

## Wayne S. Sakariason, 79

Wayne S. Sakariason, a lifelong resident of Kalispell, died at home Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009, of natural causes.

Wayne was born July 7, 1930, to William and Myrtle Sakariason. He was the eldest of their three children. At 14 he struck out on his own, hitchhiking to Seattle with \$6 in his pocket. He talked the owner of a boarding house into postponing the collection of his rent for one week, found a job and acquired work habits and business skills that served him a lifetime.

Wayne worked for Mountain Tractor for 19 years and then purchased the Kalispell Mountain Tractor dealership, which he ran for six more years. He sold that business and started Valley Equipment RV Sales in Evergreen, which gave him the opportunity to pass on his work ethic to his teenage son, who worked with him for several years. He ran Valley Equipment for 25 years until he sold out and retired in 1996.

While on a sales call for Mountain Tractor to Montana Plywood in Whitefish, Wayne was introduced to a pretty, young secretary in their office. Her name was Amanda Mattson, and he said the second he set eyes on her, he knew she was the one for him but it took a little longer to convince her. They were married for 37 happy years, raising their two children, attending

antique auctions and scouring antique shops across the United States, and turning their home and property on Woodland Hill into a showplace. It was there they welcomed their grandson, Dakota, who lived with them and brought much love and laughter into their lives.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Roger Sakariason (formerly of Kalispell), and Marvin Sakariason (formerly of Yuma, Ariz.); his beloved wife, Amanda Sakariason; and his favorite aunt, Dagny Nelson (formerly of Kalispell).

He is survived by his son, Terry Sakariason, and wife, Joy; daughter, Sheri Sakariason, and number one grandson, Dakota Sakariason, and granddaughter, Kendall, and daughters, Charlene, Denise and Susan, all of Kalispell. Patsy Wagner, his loving companion of the last four years, his "significant other," as he teasingly called her, also survives him at their home in Kalispell.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no public services. Cremation has taken place and his ashes will be laid to rest next to his wife, Amanda, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Friends are encouraged to visit the Web site at [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Donald Salo, 71

Donald Salo, 71, "departed to be with the Lord" on June 27, 2009. He was loved by his family and will be greatly missed.

Don was born March 18, 1938, to Esther Maisel and Benjamin Salo in Wakefield, Mich. He grew up and spent his childhood in Libby.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1954. Upon discharge, he then spent a great deal of time working in the timber industry as a sawyer, as well as for C&C Plywood of Kalispell, and, later, other numerous jobs.

In October 1965, he married Audrey Jahnke of Kalispell, and together they had five children.

Don enjoyed hunting and fishing, as well as poker and other card games. He also spent much time reading Western novels and watching Western movies.

Don was known to be feisty and always with a joke to tell. His sense of humor brought a smile to many faces, and we will miss his laugh.

We celebrate with joy in our hearts to know that in spring 2009, Don accepted the Lord as his Savior.

He was preceded in death by his father, Benjamin Salo; mother and stepfather, Esther and Frank LaCount; brother, Richard Wade; infant son, Joseph Salo; and infant grandchild, Frances HueKhang.

He is survived by son, Benjamin Salo, and wife, Shaunda, of Kalispell; son, Frank Salo, of Missoula; daughter, Tena Racki, and husband, Josh, of Great Falls; daughter, Brenda HueKhang, and husband, Michael, of Kalispell; son, Donald Miller, of Utah; and daughter, Debbie Miller, of Eureka; as well as numerous grandchildren. He will also be deeply missed by his dear friend, Norma Rivera, and her family, of Kalispell.

At his request, there were no services. The spreading of ashes will take place at a later date.

Don's children wish to thank the Brendan House aides and nurses for taking such wonderful care of our dad. We also especially wish to thank Richard and Diane of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home for the genuine concern shown for Don's care and our grieving.

## Bennie Joe Sagen, 56



Bennie Joe Sagen, 56, passed away at his home in Whitefish on Feb. 18, 2009, surrounded by his family after a nine and a half year courageous battle

with cancer. Bennie was born July 4, 1952, in Kalispell.

He graduated from Whitefish High School in 1970, then went to work for the railroad until his retirement in 2000.

He was an avid sportsman and outdoorsman.

After his retirement he volunteered at the North Valley Food Bank, spent many hours playing bridge, and enjoyed traveling with his family. He was always willing to lend a helping hand and always had a great story to tell.

He is survived by his mother, Bonnie Schlegel Winter, and

husband, Bumper, of Kalispell; his wife and soulmate, Luanne, and son, Sean, at their home in Whitefish; daughter, Heather, and Marc Burnham, of Whitefish, and their children, Madison, Ayla and Langley; daughter, Heidi Sagen, and Tyce Willfinger, of Salt Lake City, and their children, Troy and Gwenith; daughter, Dallas, and Joseph DeMarco, of Ephrata, Pa.; his brother, Tom Sagen, of Whitefish; sisters, Cathy and Chris Finberg of Columbia Falls, and Connie and Mark Wagner of Colorado; as well as numerous other family members and friends.

He touched many people throughout his life and his smile will be missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of Ben's life will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Christ Lutheran Church, 5150 River Lakes Parkway, in Whitefish, with a reception afterward at the Moose Lodge in Whitefish.

## Patsy Jane Sagen, 75

Surrounded by family, Patsy Jane Sagen, 75, peacefully passed away on Oct. 18, 2009, at the Brendan House in Kalispell. After a long battle with cancer, diabetes and kidney disease, "she is now in the hands of our Lord."

Patsy was born on Nov. 18, 1933, in Kalispell to George and Margaret (Tigges) Thomas.

She is survived by her husband, Wally Sagen, of Kalispell; a sister, Daisy Boding, and Keith; a brother, Frank Thomas, and Marjean; sons, Wendell Hansen and Sherri, and Matthew Hansen and Linda; and stepsons, Roger Sagen and Ku-Maing, Rodney Sagen and Anna, and Gary Sagen and Kathy. Patsy is also survived by eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces

and nephews.

Patsy was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Mark Hansen; daughters, Rebecca Hansen and Wanda Ferguson; and a stepson, Richard Sagen.

Memorial services for Patsy will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22, in the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Chapel with Pastor Scott Craven officiating.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Brendan House, 350 Conway Dr., Kalispell, MT 59901; or the Dialysis Center, 135 Commons Way, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson - Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Patsy's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to view Patsy's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.

## Ellen Fern "Trixie" Salzer, 63

Ellen Fern "Trixie" Salzer, 63, of Troy, died Monday, Jan. 19, 2009, at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle, after a sudden illness.

She had worked for many years for Cascade Tax Service as a certified public accountant.

Survivors include two stepdaughters, Anna Salzer

Nichols and Kathy Salzer Shore.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Feb. 12, at Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby. A potluck dinner will immediately follow the service, at the Baptist Community Church on U.S. 2, next to Jack's Cafe in Troy.

## Shirley Ann Sample, 69

Shirley Ann Sample, 69, passed away Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at Brendan House in Kalispell. Shirley was born Oct. 25, 1939, in Hansen County, S.D., to John and Margaret Bettcher. She was raised in Bridgewater, S.D. She attended elementary school and high school in Bridgewater.



every day for pie and coffee.

She was an avid reader, enjoyed word search puzzles, embroidery, and gardening, and took pride and joy in her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Margaret Bettcher; a sister, Darlene Bettcher; son, Steven Patrick Sample; and her husband, Wallace Sample.

She is survived by her children, Debra and husband, Roger Weinberg, of Kalispell, and Kathy Peterson of Viborg; siblings, Sharon and Jim Anderson of North Dakota, Dale and Darla Bettcher of Dell Rapids, S.D., Allen and Deb Bettcher of Iowa, Gerald and Sharon Bettcher of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Merle Bettcher Coleman of South Dakota; and grandchildren, Melissa Weinberg of Viborg, Amanda Peterson of Dell Rapids, Steven Peterson of Viborg, Christopher Peterson and fiancée, Tania Arnes, of Sioux Falls, and Brandi Peterson of Mitchell, S.D.

A celebration of Shirley's life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Faith Alliance Church, with the Rev. Jim Davy officiating.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Paul Harland Sampson, 77

Paul Harland Sampson, 77, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009, at his residence in Kalispell. He was born Nov. 25, 1931, in Polson, to Rasmus and Sylvia (Braaten) Sampson.



His early childhood was spent in the Polson area and then the family moved to Seattle. While he was still in his teens, Paul moved back to Kalispell. While working at Safeway, Paul met and married the love of his life, Juanita Louise Landon, in Kalispell on Nov. 27, 1949. To this union five children were born.

Paul had a tremendous work ethic, which consisted of working at Equity Supply, construction on the Hungry Horse and McNary dams, working on irrigation canals, and the Hanford Project in Washington state. His love of big boats and commercial fishing led him to own his own charter and tuna boats in Westport, Wash. He spent seven years in Texas, where he and his wife went to school at Mercy Ships. After school was over, they provided housing for missionaries.

Upon returning to Montana, he worked on the missile bases in Eastern Montana, the Aluminum Plant in Columbia Falls, and he started his own logging business. About this same time an idea was born to build the Meadow Lake Golf Course in Columbia Falls. He worked on this project with the help of his wife and entire family. He was one of the original owners and later sold his interest in the project to Burt Poloson, a very good friend.

His love of building made it possible to design and build a home from bottom to top with the help of his good friends, Don Ottosen and Fred Browning, overlooking Flathead Lake.

To relax, he liked to strum his guitar to country gospel music and attend services at the Bigfork Chapel. Paul had the ultimate knowledge that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

Paul was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Kenny, Bobby and Lloyd; his grandparents; and numerous aunts and uncles.

Paul is survived by his wife,

Juanita Sampson, of Kalispell; two sons, Rocky Sampson and wife, DeAnn, and Gerald Sampson and wife, Deanna, all of Kalispell; three daughters, Debra Reeves and husband, Cecil, of Salem, Ore., Terri Cothrn and husband, Bob, of Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, and Carri Pringle and husband, Rob, of Frederick, Md.; 19 grandchildren, Ken, Rich, Micah, Kimberly, Marcie, Toni, Geri, Shawna, J.C., Arette, Amy, Talia, Sheri, Brian, Scott, Niki, Kyle, Amber and Tessa; 10 great-grandchildren, Arielle, Megan, Cameran, Kenisha, Kailey, Alivia, Bailey, Caden, Brooklyn and Spencer; two brothers, Sam and Ray; and two sisters, Ann and Lillian.

No services are planned at this time. There will be a small gathering of family and friends this summer at Flathead Lake.

The family suggest donations be made to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT; or the Bigfork Chapel, 290 Highway 83, Bigfork, MT 59911.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Paul's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and sign Paul's guest book.

