

Lillian Wallace, 99

Lillian Mae (Rice) Wallace passed away at her home in Spokane, Washington, on, July 19, 2023.

Lillian was born, Nov. 14, 1923, in Roundup, Montana, to Alfred and Myrrh Rice. Lillian was the oldest of 11 children, and her siblings described her as a true family matriarch.

She married James (Jim) Wallace on March 14, 1945. Lillian and Jim moved to the Flathead, settling in the town of Hungry Horse where Jim worked as a powerhouse operator at Hungry Horse Dam. In 1964, they relocated to Columbia Falls. Jim and Lillian enjoyed their retirement being winter snowbirds in Quartzite, Arizona, where they made friends from all over the country. Lillian found comfort in her faith in God; hymns were her all-time favorite music. Lillian taught her children to love peo-

ple, to be kind, and to work hard.

Lillian was preceded in death by her husband, Jim, two brothers, Clyde and Clifford Rice, and four sisters, Alberta Dschaak, Helen Chercasen, Juanita Langley, and Elaine (Myrtle) Koepke. She is survived by her children, James Wallace (Barb) of Columbia Falls, Gayle Lawrence, and Jana Tucker of Spokane; five grandchildren, Mike Wallace (Susan) of Houston Texas, Beth Wallace of Kalispell, Sandy Mallis (Nick) of Covington, Washington, Zach Tucker (Lauren) of West Seattle, Washington, Jacob Tucker of Spokane, Washington; five great-grandchildren; brothers Herbert Rice, Harold Rice (Mary Jane), and sisters, Freda Hamblin, Vivian Day (Wayne), and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lloyd Kenneth Waller

Lloyd Kenneth Waller, one of the best carpenters to ever wield a hammer, passed away of natural causes followed a mere day by his beloved sister, Cynthia.

Born to Ken and Miriam (Batt) Waller, he was raised in Montana. As a boy Lloyd was forever adopting critters; a chipmunk, owls and birds. He built model airplanes out of broken wood, and created a train village starting with lead pellets. His first motorcycles was one he found trashed in a field and rebuilt.

He was a whipp with wood, everything from meticulous boat models to entire homes. He excelled in designing fancy roofs. Need a roof with eight gables? Lloyd could do that.

Predeceased by his parents; brother, Wayne; and sister, Cynthia. He leaves Lynn; Steve; uncles, Richard and Jer; his close friend, Doug; many cousins; other relatives; and partner Ellie. In addition Bro, the last of his beloved dogs. If you hear an owl hoot in the woods tonight, that might be Lloyd.

Josephine Susanna Walter, 88

Josephine Susanna Walter, loving mother passed away peacefully in her sleep on Jan. 24, 2023, at 88 years old.

Born on March 24, 1934, to Elmer and Clara Bruyer, she was the fourth of five children. They were raised on the family farm in the Northwest area of the Flathead Valley. She often would speak fondly of those years "on the farm."

Jo was preceded in death by her loving husband of 66 years Jim on Sept. 6, 2019. There was not a day that went by that she did not tell us



how much she missed him! Her eldest son Jim Jr., passed away on June 18, 2020.

She is survived by her children, Catherine (Larry), Barbara (Keith), Christopher (Jenny) and Glenn (Jen); grandchildren Mike (Anna), Jeff, Tom, Susanna, Daniel, and Eirwyn; and great-grandsons Elliot, Sam and Adam.

A celebration of mom's life will be held in Kalispell at a later date.

Arlene J. Walters, 84

Arlene Walters was born in Corydon, Iowa, on Aug. 17, 1938. She passed away peacefully on Jan. 17, 2023, in Whitefish.

Until dementia sidelined her, she lived a full and active life alongside her husband, Fred. They met and married in the territory of Alaska 64 years ago. She was also loved by her children, Michael, Sandra and Janet, and a wide circle of family members, friends and beloved pets.

Her journey from Iowa to Montana was a long and fascinating one. Arlene's father, James Hellyer, was a construction supervisor on Wake Island just as World War II had gotten underway. When Pearl Harbor happened, he was taken as a P.O.W. by the Japanese and spent the war in prison camps in China and Japan. Meanwhile, his family was notified that he had been killed.

Stateside, Arlene's mother remarried and Arlene did not have the opportunity to reconnect with her father until 1978. They enjoyed many happy times together until his death in 2002.

In the interim, Arlene's family moved extensively throughout the United States, finally landing in the native villages of Aniak, Nome and Kotzebue in Alaska.

From there, Arlene attended the University



of Alaska, Fairbanks, where she graduated as a teacher. It's also where she met and married

Fred and subsequently started their family.

Fred became a civil engineer and the family moved to various towns and villages throughout Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. In 1975, Fred was offered a job on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia and Arlene, always one for adventure, jumped at the chance and was the catalyst for their eventual move. The family spent nearly three years in Indonesia and loved every minute of it.

When they returned to the United States in 1978, they settled in Bellevue, Washington. About a decade later, more opportunities came and Fred and Arlene moved to Atlanta, Georgia, then Boardman, Oregon, finally settling in Kalispell in 2018.

During her life, Arlene worked as a teacher, spent time contributing her talents to several businesses, and even started her own business helping to promote local artists. In Boardman, she became the president of the Chamber of Commerce, joined the Fire Board and was ultimately honored as Citizen

of the Year and given a key to the city.

She also spent years volunteering for 4-H and Campfire Girls as a Brownie leader, making a lasting, positive impact on many children.

An avid quilter, Arlene never saw a quilt store she didn't love. She leaves a legacy of vibrant, handcrafted quilts to her family.

Notably, throughout her life, Arlene loved animals. She surrounded herself with quite a menagerie at all times, including a rescued owl, cats, dogs, donkeys horses, birds, fish, gerbils and a hornbill.

Known for her wonderful sense of humor and infectious laugh, Arlene was a well-loved wife, mother, friend and family member.

She is survived by Fred; her three children and their spouses, Michael and Sydney Walters of Bellevue, Washington; Sandra and Perry Payne of Los Angeles; and Janet and George Bristol of Whitefish; plus seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren on the way; and her sister, Thirza Zagelow and husband, Dick; along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Humane Society of Northwest Montana.

Joshua Ryan Ware, 36



Joshua Ryan Ware, 36, known to everyone as Josh, passed away Sunday, March 5, 2023 at home surrounded by his family after a long battle with diabetes.

He was born in Ontario, Oregon on to Donna Galligar (Draper) and Patrick Ware on Dec. 24, 1986. He grew up in Weiser and graduated from Weiser High School (Class of 2005). He enjoyed playing video games with friends and occasional family wood cutting trips.

He met his wife, Feather, in 2007 on the iconic social media platform Myspace, which he loved to joke about. In 2008 he moved to Montana to be with her and they were married July 18, 2009, in the gor-

geous East Glacier Park Montana. He then worked as a cook and found a passion in making BBQ and brisket. Josh had an undeniable love for creating delicious food for others.

Josh and Feather welcomed their first child Matthew on Aug. 4, 2011. They moved to the Flathead Valley where they would call home for many years. On Oct. 28, 2015, their family grew again and Matthew was the proud older brother of his little sister Ariel.

Josh spent several years in the valley as a salesman mostly with the

Corwin/Eisinger group, where he loved helping people find their dream vehicles. He enjoyed snowboarding, gaming, shooting, or in his words "making things go boom!" It has been said that Josh loved his car almost as much as his kids.

He was especially proud of his YouTube channel Silver Bullet Gaming, where he showcased his love and knowledge of gaming with his "Let's play" videos.

