

Benjamin V. Smithstone, 53

Benjamin V. Smithstone, 53, of Bigfork, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, in Libby.

Ben was born in Brunswick, Maine, on Sept. 26, 1969, to Elizabeth and Malcom, the youngest of five siblings. Ben attended grade school at St. John's Catholic School; he graduated from Salem High School and went on to receive his Bachelor of Science degree from Southern New Hampshire University.

Ben and his late wife Candie moved to Oregon after graduating college. Ben and Candie married in 2002. While visiting Glacier National Park on a family vacation, they fell in love with Montana and knew they wanted to make it their home; they eventually settled just outside of Bigfork.

Ben was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed



spending his days cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking and fishing

with his dog Jackson. Those who knew Ben knew of his unique outlook on life, his desire to help each person he met and his dedication and love for his family and friends.

Ben is survived by his mother, Liz, his brothers, Richard, Paul and Stephen, sister Marlana, Candie's parents Gerald and Debbie Ward, her sister Tracie, as well as their many extended family members.

Memorial services are being planned for a later date in Maine.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

James 'Jim' Bryan Smithwick-Hann, 70

James "Jim" Bryan Smithwick-Hann, 70, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Saturday, June 11, 2022, in the midst of a battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS/Lou Gehrig's Disease).

Jim was born on Oct. 15, 1951, to Gaylen Troy "Jack" Hann and Estella Larson Hann in Vincennes, Indiana. He was welcomed by older brothers Gary and Paul, and joined later by younger brothers Sherman and David. In 1956, the Hann family moved to Hillsboro, Oregon, where Jim's father was the minister of the First Christian Church. As the family of a minister, the Hanns made their next move to Seattle in 1960. In 1966, the "eat and compete" Hann Clan made Jim's final move to Aberdeen, Washington. Here it became clear Jim would not only enjoy, but excel in a variety of interests. He participated in football, basketball and track. He was elected student body president and played the lead in the school musical "Li'l Abner." After graduating high school in 1969, Jim continued his football career at Grays Harbor Jr. College while his family moved to Centralia, Washington. Jim always joked he was probably one of the few kids whose family moved away from them when they were starting college. After two years, Jim earned a football scholarship to the University of Montana.

Jim's time at the University of Montana turned him into a true Montana boy, where he

latched onto multiple new interests including fly fishing, downhill skiing, and looking up

a new word in the dictionary daily. In swimming class, he met and fell in love with his life partner, Lori Smithwick. He not only committed time to football, becoming captain of the 1972 Grizzlies, but devoted time to school as well. Most of his free time was spent with Lori and friends he met from the University of Montana football and basketball teams.

After graduating with a degree in health and physical education, Jim was selected as a line-backer in the 1973 NFL draft by the St. Louis Cardinals. He finished his football career in the World Football League playing for the Portland Storm.

Jim's teaching and coaching career began in Libby in 1976. After three years, he moved to Kalispell to teach at Kalispell Junior High School. More importantly, he married Lori in 1988 after a short 14 years of dating. Together they made the progressive decision to hyphenate "Smithwick-Hann." With the birth of Shay in 1991 and Grier in 1993, the focus was always family first.

While at KJHS, Jim coached football, basketball, track and golf for Flathead High School. He found joy in meeting students and athletes at the level they needed, whether it was teaching



them the basics of swinging a golf club or talking about life at home. Jim taught at Glacier High School starting in 2007 and retired from teaching in 2010, totaling 30 years in School District 5.

His time in teaching stimulated his social life and brought many of his dearest friends. Teaching gave Jim the opportunity to explore new technology and computers, likely breaking more than School District 5 will ever know. He saw technology as a new way of thinking and never stopped learning and being a consultant to many.

Throughout Jim's life, he could be found on the rivers fly fishing, boating at the cabin on Seeley Lake, supporting Montana Grizzly Athletics, and most likely on a golf course. He continued his life of diverse passions with 35-plus years in the Glacier Symphony and Chorale, including years singing with their Montanaires group. He performed in weddings, musical theater, and at private events. Jim devoted significant time to each performance, making sure it was perfected before ever stepping on stage. His life and the lives of many others were enriched through his musical ability.

Retirement brought new adventures; something Jim was always ready for. He and Lori spent their winters in Apache Junction, Arizona. Days were filled with golfing, tennis, pickleball, swimming, and happy hours with new and old friends.

After around two

years of symptoms, Jim was diagnosed with ALS. He handled his disease with grace, never saying "why me," but instead "I'd rather it happen to me than someone else." He never hesitated to tell his children they were his biggest pride, show love to Lori, and value his friends. He enthusiastically supported those participating in activities he no longer could do. He discovered new interests and continued to be one of the most intelligent people many have met, answering questions about almost anything.

He is survived by his wife, Lori; his daughter, Grier; and son, Shay (Grace). He leaves behind four brothers, Gary (Jeanine), Paul (Trisha), Sherman (Donna) and David, as well as several nieces, nephews, and his cherished friends.

A celebration of life will take place on Thursday, Aug. 25, with an open house from 4 to 7 p.m. at Buffalo Hill Golf Course in Kalispell.

Those wishing to honor Jim with a memorial contribution can donate to one of the organizations that impacted his life: Grizzly Scholarship Association (32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812), Glacier Symphony and Chorale (P.O. Box 2491, Kalispell, MT 59903), Buffalo Hill Jr. Golf Fund (P.O. Box 1116, Kalispell, MT 59903), and Team Gleason ALS Foundation (P.O. Box 24493, New Orleans, LA 70184). The mission of Team Gleason is to improve the lives of people living with ALS.

Jacob James Snell, 40

Jacob James Snell, 40, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022, at his family farm in Creston.

Jacob was born on July 22, 1982, to Robert and Sharon Hubbard Snell, joining his two older sisters, Lynnette and Tiffany.

Jacob was a cherubic boy with a kind heart and sweet smile. He grew up riding bikes with his good friends Geno Randano, Carson Ring and Levi Weaver, stopping often to get penny candy at Lake Blaine Resort where his older sister, Lynnette, and his favorite cousin, David, worked. His love for the lake and water-sports grew as he spent many summer days at his grandparents' lake property, becoming a legend at tubing and tossing friends and relatives into the water, promising he wasn't going to go easy on anyone. Kayaking, biking, and fishing with his stepson and family brought him peace and joy. He spent many hours gaming with online friends whom we



never met but knew by name as family, B-Rad, Matt, Cameron, and Sam among a

few. He had the opportunity to meet some of them in person and travel to places we only dreamed of, returning with hilarious stories and the biggest smiles.

During the day he farmed alongside his dad, Bob Snell, on the generational family farm. He loved his dad and had a deep respect for many of the farmers he met, speaking of their excellent character, especially Rand Robinn. He became a skilled welder, mechanic and machinist. STEM studies were his forte. He found ways to engineer and use his computer science savvy to navigate rapidly changing farm equipment and design, printing parts no longer made on his 3D printer. He possessed an amazing analytical engineering mind that deeply contem-

plated the world. Those who knew him would be drawn into deep discussions about every topic imaginable and if he didn't know about it, he would spend hours researching it until he did.

Jake had a love for travel. He set out on an adventure in 2014 to apprentice with a woodworker in Japan. He developed a deep love for Japan and while there, he met his future wife, Michiyo Amanal Snell. Between farming seasons Jacob and Michiyo traveled the world together with her two children, Milea and Miron Van Deijvenbode, whom Jacob adored. He loved introducing Miron to all his favorite haunts, fishing Lake Blaine, skiing/boarding the slopes of Whitefish Mountain, riding bikes down back roads and visiting Hawaii. His favorite moments in life were those spent with the ones he loved, doing things they enjoyed and just enjoying their presence, their laughter, and joy.

He would do anything for anyone in need and loved and cared for many beloved animals that showed up in his barn, or his sister placed on his doorstep.

Jacob was preceded in death by his sister, Tiffany Ann Snell in 1996, and his paternal and maternal grandparents.

He is survived by his wife, Michiyo Amanal Snell (Dubai); his stepdaughter, Milea Van Deijvenbode (Japan); and stepson, Miron Van Deijvenbode, currently at school in Hawaii; his parents, Robert and Sharon Kay Snell, of Kalispell; his sister, Mrs. Chad (Lynnette) Catron, of Kalispell; nephew, Caleb Catron; nieces, Cassandra and Gwynnovere Catron; and many beloved cousins, aunts and uncles who loved and adored him.

He will join his sister, Tiffany, in a private family burial of their ashes in C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery where his paternal grandparents and great-grandparents are laid to rest.

Phyllis Jeanne Snow, 88

Dr. Phyllis Jeanne Snow, 88, a longtime resident of the Flathead Valley, passed away peacefully in her sleep and with her long-term caregiver Carol Watson nearby, in the early morning hours of Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24 2022.

She was predeceased by her parents, Dr. Eugene Scudder and Virginia Bowen Scudder; as well as husbands Dr. Owen Thayer Marsh (d. 1966) and Donald Dudgeon Snow (1927-2015). She also leaves behind many extended family members and friends.

Phyllis was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on June 21, 1934. She graduated from Poland Seminary High School in Mahoning County, Ohio, developing very early interests in music and science. Phyllis was an accomplished pianist, violinist and flautist, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Music, at Indiana University. Following that, she earned a Master of Science in Geology at Indiana University, and later a Ph.D. in Watershed Management at the University of



Montana. These interests continued throughout her life. As a professional, she worked for

the United States Forest Service in Kalispell for many years as a hydrologist. Following her vigorous love of music, she constantly enjoyed her baby grand piano in her home, played violin for many years with the Glacier Symphony Orchestra, as well as flute with the Flathead Valley Community Band. One of the highlights of her life — with her dear husband Don, an accomplished bassist — she greatly enjoyed her significant role in the violin section of the orchestra and at the same time with Don on double bass.

Phyllis was truly an academic — greatly enjoying her interests in geology, natural sciences and certainly music. She was a “people person” — loving dynamic conversations with her close friends and colleagues and certainly in her later years, those conversa-

tions and participation in classical music.

