

50TH ANNIVERSARY Doug and Barb Adams



Doug and Barb Adams of Kalispell are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple were married on June 19, 1970, at first Baptist Church in Kalispell.

Doug is the son of Donald and Lennie Adams; Barb is the daughter of G.J. "Skip" and Bettye Adams. Doug is the owner of The Sewing Center in Kalispell. Barb is retired after a wonderful 30-year teaching career at Cayuse Prairie School.

They have called Kalispell home for most of their lives and still are awed by the scenic beauty, grateful to be living together in the most beautiful place on earth.

Celebrating with them are their children and grandchildren, Jean Adams; Gail, Joel, Anna, Emory, Beth and Abby Bergstedt; David, Salena (Bunting), Paige and Daniel Adams, who feel blessed by their example of love, commitment and faith.



Bob and Shirley Anderson *will Celebrate their 73 Wedding Anniversary September 22*

They were married in a small ceremony at Shirley's parent's home up the Big Thompson River Canyon in Colorado.

Shirley had spent the war years in Hanford, Washington working on the atomic bomb project, then returned home temporarily to run the family cafe and single gas pump. Bob had served in the USMC as an SBD dive bomber pilot in the Pacific theatre. He had returned to finish his BA at Colorado State University, Aggies. After graduating his intention was to make his way up to Alaska where the fishing was awesome and Bush pilots were in demand.

A farewell fishing trip with his college buddies up the Big Thompson Canyon interrupted his future plans when they pulled up for gas and Shirley came out to the pump. The guys had a powerful hunger when they saw the sign for "all the steak you can eat". Of course Shirley was the chief cook, waitress and bottle washer. Bob's friends were football players at Aggies. They ate, and ate, and Shirley cooked and cooked. By the end of the meal Bob had somewhat proposed. He needed a few weeks to think about it. Shirley advised him if he thought too much she might be gone. Three weeks later they were married.

Bob had signed on with the US Gypsum in Missoula, MT selling building materials. The new couple said goodbye to their families and headed for the Big Sky Country. They lived in a small cabin up Rattlesnake Creek where their two oldest

kids, Karen and Nels were born. Shirley was isolated with two babies, pregnant with the third, and Bob gone working M-F. Two of her sisters and her mother had relocated to Washington. She strongly encouraged her husband to take an offer of a partnership with her brother-in-law Ted Andersen in a Firestone store in Enumclaw, Washington. There the last baby, Kristin, was born.

It's possible Bob had had enough of Shirley's family after five years prompting him to take a job with U. S. Gypsum Company in Pilot Rock, Oregon. Karen and Nels started school in the old, two story schoolhouse. Kris was home with mom while the other kids were in school. Shirley had a giant garden, fruit trees, canning and cooking and laundry but still, something was missing. Shirley had a plan. When Kris was old enough she would go back to college and get her teaching degree. That all happened but it took some time and another move to Golden, Co.

Bob had been beckoned by his father, a Swedish immigrant that had partnered with two other Swedes at Silver State Laundry and Dry Cleaning in Denver. Grandpa Eno was retiring and needed his only son, out of six children, to take his place. Of course that move had some amazing opportunities for Shirley. She started taking night classes at CU in Boulder. By the time her youngest was in junior high Shirley graduated with a teaching degree. Shirley started teaching, Bob was reviving the Laundry business and the kids grew up. And Bob and Shirley

eventually retired and moved back to Montana where their marriage began, completing a circle of love and living.

Throughout all of their married lives one thread remained essential. Shirley had no religious background when she met Bob. One of Bob's two "requests" for their marriage was that she be educated and baptized in the Lutheran church. The other was she learn to make lutefish for an annual Christmas Eve dinner. She successfully fulfilled both. There is no doubt that Shirley had confirmed her own set of promises from Bob but they aren't part of family lore. Their church family has always been incredibly important to them no matter where they lived. For the last 30 years they have been active members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell. For the last five years they have enjoyed living in their own apartment at Immanuel Lutheran's Buffalo Hills Terrace. Bob will be 98 in November and Shirley will be 96 in April, 2021.

There is something to be said for not having a long engagement. All successful marriages take hard work. The Bible says there are three things necessary for a foundation to support a solid marriage; "Faith, hope and love." (And humor!) After 73 years Bob and Shirley are living proof this recipe for marriage is solid and sound.