## William Robert Sandell, 85

William Robert Sandell, 85, died Sunday evening, Nov. 22, 2009, at his home in Eureka. He was born at Casper, Wyo., to Lloyd and Grace (Deal) Sandell and later moved to Cut Bank with his family where he graduated from high school.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following his discharge, he attended the University of Montana, receiving a degree from there.

He resided in Cut Bank for 50 years, working first in the oil fields and later for the City of Cut Bank and the U.S. Postal Service. He then resided in Essex for 14 years, retiring early due to ill health.

He and his wife had made their home in Eureka for

the past eight years. A gifted builder, he had built two of the homes they lived in; he also enjoyed the Montana outdoors where he liked to fish and pick huckleberries.

Surviving him are his wife of 50 years, Vivian; his children, Kathy Totten and Jeff, and Betty Deaton, all of Eureka, Wilma Sandell of Kalispell, and Lloyd E. Sandell and Val of Bremerton, Wash.; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his daughter, Christian Sandell Jolly, in 2000; and a sister, Lucille Sandell.

A family service will be scheduled at a later date.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is assisting the family with arrangements.

## Billy Jack Sanders, 81

Billy Jack Sanders, 81, of Polson, passed away on Sunday, March 22, 2009, at his home from natural causes.

Billy was born on July 10, 1927, in Carthage, Mo., to John and Anne Sanders. He moved to Montana at the age of 12.

He met and married Florence Bolduc on Oct. 23, 1950, in Kalispell.

They lived in Kalispell and in Wyoming for six years before moving to Polson in 1962. He bought his home and cherry orchard on the eastshore and started working for Plum Creek Lumber in 1962. He worked as a lumber grader for 28 years and only missed two weeks of work.

He loved fishing, hunting, puzzles, playing jokes and berry picking.

His wife Florence and his brothers preceded him in death.

He is survived by his children, Val Knight of Polson, Bill and Lisa of Polson, and Lorna Scott of Polson; grandchildren, Billy James, Nathan, Dakota, Charlisa, Charles, Cinamon, Caynne, Phillip and Alisha; and three great-grandchildren.

A gathering of family and friends will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 10, at the family home on the eastshore of Flathead Lake.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.groganfuneralhome.com](http://www.groganfuneralhome.com).

## Robert James Sanders, 83

Robert "Bob" Sanders passed away Nov. 4, 2009, in Dillon. He was born Dec. 14, 1925, to William and Iva Sanders while living in McGrath, Alberta. The family moved to Helena, and then later settled in the Lower Valley area when Bob was in high school. He was unable to attend his 1944 high school graduation ceremony as he was called to military duty for World War II. He became a U.S. citizen in Paris, France, and received his high school diploma by mail.

Bob met Marjorie Pederson following the war and they were married in Kalispell on April 16, 1950.

Bob and Marj owned and operated Sanders Implement Co. (John Deere dealership) from 1955 to 1968, and later owned Sanders' Western Specialty and Fashion Fabrics from 1968 to 1976. Bob and Marj retired from farming in the Lower Valley area in 1995, where he has resided until his passing.

Bob's passions included spending time with family, outdoor activities and raising horses. The fall would find him packing into the back country for hunting. Bob grew up around horses and

raised the Galiceno breed, owned quarter horses, and later raised Belgians. For over 25 years Bob loved driving his Belgian teams in the covered wagon ride between Buffalo Rapids Bridge and Dixon. During the winters Bob spent his time building covered wagons and refurbishing John Deere tractors. He was always ready at a moment's notice to gather with his grandsons for a family adventure.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie; and sister, Alice Funk.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Janice and John Popa, of Great Falls; son and daughter-in-law, Herbert and Barbara Sanders, of Spokane; and four grandchildren, Matt and Drew Popa, and Mark and Dan Sanders. He is also survived by brothers, Ray, Horace and William Sanders.

Bob's family is celebrating his life with a funeral service at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

To send condolences, please go to [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Bryant Sandefer, 73

Bryant Sandefer, 73, passed away Friday, May 8, 2009, at Kalispell Regional



Medical Center after a long illness. Bryant was born June 19, 1935, in Morton, Texas, to Evelyn and Walter Sandefer.

Bryant grew up in Texas, graduating from high school at 16. He was working in the oil fields by the age of 17, beginning a life marked by an incredible work ethic. Eventually he made his way to Montana working in the oil fields, at the Anaconda Aluminum Company, and finally owning several businesses, including the Glacier Gateway Motel.

He was devoted to his family and took great pride in watching his sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow and thrive. With his first wife, Janet, he leaves three sons and their families. Whether it was standing on the sidelines of a soccer field, sitting in the bleachers at a baseball game, playing cards around the dining room table or just enjoying a meal together, he might not say much but he enjoyed spending time with his family. He could spend hours watching with a quiet smile of amazement.

Horses were a big part of Bryant's life. He served as president of the Rocky Mountain Riders Saddle

Club, organizing many O-Mok-See activities through the years. He was particularly proud to have participated in the Montana Centennial Cattle Drive in 1989, driving 600 cattle from Roundup to Billings. He looked forward to trips into the Bob Marshall Wilderness with good friend, Britt Stratton, and other friends and family.

Bryant is survived by his wife, Jean, at the family home; son, Lynn, and Joan, and grandchildren, Jesse and Alayna, and Holly; step-granddaughters, Anna, Sarah and Emily; son, Gary, and Pat, and grandchildren, Taira and Kenny Massey, and Kelly; and son, Mike, and Laura, and grandchildren, Madison, Michael and Macey. He is also survived by great-grandchildren, Chase and Cody Sandefer, and Gavin and Kyler Massey. Also remembering Bryant will be Jean's daughters, Deb and Rich Lawrence, Pam Pool, and Lori Ihey. Sisters, Ruby Pugh, Rose Nicoles, Verniece Stevens and Pat McKinney also survive him, in Texas.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Backcountry Horseman, c/o Keni Hobkins, P.O. Box 1192, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, May 15, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. A potluck reception will immediately follow at the Birch Grove Community Center.

## Alvin M. 'Skip' Savage, 60

Alvin M. "Skip" Savage, 60, died Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, at his home in Libby from natural causes.

He had worked for W.R. Grace and then Asarco Troy mine.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Savage, of Libby; children, Sheila

Kochen of Central Point, Ore., and Alvin Savage of California; and stepchildren, Colleen Snyder and Joe Miller, both of Libby, and Max Miller of Spokane.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

## Ann McGuire Schear, 85

Ann McGuire Schear, 85, died Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

She is survived by her daughter, Judy Anderson,

of Kalispell.

There are no services planned at this time.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Betty (Kao) Schlinger, 79

Betty (Kao) Schlinger, 79, formerly of Whitefish, died April 3, 2009, in Laughlin, Nev.

She is survived by her husband, Frank Schlinger, of Laughlin; and daughters, Ruth Czerniak

of Gordondale, Alberta, Cathy Anderson of Portland, Cheryl Torneby of Vancouver, Wash., and Bethany Ghali of Las Vegas.

Funeral services took place in Las Vegas.

## Dale Lewis Schmalz, 65

Dale Lewis Schmalz, 65, died at his residence in Kalispell on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009.

He is survived by numerous cousins, aunts and

uncles.

There are no services planned at this time.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Cleo M. Schneider, 95

Cleo M. Schneider, 95, died Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009, at Libby Care Center.

Survivors include her children, April Felsman of Libby, and R. Wesley Johnson of Titusville, Fla.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, at the Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, at the funeral home.

## Dennis H. Schoepp, 61

Dennis H. Schoepp, 61, a longtime Flathead Valley funeral director, died Thursday, June 11, 2009, at Kalispell Regional



Medical Center. He was born Dec. 21, 1947, at Bismark, N.D., and came to Lewistown as a child where he attended school, graduating from Fergus County High School in 1966.

He served in the U.S. Army, serving for an extended period in Germany.

He married Kenria Roll of Great Falls on Aug. 23, 1975.

He attended Eastern Montana College in Billings (MSU-Eastern) and Montana State University in Bozeman, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in archaeology and anthropology. He later attended the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science, graduating in 1979.

He and his wife came to Columbia Falls in 1980 where they had owned and operated Columbia Mortuary for 29 years and later the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. He had been an active member of the Montana Funeral Directors Association, serving twice as president, and

the National Funeral Directors Association, serving on that organization's national policy board. He also had been a member of the Montana Archaeological Society, the Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce, as well as serving on the board of the Whitefish Credit Union. Dennis maintained his lifelong love of archaeology, keeping an exhaustive collection of agates.

Survivors include his wife, Kenria, of Columbia Falls; a brother, Alan Paul McAtee, and wife, Pamela, of Missoula; sisters, Janet Trujillo of New Mexico, and Tammy McAtee of Great Falls; his mother-in-law, Gloria Austin, of Whitefish; and a niece and nephews, Jennifer, Brian, Matthew, Randall and Brandy.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Florence McAtee, in 2006.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. today, June 16, at the Columbia Mortuary Chapel, with interment services and military honors following at Woodlawn Cemetery. Friends may call the Columbia Mortuary until noon today.

Memorials may be made to the Montana Funeral Directors Association Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 4267, Helena, MT 59604-4267.

## Lawrence 'Larry' Scholer, 59

Sgt. Major Lawrence "Larry" Scholer, 59, died Aug. 19, 2009, at his home in Somers.

Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## C. Martin Schrepfer, 81

C. Martin Schrepfer, 81, affectionately known as Marty, "passed from this world into the presence of the Lord Jesus



Christ" on Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, following heart surgery. Marty was born March 1, 1928, at home in Peoria Heights, Ill. He received his education in Peoria Heights and Woodruff High School in Peoria, Ill.

He also served our country in the U.S. Army. While in the Army Marty became a carpenter instructor at Fort Lee, Va. After the service he continued a lifetime career as a general contractor.

Marty was a builder in the Denver area until 1971 when he moved the family to the Hubbard Ranch near Marion. For the past 18 years he and his wife Connie have lived in Lakeside.

Marty was a hard-working man, but loved life and lived it to the fullest. In addition to construction he enjoyed cattle ranching, farming, downhill skiing, hunting, fishing and extensive travel. He also loved Jesus Christ and served his Savior on a number of mission trips to foreign countries, including

Mexico, Thailand and El Salvador.

Some have said that Marty was like his truck, "There's a lot more under the hood that you can't see from the outside. If you lifted the hood what you would see would both amaze and amuse you."

Marty loved his family and never failed to tell them so. He is survived by his wife, Connie; his sister, Mary Jean Clark, and her husband, Gene, of Peoria Heights; and his three sons, Matt and his wife Juanetta of Eureka, Pete and his wife Brenda of Trinidad, Colo., and Bill and his wife Lauri of Kalispell. Marty has eight grandsons and five great-grandchildren. He also loved Connie's three daughters, Jacki, Bobbi and Shari, and their husbands, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Marty had many close friends in the Flathead. Everyone is invited to be part of his celebration of life at 2 p.m. on Oct. 29, at the Christian Center, 255 Summit Ridge Drive, in Kalispell

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to either the Lighthouse Christian Home, 384 N. Somers Road, Kalispell, MT 59901; or Christian Center Missions, 255 Summit Ridge Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.