Phyllis actively volunteered professionally as well as in her community. She was the first female General Chair of the Western Snow Conference (1997-98), volunteered frequently for the American Red Cross, and with her husband Don — vigorously and for many years — volunteered and worked for Rails to Trails of Northwest Montana. With this endeavor, she, Don and her team of volunteers, developed a major extension of the Rails to Trails system, connecting Kila, Montana to Kalispell.

Recreationally, a very important part of her life was her many canine companions, who loved their long daily walks as well as the treats she carefully wrapped up from her restaurant visits. Noteworthy of Phyllis and to ensure that her dog “Patches” would be cared for following her passing, she provided for this financially, with a small but notable provision in her will. Additionally, she and her husband Don were active in many activities out-of-

doors, including bicycling and skiing.

Phyllis touched the lives of many people, and she will be dearly missed.

Her remains were cremated and following her wishes, will be “scattered in the mountains.” A remembrance for Phyllis is planned for late spring or summer, “maybe on a nice day and with music and flowers.” Gifts in her memory are suggested for Rails to Trails of Northwest Montana or to the Flathead County Animal Shelter. The extended family thanks Phyllis’ in-home care team for their compassionate care. These angels: Carol, Melissa, Karen, Dee, Liz and Cindy, as well as her neighbors Laurie and Glen, enabled Phyllis to remain in her home until her passing. Thanks to her visiting friends, who enriched her days with music, stories and reminiscences. Thanks also to Tracy, her exceptional CPA, relieving our exacting lady Phyllis of all matters, financial. Finally, special thanks to hospice for helping her passing to be peaceful and dignified.

9 Nov 2022 online- Hungry Horse News- Sobczak, Carlton George (Carl)



November 9, 2022 6:10 AM

Carlton “Carl” George Sobczak, 71, of Columbia Falls, passed away Nov. 2, 2022. He was born June 15, 1951 in Buffalo, New York to the late Edmund Sobczak and Olga Sobczak (Korona).

Carl had a passion for the outdoors, which led to his professional career as a forester and his specialty as a logging engineer. He was a member of the Flathead Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. He liked older craftsman style of work, and assisted in the building of his own timber frame home for his family.

Carl loved fly-fishing and enjoyed woodworking. Along with many other projects, he built his own drift boat with his father. Carl was deeply involved in Boy Scouts and an active adult leader. He especially loved a good campfire story and a sharp ax. He was the proud father of two Eagle Scout sons. He had great appreciation for all kinds of music, especially classical. He loved books and reading, especially the classics and the works of Wendell Berry and Thomas Merton. He was a poet, writing poetry for his own pleasure and also to charm the woman who would later become his wife.

Carl is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Heidi Trehse Sobczak; son, Caleb Sobczak (wife Kabrena); son, Micah Sobczak; newborn grandson, Finn Carlton Sobczak; brother, Floyd Sobczak (wife Suzanne); sister, Augusta Welsh (husband Michael); and Aunt Christine, his mother’s last surviving sibling. In addition to his parents, Carl is preceded in death by older brother, Bert Sobczak, who died during childhood.

Carl was proud of his Polish heritage, especially the holiday traditions, Christmas being his favorite. An open house to celebrate Carl’s life will be held on Dec. 18th at the family home, 316 Sandbox Lane, Columbia Falls. Folks are invited to come anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to share stories, memories, and enjoy holiday treats.

Edward 'Ned' Sohl, 76

Edward "Ned" Sohl, passed away Feb. 6, 2021, in North Oaks, Minnesota.

Ned was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on March 6, 1944, to parents William Edward and Helen (Nold) Sohl. The youngest of three busy, intelligent and adventurous brothers, Ned grew up in Birchwood, on the shores of White Bear Lake, enjoying a childhood full of family and friendship. Ned's early interests were Scouting, the outdoors and, like his father, chemistry. Ned graduated from White Bear Lake High School in 1963 and spent the summer in Europe, sailing to France, then taking the train to northern Italy to stay with the family of "Chico," the foreign exchange student who stayed with the Sohls while Ned was in high school and after his older brothers, David and Gordon, had moved on to college. Ned's letters home were endemic of Ned's penchant for writing and were captured in a wonderful scrapbook his mother kept including Air Mail stationery, postcards, typewritten notes, descriptions of the scooters he would ride around town, and updates on his budget status.

College took him to Wooster, where his mother and her sister, Ruth Nold, studied before him, and where he pursued an undergraduate degree in chemistry. After Wooster, Ned was selected to pursue an advanced degree in organic chemistry at Harvard, where he ultimately earned both master's and doctorate degrees. These impressive credentials led him to Dupont, where Dr. Sohl was involved in the development of many new polymers and product lines for the company. Ned's expertise saw him involved in projects that took him from Wilmington, Delaware, to Lexington, Kentucky, where he became a Kentucky Colonel; to Beaumont, Texas, where he developed a lifelong love of Texas barbecue and the iconic chili cook-off; and to other parts of the world representing the company. Once back in Wilmington, Ned purchased a lovely brown-



stone, which he decorated in what he affectionately referred to as "early pick-axe,"

after becoming heavily involved and ultimately the president of the Wilmington Trail Club, the local chapter of the Appalachian Trail Conference, Wilmington Trail Club (WTC).

Ned joined the WTC in 1974 and enjoyed the regular End-to-End Hikes they hosted: notably the Brandywine Trail in March and the Hike Across Delaware in October. Ned shared this love of hiking and the outdoors with friends, neighbors and family, even putting houseguests to work if the club had scheduled a maintenance day and showing off the launch point for paragliders at their Delaware Water Gap section of the trail — a sight to behold.

Ned was a social person. He maintained relationships with many of his childhood friends from White Bear, returning on many occasions for ski trips, fishing trips or hunting trips with the guys, and even having them visit him in Kalispell, where no less than four of them somehow engineered a way to move a 500-lb. gun safe into Ned's basement. Ned also loved making new friends and did so by bringing the infamous chili cook-off format back to Wilmington, where he hosted the Delaware International Chili Cook-off, complete with prizes for winners: Texas-sized belt buckles fashioned by Ned and his brother Gordon. These chili cook-offs were a way to bring his neighborhood together, enjoy xx-alarm chili and have an excuse to drink cold beer. So basically, everyone won.

Ned loved the outdoors. In high school, he spent a summer out west learning about geology and mining in Colorado, and he once went on a cross-country trip with his mother and aunt from Minnesota to California. These trips exposed him to beautiful regions of the country, and Christmas always

seemed to bring some conservation group's calendar as a gift to family. He continued his outdoor experiences in adulthood: trout fishing at a stocked fish preserve in Quebec with other Duponters, hiking with the WTC, bird hunting and target shooting. Ned's passion for nature drove his decision, literally, to find his retirement spot out in the west, spending his weeks of vacation every year driving cross-country to find the perfect place.

That search ended when Ned found Kalispell and Glacier National Park. Ned jumped at a chance to take early retirement from Dupont in 2001. He packed up his house and Brittney spaniel Bubba and moved to the Flathead Valley where he forged friendships and left a legacy that will endure.

Once in the Flathead Valley, Ned began hiking with various groups, volunteered with the Flathead Valley Nordic Ski Patrol, and offered his services to trail maintenance groups. Ned earned a Master Gardener certification and shared that passion teaching gardening classes at Flathead Valley Community College, using his organic chemistry know-how to help gardeners of all levels. Ned took trips with friends camping, canoeing, kayaking, skiing, snowshoeing, clefting, hunting and, of course, hiking. Their journeys included the Swan Valley, "the Bob," and out-of-state destinations in Utah's and Nevada's national parks as well. Ned was a force of nature, and few could keep up with him on the trail. He enjoyed his time with the OTHG (Over-The-Hill-Gang) and Swan Rangers, with their Thursday and Saturday outings starting with breakfast together to discuss trail conditions and settle on the plan for the day. These journeys gave Ned ample opportunities to take thousands of calendar-worthy photos.

Ned was a scientist, and therefore meticulous. Graph paper, legal pads, index cards, and 3M post-it notes were ubiquitous in his domain. No hike, chili cook-off, ski outing or trip ever started without a list, evidence

of research, or notes for future improvement. Indeed, the Delaware International Chili Cook-off file includes the Delaware Regulations for Temporary Public Eating Places from the division of health, complete with business card, and the invitations included contest rules (most importantly: 'no found ingredients; if tire tracks are detected on meat, you are automatically disqualified').

Ned maintained his active lifestyle until June of 2019, when he moved back to the White Bear area to be near family and many childhood friends. He never stopped wanting to be active, and he wouldn't pass up a chance to pet a "sweet doggie." Ned had a wicked sense of humor and an infectious laugh. His commitment to being involved and giving back were evident during his life, as he volunteered in leadership or teaching positions in nearly every organization he joined. Fittingly, he continues to give back through gifts to the College of Wooster, Harvard's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Appalachian Trail Conference, and Flathead Valley Community College. His legacy is one of stewardship, education, humility, and intellect.

Ned was preceded in death by his parents William and Helen, brothers David and Gordon, and sister-in-law Sue Sohl. He is survived by his sister-in-law Vera Sohl, nieces Lori Mahler, Mary Koehler and Kathryn Sohl Beasley, and nephew Jon Sohl.

Memorials will be held in Kalispell on June 14 at the Lone Pine Community Room at Lone Pine Park, and in Birchwood, Minnesota, on July 9 at Birchwood City Hall. Please email EstateOfEdwardSohl@gmail.com for more information regarding the memorials.

Donations in Ned's memory can be made to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Alzheimer's Association, College of Wooster, Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GEAS), Glacier National Park Fund and Montana Wilderness Society.

Harry Solomon, 89

Harry Solomon (Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Air Force, Retired), 89, of Lake Frederick, Virginia, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, at Winchester Medical Center in Winchester, Virginia.

Harry was born in 1932 in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, the son of Harry and Grace Ellen Solomon. Following graduation from high school in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Harry received a bachelor's degree from the Pennsylvania State University and obtained several master's degrees, including those from Texas A&M., George Washington University, the University of Montana, and the Thunderbird School of Global Management. He served our country honorably in the Vietnam War, completing 169 missions as a highly decorated reconnaissance pilot in the United States Air Force from which he retired as a lieutenant colonel. He followed his time in the Air Force with a successful career at General Dynamics and Westinghouse Defense, including international assignments in Iran, Belgium and Egypt. A voracious reader and dedicated student of U.S. history, Harry also enjoyed tennis, skiing, fishing, and tending to his vegetable garden at his home in Bigfork.

