

50th ANNIVERSARY

July 2 2017

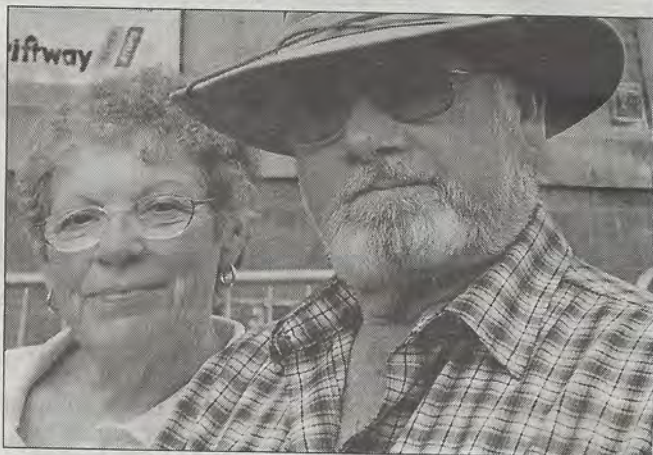
Dick and Margy Brown

Dick and Margy Brown are celebrating their 50th anniversary this month.

Both grew up in Whitefish and graduated from Whitefish High School. They fell in love and married on July 1, 1967, at the old Methodist Church surrounded by friends and family.

Dick enjoyed a long career as an optometrist in Whitefish, first as a partner in the Svennungsen and Brown practice and later, Brown and Blades, which is now the Whitefish Eye Center. Margy worked for Burlington Northern before taking a job with DePratu Ford, working hard to keep both employees and customers happy.

Their children are Molly and Heidi and they have two grandchildren, Kyle and Josie, whom they adore. They have logged thousands of highway miles over the past 19 years to celebrate birthdays and watch sports and Irish dance in Butte. Retired for over a decade, they enjoy var-



ious community groups and spending time with their friends at shop parties or camping.

Next time you see them, congratulate them on their 50 loving years together.

25TH ANNIVERSARY *June 11 2017*

Kevin and Robbin Cunningham

Kevin and Robbin Cunningham of Bigfork are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary at an open house hosted by Kevin's mother at her home, at 4260 Trumble Creek Road in Columbia Falls, starting at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 17.

The couple were married June 27, 1992, at Kevin's parents' home. They met in August of 1983 in Spokane and dated for nine years. During that time they made the move from Spokane to Montana to settle and marry.



50TH ANNIVERSARY

July 14 2017

Mark and Lynne Duff

Mark and Lynne Duff are celebrating their 70th birthdays and 50th wedding anniversary this summer. Both were born and raised in Whitefish, and returned to the community after attending college to marry and raise their family.

Mark was an English teacher at Whitefish High School for more than 40 years. Lynne had a career as a day care provider. They have three children and two grandchildren. In their retirement they keep busy with their dog, two cats, four pigs, six cows and 138 chickens.



70th ANNIVERSARY March 26
Walt and Dora Frazier 2017

Walt and Dora Frazier of the Lower Valley celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary March 9.

The couple, who are both from Missouri, met in Oroville, California. While courting, Walt would pick Dora up on his bicycle for their dates.

After serving in World War II, Walt returned home, bought a car and asked Dora to marry him, even though she sold all his Roy Acuff records while he was overseas. They were married March 9, 1947, in Reno, Nevada.

Walt began working for the state of California in the Fish and Game Department and later became a game warden. He retired in the mid-'80s after 30 years.

Dora was a 4-H leader and an excellent seamstress and cook, especially known for her biscuits and gravy.

The Fraziers have three children, Connie Fredricks of Troy, Walter Frazier of Magalia, California, and Cliff Frazier of Oroville; seven grandchildren, 15



great-grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren.