Josh is preceded in death by his mother, Donna Galligar. He is survived by his wife, Feather, their children, Matthew and Ariel of Kalispell. His father Patrick Ware of Fruitland ID, sister Jessica (Daniel) Lopez of Payette ID,

brother Mark (Samantha) Galligar of Nampa ID, step-father Mark (Wanda) Galligar of Weiser ID, step-siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A Viking prayer that Josh loved to share: "Odin, I bid you take your place in the halls of Valhalla, where the brave shall live forever. Nor shall we mourn but rejoice, for those that have died the glorious death."

Services will be held in Idaho on March 16th 2023 at the Weiser Community Church, and a memorial later this summer with his Montana family.

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

Storm Waterbury, 85

Storm Waterbury, 85, passed away on Nov. 16, 2023. She was born on Nov. 3, 1938, in Morenci, Michigan to Edwin and Ann (Belding) Sharr.

She leaves behind daughters, Cindy (David) Drake, Tammy (Tom) Anderson, Tawny Sheard and son, Rocky (Kathy) Waterbury; eight grandchildren, Tanner Waterbury, Tasha (Waterbury) Dawson, Tiffany Lipp, Tanita Anderson, Levi Anderson, Joshua Sheard, Laci (Drake) Burk, Desiree (Drake) Perkins; and numerous great-grandchildren. Along with her sister, Kathy (Jack) Kerr and family in Washington.

Her husband, Jay of 63 years; her parents, and one grandson went before her.

Storm wanted to thank Hank and Barb Peiper, Nina Sutherland and family, Larry Borton and Greg and Karen Palermo for their kindness and friendship throughout the years. They all have been a great blessing to her.

Storm's family would like to thank Dr. Wanda Robinson, the doctors, nurses and staff at both Logan Health Hospital and Brendan House for the wonderful care they provided.

At Storm's request there will be no funeral or memorial service.

Jacqueline Watson, 60

Jacqueline "Jackie" Sue Watson, 60, passed away July 10, 2023. She was born Dec. 10, 1962, to Alice and Hugh Dale Watson in Missoula.



er-in-law, Steven Benkstein of Kalispell; her nephew, Jamie Benkstein; great-

Through the years, Jackie was in the church choir and Special Olympics. She enjoyed riding horses, camping and boating on the lakes.

niece Yazmin Benkstein; and her niece and nephew, Kelly and Justin Watson.

She made many good friends and enjoyed being close to family.

Jackie's wonderful smile and laughter will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brother, Gary L. Watson.

Burial will take place at Fort Scott National Cemetery in Fort Scott, Kansas.

She is survived by her sister, Sherry; broth-

Donald Ray Webber, 80

Uncle Don "Honey Bear" Webber crossed The Great Divide on Jan. 15, 2023. He was 80.



nance specialist. While stationed at Travis AFB in California, he flew as flight maintenance on a variety of aircraft all over the world.

during the war.

Donald Ray Webber was born Oct. 22, 1942, in Galesburg, Illinois, to Russell and Madge Webber, joining his older brother Ronald. He attended school there, then worked for a time for the railroad, a factory, and briefly attended college. He was not interested in farming like his father and brother and he was said to prefer being outside hunting and fishing.



He was awarded the Air Force Commendation medal, National Defense Service medal, Good Conduct medal, Outstanding Unit Award (2X), and Vietnam Service and Campaign medals for time spent in Da Nang

While stationed in California, Don continued his research of the Fur Trade era of the west and shooting muzzle-loading firearms. He was instrumental in starting two different muzzle-loading rifle clubs that are still in existence, attended many Bucks Skinner Rendezvous, and Fur Trade Celebrations.

and became a supplier of black powder firearms and all related supplies. He traveled the West attending Fur Trade Symposiums and researching the era.

Don is survived by his brother, Ronald (Joyce) Webber; nieces, Julie Davis and Judy Pensinger of Galesburg, Illinois; his uncle, Leo "Hank" Dawson; and cousin, Cheryl Leach of Kalispell; and grand nieces and nephews.

Don joined the US Air Force in 1964, and trained as an aircraft mainte-

When he retired from the Air Force with 20 years service he moved straight to the Flathead Valley of Montana. In retirement he helped start another Muzzle-loading Rifle club, The Flathead Valley Muzzleloaders,

When the Veterans Cemetery is opened in Columbia Falls, Don's ashes will be interred and a memorial gathering will be announced.

William B. "Willie" Weber, 41

On the morning of Nov. 2, 2023, William B. "Willie" Weber, 41, passed into glory surrounded by family after a long battle with glioblastoma brain cancer.

Willie was born to Bill and Chris Weber on Jan. 8, 1982, in Kirkland, Washington. He grew up in the Pacific Northwest, a place he loved, surrounded by his loving siblings, Hannah Weber, Andy Weber, Amy Platt, and Becca Galvin.

He had a passion for missions. After graduating in 2000 from Woodinville High School, he spent many years working with Youth With A Mission. He was based out of Maui, Hawaii, with YWAM. He traveled the world and shared the love and hope of Jesus with those he met. Over those years, he developed a deep love for Hawaii and the Hawaiian people.

On Sept. 15, 2007, he married the love of his life, Bethany Eisenlohr. They have four children, Everett Weber, 13, Coren Weber, 11, Bannon Weber 9, and Brielle Weber 7. He always said his greatest dream was fulfilled when he became a husband and a dad. He adored and spoiled his family and was a loving husband and father.

He had a career in logistics for many years where he moved up the ladder into middle management. He then switched careers in 2018 and received an A.A. in web applications programming. He built websites for a brief time before he was diagnosed with glioblastoma brain



cancer. He also was a door dasher after relocating to Kalispell, where he made many friends and connections in the community.

He was an avid Seattle sports fan. His favorite pastime was watching the University of Washington Huskies football team with his dad and brother. He was a talented singer/songwriter who played the guitar and bass as well as led worship at his local church throughout his life. He was extraordinary in stature at 6 foot 7 inches and larger than life in personality to match. He was full of joy no matter what he was enduring and his quick wit and jokes will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was a loyal friend.

He is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Wilson and Mary Harrison; and paternal grandparents, John and Agnes Weber.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, in the Lower Auditorium of Canvas Church, 255 Summit Ridge Drive, Kalispell, Montana 59901.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the National Brain Tumor Society.

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

Valentine 'Val' Elizabeth Weisz, 94

Valentine "Val" Elizabeth Weisz, 94, passed away peacefully on Jan. 6, 2023, in the arms of her loving daughter Janice, where she had resided, along with Janice's husband Allen, for the last seven years of her life. Janice felt like the Lord had rewarded her, by giving her the honor of caring for her Mother until her passing.

Val was born in Detroit, Michigan, on May 28, 1928, to Veronica and Frank Steenhout. She had one sister, Elsie Hoin, who preceded her in death in 1977 in Harbor Beach, Michigan. Val graduated from high school in Detroit and shortly thereafter came to Montana with her soon-to-be husband, Howard Weisz. They were married on Sept. 25, 1947, in Polson and adored each other for 65 years, until Howard's passing on Oct. 10, 2012. They resided on the family farm on the LaSalle Road in Kalispell where they raised their two children, Steven and Janice.

Val worked alongside Howard on the family farm, where she hayed, milked cows and fed the registered Hereford cattle they raised. Howard worked for Flathead County, where he built bridges during the day, and later at Plum Creek



Mill as a millwright, while Val kept the family farm running.