Harry was beloved by an extensive family, and married his wife, Caroline Martine Raman, on Sept. 17, 1983 in Brussels, Belgium. He is survived by Caroline; children, Harry Solomon



(married to Debbie) of Damascus, Maryland; Stephen Solomon (married to Margaret) of Sykesville, Maryland; Robert Solomon



(married to Kimberly) of Chester, Maryland; Patricia Witte (married to Drake) of Easton, Maryland; Theresa Rumph of Boise, Idaho; David Solomon of Washington, D.C.; 13 grandchildren (who referred to him affectionately as "Papa") and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his sister Grace Ellen Parker of Saratoga, California.

Harry was a long-time member of the St. John Paul II Catholic Church (195 Coverdell Road, Bigfork, MT, 59911) where a memorial service will be held on Oct. 27 at 11 a.m.

Interment is planned for Arlington National Cemetery, with details to be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to "Wine to Water / Clean and Safe Water for Kipalapala" (747 W. King Street, Boone, NC 28607) or <https://give.winetowater.org/event/clean-and-safe-water-for-kipalapala-tanzania/e289529>.

Please visit obituaries and tribute wall at ompsfuneralhome.com

Jean Ann Sorensen, 74

Jean Ann Sorensen, 74, of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away July 13, 2022.

Jean enjoyed gardening, camping at local campgrounds, watching sports including the Huskers and Kansas City teams, taking rides in the country and she loved her family and two dachshunds.

Survivors include husband Roger Sorensen, sons Jon (Nicole) Burns, Jason Burns (Penny Wells), daughter Holly

(John Thienes) Miley, 12 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren; stepson

Scott Sorensen, stepdaughter Tracy (Travis) Tonniges, sister Mari Laundroche, brother Ed (Lynne) Fullington, and sister-in-law Dianne (Mike) Winterfeld.

She was preceded in



death by parents Douglas and Lois Fullington, and brother Doug Fullington.

Memorial services will be today, July 20, at 1 p.m. at Butherus, Maser and Love Funeral Home, 4040 A Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Memorials may be sent to the Lupus Foundation.

As a courtesy to the family, the funeral home will be live streaming the services at <https://www.facebook.com/BMLFuneralStreaming/>

live. It is not necessary to have a Facebook account to view the stream.

Also, if there is recorded music during the service, Facebook may mute the audio during those times. Thank you for your patience in advance, Butherus, Maser and Love.

Condolences can be sent to www.bmlfh.com Butherus, Maser and Love Funeral Home who will be handling the arrangements.

Lucille 'Lucy' Sorensen, 90

Lucille "Lucy" Sorensen, 90, passed away peacefully June 11, 2022.

The oldest of three girls, she was born in Norma, N.D. to Arthur and Margaret Hansen. She married Ralph Sorensen and raised their five children in Wolf Point, where Ralph had established an optometry practice. Sadly, Ralph passed away in 1972 at the age of 45.

After that devastating loss, Lucy along with business partner, Bette Ault, purchased the Classic Shop, where together they styled the



ladies of Wolf Point and the surrounding area for the next 17 years.

After retirement, Lucy went on to live, love and laugh with many new and treasured friends in Kalispell, her home for 32 years.

Lucille is a French name, derived from the Latin, meaning "light." Lucy certainly lived up to the name and will be remembered by all who knew her for the way she

lit up a room with the smile that came so easily to her.

Lucille is survived by her sons, Rét. Lt. Col. Peter, Ralph Tod (Laura), Mark (Saran), David (special friend Linda); and daughter Julee (Dave); grandson Leif (Avery); their children Knox and Remi; and grandson Lars; sisters Charlotte, children, Peder, Mari, and Shelli, Audrey (Karl); and their daughter Suzette.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph; infant daughter Peggy; her parents and brother-in-law Dale

(Charlotte).

In keeping with Lucy's wishes, a private family service will be held at the Greenwood Cemetery in Wolf Point. Dahl Funeral & Cremation Service has been entrusted with arrangements.

Words cannot express how much we thank you for the outpouring of sympathy, your love, support and prayers. We are truly grateful. Our Mom would be honored if you celebrated a life well-lived by sharing a hug, a loving touch, and a big smile with those around you as often as possible.

Peter Sorensen, 72

Peter A. Sorensen of Columbia Falls passed away on Nov. 27 at 72. He was the eldest son born to Lucille and Ralph in Wolf Point, Montana. After graduating from Wolf Point High School in 1969, he attended one year at Montana State University before entering the U.S. Army from 1971 to 1974 working as a 91-C, advanced medical corpsman. After leaving the U.S. Army he returned to Montana State University graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1976. After graduating he worked in the private sector in healthcare facilities, air ambulance, home health and in the small business environment.

In 1989, Peter entered the Air Force with an assignment to Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico where he worked as a charge nurse and was deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, where he found his niche in the readiness field. Following his return from Operation



Shield/Storm, he returned to Saudi Arabia to set up a clinic in Riyadh. As it turns out, he spent more time in the theater than any other medic. Next assignment was to Kunsan Air Base South Korea, where he was charge nurse for the emergency room for a year, then on to Pope Air Force Base as a flight nurse. With this assignment came several deployments: Operation Vigilant Warrior, Operation Uphold Democracy, Cuba Operation Northern Watch, Saudi Arabia Operation Allied Forces, Operation Joint Endeavor and Bosnia.

He then went on to Yokota Air Base, Japan as a flight nurse and became chief of standards and evaluations. From there, he moved

on to Headquarters Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois as chief of Joint Readiness Training Center AE section with primary training at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

During his assignment, he augmented the Air Operations Center at Ramstein Air Base in support of Operation Allied Force and Operation Shining Hope. Following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York, he worked the Crisis Action Team at Headquarters Air Mobility Command, sourcing equipment and personnel for Operation Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

His next assignment was to Headquarters Special Operation Command South at Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico, where he worked in the J-5 shop. From Puerto Rico, he moved to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma serving as the Flight Commander for the Family Practice Clinic. While at Tinker he was promoted to Lieutenant

Colonel. He finished his 22-plus year career at Kadena Air Base Okinawa as the MDG Health Care Integrator and Education and Training Flight Chief.

Peter was preceded in death by his parents, Lucille and Ralph; infant sister Peggy; sister-in-law Carolyn (David's wife and Mother to Leif and Lars). He is survived by his younger brothers R. Tod (Laura), Mark (Saran), David (special friend Linda), sister Julee (Dave); and nephews Leif (Avery) and Lars.

A memorial service with military honors will be held in the Spring of 2023 at Wolf Point. Memorials may be sent to Adopt-a-Sox, PO Box 6113, Bozeman MT 59771. The Adopt-a-Sox (AAS) mission is to recognize and thank active Montana military personnel during the holiday season, to show them that their own communities think of them and appreciate their service to our country.

Julia A. Soule, 76

Julia A. Soule, 76, passed away the afternoon of Jan. 4, 2022. She has joined her husband Frank, her son Robert, and other loved ones who have also passed.

She is survived by friends and family, all who were incredibly blessed to have had her in their lives. Julie will be remembered for being straightforward, giving, thoughtful, honest, stubborn, and loving. She was

very open with her affections, and never hesitated to share her love.

Julie was part of the Ferndale/Bigfork community for more than 40 years, working in various restaurants, being a member of the Ferndale Sewing Circle for many years, selling and collecting art, and participating in art and western shows locally and around the country with her husband Frank.

Julie was known as a lot of things — an artist, a baker, a card maker; a mother, a sister, an aunt, a friend. She was also known as a spitfire, a fighter, a giver, and just a little bit ornery (in the best ways).

There will be a celebration of life at 1 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Bethany Lutheran Church, Hwy. 35, Bigfork, MT 59911. We ask that everyone who knew her take this time

to remember all of the wonderful moments that Julie brought into our lives fondly, and smile while thinking of her.

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

Dorothy I. (Greenfield) Souther, 96

Dorothy I. (Greenfield) Souther, 96, passed away on June 9, 2022, in Kalispell.

Dorothy was born on May 13, 1926, to Garold and Inez (Zepp) Greenfield in Burke County, North Dakota, the fourth of eight children. Dorothy attended school in Powers Lake, North Dakota, graduating from the eighth grade. Her education was cut short, being called home to assist her mother raising her younger siblings and helping out on the farm. She enjoyed cooking, gardening and being involved in 4-H raising animals to show and enjoying country life.

She met her future husband, Chester Souther, as a young girl as they were neighbors in the country near Powers Lake, North Dakota. When he enlisted in the service and went overseas, she traveled with a friend to Wisconsin to work in an ammunitions plant. Upon



Chet's return from overseas he asked for her hand in marriage. They

were united in marriage on March, 10, 1946, in Lignite, North Dakota. Of this union seven children were born.

After Chet's retirement from Libby, Montana, schools, they began their journey traveling the states and making many memories. After traveling for a time, they found the warmth of Pahrump, Nevada, inviting so they settled for a while before deciding to return to Kalispell in 1999 to be closer to their family.

Dorothy had a great love for her children, grandchildren, great- and great-great-grandchildren. Her love of flowers and trees showed in her beautiful yard. At the age of "80" her wish was

for a new lawn mower; being very well-behaved children, they obliged and gifted her one.

Dorothy is survived by her seven children, Dennis and Valerie Souther of Libby, Donna Maupin of Gillette, Wyoming, Sharon and Steve Boutilier of Park City, Montana, Ian and Bruce Habeck of Kalispell, Kim and Val Souther of Kalispell, Brent and Lynette Souther of Lakewood, Colorado, Brad and Danielle Souther of Clarksdale, Missouri, 22 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her beloved husband of 57 years, her parents Inez and Garold Greenfield, along with her two sisters and five brothers and one great-great-grandchild.

Johnson-Gloschat funeral home is caring for Dorothy and her family.

