

Harold A. 'Tony' Bacon, 75

Harold A. "Tony" Bacon, 75, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at Health-Center Northwest in Kalispell.

Tony, as he was known to family and friends, was the eldest child of three, born to Harold E. Bacon and Victoria E. Bacon on March 16, 1939, in Morristown, N.J.

Tony grew up in Mountain Lakes, N.J., and it was here as a little boy that his love for the fire service began. He lived across from the Mountain Lakes Rural Fire Department and considered the fire house his second home. As he got older, the firemen would teach him how to operate fire trucks and equipment, and ultimately he joined the fire department as a volunteer firefighter, beginning what would become a dream career in the fire service.

In the mid 1960s, Tony moved from New Jersey to California to begin a job with Western Fire Equipment Company. While working there he became a volunteer firefighter in the town of Novato, Calif. After nearly two decades of working for Western Fire, he decided to become a full-time firefighter. He worked for Novato Fire Protection District for 22 years, rising to the rank of captain.

Tony's love of teaching, promoting and mentoring safe and effective firefighting techniques ultimately grew into a passion. He partnered with other firefighters to start Fire Management Systems which taught various fire suppression techniques to other fire agencies throughout the western United States. It is through the many years of teaching fire behavior classes that Tony made an unimaginable amount of great friends, co-workers, brothers and sisters in the fire service.

He retired from Novato Fire Protection District in 2002 and moved to Libby and continued to teach through Fire Manage-

ment Systems. He joined numerous rural volunteer fire departments in the greater northwest territory of Montana, ultimately becoming the battalion chief of Bull Lake Volunteer Fire Department. He played an integral part in developing an inter-agency firefighter academy and integrating the mutual aid system throughout the volunteer firefighting community.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister, Jacqueline M. Clemens.

Survivors include his wife, Alene R. Bacon, of Libby; a daughter, Suzanne L. Bacon of Elk Grove, Calif.; a son, Thomas M. Bacon of Lewiston, Idaho; grandsons, Robert A. Ashford and Tristan K.T. Bacon-Deming; a brother, James R. Bacon of Massachusetts; in-laws, Jerry and Margaret Wallace of Troy, and Keith and Ruth Aguirre of Petaluma, Calif.; and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Private family services were held on June 17 at the City of Libby Cemetery.

Public services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 28, at the Troy Activity Center. Contact Fire Chief Clyde Miller of the Bull Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. for details at www.majesticview@frontiernet.net or fire business phone 406-295-4411.

Memorials may be made to The Tony Bacon Memorial Fund to provide learning opportunities for firefighting training. A PayPal account has been set up at www.bulllakevfd@yahoo.com or checks may be sent to Kootenai Valley Credit Union, 1010 Minnesota Ave., Libby, MT 59923; the memo line should read Tony Bacon Memorial Fund.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby. Condolences may be made online at www.schnackenbergfh.com.

Dewey Lee Bacon Jr., 78

Dewey Lee Bacon Jr., 78, of Whitefish, passed away on Sept. 19, 2014, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

He was preceded in death by his oldest son, Dewey Eugene Bacon.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; children,

John and wife, Jan, and family of Kalispell, and Allan and wife, Randy, and family of Troy; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mary Lou and Wayne Field of Whitefish; and other relatives.

At his request, no services will be held.

Raymond K. Bachus, 79

Raymond K. Bachus, 79, died in Kalispell on Aug. 24, 2014.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, of Kalispell.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

Patricia Irene Badger, 79

Patricia Irene Badger, 79, of Columbia Falls, passed away unexpectedly Aug. 7, 2014.

She was born Feb. 7, 1935. She was one of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Her services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness in Whitefish.

She is survived by her sons, Clarence Mennis of Bozeman and his children Nathan and April Mennis, and Kenneth Badger of Ohio; her sisters June Nelson of Columbia Falls, Ellen and her husband Louie Redondo of Pinetop,



Ariz., and Adele Davenport; niece, Sandy, her husband Dan Young, and their children Natasha "Tasha" and Dillon Young.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jay and Pricilla Davenport; and her husband, Herb Badger.

For more information about the hope she held dear, please visit jw.org.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Patricia's family.

Lisa Kennedy-Baier, 50

Lisa Kennedy-Baier, 50, departed this world on Jan. 24, 2014, after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. Lisa's pain ended "and a new journey began" surrounded by family at her parents' home on Echo Lake, where she and her family spent many joyous summers and holidays.

Lisa's legacy will always be as a wonderful and devoted mother to her four children, Sarah, Norah, Nouf and Rayan.

Lisa was born in Boulder, Colo., on July 10, 1963, to Ed and Charlotte Kennedy. The Kennedy family moved from Colorado to Alaska and back to Colorado before settling in Kalispell in 1977. Lisa was joined by sister Mary Michelle "Shelly" in 1966 and brother John Edward ("Tre") in 1968.

Lisa attended Flathead High School where she participated in cheerleading, softball and volleyball. While in high school, Lisa helped start the Flathead Outlaws volleyball team and ultimately the first school-sponsored volleyball team in Kalispell. During high school, Lisa was fortunate to make lifelong friends in Nancy (Nelson) Maxwell, Tracy (Walsh) Junkermier, Lynette (Savik) Johnson and Amy (Bitney) Andrews.

After graduating high school in 1981 with honors, Lisa attended the University of Montana. While in Missoula, Lisa was a member of the Delta Gamma Sorority, where she was blessed to meet her great friend Monica (Woolf) Becker and her husband John. Monica and Lisa remained close for the remainder of her life. Lisa transferred to Eastern Washington University where she earned a degree in marketing.



Lisa's daughters Sarah and Norah were born in 1992 and 1995, respectively. In

1996, Lisa and her family moved back to Saudi Arabia where she and Fahad opened the first Seattle's Best and Cinnabon franchises in the Middle East. While in the Middle East, her daughter Nouf was born in 1996, and son Rayan was born in 2000. For the next eight years, Lisa and family split time between Montana and the Middle East, living in Riyadh, Dammam and Bahrain.

Lisa moved back to Montana full time in 2004. Over the last 10 years her life revolved around her children. With four kids going different directions, Lisa seldom missed a sporting event, school function or other life event involving her children, all while working a full schedule, first at the Daily Inter Lake and subsequently at Sykes' Pharmacy. Lisa was a licensed pharmacy technician and loved working first for her dad, Ed Kennedy, and later for Tobey Schule. She enjoyed working with her aunt, Dianna Hartung, and the entire Sykes' family of employees. Lisa was blessed to become part of the St. Matthew's community where she met and become wonderful friends with Gina Twichel and husband Mark, and many other St. Matthew's families. Lisa spent the last nine years of her life with her soul mate, Tim Baier, whom she married in 2009. Lisa and Tim marveled everyone in blending their families, while maintaining an incredible balance of family, love and support.

Lisa especially enjoyed her days at Gramma's cabin (the Nelson Family cabin) on Flathead Lake. Lisa loved to fish and hunt with her family and friends. Lisa loved anything outdoors and truly believed the Flathead Valley was just a little closer to heaven, where she now resides.

Lisa is survived by her husband, Tim Baier; children, Sarah, Norah, Nouf and Rayan Rashoodi; parents Ed and Charlotte Kennedy; sister, Shelly Kennedy; and brother Tre Kennedy, wife LeAnn, and family; Tim's parents, Ron and Shirley Baier; Tim's sisters, Jamie Salois, husband Rich and family, and Kim Cain, husband Brad and family; Tim's children, Valarie Benkleman, hus-

band Brent and family, Kelsie Baier, Dillon Baier and Rueger Baier; and Lisa's 98-year-old grandmother Dolly "Grammy" Mendenhall.

A celebration of life will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, at St. Matthew's Church, with a reception following in the cafeteria at St. Matthew's School.

Donations in support of Lisa's children, Sarah, Norah, Nouf and Rayan, can be made to Three Rivers Bank of Montana for the benefit of the Rashoodi children.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Lisa's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to view Lisa's Tribute wall, offer condolences and share memories.

While attending school at Eastern Washington, Lisa met Fahad Ali Al-Rashoodi. Lisa and Fahad were married in 1988 and moved to Riyadh in 1989 where Lisa founded one of the first women's health clubs in Saudi Arabia. After the invasion of Kuwait in 1991, Lisa and later Fahad moved back to Montana, where they lived in Bigfork. In 1992 Lisa started My Teddy Bear, a baby boutique in the Kalispell Center Mall.

While living in Bigfork,

Lisa lived life to the fullest in the Flathead Valley. She relished her days and weekends at Echo Lake with her parents and family. The family ski trips to Big Mountain were always an event she savored. Lisa loved to hike and camp, exploring the family ranch near Essex, hiking in Glacier Park, camping at Camp Tuffit on Lake Mar Ronan and at the Baier property on Swan Lake, as well as many other destinations in the valley.

Memorial Service for Gladys C. Baier

who passed away December 7th, 2010

Tuesday, July 1, 11am
at **Glacier Memorial Gardens.**
Pastor Jim Huff officiating

Celebration of life meal to follow at Asian Buffet.

Chester Dale Bailey, 80

Chester Dale Bailey passed away July 22, 2014, at the age of 80.

He was born in Bloomfield, Indiana to Mary and Homer Bailey. He was the youngest of seven children.

Chet was married to Inger Hindart and they had two children, David and Michael.

Chet was a captain in the Air Force and served 10 years with the Strategic Air Command. That is where he learned to fly. In January of 1965, after his military service, he joined Pan American Airlines and worked his way up to captain. He flew for Pan Am for 27 years, and two years with Delta Airlines. As a pilot he had the opportunity to travel the world and had been to every continent other than Antarctica. He loved adventure and had a lust for life. His idea of a vacation was surprising his kids by saying, "Pack, we are going to the



gentle man who was loved by all. He is survived by his longtime companion, Gloria Johnson; his children, Michael and David, David's wife Tana, his granddaughters Sydney and Claire, and his sister Bea. He also leaves behind numerous other close relatives and affectionate friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider donating to some of Chet's favorite charities, the Southern Poverty Law Center, PBS or the Food Bank.

airport."

Chet retired to Bigfork where he was an avid golfer.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Inger.

Chet was a kind and

Esther M. Baker 75

Esther Baker, 75, "went graciously to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," on Sunday, April 6, 2014, just hours after having proclaimed her faith in Him and being baptized at the Christian Center in Kalispell. She was taken to Kalispell Regional Medical Center's Emergency Room after having a massive heart attack, where they stabilized her long enough for her family to gather and say their farewells. Although her sons, Ted and Eric, were unable to be there in person, they were allowed to say their goodbyes through the phone. She passed peacefully surrounded by family.

Born Feb. 22, 1939, to James and Anna Penrod in Carbondale, Ill., her life was filled with miracles. Growing up she had polio and her parents were told she would never walk. After a blessing from her father, she did. She was deathly afraid of water most of her life after nearly drowning as a child. This fear didn't stop her from fishing, one activity she loved, or getting baptized. She also survived a serious accident outside of Hungry Horse, and a stroke, which left her partially paralyzed. She was a strong-willed person.

Esther married her husband of 58 years, Bill Baker, on March 20, 1956, in Glacier County. They lived the majority of their years together in Browning, operating North Side Auto Parts and Repair,



and then in Kalispell after that.

Esther loved to read. Her children, growing up,

remember her always with a book in hand. She was very intelligent and knew words many people haven't ever heard of. She enjoyed game and murder mystery shows.

She was preceded in death by both her parents; sisters, Naomi "Penney" Downing and Rosella Hufstedler; brother, Sonny Penrod; her seventh child, Leo, who was stillborn; and some of her nieces and nephews.