Val was involved in many clubs and organizations throughout the years, including the Home Demonstration Club, where she ran the concession stand during the Flathead County Fair for many years. She was active in the Cowbells, where she held many offices, as well as the 4-H Club where Steve and Janice were both members and raised their own livestock.

Val and Howard were "snowbirds", and "migrated" each winter to Yuma, Arizona, for 28 years, until Howard was too ill to make the long drive south in 2011. Val had always said she had the best of both worlds, enjoying winters with their daughter, Janice, and summers with their son, Steven, in Kalispell. While in Yuma, Howard and Val made numerous lifelong friends and were actively involved with the Village Clubhouse. Val worked tirelessly at the clubhouse with the holiday dinners and fundraising events. Together, they were avid card players and if they were not playing cards at

the clubhouse, they were playing with their many friends.

During Val's summers in Kalispell, she and Howard delivered "Meals-on-Wheels." Val was a very social lady and she truly enjoyed visiting with the seniors she served. She was such a kindhearted wife, mother and friend and was loved by everyone she met. She will surely be missed but will always be remembered.

She is survived by her daughter, Janice Burd and her husband, Allen, of Orange, California; along with her grandson Don Fairchild and his wife, Stefi and their two children Sydney and Addison of Tennessee; grandson David and his wife Lori, and his three children, Kevin Weisz, Keith Weisz and his wife Katie, and Kayla Weisz, and his adopted daughter, Alicia and her husband; along with six great-great-grandchildren, all of Kalispell; along with her loving caregiver, Maria Enriquez, to whom the entire family is forever grateful for the remarkable care she provided to Val.

Services will be held on May 25, 2023, at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's Catholic Church with interment following at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Donna Marie Welker, 78

Donna Welker, of Essex, 78, formerly of Shelby, passed away Dec. 23, 2022, in her home in Essex.

Donna was preceded in death by her mother and father, Wiley and Ruby Meech and mother and father-in-law, Miles and Betty Welker.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Welker; her brother, Bill Meech; and sons, Greg and Bruce



Welker; several grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

She will be missed. A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

Condolences can be made at www.asperfh.com.

Rita Marie Weller, 62

Rita Marie Weller, 62, went to the room that God had prepared for her June 3, 2023, while being held in the loving arms of her little sister.

She was born in Louisville, Montana, June 25, 1960, to Gary and Janet Weller, she is the oldest of nine siblings, three biological and five steps, that we do not consider steps.

She was preceded in death by both her parents; her younger brother, Norman Weller of Olney; younger sister, Marcia Weller of Kalispell; and her nephews, Gary Hower and Elijah Weller, both of Kalispell.

She was a happy bundle of joy and was given the nickname Mickie as she was named after her mom's cousin Rita Mcclanahan.

A Montana-born native who grew up in Imperial Beach, California, was a Brownie and a Girl Scout, she also sang in the chorus ensemble. Her family moved to Columbia Falls in 1978 and soon after she gave birth to her only child Joshua Weller.

She had a heart for adventure and a zest for life. She was not fearless. She was brave and faced her fears head on.

Her passion was cooking and people, and she shared that through her food. She opened her own restaurant with her son and his wife in 2019, she named it, "The Family Cafe," to honor



her aunt Mina May who ran a Cafe of the same name in Stanford, Montana, when she was a child.

She fought her battles out loud and gave immense encouragement and strength to others, that's true courage. She shared her quirky antics while in the eye of her own storm by creating TikTok videos that always ended with her catchphrase, "It is what it 'tis, 'til it ain't."

She spent the entire summer of 2022, on the free side of Emery Bay with her dogs. She told her sister she knew it would be her last one and she would be the master of what dreams may come. So if you are missing her free spirit just go sit on the shore of the reservoir and she'll be there.

She is survived by her son, Joshua Weller and his wife Alicia; their 2 sons, Harley and Dade; her sister, Darla Wilson and her husband Darrin; grandmother, Audrey Jelleff; step-siblings, Shannon, Angelique, Shane and Raejon; as well as several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Rita's celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m. on Oct. 7, at the United Methodist Church, 117 Second St. West, Columbia Falls. Taco feed and fellowship to follow.

Aleatha Wells, 87

Longtime resident of Flathead Valley Aleatha Wells, 87, was carried home by angels on March 10, 2023.

Aleatha was born to Louie and Vaida Richardson on Dec. 24, 1935.

She went to school in Bigfork. She lived there with her father. And met the love of her life John Wells. They married and moved to Kalispell where they raised their two children Donald and Vaida.

Aleatha was a bowler for many years. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church and Southern Baptist Church. She was involved choirs. She loved her flowers, her grandkids called her grandma flowers.

Aleatha is preceded in death by her father Louie and mother Vaida Richardson. Her brother Leslie Richardson and her husband John Wells.

Aleatha is survived by her son Donald (Nina) Wells of Spirit Lake, Idaho. Her daughter Vaida (Jim) Clark of Rathdrum Idaho.

Granddaughter



Cassandra (Gary) Sherrill, Spokane, Wash., Rene (Brandon) Creed Spirit

Lake, ID Grandson Travis (Shannon) Fuller, Chad (Jessica) Potter of Spokane Valley, Wash. Geoffrey (Crystal) Wells of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Great-granddaughters Alexis Sherrill, Katelynn Fuller, Natalie and Corra Potter Spokane, Wash. Faith Benedic of Florence, Kentucky, great-grandsons Johnathan Sherrill, Spokane, Wash. Blake and Luke Wells of Colorado Springs, Colo., Jurell and Kalel Creed Spirit Lake, Idaho. And several nieces and nephews.

There will be a graveside service later this summer at the Lone Pine Cemetery in Bigfork.

In lieu of flowers please send a donation to your local Hospice House.

Florence Kirkland Wells, 82

Florence Eleanor Kirkland Wells, 82 of Kalispell, passed away at Brendan House on Oct. 24, 2023, after COVID ended her battle with lung cancer. She was born to Thomas and Geneva (Verley) Kirkland on Nov. 22, 1940, in Hot Springs. She married Ed Wells at the age of 17, and the couple had two daughters and three sons.

She worked for School District 5 for 25 years. Starting as a teacher aide at Hedges Elementary and spending most of those years as a hall monitor at Flathead High School.



“the look.”

After retiring, she spent the next few years as a roller operator on her husband’s asphalt crew. She was an avid reader, gardener and loved knitting and crocheting for family and friends. She is remembered for her pies and candy and her happiest

moments were getting all of her family together.

She is survived by her children, Leah (Carl) Barker, Laura (Ron) Gardner, Randy (Cristi) Wells, Robert (Sophia) Wells and Terry (Lisa) Wells, all of the Flathead Valley; siblings, Marles Reynolds of Columbia Falls, and Merrietta Roberts of Columbia Falls; 12 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and foster children.

She is preceded in death by her parents;

her siblings, Clifton Kirkland, Peia Watkins, Althea Hemmer, Melvina Hemmer and Janice Holmes; and her husband, Edward Wells.

A celebration of Florence’s life will be held at 3 p.m. on Nov. 11, at the Cornerstone Community Church, Kalispell, followed by a chili dinner. She will be laid her to rest next to her beloved husband at Lone Pine Cemetery in Bigfork. A memorial will be planned for next spring.

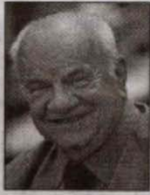
Paul Lee Wells, 80

Paul Lee Wells, 80, a longtime resident and business owner in Whitefish, passed away on Sept 26, 2023. On the saddest day of our lives, we lost our beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend.