## Ruth E. Schrock, 84

Ruth E. Schrock, 84, died March 4, 2009, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

Private services will be held. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## William 'Bill' Schuler, 83

William "Bill" Schuler, 83, died Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, of natural causes at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

He is survived by his wife, Lois Schuler, and daughters, Karen Calabretta of Whitefish, Nancy

Adams of Ashby, Mass., and Janet Summers of Kalispell.

A memorial was held Feb. 22 at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Cremation is planned and burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

## Doris Z. Schumm, 72

Doris Z. Schumm, 72, died Saturday, Nov. 28, 2009, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Arrangements are pending with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

## Willard H. Schwartz, 86

Willard H. Schwartz, 86, passed away on Friday, June 12, 2009, at the family home in Kalispell. He was born on Feb. 24, 1923, in Great Falls, the son of David and Isis (Allman) Schwartz.

He grew up in the Fort Benton area on the family farm. In 1934, the family moved to the Flathead Valley where he attended Helena Flats and Flathead High School. The family then moved to Whitefish in 1940 where he graduated from Whitefish High School in 1941.

In June of 1941 he started working with the railroad and was continuously employed until his retirement in 1982.

On May 7, 1947, he married Dorothy Gray in Whitefish. They were blessed with two children, David and Dan.

Willard was an accomplished musician and a man of many talents. He will be dearly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David and Isis Schwartz; and his

two sons, David and Dan Schwartz.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dorothy Schwartz, of Kalispell; two daughters-in-law, Jan Schwartz of Kalispell, and Wanda Schwartz of Alabama; brother-in-law, Edward Gray, and wife, Margie, of Whitefish; nephew, Don Gray, and wife, Elaine, of Brady; two nieces, Cindy Nanna and husband, Charles, of Whitefish, and Margret Kroeze and husband, Vern, of Spokane; and family friend, Lori Angus, of Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a charity of your choice.

A graveside service for Willard will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Willard's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and sign Willard's guest book.

## Adam Schweitzer, 89

Adam Schweitzer, of Helena, died of natural causes Dec. 4, 2009, at the age of 89.



A viewing will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the Retz Funeral Home Chapel, followed by a vigil service at 7 p.m. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Cathedral of St. Helena, followed by a luncheon in the Brondel Center of the Cathedral.

Arrangements are under the care of Retz Funeral Home in Helena.

Mr. Schweitzer was born May 15, 1920, in Goldstone, the seventh of nine children, to Michael and Francisca Schweitzer. His first language was German; he only learned English after beginning school. He never had the opportunity to attend high school, but he had a lifelong thirst for learning that he passed on to his children and grandchildren.

When World War II started he joined the Army Air Corps, graduating in the top 1 percent of his aircraft engineering class. After the war, he returned home to take over the family farm.

In 1946, he married Kathleen H. McKernan of Box Elder. The family moved to Geyser in 1954. Mr. Schweitzer was both innovative and active in the farming and ranching community. In pursuit of better performance he helped organize the Montana Beef Performance Association, and as director he helped start the first performance bull testing station in Montana. He produced the first Simmental calf born in the United States in October of 1968, and held the first production Simmental sale.

He was elected to be the Montana director for the American Simmental Association, and Schweitzer Simmentals were internationally recognized for producing the best polled fullbloods in the world. He won numerous awards including: Grand Champion with a bull named

Montana in Argentina, and Grand Champions in Europe, Australia, Canada and Mexico. His final show was in Dallas where he won World Grand Champion Bull.

While searching for a better market for his produce he became involved with the National Farmers Organization and eventually became the national director for the NFO.

Mr. Schweitzer was also active in his community outside of agriculture. Among his proudest accomplishments were organizing and creating the Geyser Rural Fire Department, serving on the local school board, serving on the St. Cyril Catholic parish council, actively participating in the Knights of Columbus, and leading the Raynesford Willing Workers 4-H Club.

He encouraged his children to get a good education. He was proud that all of his children attended college and pursued successful careers as doctors, real estate agents, consultants and governor.

During his youth, Mr. Schweitzer enjoyed hunting, baseball and dancing. In his later years he enjoyed world travel to countries such as Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, Mexico, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland and Saudi Arabia.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Kathleen, of Helena; a brother, Frank, of Nevada; a sister, Francis, of Arizona; his children, Darwin and Sharon of Oregon, Warren and Ingela of California, Mike and Jolyn of Billings, Brian and Nancy of Helena, Walter and Cindy of Helena, and Mary and Joe of Ohio; 14 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by six siblings; and one grandchild.

Donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association Montana Chapter at 3010 11th Ave. N., Billings, MT 59101; or the Geyser Volunteer Fire Department at P.O. Box 102, Geyser, MT 59447.

To offer a condolence to Adam's family or to share a memory of Adam, please visit [www.retzfuneralhome.com](http://www.retzfuneralhome.com).



## Dorothy Scott, 88

Dorothy Scott, 88, passed away Jan. 24, 2009, at Colonial Manor in Whitefish. She had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 1999. Dorothy was born May 13, 1920, in Lakewood, Ohio, to parents, George F. Couchey and Ruth (Summerall) Couchey.

During the Depression much of her time was spent in upper New York, at Essex, with her paternal grandparents. She graduated from Dover High School in Westlake, Ohio, in 1938.

After that she worked at several jobs and finally got to start as a receptionist for a doctor in Cleveland, Ohio, where she worked for several years. This is where she met her future husband, Warren Scott.

World War II brought about a change as the doctor went in the Army. So she started working as a hostess for Stouffer Bros. restaurant in Cleveland, Ohio. In December 1943, she married Warren, who was on leave from the Army Air Corps. She continued to live at home until after the war when Warren returned and they settled in Cleveland, while Warren started college at Baldwin Wallace.

In September 1946 they moved to San Fernando, Calif., to be with her sister June, and her husband, Bill Lawrence. Bill and Warren enrolled in an Aircraft Mechanics school in



Burbank, Calif. They obtained an A&E license and Warren rejoined the Army. Bill went to work at the Van Nuys Airport.

In 1948 Dorothy had their son, Toby. Dorothy, Toby and Warren traveled quite a bit during their service years. They lived in South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Guam, Nebraska and California, where they settled after Warren retired from the Air Force after over 20 years. They settled in Santa Barbara, where Dorothy worked for I Magnin for several years after Warren's military retirement.

In 1966, Warren was working for Security Pacific National Bank and Dorothy quit working. Dorothy's folks and sisters lived in Santa Barbara also. Her dad died in 1967 and her mom was invited to live with Dorothy, Toby and Warren, which she did, until she passed away in 1989.

Warren and Dorothy traveled extensively after Warren's retirement from the bank in 1983. Their travels included three trips to Europe. They moved to Montana in 2004 where Toby had been living so that the family could be together.

## Susan Hoogendyk Scott, 57

Susan Hoogendyk Scott passed away on May 31, 2009, after a four-year battle with cancer, at her home in Louisiana, at age 57.



She grew up in Spokane and graduated from Shadle Park High School. Later she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at the Metropolitan State University in Denver.

Her life-long passion was her art and she was successful in selling her work in the South and in Denver.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Jack Scott, of Destrehan, La.; her mother, Betty Minjares, and sisters, Marilynn Richter and Jeri Hoogendijk, of Kalispell; son, Leland Beller, of Boulder Creek, La.; and a granddaughter, Violet Miroyan, of Los Angeles.

Memorial services will be held July 17 at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

## Robert Search, 84

Former Whitefish resident Robert Leroy Search, 84, died Feb. 9, 2009, at Pioneer Manor in Gillette, Wyo. He was born in Whitefish on June 23, 1924, and spent his school-age years in Hot Springs.



He moved back to Whitefish in 1955 to work on the railroad. He was employed by Burlington

Northern Railroad, until he retired in 1982.

He is survived by his former wife, Wilma Search, of Gillette; sister, Marg Walters, of Burnsville, N.C.; sister, Hazel Rada, of Trout Creek; daughter, Wanda Hall, of San Antonio; daughter, Cindy Perry, of Billings; daughter, Robin England, of Whitefish; son, John Search, of Sandpoint, Idaho; and daughter, Ida Hamilton, of Gillette; 12 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

A family memorial service will be held in the summer.

## Elmer Ackroyd Searle, 90

Elmer Ackroyd Searle, 90, passed away March 24, 2009, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. He was born in Magrath, Alberta, on Oct. 5, 1918, to Heber LeRoy and Susan Isabel (Ackroyd) Searle.



His family moved to Kalispell in 1934. Elmer met Fay Robinson in the summer of 1937 and married her in Polson on March 11, 1939. They were later sealed in the Cardston, Alberta, temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on July 22, 1942. They recently celebrated 70 years of marriage.

Elmer served with the Merchant Marines in the Aleutian Islands from 1944 to 1945. After World War II, he worked as an electrical engineer on the Chief Joseph Dam in Washington state and for Martin Marietta in Washington and California.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in independent studies from BYU in 1985 and a Master of Arts degree in humanities from CSU in 1990.

Elmer was a member of the Electrical Brotherhood Union and served as a bishop and high councilman for the LDS church. He was also a proud member of the Over-the-Hill-Gang, a local

hiking group.

He loved skiing, bird watching, listening to classical music, reciting poetry, and taking friends and family on hikes. He is remembered by his willingness to serve, his love for God and his love of nature.

Elmer was preceded in death by his parents; five siblings, Ireta, Elda, Charles, Belle and Hazel; and his son, Galen Lee.

He is survived by his wife, Fay Searle, of Kalispell; two daughters, Carol Johnson and husband, Russ, of Kenmore, Wash., and Janet Sharp and husband, John, of Augusta, Ga. one son, Jared Searle, and wife, Diana, from the Seattle area; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many loving friends.

Funeral services for Elmer will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Whitefish Stage Road, with Bishop Scott Wendling conducting. Burial will be afterward at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with military honors. Visitation will be from noon to 6 p.m. Friday in the Johnson-Gloschat funeral chapel, and for one hour prior to services at the church.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Elmer's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and sign Elmer's guest book.

## James D. Secrest, 87

James D. Secrest, 87, died May 29, 2009. Jim was born in Muncie, Ind., in the planting season of 1921.

After attending Ball State University, Jim left for art school in Philadelphia with the \$10 his father gave to him at the train station.

After serving as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Jim continued his education, and graduated in 1950 from Alfred University in New York State with a Master of Fine Arts degree in ceramics.