Esther is survived by her husband, Bill Baker; six of her seven children, Ted and Linda Baker of Great Falls, Deborah and Doug Gilliam of Columbia Falls, Deanna Gillis, Anita Smallwood and Billie Jo and Barry Melchior, all of Kalispell, and Eric and Roxy Baker of Cottonwood, Ariz.; grandchildren, Mariena and Nathan Taylor, Michael and Laura Matt, Melissa Matt, Devina Gillis, Judah Gillis, Jasper Smallwood and Skylar Smallwood; great-grandchild, Monte Wade Matt II; brother, Odell Penrod, of Vincennes, Ind.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

There will be a viewing from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 12, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Burial will follow at the family property in Kalispell.

Daniel James Bain, 62

Daniel James Bain, 62, "departed this world" Wednesday, June 25, 2014, of natural causes.

He was born June 30, 1952, in Kalispell to Louie and Betty Bain.

Throughout his life on earth, Dan was a man of gifting, serving and educating others. He was a historian, an athlete, a hacker (golf), a chess player and loved to study the Bible. In many ways, Dan was a male Mother Teresa, as he would give the shirt off his back to anyone who needed help, even though he had few shirts to give. He really loved and enjoyed children and had a unique way of talking "kid talk" and engaging them in joyful play and conversation. He was famous for remembering history and facts and loved to converse with people regarding the traditions and history of the Flathead Valley, its institutions, people and sports. But even more important, Dan was a dedicated father and grandfather. His greatest joy came from his children and grandchildren. In short, Dan was a kind, gentle, loving and generous man who lived life well, without material trappings, and loved and trusted the God he served.

Dan grew up in Evergreen in the heart of beautiful Flathead Valley with a football in one hand and a basketball in the other. At an early age, Dan was diagnosed with a severe case of rheumatic fever in the form of a leaky heart valve and atrial fibrillation, and he was unable to do any physical activity. The damage to his heart would show up again years later and shorten his life. Dan clung hopefully like an eager puppy dog to those two favorite articles, as he could only watch his brothers play football and basketball from his prison of a large crib. Dan was surrounded by a family of athletes. There were three older athletic brothers, Frank,



this award must have received at least nine letters in sports, been named to an all-state

position in two sports, and maintained at least a B+ average in academics.

Dan won a scholarship to play football for the University of Montana Grizzlies where two brothers, Frank and Doug, had played. Dan was a standout on the Grizzly freshman football team where he played defensive back; however, due to a career-ending back injury, he was no longer able to compete.

Later in life, his love and knowledge of sports and history manifested itself into his becoming a talented writer, publishing many articles. In recent years he has been the editor for the sports program of Flathead High School, and later on, both Flathead High School and Glacier High School. Dan and Frank Thomas (Thomas Printing) were well known for producing the best, most inclusive, most informative and amazing sports program of any high school in the U.S.A. With the loss of Dan, a plethora of cherished history and traditions stored in his brain will be lost as well.

Dan absolutely loved the game of golf. He had a special fondness of the movie "Bagger Vance" and often thought, "What a good way to leave Earth." You could often find him on the course with his father Louie or with Ron, and even by himself, practicing for the U.S. Open championship, of which he was never quite good enough to qualify. His favorite time playing golf was just before sunset on the 18-hole course of Buffalo Hills where he could look out over the beautiful valley to the majestic Blaine and Mission mountains.

Ron and Doug, as well as a younger athletic brother, Scott, and a wicked athletic sister, Mary Kay. Mary Kay, along with her friend Suzy Erickson, were determined to rehabilitate and train Dan until he became as efficient as brother Frank at zigzagging and faking would-be tacklers out of their proverbial pants. With paint and hammers, they turned the Bain front lawn into a football field and the Bain backyard into a basketball court, where only daring gladiators dared tread. Once Dan was released from his prison he began an unlikely (against all odds) journey of overcoming his heart problems and becoming an extremely talented athlete. This, of course, was due to the coaching and coaxing of his two trainers, Mary Kay and Suzy, who were destined to become talented athletes as well.

Given Dan's grim medical diagnosis, who could have possibly envisioned that Dan would go on to become a high school Class AA, all-state football and basketball player, not to mention his state medals in track and field? Furthermore, who would have ever believed he would develop into a star guard who, along with his friends Brent Wilson and Sam McCullum, would capture the State AA basketball championship for the Flathead Braves! Danny received the prestigious Koford Award which was rarely presented to the most outstanding athlete in Flathead High School. This was a profoundly significant award as it was not presented during many years because of the highly restrictive qualifications. The recipient of

He loved the "feel and smell" of this moment and did not want it to end. Dan would pause and take a long look back while savoring the God-given beauty of the moment. He would "etch" this moment into his memory and seemed to know there would come a day when he would not be able to return. In retrospect, he lived his life that way — looking back at the panorama and savoring the moments spent with family, friends and loved ones, knowing that one day these moments would also end. Dan could only pray and wish his family and friends would understand and cherish the precious times together as much as he did.

Dan felt his greatest gift and blessing in life was his children Craig and Cara, and he felt the earth would be a better, kinder place because of them. Dan's enjoyment of his children was exceeded by one last, great gift, grandchildren. Dan was always so proud, grateful and honored to be involved in their lives. Dan fought a good fight, finished his course and kept the faith. He loved deeply and will be missed greatly.

He leaves behind his son, Craig Bain and KellySue of Whitefish; daughter, Cara Kennedy and John of Missoula; grandchildren, Mirrer, Patience and Lux Bain of Whitefish, and Dylan Dyss, Aleena and Clara Kennedy of Missoula; brothers, Frank and wife Barb of Oregon, Ron and wife Bonnie of Kalispell, and Doug and wife Vivian of Oregon; and sister, Mary Kay and husband Paul of Columbia Falls.

A celebration of Dan's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday June 30 at Kalispell Christian Center.

Joel 'JB' W. Baker, 48

Cherished beyond measure, Joel "JB" W. Baker "joined the angels in heaven" on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014. He was 48.

Joel was completely devoted to being the very best husband, father, son, brother, uncle and friend the world has ever seen. Joel was truly beloved by his family and the Yakima, Wash., community for his tenure as a local DJ, for his kind and gentle spirit, and his great sense of humor.

Joel was born on May 8, 1966, to Neal and Helen Baker and grew up in Kalispell. He graduated from Flathead High School in 1984. After graduating, Joel was able to fulfill his dream of becoming a radio DJ at B98 FM Radio in Kalispell. He continued his passion for the field and enrolled in Bailie School of Broadcasting in Seattle to further learn his trade. After radio school, Joel moved back to Montana where he worked in radio all over his beloved "Big Sky Country." In 1999 Joel took a position with a radio station in Yakima. He met his wife and decided that while Montana was his favorite place, Yakima was now home.

Joel married Kelly Grove on Oct. 6, 2001, and together they had three beautiful children. While Joel always had a passion for radio, his new passion became his wife and children. He enjoyed anything family oriented. He was happiest when his family was gathered near. Whether it was a movie in the park, watching his son Riley play soccer or act in a school play, participating in Lily's therapy or walking her around the neighborhood in her wagon, or just dropping off a coffee to his wife at work, he loved it all.

In 2012 Joel faced a life-changing diagnosis of oral cancer. On Jan. 3, 2014, Joel was forced to finally shut off the mic and focus on surviving cancer and spending time making



ily. Though this last year was a difficult one with chemotherapy, radiation and more, he

always said it was worth it because he was able to spend more time with his family.

Joel is survived by his wife, Kelly; children, Riley and Lily; parents, Neal and Helen Baker; sisters, Robin and Dan Hagadone, and Dana and Jack Coughlin; brother, Ino Sofjan, and Jen; nieces and nephews, Kelcee, Rachael, Connor, Austin, Abigail and Audrey; and many other extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Michael Ann Baker, in 2003; aunt, Kathie Davis; and his grandparents.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, at Yakima Four-square Church, 700 North 40th Avenue, with graveside services immediately following at West Hills Cemetery.

The family would like everyone to remember that Joel didn't lose the battle to oral cancer, because he never gave up. Up until the last moment, he fought. He fought hard. He was also a huge advocate of promoting oral care. Joel never used tobacco products or drank heavily. It is important to get checked by your doctor if you have any concerns.

"You are the strongest, bravest, most inspirational man we have ever met. We love you to the moon and back. Thank you for fighting as hard as you did. Thank you for being you. Our love for you is unending."

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the JB/Joel Baker Donation Fund at any Solarity Credit Union.

Arrangements under direction of Shaw & Sons in Yakima. Memories may be shared at shaw-

Cont on next page

Yakima DJ loses battle with cancer

By RYAN MURRAY
The Daily Inter Lake

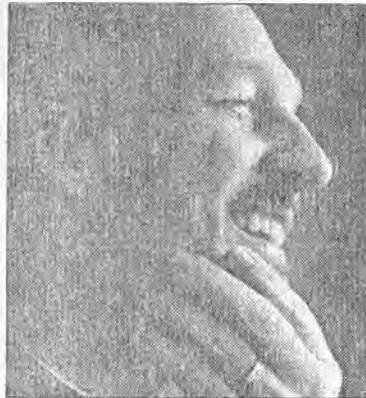
After a long fight with cancer, radio disc jockey Joel "JB" Baker died in his Yakima, Wash., home on Nov. 5. He was 48.

Baker, a Kalispell native and Flathead High School graduate, suffered from oral cancer. Last Wednesday, a tumor in his throat split open and began to bleed profusely.

His mother, Helen Baker, said his recovery since a Daily Inter Lake story on Baker in January had been surprisingly good.

"It was unexpected at this time," she said. "He was doing fine. In fact he was doing really well. But then he started bleeding and I guess he got scared and it raised his heart rate and made him bleed more."

Baker's wife, Kelly, arrived home after a frantic call from JB. An ambulance was there, with paramedics administer-



JOEL BAKER cracks a smile while talking about his childhood interest in being a radio DJ on Dec. 31, 2013. (Andy Sawyer photo/Yakima Herald-Republic)

ing cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, but it was too late.

Baker leaves behind Kelly, his children Riley, 8, and Lily, 2, and parents Helen and Neal.

His dream was always to be a radio DJ, and he accomplished that, working for KXDD, a country music station in Yakima.

Baker's workplace was supportive as he fought the disease, even after he was forced to give up the microphone forever on Jan. 3 due to surgery.

"They are the ones who wrote the obituary," Helen said. "And they are playing his clips and his favorite music: George Strait. George Strait was his idol."

KXDD received public condolences for the beloved DJ on its Facebook page, and offered its own words.

"I can't tell you how much it mean(s) to see the outpouring of love for JB," wrote station employee Charlie. "Everywhere across the Valley. I am always so grateful for our wonderful community."

Funeral services for JB Baker will be held Thursday, Nov. 13, at 10 a.m. at Yakima Four-square Church, with graveside services immediately following at West Hills Cemetery.

Reporter Ryan Murray may be reached at 758-4436 or by email at rmurray@dailyinterlake.com.

Woman murdered in California

By **CHRIS PETERSON**
Northwest Montana
News Network

A former Columbia Falls woman was shot to death in Richmond, Calif., last month.

Tammie Baker, 43, was shot multiple times about 10 p.m. March 20 on the front walk at the corner of South Fourth and Florida Avenues, accord-

ing to Sgt. Nicole Abetkove, public information officer for the Richmond Police Department.

Police are actively investigating the case, Abetkove said, but at this point they do not have a named suspect or a definitive motive in the case.

Officers who were in the area heard five to seven gunshots, according to SFGate.com.

Baker has lived in California about 10 years, but grew up in Columbia Falls, according to her mother, Paula Bennett.

She was born in Whitefish and attended school in Kila and Columbia Falls.

Baker's death was the first homicide of the year in Richmond, a city with a population of about 100,000 people located in the San Francisco

Bay area about 12 miles north of Oakland.

A memorial service for Baker will be Saturday, April 12, at 3 p.m. at the Columbia Falls Mortuary. The family invites everyone to share a memory on a balloon which will be released at the end of the service.

A potluck-style reception will follow at the Teakettle Community Hall on Nucleus Avenue.