Albert John Sparr Jr., 97

Albert John Sparr Jr., 97, laid down his working tools to join his heavenly Father on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022, at home surrounded by his family.

Albert "Red" was born in Bozeman on Jan. 24, 1925, the eldest of four children born to Albert John Sparr Sr. and Zelda Koch Sparr. He grew up on the homestead in Bridger Canyon, Bozeman. He spent his youth working on the ranch and for the Climbing Arrow Ranch out of Bozeman.

Albert enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp on April 5, 1943, and served in the Pacific with the 4th Marine Division. He received the Purple Heart on Saipan, June 1944, as a BAR rifleman. He served during the Korean Conflict as a drill sergeant in San Diego.

Albert married Virginia Lee Sale on April 10, 1946. They returned to Montana, settling in the Flathead Valley where they raised two sons, Albert John Sparr III, and Gary Lee Sparr. Albert worked for Great Northern Railroad as a switchman in Whitefish. He left this job to work on Hungry Horse Dam, where he became an iron worker. After the dam's completion, he worked at the Anaconda Aluminum Plant, later retiring as iron worker superintendent after 30 years. He was an active horseman. Known as a rodeo cowboy, he qualified for the Old Timers National Finals Rodeo. In 1967 he brought the Montana State High School Rodeo finals to Kalispell. He was always known for his horse skills and willingness to help and teach others.

Albert was a 66-year member of Columbia Falls Lodge No. 89 and a 32 degree Scottish Rite Mason.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert John Sparr Sr.



and Zelda Koch, two brothers, one sister and one grandchild, Thomas Lee Sparr.

Albert is survived by his wife of 76 years, Virginia Lee; two sons, Albert John Sparr III and his wife Kathleen Fuller Sparr, of Sun City Arizona, and Gary Lee Sparr and his wife Mary Hagstom Sparr of Belgrade; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place and services will be announced at a later date.

Dale Lester Spear, 71

Dale Lester Spear, age 71, of Kila, passed away June 26, 2022, in Kalispell.



Dale was born June 22, 1951, to Clarence Talbert Linden and Helen Lilia (Bashford) Spear. One of two sons, he was born and raised in Mitchell, Nebraska, where he graduated from Sunflower High School in 1971 and would later attend Hyles-Anderson College in Crown Point, Indiana.

In 1972, Dale married Candice Ruser Harms and spent 23 years raising four children until their separation in 1996. He would find love again with Cherie Harris Spear when they wed in 2017 and his family would continue to grow. He owned his own construction business as an independent contractor and gave many sermons as a beloved pastor.

Dale is preceded in

death by his parents, Clarence and Helen and grandparents Henry and Lettie Bashford and George and Martha Spear.

He is survived by his wife, Cherie; brother CTL Spear; children Eric (Jenn) Spear, Amy (Tim) Esquivel, Heather (Billy) Brymer, Autumn (Nick Holst) Spear; 14 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and granddaughter Brady Laramie from his wife Cherie, which he had a very special place in his heart for her.

A visitation will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 3, with the funeral service starting at 11 a.m. at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Friends are encouraged to visit www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to be made to the women teen challenge of Missoula. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home & Crematory is caring for the family.

Nate Robert Spoklie, 18

Nate Robert Spoklie, 18, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, April 14, 2022, with one of his best friends by his side.

Nate was born in Kalispell on Dec. 22, 2003, to Grant Spoklie and Shari Bailey. He attended grade school at Lakeside/Somers and went on to attend Flathead High School; he graduated early at the end of January and was planning to receive his diploma in June. Nate will be remembered as a beloved son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend.

Nate was an adventurer. He could often be found in the mountains, whether he was hiking with his dog Chesney, riding his horses Taqueto and Fancy, skiing, or going on drives with friends. Nate enjoyed the outdoors. He would make his friends get up around 4 a.m. some summer mornings to hike and see the sunrise at the top of Mount Aeneas. Nate made the best of every opportunity. He also insisted on staying busy with work. Nate began his first job the summer of 2015 as a junior wrangler at Flathead Lake Lodge,

where he then became a full-time wrangler and a key component around the barn. He was a phenomenal swing dancer, a great entertainer, and always had a horse trick up his sleeve. It was here that Nate left an impression on the lives of many people every summer.

He recently started his career as a veterinary technician at Lasalle Equine Clinic. He loved his job. He would come home every night after work to tell his mom and sister all about his day; then call his dad and "Mama Liz," the livestock manager at the lodge, and proceed with the details. Nate brought so much love, joy and laughter to all those around him. There was never a dull moment if Nate was around.

Nate was also known for his witty personality and sarcastic humor. He had the ability to make everyone laugh with him, or at him. Everything Nate did he tried to make others smile; he truly never had a bad



day. Nate's true love was animals. He was a member of the 4-H Club, Lake View Livestock, for five years where he raised pigs and lambs. His best friend was his dog, Chesney; no one could come between those two. Nate would spend countless hours working with his horses to learn new tricks. Nate also found a way to have and care for many different animals. He had a full "funny farm" with chickens, goats, peacocks, pigs, sheep, and even a mini mule. His heart was pure gold and his personality truly touched all.

Nate is survived by his mother, Shari Bailey, of Kalispell; his sister, Josie Spoklie, of Kalispell; and his father, Grant Spoklie (Susan), also of Kalispell; He leaves behind his paternal grandparents, Robert Spoklie and Dolores Mangel, of Kalispell; his maternal grandparents, Bryan and Jan Bailey of Kalispell, and Monte Ventsam of Canyon Country, California; his godmothers, Diane Nyby of Plentywood and Maura O'Halloran of Kalispell; along with his dog Chesney, numerous

aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends.

Nate was preceded in death by his grandma, Shirley Spoklie, of Plentywood; uncle, Bill Nyby, of Plentywood; cousins, Clayton and Jordan Alstad, of Kalispell; and two of his best friends, Ellie Hawes and Mackenzie Fabek, also of Kalispell.

Nate had so many dreams and plans in life. He was going to be successful in whatever he did and will forever be missed.

The family would like to thank the Swan Mission Search and Rescue, Flathead Divers, Flathead County Sheriff's Department, and Lake County Search and Rescue for their great efforts and volunteerism over the last week.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to all teams involved.

A private burial will be held at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery on Saturday, April 30. A celebration of Nate's life will follow at 1 p.m. at Flathead Lake Lodge in Bigfork. All are welcome to attend.

Jon DeLos Sprague (aka Jack) was born May 12, 1937, to Rolland and Marion Sprague in Independence, Missouri.

He married the love of his life, Julia Mae Geller (aka Judy) on Dec. 1, 1958. Jack and Judy were married for 52 years and had four children, Robin, Shaughn, Danielle and Michelle. They raised their children to be grounded in the Christian faith with a sense of "home" in the Flathead Valley of Montana.

Jack passed away peacefully on Jan. 23, 2022, surrounded by the love and prayers of his family.

Jack is survived by Judy, and their children and their spouses, Robin and Randy Detherage, Shaughn and Angelita Sprague, Danielle Geller, and Michelle and Jim McAfoos, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren, his sister Dana Rider and her husband Michael, and brothers-in-law Alvin Harris and Gary Welch.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother Rolland and Marion Sprague, sister Joyce Harris, sister Janice Welch and great-granddaughter Taylor Renfro.

Over the 84 years of his life, Jack and Judy's family "tribe" grew to include grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Travis and Kasey Detherage and their children, Hayli, Dawson and Tyler; Michael and Mary Detherage and their children, Jordon, Mariah, Morgan, Makaila and T.J.; Lori and Chris Renfro and their children, Taylor, Addison and Kylee; Savannah and Cody Sprague and their children, Gwenevere, Sebastian and Elliott; Cheyenne and Dylan Proctor and their children, Emerson and Lily; Rachelle and Nick Meyer and their children, Callie, Canon, Cash and Cendyll; Jared Bruner and Natisha Flores and their children, Braylon and Sadie; Shane and Rocchina Bruner and their children, Kipton and Rykor; Emily and Chase Schneider and their children, Mac and Merrick; and Jamie and Bryce Jones.

While still a senior at William Chrisman High School, in December of 1954, Jack volunteered to enter the U.S. Army Reserve's 250th General Hospital Unit in Kansas City, Missouri. After graduation in May of 1955, he continued with his 10-year military career which included 2 1/2 years in the Reserve and 7 1/2 years in active



and the final four years, a Special Forces medic. He was stationed in various parts of the world including Okinawa, (where Robin and Shaughn were born), and Fort Bragg, North Carolina, (where Danielle was born). He was awarded an Armed

Forces Expeditionary Medal and was a Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award recipient. He was honorably discharged in December of 1964. Post Special Forces, he worked as a truck driver and land surveyor and settled his family in the beauty of the Flathead Valley. There they lived in Columbia Falls, Olney, Kallispell and Whitefish (where Michelle was born).

In 1974, after receiving a land surveying degree from Flathead Valley Community College, he felt the need to "temporarily" relocate his family to the Kansas City area to be near his aging parents. He had strong kinship with Native American peoples and sought out ways to be an advocate to many throughout his life and was an instrumental part of the Longest Walk movement in 1978. He also invested much in the lives of Hmong refugees from Laos who were in Kansas City.

Starting in 2001 he dedicated his time and talent as a Veterans Service officer. In that capacity he assisted veterans by helping them acquire their V.A. benefits in both Leavenworth, Kansas, and then in the Flathead Valley after finally relocating back "home" to Montana in 2008.

He volunteered in numerous other capacities throughout his life, including being the president of Special Forces Association Chapter XXIX in Kansas and as pos: chaplain of both VFW no. 276 and DAV Flathead Chapter no. 4 in Montana. He was a lifetime member and staunch advocate of the VFW, DAV and the American Legion. (His family suggests sending memorial donations to one of these veterans support organizations.)

Funeral services will be held Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. at Fairview Cemetery Chapel.

He will be laid to rest in the beauty of the Flathead Valley of Montana in Fairview Cemetery with a private family ceremony and

Stephanie Steck, 71

On Sept. 15, 2022, Stephanie Steck was reunited with her late husband Rob. A loving mother and grandmother, she passed away peacefully in her home.