Jim went on to teach ceramics for several years at Rochester Institute of Technology, and, in partnership with his brother Phil, built and operated a ceramic studio in western New York. Jim's extraordinary sense of design and sensitivity to form earned him national recognition that extended through the making of pots to the designing of large commissioned murals and eventually to the building of churches and libraries — a true American craftsman.

In 1973 Jim moved to Somers to begin a new life, one of fishing and hunting and living off the land.

His life in Somers completed a full circle journey,



beginning with the summers he spent as a child on his grandfather's farm and ending with his final vocation as a

hunter and food gatherer. His greatest passion was gardening, allowing him to supply his family and friends with organic produce from summer until late fall when he immersed himself in canning and freezing, sausage making, as well as the drying of fruit from his orchard.

Jim was preceded in death by his brother, Donald.

He is survived by his brothers, Phil and Russell; and children, Peter, David, Jess, Gretchen, Chris and Stephan; and nine grandchildren.

As a blue-eyed storyteller, builder of churches and gardens, hunter of elk and wild mushroom and a fisher of salmon, this man of 87 kept his feet on the ground and hands in the earth.

To celebrate Jim's life, a potluck will be held at his house in Somers at noon, June 21.

## Sylvester R. 'Spike' Senner, 98

Sylvester R. "Spike" Senner, 98, died Thursday, May 28, 2009, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

He is survived by his son, Monte Senner, of

Kalispell.

Burial will be held at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Irene Shafer, 83



Irene Shafer passed away peacefully Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009, at

home surrounded by her family, after a short battle with cancer. She was born May 9, 1926 to Josephine (Trinko) Karnes and Carl Karnes in Hatchville, Wis., at home on the family farm. She attended schools in Elmwood, Wis., and Dunn County Ag School in Menomonie, Wis.

She met the love of her life, Vaughn Shafer, and they were married on Aug. 21, 1945, in Menomonie at the Peace Lutheran Church. They had five children and decided that they would rather raise them in Montana than in the city and moved to Montana in 1963. They loved Montana deeply and shared a love of hiking and picking huckleberries and showing their visiting friends all around their beautiful state.

Irene worked for the Postal Service for many years, first as an employee of the Hungry Horse Post Office, then as a post mistress. When the Hungry Horse office went private, she opted to work at the Columbia Falls Post Office where she made many friends with whom she remained close to this day.

In 1982, she and Vaughn purchased the Hungry Horse Corral Gift Shop, which Vaughn continues to own and operate.

She was many things to many people. She was a daughter, wife, mom, mother-in-law, sister, grandma, aunt, great-grandmother and friend.

She was a patron to many entities in the valley and statewide, but her favorites were the Canyon Elementary School and the Wildcat Athletic Endowment Association. She held many important positions in our small community and was well known for her fairness and her ability to think things through. She was also known for her strong business sense.

She will be very missed by the Hungry Horse Water board where she volunteered many years of service. You always knew where you stood with Irene. She did not hold back in life and we are sure "that she is finding her rightful place in Heaven as we speak."

She was preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Josephine Karnes; and her brother, Carl "Buddie" Karnes.

She is survived at the family home by her husband of 64 years, Vaughn Shafer; their oldest son, Terry Shafer, and his wife, Judy, of Hungry Horse; son, Ron Shafer, of Columbia Falls; son, Mark Shafer, and wife, Sharon, of Whitefish; daughter, Jan Sergeant, of Lakeside and San Diego; and youngest son, Craig Shafer, of Hungry Horse; her grandchildren, Todd Shafer of Kalispell, Toni (Shafer) Nanini and husband James of Kalispell, Siara (Shafer) Jay and husband Chuck of Bonney Lake, Wash., Ben Shafer and wife Amanda of Hungry Horse, Kyla Shafer of La Verne, Calif., Cydney Sergeant of

San Diego, and Jeff Shafer of Brooklyn, N.Y. She has one great-grandchild who was the light of her life, Aspen Grace Shafer, daughter of Ben and Amanda Shafer.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Canyon Elementary School or the Wildcat Athletic Endowment Association.

The service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Canyon Elementary School gym. There will be a potluck memorial celebration in honor of Irene's life immediately following the service at Canyon Elementary School.

## Martin O. Shanor, 79

Martin O. Shanor, 79, died at home of natural causes on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009.

Martin was a longtime resident of the Flathead Valley. He worked at Sykes as a butcher, and logged for many years with Tom Ladenburg; Owens and Bray.

He is survived by his son, Martin Jr.; daughter, RaeEllen; three stepsons, Gary, Terry and John Franklin; stepdaughter, Karla Parmer; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind a sister, Betty; and brothers, Bill and Bob.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 35 years, Lois; a grandson, Jason; three brothers, Leroy, Phil and Ray; and sister, Peg.

Memorial services for Martin will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 2, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, with Pastor Tim Bartholomew of Stillwater Free Lutheran Church officiating. Directly following the services, Martin will be laid to rest with military honors at Glacier Memorial Cemetery. A reception will be held at noon at the VFW, to celebrate Martin's life and share stories.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Martin's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to view Martin's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.

## LaDonna Sue 'Suzy' Shaw, 58

LaDonna Sue "Suzy" Shaw passed away Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, in Chewelah, Wash., after a brave fight with pancreatic cancer. She

was born May 14, 1950, to Gary and Lucille Daugherty while en route to the hospital in Tacoma, Wash.

LaDonna married Ben Shaw in April 1968 and settled in Rochester, Wash. They had four daughters together, Stephanie, Kellie, Elesa and Kristen. LaDonna lost Ben to an accident in 1978 and thereafter devoted herself to loving and raising her girls. LaDonna's greatest love of all was her family.

She also had a love of history and traveling. Her love of traveling eventually led her to Kalispell in the '80s. There she met Randy Britt, and together with his family, they spent the next 22 years together. She came from a large family, and we all will miss her presence



with us.

LaDonna was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Alan; and grandson, Cody.

She is survived by Randy; her brothers, Lonnie Daugherty and wife, Tressa, of Rochester, Gary Daugherty of Tenino, Wash., and Scott Daugherty of Olympia, Wash.; her sisters and spouses, Toni and Richard Hanson of Lacey, Wash., and Connie and Charlie Flanagan of Lacey; her daughters, Stephanie Shaw of Longview, Wash., Kellie Berta of Columbia Falls, Elesa and Robbie Laeger of Kalispell, and Kristen Bennet of Chehalis, Wash.; and also a part of our family, Randy's daughter and her husband, Fawn and Jerry Leaming of Kila, and Randy's son, Mickey and Angela Britt of Kalispell; grandchildren, Caitlyn, Cassidy, Morgan, Ashton and Ben; and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, 1890 Hwy. 93 N., Kalispell, proceeding afterward to Glacier Memorial Gardens for a graveside prayer.

## Dr. Robert A. Shea, 71

The man is not the man without the story.

Robert Albert Shea was born to Albert George Shea and Mary Elizabeth Sullivan on Sept. 30, 1937, in Boston. He died at his home March 21, 2009, surrounded by close friends and his loving wife and companion of 27 years.

Being born along the Atlantic shore, he developed a love of water that would stay with him throughout his life. His first stories were of being brought home by a fisherman who found him alone, floating too far out at sea.

When he was old enough, he attended Catholic boarding schools and Jesuit high schools. His stories of Catholic high school were more about Sister Bertha. "A little firebrand and wonderful teacher that could hit a softball like a man." He was an alter boy for Father Kroyak and Father Murphy. He received the Sacrament of the Sick by Father Fleming of Missoula. The Jesuits gave him an excellent classical education. He would forever charm people by singing Christmas carols in Latin. Later in life, when he wore a certain sweater, his friends would joke and say, "You look like a priest on vacation."

He went to a Jesuit university, St. Mary's, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. And at about 5 feet 7 inches tall and 160 pounds, he played football for the Saints (later to be the Huskies). During that time the Saints won two Maritimer Junior titles. He was a gifted and disciplined athlete with an abundance of heart and soul. He stayed in touch with his college buddies all of his life. They were always Peter, Paul, John and Bobby. He continued to love "the game of football" and became an avid Grizzly fan. After moving to Missoula, he went to every home game and a few out-of-state games.

After graduating from St. Mary's, he was drafted into the Army on Dec. 6, 1961, in Butte. How he arrived at Butte from Nova Scotia was somewhat of a mystery, but there were rumors of a coach's daughter.

While in the Army, he served at Check Point Charlie. He was there during the Cuban Missile Crisis. His stories were like those of any young recruit: pitching a tent in the snow, marching with empty bayonets, having the older German women throw coal at the Americans, and of course the trips into town, and typical of him, getting caught using the officers' outdoor facilities.



When the wall came down, he and his wife returned to Berlin and chipped away at this piece of history.

After his military service, he taught school for a year. Bob attended Springfield College where he earned a master's degree in counseling and psychology. He then made a decision which would change his life and leave his legacy.

It was the Kennedy era and he went off to save the world for democracy. The Vietnam War had started and he went to work for the State Department's Agency for International Development. He was involved in refugee work and in teaching the Vietnamese to defend themselves. He was first assigned to AID Saigon. He was then assigned to the Office of Civil Operations working under John Paul Vann. He held various posts, such as refugee adviser to district senior adviser. On Oct. 27, 1967, at 0030 hours, while working on medical evacuation of a number of soldiers who were wounded resulting from a VC attack at Cau Ben Cui outpost, he was wounded by the VC.

He received the Chuong My Medal on April 13, 1968, signed by the president of the Republic of Viet Nam, Nguyen Van Thieu. He received the Purple Heart for wounds received in action as a United States civilian on Nov. 6, 1968.

In 1968, he returned to Washington, D.C., and spent nine months in rehabilitation at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, Maryland. But it was 1968 ... hear the music. He wanted out of D.C.

He went to Washington State University in Pullman, Wash., for his graduate work. He was very surprised when the plane landed and all he saw were open fields. He received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Washington State University on June 3, 1973.

He also discovered life. He backpacked, climbed mountains, fished, rafted rivers, sailed, and enjoyed downhill skiing. Bob told wonderful stories of climbing Mount Rainier to scatter the ashes of his dog Harry, and having to use his ice ax to get the can open because it was so cold at the top; of rafting the Lochsa and flipping the raft every time they went down; of sailing Desolation Sound.

He continued to sail with his graduate student friends during the past 30 years. They moved on from Desolation Sound to sail the Inland Passage to Alaska three times. Their last trip was in 2003. He absolutely loved the Smith River. This raft trip became a rite of spring.

On June 29, 2000, he received the State of Montana Governor's Citation by Gov. Marc Racicot for unselfish and courageous actions for a recovery on the Blackfoot River.