40TH ANNIVERSARY February 26 2017

Jim and Karen Friske

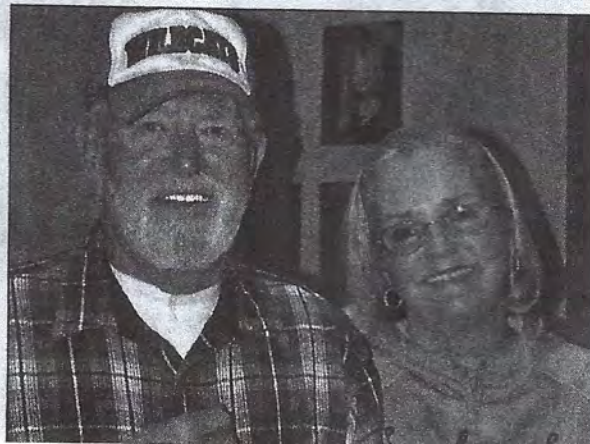
Jim and Karen Friske of Columbia Falls celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary yesterday.

They met while working for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline — Jim worked security and Karen was a radio telephone operator.

They were married on Feb. 25, 1967, in Columbia Falls, where Jim was originally from. Karen is from Washington and has now lived in the Flathead Valley for more than 40 years.

Jim worked as a supervisor at Plum Creek Timber Co. and is now retired after 29 years of employment. He and Karen spend their time helping out at their daughter Heather's coffee shop, Friske Beans Espresso, in Columbia Falls.

Jim and Karen have two children, Heather (Wade) Peters and their two children, Mason and Haden; and Jimmy (Kristi) Friske and their two children, James and Alexa, all of Columbia Falls.



60TH ANNIVERSARY

December 24 2017

Frank and Peg Gebhart

Frank and Peg Gebhardt of Kalispell celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June during a family reunion at Lake Blaine, hosted by their seven children.

The couple were married Dec. 28, 1957, in Washington, Iowa, where they met in January of 1957. "Peggy" was working at a local restaurant and Frank, a North Dakota native, was transferred to Iowa while working for Automatic Electric (AE), a telecommunications company. They met when he and a fellow contractor would have lunch at the restaurant where Peggy worked. That led to a few dates, a summer engagement, a December wedding, followed by many years of traveling the country with their growing family. Their travels, due to Frank's contracting with AE, included jobs in several states from the East Coast to the West Coast and as far north as Alaska. Frank became familiar with Kalispell in the 1950s while completing a job on the Air Force base in Lakeside. They decided to eventually make the Flathead Valley their home.

Their children are



John (Kristie) Gebhardt of Fairbanks, Alaska, Denise (Bert Eickert) of Kalispell, Matt (Cheryl) Gebhardt of Palmer, Alaska, Meg (Jim Lippy) of Havre, Michelle (Brad Cronk) of Kalispell,

Christopher (Stephanie) Gebhardt of Seattle, and Jennifer (Eric Shelton) of Kalispell.

The Gebhardts have 29 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

50TH ANNIVERSARY March 5 2017

George and Sherry Haegele

George and Sherry Haegele of Kalispell will celebrate their 50th anniversary at an open house hosted by their children from 2 to 4 p.m. March 11 at Vista Linda Restaurant, 240 Boon Road in Somers.

The couple were married March 11, 1967, in Belgrade.

The Haegeles moved to Kalispell in 1969 from Butte. Sherry retired from Kmart in 2006 after 31 years. Since retirement she has volunteered her time at Immanuel Lutheran, Agency on Aging and the Senior Center where she was a past president of the board.

George has enjoyed the past 60 years in the floor covering business. Also, for the past 34 years he has been involved in American Legion baseball, as a coach of the Kalispell Lakers, Class AA chairman and general chairman for the state of Montana. He has been appointed to the American Legion World Series staff for the past 20 years.

Their children are Lynn Nilan and husband Tom of Helena,



Steve Haegele and wife Debbie of Phoenix, Mark Haegele and wife Nadine of Kalispell, Mike Haegele and wife Donette of Helena, Darryle Shearman, deceased, Rick

Haegele and wife Devera of Kalispell, and Robert Haegele and wife Tina of Seattle.

The couple have 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Larry and Hazel Harness

Larry and Hazel Harness of Kila celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary Nov. 23 at an open house hosted by their children and their families.

The couple were married Nov. 23, 1942, in Kalispell.

Larry worked in the woods his entire career. He owned Harness Logging with his son Joe Harness. Hazel was a homemaker and worked seasonally. Both loved to hunt, fish and camp. Their passion is spending time with their family.