We three kids, grandkids, and great grandkids and scores of their church family say, "You are both amazing! We love you! Rock on!"

40TH ANNIVERSARY



Lane and Marie Bennett

Lane and Marie Bennett of Kalispell are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary today. They were married June 7, 1980, in Lolo, Montana.

"Mom and Dad, the home you have made and your loving commitment to each other have blessed our family in more ways than we can count," the Bennetts' children said. "It is beautiful to see that you

two love birds are still 'twitterpated' after all these years. You have not only walked side by side in life, but grew your careers side by side as well. Thank you for being wonderful parents and grandparents and for your lasting commitment to each other. Your four daughters and their families treasure the example of love you exemplify. We love you! Happy Anniversary!"

Jim and Wilene Bridger

Jim and Wilene Bridger are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

They first saw each other on a bridge headed to and from the college rodeo in Roundup in May 1968 and met the following week; their courtship began with the song, "Getting to Know You." Their first date was rafting on the Yellowstone River.

They graduated from Eastern in 1970. Wilene began her teaching career in Columbia Falls. Jim moved to Columbia Falls and, two days later, on Sept. 26, 1970, they were married by Judge Shay on Ray and Colleen Allison's back deck. Jim began working at Glacier Park on the road crew and several other jobs before settling into a 28-year career for United Parcel Service. Wilene taught for 18 years, taking time off to raise their children, Joel and Paula. She taught across the county in multiple schools.

Joel was born November 1977 and, after many health challenges and surgeries, died in 2013.

The Bridgers have traveled to every Western state, Alaska, Bermuda, Canada and Mexico. They especially enjoy traveling to church conventions and opening their home to people from around the world.

Jim enjoys golfing, achieving a hole-in-one and participating in



many pro-am tournaments. Wilene enjoys stamping, reading, attending Zumba classes and singing in choir. They enjoy playing games and have a nightly cribbage match.

After living in the Flathead Valley for nearly 50 years, they recently moved to Helena to be close to Paula, husband Chris, and grandchildren, Kayven, Percy and Wyatt.

They have postponed their plans for traveling and cruising for now, but are celebrating with family with shared parades and meals.

If you wish, please shower them with cards. (1213 Powder River Court Helena, MT 59602).

55TH ANNIVERSARY



Chuck and Renn Corrigan

Chuck and Renn Corrigan of Kalispell are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary. They were married in Honor, Michigan, on June 12, 1965, and were blessed with one daughter, Kristi, and one grandson, Jamie.

60TH ANNIVERSARY



Dexter and Patricia Hamilton

Dexter S. and Patricia (Lowe) Hamilton of Kalispell celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with visits by all of their children.

The couple was married Jan. 9, 1960, in Las Vegas.

Patricia retired from Roseville Telephone in 1999 and Dexter retired from Pacific Bell/AT&T in 1987. They relocated to Montana in 2000. They enjoy visiting with family and friends and attending church.

The Hamiltons have five children, Debbie of Mesa, Arizona, Donna (Joe) of Coco, Florida, Kelly (David) of Flays Knobs, Indiana, Scott (Dianna) of Roseville, California, and Kristi (Jeff) of Kalispell. They have 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

70TH ANNIVERSARY



Ken and Bette Haugen

Ken and Bette Haugen are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary, which was on June 12. They were married in the First Congregational Church in Granville, North Dakota.

Over the years Ken and Bette have lived in multiple areas including Calgary, Alberta, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, finally moving to and calling Kalispell their home in 1993.

Family will be helping to celebrate this very special occasion. Ken and Bette have four children along with their spouses, Mark and Carla Haugen, Marla and Kim Elliott, Rodger and Lisa Haugen, and Chris and



Sue Haugen. They have six grandchildren, Geoff, Shawna and Jess, Kasey and MariCarmen, Bryce, Anders and Annika. They also have one great-grandchild, Jessa. Ken and Bette will be celebrating their 70th with family planned activities.

50TH ANNIVERSARY



Bill and Jeanne Hendrickson

Bill and Jeanne Hendrickson of Kalispell are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married Aug. 15, 1970 in Missoula. They met while attending the University of Montana and, after marrying, they lived in Billings, Georgia and Washington state briefly before set-

ting in Kalispell in 1981.