Paul was born on Jan 10, 1943, a snowy day in Middletown, Ohio to the late Orville and Gladys Egleston Wells. He had two brothers, Darrald R. Wells living in Hope Mills, North Carolina, and Sidney B. Wells who preceded him in death.

After high school graduation in Kettering, Ohio, and a year attending Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, Paul joined the U.S. Army in 1962. While enlisted, he was with the Green Beret Special Forces stationed in the Panama Canal Zone for three years. After graduating from officer candidate school, he attended fixed wing flight school earning his commercial pilot license.

Paul spent two tours in Vietnam. His first tour was with the 1st Engineer Battalion (better known as the Big Red One) as a combat engineer. His second tour was spent as a pilot flying O-1 Birddogs and OV-1 Mohawks.



many years as well as Pheasants Forever and the Moose Lodge. He was still a proud member of the Quiet Birdmen.

Paul was also an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed Montana life to the fullest. With family and friends he was often busy hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, rafting/boating, biking, skiing or flying. His hobbies also included building full-size airplanes and he was able to complete three from start to finish over the years. As a dedicated and loving father, he ensured that he always involved his children in the activities he loved or was supporting them in the activities they loved.

Paul is survived by his loving and devoted wife Carolyn Bozeman Wells, whom he married July 9, 1968, in Waikiki, Oahu, Hawaii. He is also survived by three cherished children and two grandchildren: daughters, Tonya L. Wells (Rory Barton), Oak

Paul was highly decorated during his time in service and was honorably discharged in 1973. Afterward, he attended the University of Missouri — Rolla, earning degrees in civil engineering and engineering management.

He was hired as the sole engineer for the entire Jari rice project owned by Daniel K. Ludwig on the Amazon River in Brazil. Not only did he have to design the seed rice plant and rice mill, but all the infrastructure of the town of Sao Raimundo.

After completing this project, Paul and his family moved to Whitefish when he was hired as the city engineer in 1980. He then decided to start his own consulting engineering firm and WMW Engineering opened for business on Feb. 14, 1983, where he remained until he retired in 2019.

Paul was an active member of the Rotary Club of Whitefish for

Park, Illinois, and Cristy L. Wells (Scott Fell), Columbia Falls; son, Evan S. Wells, Whitefish; grandchildren, Nya Barton Wells and Calder Barton Wells, Oak Park, Illinois. Besides his brother, Darrald R. Wells (Diane), Hope Mills, North Carolina, he is survived by an aunt and uncle and several wonderful cousins, nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind many amazing and loyal friends.

All who were fortunate enough to know Paul, both family and friends, will forever remember his great sense of humor and quick wit. He brought so much joy and laughter to our lives and we'll miss him immensely.

Austin Funeral & Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for the family. To send online condolences please visit Paul's tribute page at www.austinh.com.

Thomas "Whale" Wendt, 84

Our friend Whale is flying free. Thomas Lytle Wendt was born to Otto Carl and Idamae Lytle Wendt, on Jan. 6, 1939, in Harbor Beach, Michigan.

He passed away Aug. 16, 2023, at Heritage Place in Kalispell, at the age of 84.

He served his country in the United States Army following graduation from Croswell-Lexington High School. He also attended St. Clair County Community College.

He is survived by one son, Bret; two daughters, Tracy and Tiffany.

Two sisters, Margie Campbell of Lexington, Michigan; and Gwen Gadaire of Mooresboro, North Carolina. One brother, Terry (Pam) Hewitt of Bechtlesville, Pennsylvania. Along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Donna and Diane.

He loved skydiving and is well known by his skydiving name, Whale. He made more than 3,400 jumps before an accident interfered with his passion. After recovering, he



left Chicago and drove to the drop zone he treasured, Skydive Lost Prairie in Marion, where his skydiver heart was happy on the ground.

Several years ago, when pneumonia threatened his life, it was skydivers and neighbors who kept him going. When failing health called for

him to have nursing care, he moved to Heritage Place. He met the challenge of a new lifestyle head-on and said, "I have everything I need right here."

He had a heart for others, was humorous, compassionate, respectful, and humble. He loved his family, and he loved his sky family.

Tom's ashes will be scattered over Skydive Lost Prairie by his skydive friends during a skydive dedicated to him.

Karen Whalen, 71

Karen Marie Whalen, 71, passed away Oct. 8, 2023, at her home in Creston. She was born in Whitefish on Jan. 24, 1952. She was the daughter and first child of Betty and Robert Lynn of Columbia Falls.

In 1955, the marriage between Robert and Betty dissolved.

In 1956, Betty married George Walker of Columbia Falls. Later that year, Karen and her parents moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon. Karen was 4 years old. They lived on a small farm where Karen spent her formative years. She grew up to be a real cow-girl. She had her own horse that she rode every chance she had.

In 1968, Karen and her parents moved back to Montana. Her parents had bought the Isaac Walton Inn in Essex, which at the time was still a railroad hotel. At



an early age Karen became a waitress and maid at the Inn as well as keeping up with her

studies at Columbia Falls High School. She attended high school both in Cottage Grove and Columbia Falls as well as studies at Flathead Valley Community College.

In 1971, Karen married Michael Voigt of Whitefish. The marriage produced two children, a daughter, Victoria; and a son, Ronald. The marriage between Michael and Karen dissolved after 33 months.

In December of 1974, Karen married Tomas Whalen. Tom was a ranger stationed at St. Mary in Glacier National Park. After three years at St. Mary, Karen, Tom and

the children moved to West Glacier where Tom took a job as an electrician for the park.

Tom and Karen lived most their married life in Glacier Park where they spent many happy years exploring the wonders of the park by foot, horseback, and airplane (Tom was a pilot). Tom retired from the Park Service in 2004, after which he and Karen bought a home in Creston where she lived until her death.

Karen was an animal lover who volunteered many hours of her time to the humane society in the '80s as well as adopting some of the pets herself. She was also an avid bowler. She taught youth bowling in Columbia Falls and participated in league bowling up to the time of her death. She had a big heart, as big as the mountains around her, a friend to all she

met.

As well as being a loving wife and mother, Karen worked in multiple occupations during her life such as bank clerk, office manager, store manager, waitress, grocery clerk and traffic control on road construction projects.

She is survived by Tom, her husband of 49 years; daughter, Victoria; son, Ronald; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; brother, Bill Walker; sister, Mary Hall; as well as multiple brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., on Friday, October 20, at the St. John Paul II Catholic Church, Bigfork (U.S. 35 and Coverdell Road). Following the service, interment will be held at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Joseph 'Sonny' White, 82

"Sonny" Joe White, 82, of Kalispell, passed away Aug. 22, 2023. He was born Oct. 30, 1940, in Shelby.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry L. "Rinso" White and Pearl Evelleen Foss White; brother, Tracy White; and sister, Nancy White.

He was a devoted family man who is survived by his beloved wife Carolyn White; his sole surviving brother, Bert (Connie) White; his eight children; 12 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Sonny's children are Jodi "Lightfoot" White Bolinger, Tracy "Scooter" White, Madison Glass, Bill (Bonnie) Follett, Brian (Kim) Follett, Michelle (Parnell) Granger, Heidi (Tim) Martin, and Alexis (John) True Ackerson. Grandchildren, Zachariah White, Gabriel White, James (Courtney) DeHart, Aaron Follett, Jazmin Ely, McKenzie Ely,



Jessica Stiller, Kody (Lindsey) Stiller, Justean (Daniel) Browitt, Trevor (Jenny) Shannon, Staucia (Joel) Kosoff,

Rachael (Levi) Mazurek.

