

Richard D. Idler, 85

Richard "Dick" Idler "lifted off on his final flight" on the 11th day of 2009. He died at Lake View Care Center with his daughters and wife at his side. He was born Nov. 1, 1923, in Wilmette, Ill.

His father, Percival, was a dentist and his mother, Florentine Schell, a homemaker. A believer in Christian Science, she taught Dick at a very young age about the power of positive thinking. Although the Depression surrounded his childhood, he retained happy memories of this time. His parents and three older siblings ingrained in him the importance of diligence, honesty and integrity.

An early job was lifeguarding on the shores of Lake Michigan. He lettered in swimming at New Trier High School in Chicago and was off to Cornell University in the fall of 1941. While spending a weekend with friends in New York City on Dec. 7, the headlines of Pearl Harbor erupted. Dick left Cornell and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was commissioned and received his treasured Wings of Gold and flew in the Caribbean and Pacific until the war ended.

Dick graduated from Lake Forrest College and married his high school sweetheart, Dorothy Starr. He began a career with the Aluminum Company of America. They lived in Cincinnati where his four children were born. They moved to the corporate offices in Pittsburgh. Working in sales and development for Alcoa, Dick flew around the country in a specially outfitted DC-3, exhibiting and demonstrating products made from aluminum. In 1972, the family relocated to southern California where he went to work on a new development, Century City, in west Los Angeles. He continued working for Alcoa in Malibu where a residential community was developing adjacent to the new Pepperdine University.

He retired from Alcoa and began a second career in real estate and development, working for Louis Busch Associates. Here he made many, many friends and was sometimes referred to as "the honorary mayor of Malibu." Among others, he represented Dick Clark, Steve McQueen, Dinah Shore and Johnny Carson.

His beloved wife, Dorothy, died unexpectedly in 1982.

In 1985, Dick bought a raffle ticket for the Lions Club Labor Day Chili Cook-off. Ali McGraw drew his number and he won a new Porsche. For weeks, friends and neighbors congratulated him on his good fortune.

In 1987, he married Nancy Denny Regan in Malibu. He was very active in the community and received recognition for his many contributions with a Dolphin Award from the Malibu Times in 1990. Just prior to that, the community of Malibu voted to incorporate. Dick was privileged to participate in the political process firsthand. He ran for City Council and lost. It was a life-changing event.

That August he took Nancy and all of his and her children to Flathead Lake Lodge in Bigfork for one week. Like so many



other visitors to the Lodge, they relocated to Bigfork quickly and spent many happy years creating a new life on the shore of the Flathead Lake.

Dick had great affection for the town and its people. He knew the potential of the valley was unlimited. He served on the board of the Flathead Lakers and was involved with the Chamber of Commerce trying to get trucks off of Highway 35. He was a land-use counselor with great respect for the environment. He knew well the inevitability of change and growth. He sought to channel those elements, resulting in attractive and well-functioning communities.

He jumped at the chance to engage in the early planning efforts in Bigfork and the Flathead Valley. Had he been more aware in recent years, he would have been most appreciative and supportive of all those involved in this process throughout the community.

Dick was a great cook, a most genial host and he loved a good joke. He could recite works like "Face on the Barroom Floor" at the drop of a hat and amazed new acquaintances by singing the fight song of their alma mater the moment they mentioned their affiliation. He loved all teams; Chicago, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, and most any college game.

He loved his cowboy boots and his tuxedo, music and dancing, he loved to fish and he spent many happy hours in his garden. He loved his family and his town. He simply loved his life.

A huge stroke in 1996 changed his world dramatically. Dick won the respect and affection of all who helped him as he fought to regain and retain his independence. The faith of his mother sustained him and he spoke many times of "a conversation with the good Lord." He would nod his head and smile. "Recovery" was his lifestyle and he stayed involved in activities as long as he was able. In 1999, the Bigfork Chamber of Commerce invited Dick to be the Grand Marshall of the Fourth of July Parade.