At the age of 70, he took his own raft down the Middle Fork of the Salmon. In August 2008, he made his last trip. He was with a dear friend and fellow river rat with whom he had skied, rafted and hiked for more than 25 years. They spent a week along the south arm of Yellowstone Lake.

When he had time from his adventures, he and his wife traveled throughout the world. In later years, they enjoyed the western islands of the Caribbean. He also liked to hunt upland game birds. He loved his Chesapeake, Trek.

But ... his life's work was with veterans. He had a deep understanding and compassion for veterans. He helped them in his clinical work as well as with the Veterans Administration. He wanted it written on his tombstone: "I made the V.A. change a form." His first work with veterans was in about 1973 at the Veterans Administration in Tacoma, Wash. He was a consultant on post-traumatic stress disorder. He then came to Missoula in 1981 and opened his clinical practice. At that time, his work with veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder was groundbreaking. He was a major contributor to the Montana State Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Rose Park.

In November 1988, Bob flew with a group of Missoula veterans to the Soviet Union. They spent some time in Moscow and then went on to Alma Ata in Kazakhstan. Alma Ata was close to the Afghan-Chinese border where battalions of paratroopers were enlisted and sent to Afghanistan. There were many similarities between the veterans from Afghanistan and the Vietnam vets. They translated the pamphlet on post-traumatic stress disorder word by word. Quoted from an article he wrote, "We taught them in rap groups, we held rap groups for their wives, we played touch football and soccer." "Brothers in Arms" by Jack Lyon documented their trip. When he came home from Kazakhstan he no longer had his own private nightmares. A few years later, funding was raised to bring two of the Afghan veterans to Missoula. Sergi and Sergi were hosted in his home.

Later in his practice he became interested in forensics. He was a diplomate, board-certified forensic examiner. He worked for the Public Defenders

Office for years. He would come home from the jail and say, "I just met the nicest man; he just made some wrong choices." He was always the behaviorist. Bob also enjoyed working for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

As he was making his journey to pass over, it was like a large puzzle, the last piece being put into place the night before his death. The night caregiver was from Russia. We talked of Kazakhstan, of Alma Ata, of the apples and the ice-skating rink, of the beautiful mountains. He again was at peace. He passed on in the morning, the first full day of spring at 9:41 a.m. in the home he had built, wearing a Smith

River cap, a Montana T-shirt and a medicine pouch. Maybe the only thing missing was a cigar. He was surrounded by those who loved him.

He is survived by a large family of everlasting friends; his wife; and distant relatives.

A memorial service to celebrate his life and honor his service to the community will be held at 5 p.m. April 14, at Heritage Hall, 30 Fort Missoula Road, in Missoula.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dr. Shea's honor may be made to: Yellowstone Association Institute, P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82109; and/or The Glacier Institute, P.O. Box 1887, Kalispell, MT 59903; and/or Hospice of Missoula.

## Jette Sheeley, 66

Jette Sheeley, 66, died Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at her home in Libby, from natural causes.

Survivors include her husband, Jay Sheeley, of Libby; and four children, Eric Scovel, Craig Scovel and Jay

Sheeley Jr., all of California, and Joanne Toice of Pennsylvania.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at the Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

## Glenn Jay Shepard, 59

Glenn Jay Shepard, 59, died Thursday, June 18, 2009, as a result of a four-wheeler accident near Hungry Horse. He was born to

Harold and Sadie (Fox) Shepard on Oct. 30, 1949, in Polson.

He attended Flathead High School, graduating in 1969, and Cheyenne Aero Tech School in Cheyenne, Wyo., from 1989 to 1990.

Glenn found no greater joy than being in the outdoors with his family, whether they were hunting, camping, fishing or cutting wood. Serving his Heavenly Father, Jehovah God, was very important to Glenn.

Glenn was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Sadie Shepard; brothers, Billy, Jesse, and Darrel; and sisters, Nancy and Bonnie.

He is survived by two daughters, Avangala Tomlanovich and her husband, Andy, of Columbia Falls and



Amanda Shepard and Tim Cikauskas also of Columbia Falls; two sons, Nathan Shepard and his wife, Jessa, of Billings and Micah Shepard and his wife, Lisa, of Hungry Horse; eight grandchildren, Kasey and Lane, Kali, Malachi and Levi, Dakota, Wyatt and Haylee; three brothers, Ken Shepard and his wife, Kaye, of Kalispell, Kent Shepard of Havre, and Keith Shepard of Kalispell; and three sisters, Joan Pomeroy and her husband, Asa, of Kalispell, Joyce DeWitt of Foyl, Okla., and Iona Luce and her husband, Jerry, of Columbia Falls.

Memorial services for Glenn will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 195 Veterans Drive in Columbia Falls. There will be a private burial at a later date.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Glenn's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and sign Glenn's guest book.

## Karen Shepard, 66



Karen Jean Shepard, formerly of Kalispell, was born to Jean and Lloyd Crowell on Nov. 25, 1942, in Detroit Lakes, Minn. She unexpectedly "went to be with the Lord" on Jan. 12, 2009.

Karen spent her early years growing up in Detroit Lakes. In 1960, she married Claude Kimes and gave birth to six beautiful children; but the couple separated. Shortly after, she met the love of her life, Jesse Shepard. On Oct. 6, 1972, they were wed, and their families combined to a grand total of 11 children. Karen continued to love and raise all of her 11 children, even after Jesse's tragic death May 15, 1982.

Throughout her life she continued to be the glue that held the family together with shared stories, laughter and love. She spent her final years residing in Walsenburg, Colo., but continued to travel from state to state, visiting her children, her family, and her friends.

Karen was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse Shepard; her parents, Lloyd and Jean Crowell; her brothers, Darryl and Michael Crowell; her brother-in-law, Jim Jolly; and Claude Kimes.

Karen is survived by her brother, Dave, and Nadia Crowell of Payson, Ariz.; and her sis-

ter, Kathy Jolly, of Sierra Vista, Ariz.; her children, Peg and Rick Lentz of Cypress, Texas, Shirley and Mel Cameron of Columbia Falls, Bud Shepard of Washington, Marshall and Diana Kimes of Liberty Lakes, Wash., Shorty and Gail Shepard of Columbia Falls, Monte and Carol Kimes of Chicago, Natalie Kimes and Caesar of New Mexico, Jesse and Amanda Shepard of Salem, Ore., Mike and Dawn Kimes of Post Falls, Idaho, Nadine and Bob Robbins of Kingman, Ariz., and Nikki and Bruce Echer of Walsenburg; and her grandchildren, Alex, Amber, Anita, Bobby, Boots, Brooke, Carrie and Zach, Casey and Amy, Charlie and Ashley, Cheryl and Shane, Chris, Heather and Jeremy, Jamie, Jason, Jenny, Jessica, Josh, Justin, Karen, Karissa, Kenzie, Kim and Frank, Kristina, Lacie, Michael, Ricky, Ronnie and Justin, Russell, Sabrina, Tiff and Steve, Trevor, Tyler and Zane.

Karen is also survived by numerous beloved great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Karen's life was celebrated by family and friends on Jan. 17. She will be remembered dearly. "We will hold her closely in our hearts while she goes to be with our Lord."

Her final resting place will be with her loving husband, Jesse, in Kalispell.

A graveside service will be held July 25 at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

## Alice M. Rock-Shero, 86

Alice M. Rock-Shero, 86, passed away Friday morning, April 10, 2009, at her home in Columbia Falls.



She was born Oct. 8, 1922, in Whitefish, to Sylvester and Mary Rock.

She served in the Navy during World War II.

Survivors include her children, Charlotte Moran of Hungry Horse, Darlene K. Klem Graham of Hungry Horse, and Penny Filler of Vancouver, Wash.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, April 17, at the Whitefish Cemetery in Whitefish with military graveside honors.

Arrangements are with the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

## Gary Marvin Shirtliff, 68

Gary Marvin Shirtliff of Eugene, Ore., and formerly of Kalispell, died Jan. 24, 2009, of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was 68.



He was born Aug. 13, 1940, in Plentywood to Herbert and Florence Johnson Shirtliff.

Gary served in the Navy and worked as a heavy-equipment mechanic.

He married Sandra Cox on June 24, 1989, in Reno, Nev.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra; two sons, James

Shirtliff of Eugene and Jeff Power of Veneta, Ore.; two daughters, Annette Antone of Alvadore, Ore., and Tawnya Geertsen of Eugene; a sister, Darlene Christensen, of Montana; two brothers, Bob and Ron, both of Kalispell; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Scott.

A memorial service was held Jan. 31 at the Eagles Lodge in Eugene.

## Mary Elizabeth Sibley, 88

Mary Elizabeth Sibley, 88, passed away on Aug. 31, 2009, at Brendan House in Kalispell. She was born on Nov. 2,



1920, in Harlem, the daughter of Ross and Myrtle Sellers Smithson.

She grew up on a homestead near Hogeland. In 1937, she moved with her family to a ranch in the Half Moon area near Columbia Falls. She graduated from high school in Columbia Falls and went on to college at Montana State Normal College in Dillon where she earned a teaching certificate. Her first teaching job was in Apgar.

It was here that she met Bill Sibley. After their engagement, Bill served in the Army during World War II and Mary helped the war effort by painting military aircraft at Geiger Airfield in Spokane.

After the war, Mary and Bill were married at the Smithson Ranch near Columbia Falls. Their first home was a cabin Bill built in Apgar.

In 1948 they moved to Cheney, Wash. There they built a home and built and operated Sibley's Cafe together. During this time, Mary went back to college at Eastern Washington State College and received a four-year teaching degree in 1964.

In 1965, the Sibley family returned to the Flathead and

settled near Lake Blaine.

Mary taught at several rural schools over the next 15 years including Deer Park, Helena Flats, Kila, Marion, and Cayuse Prairie. She was active with the Mountain Brook Ladies Club for many years. She enjoyed spending time with her children and their families when they came to visit.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Bill, in 1998; brother, Earl, in 2003; granddaughter, Eileen, in 1987; and granddaughter, Tina Rae, in 1968.

She is survived by her daughter, Marylyn Conachen, and husband, Ed, of Spokane; sons, Paul of Kalispell, Cal and wife, Ginni, of Kalispell, and Roger and wife, Larisa, of South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; sister, Virginia, of Santa Maria, Calif.; as well as seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, in the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Chapel. Urn burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery east of Kalispell on Middle Road.

The family suggests that any memorial contribution be sent to Shriners Hospital for Children, P.O. Box 2472, Spokane, WA 99210.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Mary's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to view Mary's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.

## Josephine 'Dolly' Rose Barry Siderius, 91

Josephine "Dolly" Rose Barry Siderius, 91, of Kalispell passed away Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009, at Brendan House in



Kalispell. An Indian midwife assisted with her birth on Jan. 29, 1918, near Lone Pine. She was the youngest of five children born to Delphine and Adloir Barry.