TAMMIE BAKER

Tammie Lynn Baker, 43

Tammie Lynn Baker, 43, formerly of Columbia Falls, "was welcomed to heaven" on March 20, 2014, as a result of a crime in Richmond, Calif.

Tammie was born in Whitefish on Sept. 30, 1970, to Don and Paula Baker. She was raised in Columbia Falls, and for a short time California.

She attended school in Kila and Columbia Falls. Shortly thereafter, she moved to California where she met Rick Langton. Rick and Tammie had three children together, Ricky, Eric and Tyler Langton.

Soon after Tammie was born her parents moved with her to Windsor, Calif., to live on her grandfather's horse ranch. Tammie's knack for taking care of animals took flight and her compassion blossomed into caring for other people. In her teenage years she took care of her great-grandma Rose during her courageous battle with cancer.

While raising her boys she operated a home daycare where children enjoyed going to "Auntie's" house.



"Tammie received her angel wings" as a guardian for the sick.

She was preceded

in death by her father, Don Baker; Grandma and Grandpa Rae, and Kenny Downen; and Grandma Anita Baker.

She is survived by her mother and stepfather, Paula and Wally Bennett; her sisters, Jodie Green and Melissa Livingston; her children, Ricky, Eric and Tyler Langton, and their respective families. Tammie is also survived by her grandfather, Bob Baker, of California; along with numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, at the Columbia Falls Mortuary. We welcome you to share a memory on a balloon which will be released at the end of the service. A potluck-style reception will follow at the North Valley Community Center in Columbia Falls.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Henry Charles Baldauf

Memorial services for Henry Charles Baldauf, 87, who died Dec. 11 will be 2 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at 275 Old Highway 93 South, Somers.

Bernie Balla, 59

Bernie Balla, 59, passed away on Feb. 20, 2014, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Bernie was born in Detroit to MaryAnn and Steve Balla on Oct. 21, 1954.

He went to school at Colby High School in Colby, Wis., where he met the love of his life, Melody Fleck. They then moved to Kalispell where they were married on Nov. 16, 1973.

He worked for DVY Construction with his father-in-law, Gordy.

Bernie and Melody started a family with their first son, Steve, born May 18, 1974; their second son, Matt, born March 25, 1976; and their daughter, Nicole, born July 30, 1978.

Bernie's passions were fishing, hunting, camping and spending time with his family. Also, he loved tinkering in his garage on many different projects, usually fixing the kids' cars and such. He was very talented and was a jack-of-all-trades. The biggest project he accomplished was building their dream home together in Shelter Valley. He was always willing to lend his advice and helping hand to anyone and everyone!



Bernie was preceded in death by his father, Steve Balla; and his older brother, Bob Balla.

Bernie is survived by his wife, Melody; and children, Steve, Matt and wife Becca, and Nikki and husband Shane; grandchildren, Abby, Kajia, Stormy, Morgan and Kloey; mother, MaryAnn Balla; and siblings, Barbara Feryance, Brian Balla, Bret Ball, Beth Balla, Blake Balla and their families.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27, at North Valley Baptist Church, 1750 Talbot Road, Columbia Falls, with Pastor Rick Rhubottom officiating. A celebration of his life will follow in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, cash donations would be greatly appreciated.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Bernie's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and view Bernie's tribute wall.

Lucas L. 'Luke' Balock, 86

Lucas L. "Luke" Balock, 86, of Whitefish, passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, Feb. 17, 2014.



Harlowton and Bozeman. His greatest pride and joy though,

Luke was born on July 21, 1927, in Roundup. He graduated from Roundup High School in 1945 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving in the Sea Bees. He proudly served in the Philippines in 1945 and 1946 and was honorably discharged.

On May 22, 1948, he married the love of his life, Catherine Antoinette "Toni" Brown at St. Patrick's Church in Billings.

Luke was a jack-of-all-trades and a master of many. He worked as a brakeman/conductor for the Milwaukee Railroad in Harlowton and Roundup. He also owned several successful businesses in his lifetime, including the Roundup Creamery in the early 1960s. He then moved his family to Billings and worked for Dargold in Laurel. Shortly after that he bought Valley Distributing which he operated until 1974. During that time he also was a partner in the Molly Brown Bar in Bozeman and Billings. In 1974 he moved the family to Denver and worked for a former supplier. Missing his home state, he moved back to Bozeman in 1976 and worked for Edsall Construction into the 1980s.

In his later years, he and his wife Toni settled in western Montana and he resided in Whitefish at the time of his passing.

Luke loved Montana and never met a stranger. In whatever part of the state he traveled through, he was proud of the fact of always knowing someone from there. He loved to fish and enjoyed the company of many friends on outings in Roundup,

was spending time with his family hunting, fishing or just going for a ride on a country road with his "girlfriend" of 64 years, "Toni." He was very proud of all six of his children.

Luke was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Rose; sisters, Margaret, Helen and Rose; as well as his eldest son, Brian.

He is survived by his wife, Toni; his sister, Mildred Pederson, of Boulder, Colo.; his daughter, Barbara Rose, of Boulder, and husband Arnie Ostrander; son, Jim, of Houston, Texas, and wife Mary Ann; daughter, Kathy Gearhart, of Whitefish; son, Rob Balock, of Henderson, Nev.; and daughter, Nancy Mortier, of Newcastle, Wash., and husband Michael; his granddaughters, Calla and Ursula Ostrander, Lauren and Julia Mortier and Kate Gearhart, grandsons, Scott and wife Ali, and Tyler Gearhart and fiancée Kate; great-granddaughter Olivia, and great-grandson Henry Gearhart.

Luke most recently attended Immaculate Conception Church in Polson. Per Luke's request, no services were conducted. His family gathered in his home in Whitefish to celebrate his life. His ashes will be interred at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Lake View Cemetery in Polson.

In lieu of flowers, charitable donations can be made in his honor to the Polson Senior Center, 504 Third Ave. E in Polson, to the attention of Kaye Stam.

Richard Rotha Banna, 79

Richard Rotha Banna, 79, died at his home in Kalispell on June 6, 2014, from complications of bone cancer.

He was affectionately known to his family and friends as "Dick," "Top Banana" or "Montana Banana."

Dick was born on May 15, 1935, in Karnak, N.D., the son of Joseph and Emma (Stephenson) Banna, and he was reared in that area until his mother died; after his mother's death, Dick was moved to Minot, N.D., and was reared by his aunt and uncle, Helen and Thorvald Greslivold.

Dick graduated from Minot Senior High School in 1953 and then enlisted in the Army. Upon his discharge from the Army, Dick attended college, graduating from Minot State College in 1963 with a degree in education and business. Dick then started teaching school, first in Surrey, then Palermo, N.D., and finally in Rexford.

Dick met his wife Ione (Jensen) in early 1961, when they were both working for Behm's Truck Stop and Propane in Minot. They were married on July 1, 1961, in Norma, N.D. They made their home first in North Dakota, and then moved to Montana in 1966.

After moving to Montana and teaching in Rexford, Dick worked in construction, helping build Libby Dam. He then began a lengthy career with the U.S. Postal Service, working as a clerk in the Kalispell post office. Dick retired from the Postal Service after more than 20 years of service. While working for the Postal Service, Dick was elected as the president of the Montana Postal Workers Union, serving in that capacity for many years. In addition, Dick served as a board member for Kalispell School District No. 5, and was a die-hard Moose Lodge member.

During his retirement years, Dick developed a great affection for dogs, doting on all those he



owned — first Jewel, then Poppy, and finally a mother-daughter pair, Dutchess and Grizzly Bear. Despite declining health, Dick also stayed active repairing and/or fixing up things around the house and garage, and he meticulously maintained his lawn and trees. Not afraid of new technology, Dick used computers, the Internet, and television to enjoy old movies, historical events, politics and world affairs ... it seems like he was an expert in everything!

Dick was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Lila (Roggenbuck); his brother, Monty; his brother, Monver; an infant brother; his daughter, Helene; and his granddaughter, Anna Louise.

Dick is survived by his wife Ione (Jensen); his sister, Marian, and Valentine; his sister, Ruth, and Moe; his brother, Russell; his son, Joseph, and Joyce; his son, Jamison, and Jennifer; his granddaughters, Stephanie, Melanie, Jessica and William, Hallie, Kady and Gracelee; his grandson, Michael; his great-granddaughter, Sydnee; and numerous nieces and nephews.

At Dick's request, his immediate family will scatter his ashes at a private location he treasured, along with the ashes of his beloved pets, Jewel and Poppy.

In lieu of flowers or any other gifts of consolation, donations may be made in his name to the Best Friends Animal Society, 5001 Angel Canyon Road, UT 84741.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Dick's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and view Dick's tribute wall.

Bruce I. Barber, 76

Bruce I. Barber, 76, died Aug. 17, 2014, in Kalispell. He is survived by his wife, Kay Ellen Barber. No services are planned at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Daniel Wayne 'Scott' Barber, 70

Daniel Wayne "Scott" Barber, 70, passed away at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane on May 15, 2014.

He was born number six with a total of seven siblings. Scott was born July 3, 1943, in St. Ignatius.

Scott is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 48 years, Sharon; sons, Scott and Kim, and Shawn and Tammi, of Ronan; granddaughters, Mariah and Austin, Madison, and Lindsay; grandson, Braden; great-grandson, Eastyn; three step-grandchildren, Andrea, Siera, and Nic and Kayla; sister, Bea Noble and Bob; brothers, Sam and Charlene, and Tom and Gail; numerous nieces and nephews; brother-in-law, Joe Saddler of Pablo; and four sisters-in-law, Betty of Pinehurst, Idaho, Linda and Lawrence of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Linda Barber of Kasilof, Alaska and Judy Barber of Tucson, Ariz.

Preceding him in death were his daughter, Stevie; parents, Emanuel and Ruby; brothers, Dick and Jim; and sisters, Pat and Sherry.

Scott was a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. He was very proud of his heritage, and his hunting and fishing rights. His pride was reflected in his artwork.

Scott loved to play golf, bowl and throw horseshoes with his wife Sharon and his many



friends. He was very creative with his artwork, carving animals out of moose horns, figures out of cottonwood, and painted

pictures on tree conks. He always gave everything away. He also loved to hunt, fish and go camping with family and friends.

Scott was always thinking about everyone else and making sure they were okay. He loved to tease and joke with the little kids. "Uncle" Scott was always there to give them a laugh or cry.

Scott graduated from Ronan High School in 1961.

He served in the Navy from 1961 to 1964.

He attended Philco Electronics School in Mountain View, Calif. from 1968 to 1969. He worked for Plum Creek in Pablo for 30 years, and CSKT Tribal Housing for eight years.

Scott and Sharon were married Aug. 28, 1965.

Scott will be cremated and no services are planned at this time. A memorial will be announced at a later date.

Scott will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Messages of condolence may be sent to www.groganfuneralhome.com.

Thomas John Barber, 74

Thomas John Barber, 74, of Lakeside, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014.

He was born on April 27, 1939, in Detroit. Tom graduated from Cranbrook School and received a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art degree from the University of Michigan.

He is survived by his brother, Bill Barber, of Kalispell; his children, Tina Mavromatis and Timothy Barber of Chica-

go; and his grandchildren, Bethany and James.

A memorial will be held to share stories about his life from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Hampton Inn, 1140 U.S. 2 West, Kalispell.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Tom's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to view Tom's Tribute wall, offer condolences and share memories.

Larry Dan Barge, 70

Larry Dan Barge, 70, lost his battle with cancer and passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, Jan. 24, 2014.

Larry was born in Seattle on June 25, 1943, to Dan and Marie Barge. His family moved to Plentywood, Mont., in his early years, and moved to the Flathead Valley when he was in second grade. He was married three times and had four children, Scott Barge, Wendy Glass, Kameron Barge and Tara Stout.

Larry graduated from Flathead County High School. He served in the National Guard, worked for Phillips 66, and opened Barge's Bodyshop in 1973.