Dick's children are Rick Idler, a physician; Carolyn Idler, an educator; Beth Ford, a case management specialist; and Susan Kolb, an artist. He leaves them and their spouses and seven beautiful grandchildren, and his wife, Nancy, and her five children. He was so proud of each of them. The end of every single conversation included the words "I love you and I'm proud of you ..." He also leaves many friends who have missed his wisdom and the humor that came so easily.

The staff at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork provided loving care and affection for Dick and Nancy the past two years. Thank you so much.

At Dick's request, no service is planned. The family will gather at the lake house this summer to remember him with joy.

Edward Andrew Ilgen, 73

Edward Andrew Ilgen, 73, passed away at home in Lacey, Wash., on Sept. 12, 2009. Ed was born Oct. 22, 1935, in Kalispell, to Andrew and Florence Ilgen.

In 1953 he graduated from Flathead County High School and went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Montana in 1957.

After college, Ed served his country as a U.S. Naval aviator, from 1957 to 1963. During this time he married Patricia Gynn on April 11, 1958; the same day he was commissioned and began flight school. The couple has lived from Florida to as far away as Japan.

After leaving military

service his occupation was as a human resources executive for Hewlett-Packard, a career from which he retired in 1989.

During his free time, Ed enjoyed hunting, fishing, reading, playing bridge, golf and watching most sports, especially University of Montana football.

He was also very active as a community volunteer. He was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity (University of Montana), Elks Club, American Legion, and the Association of Naval Aviation (Port Townsend, Wash).

To leave condolences and see further information, visit www.funeralalternatives.org

Bernard 'Barney' Ill, 92

Bernard "Barney" Ill, passed away Friday, July 3, 2009, at his residence in Bigfork. Barney was born Jan. 13, 1917, in Southern



California to Harold and Gertrude (Kiershea) Ill.

Barney served his country in the Army Air Force and enjoyed flying the B-25 Mitchell bomber. Upon discharge after the war, he was employed with the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration), and retired after 31 years.

Barney met and married the love of his life, Ethel Tartkington, on July 17, 1943, in Visalia, Calif. They were married for 61 years before

Ethel preceded him in death, in 2004.

Barney was a life member of the Elks Lodge in Kalispell. He enjoyed camping, listening to jazz and Dixieland music, and making model airplanes and race cars. He had a love of working on his own vehicles, as well as building and rebuilding motorcycles.

He is survived by his two children, Marilyn Courtney and Kenneth W. Ill, both of Bigfork; along with six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Memorials are suggested to Hospice or to the Humane Society in Kalispell.

At his request, there will be no public services.

To send condolences, please go to www.buffalohillfh.com. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Steven Dale Inabnit, 55

Steven Dale Inabnit, 55, of Whitefish, died of natural causes at his home on June 6, 2009. He was born on Aug. 22, 1953, in Conrad.



He graduated from Conrad High School in 1971, and went on to attend and graduate from Helena Vo-Tech.

He then worked with computers for a large bank. After deciding that office life wasn't for him, he pursued a career in the plumbing field, where he found much success. He owned and operated Big Mountain Plumbing in Whitefish for over 25 years. In addition to running a full time business, he also raised twin sons who worked in the business with him while they attended high school and college.

In addition to work, Steve enjoyed everything that Mon-

tana has to offer including hunting, fishing, hiking, rafting, rock hounding, remodeling his home, and spending time with family, especially with his two new grandchildren.

He is survived by his parents, Dale and Mary Ann Inabnit, of Conrad; son, Josh and his wife, Mary, of Missoula; with granddaughter, Grace; son, Jeremy, and his wife, Saxon, of Missoula; with grandson, Tyler; brothers, Gordon and his wife Helen of Rudyard, and Dan and his wife Debbie of Valier; sisters, Janet King of Valier, Donna Hilliard and her husband Bill of Havre, and Lorna Kovatch and her husband Kenny of Ovando; ex-wife and friend, Maureen Widhalm, of Missoula; and numerous friends, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be outdoors at 2 p.m. Friday, June 19, at Steve's home at 540 W. Ninth St. in Whitefish.