At the age of one year, Dolly moved to South Dakota. She attended elementary schools in South Dakota as well as Iowa and at the age of 13 she returned to Montana, settling in Kalispell. She attended Flathead County High School.

She and her future husband, Henry "Hank" Siderius, met at a country dance and were later married Aug. 8, 1936. They lived on the family farm south of Kalispell.

Her faith journey started in the Catholic church and Catholic school in South Dakota. Later she became a member of the Kalispell Presbyterian Church.

She was active in many community organizations. They included the Mountain View Birthday Club, Bethel Ladies Aid, Flathead County Democratic Women, Eagles Auxiliary, Montana Farmers Union, RSVP (delivering meals), and the Kalispell Senior Citizens. Special accomplishments were attending the Whitehouse Conference on Aging in 1981 and receiving the Montana State Democratic Woman of the Year in 1987.

She and her husband were parents to four children. During the growing-up years of the children, Dolly helped as 4-H leader, Farmer's Union youth leader, and was always available to help at Demersville School on special projects.

Dolly was a faithful farmer's wife, cooking for haying crews and canning, and harvesting garden produce, two of many things she did so well. She was a "dear auntie" to many nieces and nephews who loved to come to her house on the farm.

When Hank retired from farming and meat cutting, they enjoyed several winters in Arizona, later by herself with friends. She traveled with family and friends on cruises, overseas and around the United States.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers; one sister; and Hank, her husband of 53 and a half years.

Her family and friends will miss her; they will, however, hold special memories. Dolly, a kind person with a giving heart, touched the lives of many.

She is survived by her four children and their spouses, Patricia Sanders and husband, Horace, of Kalispell, Ray Siderius of Portland, JoLynn Yenne and husband, Gerald, of Bigfork, and Linda Siderius and husband, Robin Wilkerson, of Denver; 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Burial will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens. A memorial celebration of her life will be held at noon Tuesday, Dec. 15 at Kalispell First Presbyterian Church.

Memorials can be made to the Kalispell First Presbyterian Church, 540 S. Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901; Flathead County Democratic Women, P.O. Box 2376, Kalispell, MT 59903; Rails to Trails of Northwest Montana, P.O. Box 1103, Kalispell, MT 59903; or Intermountain Children's Home, 500 S. Lamborn, Helena, MT 59601.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Dolly's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to view Dolly's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.



## Eldin George Shields Jr., 64

Eldin George Shields Jr., 64, died Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at the home of his sister in Columbia Falls.

He is survived locally by two sisters, Elma Rhodes and Ida Mae, both

of Columbia Falls. There are no services planned at this time. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Stanley Shoemaker, 78

Stanley Shoemaker, 78, passed away on Saturday, April 11, 2009, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. He was born at Mountain Brook in the Creston area on May 29, 1930, to Curtis and Verna Shoemaker.

Family was very important to Stan, as he was the youngest of 11 brothers and sisters.

Stan attended school at Demersville and Lakeside. He graduated from Flathead County High School in 1948.

Stan was a Navy veteran, serving his country during the Korean War. He was stationed in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. He was discharged in 1952.

He met and married the love of his life, Daisy Weaver, in 1954. He and Daisy had three children.

Stan had a varied career, working at the Lakeside Marina, and many years at Bell Manufacturing as a purchasing agent; he also worked at Pack & Company, Plum Creek (Royal Logging), and Renfro Cabinet Shop. Stan officially retired in 1991.

He enjoyed many activities in retirement. Stan left a legacy for his family by designing and building a log cabin at Ashley Lake. He spent many hours woodworking in his shop. He created many special gifts for everyone he loved.

He also loved his church family at Central Christian Church where he served in many capacities, as well as spending many years as an elder of the church.



He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, and three sisters.

He is survived by his wife, Daisy, of Kalispell;

sons, Steve and wife, Lynn, of Kalispell, Gary and wife, Tamalyn, of Bellingham, Wash., and daughter, Kathy, and husband, Joe Behrends, of Keizer, Ore.; grandchildren, Barbie and husband Andy McVicker, Angie and husband Aidan Foshay, Becky Shoemaker, Zach and wife Chelsea Shoemaker, Brett Kralman-Shoemaker, Sarah Behrends and Peter Behrends; great-grandchildren twins, Dunham and Daegan McVicker, and Gibson Foshay. He is also survived by a brother, George Shoemaker; and sisters, Mary Preskitt and Doris Lochridge.

Funeral services for Stan will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 17, at Central Christian Church with Dr. Jan Van der Poll officiating. Burial will be in the Creston Cemetery.

The family suggests memorial gifts to the Montana Veterans Home, P.O. Box 250, Columbia Falls, MT 59912; or Central Christian Church, P.O. Box 955, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Stan's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and sign Stan's guest book.

## Richard Albert Shors, 66

Richard Albert Shors, 66, died Wednesday, July 15, 2009, at his home in Essex.

He is survived by his wife, Ann; two sons, Andrew and Ben; and one

daughter, Emmy.

Memorial services will be held in Cutbank at a later date. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Marlene Kay Siblingud, 69

Marlene Kay Siblingud, 69, passed away on Monday, June 22, 2009, as the result of a car accident near Somers



— just one week after the passing of her dear father, Art Rasmussen. Marlene was born Dec. 21, 1939, in Kalispell, to Arthur and Bea (Bern) Rasmussen.

She grew up in Kalispell, attended area schools and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1958. She attended Kenman Business School in Spokane, and the University of Montana in Missoula. In grade school, Marlene met a young boy named Roger Siblingud. Little did she know that they would be married on Aug. 25, 1960, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, the same church where both of their parents were married.

After their wedding, Marlene and Roger moved to Seattle, where Roger attended Pacific Lutheran University. Daughter Kelly and son Dan were both born in Seattle, just prior to Marlene and Roger moving back to Kalispell in 1967. Son Patrick was born in 1968.

Roger went to work at Kelly-Main Street Furniture with his father-in-law, Art Rasmussen. Marlene settled into becoming a full-time wife, mother and homemaker and had time to pursue her interest in decorating. Creating beauty was a major theme in her life and her passion for her flower gardens will be a living tribute for years to come.

Marlene enjoyed travel and music and her close

friends know that she loved to perform! She enjoyed skiing in the winter and playing bridge "any time of the year"! However, most of her time was spent with family and friends at their beautiful home on the shores of Flathead Lake. Their home was a regular gathering place for family, friends and out-of-town guests.

Marlene was a loving daughter, a wonderful wife, and a beloved mother and grandmother.

Marlene was preceded in death by twin daughters; her son, Patrick; and her father, Art Rasmussen.

She is survived by her husband, Roger Siblingud, her mother, Bea Rasmussen, daughter, Kelly Nelson and Ken Degitz, and granddaughters, Nicole and Haley Nelson, son, Dan Siblingud and his wife, Kelly, and their children Sierra and Logan, and grandson, Andrew Siblingud (son of Patrick), all of the Somers/Lakeside area. She is also survived by her sister, Margie LaRue, and her husband, Jim, and their families in South Carolina and Texas; and sister-in-law, Donna Knadle, and her husband, David, and their families of Maple Valley, Wash.

Memorial services for Marlene will be held at 3 p.m. today, June 25, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with Pastor Debra Koch officiating. The interment will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, June 26, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Home, 185 Crestline Ave., Kalispell, Montana 59901.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Marlene's family. Friends and family are encouraged to visit [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to post condolences and share memories.

## Mary Elizabeth Sibley, 88

Mary Elizabeth Sibley, 88, died Monday, Aug. 31, 2009, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

She is survived by three sons, Calvin, Paul and Roger Sibley; and one daughter, Marylyn Conachen.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, in the Johnson - Gloschat Funeral Chapel. Urn burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery east of Kalispell on Middle Road.

## Valerie Ann Sieler, 62



Valerie Ann Sieler, 62 of Lewistown, "went home to her loving Father in heaven" on April 5, 2009, at the Central

Montana Skilled Nursing Center. She was born Oct. 24, 1946, to Rosalyn June (Beam) Knadler and Edwin Stanley Knadler. She was born in Bozeman and attended elementary school in Columbia Falls and Somers, and high school in Kalispell and Hamilton.

It was at Flathead High that she met her true love, Paul E. "Joe" Sieler. Val and Joe married on Oct. 24, 1963, in Salmon, Idaho. They then graduated high school together at Hamilton High in 1964. Val was sealed to Joe for time and all eternity on Dec. 8, 1973, in the Cardston, Alberta, Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

After their marriage, Joe and Val lived in Somers for a year, then moved to the Thompson River Valley and worked on a ranch. It was at this time that they started their family. Val worked alongside Joe farming, ranching, and at the same time raising her family. In 1977, the family moved to a ranch near Eureka where Val continued her noble efforts as a wife, mother and homemaker. She was grief-stricken at Joe's death in 1991 but continued to provide for the children who were still at home.

In 1995, Val moved to the Lewistown area and fell in love with it. She lived for some time in Roy, then moved to Glengarry in 2007.

Val was a devoted wife, mother and friend. Her children were of the greatest importance to her and she was constantly concerned about them. She enjoyed serving in the Church and held many church callings throughout her life. She also loved to spend time outdoors and found great satisfaction

in tending her flowers and yard, as well as taking walks with her good friend, Caryle.

Val is survived by her "Dad" and mother, Pat and Rose Wood, of Sheridan; her brother, Ed Knadler, and wife, Bonnie, of Manhattan; brother, Dave Knadler, and wife, Theresa, of Wichita, Kan.; brother, Mike Knadler, of Canyon City, Ore.; brother, John Knadler, of Kalispell; brother, Chuck Wood of Sheridan, sister, Becca Wood, of Dillon, sister, Debi Rose, of Dillon; sister, Patty Pinson, of Trinity, Texas; and sister, Jeanie Larson of Eureka.

Val is also survived by her daughter, Gale, and husband, Jim Ferguson, of Cascade; daughter, Dixie, and husband, Brian Linnell, of Eureka; daughter, Josie, and husband, Barry Lochridge, of Dillon; son, Joel, and wife, Genny Sieler, of Eureka; daughter, Daisy, and husband, Josh Baker, of Kalispell; son, Mike, and wife, Juanita Sieler, of Lewistown; daughter, Ellena, and husband, Jon Knoll, of Kalispell; son, Matthew, and wife, Faith Sieler, of Eureka; and daughter, Alice Sieler, of Lewistown.

Val was preceded in death by her father, Edwin Knadler; husband, Joe; sister, Leah (Knadler) O'Brien; brother, Jim Wood; and two grandchildren, Roy Ferguson and Mae Ann Ferguson.

Funeral services for Valerie A. Sieler will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 10, in the Lewistown Ward building of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Interment will take place at 1 p.m., April 11, at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery in Eureka. Cloyd Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Lewistown will be assisting the family with arrangements.