Stephanie was born in New York City on Jan. 22, 1951. She attended college in Boulder, Colorado, where she met the love of her life, Rob Steck. They were married from 1973 until his untimely death in 1985.

A longtime resident of the Flathead Valley, Stephanie lived a full life. Photographer, sailor, Scuba diver and fitness instructor, she was a lifelong learner and adventurer. She worked hard to provide as many experiences for her sons as possible. As a young mother she taught them to ski and sail, hit a fast-ball and play tennis. She showed her sons the world, traveling with them from Hawaii to Alaska, British Columbia and the Pacific coast. Stephanie captained the Questa and crewed on a Tall Ship in the South Pacific.

Stephanie was a lover of animals and the environment. She planted a



garden so big her boys could never quite finish all the weeding. A dancer, an actress, she was a hippie at heart. She was a homesteader and a homemaker. She could ride a motorcycle or a horse. Stephanie was a genuinely caring, passionate person who will be missed tremendously by all those whose lives she touched.

Stephanie is survived by her sons Jake (Katrin) of Bigfork, and Will (Jana) of Creston, grandsons Turner and Brady, as well as her loving family in Denver.

A wake celebrating Stephanie's life will be held on Sunday, Oct. 2, at the A Bar in Ferndale, at 3 p.m. The family asks that you come prepared to share great memories and laughter in her honor.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to one of Stephanie's favorite charities: Flathead Food Bank, Sierra Club Montana, or Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary.

Hazel Hope Burnside Stefanatz, 78

Hazel Hope Burnside Stefanatz, 78, passed from our arms to the arms of her beloved son and the rest of her receiving heavenly family members, on Sept. 22, 2022. She passed away at her home of nearly 50 years, surrounded by her daughters and grandchildren. In her final weeks, as lung cancer took over, she was fortunate to have many loved ones visit her at home and even hosted a wedding for her granddaughter, Kaycee Jo.

Hazel was born in LaPorte, Indiana, on March 13, 1944. She was the youngest of seven children. The family joke was that her mom gave her the middle name Hope, because she hoped to God that she would be her last child. Together with her cousins, the Heils, their family ventured out to Montana when she was 3 years old. The Burnsides lived in Olney and Trego, finally settling on Railroad Street in Kalispell. Along with her brothers and cousin Sharon, Hazel competed in the O-Mok-See Rodeo. She loved barrel racing and was quite good at it. Hazel attended local schools — Elrod, Central and Flathead County

High School. She graduated from beauty school and worked as a stylist until she became a mom. Hazel would continue to utilize these skills for years, cutting, perming and styling her family and friends' hair. She married Ed Stefanatz in 1967, and although they separated in 1983, their love created three beautiful children, Shelly Diane, Carrie Sue and Eddie Shawn.

Hazel worked for over 30 years in food service for School District 5. She started her day serving breakfast at Elrod and finished her day after cleaning up lunch at Flathead High School. Hazel was known for serving more than just food. She served smiles, laughter and a whole lot of love. Most importantly, Hazel watched out for kids in need. She never let a kid go hungry. She served as a mom or grandma to many of them.

Hazel's heart was huge. She was loving, strong, feisty, stubborn, protective, and always ready to help a friend in



need. She was not afraid to speak her mind, to tell you something she thought you needed to hear. She had a keen ability to read any situation. Hazel overcame many obstacles in her life with her sheer grit. She instilled this same determination to succeed in her children and grandchildren. Hazel devoted her life to her family and took great pleasure in watching them grow. She spent as much time as she could with them. For the last 10 years, Hazel has been the matriarch of the Burnside family. She has emulated this role with pride. She deeply loved her nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and -nephews, each one believed they were her favorite. Hazel's simple pleasures included listening to country music and dancing, watching horse racing and rodeo, all things Western, finding a hidden gem at a thrift store, and having a cup of coffee or red beer with a friend.

Hazel was preceded in death by her beloved son, Eddie; her parents, Glen and Mable Burnside; and all six of her siblings and their spouses, Fay (Teddy), Gay (Duane), Rex (Sally), Ray (Marie), Sue

(Gordon), Jerie "Jake" (Elsie); foster sister-in-law, Cherris; and her niece, Brenda.

She is survived by her two daughters, Shelly (Eric) and Carrie (Ted); her grandchildren, Cassidy Hope, Kaycee Jo (Sam), Kate Diane, Claire Marie Fay and Cameron Thomas; foster brother, Bill; several cousins, numerous nieces and nephews, and many cherished friends. We will all miss her so much.

Funeral services for Hazel are scheduled for Friday, Sept. 30. A viewing will be at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home at 11 a.m., with graveside burial to follow at noon at Glacier Memorial Gardens. A celebration of life will be at Flathead High School Auditorium at 4 p.m., with a potluck reception following at the Eagles at 5 p.m.

Memorial donations accepted in Hazel's name to School District No. 5 Lunch Program, c/o Shari Culbert, to pay off overdue lunch accounts.

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

Barbara Hupfer Stevens

Barbara Hupfer Stevens, formerly of Kalispell, passed away at her home in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Nov. 6, 2021.

A celebration of life will be held on April 28 at the Central Bible Church in Kalispell at 11 a.m.

That service will be live streamed on the Central Bible Church Facebook



page. A reception/ luncheon will follow.

A graveside service will be held at the Corvallis Cemetery at 11 a.m. on April 30 with a reception/luncheon to follow at the Corvallis Community Church.

Kaye K. Stevens

Kaye K. Stevens died Nov. 23, 2022, at Logan Health Whitefish surrounded by her family's love.

Please respect our mom's wishes for hers and her family's privacy. At her request there will be no formal obituary, no memorial service or funeral. She made all her prior arrangements.



After cremation, we will place her next to her husband, our father, at Glacier Memorial Gardens as she desired. She is survived by five of her six children, eight grandchildren, and

her special great-grandchildren. Two children live in Kalispell; her son, Timber (Marlene) Stevens and daughter, Nami and her family.

For her friends that feel they need closure, please visit the grave under the Navy flag.

Johnson-Gloschat funeral home is caring for Kaye and her family.

LeRoy C. Stevens, 80

LeRoy C. Stevens, 80, passed away in Bigfork on Dec. 20, 2021, and is now in a place of peace, calm and love.



He was born on July 7, 1941, in Billings to Mary Fox Stevens and Wally LeRoy Stevens. He grew up in Miles City and attended college in Bozeman.

In his first marriage he was blessed with two daughters (Stephanie and Lynette) whom he loved very much.

He lived most of his 80 years from east to west in his beloved Montana. As a proud Montana State University Bobcat alum, he was excited that they were going to the national championships this year.

LeRoy loved the natural beauty of the state and spent much of his time camping, fishing, hiking, skiing and exploring. Recent summer 2021 memories include fishing with his grandkids and picnicking at his favorite spot on the shores of Lake McDonald with his family. There was nothing more special to him than spending time in nature with his beloved wife (Sandra), grandkids, nieces and nephews, family and friends.

LeRoy retired from Pacific Hide and Fur in Great Falls after 30 years in the recycling business. Consequently, he often called himself a "junk man." During those years at Pacific, he made many close friends across the towns where Pacific sites were located.

After retiring, LeRoy moved to the western part of the state to start the second phase of his life. He took up golfing, made a new set of friends and found lives he could touch in the Flathead Valley.

LeRoy was very generous with his time and relationships throughout

his life. For many years, he enjoyed mentoring youth in the Columbia Falls school district and taught them to play cribbage. He also participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America in the valley. He loved taking his grandkids and the kids he mentored on a variety of activities, including golfing and fishing. He also enjoyed teaching his grandchildren to sing "The Sound of Music" song, "Do-Re-Mi."

LeRoy is survived by his wife, Sandra; his three siblings, Donna (Earl) Castle, Charlene (Jack) Regan, and John (Carolyn) Stevens; his daughters, Stephanie (Paul) Rodeghiero and Lynette (Daniel) Guevara; and his five grandchildren, Rebecca, Katherine, Mateo, Sophia and Leo. He is also survived by his stepchildren, James (Valarie) Walker, Troy (Sher) Walker and Hollee (Jake) Fuller, eight step-grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

We will deeply miss LeRoy and will remember the positive impact he had on our lives. Even though his body is no longer with us, his spirit, example, and the lessons he taught will always be a part of our lives. As we remember him, let's do what he would want: "Give loved ones an extra hug today and tell them that you love them!"

A memorial service for LeRoy will be held on Jan. 8 at 1 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 121 Crestview Drive, Bigfork.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Montana in LeRoy's name. (bbbsnwmontana.org)

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

Phyllis Stevens-Manus, 79

Phyllis Marie Stevens-Manus died peacefully early Sunday morning, Sept. 18, after a courageous six-year battle with stage four cancer.

Phyllis was born in Kalispell in 1943, the first of six children born to Lois and Lloyd Stevens. She attended schools in Somers, Malta, Evergreen and graduated with high honors from Flathead County High School in 1961. After receiving her degree in elementary education from Western Montana College, she taught 5th grade in Thompson Falls before going off to see the world with her husband Tom O'Neil as he served in the Navy. They were later divorced.

First navy home was at Sangley Point, Philippines where her daughter Pegeen was born in 1965. Her adventure as a Navy wife continued with homes in Norfolk, Va., San Diego, Calif., Key West, Fla., Agana, Guam, Adak, Ak., and Barber's Point, Hawaii. She enjoyed every place she lived, always finding new friends and interesting things to do.

She came back to the Flathead in 1976 and worked for Royal Logging and later Plum Creek, retiring in 2004. She continued her education at FVCC taking computer, accounting and personal interest courses.

She played women's softball and bowled for many years in most of the places she lived. She learned how to sew in 4-H when she was 10 and continued to make clothes for herself, her sisters, her daughter, her grandchildren and all their dolls. After retiring, she took up quilting. She belonged to the Teakettle Quilters Guild in Columbia Falls. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, photography and



planning/hosting events for family and friends. Phyllis loved the mountains (a true

MTNGAL) and spent many hours photographing them, the wild flowers, the birds, and the animals around them.