He was an Air Force veteran who earned a top-secret security clearance and attended Yale University to become a Korean linguist. He also had a deep passion for music, singing and writing. In 2004, he self-published his memoir, "Bury Me in Montana." His faith was also a cornerstone of his life, grounding him in times of joy and adversity.

A funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Oct. 8, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1185 Old Reserve Drive, Kalispell.

Scott Alan White, 55

Scott Alan White, 55, went to be with his Heavenly Father on March 22 after a quick battle with illness.

Scott was born in Rochester, Minn., but moved to Seattle as a young child. He grew up in Seattle and graduated from Chief Sealth High School. Scott worked for Toyota and Chevy in Seattle and Burien and this is how he met his wife Laura when she bought her first car from him.

The family later moved to Beaverton, Ore., and then to Lacey, Wash. Scott faithfully moved to support Laura and her calling to be in Lutheran education. Most recently Scott was a financial planner for Thrivent Financial.

Scott was a faithful Seahawk fan. He loved a Sunday filled with church and a good foot-

ball game. He was in awe of the beauty of Montana, enjoyed camping, visits to the lake and watching the deer in his yard. Cheering Grace on as she ran cross country and track, and listening to her sing in choir or in church always brought him joy. Scott was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church and enjoyed his elder responsibilities.

Scott will be greatly miss by his wife Laura; their daughter Grace and his son Courtney; and sister Dawn and husband Bryon; grandchildren, Evan and Miles, and many special friends.

Scott was preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Marie White.

Memorial gifts can be made to Trinity Lutheran School scholarships.

Carlene Widdowson, 94

Carlene Widdowson, 94, born April 26, 1929, to an early Flathead Valley family, Carl and Berntina Widdowson. She passed away Aug. 2, 2023.

She graduated from Flathead County High School in 1947 and Northern Montana College with a degree in teaching.

She was married to Robert Peters in 1951. They spent endless hours enjoying and exploring the lake streams and hills of Montana and beyond. They knew every fishing



hole, hunting area and huckleberry patch within a 100 miles in every direction.

She traveled to 10 different countries and 48 of the 50 states; leaving Maine and Hawaii unexplored. Besides her love of the outdoors and travel, Carlene truly enjoyed evenings with family and friends and a game of pin- nacle which came with a

lively conversation of the lack of common sense in the world today! Don't get her started.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bob, and son Douglas.

She is survived by her son, Gary; daughter, Roberta Diegel; sister Marie Peters; seven grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Carlene will be truly missed by her numerous friends and family.

Thomas Ralph Wiggin, 75

Thomas Ralph Wiggin was born in Polson March 22, 1947, to Ralph and Korrine Wiggin. He graduated from Polson High School, the class of 1965. In high school, he was a member of the FFA chapter and attended a national conference. Tom built a mini-bike in shop class using his Pa's rototiller engine and proudly drove it home from class. This was the beginning of a lifetime of tinkering around with motorized toys. Ever the extrovert, however, he was not satisfied with tinkering. Learning the accordion in high school, he enjoyed serenading his family with "Buffalo Gals" for decades.

Tom joined the Army Reserve from 1965-1971 and went to boot camp in Fort Hood and Pendleton. He went to technical school in Havre studying mechanics and later attended the school of forestry as FVCCs first graduating class in 1969.

Tom went on to become a Flathead County surveyor and later practiced privately. He worked as an engineer surveying Highway 2 "Lady Bird Johnson", for the federally funded Highway Beautification



Project, spanning from Columbia Falls to West Glacier for the Flathead

Electric easement of power lines. Tom then became a contractor and established Wiggin Construction. He continued his pursuit in the public, private and government sectors, including The Bigfork Library, Marina Cay Resort and numerous forest service buildings for the remainder of his professional career throughout Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.

Thomas passed away the morning of Thursday, Jan. 12, with his wife Diane by his side at his home in Lakeside at the age of 75.

Tom was a beloved father, husband, brother, grandfather and friend. He was passionate about flying since he first laid eyes on the neighbor's plane at 6 years old. He had great comedic timing and loved to laugh. He loved to entertain his family and friends, especially at the lake. He was a great cook who had a

servant's heart and was always giving of his time and talents to the people he cared about. He was enthusiastic working on projects for the Lutheran Camp and donating. He was humble throughout his life, worked extremely hard, and was an avid reader and history buff.

Thomas is survived by his four children, Wendy (Darrell), Connery (Sarah), Stasia (Nate) and Carly. He is also survived by his wife Diane; step-children Robbie and Ryan; grandchildren Cierra, Paige, and Madison. He is also survived by his sister Janice (Dave); brother Ernie (Sherree); nieces and nephews Christie, Kenny, Andrew, and Olivia and his love, Boo the Cat.

As flying was so greatly important to Tom, we have decided to create an aviation scholarship fund: Details to follow. In lieu of flowers, you may donate to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp 603 South Main Street Kalispell, MT 59901.

There will be a celebration of life for Tom on Friday, Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. at the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Main Lodge, 550 Lutheran Camp Road Lakeside, MT 59922.

Kathleen Ann Williams, 80

Kathleen Ann Williams of Columbia Falls entered eternal life July 1, 2023 in Goodyear, Arizona with her son, Jeffrey, and daughter-in-law, Sherry, by her side and the rest of her family with her in heart and prayer.

Kathleen was born Sept. 19, 1942 in South Bend, Indiana to Benedict and Gertrude Walorski. The last of three children, she grew up and maintained a close relationship with her brother, Ray, and sister, Betty, throughout her life.

On Feb. 14, 1961 at a Catholic Youth Organization dance she met Henry Williams, who was at the time pursuing his master's degree at Notre Dame University. Henry asked Kathy to marry him shortly thereafter and she said a resounding yes! They were married May 27, 1961 at St. Adalbert Catholic church in South

Bend, Indiana. Their marriage was blessed with five children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Kathy was a loving wife, mother and grandmother and will be greatly missed. She had a strong faith and a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

She always gave an excellent example of what a homemaker extraordinaire could be, selflessly and tirelessly keeping house, sewing beautiful clothes for her children, fixing delicious family dinners every night, packing her husband's lunch every day and inspiring her children to be creative and imaginative.

She was an extraordinary watercolor and oil



painting artist and leaves many beautiful paintings behind. She was an inspiration to her granddaughter Elise sharing her love of art and painting with her.

She was always there to help with anything her children or grandchildren needed and throughout their lives supported them with love, advice and prayer. She also had many friends and even casual acquaintances who she prayed for on a daily basis, especially those going through any difficulty.

She loved nature, watching birds, squirrels, chipmunks, deer, turkeys and anything that meandered through their property. She enjoyed flowers, forests, watching beautiful sunsets and delighted in all the beautiful things God created on this earth.

Kathy was preceded in death by her husband,

Henry; her son, Sean; and her brother, Ray.

She is survived by her sister, Betty; and her four children, Gretchen (Tim) Wright of Temecula, California, Jeffrey (Sherry) Williams of Buckeye, Arizona, Karen Sheppard of San Antonio Texas and Rebecca (Bruce) Homme of West Glacier Montana. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Marc, Daniel (Meghan) Wright, Kenneth Sheppard, Matthew, Sean (Alyssa), Samuel and Olivia Williams and Leif and Elise Homme.