Friends are asked to make memorials to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Missionary Fund; they may be left at the Cloyd Funeral Home. Condolences for the family may be posted online at [www.cloydfuneral-home.com](http://www.cloydfuneral-home.com).

## Patricia A. Boerner Silliker, 84

Patricia Boerner, 84, "was called home to her Lord" and to the "love of her life," Art "Red" Boerner. Friday morning, March 6, 2009, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish. Surrounded by her four children, and as the rising sun shone on her face, Patricia ended her courageous battle with cancer.



For years Patricia has been a rallying point here in the Flathead Valley for her children, grandchildren, brother, nieces and nephews. Everyone would descend on her house in Whitefish, where they could base their many fishing and huckleberrying adventures.

Patricia "Patsy" was born Dec. 28, 1924, in Shelby, where she spent much of her youth. She always loved trips to Glacier Park, where as a young girl she spent many happy summers at Kelly's Camp. These times were the beginnings of her lifetime love affair with Northwest Montana, even though periods of her life were spent in Germany, Seattle, Helena and Livingston.

For the last 20 years she

spent much of her time traveling the world with her children, creating many treasured memories.

She was a member of Christ Lutheran Church of Whitefish and loved visiting with friends and fellow church members.

Patricia is survived by her children, daughters, Linda and John Borgos of St. Paul, Minn., Judy and Jim West of Fort Meade, Fla., and Katie Boerner of Chico, Calif.; and son, Robert Jones, of Seattle. Other survivors are Patsy's brother, Dick and Virginia Kavanagh, of Spokane; six grandchildren, Heidi McGowen, Jerry Saunders, Jennifer Himmelpach, Dan Borgos, Tom Borgos and Aaron Borgos; and six great-grandchildren.

A visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 9, at Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish, with Pastor John Bent officiating. Burial will be afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Memorials may be designated to Home Options Hospice of Kalispell; or the charity of your choice.

Patsy's children would like to especially thank Laura Moody and all other friends for daughterly care and companionship during her last months of life.

## J. Rodney Simmons, 36

J. Rodney Simmons, 36, of Swan Lake, affectionately known as "Ribcage Rod" by friends and family, tragically passed away on



June 14, 2009, in Swan Lake. He was born Dec. 8, 1972, in Auburn, Calif., the son of Kenneth Simmons and the late Sondra Faye Peterson who passed away in 2007 in Lincoln, Calif. Rodney is also predeceased by his grandparents.

Survivors include his father, Kenneth Simmons, and wife, Janet, of Modesto, Calif.; stepfather, the Rev. Bill Hawk, and wife, Jan, of Billings; a brother, Ben Richardson, and wife, Geldie, of Auburn, Calif., and their three children, Benjamin, Jacob and Noah; his sister, Rhonda Perry, and husband, John, of Eagle, Idaho; nieces and nephews, Thom Giles and wife Nichole of Alaska, Teesha Northcott and son Thomas of Alaska, and Clark and Elizabeth Perry of Idaho. His loving wife, Sarah Aczar, of Swan Lake, also survives him. He also leaves behind their two beloved Jack Russell terriers, Dutch and Lump, along with their many other beloved pets; as well as many cherished friends and acquaintances.

Rod grew up with an insatiable appetite for life that never left as he grew into a man. Rod lived many lives: as a youth in California, then later in his adolescent years learning to surf in Hawaii. In his teens he moved with his family to New York state where he was still chasing his passion for life. It was there that he met, and kept

his closest friends. Soon, his passion for life lead him toward another passion — hunting. This brought him to Alaska where he lived, worked and hunted for three years. Later, in Montana, he became a licensed big game hunting guide. After moving his life to Montana, his path lead him to Sarah, with whom he shared the last six years of his life.

In his passing, he will be missed in so many ways — by his family, friends and the one he loved who loved him so much.

"Every early morning the wilderness will be quietly missing" an avid, aware, intelligent, respectful and passionate hunter; a man who loved the outdoors; there wasn't a moment that passed that he didn't have his mind on the next big hunt. Never a moment of Rod's days were wasted. He was always moving, working, helping and spending time with the ones he so loved. He will be greatly missed by all. And every time we hear an elk bugle, see a flower grow into bloom, catch a fish, or even hike into the mountains, we will recall all these wonderful memories of a wonderful loyal man who will always be cherished in many lives, in many ways, and will never be forgotten.

Rod's funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 19, at the Flathead Valley United Church of Christ, 204 Seventh Ave. W., Kalispell with Rev. Darryl Kistler officiating. A light reception will follow the services at the church. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family online at [www.groganfuneralhome.com](http://www.groganfuneralhome.com). Grogan Funeral Home of Polson, is assisting the family.

## Olive Dorothy Simpson, 93

Olive Dorothy Simpson passed away Nov. 6, 2009, at Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell, with her family by her side. She was born June



3, 1916, in Redwing, Minn., to Helen Bollum and George H. Shearer. They moved with elder sister Hazel to Laurel, where Charles, Harold, George and Helen joined the family.

Olive graduated valedictorian of the class of 1934, but was not able to use the scholarship because her dad didn't think girls needed to go to college. She went to work at the local drugstore and cleaned at a boarding house where she met the most handsome man in town, Jerry Simpson. They married Aug. 15, 1937. Children, Beverly, Bruce and Kathleen were born in Laurel.

In 1953, Jerry was promoted to car foreman on the Burlington Railroad in Mandan, N.D. They lived there until retiring in 1974 to a small acreage near Belgrade.

In 1982 they moved west of Kalispell to be near the Braig family. Widowed after 57 years, Olive moved to Buffalo Hill Terrace in 2001.

Olive was a beautiful seamstress, loved to bowl, play bridge and learned to follow the career of Tiger Woods in her later years. She fixed perfect poached eggs and was famous for her lemon meringue pies.

She was a member of Epworth United Methodist Church and proud to have a lifetime rail pass. Known for her chatty personality, she liked to win at Jeopardy and was pretty good at Wii bowling. She altered her own clothes until she was 90.

Olive leaves behind her three children; six grandchildren, Rob Braig, Courtenay Braig, Kiersten Alton, Brandee Tyree, Tammy Sides and Jason Yarmer; and 14 great-grandchildren; her sister, Helen, of Palm Desert, Calif.; special nephew, Darrell Anderson; and niece, Maureen Stoleson; plus other extended family members; her adopted daughter, Pat Freebury; and many friends at the Terrace.

A celebration of life was held Nov. 8. Her ashes will be spread along the Gallatin River next summer at a family gathering.

Memorials may be given to Epworth Church, 329 Second Ave. East; or Buffalo Hill Terrace, 40 Claremont St.

To send condolences, please go to [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Raymond L. Simpson, 81

Raymond L. Simpson passed away peacefully May 30, 2009, at the age of 81, after a short battle with leukemia. He was born May 9, 1928, in Kalispell, to Joseph and Maude (Terrill) Simpson.



He helped build a boat and run tourist trips on Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park in the '50s.

In the early '60s he moved to Sacramento, Calif., where he worked for over 42 years as a bookkeeper and medical files clerk.

Loving husband, father, brother-in-law, uncle and friend, he was known for his rosy cheeks, beautiful smile and easy laughter.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Lucy Simpson; ex-wife, Loyla Christian; son, Steven, and Bonnie Simpson; daughter, Ann Adams; stepson, Terry, and Arlene Wingfield; stepdaughter, Gail Wingfield; four grandsons; two great-granddaughters; sister-in-law, Helen Simpson; nephew, Larry, and Margie Simpson; and nieces, Kay and Tom Leary, and Linda and Brian Cloutier; as well as many additional nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Harold "Hap" Simpson.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. June 26, at the East Lawn Elk Grove Memorial Park & Mortuary in Elk Grove, Calif.

In lieu of flowers, donation may be made to the Leukemia/Cancer Society.

## Royce Vance Simpson Sr., 85

Royce Vance Simpson Sr., 85, of Fort Collins, Colo., formerly of Kalispell, died June 12, 2009. His body has been cremated and a gathering in his memory, with full military honors, will be held later this summer.



Royce Vance Simpson was born Sept. 23, 1923, in Winnemucca, Nev., to Leland and Marion Simpson. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a medical officer aboard an anti-submarine patrol craft.

Following his service in the Navy, Royce attended and graduated from the University of California at Davis as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He owned and operated a veterinary hospital in North Hollywood, Calif., for 20 years.

In 1968, Royce married Jessamine Marion Sadler. In 1983, after retiring from his practice in North Hollywood they moved to Kalispell, where he busied himself with

raising horses, hiking, skiing and working as a children's librarian.

Royce was a marathoner and mountain climber; a gardener and cook; he built model trains; loved music; was a voracious reader; and loved to read to children. He was always learning, and enjoyed sharing his knowledge and wisdom with his family and anyone who enjoyed a good discussion. He attended Crossroads Church in Loveland, Colo.

He is survived by his wife, Jessamine; four children, Gregory Royce Simpson of Shasta City, Calif., Kiko Simpson of Denver, Laurel Ann Simpson of Fredericksburg, Va., and Royce Vance Simpson Jr., of Fort Collins; and four grandchildren, Taylor Skye Hawkins, Hunter Brian Green, Skyler Bancroft Simpson and Ansley Wild Simpson.

His family requests that any memorial donations please be made to the Alzheimer's Association at 415 Peterson St., Fort Collins, CO 80524. Please go to [www.goesfuneralcare.com](http://www.goesfuneralcare.com) to sign the guestbook and post your own thoughts and memories of Royce.

## George Bruffey Singleton, 89

George Bruffey Singleton, 89, passed away Friday, March 27, 2009, at his residence in Kalispell, surrounded by his four loving children. He was born Oct.



1, 1919, in Columbia Falls, the son of Thomas King and Emma (Bruffey) Singleton. George and three siblings spent four years at the Twin Bridges Orphanage until their father was able to bring them back home.

He attended Elrod School, Central School and one year at Flathead High School. He began working in logging camps at the age of 11, working alongside his father. At the age of 17, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and worked there until enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1940.

Most of his military service was in the Aleutian Islands, where he served for 2 1/2 years. He was very proud and enjoyed the time he spent there. He was discharged in 1945 and returned to Kalispell.

He met Alice Shaw and they were married Sept. 29, 1946, in Kalispell. They were the parents of four children and were married until 1955. He raised the children on his own. He later married Agnes Mullen on March 4, 1967, in Kalispell.

He worked as a log scaler for forest products for 25 years, and later worked as a drott operator

for Stoltz Lumber, for which he worked until his retirement. After his retirement he worked off and on for Doug Kanshur Logging.

He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting, fishing, ice fishing and camping with his children in Glacier Park and the South Fork of the Hungry Horse Reservoir. He was an avid card player, always enjoying a good game of pinochle or pan (Chinese poker).