Phyllis married Tex Manus in 1988. It was a leap year, so she asked him! She and Tex traveled extensively in Montana and the West in their RV. They stopped at all small town bars/cafes and museums, second-hand stores and antique sales (and quilt stores!). They belonged to the NW Antique Power Association and collected machinery and other items along the way to show and demonstrate at the NWAPA annual Threshing Bee. They attended other tractor shows around the county.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Wanda Taylor, two nephews and many aunts and uncles. She is survived by her husband Tex Manus; her daughter Pegeen (Steve) O'Neil Stougaard; Tex's daughters, Channin Manus and Nickole (Dave) North; sister Juanita Evans and brothers Phillip (Maurreen), Warren, and Clifford (Laurie) Stevens; grandchildren, Nathan and Kathryn Stougaard and Mike and Marshal Rankin; and numerous nieces and nephew and their families.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Salvation Army, the NW Montana Veterans Food Pantry or your local food bank.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Phyllis's life at the Kalispell Moose Lodge on Friday, Sept. 23, at 2 p.m.

Sarah Schoales Stevenson

Sarah Schoales Stevenson was born to Virginia Jocelyn (Vanderlip) and Dudley Nevison Schoales September 1944 in New York. Sarah died peacefully at her home on Flathead Lake in Bigfork last week. Raised on the family's Beechwood Estate in Scarborough on Hudson, her education began at the Scarborough School founded by her grandfather, continued at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and finished with graduate school at USC.

Sarah wore many hats during her lifetime, including author, musician, community theater producer, successful guest rancher, patron of the arts, EMT and wilderness outfitter, to name a few. She held many positions including president of the Dude Ranchers' Association and board member at the C.M.

Russell Museum. She created two successful albums with the Candy Band in the late '70s and was a voting member of the Grammy's Recording Academy. Sarah continued to work on musical and written projects until her pass-

ing. Her outgoing, generous nature and spirit of adventure created friendships easily and she will be missed by many.

Sarah was preceded in death by her grandparents Frank A. and Narcissa (Monnie) Vanderlip, Mr. and Mrs. James Joseph Schoales, parents Dudley and Virginia Schoales, brother Dudley Schoales Jr., and husbands Lt. David E. Hollatz, U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran, and Richard G. Stevenson, Angus cattle rancher of Hobson, Montana.

She is survived by her two children Melissa (married to Joseph Weber) and Peter (married to Sabine Hollatz), her sister Narcissa Ann (married to George Thom), Richard's two children, many loving nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews and lifelong writing partner Julie North Schwarz.

A celebration of life will be held in conjunction with her beloved C.M. Russell Museum Benefit Auction in Great Falls on Thursday, Aug. 18. A private family interment will take place in Sleepy Hollow, New York.

Victor 'Mr. Vic' St. Martin, 97

Victor "Mr. Vic" St. Martin passed away July 17, 2022, at the Montana Veterans Home.

Victor St. Martin was born Dec. 28, 1924, in Claremont, New Hampshire. His parents were Wilfred and Laurina (Giguere) St. Martin. He had three older sisters, Loretta (Clairi), Inez (Plouffe) and Gladys (Dolan). All have predeceased him in death.

In 1942 he met the love of his life, Evelyn Osgood, while they both worked in a shoe factory. They married on June 5, 1943, and spent their honeymoon in a refurbished chicken coop! Victor served in the Army from 1944 to 1946. He was in a convoy, heading to the front lines, when they were told to turn around, the war had ended. He then served in the Army of Occupation in Germany. He drove trucks transporting prisoners. One day as he was shuttling prisoners, he let a wife run up to the truck and give her husband a hug. A colonel asked Vic, "Why did you do that?" Vic responded "Because I have a big heart."

Victor and Evelyn heard about the land of milk and honey in



his way up to manager of the Motor Vehicle Division; he said he believed it important to be "Firm, Fair and Friendly." His division experimented with the first electric mail delivery vehicles. Evelyn worked at Continental Airlines during the same time. Their whole married life they shared one car. He and Evelyn enjoyed the simple life, visiting and playing cards with friends, taking care of their homes, volunteering, traveling to visit their many relatives, square dancing, going to church, taking walks and raising their children.

Upon retirement, he volunteered for the Temecula Food Bank and then for the Murrieta School System. He enjoyed many years as a crossing guard and then making wood projects for the students to

California. They decided to head west in 1952. Victor worked for the United States Postal Service in Inglewood, California, for 30 years. He worked

finish and bring home to their families. He usually was at the school every day with his beloved dog, Sandy. His friendly presence is remembered by a park at the school, dedicated to Mr. Vic and Sandy. The dedication ceremony was one of the happiest days of his life.

In 2000, Victor and Evelyn moved to the beautiful Flathead Valley to be closer to their daughter and family. Again, Victor started making wood projects for schoolchildren to finish and bring home to their families. This brought him great joy for many years. Victor lost Evelyn in 2004 after celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Later, Vic and his neighbor, Katherine Cooper, spent the next eight years enjoying each other's company. They joined the Jazz Society and had fun kicking up their heels dancing, taking walks and cooking together. In his later years, he could be seen about town on his scooter, enjoying his independence as long as he could. When he had to leave his home for assisted living, one of the neighbors said "You are Mr. Neighborhood." Victor was always friendly

and embraced wherever he lived. He was especially grateful to the many "Angels" who helped him at assisted living centers, hospitals, rehab centers and at the end, his "family" at the Montana Veterans Home. In his memory, give a healthcare worker a hug.

Victor leaves behind his three children, Douglas St. Martin (Debra) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Charline Payne (Tom) in Kalispell, and Steven St. Martin (Tammie) in Greeley, Colorado; eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Vic's family was his pride and joy!

Graveside services will be at St. Richard Cemetery in Columbia Falls today, July 21, at 3 p.m. with military honors. The family will try to arrange live streaming on YouTube.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity that helps animals. Friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

George Oscar Stonehocker, 96

PA4 24 Jan 2022

George Oscar Stonehocker passed away peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 17, 2022, just two days after his 96th birthday, at Beehive Homes in Kalispell. He was born on Jan. 15, 1926 in Philipsburg, Montana to Harry and Rosilla (Smith) Stonehocker. He was an only child.

He and his family moved to Ronan when he was 5 years old. He was a World War II veteran. He met the love of his life, Jewell Needham, and they were married on Aug. 17, 1947. They were married for 64 years before she passed away in March 2011. He farmed for most of his life in Ronan. He loved pack trips into the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Pintlers as well as fishing and hunting.

He loved music and played the mandolin. He sang a lot of his favorite old hymns at home for family and friends as well as some of the area nursing homes.

George had a loving relationship with the Lord and enjoyed reading the bible and bible study material. When his eyes failed, he started listening to bible teaching tapes. He had



great biblical discussions with family and friends.

He was a member of the VFW and the American Legion. He will be sadly missed. "Until next time."

We wish to thank Beehive Homes and their entire staff for all the excellent care and love that they showed to Dad.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jewell; his sons, Dean and Cliff; daughter, Julie Krueger; and grandson, Rod and his parents Harry and Rosilla Stonehocker.

He is survived by his sons, Terry (Ginna) of Kila, Warren of Ronan and Ted (Terali) of Republic, Wash., as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Services for George were private by the family. Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at www.shridერთompson.com.

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

Myron 'Mike' Keith Strand

Myron "Mike" Keith Strand passed away April 11, 2022.

He was born in 1930 in Plentywood, Montana, to Claus and Vera Strand. He was raised on a farm in Reserve with younger brother Marvin. As a child, when he and his family traveled through western Montana, he always dreamed of leaving the flatlands of Eastern Montana and moving to the Montana mountains. Following graduation from Medicine Lake High School in 1948, he enrolled in Montana State College to study agriculture economics. He joined Advanced ROTC, was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, was the senior class president and graduated top 10 in his class. He met and married his sweetheart, Marilyn, and soon after graduation was commissioned into the United States Army.

Following his commission as second lieutenant, he earned his wings and was deployed to Korea



where he flew patrols over the DMZ until the end of the war. During his 12 years of active duty with the Army, the Strand family lived in

Texas, Alabama, Alaska and Kansas. When he retired from active duty as an Army major, he recalled his childhood dream and chose Kalispell as his destination. In 1964 Mike and Marilyn started Strand Aviation at the Kalispell City Airport.

Strand Aviation was a full-service flight operation offering services for airplanes, helicopters, sea planes and gliders. Mike would fly groups into the Montana backcountry, air ambulance and scenic tours over Glacier National Park. He flew his helicopters for government snow surveys,

and even gave "nickel-a-pound" helicopter rides at the Flathead County Fair one summer. He also flew many search and rescue flights, and Forest Service contracts including fire patrol and wolf and grizzly bear research projects for the University of Montana. He helped many pilots achieve their aviation dreams in his 35 years at Strand Aviation. Mike logged over 20,000 flight hours before he and Marilyn decided to retire and travel the world.

Traveling with friends and family, they had many great adventures to New Zealand, China, Norway, the Caribbean, Hawaii, Germany and Japan. In addition to his 14 years of service with the Montana National Guard, he was active in the Kalispell community as an elder at the First Presbyterian Church. He was also a lifelong Rotary member and Rotary president from 1986 to 1987, Elks club member, Montana Pilots Association, and joined

the local hiking group called the Over The Hill Gang. He developed life-long friendships during his many years in the Flathead Valley.

Myron is survived by his five children, Daya (John) Horine, Deanna (Don) Dyk, Dwayne (Carol) Strand, Danette (Ty) Adams, and Darryl (Christy) Strand; 12 grandchildren, Justin, Mariah, Chad, Ashley, Aaron, Liesl, Erin, Bridger, Colter, Mason, Spencer and Peyton; and five great grandchildren, Zane, Huxley, Rome, Declin and Ellie.

Myron was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Marilyn, his brother Marvin, and his parents.

A celebration of life and reception will be held Saturday, June 4, at 2 p.m. at the Elks Club in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Encompass Hospice of Kalispell or to the Alert Helicopter Foundation.

Darlene Ann (Goebel) Strandberg, 86

Darlene Ann (Goebel) Strandberg, 86, passed away peacefully with family, knowing that she was loved throughout her lifetime by her family and friends, past and present, on Friday, July 1, 2022, in Kalispell.