A private mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Richard Catholic Church with burial at St. Richard Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to EWTN. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Barbara Willoughby, 105

Barbara Willoughby, 105, was born Feb 22, 1918 in Hayward California. She died on March 10, 2023.

Barbara is preceded in death by her two sisters and six brothers. Barbara worked many years in the retail woman's clothes in the Hayward area. She finally moved to the Rio Vista area in her retirement years and enjoyed writing historic articles for a local magazine, such as picking asparagus for work when she was very young.



She is survived by her son Paul Martin, three nephews, four nieces, two grandchildren, and one

great-granddaughter. She loved to travel and go camping and fishing the rivers. Barbara lived her last 10 years at her son's residence in the Kalispell area.

Arrangements are in the care of Johnson-Gloschat funeral home.

Robert Alan Wills, 75

Robert Wills was born on Sept. 4, 1947, and he passed away Tuesday, Jan. 10 at Logan Health Medical Center after a brief illness.

He was the son of Colin McKay Wills and Winifred Hartwell Wills who preceded him in death, along with his sister Barbara.

He is survived by his sister, Colleen (Stephen) Breeze; daughter Heidi



(Curt) Sampson; great-granddaughter Rowen Weaver; and much loved nieces, nephews and close friends.

Robert's career was

in sales which he truly enjoyed. He was an avid golfer from an early age. His three favorite pastimes were golf, cars and Hawaii — not necessarily in that order.

Robert will be missed by many, many friends and family but at Bob's request there will be no services.

A suggested memorial would be for an animal shelter of your choice.

Lona Wilson, 89

Lona Harless Wilson, 89, maiden name Harless, was born Sept. 10, 1934 in Portland, Oregon, and passed peacefully in her sleep after a six month battle with cancer on Oct. 16, 2023 at her lakeside home in Bigfork.

She was born to Mildred "Millie" and Fenton Harless. She greatly admired her mother, a shop owner in Molalla, Oregon, as she kept the family afloat during tough times. Millie ingrained in Lona the importance of education, hard work, and financial independence.

She leaves behind her son, Scott Wilson of Vallejo, California; her daughter-in-law, Stacy Wilson of Bigfork; and her two grandchildren, Taylor Wilson and Jacob Wilson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Richard (Dick) Wilson; her son, Todd Wilson; and her daughter, Carolyn Wilson.

She was educated at both Oregon State University, where she met her husband Dick, and Stanford. She was a physical therapist by trade.

Early on in their marriage, Lona and Dick lived in San Diego and Hawaii, while Dick spent time in the Navy as a naval pilot. Upon completion of his service, they moved to Modesto, California, where Dick could begin working for E&J; Gallo Winery. Here,



they raised their three children. When Dick retired after 36 years of service, they moved

to Dick's childhood hometown of Bigfork. This was their primary residence for rest of their lives, spending winters in Mesquite, Nevada, for a handful of years (to golf year-round, of course).

Lona and Dick loved to travel and shared many adventures, visiting all seven continents. Their love for travel and sailing took them to many exotic places and they circumnavigated the globe from 1991 to 1993.

She was a great tennis player, golfer, sailor, diver, card player and made a mean chocolate pie. She loved pugs and had many throughout her life. She will be remembered by her friends and family as an intelligent, loving, competitive person, with an endless drive to better herself through education and sport.

She donated annually to both Wounded Warrior Project (woundedwarriorproject.org) and St. Jude Children's Hospital (stjude.org). In lieu of flowers or cards, please consider donating to either organization in her name.

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

Kenneth Wilson, 90

On Dec. 7, 2022, Kenneth "Ken" Wayne Wilson, of Kalispell peacefully passed away at Logan Health Medical Center surrounded by his wife, four children, and several grandchildren.

Ken, the first of three sons, was born Feb. 15, 1932, in Ismay, Montana to Clyde and Betty Wilson. They moved to Smith Valley in Kalispell in 1938, where Ken attended Batavia Elementary and Flathead High School (FHS), graduating in 1950.

Ken joined the U.S. Navy in 1951, working in air intelligence; he took, processed, and interpreted photos captured by reconnaissance airplanes. He served during the Korean war and aboard the aircraft carrier USS Valley Forge. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1954.

During his naval leave, Ken started dating FHS and Western Montana College of Education graduate Carolyn Best. They were married July 26, 1953, at First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell. The couple lived in Norfolk, Virginia, during the final year of Ken's military



college was for Potlatch Forest as a special products salesman. In 1968, he went back to college and received his teaching certificate. Moving to Gardiner, Montana (north entrance to Yellowstone National Park), Ken found his passion for teaching industrial arts (auto mechanics, welding, wood shop, and drafting) at the high school from 1968-1979. Ken and Carolyn, both educators, then moved back to Kalispell, where Ken taught welding at Whitefish High School from 1979 to 1993. Many students were impacted by his classes and teaching style, learning life-long skills, with many of them going on to get jobs in welding. Businesses would request students

service.

Attending college at Montana State University, he received his degree in industrial engineering in 1960. His first job after

from his classes, due to their strong welding skills. All of his children are college graduates as they were influenced by their parents' belief in getting a good education.

Ken's construction skills were demonstrated in the homes he built for his family over the years. Ken also loved woodworking and remodeling houses, then renting them out. For over 20 years, (full-time for 10 of those years), the couple traveled to Arizona in their RV, making friends throughout the country. A true Montanan, they always returned to the Kalispell area. FHS recognizes his service as a veteran annually on Veteran's Day.

Ken is survived by his wife, Carolyn, of 69 years; his brother, George; his son David and spouse Linda — two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; his son Steven and spouse Barb — 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; his daughter Lyndia and partner Alan — two grandchildren; and his son Bryce and partner Michelle — two grandchildren.

A remembrance is planned for Father's Day, June 18, 2023, at 1 p.m. at Hungry Horse Reservoir at the Canyon Creek campground to celebrate Ken's life and passion for the outdoors, especially fishing. Family, friends and past students are welcome to attend. A military salute and flag will be presented. His wife and children want to thank him for all the amazing adventures, passing on his love for the outdoors and giving support through the years. His memory and stories will live on, even the most exaggerated ones!

Gifts in his memory are suggested for FHS, Attention: Career Services, 644 4th Avenue West, Kalispell, MT 59901, where a scholarship in his name will be awarded to vocational students seeking further skills at a trade school. The family thanks those who visited him in the hospital, the medical center staff for making his passing peaceful and comfortable, and those who have sent their well wishes.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Robert 'Bob' Wolf 87

Robert "Bob" Wolf of Columbia Falls, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and uncle, passed away peacefully at his home in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 12, 2023, at the age of 87.



was a cherished grandfather to 11 grandchildren and nine

great-grandchildren. Bob was born to Nicholas and Martha Wolf and was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, LeNae (Gilsoul) Wolf; his brother, Nick Wolfe; and great-grandson, Oliver Maclachian.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Susan Wolf; his children, Tim (Michelle) Wolf, Lori (Ken) Webster, Jody (Wayne) Ashby, Becky (Ian) Cenis, and his stepsons, Tim (Sherry), Mike; and Dennis McCallum; and his sister, Darleen Young. He

great-grandchildren. Bob will be remembered for his generosity, love of animals, and dedication to friends and family. He enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, cooking, chatting with loved ones, travel, and entertaining. Bob was deeply loved by many and will be greatly missed.

A celebration of life will be held in his honor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Kalispell on Sept. 23, 2023, at 1 p.m.

