter, Charlean, was born in 1972. In 1973, Mary Lou married Dale Clark. They lived at various places in Montana, Oregon and Idaho, ending in Moyie Springs, Idaho in 1988 with their four children, Charlean (whom Dale adopted), Bernice, Charles (Ronald) and Sherie. Mary Lou and Dale separated and eventually divorced. Later, a friend introduced Mary Lou to Paul Venard. The two married in 1992, then moved to Bonners Ferry, Idaho in 1997.

Mary Lou worked various odd jobs, but she invested most of her time as a wife, mom, grandma and great-grandma (nanna). Mary Lou was an avid reader and life-long learner. She loved music. She also enjoyed photography, bargain hunting and working



with her hands. Mary Lou developed a passion for rocks and gems, which she avidly

shared with family and friends and at vendor fairs.

Mary Lou delighted in her family. She loved unconditionally. She was patient and was never pushy. All these things encompass a fraction of the amazing woman Mary Lou was, but if we try to share everything we want to say, no newspaper would have room to contain it.

To see more about Mary Lou or to share any messages, memories, or photos, please visit fb.me/marylou.venard.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to help defray funeral and hospital expenses. Contributions can be sent to @Bernice-Seward via Venmo or to love-MLVenard@yahoo.com via Zelle.

A celebration of life potluck will be held at the Boundary County Fairgrounds Pavilion on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 2 to 4 p.m. To leave a message or memory for the family go to www.bonnersferryfuneralhome.com. Bonners Ferry Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Karen Vergeront, 74



Karen Beck Vergeront was born on July 9, 1948, to Sam and Betty Beck in Deer Lodge. She was raised as a country kid of the 50s with neighbors, cousins and friends. There were blue skies, horses to ride and gates to open.

This was also the time that her Grandma Mary made sure she got to Sunday school and her mom had her take piano lessons from Sister Marianna. She attended grade school in Deer Lodge and went to Powell County High where she would make lifelong friends.

After high school she attended Flathead Valley College in Kalispell, worked vocational rehab in Bozeman, spent some time in Lewiston, Idaho and back to Deer Lodge before moving to Polson where she would marry Chip Vergeront.

They would live on Tower Road and raise their family in a house that she made into a home. Polson was a good fit for her personality — that she never met a

— that she never met a stranger. She would use her piano skills in many ways. She accompanied the Port Polson Players for numerous plays, taught hundreds of students to play the piano, in the Polson schools she would accompany all grades of choir and she accompanied many students at district and state music festivals. She played at countless church services and would accompany for memorial services where she would often be complimented by the performer for having the ability to make the songs flow so smooth. In the 80s she attended Cursillo at the Lutheran Camp and for the next 23 years she would serve as a member of the music team at Camp Marshall.

line — they knew it.

When she reached retirement age, she started substitute teaching at

Polson schools. With her zest for life, she was a remarkable teacher with many teachers requesting her for their classroom. In 2019 she was offered the opportunity to teach music at Valley View and Dayton Schools. She really enjoyed putting together her teaching program and was gratified watching students learn. Her students did care for her, and it wasn't unusual while in a store shopping that a young student would come up yelling "Mrs. V" and give her a hug.

In February 2021, after a few events, she was diagnosed with a Glioblastoma brain tumor. With the skill of an incredible medical team and prayer from loved ones, she was able to remain with us for an extra two years, inspiring

us to believe we do not live to ourselves and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord and if we die, we die to the Lord so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Earl and Betty Coriell, Sam Beck; and her sisters, Marilyn (Tom) Weingart, Janet (Wayne) Womack. She is survived by her husband, Chip Vergeront; their children, Jerry (Kim) Vergeront; grandchildren, Megan and Lee, Marc (Becky) Vergeront, granddaughter, Lauren, Tawni (Kirk) Murphy, granddaughter, Kylie, Alison (Michael) Pease Vergeront, grandchildren, Rosabella and Ledger and added son, Rudy (Lupita) Beristain, grandsons, Omar and Victor; and sister, Rita Chase; brothers, Steve (Sharon) Beck and Randy (Olivia) Coriell.

Karen died on May 13, 2023, in her home surrounded by family and friends. We would like to thank the doctors, nurses

and staff at Logan Health in Kalispell, St. Luke's-Southshore, St. Luke's-Ronan, St. Joseph's-Polson, Partners Home Health and Partners Hospice, friends and members of the Karen's Crew that kept her in their prayers.