Doris Ann Inman, 80

Doris Ann Inman, 80, passed away Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, at the Colonial Manor in Whitefish. She was born June 19, 1928, in Kansas, Ala., the daughter of Carl and Vera (Webb) Sparks.

She received her early education in Kansas, Ala., and moved to Phoenix in 1953, where she lived until June 1990, when she moved to Montana.

She loved crocheting and quilting.

She loved her children and grandchildren and was a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She married Thomas Howard Inman on Sept. 5, 1987, in Tempe, Ariz.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Sandra Ann, in 1995; two grandsons, Michael McGough and Mark Dubrul; her parents; and one brother, Jess Sparks.

She is survived by her husband, Tom Inman, of Whitefish; two sons, Sam McGough and his wife, Donna, of Whitefish, and

Mike McGough and his wife, Linda, of Kalispell; two daughters, Deanna McGough of Chandler, Ariz., and Beverly Burrow of Dallas; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Betty Allen, and her husband, Maurice, of Hueytown, Ala.

Funeral services for Doris will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Burial will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Doris' family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and sign Doris' guest book.

Elsie Maxine Schmitz Isakson, 81

Elsie Isakson passed away at her home in Kalispell on Aug. 27, 2008, surrounded by her loving family and friends.

Elsie was born July 14, 1927, in Malta, to Peter and Marie Schmitz. She moved to Kalispell in 1946 and, while working as a telephone switchboard operator, she met and married John Isakson on Oct. 30, 1948. From 1950 to 1959, they had four children and moved to Olney in 1953. Elsie lived most of her life in Flathead County, except for a few years in California and Washington.

She loved riding a motorcycle with her son Jack and made multiple trips between California and Montana.

While in Washington, she supported her second daughter Karen through two difficult pregnancies. She resided in the Kalispell Senior Apartments from 1992 until her death.

Elsie was preceded in

death by her parents; six sisters and brothers; her husband, John, in 2000; and daughter, Kathy Isakson, in 2005.

She is survived by her brother, Don Ellis, of Mountainburg, Ark.; daughter, Kristine Rose, and husband, Merlyn, of Olney; Karen Pemble of Columbia Falls; and John "Jack" Isakson and wife, Susana, of Bon-sall, Calif.; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Elsie was a wonderful and caring wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. She was loved by all for her compassion and kindness and she always got the last words: "I love you more!" She will be missed by all.

A memorial with potluck lunch will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 12, at Lawrence Park. For more information, please contact Kristine Rose at 406-881-2361.

LeRoy D. Iverson, 73

LeRoy D. Iverson, 73, of Bryan, Ohio, died at 7:25 p.m. Monday, May 4, 2009, in his home after an extended illness.



Mr. Iverson was an independent sales representative of craft supplies living in the Everett, Wash., area for many years before retiring in 1997 to Montana. He had been living in Bryan since July.

Mr. Iverson was born April 4, 1936, in Coleharbor, N.D., the son of Wilbur L. and Elsie (Knock) Iverson.

He married Marylee Harris on March 20, 1959, in Bremer-ton, Wash., and she survives.

Mr. Iverson is also sur-

vived by a daughter, Julie Iverson of Edmonds, Wash.; a son, Erin and Danette Iverson, of Napoleon, Ohio; one granddaughter, Rachel Iverson; a grandson, Ryan Grant; and three sisters, Betty L. Young of Burlington, Wash., Cleo J. Berban of Linwood, Wash., and Phyllis I. Ryman, of Tigard, Ore.

He was preceded in death by an infant brother, Burnell Iverson.

Mr. Iverson will be interred in Burlington, Wash. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Kalispell.

Krill Funeral Service, 860 W. Mulberry St., Bryan, Ohio, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may sent to and the online register signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.