He helped organize and start the Flathead Snow-



mobile Association, was elected as the first vice-president, and was very active in the club for many years.

He was an avid NASCAR fan and faithfully watched every race. During his 40 years in business, it was always "beer 30" at his shop. His buddies were like family to him. He was the type of guy who could never say no and would give anyone the shirt off his back.

He will be remembered for his generosity, giving personality and strong

spirit. He will also be remembered for his many "Larryisms": "Yep Yep, Merry Christmas, with a bar of soap and a box of Tide, Plan B," and whatever else.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Dan and Marie Barge.

He is survived by his son, Scott, and wife, Shawnee; daughter, Wendy Glass, and husband, Curt, and grandchildren Kyle, Skyler, Daylin and Michael; son, Kameron, and fiancée, Emily, and grandchild Marley; and daughter, Tara Stout, and husband, Tom, and grandchild Landin. He is also survived by sisters, Carrie Taylor and husband Dick, Ann Martinson and husband Dennis, Shirley Anderson, and

Lori Goble and husband Craig; and the stray cat that adopted Larry, His Majesty.

There will be a gathering and potluck at the Barges at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Lyle Evan Barnes, 87

Lyle Evan Barnes, a giant of a man, "left his lifelong home in Whitefish to a place where the cows always come home when called." Lyle had lived a brilliant life of 87 years and was surrounded by his four children "when he passed over peacefully to heaven" on Feb. 26, 2014.

Whitefish was the majestic backdrop for Lyle's entire life. He was the first son to Lee and Hazel Barnes and one of six siblings to grow up on the Barnes family farm. Days were spent outside milking cows and bucking bales of hay as a contributing member to the family business, Lone Pine Dairy.

Lyle met his bride, June Helen Tacheny, on the Barnes family farm. These childhood sweethearts are a testament to a love that lasted the generations. The couple would have celebrated 68 years of marriage this year.

Lyle and June built a home and a family alongside the treasured family farm in Whitefish. Lyle spent days mending fence, fixing bailing machines, feeding his cows and loving the land. He worked as a farmer with his father Lee and his brother Jerry. The family land brought people together. In a literal sense, many hands were necessary to get the work done of tending cows and growing alfalfa. But in a deeper, more sacred way, the farm was a place refuge for many.

Lyle's greatest gift in life was the way he loved children. He was not a man of many words; he was a man who lived a life of deep kindness and rich love towards children. He was the greatest man in the world to every child who ever knew him. And so his own children, nieces, nephews and distant cousins all clamored to be on the farm and work the fields just to be



near him.

His love of family gave him a fighting spirit that enabled him to triumph

over adversity that would have been the end of most men. He won the battle with Hodgkin's disease so that he could raise his baby daughter Lisa Marie. He refused to succumb to a rare flesh-eating virus, cancer, and even running over his own head with a tractor because there were still more dresses to buy for his granddaughters and more games of pinochle to play with his family. As his cancer came back in recent months, he shared with his pastor that he knew he was getting on in years, but he still had so much to do.

Lyle lived a life of strength and independence up until the end. He spent his last birthday surrounded by three generations of family, with his trademark huge grin, on the edge of the sea in Mexico. Lyle lived each day with deep kindness and it was a beautiful life.

Lyle was preceded in death by his parents, Lee and Hazel Barnes, and granddaughter, Karlee Corena Cysewski.

He is survived by his wife, June Barnes; his children, Vicki Crick, Dale Barnes, Craig Barnes and Lisa Cysewski; as well as sisters, Frances Hatler, Marilee McCutcheon, Carol Larson and Sharon Stone.

A celebration of Lyle's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 3, at St. Peter Lutheran Church at 201 Wisconsin Avenue in Whitefish.

Instead of sending flowers to the church or family, please consider donating to the Whitefish Food Bank. There was always a mug of soup for anyone who came to Grandpa's house.

June Helen Barnes, 87

After spending a beautiful life in Whitefish surrounded by her beloved family, June Helen Barnes passed away peacefully on Nov. 9, 2014. She was 87 years old.

June was lucky to find her soul mate, Lyle Barnes, early in life. June and Lyle married shortly after high school and spent decades raising their children, Vicki, Dale, Craig and Lisa at their beloved family home on Armory Road.

June was a powerhouse in the kitchen. She loved to cook, feed people, and was organic even before it was popular. The day that June went to heaven, a fierce and terrific rainstorm showered down on Whitefish. Her family looked at this storm and remarked, "It sounds like Mom is trying to take over someone's kitchen upstairs. From the looks of it, the takeover may not be going so well."

June's Beauty Salon, a hairdressing business run out of her home, was a hub of laughter, gossip, hot rollers and friendship for neighborhood ladies. June's "ladies" became extended family.

Weekends were spent up at the Tacheny homestead near Polebridge with the kids and grandkids. While Lyle spent time along the river, June enjoyed staying back to play card games with the children. Thanks to June, all Barnes children became ace pinochle players and anyone planning on marrying into the family had to learn the game before they got "Junie's" seal of approval.

June blossomed as an artist during retirement. She took up china painting as a hobby, along with her sister Marilu Putnam. The hobby soon became a full-fledged obsession. China cabinets filled and blank wall space became sparse as June became a mass producer of fantastic floral creations.

June loved telling stories and, even more, loved laughing at the misfortune of others. It was common knowledge in the family that if you fell down in front of Grandma June, be prepared to expect rolling laughter instead of help. Heaven help you if the injury involved blood or tears. June's assistance came in the form of retelling the funny story over and over again.

June had a strong and powerful voice in the family. She taught her daughters and granddaughters how to be strong and powerful women. However, if you tried to sneak an O'Henry bar from the freezer before Christmas Day, well, you'd hear about it. June was one part spicy and one part sweet.

"June joined husband Lyle, granddaughter Karlee and countless other loved ones in heaven."

Grandma June was loved, feared and adored by all.

A service celebrating June will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21, at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Whitefish.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Whitefish Food Bank.

Douglas 'Bruce' Barney, 71



of Denver; and son, Bob Barney, and wife, Erin, of Missoula; his grandchildren,

Douglas "Bruce" Barney, 71, of Seeley Lake and Yuma, Ariz., unexpectedly passed away on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014, at his home in Seeley Lake.

He was born on June 21, 1943, in Lewistown to Clifford and Lavonia Barney.

On June 13, 1962, He married the love of his life, Donetta L. Wells, of Ferndale. They spent their life living in Missoula, Seattle and Phoenix, before retiring and enjoying the snowbird lifestyle.

Bruce lived a wonderful life and surrounded himself with his family and many friends they met over the years. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him and will be remembered fondly.

He is survived by his loving wife, Donetta; daughter, Brenda Cole,

Allie Cole, Austin Cole and Norah Barney; his brother, Gene, and wife, Sally Barney, of Victor; sister, Arlene, and husband, Leroy White, of Townsend; brother, Don, and wife, Shirley Barney, of Bigfork; and sister, Barb, and husband, Jerry Corbin, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

A celebration of his life will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19, at the Bigfork Chapel, 290 Swan Highway 83.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Seeley Lake Fire Co., P.O. Box 309, Seeley Lake, MT 59868.

John 'Jack' Francis Barrett, 85

John "Jack" Francis Barrett passed peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, in Kalispell after a short illness related to a stroke.

Born in Shelby, Jack passed just six weeks shy of his 86th birthday.

Jack was preceded in death by his father, Joseph; his mother, Therese; his brother, Ralph; his sister, Joan; his father-in-law, Arthur; his mother-in-law, Inez; and his first wife, Shirley Ellen.

Jack married his present wife, Shirley Mae, in 1972, after his first wife passed in 1970. Collectively, Jack and his two brides followed the biblical dictum to be fruitful and multiply. Together they have 11 children, Wendy Boll, Tony Barrett, Stanley Foy, Patrick Barrett, Jacqueline Knox, Connie Tuman, Michael Barrett, Dee Dee Daus, John Barrett, John Roedel and James Barrett; plus 34 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren. Jack also has an extended fam-



ily and a group of dear friends too numerous to detail here. This collec-

tive group resides on the continents of North America, South America, Africa and Asia.

Jack was a charismatic Irishman and is remembered fondly for his public service as a volunteer for the Evergreen Lions Club, Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department, Evergreen School board, Evergreen Water and Sewer District, Pee Wee Baseball, Rocky Mountain Rollers, Saint Matthew's Catholic Parish, Knights of Columbus, Risen Christ Catholic Parish and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Glacier Country. Jack was an original member of Risen Christ Catholic Church.

After his graduation from Coeur d'Alene High School in the 1940s, Jack spent time as a professional boxer, then rose to the position of master

carpenter on the construction of the Hungry Horse Reservoir. In the 1950s and 1960s, Jack and his first wife built a successful business as the owners/operators of a Texaco auto repair shop and tire distributorship on U.S. 2 East in Evergreen, and running the family farm located midway between Kalispell and Whitefish. One of the highlights of this period was Jack volunteering his business as a combined boat-fueling station and emergency command center during the 1964 flood of the upper Flathead Valley. Beginning in the 1970s, Jack and his second wife built a very successful business as land developers with the capstone being the 240-unit Meadow Manor complex in Evergreen. A highlight of this period was the construction and later donation of the Boys and Girls Club and the state fishing grounds on Shady Lane in Evergreen.

Jack was an accomplished sportsman and is well known in Montana and Alaska for his prow-

ess in boxing, hunting, fishing, snow skiing, water skiing, golfing, boating, horse riding and white water rafting. Jack was also an avid traveler and his numerous trips included locations such as the entire continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, El Salvador and long winter trips to Arizona.

A visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on today, June 1, at the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory in Kalispell. A rosary service will be said at 7 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on June 2, at Risen Christ Church in Evergreen. Burial will follow funeral services at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers the family desires that donations be made to the Saint Jude's Children's Hospital.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Jack's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and view Jack's tribute wall.

John Barrows, 67

John Barrows, 67, of Polson, died at Kalispell Regional Medical Center Saturday, March 15, 2014.

A memorial services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at Grogan Funeral Home in Polson.

Bernice 'Bea' Barry, 100

Bernice "Bea" Barry was born April 19, 1914, in Fairview, Mont., to George and Emma Downes.

In July of 1932, Bea was married to John Lewis Washburn, a family friend. Bea and John purchased a motel in Apgar. The motel was then called the Moose Cabins. It was later renamed the Glacier Inn and Cafe. This is where they settled and began their family.

In 1968 the Apgar property was sold and Bea moved to Columbia Falls. Bea worked for many years in the hot lunch program at School District 6. She later took a job at the Montana Veterans Home, where she worked every day until she was 72. Bea's working life was very important to her. She often spoke of the Veterans Home and the great friends she made there.

Bea had a great zest for life and she lived each day to its fullest. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and family.

Bea was preceded in death by her husband John, and her oldest son John "Jack."

Bea is survived by her son, Gil Washburn, of Columbia Falls, and his children, Donel and Kim; son, Mick Washburn, his wife Marilyn, and children, Jeff and Jodi;



daughter, Cheryl Kempainen, her husband Tom, and their children, Lance, Mikey, Tom, T-Tom, Tan-

ya and John, and John's children, John, Ted, Desria, Mitch, Larinda and Darrell. Bea is also survived by many great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren; and close family friends, Irene Barnhart, Norma Williams, Norma Finberg and Sandy Loveall.

Bea chose Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 2014, a day filled with family, love and laughter to leave this world.

Her last few days were spent surrounded by her family.

There will be a family gathering this summer to celebrate Bea's life and to spread her ashes.

We would like to give a special thanks to the many people at the Immanuel Lutheran Home for the kindness and care they gave her over the last few years. You made it a great second home for her, and for that we are very grateful.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Wildcat Endowment Fund in her memory.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Bea's family.

Lyle Keith Bartlett, 88

Late in the evening of Saturday, July 26, 2014, at the end of a short stay at Brendan House in Kalispell, Lyle passed away as he wished, quickly and peacefully in his sleep.