Their children are Joe and Kim Harness of Kila, Dr. David and Kate Harness of Buffalo, Wyoming, and Mike and Susan Harness of Snohomish, Washington. Their family has six doctors and two Ph.D.s, an endocrinologist, veterinary radiologist, a dentist, a lawyer and two master degree holders. They have 10 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.



69TH ANNIVERSARY

Jack and Vera Jarrett

April 16, 2017

Jack and Vera Jarrett will celebrate their 69th anniversary April 17.

The couple were married April 17, 1948, in Great Falls. Jack, fresh out of the Army, came from New York to Lewistown to become a lineman. Shortly thereafter, He married Vera, the love of his life. They moved to Columbia Falls in 1950 to run the Columbia Falls Taxi business with Vera's parents, Lee and Della Smith. They also worked for the Columbia Falls Police Department.

Jack loved traveling as a lineman, retiring out of Alaska. Vera held down the homefront with her parents, lifelong Columbia Falls residents. Vera retired from the Montana Veterans Home. After retiring, the Jarretts enjoyed traveling across the United States numerous times, as well as to Hawaii and Mexico.

They have one daughter, Judydel, and Jim R. Perry, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Their biggest joy is "company." They are still in their own home. Please stop by for a visit.



50TH ANNIVERSARY

July 23, 2017
**Doug and
Linda Johnson**

Doug and Linda Johnson of Whitefish celebrated their 50th anniversary on July 21.

Both are originally from North Dakota,

The couple have resided in Whitefish since 1986. They have two children, Scott of Devils Lake, North Dakota, and Stephanie Gulick of Kalispell. The Johnsons greatly enjoy being the grandparents of five and spending their retirement years living in the Flathead Valley and traveling to their grandchildren's sporting events.



50th ANNIVERSARY

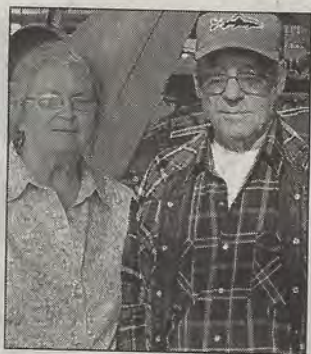
March

Ed and Kathy Klocow 26, 2017

Ed and Kathy Klocow of Whitefish will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at an open house hosted by their children from 2 to 5 p.m. April 2 at the Eagles Club in Columbia Falls.

The couple were married April 1, 1967, in Le Center, Minnesota. They moved to Whitefish in 1979 from Minnesota. Kathy retired after 16 years from working first at Martin Cleaners and then Anderson Cleaners. She is now very active volunteering at Soroptimist Thrift Haus in Whitefish. She also volunteers sometimes at the food bank.

Ed retired in 2002 after doing building and wrought iron work before going into the lumber and building supplies business for himself. Since retiring, he enjoys fishing and his motorcycle. He and Kathy take an annual ride to Minnesota each summer. Ed has been an active member in the Eagles Club for many years and served as state president for a year.



Their children are Cameron and Laura Klocow of Kalispell, Carmen and Jon Hall of Spokane, and C.J. and Keren of Seattle. They have four grandchildren, Jaxson, 2; Ian, 13; Willa, 4 and Luna, 1 1/2.

June 25, 2017

Fred and Eileen Kluesner

June 15, 2017, marked 60 years of marriage for Fred and Eileen Kluesner of Kalispell.

Eileen was born in Opportunity, Montana, and grew up in Corvallis. Fred was born in Blackfoot, Idaho, and grew up in Lima, Montana. Eileen attended Western Montana University in Dillon and the University of Montana. She met Fred on a blind date in Dillon and after Fred served three and a half years in the Army. They were married in St. Francis Xavier Church, Missoula. Starting their lives and family in Missoula, they later relocated to Kalispell, in 1971.

Eileen had many successful years of teaching, raising her family and going back to full-time teaching again before retirement.

Fred worked for 23 years at Chevrolet, then CenturyTel before retirement. Later, in retirement, he worked at Johnson Mortuary Funeral Home.

A celebration for the Kluesners was held last October at the Vista Linda



in Somers. In attendance was their entire family, extended family and numerous friends, all honoring their marriage and the love they share with so many.

The couple have four

children, Tammy (Kelly) of Great Falls, Kirk (Mary Beth) of Woodbury, Minnesota, Tim (Kaori) of Kalispell, and Robin (Doug) of Livingston. They have 11 grandchildren.