They have two children and five grandchildren, Ryan Hendrickson and family of Spokane, and Andi Koepler and family of Lake Oswego, Oregon.

A small celebration was held with their children and grandchildren.

50TH ANNIVERSARY
Jim and Doreen Hodge

Jim and Doreen Hodge of Kalispell celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Aug. 22. They were married in the Methodist Church in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Their three children Ty and Kristy Hodge, Travis and Brandi Hodge and Hillery and Jay Eastman, along with seven grandchildren attended a celebration party at their daughter's home. They will be celebrating with a Mississippi River cruise at a later date.



70TH ANNIVERSARY



Louise and Phillip Kiser

Louise and Phillip Kiser recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

The couple were married Sept. 3, 1950, in Kalispell. Phil was in the U.S. Navy four years, serving two years in the Philippines and one year in submarine service while stationed in Hawaii.

The Kisers have lived in Columbia Falls since 1955. Phil



was employed at Columbia Falls Aluminum for 38 years and owned the Dairy King Restaurant from 1955 to 1977. Louise is a Teakettle Quilters member and teaches quilting classes in the valley.

They are parents of five children, Steven, Vernon, Byron, Rhonda (Smith), and Rubianna (Masa).

Their family celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on July 25.

70TH ANNIVERSARY



Mable and Marlin Koestler

Mable and Marlin Koestler of Whitefish are celebrating their 70th anniversary.

The couple were married Sept. 15, 1950, at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish. They met in Whitefish in 1949 while Marlin was a brakeman

on the Great Northern Railroad and Mable was a clerk in the local dime store. After they married Marlin went into basic training in Kansas while Mable went to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, to live with her parents. After Marlin's discharge from

the Army they moved to Shelby and then to Whitefish, calling it home to this day.

They have three daughters, Ronda, Cindy (Ray), and Lory (David); grandchildren, Kendra and Alisa; and a great-grandson, Urijah.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Janet and Thomas Lenoach

Thomas and Janet Lenoach of Kalispell are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

They started on their journey together as teenagers in 1969. Tom saw Jan at a baseball game in their small hometown of Austin, Minnesota, and flagged her down to join him. A year later, they were planning for their wedding and the birth of their first daughter, Jill. They were married Nov. 21, 1970.

They didn't follow the traditions of the time like buying a house and working the nine-to-five. Instead they set out to explore. A tiny seed had been planted in their minds to one day live in a log cabin in the forest. They explored many forests, met many interesting people, and had their ups and downs. They landed in Kalispell in 1974. Here, they found the Lord, kindred friendships, and five acres in the woods where they could build their own log home. They also added three more daughters to the family, Kristin, Rebekah and Sarah. The Lenoach girls were athletes. Tom and Jan could always be found cheering them on from the bleachers.

Jan became a nurse, and Tom learned to make beautiful custom homes.

Tom and Jan love the outdoors, especially Glacier National Park. They enjoy riding bikes, hiking, camping and guard their huckleberry picking locations with extreme secrecy.

Their nine grandchildren are a constant source of pride and love, and now they enjoy cheering for them.

When asked how they lasted this long, Tom thought for a second, then said with a smile, "Forgiveness, grace, and a short memory."



50TH ANNIVERSARY



David and Anne Mahoney

David and Anne Mahoney of Kalispell are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

The couple were married Aug. 22, 1970, at St. Helen's Catholic Church in Schenectady, New York. They met and dated in high school in Troy, New York.

After working and visiting many other states, they decided to make their home in Kalispell in 2007.

They have two children, David J. Mahoney Jr. of Kalispell, and Kelly Mahoney Poland (Kyle) of Sacramento, California, and two grandsons, Jenk and Tavi.

60TH ANNIVERSARY



Lennard 'Mac' and Bea McBurney

Lennard "Mac" and Bea McBurney of Columbia Falls celebrated their 60th anniversary on Feb. 6.

The couple were married Feb. 6, 1960, in Plentywood.

They moved from Plentywood to Kalispell in 1961. Mac worked at Plum Creek Evergreen Division for 45 years. Bea owned the Queen

B at the Gateway West Mall.

They have two daughters, Virginia McBurney, and Sherie Shewalter and husband Dan, all of Columbia Falls, along with eight grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

They celebrated with a family dinner and took pictures.