He was born in Superior, Wis., Nov. 7, 1925, and grew up in Eau Claire, Wis., with sisters Phyllis and Ailene, and a brother Jack.

After high school he joined the Navy Air Corps and was able to spend part of his time attending Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., where he played football and baseball, and then the University of Oklahoma. After discharge he married Muriel Cusick whom he had known since grade school. He then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and a master's in education at Oklahoma.

Lyle's career started as a pharmaceutical representative in Midland, Texas, and later he owned



a medical supply company. In 1975, he and his wife moved to Kalispell where he was very active in real estate. Career changes in real

estate took them to Louisville, Ky., and Cincinnati, before returning to Kalispell in 1996.

Simply said, Lyle was one of those people everybody liked.

He is survived by his son, Tom Bartlett, of Kalispell; three granddaughters Shanna Bracken, Kim Bartlett and Kellie Oakes, grandsons-in-law Tracy Bracken and Brian Oakes, with four great-grandchildren, all living in Atlanta.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, Aug. 8. For details contact Tom Bartlett at 885-3865.

Melinda 'Linda' Kay Meacham Bartsch, 64

Melinda "Linda" Kay Meacham Bartsch, born on March 31, 1950, in Kalispell, died on May 20, 2014, in Whitefish.

Melinda was the only child of Fred and Mollie Sheldon Meacham also of Kalispell. She attended Kalispell schools, Russell Elementary School, Central Junior High and Flathead County High School, graduating from high school in 1968. She attended Flathead Valley Community College from 1969 to 1971 and returned to FVCC later to finish an Associate of Applied Science and an Associate of Arts degrees.

Melinda married Jerry Bartsch of Kalispell in 1975. Two sons were born in this marriage, Samuel Clayton Bartsch (1976), and Kevin Richard Bartsch (1978). Sam and

Kevin were the light of her life even though being a mother of two boys was not always easy. Seeing them mature into two fine young men made all of her efforts worthwhile. Melinda and Jerry divorced in 1984, and they eventually remarried in 1994, but later happily separated and remained so until Melinda's death on May 20.

Melinda worked at Valley Bank in Kalispell from 1972 to 1975 as a bookkeeper and also at the Immanuel Lutheran Home as a housekeeper. Melinda and Jerry bought a home in Columbia Falls in 1976. Jerry went to work for the U.S. Forest Service and later for Plum Creek Fiberboard until his retirement.

Melinda returned to FVCC in 1987 to partici-

pate in a clerical training program and earned a one-year certificate in word processing/clerical studies. She later returned to FVCC as an administrative assistant in the same clerical training program from which she graduated. When that job ended, Melinda worked as a home health care aide for a number of years.

As a child, Melinda loved to go to the family cabin on Flathead Lake near Rollins for weekends for many years. She had many fond memories of family reunions held at that location and is proud of the rich history on both sides of her family.

Melinda's parents had numerous relatives in the Flathead Valley, some arriving as early as 1873 from West Virginia. Her father arrived in Kalispell

on a stage coach in 1920 coming from Utica, Mont.

Melinda was fortunate to be a part of a large, loving family as she was growing up. She knew that she will be united with her loved ones in heaven. Melinda was also blessed with numerous close friends to whom she is eternally grateful for their care and support during good times as well as bad times.

A celebration of life will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 23, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Urn burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Elvera 'Cookie' Bean, 86

Elvera "Cookie" Bean died of natural causes on May 28, 2014, at the age of 86.

She was born in Red Lodge on June 5, 1927, to James and Lena Orlor. Cookie's siblings are Dorothy, John and James.

Cookie married Richard Bean on May 13, 1947, and had four children, Mary Margaret, Richard J., Robert and Lucinda.

Nursing was Cookie's passion. Cookie attended nursing school, became an aide and later became a licensed practical nurse in August of 1969. She retired from nursing at the age of 77.

Cookie was preceded in death by her husband Richard, son Robert, her parents James and Lena, and her sister Dorothy.

Cookie is survived by



her children, Mary Margaret and husband Mack of Big Sky, Richard J. and wife Desiree of

Eureka, and Lucinda of Seattle; grandchildren, Joshua of Libby, Robert and wife Brandi of Bigfork, and Curtis and wife Maria of Kalispell; great-grandchildren, William of Bigfork and Nadia of Kalispell; and brothers, John of San Francisco and James of Billings.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, June 16, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Cookie will be laid to rest at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Billings.

Robert 'Bob' J. Beck, 87

Robert "Bob" J. Beck died peacefully surrounded by family at his home in Columbia Falls Sunday evening, Feb. 2, 2014.

Bob was born March 16, 1926, in Kalispell to Harry and Jeanette Beck.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; siblings; and infant son, Bobby.

He is survived by his wife of 64 and a half years, Joan; sons, Roger and Kathy, and Gordy and Patti; and daughter Lorraine and Bert Riley. Bob also has seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews, who all loved him immensely.

As a lifetime resident of the Flathead Valley, Bob had many great friendships. He graduated from Flathead County High School in 1944, and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Bob was a contract painter and designed, painted and erected signs for many Flathead businesses. He



also found pleasure in restoring and selling cars. He was a man devoted to the outdoors; fishing, hunting, camping and all family activities.

A visitation will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 7, at the United Methodist Church in Columbia Falls. The funeral service for Bob will follow at 11 a.m.

A luncheon will immediately follow at the church for friends and family to join. The family will reconvene at 3 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Bob's family. You are invited to go to www.columbiamortuary.com to view Bob's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.

Stella Beck, 66

Stella Beck, 66, died July 5, 2014, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

She is survived by her husband, Larry; and chil-

dren, Deedee and Lisa.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

Diane Marie (Harris) Bebee, 64

Diane Marie (Harris) Bebee passed away at her home in Kalispell, after a brave battle with cancer, on Friday, July 18, 2014, at the age of 64.

She was born March 20, 1950 in Columbus, Georgia to Richard and Dorothy Harris.

On Aug. 8, 1970, Diane married the love of her life, Loren K. Bebee. Her passing comes just short of their 44th wedding anniversary.

Diane attended Mountlake Terrace High School in Washington, and later graduated from Arizona State University with an elementary education teaching degree. Through different seasons of life Diane worked as an educator, a stay-at-home mom, a professional seamstress, various retail and customer service positions, and most recently as the office manager and events coordinator at the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce. Diane loved working with and meeting people and always put her heart and soul into whatever she was doing, and consistently exceeded expectations.

Diane enjoyed working with youth throughout her life. Whether in a formal class setting, through youth ministry alongside her husband or volunteer community projects, she gave freely of herself and was known to many simply as "Mom."

Diane's creativity and enjoyment of projects knew no end. On days off she could be found sewing, scrapbooking, crafting or getting dirty in the garden. She loved a day of searching out great garage sales or



antique shops. One of her greatest joys was just spending time with her grandchildren, who adore her.

Though Diane may be gone in body, her legacy will live on in those who knew and love her. She was the best wife, mom, sister, daughter or friend anyone could ever ask for.

Diane was preceded in passing by her son, Benjamin King Bebee; and grandparents.

She is survived by her husband, Loren K. Bebee of Kalispell; son, Sean M. Bebee of Kalispell; daughter, Liberty A. (Bebee) Shamp of Lynnwood, Washington; grandchildren, Mason Bebee of Kalispell, and Caleb, Bailey, Hadassah and Carter Shamp of Lynnwood; parents, Richard and Dorothy Harris of Mountlake Terrace, Washington; siblings, Richard Harris Jr. of Maltby, Washington, Thomas Harris of Marysville, Washington, and Joy (Harris) Chaudiere of Edmonds, Washington.

Diane has been laid to rest at Fairview Cemetery. A memorial service is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 26 at the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce in Depot Park. It will be a casual, potluck event; attendees will have the opportunity to share if they wish.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to www.youcaring.com/momsroad to help with the remaining medical bills.

Julie Ann Bell, 49

Julie Ann Bell, 49, of Columbia Falls, passed away suddenly on Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

She was born Aug. 14, 1964, in Richmond, Calif., to Alfred and Marjean Granzella.

She graduated from Presentation High School in 1982, in Berkeley, Calif. She resided in California until 2001, when she moved to Montana. In 2004, she married Jack Bell.

Julie was caring and compassionate toward everyone who ever crossed her path and always gave the best advice, no matter the situation. She had a special place in her heart for children, as she was "Nanna" to every single child she knew, and spent the last year working as a nanny along with her daughter, Marinella. Some of her favorite things were cooking gourmet dinners with her husband, enjoying her cat Walter and her three dogs, spending time with her grandchildren, and the beauty of the snow in Montana. She had a great



love for literature and enjoyed books on any topic. Her warm spirit and abundance

of kindness will be truly missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Julie was preceded in death by her mother, Marjean Granzella; and brother, John Granzella.

She is survived by her husband, Jack Bell; her children, Marinella Steccone and Edward Steccone; her grandchildren, Haven and Aliyah Arends, and another grandchild on the way; her father, Alfred Granzella; sister, Susan Granzella; aunt Elda Foster; and numerous friends and family.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 7 at St. Richard's Catholic Church, 1210 Ninth St. W., in Columbia Falls, with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, and reception immediately following.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Julie's family.

Fisherman killed by falling tree on Bitterroot River

CONNER (AP) — A 62-year-old western Montana man was struck and killed by a falling tree while fishing on the Bitterroot River.

Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman says high winds moved through the southern Bitterroot Valley early Sunday afternoon and officers received reports of trees down across U.S. Highway 93 south of Conner.

Members of the Sula

Fire Department were working to clear the trees when they heard dogs barking down by the river. Hoffman says when they investigated they found Michael Kenneth Bell of Conner pinned under a tree that had been knocked over by the wind.

Bell died at the scene.

The downed trees blocked traffic on the highway for more than an hour.

Donald Joseph Benes, 78

Donald Joseph Benes, 78, of Missoula, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014, after a brief battle with brain cancer.

He was born Oct. 11, 1936, in Chicago to Joseph and Estelle Benes. The family moved to Carrizo Springs, Texas, in 1949. Don graduated from Carrizo Springs High School in 1954; he then entered Texas A&M University and was a member of Squadron 10 in the Corps of Cadets, graduating as a member of the Class of 1958 with a degree in industrial technology. While in the Air Force, Don served at the Blacktail Radar Station in Lakeside.

While stationed there, he met Helen Elaine Balenger, and they were married on Feb. 11, 1962. The couple lived in Kalispell until moving to Spokane when Don took a job with IBM. They were only there a few months before moving to Pullman, Wash., in 1964, where he worked as a customer engineer. While in Pullman, their daughter Kimberley was born. In 1977, Don transferred to Helena with IBM and they built their dream log home on Saddle Mountain in Montana City.

He and Helen were members of First Assembly of God in Helena and had many great friends there.

Don was an avid outdoorsman. One of his favorite pastimes was hang gliding at Steptoe Butte and along the Snake River. He enjoyed playing and coaching softball, golfing and playing in several leagues in Pullman and Helena, taking care of the men's leagues records at both Fox Ridge and Bill Roberts. He was a devoted Texas A&M Aggie and Chicago Cubs fan and plans were made around



game times. He enjoyed cross-country skiing, hiking and building and flying model airplanes.

Don was a skilled woodworker and, after his retirement from IBM, he and Helen spent several years traveling the Northwest

to various craft fairs. Don was an accomplished cook and enjoyed sharing his creations. Spending time with his three granddaughters was the highlight of his life; he enjoyed attending their sporting events and loved teaching them to shoot at the shooting range.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, and wife Helen.

He is survived by his daughter, Kim Tobiason, and her three daughters, Sydnee, MacKenzie and Madisyn, of Missoula. He is also survived by his sister, Judy Hobart, and Doug, of Pullman; sisters-in-law, Mary Balenger of Lome', Togo, West Africa, Laura Crone of Oldtown, Idaho, Betty Volin and Ray of Yuma, Ariz., Bonita Thomas and Bruce of Laredo, Texas, and Birdie Faris and Terry of Lakeside; several nieces, nephews and cousins; and many dear friends.