70th ANNIVERSARY

Jack and Hazel Mulford

March 19, 2017

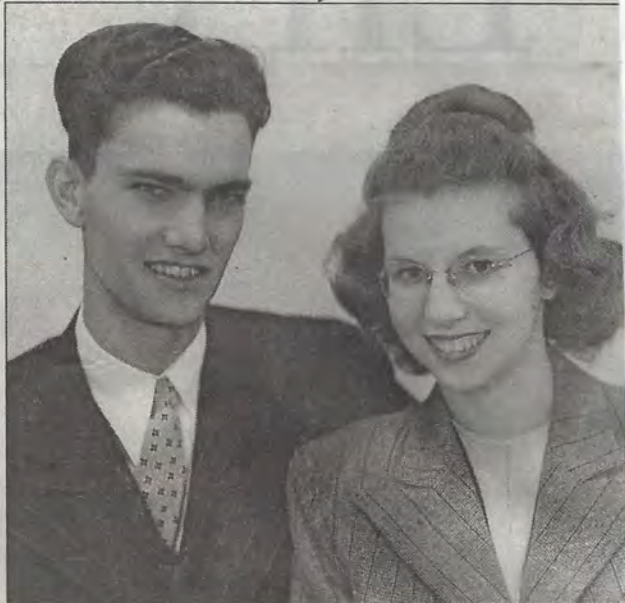
Jack and Hazel Mulford of the Lower Valley will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary at a reception in their honor at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26, at Family Life Christian Church, where they have attended for more than 35 years. The church is located at 1075 Foy's Lake Road.

Jack and Hazel Irene Rice met in San Francisco in 1946. In 1945, upon her high school graduation, Hazel moved to San Francisco from the Kansas City, Kansas, area to work and live with her grandmother. She became a member of the West Side Christian Church and took a job as a sales clerk at the then renowned City of Paris department store in downtown San Francisco. In 1946, after being discharged from the U.S. Navy after World War II, Jack, from the Kansas City, Missouri, area, decided to visit San Francisco. He was introduced to Hazel at her

church. Two nights later they had their first date. Jack returned home to Missouri for Christmas and the romance continued by mail. In February 1947 Hazel moved back to Kansas City. Jack proposed on St. Valentine's Day and they were married March 28, 1947, in the Blue Ridge Christian Church in Independence, Missouri.

Before settling in the Flathead Valley in 1962, Jack and Hazel moved frequently, but they continued to make new friends at a local church, and build their faith and that of their children, as well as their commitment to one another and unconditional love wherever they resided.

They raised three children, Irene Zuehlsdorff of Kalispell, Tom Mulford of Billings, and Mark Mulford, deceased. They have eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, many who live close and are able to visit often.



June 4, 2017

ANNIVERSARY

Chuck and Phyllis Powell

Chuck and Phyllis Powell of Whitefish are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.

They were married on June 9, 1957, in Faith, Minnesota.

They have three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

After living in Minnesota, Nebraska, Colorado and Washington, D.C., for the past two years they have made Whitefish their home. Their family will celebrate their diamond anniversary with an open house celebration.



50TH ANNIVERSARY

January 29, 2017

Gary and Janet Rose

Gary and Janet (Herbold) Rose of Kalispell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 28. A summer celebration is planned with family.

The couple were married Jan. 28, 1967, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell.

Janet was born in Lewistown to William and Mary Herbold, the 11th of 12 children. She moved to Kalispell at the age of 2, attended St. Matthew's School and graduated from Flathead County High School. She worked at Conrad National Bank before becoming a stay-at-home mom. She later graduated with honors from Flathead Valley Community College with a Human Services Certificate, then worked for one year as an assistant in the program until the birth of a daughter. She now helps with the grandchildren and driving friends and family as needed.

Gary, the older of two sons born to Ed and Florence Rose, is a life-long resident of Kalispell, a graduate of FCHS and



University of Montana with a bachelor's degree in economics. He worked for Carl Weissman and Sons, then as director of Transportation and Facilities for Kalispell Public Schools. After retiring, he worked part time and enjoys his grandchildren, sports,

cribbage and coffee with the boys.