John Dennis Woods, 77

John Dennis Woods, 77 of Whitefish, passed in the comfort of his home and surrounded by loved ones on Dec. 8, 2023. He was born to Christine and Clyde Woods on Aug. 24, 1946, in Wyandotte, Michigan. John was an entrepreneur in a few avenues, but mainly the real estate world, appraising his way through the Flathead Valley for over 15 years.



When it came to exploring the great outdoors, he was a backpacking extraordinaire, always seeking the hidden gems of national parks and the breathtaking beauty of our country. The Rocky Mountains stole his heart in his early 20s and he knew he had found his forever home, but his passion wasn't limited to outdoor escapades alone. He took pride in being a family man and involved himself in activities such as coaching softball, epic family movie nights and cooking brunch, all while telling goofy jokes. Age was only a number to him and he remained "just a young dad" to us. He continued to adventure well into his older years while learning to snowboard, riding crazy new roller coasters, traveling to New Zealand and Cook Islands, he even conquered his fear of deep water and learned to swim in his 60s.

As a man of faith, he found solace, joy in connection with God, particularly through his involvement in church home groups. He believed in the power of community, and embraced the love and peace that it brought him.

He is survived by his daughters, Samantha, Andrea and Kari; as well as his granddaughter, Kalista.

Educated at Michigan State University, he not only appraised properties, but also appraised the value of knowledge and personal growth. When he wasn't conquering the world in his appraisal affiliates business he could be found indulging in his favorite hobbies, such as backpacking (of course), grilling on his deck or defeating opponents in games of pool as he held the championship of family competitions.

Join us in celebrating his incredible journey on

Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Columbia Mortuary, 1010 Fourth Ave. W., Columbia Falls. We will start with a viewing from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. followed by a memorial service from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

John Dennis Woods will forever be remembered by his family as having an adventurous spirit and admirable generosity that touched many lives. Let's keep exploring, cherishing our loved ones and embracing life's wild ride.

Rest in peace John, and may your next trailhead guide you towards clear skies and epic mountain views. Pick out the best campsite, we will see you soon.

Condolences for the family may be submitted online at www.AustinFH.com.

Georgina Kay Woody, 71

Georgina Kay Woody, 71, went to heaven to be with her Lord and Savior on June 2, 2023, peacefully while surrounded by her family after a long, hard fight/battle with cancer.

Georgina was born June 2, 2023, in Kalispell to Neil and Phyllis Bertelsen. Georgina is preceded in death by her father, Neil Bertelsen; her nephew, Steven Tyler Bertelsen and many friends she lost throughout her life. Georgina is survived by her loving husband, Dennis Martin Woody; her children, Shannon (Mariah) Woody, Jimmy (Brandi) Woody, and Alaena (Brent) Woody, all of Libby. Her grandchildren, Kenny, Leera, Madisen, Ashlyn, Caden, Talan, Cy, Trishelle, James, Bella, Nolan, Evan and Paisley. Her mother, Phyllis Bertelsen, of Kalispell; her sisters, Kathleen (Yusef) Quidwai of Omak, Washington; Laurie (Mark) Salo, of Belgrade; and her brother Steven (Deb) Bertelsen, of Libby.

Georgina worked at the Libby Public Schools as a paraprofessional where she found many new 'grandchildren' and



friends.

She grew up and attended school in Libby with her three siblings, Kathleen, Steven and Laurie. At a young age Georgina had a tender heart for animals and she was always bringing home stray or injured animals. She spent many days swimming and fishing in Flower Creek as a kid. She attended Libby High School where she participated in cheerleading. She worked at her family's A&W, where she was assigned as a carhop because cute girls brought in more customers.

After graduation she moved to Omak, Washington where she worked as a teacher's aide and a lifeguard. She loved Omak and always made sure to return in the summer for the Omak Stampede. She moved back to Libby and met Dennis (Woody) in the summer of 1974, they were married in Reno, Nevada on Nov. 28, 1975. Together they raised their three children, Shannon, Alaena and

Jimmy. Dennis (Woody) and Georgina were opposites forming a perfect match, and they complimented each other in all aspects of life.

In 1994 Georgina started a support group in the basement of the old Assembly of God church. That little support group started with just her and one person, it then grew and grew to become her life's passion.

She ran Overcomers for almost 30 years faithfully and touched the lives of thousands of people through that outreach. She continued to lead Overcomers and support people up until her last days. She never gave up on anyone and always saw the best in people.

Every Monday you could count on seeing her leading worship, teaching Bible study, and just being her happy uplifting self while spreading kindness and Jesus to all who attended. She was known for being a helping hand in a time of need, if she saw a need she would find a way to help. She was there for people, loving them and supporting them in the depths of their trials and tribulations.

Georgina enjoyed gardening, biking, skiing, softball, sun-tanning, traveling, attending rodeos, Christian rock/rap concerts, birthday parties and cooking meals for family gatherings. She especially loved the Fourth of July and fireworks. She was no doubt a fun mom, grandma, aunt and friend. She enjoyed having backyard barbecues with her family complete with bonfires and baseball games. She made everyone feel welcome in her home and she always made sure you were well taken care of. Georgina was a true example of living like Jesus did and everyone who met her was blessed by her in some way. She left a lasting impact on this earth and we have no doubt that she is rejoicing in heaven.

A memorial service with burial, and a reception to follow will be held on Monday, June 12, 2023, at the Libby Assembly of God at 2 p.m. Online memorials and condolences may be shared by visiting www.schnackenbergfh.com. Arrangements are under the care of the Schnackenberg Funeral Home of Libby.

Pauline Woodward, 90

Pauline "Pauli" G. Woodward, 90, passed away after a short illness on Oct. 7, 2023 in Whitefish, with the love and close bedside support of her three children, Sandi, Brian, Mark and faithful daughter-in-law, Kathleen.

Pauli was born on Nov. 25, 1932, to Pete Paulson and Evelyn Spach Paulson, sharing her birthday with her mother. Her father, Peder "Pete" Paulson was an immigrant from Norway and Evelyn was the daughter of immigrants from Alsace, France.

She grew up in Ustick, Idaho, attending the four-room Ustick School before finishing at Boise High. She graduated from Boise Jr. College, now Boise State University, with a two-year associate degree. She worked at a job in banking before marriage and homemaking. She and her husband, Lloyd "Woody" Woodward, were married in 1953 and remained together until his passing in 2009. Over the years, Pauli lived in Spokane, Washington; Missoula; Boise, Idaho; Post Falls, Idaho; and Whitefish.

No stranger to hard work, she grew up milking the cows and working on the small family farm to supplement household income. She escaped milking cows in high school, finally winning the argument that, "I shouldn't have to go to high school smelling like a barn."

Her foundation was



fresh air.

Her earnest optimism was reflected in her interest in aviation. Her lifelong enthusiasm for flight began when she jumped off the

chicken coop with homemade wings as a child and when she took her first airplane ride at the Boise State Fair at age 10. That flight made such an impression that she recalled the airplane number, "NC32792," for the rest of her life and was surprised and pleased to see the plane recently in Sandpoint, still in service to this day. She always enjoyed flying as a passenger and even took her first pilot lesson at age 79.

As an adventurous traveler, she went on 14 cruises over 15 years, traveled to 23 countries and with husband Woody, were motorhome "snowbirds" frequenting the Thousand Trails campgrounds across the west. Remarkably, she beat breast cancer 17 years ago and didn't let it interrupt her travels to Australia that year.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Woody; infant daughter, Rebecca; and her siblings, Christine Howell, Dorla Green and Larry Paulson.

family and home and she curated a large collection of recipes gleaned from wide sources, including the Norwegian family recipe for lefse, passed on to her children and still enjoyed every year as a Christmas treat.