No services are planned at this time. Don will be buried with his wife at Fort Harrison in Helena next spring or early summer. There will be a celebration of his life at that time, and friends and family will be notified at a later date.

Frederick R. Benton Sr., 84

Frederick R. Benton Sr. passed away peacefully with his son Edward and daughter Robbin at his side on Feb. 2, 2014, in Whitefish.

Frederick was born June 15, 1929, in Kalispell. He was the son of William and Minnie Benton.

He was born deaf, so he only made it to the fifth grade in school. As a child, Fred moved around a lot with his family.

Fred enlisted in the Army in 1946 and was a veteran. He got his music certificate for guitar while in the Army. Although he was deaf, he could play almost any instrument.

He married Charlene Parrish in December 1956 in Polson. Together they raised seven children, and a few others that they took into the family.

He worked as a general laborer. He helped his dad and brother to build roads in the Flathead Valley. At one time the family owned a sawmill that they operated. In his later years he was a crane operator for Weisman's in Kalispell.

He was a gentle man who didn't like to be in crowds. He loved to play the guitar and sing Hank Williams songs.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Charlene; his parents, Bill and Minnie Benton; his sister, Phyllis and her husband, Tom Harding; his brother, Clifford; one son-in-law, Timothy Benson; one adopted son, Russell Brauer; two grandsons, Frederick Orlando Benton and Duane Lee Benton Jr.; and one great-granddaughter, Riley Benton.

Fred is survived by his four sons, Fred Jr. and his wife Cheryl, Ed, Ken, and Duane Sr. and his wife Bobbie; his three daughters, Bobbie Sewell



and her husband Eugene, Jeri and her boyfriend Bill, and Robbin Parks and her husband Kevin.



Viewing will be at noon on

Friday, Feb. 7, at North Valley Baptist Church in Columbia Falls. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. after the viewing. Burial will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Fred's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and view Fred's tribute wall.

Dan Eugene Benson, 33

Dan Eugene Benson, 33, passed away on June 25, 2014.

Dan was born to Monty and Paula Benson on Jan. 30, 1980, in Kalispell.

He was raised in the Flathead Valley, a lifelong outdoorsman, who loved rodeo and the cowboy life.

Dan served our country with honor and distinction as an Army infantryman, and was deployed overseas to Iraq and Kuwait. He had a huge respect for the men and women of the military who serve our country in times of need.

He worked several jobs, including airport security, being a ranch hand, and at BNSF railroad. He loved to travel and see new places. Texas was ever on his mind. Dan loved to work winters in the southern sunny states with the dream of owning a ranch one day. He was a member of the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church in Lakeside. He was also a member of the PRCA and the PBR.

Dan was preceded in death by his grandfathers, William "Bill" Seward and John "Jack" Benson;



and great-grandparents, Louie and Cathryn Sasse, Elmer and Emma Benson, Alfred and Mable Kjos, and Floyd and Alice Seward.

He is survived by his grandmothers, Bonnie Benson and Jane Seward, both of Kalispell; parents, Monty and Paula Benson; brother, Ryan Benson and wife, Holly, of Kalispell; and sister, Michelle and her husband, Scott Wirtanen, of Amboy, Washington. Dan was a wonderful uncle to his twelve nieces and nephews, and is also survived by several aunts, uncles and numerous cousins.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 1 at the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church of Lakeside. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Dan's family.

Brittney Rene Bennetts, 37

Brittney Rene Bennetts, 37, of Kalispell, passed away in Dallas on Dec. 3, 2013.

Brittney was born in Kalispell on May 13, 1977, to Marian and Jim Bennetts. She attended St. Matthew's Elementary, Flathead Valley Community College, the University of Montana and received a master's degree in counseling from Southwestern College of Santa Fe in December of 2013.

Brittney was called to a life of helping others as a social worker. She worked for many wonderful organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Americorps, Montana National Guard, Child Development Center and Montana Mental Health Center. She was most recently working passionately as a counselor for Frontier Hospice.

The beauty and wild-life of Montana brought her great joy. She had a deep love of music, writing, drawing and poetry. Brittney was a lover of all animals. When she passed she had gratefully acquired 18 years of sobriety.

Brittney is survived by her mother, Marian Stone, of Kalispell; father,



Jim Bennetts, and Linda La Montagne, of Novato, Calif.; brother, Brett, and Alice Ben-

netts, of Kalispell; sister, Colette, and Scott Riel, of Kalispell; grandfather, Chuck Bennetts, of Fairfield; grandmother, Hazel Lair, of Kalispell; her dearly beloved nieces and nephew, Natasha, Malachi, Rhiannon and Anika Bennetts, and Lauren and Avery Riel; and numerous loved aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Hannah Bennetts; grandfather, Martin Lair; and aunt, Barbara Bennetts.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Matthew's Church, with a luncheon to follow.

Memorial donations may be made in Brittney's name to Frontier Hospice, 42 Bruyer Way, Kalispell; or Northwest Montana Humane Society, Kalispell.

Lee Grant Bennett, 74

Lee Grant Bennett, 74, passed away Sept. 21, 2014.

He was born in Helena Oct. 28, 1939, to Bob and Martha Bennett, both deceased.

He served in the Air Force from March 1959 to December 1962.

Lee was an avid reader and writer, writing "Furs, Fins and Feathers" for the Daily Inter Lake, and also articles published in Field & Stream and Harper's Bazaar. He also taught anthropology at Montana State University and Flathead Valley Community College. A co-worker said he was "the most well-read and intelligent person I'd ever met." Lee once wrote in his private papers, "A reclusive, eccentric iconoclast — the perfect description of me!" Lee loved the outdoors; hunting was his passion. He loved golden retrievers, training sev-



eral of his "best buds." In 1975, Lee married Gladys Van Orden, deceased in 1995. He is survived by his granddaughter, Cynthia, "the grandson he never had," teaching her all he knew about hunting; as well as step-children, Linda, Fred, Nels, Dale, Junell and Bim, and son, Earl.

Lee's service is at 2 p.m. Oct. 18, at the Salvation Army Church, with a potluck following. A memorial will be held at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 21, at the Montana Veterans Home.

A special thanks to Chaplain Darren Schwartz for his blessing for Lee.

Byrl Berkimer, 73

Byrl Berkimer, 73, yeoman chief petty officer U.S. Navy retired, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 16, 2014, with family and his dog Julie by his side.

He was the former owner of Byrl's Place barber shops in Spokane and Kalispell.

Byrl was born on March 28, 1940, and lived in Jonesville, Mich., until joining the Navy.

He and his wife Sandra lived their "bucket list" of traveling the United States with their RV for eight years, eventually retiring in Starke, Fla.

Besides his wife, Byrl is survived by sons, Richard and Lani Berkimer, and Steven and Elizabeth Berkimer; his grandchildren, Timothy and wife Michael, Samantha and



Louis; great-grandchildren, Shaughnessy and

Jackson; sister, Marge; and many loving cousins, nieces and nephews scattered throughout the United States.

"Fair winds and following seas."

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to the American Diabetes Association, Kidney Foundation, or your favorite charity, in Byrl's name.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Helm-Gallagher Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 1811 Idlewild Avenue, Green Cove Springs, FL; 904-284-9696; www.helmgallagherfh.com.

Donna Darlene Berger, 76

Donna Darlene Berger, in her 76 years, lived her life as the definition of a strong matriarchal woman. Donna, also known as Darlene, was born in Great Falls to Bernhard Roedel and Anna Case and grew up with her two brothers, Donald and Theodore Roedel.

Marrying Larry Prothero, Donna became a young military bride, a path that would truly strengthen her character. On short notice, she could move her large family as far away as England and make it seem like a normal daily activity. Widowed young, she returned to Kalispell with six children to be nearer to her mother and father.

Donna found love again and married Arthur Berger. Together they raised all the children and had one more child. Their life brought many moves with Donna settling in Pasco, Wash.

One look at her aged hands tells the story of the hard worker she was. Donna cooked for Andy's Coffee Break in Pasco for almost a decade. She remodeled her homes, gardened, made ceramics

and sewed.

Donna used her passion for needle work to lavish her children and grandchildren with handcrafted quilts and dolls. She was "The Sock Monkey Maker Extraordinaire." Her monkeys still comfort the old and the young alike.

On Aug. 13, 2014, Donna gave notice she was finished fighting her long battle with COPD and wanted to be reunited with her father, Bernhard Roedel, mother Anna Case Roedel, husband Larry Prothero, husband Arthur Berger, daughter Cheryl Berger, son Timothy Prothero and Bear, her four-legged sidekick. Surrounded with laughter, tears and love, Donna Darlene made a dramatic exit early morning Aug. 14, 2014, with a flash of lightning that illuminated the room as her spirit left us.

Donna Darlene Berger "will be waiting with open arms" for her sons, Russell Prothero, Kenneth Prothero and Christopher Prothero; daughters, Frances Cutright and Danette Locke; and Larry Shemorry, who has

dedicated years to helping her; along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers or cards, any memorial contribution be made to your charity of choice.

Express your thoughts and memories in the online Guest Book at www.einansfuneralhome.com.

Michael B. 'Mike' Berman, 73

Michael B. "Mike" Berman, 73, died suddenly in a car accident Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014.

Mike was born in 1941, to George and Dessa Berman in Chicago. He grew up in various cities including Chicago, Newark, New York and Detroit.

Mike was a graduate of Bowling Green University and enjoyed a long and successful career as a broadcast and advertising executive in Chicago, New York, San Francisco and Detroit. It was in Detroit that Mike met Maureen Hathaway, also a media executive, and after the first wonderful 15 years as a couple, they married in Las Vegas in May of 1991. All together they enjoyed 33 splendid years together.

Mike loved life in Montana so much that his only regret was that he and Maureen didn't move here sooner. He became an avid fly-fisherman and developed an intense zeal for art, specializing in collecting original work by Montana artists. He valued his friendships with artists and gallery owners, and looked forward to an annual pilgrimage with his brother, David, to the Western Art Show in Great Falls. His true lifelong passion was horseracing and he was thrilled to be a part-owner of several thoroughbred racehorses in the last year of his life. Mike became active in Rotary, volunteered on a Glacier Symphony Committee, enjoyed his daily coffee group in Lakeside and valued the many new friends he made in



Montana. He and Maureen especially cherished sunset cocktails on the deck enjoying

the beautiful view over Flathead Lake.

Mike was noted for his warmth and his smile. He could bring serenity and calm where there was tumult. He always had a twinkle in his eye. His grandmother would say, "He is like a piece of silk."

He is survived by and will be terribly missed by his wife, Maureen Hathaway; his brother and best friend, David M. Berman; his sister-in-law, Sandy Berman; niece, Rebecca Berman (Chris Fagot), and great-nephew, J.D.; nephew, Josh Berman (Kira); brothers-in-law, Joe Hathaway (Irene), David Hathaway (Mary Ann Fortunate), and nieces, Alexandra Hathaway, Mary E. Hathaway and Lisa M. Hathaway.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to a local Rotary club, the Glacier Symphony, the A.L.E.R.T. Helicopter, the Hockaday Museum, the Permanently Disabled Jockey Fund (pdf.org) or a charity of your choice.

Please join us for a celebration of his life from 3 to 7 p.m. today, Nov. 4, at the Tree Frog Tavern, 1250 U.S. 2 W., in Kalispell.