The Roses have three children, Gregg and Tara Rose of Enumclaw, Washington, Paul and Jamie Rose of Kalispell, and Chrissy and Greg Davis of Kalispell. They have seven grandchildren.

March 26, 2017

40th ANNIVERSARY Rick and Deb Smith

Rick and Deb Smith of Kalispell are celebrating their 40th anniversary today, March 26.

The couple were married in Chinook. They have lived in Kalispell where they have owned and operated Smith Logging.

They have four children, Ben Smith, Jessie Ellis, Heather Remington and Megan Smith. They also have five grandchildren.



50th ANNIVERSARY April 2 2017



John and Bobbie Stoken

John L. and Bobbie Stoken of Eureka will celebrate 50 years of marriage on April 8.

The two met in June 1966, in a convent in Mexico City, Mexico, during orientation for Los Amigos de Hermanos, a summer missionary program. They were on the same project that summer and fell in love. They were married in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Spokane on April 8, 1967.

John and Bobbie have lived on their ranch on Grave Creek since 1976, when they returned from Alaska. John became a self-employed rancher, logger and Christmas tree harvester at that time. He has since retired from logging and Christmas treeing. Bobbie is currently retired after more than 30 years teaching in public and private schools. She remains active on the InterBel Telephone board. They are both kept busy on the ranch, and are involved in their church, Chapel of Praise.

They have four children and a special foster daughter, Jack (Reyna) Stoken of Kalispell, Bobbi (Monte) Gore of Fairplay, Colorado, Marty (Julie) Stoken of Barrow-in-Furness, England, Jennifer (Dan) McBride of Stephenville, Texas, and Chelsea (Wes) Cooper of Williston, North Dakota. They have 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

65th ANNIVERSARY

July 2 2017

Mike and Marilyn Strand

Mike (Myron) and Marilyn Strand are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary this summer.

They met while attending college at Montana State University. Following graduation, they were married on July 6, 1952, in Hardin. They spent the next 12 years stationed in various locations with the U.S. Army.

In 1964 they settled in Kalispell where they raised their five children. They owned and operated Strand Aviation at the Kalispell City Airport where Mike flew more than 20,000 flight hours and Marilyn kept the airport office organized.

After 35 years in the general aviation industry, they retired to spend more time traveling and enjoying their five children, 14 grandchildren and their many good friends.

Please join the family between 2 and 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 6, at The Bee Hive Home



at 242 Stillwater Road in Kalispell for cake and ice cream and to congratulate the "newlyweds."

Call Deanna for directions or any questions at 970-250-3339.

70th ANNIVERSARY *July 2 2017*

Don and Leoma Taylor

The immediate family of Donald R. and Leoma Taylor celebrated the couple's 70th wedding anniversary recently at the home of their son, Kirt, and his wife, Lynn, in Bigfork.

Don and Leoma were married June 22, 1947, at Central Christian Church in the bride's hometown of Walla Walla, Washington. Don was raised in Spokane Valley. They were introduced through family members in high school. After completing his first semester at Washington State College (now WSU), Don was called into World War II active duty with the U.S. Navy, serving on the USS War Hawk and the USS Calvert amphibious assault ships for three and a half years and honorably discharged as a fireman 1st class.

Leoma was also attending WSC at that time, and upon his discharge Don re-enrolled in agriculture. They married upon Leoma's graduation.

Through the years, Don managed or leased several ranches in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and in 1962 was offered the management of Lazy N Ranch Inc. at the north end of Flathead Lake — a dream come true. They joined Bethany Lutheran Church of Bigfork and have been active members ever since. They were also 4-H leaders and Leoma continues with the Red Hats



of Bigfork and Mountain View Birthday Club, which has been in existence for over 100 years. Don became a golfer at age 62 and experienced the thrill of "a hole-in-one" twice at Eagle Bend Golf course. Leoma was a stay-at-home mother until their children became college bound. She was a secretary for six years with a local real estate office, and then joined Kalispell School District 5 for 26 years as office manager of the Special Education Department.

The Taylors continue

to live on their small farm in the Bigfork area.