He was a member of the Historical Society of the Museum at Central School for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his wife, Agnes, on Jan. 5, 1991.

He is survived by his children, Steven Singleton, Shirley Hughes, and Sherry Singleton, all of Kalispell, and Sandie Singleton of Renton, Wash.; stepchildren, Lee and Helen Mullen of Spokane, Gloria and Gordon Gann of Pasco, Wash., Carolyn and Gil Twiss of Hartford, Conn., and Janice and Ron Loveall of Kalispell; a sister, Ione Dawson, of Ukiah, Calif.; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life for George will be held at 1 p.m. today, March 29, at Scotty's in the Winchester Room.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for George's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and sign George's guest book.

## Phyllis Jane Sirucek, 82

Phyllis Jane Sirucek, 82, of Rocklin, Calif., passed away on Oct. 12, 2009, in Roseville, Calif.



Private funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13, in San Jose, Calif. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Memorial Park.

Phyllis was born in Whitefish to Harold and Nora Bailey on Aug. 12, 1927. She went to school at Whitefish.

She married Jack Sirucek on Dec. 23, 1974, in Kalispell.

Phyllis led a full life, including time spent in Panama with her husband, Melvin R. Conrad, who passed away in 1960; she worked for the Capitol Record Club, Conrad Casualty, and founded the first lighting showroom in Kalispell, The Lighthouse, along with many other accomplishments.

Mrs. Sirucek was preceded

in death by the love of her life, husband, Jack Sirucek; brother, Robert Bailey; and sister, Elaine (Pete) Cloud.

Mrs. Sirucek is survived by her children, Richard Conrad of Watsonville, Calif., Janet Pearsall of Lower Lake, Calif., Steven R. Conrad of Sacramento, Calif., Thomas R. Conrad of Auburn, Calif., Russell Sirucek of Calgary, Alberta, Collette Mueller of Red Deer, Alberta, and Lauren Smith of Simi Valley, Calif.; sister, Guinevere Beller, of Kalispell; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be given to Immanuel Lutheran Home of Kalispell.

The family of Phyllis Sirucek would like to give our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the doctors and nurses of Kaiser Permanente of Roseville, Calif., for the wonderful care that Phyllis received.

## Agnes L. Skees, 91

Agnes L. Skees, 91, passed away Dec. 18, 2009, in her daughter's home in Bigfork.



She was surrounded by family and assisted by the angels of Hospice. Agnes was born in Orlando, Fla., on Aug. 16, 1918.

She is survived by her nine children; 14 grandchil-

dren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Three of her children live in the Kalispell area, Dick Skees, Reni Daniels, and Loretta Skees. One of her grandsons, Dick's son, Derek Skees, lives in Kalispell.

The memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, at Central Bible Church, 902 First Ave. E., in Kalispell.

Memorial contributions may be made to New Tribes Mission, 1000 E. First St., Sanford, FL 32771, or go to [www.ntm.org/give](http://www.ntm.org/give).

## Jared D. Skees, 38

Jared D. Skees, 38, formerly of Columbia Falls, died June 9, 2009, in Orlando, Fla., as the result of an automobile accident.

He is survived by his father, Dick and step-

mother Gayle Skees, of Columbia Falls.

Services will be held locally at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at Central Bible Church, 902 First Ave. E., in Kalispell.

## Brent William Skramstad, 51

Brent William Skramstad, 51, died Sept. 2, 2009, at his home in Havre of bone cancer.

He had worked at Skramstad Logging, Champion International, and in over-the-road trucking.

Survivors include his mother, Norita Skramstad; his wife, Julie

Skramstad; daughter, Shayla Skramstad; and sons, Kyle O'Mier and Lester Skramstad.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, at the Libby Christian Church.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

## Werner Robert Skyba, 64

Werner Robert Skyba, 64, passed away Sept. 5, 2009, in Rio Rico, Ariz. He was born April 25, 1945, in Sandnessjoen, Norway, the son of Karl Skyba and Lena Skyba-Behrens.

He is survived by, and is the beloved husband of Noelle; father of Werner H. (Osan AFB, Korea); Richard T. and Mary of Oregon; and Michelle and Ned Evans of Washington; brother of Kurt Skyba, and Helmut and Mary Skyba of Kalispell.

Werner was preceded in death by his father, Karl Skyba, and his mother, Lena Behrens.

As a teenager in the late '50s Werner's family moved from Germany to Kalispell with the aid and support of Mr. and Mrs. Bjarne and Gerd Froysad, Lena's sister. Speaking only German, Werner had to start school again with the children in grade school, but quickly learned English and graduated with his Flathead High School Class of 1965.

After school he enlisted in the Army and served two tours in Vietnam with the Special Forces; remaining in the service for 27 years and retiring honorably as CSM

of 3Bn, 1st Special Forces Group, Fort Lewis, Wash., 1992.

Having travel in his blood Werner began his next career with his second wife, as part of a hotel husband-and-wife management team with La Quinta Inns. After stops in Bakersfield, Calif., and Santa Fe, N.M., he retired again and supported his wife in her career.

An excellent cook, Werner was creative "outside the box" and his rum cake was known to pack a punch. He was talented in design, landscaping his home from the rocks up; and after digging numerous holes in the unforgiving Arizona dirt, he planted trees that flourish today.

Only kidney cancer could take Werner's limitless strength and he died at home after a long struggle to live. The memory of his compassion, the warmth of his personality, and the strength of his positive spirit will be cherished in our hearts forever. Werner made life happen.

A memorial service for Werner will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell.



## Phloris Slack, 99

Phloris "Grandma" Slack "left this world at Brendan House to join her valentine sweetheart, John," on Dec. 24, 2009.



Phloris Martelle Hollinberger was born in Adel, Iowa, on June 17, 1910, the daughter of Charles and Vernia Brower Hollinberger.

In March of 1913 the family moved to Kalispell. Her father bought a farm in the Creston area where the family lived until 1941. Her brother, Carroll, was two years younger. She loved being with her father outdoors, fishing, and helping him with the farm work.

As a child she started counting, first gopher tails for herself and her brother, then at 14 she was treasurer for the Riverside 4-H Club; at 15, treasurer for Sunday School as well as organist, and in high school she counted the money for the annuals. She enjoyed working at Glacier Bay Fox Farm and at Belton rental cabins where she recorded payments. She was also treasurer for Forest Park, I.B.H., and Evergreen Homemakers Extension clubs. She was treasurer for the Republican Women's Club and in 1960, she helped start the Daughters of the Nile where she held all offices and was treasurer for 30-some years. She was always treasurer of something, John A. Slack Logging, Evergreen PTA, Loggers Convention in Kalispell and the Flathead RV Club. She said, "I disliked figures or arithmetic but it seems mathematics were always there for me to decipher correctly." She certainly did a good job of it.

Phloris went to grade school at Riverside in Creston and then to Flathead County High School where she graduated with the class of 1929. On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 1931, she married John A. Slack, the love of her life, with whom she had three sons, twins, Jim and John, and Jerry. They lived in many areas of Montana, including Babb, Olney, Dayton, Patrick Creek, LaSalle, and finally settling in the Evergreen area in 1949. She worked off and on many years cooking in logging camps for her husband and

she also worked at Montgomery Ward and the Flathead County Treasurer's Office. She also did all the bookwork for John's logging business.

Phloris belonged to many organizations in her lifetime — several different Extension Homemaker clubs, Evergreen PTA, Lady Lions, Women of the Moose, Flathead Federation of Women's Club, Flathead Valley Good Sam's, Flathead Safety Council, Republican Women's Club, Precinct Committee member, Election Board for many years, clerk for the U.S. Commodity Distribution Center, and the Flathead Historical Society. She has held most offices in all these groups, most times being secretary or treasurer for many years.

Phloris was always an important part of all her high school class reunions, many times making all the arrangements and contacting classmates herself.

In 1960 she began her volunteer work in earnest when she began working with the Red Cross, where they helped at the North Valley Extended Care Center, the Flathead County Nursing Home, a private nursing home in Kalispell, and the Felix Nursing Home in Evergreen where they helped with meals, writing and reading letters, and helping with social events. They also assisted with the ambliopia eye screening program at the city and rural schools. She

was on the board of directors and served as secretary for many years. They also assisted with any disasters, especially the famous "'64 flood," where they provided food and shelter for the workers as well as the people who were flooded, even as she was flooded herself. In 1965 the Red Cross bloodmobile began coming to the Flathead area and the Red Cross girls helped with this. Later the blood drawings were held on a regular basis at Courthouse East and she worked there until she retired in 1993.

In 1960, she helped organize the Flathead Daughters of the Nile. She held every office in this organization. She served as treasurer for 27 years. The goal of the Daughters is to help anyone under the age of 18 who has a major bone or muscle disorder or has sustained a serious burn to be treated at the Shriners Hospital. They also send gifts, clothing and homemade quilts to the hospital.

Her latest adventure in the volunteer field had been the Evergreen Food Bank where she was treasurer for 16 years. She was there every Tuesday morning to help with the distribution of food until she retired in 2002.

One of her hobbies was collecting humorous readings and presenting them to social groups. When resting she liked to crochet and work crossword puzzles. She was also in the midst of writing her life story.

Phloris and John traveled to Alaska, Hawaii, Korea, Mexico, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Caracas, Venezuela, Australia and all over the U.S.A. Phloris was always very interested in history and visited several historical sites in the U.S. She shared her experiences by giving color slide talks to schools and organizations.

In 1989 Phloris was chosen to receive the honor of "Lady of the Year," which is sponsored by the Beta Sigma Phi sorority. She joined the Central Christian Church in the early 1950s and continued to be a participating member.

In the spring of 2003 she asked to babysit her 3- and 5-year-old great-grandchildren so she could feed them cookies and read to them. She loved to read to children. She was always a very supportive mother, "grandma" and friend to all. She was always doing for others, but had a hard time letting others do for her. She will be remembered by all as "Grandma" Slack, the cookie lady, as she always had cookies on hand whenever anyone stopped by.

Phloris moved to Brendan House in September 2004. She was a model resident and always participated in all the offered activities.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, John; her parents; brother, Carroll; sister-in-law, Anne Hollinberger; and nephew, Dale Hollinberger.

Phloris is survived by her sons, James A. Slack and wife, Patti, John C. Slack and wife, Sharon, and Jerry L. Slack and wife, Karen; along with 17 grand- and stepgrandchildren; many, many great-grandchildren; two nieces; and several great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Phloris will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Chapel, with Dr. Jan Van der Poll officiating. Burial will follow services at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Donations may be made to Flathead Food Bank or Shriners' Children's Hospital, two of her favorite charities, or the charity of your choice.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Phloris' family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to view Phloris' guest book, offer condolences and share memories.