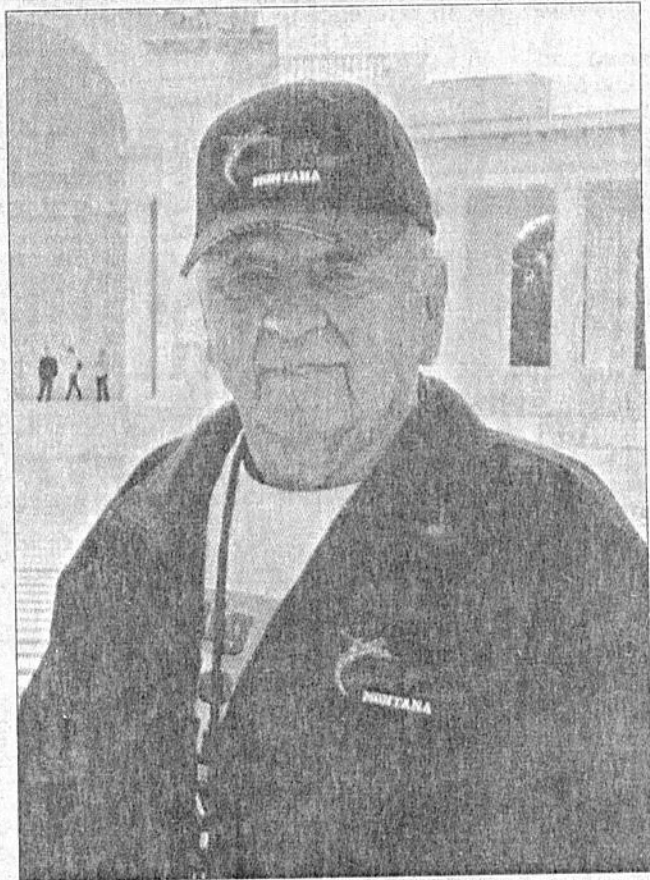
To send a note of condolence to the family, please go to www.buffalohillfh.com.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

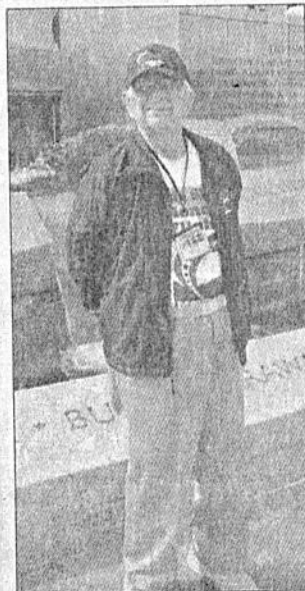
Brothers in arms



RAYMOND BERGSTROM was in the U.S. Navy during World War II serving aboard a destroyer. He died in February at age 88.



RUDY BERGSTROM served in the U.S. Air Force and flew 20 different types of planes in World War II.



RUDY BERGSTROM lived to age 90. He had returned to the Flathead Valley in 2012.

*Bergstrom Bros
Cont ->
page 1*

Conrad Cemetery flag ceremony honors Somers natives who served in World War II

By LYNNETTE HINTZE

The Daily Inter Lake

Two brothers who grew up in Somers and served in the military during World War II will have a flag flown in their honor throughout the next year at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Rudy and Raymond Bergstrom have been selected for this year's Memorial Day flag ceremony. Each year on Memorial Day, the United Veterans of Flathead County raise a new flag at the Veterans Memorial Monument at the Conrad Cemetery.

The ceremony begins at 1 p.m. today.

Last year the flag was dedicated to Larry Valtinson; that flag will be retired and returned to his family during the ceremony.

The Bergstrom brothers were two years apart.

Rudy, born in 1923, died in December 2013 at age 90. Raymond, born in 1925, passed away just a few months later in February this year at age 88.

In recent years they had both returned to the Flathead Valley. Rudy and his wife, Ruth, came back to Kalispell in 2012 and moved into the newly built Sykes' Apartments. Ray lived at the Beehive Assisted Living facility in Columbia Falls for two years before his death.

"We were grateful they had this last while together," said Linda Olson, Ray's daughter.

They spent hours reminiscing together about their carefree boyhood days in Somers, swimming in Flathead Lake and whiling away summer days along the shore. Oftentimes, though, the conversation would drift back to their time in the military.

RUDY WAS A member of the first class of cadets in the Civilian Pilot Training program

based at Kalispell City Airport.

In the months following the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, the federal government contracted with fixed-base operators to provide ground-school and flight training as a preliminary selection process of military flight training.

That early training jump-started his career in the U.S. Air Force as a flight instructor. During the war and afterwards he flew 20 different types of planes, including B-17s and B-25s.

Rudy was commissioned as a second lieutenant in Albany, Ga., before he was sent to a U.S. air base on Luzon Island in the Philippines, where his job was to fly in and rescue men in the water or on ships.

He often recalled in detail how difficult it was to complete some of the rescues when he had to maneuver the aircraft to hit the tops of the waves.

Following his time in the Air Force, Rudy became a first lieutenant in the National Guard to continue his love of flying. He served five years with the Guard in the 1950s.

Just three months before he died, Rudy was able to travel with assistance on the Big Sky Honor Flight to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

RAY WAS JUST 17 when he fibbed about his age to enlist in the U.S. Navy in 1943. He served aboard a destroyer, the USS Haggard.

During a 2008 interview with the Daily Inter Lake, Ray recalled a particular episode aboard the ship on April 29, 1945. That was the day a Japanese suicide pilot flew his aircraft into the destroyer.

The destroyer was taking up battle formation northeast of Okinawa when two kamikazes broke through the defense of four Navy fighter planes. Then 30 seconds later, a second Kamikaze began its deadly dive toward the destroyer.

The collision killed 13 men

onboard and filled the engine room with water, but Ray, the youngest man on ship, lived to tell about it. Many years later he recalled the horrific scene. When he went to close the ship hatch, he saw the pilot's body in the water, an image that stayed with him throughout his life, his daughter Linda said.

During "general quarters," or calls to battle, Ray took his position inside the No. 2 gun mount.

"I was the hot shell man," he told the Inter Lake. "My job was to catch the brass when it came out of the barrel. Then I'd toss it through a hole in the back of the gun mount."

He and his crew saw enough heavy action to earn 12 battle stars for their destroyer, making some naval history along the way.

Ray also was able to travel to Washington, D.C., on the Honor Flight to see the World War II Memorial.

BOTH BROTHERS led long, full lives following their time in World War II.

Rudy married Ruth in 1944 and they raised five children. They settled in the Flathead Valley after the war and he worked at Buttrey's and then Kelly-Main Street Furniture for 18 years. The family moved to Phoenix in 1965, where they lived for the next 47 years. He continued working in the furniture business until his retirement. They were married for nearly 70 years when he died; Ruth lives in Kalispell.

Ray married Joyce in 1946 and they raised three children. He was a locomotive engineer for the Great Northern Railway for 35 years and they traveled extensively after their retirement. Ray and Joyce were married for 62 years; she preceded him in death.

Features editor Lynnette Hintze may be reached at 758-4421 or by email at lhintze@dailyinterlake.com.

Raymond A. Bergstrom, 88

Raymond A. Bergstrom, 88, passed away at North Valley Hospital on Feb. 25, 2014, after a brief illness.

He was born in Kalispell on Dec. 4, 1925, to Rudolph and Alma Bergstrom. He was raised and educated in Somers and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943. He proudly served aboard the USS Haggard until his discharge in 1946.

On June 6, 1946, he married his wife Joyce in Kalispell.

He was a locomotive engineer for the Great Northern Railroad for 35 years. Upon their retirement, he and Joyce traveled extensively and made lifelong friends.

He was a family member of the BeeHive Assisted Living facility in Columbia Falls where he resided for the past two years.

Ray was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Joyce; grandsons, Mark and Mason Robison; sister, Dorothy Graham; and brother, Rudy Bergstrom.



He is survived by his daughters, Linda and Ron Olson, and Nancy and Ron Robison; son, Bruce Bergstrom; and grandchildren, Todd

Olson, Tim Olson, Heidi Freeman and Michael Robison.

He adored his nine great-grandchildren and loved watching their activities whenever possible.

No services are planned at this time at his request. At his instruction, "He came; he saw; he went" was all he felt necessary to say.

Interment will take place in the spring.

You are invited to go to www.austinh.com to offer condolences, share memories and view Raymond's tribute wall. Arrangements are entrusted to Austin Funeral Home.

Ruby Delora Beyer, 93

Ruby Delora Beyer, 93, formerly of Kalispell, passed away at Big Sky Assisted Living Home in Butte.

She was born in South Dakota. She migrated to Helena during World War II where she met Norman Beyer, married and raised five children.

Ruby had a passion for her family, gardening, dancing and baking. She was active in Eastern Star and was the president of the Kalispell election board for a number of years. She was outgoing and no matter where she went, everyone loved her.

The family extends a special thank you to her son, Rene Beyer, who took care of her.

Her son, two daughters, two in-laws, seven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren survive



her. Her immediate family and in-laws are Rene Beyer of Butte and his wife Lougeina

Beyer; her daughter, Camille Williams, of Anchorage, Alaska, and her husband, Barry Williams; and her daughter, Coleen Jones, of Covington, Wash.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman Beyer in 2001; her daughters, Delores Federspiel in 1985, and Barbara Brooks in 2006.

Graveside services will be conducted at 2 p.m. on Friday at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Duggan Dolan Mortuary of Butte has been entrusted with arrangements.

Paul Berrett, 80

Paul Berrett, 80, passed away Feb. 3, 2014, at his residence in Columbia Heights surrounded by family.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Loretta Berrett; son and daughter-in-law, John and Dana Berrett; daughter and son-in-law, Darnell and Tom Joy; and three grandchildren, Garrett, Emily and Amanda.

Paul grew up in Ogden, Utah and served on a destroyer group as a petty officer in the Navy during the Korean War.

After his service in the Navy, he worked as an ironworker for 21 years, and moved with his family around the Western United States before settling in the Flathead to work on the Rexford



bridge construction in 1967.

He became a Mason in Butte in 1964, and was an active member of the organization along with his family.

He enjoyed a quiet retirement in Columbia Heights and loved to garden, watch boxing and spend time with his grandchildren.

In lieu of services, Paul's family encourages that remembrances be made in the form of a donation to the American Cancer Society.

Jerome Frederick 'Jerry' Biederstedt, 78

Jerome Frederick Biederstedt, 78, passed away Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014, in Sugar Land, Texas.

Jerry was a longtime resident of Kalispell.

He is survived by his wife, Aud Biederstedt; daughter, Julie Conroy, and husband, Tim; son, Richard Biederstedt, and



wife, Daenah Rose; and grandchildren, Sean and Sarah Conroy.

Jerry will be laid to rest at Greenwood Cemetery in Franklin, Neb.

Robert Arthur Biegler, 73

Robert Arthur Biegler, 73, died July 20, 2014, in Kalispell.

A visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, July 25, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home,

with services at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 26, at the funeral home.

Burial will take place at Glacier Memorial Gardens following the service.

Phyllis Billiard, 87

Phyllis Billiard, 87, died May 16, 2014, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Family services will be

held at a later date.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Sharon loved life and spending time with her beloved family and friends. Full of wisdom and humor, she never failed to brighten the days of those in her company. Her hugs and kisses, her laughter and wit always put a smile on our faces and brightened our day. Her big, beautiful, brown eyes always twinkled when she would share secrets and stories of her past years of long ago.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Florence Josephine Crail;

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, 525 Main Street, Kalispell. A reception will follow at Faith Free Lutheran Church, 405 Liberty Street, Kalispell. Interment will be set at a later date at the Sunset Memorial Gardens, Lewistown.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Sharon's family. You are invited to www.jgfuneralhome.com to view Sharon's tribute wall, offer condolences and share memories.

Sharon L. (Crail) Biehl, 73

Sharon L. (Crail) Biehl, 73, passed away peacefully at her home in Kalispell on Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, with her loving husband and family by her side.

Sharon was born Sept. 12, 1940, to William and Florence Crail in Great Falls. She was one of six children.

She married the love of her life, Raymond Biehl, on July 27, 1956, in Harlowton. As a devoted and loving wife, she was the mother of three children, Deborah (Leon) Johnson, Michael, and Shari (Todd) Pankratz.