Darlene was born on March 22, 1936, in Noonan, North Dakota, the daughter of Fred and Lenora (Fenster) Goebel. She was the fifth of seven children. Darlene grew up on her family farm in Divide County, North Dakota. From there she lived in Hammers House 1950 to 1953, while going to school and working at the Crystal Cafe. She married Vernon H. "Vern" Strandberg in



1954, in Williston, North Dakota, living there until they moved to Crosby in 1964. From

their marriage, there were eight children born. In 1969 the family moved to Somers where they went into the trucking business, transporting mobile homes; then to Kalispell in 1981, where she resided until her passing.

Darlene was a dedicated, hard-working, loving and supportive wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She enjoyed and was an expert gar-

dener. She was skilled in sewing, painting, and crafts of any kind. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family and friends.

Darlene was preceded in death by her husband of 38 years, Vernon Strandberg, in 1992; and four sons, Mark and Kevin (1966), David (2016) and Craig (2018); her parents, Fred and Lenora Goebel; and siblings, Eugene, Inez (Edenloff), Rolland, Fred Jr., and Geraldine (Johnson).

Darlene is survived by her children, Bruce, DeeAnn Bradford (Jon), Anthony "Tony," and Michael "Mike" (Sarah); her sister, Yvonne "Vonnie" Bishop; sis-

ter-in-law, Norma Long; and daughter-in-law, Sue Strandberg; 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Darlene was very loved and will be deeply missed by family, friends and anyone that knew her. We were all so blessed to have had this beautiful lady in our lives.

Per her wish, there was not a public service, we will remember and celebrate her everyday.

"We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love ... and then we return home."

Allyce Mae Street, 90

Allyce Mae Street, 90, passed away peacefully on Jan. 2, 2022, at her home with her long time friend and caregiver, KC, by her side.



Church and served diligently on many committees. She was active in the Saddle Club, North

projects sitting by her chair. Knitting, embroidery, cross stitch, and her annual calendars that she started making for friends and family in winter kept her hands busy. Besides serving in the community, she had a servant's heart at home, too. She helped her parents, sister and brother by caring for them with meals and rides to doctor appointments so they could continue to live at home.

loyal friend who provided loving care and companionship until Allyce's final breath.

Allyce was preceded in death by her infant twin brother, Allen Ray; her parents, Ephriam and Sadie Street; brothers, Merle, Russell and Harold; and sisters, Thelma Smith and Marvel Logan.

She is survived by many friends, 11 nieces and nephews and their families.

A memorial service will be held April 9 at the First Presbyterian Church in Whitefish at 11 a.m. with a light lunch and fellowship to follow.

Allyce was born to Ephriam and Sadie Street on April 15, 1931. She grew up in a large family that loved Whitefish and made many memories being involved in the community and spent time at Whitefish Lake and Big Mountain Resort.

Valley Hospital Guild and bowling league for many years.

Allyce loved to entertain and hosted many dinners in her home and at her cabin on Whitefish Lake. If you were an acquaintance of Allyce you know she loved to bake and you were undoubtedly blessed with huckleberry bread in the summer and a large assortment of Christmas cookies, rosettes, and party mix in the winter. Besides her baking, she always had a basket of

Allyce was fun and outgoing and had many longtime friends. KC Slikerveeer was a very special friend to Allyce. You might say their friendship was a divine appointment. It started out with Allyce and a heart tug to help someone new in town and KC turned into a long and

Rodney L. Strunk

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Rodney L. Strunk of Ray, North Dakota passed away Monday, Feb. 14, 2022 at the Tioga Medical Center in Tioga, North Dakota. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home of Tioga is assisting the family. Friends may sign the online register and give their condolences at www.fulkersons.com

Rodney L. Strunk was born Nov. 23, 1959 in Whitefish, Montana to LeRoy and Louise Strunk.

Growing up, Rod was a man with many passions, drumming, fast cars, loving the outdoors to name a few.

Rod was a homebody. He took pride in work-

ing and manicuring his yard and gardens. His four dogs and two cats followed him around and kept him company. In the last few years, he discovered a passion for drawing. As a child playing with Tonka Toys, this fascination grew into a passion for being a heavy equipment oper-

ator for the past 40-plus years.

Laughter was a staple in Rod's life. The time he spent with his many friends and family was very important to him. He was a loving father to his son, Jessie.

He married Candise Adams on April 24, 2004. Their marriage was two

months shy of celebrating 18 years full of love and laughter together.

Rod is survived by his wife, Candise of Ray, North Dakota; son, Jessie of Billings, Montana.

Cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service for Rodney will be held at a later date.

Scott A. Storkson



Scott A. Storkson passed away on June 12, 2022, in Missoula. He was born Sept. 17,

1967. Early in his life, Scott worked on a fishing boat in Alaska with his brother Chuck. In the early 2000s the brothers started logging for Peter Busch. Scott worked for Plum Creek for a few years and did some long-haul trucking before he went on to the oil patches in North Dakota to again work with his brother. In 2015 he moved to Montana where he and his brother resurrected

their dad's sawmill and built the beautiful Circle Saw Campground.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Storkson; grandson, Carter Dean; son, Kye Weber; father, Bob Dalberg, sisters, Angela Storkson and Trisha Trump; nieces, Leya Anderson, Victoria Ottwell and Shyla Storkson; nephews, Edd Trump, Travis Mikesell, Cody Mikesell and Steele Mikesell.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Joan Hutchinson Storkson; his father, Carl Storkson; his brothers, Chuck Storkson and C.J. Storkson; and his grandmothers, Alice Hutchinson and Margaret Dalberg; and grandfather Glen Dalberg.

A celebration of life will be held at the Stillwater Bar, Olney, Saturday, July 9, at 2 p.m.

Edwin Elymar 'Ed' Stuart III, 86

Edwin Elymar "Ed" Stuart III, 86, residing in Whitefish passed away on Friday Aug. 5, 2022, from natural causes.

Ed was born on May 9, 1936, grew up in Anaconda and studied business at the University of Montana where he joined the Sigma Chi fraternity with his best friend Bill Lawton. While attending college Ed began his career in show business, in 1960, as a doorman at a local theater.

Ed served in the Army Battlegroup 3rd Brigade,



Platoon No. 5 from January 1959 to December 1960 when

he was honorably discharged. Always ambitious, Ed returned to the theater and quickly rose through the ranks in various managerial positions in Salt Lake City, Durango, Colorado, and Denver. In 1965, he was promoted to the real estate department and moved to the firm's home office in Los Angeles. Shortly thereafter, in

1973 Ed was promoted to vice president of operations at National General Theaters, Inc.

On May 19, 1990, Ed was reunited with the love of his life Ruby Mae Lawton (Krizan). They spent the next 18 years together in Eugene, Oregon. After her passing, Ed found his way back to Montana in part due to his best friend Linda Roberts living in Whitefish where he got to pursue his love of genealogy and spending time with family.

Ed will be laid to rest

with his mother, father, and brother in Anaconda. Ed is survived by his stepdaughter, Kathy Chapel; 10 grandchildren, Katelin Rose, Renee, Jessie, Chase, Casey, Jennifer, Jamie, William, Justin and Lindsey; as well as four great-grandchildren, Liam, Levi, Benson and Cooper.

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

Dean Swank, 86

Dean Swank, born Oct. 29, 1937, passed away on Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, in his home after a brief battle with cancer. He was 86.



Dean was born to DeVoe Swank and Gail Potter Swank and raised in Browning and Chester, Montana before moving to Valier to finish school.

After graduating from Valier High School in 1954, he attended Montana State University Bozeman and earned a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering, graduating in 1958. He married the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Barbara

Henneman, in 1956 - an inspiring, 70-plus year commitment to devotion and teamwork. Thereafter, the pursuit of his life's work in construction management took the couple back to Valier, where he took up a desk in the back room of his father's lumber supply business, establishing Swank Enterprises in 1959.

Dean grew up with his two siblings - younger brother, Dewey, and their little sister, Lee. He was close to his family, inheriting his father's strong character and vigorous work ethic and his mother's sense of humor. Dean was a diligent student and a standout athlete who excelled in both academics and sports. He enjoyed football, basketball, track and of course, the Montana State Bobcats. In fact, Dean cheered for the Bobcats at almost every home game until the end of his life, later viewing from the comfort of the Swank sky-box at Bobcat Stadium. Some of his best memories stemmed from the university grounds, which he continued to extend to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren throughout the years.

During the first few years in the construction business, Dean focused primarily on bidding/winning government-issued contracts on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning. It was here

- Dean would say, years later - that solidified Swank Enterprises as his most profound professional success. His intelligence, leadership and dedication positioned the company as one of the leading commercial contractors in the state of Montana. Swank Enterprises currently employs over 250 employees and has successfully completed over 10,000 projects in the past 60 years - most notably, 30-plus hospitals, including the Montana Children's Hospital in Kalispell, 100-plus schools, Glacier Park International Airport, and numerous projects for the Montana National Guard, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana State University, and University of Montana.

But while in Valier, he had a hand in creating what he would, in his later years, consider his greatest accomplishment: his children. Derek Swank was born in 1958, Dewey Swank was born thirteen months later in 1959 and Traci Swank, born in 1966. Some of Derek and Dewey's best memories are the days they would go out bird hunting in the fall. Dean loved pheasant hunting the most and would often invite extended family and friends for the annual game feed - an excessive feast, or lack thereof, depending on that season's yield.

Over the years, Dean demonstrated his love for his work and his family, believing that through hard work, most anything could be achieved. Talent, he said, was overrated. While many may not have agreed with his opinions, no one can deny that he was unafraid of speaking up for what he believed in and following through on his beliefs. Dean served as President of the Montana Contractors Association in 1990 - a localized chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) - and was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

A skilled architect, Dean designed and built

his home in Bigfork in 1991, where he enjoyed a life filled with family and friends in the Flathead Valley. He and Barb loved to golf and entertain. In the summer evenings, you could find him on the back patio, with his Sudoku and his newspaper, listening to the rushing water of the Swan River.