A celebration of life will be on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at 11 a.m. at the Polson Community Church. A burial will follow services at Lakeview Cemetery. The service will be live streamed through Karen's Crew on Facebook. The family has requested that remembrances be made in the form of contributions towards a future scholarship in Karen's name. Please feel free to send monetary gifts to Alison Vergeront at 48 34th Ave. NE, Great Falls, MT 59404.

Messages of condolences may be shared online with the family at www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com. Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.

When Montana Rock Products employed H2B workers from Mexico, Karen found a new passion, the Spanish language and the Mexican culture. She spent six weeks in Puebla, Mexico in a Spanish emersion school. Then for a number of years she would travel many a backroads of Old Mexico and spend time in the homes of friends in Hueyotlian, Tlaxcala.

As a mother she would say raising kids is like herding cats. She enjoyed each one of them from infants to young adults and now with families of their own. Somewhat like a mama bear encouraging and guiding them but when they crossed the

Randy Allen Vickhammer, 72

Randy Allen Vickhammer, 72, was born on April 11, 1950, and passed away with family by his side on Feb. 2, 2023.

Randy was born and raised in the Flathead, growing up in Evergreen with his two younger brothers, Daryl and Steve. Their mother had her hands full but did an amazing job.

He graduated from Flathead High School in 1969 and was drafted into the Marine Corps. After being honorably discharged, he returned to the Flathead and worked at Sandon Construction, Evergreen water and later retired from the City of Kalispell water department.

He married and later divorced Diane but helped raise her sons Brad and Todd. He was actively

involved in their lives and was so proud of the men they are today.

Randy met his Lucy (Marilyn) the love of his life, they married on Friday the 13th in September of 2002 and became the bonus dad to Alex and his favorite daughter Sarita, who kept him on his toes.

Randy lived life at full throttle with a love for cars. His racing career began in 1972 that extended throughout his life, racing a variety of classes and retiring by winning the championship in his pink checkerboard bomb-



er. He was inducted into the NWMSCRA Hall of Fame in 2012 and served as president, vice president, board of directors, pit boss, rules committee and was flagman for 7 straight years as well as part of the "old geezers" pit crew on his stepson's late model. He never shied away from helping fellow racers out.

Randy had numerous hot rods throughout his life. He, along with his wife and good friends founded "The Outlaws of the Flathead" with the motto "must have fun". They went on many adventurous rod runs and cruises. He won several awards for his '27 Ford Roadster and orange '59 Chevy Apache.

Randy had a heart of gold. His energy and charisma were infectious to

anyone he came into contact with, he'll be remembered by his mischievous antics and memorable noogies. Randy you will truly be missed and in your famous words, LUV LUV LUV.

Randy is preceded in death by his parents, BL Vickhammer, Joann and Bob Smith.

Randy is survived by his wife Marilyn, brothers Daryl (Peggy), Steve (Joanie) Vickhammer, stepchildren, Brad (Jennifer), Todd (Jenny) Vickhammer, Alex (Amanda) Lessor, Sarita Lessor, grandchildren Mickel, Bristol, Axel, Ava, Cooper, Elly, Jacob, Zachary and countless friends and family.

Celebration of Life will be held at the Moose Lodge on March 4, 2023 at 3 p.m.



Clara Ann Volesky, 94, died peacefully at her home on Jan. 8, 2023 from natural causes, surrounded by her family. Clara Ann Buresh was born in Dickinson, North Dakota on Oct. 27, 1928.

She was the youngest of eight children born to Frank and Barbara (Marsh) Buresh. Clara spent her childhood living on the family farm northeast of Belfield, North Dakota. She graduated from Model High School in Dickinson.

Clara married the love of her life, Robert J. Volesky on Oct. 6, 1947 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Dickinson.

They moved to the "Schwindt" farm north of Dickinson, where they resided until the farm was destroyed by a tornado. Then they moved to the Buresh family farm and raised their eight children there.

Bob and Clara worked hard all their life to provide for their family and Mom was the heart of the home. She was a great homemaker. She loved to have company and was a wonderful cook and baker. She was well known for her poppy seed kolache, caramel rolls, other breads and many other Czech recipes.

Clara taught many family members and friends how to make "hooch". She loved attending the homemaker's group with the neighborhood ladies, doing crafts, quilting, sewing and crocheting. She was an avid gardener and loved to grow flowers, especially roses and lilies. Clara loved putting together jigsaw puzzles.

Her favorite pastime was playing cards – and winning!