Their children are Marsha Voelker and husband John of Columbia Falls, Merridy Taylor of Butte, and Kirt and wife Lynn of Bigfork. Their six grandchildren are Jason Voelker and wife Melissa with great-grandchildren Kinsey and Keenan of Bigfork, Ryan Voelker of Stanley, Idaho, Luke Taylor and wife Caroline of Bigfork, Jenna Taylor of Bigfork, Jessie Robbins and husband Austin of Kalispell, and Scott Taylor of Billings.

70TH ANNIVERSARY

Harold and Jinks Vachal

October 29, 2017

Harold and Jinks Vachal celebrated 70 years of marriage Sept. 30 with an open house at Eidsvold Lutheran Church in Somers. After the celebration, family members, including Harold's sister Doris, many cousins, nieces and nephews, gathered at the home of their daughter and son-in-law.

While Harold was with the Army Combat Engineers overseas during World War II, he wrote letters to Eila Mae "Jinks" Jennings in Minot, North Dakota. After he was discharged, they were married Sept. 28, 1947, at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Minot. The newlyweds settled in the Flathead Valley where Harold's sister Doris Seney lived. The couple still live in the home they built in 1960 on Flathead Lake.

Harold worked at Lee Craft Marine, later for



Monarch Lumber Co., and then partnered with Don Fry to own and operate The Cabinet Shop in Kalispell until he retired in 1984.

Jinks has always been known for providing food and support for friends and neighbors, for her Christmas bread and warm hospitality.

The couple has been active at Eidsvold since 1954. They helped to build the "new" church, and Harold designed and built the chancel furniture.



Jinks is a member of the weekly prayer group and was a Cover Girls Quilter group. Harold still ushers.

Their children are Suzi and Jack Watteyne, and Dan and Jan Vachal; grandchildren, Cody and Renee Jones, Danna and Claudio Gonzalez, Amy and Chad Wambach, and JoeE and Christina Vachal; and great-grandchildren, Clara and Joel Jones, Bryton and Kaden Wambach, and Jenavieve, Jasper and Brandi Vachal.

ANNIVERSARY

Harry and Jinks Vachal

October 22, 2017

Harry and Jinks Vachal celebrated 70 years of marriage Sept. 30 with an open house at Eidsvold Lutheran Church in Somers. Granddaughter Danna (Vachal) Gonzalez wore her grandmother's wedding dress, which was also worn by daughter Suzi, friend Velma (Seney) Heinrichsen, and goddaughter Rose (Rogge) Bjornstad for their weddings, and the veil was worn by niece Karen (Seney) Adams for hers. Granddaughter Amy (Vachal) Wambach modeled it for the Vachals' 50th anniversary.

The couple cut a wedding cake topped with their original bride and groom topper. After the celebration, 35 family members, including Harold's sister Doris, many cousins, nieces and nephews, gathered at the home of their daughter and son-in-law.

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

50th Anniversary Open House

FOR

*Rodney & Ila
Wendt*

Saturday, July 22nd

4 to 7 PM at the

Wendt Family Farm

1605 Middle Road

Columbia Falls



70TH ANNIVERSARY Feb. 19 2017



Earl and Louise Woodring

Earl and Louise (Grothe) Woodring of Kalispell celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Feb. 14.

They were married on Valentine's Day in 1947. They resided in Liberal, Kansas, until 1954 and then moved to Denver. Earl took an interest in Montana in 1943 when he traveled through on a troop train on his way to Navy boot camp in Farragut, Idaho. He later purchased land west of Kalispell and the couple and their four boys moved to Kalispell in 1964. Their daughter Sue was born as Earl completed building their home.

The Woodrings always loved to share their home and lake cabin with family and friends and have many great memories of those times. Earl is known for his fondness for cookies. Louise, who suffered a stroke in 2014 and is in need of 24/7 care, enjoys seeing all her grandchildren and is fond of chocolate. They are both also known for their wit-tiness. They still reside at their residence of 53 years.



Earl and Louise have five children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren — Trace and his two children, Hayden and Grace; Kim and his three children, Heather and her husband Ryan, Mathew and his wife Angie and their daughter Kora, and Stephanie; Eric and his wife Kami and his stepchildren, Dana Winn and her husband Michael and their daughter Maryah, as well as Garrett and Clay McCallister; and Sue and Jim Cameron and their three children, Parker, Story and Cable. Their son Michael is deceased.