Always enthusiastic for the outdoors, she loved hiking among pine trees, fishing and digging razor clams on the Washington coast. Among her fondest memories were when she briefly worked alongside her best friend, Beebe Bernola, as a housekeeper at a home on Payette Lake near McCall, Idaho, among the pines and

She is survived by her daughter and two sons; Sandi (Bruce) Robinson, Brian (Kathleen) Woodward and Mark (Diana) Woodward; grandchildren, Marissa Lewis, Sheena McAndrew and Trevor Woodward; and great-grandchildren, Jayli Lewis and Everly Lewis.

Pauli wished for it to be remembered that "she was fun," mission accomplished.

A short graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on June 8, 2024 at the Post Falls Evergreen Cemetery, 2834 North Spokane St., Post Falls, Idaho 83854.

Helen F. Working, 93

Helen F. Working, longtime Kalispell resident, passed away peacefully at her son, Gordon's home in Bozeman, following a brief illness. She was 93.

Helen and her husband, Don resided in Kalispell for more than 35 years and had many friends in Village Greens, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and at the Buffalo Hill Terrace community.



Helen is survived by her three sons, her daughter-in-law, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services for Helen will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Monday, April 3 at 12:30 p.m.

Destiny Marie Wright, 21

Destiny Marie Wright, 21, was born on July 8, 2001, in St. Maries, Idaho, to Eric Wright and Sarah Warden. She passed away July 3, 2023, at the age of 21, less than a week before her 22nd birthday, when she was killed by a drunk driver.

Dessie was an amazing soul filled with kindness and laughter who always stood up and fought for the underdog, a radiant light that touched so many in every aspect of her life.

Our joyful ray of sunshine and daises loved all music from Metallica and 5FDP to Johnny Cash and had a remarkable ability to turn a boring situation into an amazing time.

She loved working at the airport with a great family of co-workers and excelled at her job. Our girl brought a smile to everyone's face wherever she went. A vibrant, soft, kind soul whose door was always open; her home filled with best friends, family, love and laughter.

Passing her hunters education course at 11, she shot her first buck that fall. As a true Montanan who loved our great outdoors, you could find her in the woods by the lakes and rivers, camping and cracking corny dad jokes while enjoying her time to the fullest.

She was the oldest of her siblings and was not only their best friend but also a mother figure who they came to for advice. Hailey, Cadence, Gracey, Lucas and Hunter loved their big sister and would do anything for her, just as she would for them. She was



live on a farm with Nilah, surrounded by rescue animals, living the country life. She couldn't wait to pass along her knowledge of the woods, gardening

and mechanics, along with all her other passions.

Things will never be the same without her. She might be gone from this earth, but she will never be forgotten. Our angel will be found in the sunrises and sunsets, camping trips, summertime at the lake, the quiet peace of the mountains while camping, day tripping through the backwoods blasting her favorite songs, moonshines and corny dad jokes.

We miss you and love you so much Dessie. Things will never be the same without your infectious smile and laughter.

She is survived by her father, Eric Wright of Idaho; sisters, Hailey Wright of Missoula, Cadence Wright of Idaho, Gracey Wright of Idaho, Hunter Bausch of Lewiston, Idaho; and brother Lucas Wright of Columbia Falls. Paternal grandparents, Larry Wright of St. Maries, Idaho; Lorry Helbling of Missoula; maternal grandma, Shelly Warden of Clarkston, Washington; her significant other Jacob; along with multiple aunts and uncles.

the first born of a new generation, stealing all of our hearts instantly.

Destiny was such an outstanding mother. She had many accomplishments in her short life, but above all, she was by far the proudest of her greatest masterpiece, Miss Nilah Elle Rose.

She loved her daughter more than anything in the universe. The sheer joy that radiated from her when she was with her daughter was magical. They were best friends who had the greatest time discovering cows, horses, chickens, dogs, turtles and just about any other creature that you could imagine.

Her dream was to

She was preceded in death by her mother, Sarah Warden.

Cremation has taken place and there will be a memorial later this year. An announcement will be posted.



Howard Leroy Wright passed away on 14 Jan.

2023 in Lindon, Utah, a month shy of his 92nd birthday. Cremation has taken place and no services are planned at Howard's request.

He was born on 12 Feb. 1931 on the family farm near Big Sandy, Montana, as the youngest child of John "Bert" Wright and Della Mae Swan/ Schwaberow. His parents gave him the name "Howard," but his brothers and sisters added "Leroy."

Howard attended school in Big Sandy and graduated from high school in 1949. He was drafted into the Army in 1951 and was selected to go to Southeastern Signal School in Camp Gordon, Georgia. He was later reassigned to Germany.

After his discharge in 1953, he returned to Big Sandy and worked for Chouteau and Hill Counties for a while. As a result of all his experiences, he became a jack-of-all-trades and was instilled with a desire to help where he could.

He married Carrol Christenson in 1955. They bought a Nashua trailer and lived in it about a half a mile out of town.

After several more odd jobs, he took the civil service exam; and in August 1957, he reported to Calexico, California, and then El Paso, Texas, to become a Border Patrolman. After he graduated, he was assigned back to Calexico. In 1958 he was transferred to Kettle Falls, Washington, which was near his brother and sister in Spokane.

In October 1960, he was transferred to Minot, North Dakota. Two years later, he was transferred to Plentywood, Montana.

In Plentywood, they bought an Arabian stallion and two mares with the idea of raising a couple of horses. They also rescued a former race horse that had an unlimited amount of energy.

In June 1966, Howard was transferred to Sweetgrass, Montana; and they moved with four horses and two boys to a farm just south of Sunburst. Since Sunburst was close to Carrol's family in Conrad and Great Falls and the two boys were close to school-age, Howard decided to try to stay there while they were in school.

In 1970 he leased a plot of land at Pinnacle near Essex and started building a cabin, or, as he referred to it, his "mountain home". At first Howard and Carrol didn't think they would install electricity; but after the family spent many hours that first Christmas by the light of just a propane lantern, they decided to have it installed.

Howard retired from the Border Patrol in August 1981, and he and Carrol moved to their mountain home at Pinnacle.

Carrol had wanted to be a nurse, but she decided to get married and raise a family instead.

After Howard retired and the boys were at college, she applied to a nursing school in Richfield, Utah; and they moved there for the duration of the schooling. She became an LPN, and they then divided the year between the cabin, Conrad, the Kalispell area, and greater Salt Lake where Carrol worked in part-time nursing positions.

In 1991 Carrol passed away from ovarian cancer, and Howard returned to his mountain home.

But winters were cold in Pinnacle. He bought a mobile home and started the snowbird life spending summers at the cabin and winters down in southern California and Arizona visiting friends and meeting others who had the same idea. He met Mary Blair from Missoula, Montana,

who shared many of his interests; and they started being snowbirds together. They even travelled as far south as Sydney, Australia, to visit one of his sons.

By 2005, they decided that the mobile home was too big; and after Howard had a TIA, arrangements were made for them to spend winters in a place in Yuma, Arizona, and summers in Pinnacle and Missoula. They continued the snowbird life until 2014 when they moved to an assisted care facility in Missoula, Montana.

Mary passed away several months later in 2015, and Howard moved to Orem, Utah, to be close to his son and family.

Howard stayed with his son for a couple of years, and then settled into an assisted care facility nearby.

He is survived by two sons, eight nieces and nephews, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a brother-in-law.