50TH ANNIVERSARY



Larry and Helen Netzel

Larry William and Helen Rosetta Netzel (Carpenter) of Marion celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 25.

They were united in marriage on April 25, 1970, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell. Larry was born in Clintonville, Wisconsin, and Helen in Kalispell. Their adventure began when they were introduced to each other by Helen's brother-in-law Marlow. They didn't know what life had in store for them, but it's been an amazing 50 years full of their three daughters, Christine (Jessie), Debbie (Stephan), and Amanda (Jim), three granddaughters Kelsey (Jay), Alexis, and Fayth; five grandsons, Alex, Jacob, Drew, Ethan, and Wyatt; two great-granddaughters Bonnie

and Arya, and two great-grandsons Xavier and Rowan.

Larry worked at the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant from 1970 until he retired when the plant stopped operating. Helen owned and operated her own professional cleaning company. They resided for over 30 years in Whitefish, where they raised their children. Larry took great pride in being a volunteer fireman in Whitefish for many years.

They are both active members of the Eagles, have enjoyed motorcycle adventures, golfing all around the state of Montana and beyond, time-share traveling with their children and their families, vacationing at their second home in Wittenberg, Wisconsin, and dabbling in farm life with their chickens and horses.

60TH ANNIVERSARY

Barbara and Gordon Schlabs

Barbara and Gordon Schlabs recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

The couple were married Aug. 28, 1960, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell. They were high school sweethearts at Flathead County High School. After graduating from Montana State University, the couple moved around the state including Laurel, Livingston, Helena and Billings where they met many friends and col-

leagues during Gordon's career as a high school teacher and coach. The couple made the Flathead Valley their home in retirement and enjoy the days and evenings at Flathead Lake.

They have three children, Jeff Schlabs of Bozeman, Julie Gregory (Steve) of Lynnwood, Washington, and Jay Schlabs (Anya) of Lake Stevens, Washington. They have one grandson and five granddaughters, and well as four great-grandchildren.



50th anniversary Joe and Patti Testa

Joe and Patti Testa of Columbia Falls will celebrate their 50th anniversary July 11. Friends and family will be gathering for a 50th anniversary party at the home of Liz and Mike Borg in Columbia Falls.

The couple were high school sweethearts and were married July 11, 1970, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Joe served in the Delaware Air National Guard from 1968 to 1974. He was also employed at Dupont Company in Wilmington, Delaware.

Patti graduated from the Academy of Hair Design in Wilmington, and was employed as a hair stylist. As their children grew, Patti worked several jobs, her last job being the corporate receptionist at Genesis Healthcare in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

After Joe's retirement in 2008, the Testas decided to make Montana their home to be closer to their daughter's family. The couple moved to Columbia Falls in 2009. Joe became involved with the Badrock Fire Company, serving as president



and also as a firefighter, receiving his five-year pin and was also recognized for 50 years of fire-fighting service.

Patti worked for The HealthCenter in Kalispell, also receiving a five-year pin, retiring in 2015.

The Testas have a daughter, Kristian and James Denny of Butte, and a son, Anthony of Brockton, Massachusetts. They have six grandchildren, Sierra, Preston, Joey, Nicholas, Alexis and Madison.

70TH ANNIVERSARY

Roger and Donna Jean Wendt

Roger and Donna Jean (Grainger) Wendt celebrated their 70th anniversary on Oct. 8.

The couple were married Oct. 8, 1950, at the family farm in Creston.

They enjoy dancing and playing cards, and gave dance lessons and held many card parties in their large living room. Roger and Donna lived in Creston until 1970 when they moved to Kalispell. Upon their retirement they bought a motor home and traveled the United States, spending the summers in Kalispell. They visited their children, grandchildren and friends, and enjoyed traveling back roads all over America. They were very active, riding bikes, rafting in their boat,

hiking, boondocking in the Arizona desert, traveling and camping in Mexico, and stomping grapes at a winery in California (voted king and queen of grape stomping).

Donna moved to Edgewood Vista in Evergreen in 2018. Roger followed her in 2019, where they have lived since. Because of COVID-19 their children were not able to celebrate this milestone with them, but Edgewood cooked a special dinner and their children (Diane of Oregon, Duane of Kalispell, Carol of New Hampshire and Jim of Kalispell) sent a cake and flowers.

Well wishes and cards can be sent to Edgewood, 141 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901.