When Bob's health declined after being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, they moved off the farm in 1981 and moved to Columbia Falls, fulfilling a dream of living in the mountains. Later they moved to Billings and finally Helena in 1998. She became Bob's dedicated caretaker along with their youngest daughter, Denice until his death in 2005, after 58 years of marriage.

After Bob's death, Denice continued to live with Clara.

They had many years together traveling, cooking, entertaining, gardening, and living a life of faith and devotion to God. As Clara's health began to decline, Denice never wavered in her devotion to her mom.

They were the best of friends, partners in mischief, and a beautiful example of what it means to live a selfless, Christian life. We, as Clara's family, are forever grateful for our sister, Denice. The family would also like to thank Stacey for her devoted love and care for Mom. Without her help, we could not have kept Mom at home all these years.

We are forever grateful. We will miss Mom dearly, but Clara has truly earned her heavenly reward, and we raise our glasses of hooch in her sweet memory as we say, "Until we meet again!"

We love you, Mom.

Clara is preceded in death by her parents, husband Bob, brothers Bill and Genevieve, Tony and Gertrude, Frank, Josie and Catherine; sisters Vicki and Laudie Pirkel, Cecilia and Harold Black, Emma and Willard Jaeger, Rose and Henry Sadowsky; in-laws Charles and Pat Volesky, Ella and Robert Sadowsky, Dorothy and Herman Hauck; Edwin Volesky, Bill Volesky, Betty Jane Volesky, Linda Volesky and Marian and Ray Froelich.

She is survived by her eight children; Marvin (Nancy), Carol (Jeff) Butsch, Annette (Tom) Goicoechea, Marian (Howie) Ficek, Jeff (Ida), Kathy (Steve) Ilse, Denice and Doug (Joannie). 24 Grandchildren, 38 Great Grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren; her in-laws Irene Volesky, Marcia Volesky, Tony and Bev Volesky, Alfred and Cele Volesky, Ben Weigel, Frank and Sue Volesky, Bridget and Tom Glaser and Joe Volesky.

Viewing was Friday, January 13, 2023; a rosary was prayed and the funeral Mass was at noon at SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in East Helena. A luncheon followed at Anderson Stevenson Funeral Home in Helena. Burial followed at Montana State Veteran's Cemetery in Ft. Harrison. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the SS. Cyril & Methodius Renovation Fund, PO Box 1110, East Helena, MT 59635.

Lola Mae Stewart (Hartsoch) Emerson Vuller, 91

Lola Mae Stewart (Hartsoch) Emerson

Vuller, March 2, 2023, in Kalispell, left this world at 91 years and 1 day on March 2, 2023, in Kalispell. She was born March 1, 1932, in Ray, North Dakota. She was the last remaining child of Charles E "Doc" Stewart and Charlotte "Lottie" Hartsoch.

Lola grew up living in the greater Ray, North Dakota area. She moved with family to Ronan mid sophomore school year in 1948. Attending Ronan High School, she met Billy "Punk" Emerson. They were married after graduation, August 1950. Their early years were split between Ronan and back in the Ray, North Dakota area. Both children, Jerry and Jeanie,



Lola lived on a small farm west of Pablo for over 50 years. She raised chickens, animals and large gardens. She sewed most all the family's clothes, knitted and crocheted. Bill raised crops. Bill and Lola divorced in the late '60s. Lola married Melvin Vuller in 1972. They were together until he passed away in 2004. Before another snow, Lola packed up, sold out and moved off the farm to an apartment in Polson.

Lola's work career began in the early '60s

were born in Williston, North Dakota.

After the final return to Montana,

at the Ronan State Bank, ending at the courthouse in Polson. In 1985, began many years in her own quilting business from home.

Lola was able to travel the United States, Canada and the world; the Orient, the Middle East and the British Isles.

In 2013 brought another move, to Kalispell, and eventually to the Immanuel Lutheran Communities facilities of Buffalo Hill Terrace and The Villas, where she passed away. She was interred at Lakeview Cemetery in Polson with her second husband. Her parents, brothers Leman and Dale, sister Velma and one nephew also preceded her in death.

Surviving are children Jerry (Candi) and Jeanie

Emerson, in Ronan; one step-granddaughter and husband, one step-great-grandson from Grand Junction, Colorado; and five nieces, two nephews and many great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, June 7, at 11 a.m., in the auditorium room of Immanuel Lutheran Communities at Buffalo Hill Terrace and Villas, 20 Claremont St, Kalispell, MT. A luncheon will follow. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice. Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com.

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