Through out her life, Ray's career allowed them to reside in many places in the state of Montana, as well as Wisconsin, Oregon, California and Illinois. While in Marshfield, Wis., she owned and operated her own business, Shari's Cafe, for three years.

She was a gifted and talented woman who enjoyed working in her flower garden, crocheting, playing cards and being surrounded by those she loved. She and Ray also enjoyed dancing together and will forever be remembered for her fancy two-step and jitterbug. They very much enjoyed spending their time at the casinos. She loved her garage sales and will always be remembered for her wonderful creativity in making beauty out of simple things. She found many treasures hidden in everything she did and will forever remain a treasure in our hearts.



father, William Crail; sister, Billy Joe; and brother, David. She was also preceded in death by

her mother-in-law, Stella (Mae) Biehl; father-in-law, Fred Biehl; and brother-in-law, David Rawden.

Along with her husband and three children, Sharon is survived by eight grandchildren, Eric Johnson, Brooke and Jaime Williams, Jake Biehl, Samantha Biehl, Jack Biehl, Megan Biehl, Heather and Adam Boyer and Dustin Pankratz; also six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two brothers, Don Crail and Ron Crail; and a sister, Carolyn Slack; brothers-in-law, Robert Biehl and Tony Biehl, sister-in-law, Rita, and Clarence Lassle; along with several beloved nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank her medical care providers, Dr. Obermiller and Dawn Peters NP, for their many years of care. Special thanks also to hospice and the wonderful care and emotional support they provided to Sharon and her family, especially to her nurse, Lori Mitchell, who will always be an angel in our eyes.

She will be sadly missed by her family, friends and by all those who knew her. After 73 years, Sharon leaves a legacy of love that will live on through those she touched throughout her life.

Evelyn Lorene Lais Birky, 86

Evelyn Lorene Lais was born on Christmas Day, 1927, in Hubbard, Ore., joining 13 other siblings in the Lais family.

On Dec. 25, 1947, she married Paul Birky, then moved to the Flathead Valley. Together they raised seven children on a small farm in the Birch Grove community.

Evelyn enjoyed her dog, knitting, gardening, walking, reading, long drives and classical music, and while she was able, she seldom missed her sons' softball games



or drag races in Anaconda. She loved and was loved by her family, and was a wonderful

mother and grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, in 1992; also by 10 sisters and two brothers.

She is survived by two sisters, Francis Hoover of Indiana, and Vera Garber of Hubbard; and her seven children, Dan

and Donna Birky of Sugarcreek, Ohio, Jane and John Stutzman of Kalispell, Donna Allen of Kalispell, Frank and Myra Birky of Kalispell, Brian and Rita Birky of Missoula, Linda Birky of Towner, N.D., and Luke and Cathy Birky of Willow Spring, N.C.; 16 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

On Sept. 15, 2014, Evelyn passed peacefully at her home with her beloved dog and family near.

"We find peace knowing she is in God's presence, strolling the streets of Heaven."

A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Fairview Cemetery. A time of celebration and fellowship will follow at the Mountain View Mennonite Church. All who knew and loved Evelyn are encouraged to attend.

Betty Joan Holland Bishop, 91

Betty Joan Holland Bishop, 91, passed away May 19, 2014, at her home in Billings.

Betty Joan Holland Bishop, born March 3, 1923, was the proud daughter of Sidney C. and Hazel Fancher Holland. With her three sisters, Helen Sydney, Hazel June and Mary Ellen Holland, they endured the death of their mother and the Depression years with dignity. She attended Franklin High School and Multnomah Junior College in Portland.

Her brief stay at the University of Oregon in Eugene promoted her lifelong commitment to education, which she transferred to her children.

During World War II, Betty met and fell in love with a handsome Marine, Leon F. Bishop. Lee and Betty married on June 30, 1946, and had two children, Janice Kay and Lorn Randall.

While being a devoted and supportive wife and mother, Betty worked many years, first with Northwest Grocery and then as executive secretary for Pacific Maritime Association in Portland. When Lee's career called him to Montana, Betty said good-bye to the city and family that she loved and became a Montana homemaker in Kalispell in 1966.



through Manpower Inc. until her retirement.

Betty was preceded in death by her

parents, and stepmother Ruth Loeffler Holland; her husband, Lee; and her sister, Hazel June (Ralph) Christie.

She is survived by her daughter, Janice Bishop, and John Marks; her son, Randy Bishop, and Julie; sisters, Helen and Mary; grandchildren, Dr. Kasey Lee Harbine and Graham Black, Joseph C. Harbine and Suzanne Lederle, Jenny Kay Harbine and Alex Rate, Daniel John Marks, Travis Lee Bishop and Hallie Elizabeth Bishop; great-grandchildren, Henry and Hazel Black and Ole and Ivan Rate; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Special interests included her family, the Women of Mayflower (past president, Crafts and Singles groups), Red Hot Hat Group and various bridge groups, as well as the many dear friends with whom she shared these interests.

Betty will be interred with her husband, Lee, at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland.

With Janice in college and Randy a sophomore at Flathead High School, Betty soon was drawn to the world of work at which she thrived. She found her work home as a medical secretary to Dr. Alfred Wallner and subsequently to the medical practice of Robbins and Bennet. Lee and Betty were active participants in the Kalispell community and owned and operated retail stores on Main Street. In 1985 they relocated to Billings, where Betty provided temporary secretarial services

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 24, at Mayflower Congregational Church, Billings.

Memorials may be made to Mayflower Congregational UCC, 2940 Poly Drive, Billings, MT 59102; Adult Resource Alliance, 1505 Avenue D, Billings, MT 59102 (Rides Program); RiverStone Hospice; or the charity of your choice.

Michelotti-Sawyers Mortuary in Billings has charge of arrangements. Remembrances may be shared with the family by visiting www.michelottisawyers.com.

Steven J. Blanton, 65

Steven J. Blanton, 65, passed on Nov. 25, 2014.

He was born to Melvin and Star Blanton in Chicago on Aug. 18, 1949.

Steve grew up in the Chicago suburbs with mom, dad, brother Mel, and sister Diane.

Steve enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967. While doing recon in the tunnels under Chu Lai, Vietnam, he was critically injured by a land mine and was ultimately evacuated to Walter Reed Hospital, where he was awarded the Purple Heart. Doctors advised that he use the gravitational force of walking to keep unrecovered shrapnel from damaging vital organs, thus his name "Walkin Steve."

Before moving to Montana, Steve completed his degree in applied



behavioral science at George Williams College in Downers Grove, Illinois.



Walkin' Steve has been a part of the Canyon legacy since the

early '70s. Steve was kind, respectful, and he recognized the basic humanity in every one of us. We will miss our friend.

He is survived by his brother Mel Blanton, and sister Diane Blanton, both of Illinois.

A celebration of Walkin' Steve's life will take place at 2 p.m. today, Jan. 10, at the Southfork Saloon in Martin City.

Vernon Forrest Blomquist, 98

Vernon Forrest Blomquist, 98, passed away at his home in Kalispell on Oct. 23, 2014.

Vernon was born Feb. 24, 1916, in Colfax, Wis., to Matt and Myrtle Blomquist. He was one of five children.

On March 31, 1934, he married Mae Lockrem in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. They enjoyed 67 happy years together until her death in 2001. Raising four children brought them much joy.

He had many different skills and interests that led him to varied occupations and hobbies throughout his life. Mostly, he is well remembered for the help he gave to so many through his chiropractic and massage work.

He loved being outdoors fishing, panning for rocks and gold, camping and traveling. His passion was organic gardening and sharing the bounty and health benefits with others.

The most important thing in his life was serving his God Jehovah. Telling others about the future blessings that God's Kingdom will bring to the earth was the main focus of his life since his baptism as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1939. Along with his wife Mae, they taught their family and many, many others about these wonder-



ful Bible truths. One of these truths that they cherished was the hope of the resur-

rection to a paradise on earth.

"For the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." John 5:28.

Friends and family look forward to seeing both Vernon and Mae when this promise is fulfilled.

Their children include Fred Blomquist and his wife Joan of Centerville, Minn., Marion Thornton and her husband David of Kalispell, Peter Blomquist and his wife Darlene of Spooner, Wis., and Faye Jensen and her husband Steven of Polson. Their family has grown to include 17 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 100 Valley View Court, Kalispell. A reception with dinner will follow.

If you would like to know more about the Bible promises that Vernon held dear, visit www.jw.org

Donald Frank Blasius, 79

Donald Frank Blasius, 79, died Feb. 21, 2014, at his Kalispell residence. Services will be held at

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

Marie Audrey Blevins, 90

Marie Audrey Blevins, 90, died at her Marion residence on Dec. 2, 2014. There will be no ser-

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

Olan Carroll Blythe, 81

Olan Carroll Blythe, 81, of Columbia Falls died Jan. 3, 2014, at Health Center Northwest in Kalispell.

Olan was born in Brevard, N.C.

He served in the U.S. Army in the Korean War from 1950 to 1954. He then became a brick mason in Wrightwood, Calif., where he met and married his wife Joyce in 1963. They then had a daughter, Elaine, in 1970, and a son, David, in 1975. They moved to Montana in 1980, where they have lived since.

Olan is survived by his wife, Joyce; his daughter, Elaine Samples and her



husband, Keith, and three grandchildren, Garrett, Levi and McKenna; and his son, David Blythe and his wife, Anne, and three



grandchildren, Tanis, Allie and Natalie.

No funeral will be held. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls. Columbia Mortuary is caring for the Family.

May 16, 2014

Columbia Mortuary :
Family Prayer: Ramael Bodily (Son)

Graveside Service:
Opening Prayer: Jenala Echols (Daughter)
Song: "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"
Remarks: Marianne Hovanec-Quagliano (Daughter)
Remarks: Bishop Mike Pence
Dedication of Grave: Valden Bodily (Son)

Barbara Pauline McCracken Bodily

Our gentle, kind Wife, Mother and Grandmother passed away Monday, May 12, 2014. She was the third daughter of five children raised by parents Paul and Louise Smith McCracken. She was born in Mason City, Washington on June 1st, 1938. The family moved to Columbia Falls, Montana in her youth and she spent the rest of her life here.

Barbara graduated from Columbia Falls High School and then served a LDS full-time Mission to Northwest Montana. Soon after, she married Sheryl Lamar Bodily on August 5, 1959 in the LDS Logan Utah Temple. They spent 54 earthly years together. Barbara and Sheryl attended BYU before moving back to Columbia Falls and raising their family.

They were blessed with 9 children:

Teryl Bodily of Columbia Falls, Montana,
Ramael and Laura (Bradley) Bodily of Columbia Falls, Montana,
Jenala and Scott Echols of Orem, Utah,
Natha and Lars Pugina of Kalispell, Montana,
Valden and Collette (Reed) Bodily of Federal Way, Washington,
Jonene and Rod Ficklin of Ogden, Utah,
Thain and Lisa (Jensen) Bodily of Columbia Falls, Montana,
Marianne and Jay Quagliano of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and
Mark and Kim (Howell) Bodily of Great Falls, Montana.

They have 42 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and 2 unborn great-grandchildren who have the privilege of meeting her before they come to earth.

Barbara worked at the Veterans Home for several years and tended other children for many more. Her greatest love in life was her family. She also loved flowers, birds, and had a passion for books. She was determined to spend Mother's Day 2014 with her children and grandchildren and was surrounded by them when she passed from this earth.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Fredrick (Fred) McCracken, and brother-in-law, Neil Arthur Christenson.

Graveside funeral services will be held Friday, May 16, 2014 at 11:00 AM at Glacier Memorial Gardens, 2659 US Highway 93 North, Kalispell, Montana.

A viewing will be held before the services from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM at Columbia Mortuary, 1010 4th Avenue West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

Mom will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved her.

We all look forward to joining her for eternity.