Throughout his life, Dean Swank was referred to in many ways - he was a son and a brother, a husband and father, a grandfather, and a great-grandfather. He would go on to become one of Montana's most well-known and well-respected commercial contractors and in the words of his children and those who worked for him, "a force to be reckoned with."

Dean is survived

by his wife, Barbara Swank of Bigfork; his children, Derek Swank of Bigfork, Dewey Swank of Kalispell, and Traci Swank of Valier; his grandchildren, Jacqueline Foster of Kalispell, Jeffrey Swank of Columbia Falls, Jenny Swank Krasteva of Whitefish, Cody Swank of Bozeman, Kelsi Swank of Anchorage, Alaska, Carly Fessler of Davis, California, and Carter Miller of Missoula; and his great-grandchildren, Abigail Foster, Edison Foster, Aiden Swank, Liam Swank, Yoli Krastev, Mia Krasteva, and Derek Krastev.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 27, at the United Methodist Church in Bigfork.

David Franklin Swayne Sr., 81

David "Dave," "Chief" Franklin Swayne Sr., 81, of Polson, passed away peacefully on Jan. 20, 2022.

David was born Aug. 30, 1940, in Polson to Donald F. Swayne and Eva (Montgomery) Swayne. He grew up in Polson and graduated from Polson High School in 1959. He enlisted in the Navy at age 18, where his career spanned 30 years achieving the rank of senior chief. He served aboard the USS Chicago, the USS Shenandoah and the USS Saratoga; other tours of duty included Vietnam, Iceland, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Washington, D.C.

He married Betty Joyce Currin in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1962. They



had two children, Krista, born in Jacksonville, Florida, and Franklin, born in Puerto Rico.

After retiring from the Navy, David worked in the Office of the Secretary of State in Olympia, Washington, retiring in 2005. At his 45th high school reunion, he met a former classmate, Jane Farnum Laraby. They married in October 2005 and made their home on the East Shore of Flathead Lake. They enjoyed

"homesteading" challenges, golfing and travel, which annually included a month in Hawaii. David was an enthusiastic Seattle Mariner, Seahawk and Gonzaga basketball fan and delighted in the love and activities of his grandkids.

David is survived by his wife, Jane; his daughter, Krista Jennings (Glenn); his son, Franklin Swayne (Susan); sisters, Sharron Pritchett, Dianna Garrison, Judy Everett and Lynette Marshall; brother, Russell Ingraham; bonus son, Doug Laraby (Kirsten); bonus daughter, Jennifer Jacobson (Brian); three grandsons, Ethan, Jared and Holt; and bonus grandchildren, Alec, Evan and Ashtyn Laraby, Haley

and Sarah Jacobson.

He was preceded in death by brother, Kenneth Ingraham.

Memorials may be made to the Boys and Girls Club of Polson, 110 17th Ave. West, Polson, MT 59860.

A visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at The Lake Funeral Home. A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Polson, with burial to follow at Lakeview Cemetery.

Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com.

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

Eugene James Sweeney, 81

Gene Sweeney, 81, of Kalispell, passed away peacefully of natural causes on July 15, 2022, at BeeHive Homes of Kalispell.

Gene was born on May 10, 1941, in Pacoima, California, to William Sweeney and Frances McKenna. He lived in Orange County, California, for 50-plus years. Gene graduated from Western High School in 1960 and enlisted in the Navy that same year. After ranking top in his Navy class, Gene reported to the USS Los Angeles (CA-135) and



became a dark room man/photographer. He was recommended for the Good Conduct Medal before being honorably discharged

in 1964.

Gene worked at Disneyland in Anaheim, California, for 25 years as a painter and coatings specialist. For five years he painted the famous

King Arthur Carousel horses, a role which granted him several TV interviews. Gene rose into management, but his favorite work was being an artist whose work added to the magic of the Magic Kingdom.

Gene was a kind, sensitive and artistic soul with a mischievous sense of humor. He loved nature, hiking, art, photography, dancing and gardening. Gene became a faithful Christian in 1984 and led several others to the Lord.

Gene is survived by Nancy, his beloved wife

of 52 years; his son, Jason; his three grandchildren, and three siblings.

Gene's family wishes to express our deepest gratitude to the amazing nurses at BeeHive Homes of Kalispell. They became like family to Gene. Their tender and patient care brought out the best in him and filled this final chapter of Gene's life with abundant comfort and fun. You have made our smiles brighter and our souls more grateful forever because of your love and care for Gene. Thank you!

Rose Valeria (LaChambre) Sweetser, 94

Rose Valeria (LaChambre) Sweetser, 94, of Kalispell, passed away April 21, 2022, due to natural causes.

Rose was born April 19, 1928, in Missoula to Orlando "Dutch" and Louise (LaChambre) Vittorie. One of seven children, she would be raised in Missoula where she would also graduate from the Sacred Heart Academy.

As a single mother Rose married her true love, Jay Willis Sweetser, in 1953 and together they would raise four wonderful children. Rose would become a secretary, starting at Boeing. She would later work for the State of Montana Highway Department and the Office of Public

Instruction. Rose would eventually become a real estate agent and owned residential rental properties with her husband. After 41 unbelievable years together, Jay passed away in 1994.

She was very involved in the Central Bible Church women's Bible study, Bankwest Summit Club, and attended Risen Christ Catholic Church. Rose's passions were art, horses, cooking and traveling. She always got excited about the newest gadget or technology. She enjoyed music and dancing, had a great sense of



humor and loved to tease others to their delight.

Rose was preceded in death by her husband, Jay; and son, Greg Sweetser; parents, Dutch and Louise; and her siblings, Clara, Antoinette, Jack, Ted, Gerri Goheen and brother Louis Vittorie.

She is survived by her children, Linda (Bob) Heffernan, Valerie Diane Sweetser and Charles Sweetser, all of Kalispell; grandchildren, Haley Hunthausen, John, Luke, Shea, Will and Mattea Rose Heffernan; great-grandchildren, Austin Martell, Natalie, Samuel, Landon, Anna Rose Heffernan, Knoxyn, Kove Nicole-Rose Heffernan; and various

cousins, nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held for Rose Friday, April 29, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with a viewing starting at 10 a.m. and the service starting at 11 a.m. A burial service will be held 11 a.m. Monday, May 2, at St. Mary's Cemetery in Missoula.

Memorials are suggested to Risen Christ Catholic Parish in Evergreen and to the Flathead County Animal Shelter.

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

Ronnie Carl Swindall, 87

Ronnie Carl Swindall, 87, of Kalispell, passed away June 2, 2022, at Logan Health.

Ronnie was born in the coal mining town of Jenkins, Kentucky, Feb. 9, 1935, to Russell Moses Swindall and Florence Adams. In 1952, he married his childhood sweetheart, Margaret Ann Lawson, and together they celebrated 69 years of marriage.

After graduating from Jenkins High School, he earned an electrical engineering degree from the University of Kentucky in 1956. His engineering career started in Bristol, Tennessee, with the Raytheon guided missile program. In 1965, he moved to Lexington, Kentucky, and became a facilities engineer with IBM. In 1968, Ronnie made a bold decision to transfer with IBM, moving his family to Austin,

Texas. In 1987, he took advantage of an early retirement program with IBM and spent two years teaching electrical engineering at Washington State University. In 1989, after retiring, Ronnie and Margaret moved to Kalispell.

Ronnie called himself a hillbilly. In his Kentucky drawl, he would often tell to anybody who would listen about his family's heritage and swap stories of hunting and fishing. He was a pioneer of modern bowhunting from the 1950s and traveled to Montana to hunt elk for the first time in 1964. Favorite pastimes included running, motorcycling, picking



huckleberries, teaching kids to ride bicycles for the first time, shooting free throws, and following Kentucky Wildcat basketball.

However, those things paled in comparison to how much he treasured his friends and family, especially his grandchildren. Each year, he and Margaret would take a road trip from Montana across Colorado, Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia just to visit with even the most distant of relatives and friends.

Ronnie could recite many poems learned in his youth; such as Longfellow's, A Psalm of Life, "... Life is real! Life is earnest! And the grave is not its goal; dust thou art, to dust returnest, was not spoken of the soul ...". He was a man that loved Jesus and his family and imprinted values, morals, wisdom and special

memories in our hearts forever.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Betty, and brother Jonah.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; his sons, Russell (Jean) Swindall and Jeffrey (Coral) Swindall; grandchildren, Ronnie (Aimee), Jenna (Chris) Argo, Katie (Wesley) Dembek, Laurie (Marc) Hoffman and Celeste (Erik) Oakes; and great-grandchildren, Miles T., Miles R., David, Isla, Luke, Caleb, Josiah, Clara and Xander.

Family and friends are invited to an open house time of remembrance 2 p.m. June 12 at 655 Lost Creek Drive, Kalispell.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home & Crematory is caring for the family.

Richard 'Rick' Leonard Syth, 63

Richard "Rick" Leonard Syth of Kalispell passed away peacefully, with his daughter and sister by his side, on Aug. 27, 2022, in Kalispell.

Rick was the third child born to Jerry Syth and Ruth Soderstrom on April 3, 1959, in Kalispell, where he remained the majority of his life, up until his death.

Rick had a heart of gold and loved deeply. He was genuine, kind and humorous. No matter how hard of a day he was

having, he always greeted others with a smile.

Rick was inventive and full of knowledge; a jack-of-all-trades. He loved crafting things out of wood, metal, or anything he could get his hands on. Rick was a true artist at heart.

Rick loved racing his stock cars. He was a Ford man through



and through. Rick also enjoyed camping, working on vehicles, creating masterpieces of art, and helping others. Rick was adventurous and always eager to learn new things.

Rick was preceded in death by his father, Jerry Syth, of Fortine; his mother, Ruth Soderstrom, of Kalispell; and his brother, John Syth of Kalispell.

Rick is survived by his son, Jordan Elliot; his two daughters, Jerilyn and Haley-Jo

Syth; his two sisters, Kim Buchholtz and Sherry Lynn Olsen; and one brother, Randy Dennison; as well as many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and dear friends.

Rick brought joy to many people's lives and strived to care for those he loved in any way that he could.

There will be a celebration of life for Rick. If you knew and loved him as well and would like to attend, please contact Trista at 406-261-9942.