

## Mary Niome Sacrison, 89

Mary Niome Sacrison, 89, passed away peacefully with family by her side, on March 2, 2019.

Mary was born May 4, 1929 in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, to Harry Horton "Gum" Hedges and Manda Marie (Remmen) Hedges. She spent her early childhood on a cattle ranch near Ekalaka, Montana. While still in grade school she moved with her mother to Buffalo, South Dakota, where they lived with her grandparents, Peter Allen Remmen and Mary (Haugen) Remmen. Mary graduated from Buffalo High School in 1948. During the school years and summers she worked at various jobs, including clerking at the Sturdevant Drug Store and the Stensland Grocery Store, waiting tables at French's Cafe and helping with sheep shearing at the Antelope Preserve.

Mary went to the University of South Dakota at Vermillion where, after also attending summer school in Spearfish, South Dakota, she received a mathematics education degree in three years. Her first teaching job was in Presho, South Dakota, where she taught math and English. During summers she worked at Mount Rushmore for Carl and Kay Burgess, where she made several lifelong friends.

On Aug. 23, 1952, she married William Richard "Bill" Sacrison in Buffalo, South Dakota. Mary taught high school math in Rapid City, South Dakota, while Bill completed his education at South Dakota School of Mines. After Bill joined the Navy, Mary continued to work at Mount Rushmore while Bill attended Officers Candidate School and she taught math in Maryland while Bill was stationed at the Pentagon and attended other Naval schools. While Bill was stationed in Coronado, California, Mary taught at San Ysidro. Their first daughter, Karen, was born at the Naval Station in Coronado. Their second daughter, Diane, was born in Laramie, Wyoming, where Bill



attended the University of Wyoming. After a short time managing a hotel in

Keystone, South Dakota, the family moved to Casper, Wyoming, where Mary taught math for five years at Natrona County High School while Bill was employed by AMOCO Production Company. After their next move to Denver, Mary taught math at Denver Metropolitan Education Center for more than 20 years. While there she was honored with a Denver Teacher of the Year award. In 1978, she received a Master of Arts from the University of Colorado. In addition to being an outstanding teacher, Mary served as a role model and inspiration to her family, students and fellow teachers.

After retiring in 1986, Mary and Bill moved from Denver and built a new home near Kalispell.

They enjoyed traveling to several worldwide destinations, including Australia, New Zealand, South and Central America, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway. Mary also made a trip to Israel and Egypt with a group from various Kalispell area churches and a memorable second trip to Norway with cousins Marjorie and Peter visiting relatives while there. In 2002, Mary and Bill traveled to the same small community where they spoke their wedding vows to celebrate their 50th anniversary among relatives and friends. They went on to celebrate 62 years of marriage. Their daughters and grandchildren will most cherish their countless memories of camp-

ing and fishing trips in Montana and Wyoming.

After Bill's passing, Mary moved to Casper in January of 2017 and has enjoyed her last years living in the Primrose Retirement Community. She cherished her friends, especially her bridge partners, both in Kalispell and Casper. Mary was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran in Kalispell and Our Saviour's Lutheran in Casper.

Mary always placed others' interests ahead of her own. Her daughters and their families provided countless hours of pride, joy and satisfaction. Mary shall be remembered and honored as a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Upon her passing the earth's loss is most surely heaven's gain.

Mary is survived by her daughters, Karen (Bob) Leach of Missoula, and Diane (Doug) Ginsbach of Casper; grandchildren, Jake Ginsbach, Luke (Emily) Ginsbach, Garrett and Hannah "Hann" Leach, Marya (Ben) Morrow and great-granddaughter Holland; brother-in-law, Hans (LeAna) Sacrison, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins, including Gary (Phyllis) Gilbert, Peter (Jan) Remmen and Norman Negaard.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bill, and cousin Sherry Negaard.


A celebration of Mary's life will be held in Buffalo, South Dakota, this summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a cancer organization or Lutheran church of the donor's choice.

# Carlos Saenz

Carlos Saenz, 71, of Whitefish and Gustavus, Alaska, died on March 15, 2019, at his home in Gustavus. Cremation has already

taken place. A potluck and celebration of life will be held at the Moose Lodge in Whitefish on April 14 at 5:30 p.m. Questions call Roy at 406-249-2051.



*Life Celebration  
and Potluck for  
Carlos Saenz  
Father-Brother-  
Friend*

Born September 14, 1947  
Died March 15, 2019

**Sunday, April 14, 2019 5:30 pm-9:30**  
**WHITEFISH MOOSE LODGE**  
**Bring a dish, a story and a donation**  
**Questions, call Roy, 406-249-2051**

## Heriberto Carlos Saenz, 70

Heriberto Carlos Saenz, 70, of Whitefish and Gustavus, Alaska, died March 15, 2019, at home in Gustavus. Cremation has taken

place. A celebration of life and potluck will be held 5:30 p.m. April 14 at the Moose Lodge in Whitefish.

## Daniel Salcido, 21

Daniel Salcido, 21, died July 24, 2019 in Kalispell. Buffalo Hill

Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Rafael Salinas, 77

Rafael Salinas, 77, died July 19, 2019 at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife Sharon Salinas and

four children. No services will be held. Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

memorial at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 29, at The Last Chance Chapel on Raven Road, Helena. Then a family memorial will take place on July 20 during our annual family reunion at Tally Lake, Montana, (time to be announced at a later date). Donations can be made in Anna's name to Wounded Warrior Project or Friends of Israel.

brothers, Kenneth, Jeffrey, Brendon and John (Allyssa) Schlinger; sisters, Rebecca (Vernon) Carlson, Bonnie Kuehne, Lynnette, Norma, Samantha Schlinger and Raven (Russ) Seal; and many nieces and nephews. Anna was a loving daughter and sister and will be missed by her many family and friends. There will be a

## Anna Marie Schlinger Sampson, 65

Ralph "Spike" and Emma Hennessy; parents, Ken and Jessie Schlinger; sister, Merisha; and brother, Mel Schlinger; brother-in-law, Ron Kuehne; as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins. Anna is survived by her sons, Kristian (Jenni) and Loren (Lina) Sampson; grandchildren, Meagan, Abby, Kalina and Alexander; great-grandchild, Jovi;

At the time of her passing she lived in Helena and worked for the state of Montana. She was active in her church, The Last Chance Chapel. Anna was a loving woman who loved her Savior and knew she has a home in heaven. Anna was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Ed and Clara Schlinger; maternal grandparents,

two sons, Kristian and Loren, whom she raised to be wonderful, kind and loving young men. Anna returned to college where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Montana.



Anna Marie Schlinger Sampson, 65, went to be with her Lord and Savior in the early morning hours of June 23, 2019, in Helena, following a short fight with cancer. Anna was born on Dec. 11, 1953, in Whitefish to Kenneth and Jessie Schlinger. She attended school in Whitefish, Anna met and married Lester Sampson of Victor in 1975. Together they had

In her 40s Anna returned to college where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Montana.

## Leila May Renfrow Samuelson, 94

FA? 7 July 2019

Leila May Renfrow Samuelson left this world on Saturday, June 29, 2019. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clyde Merlin Renfrow and Ruby Robison Renfrow, older brothers Dean and Leo, her twin brother Lyle, and on Oct. 9, 2012, by husband James N. Samuelson.

Leila and her twin brother Lyle were born during the Great Depression on the family farm near Oneida, Iowa. She always referred to herself a farm girl, and shared dozens of stories about her happy childhood on the farm. She was a star center for her high school basketball team when girls were allowed to play only half-court ball. Lee graduated from high school in 1942, then entered Upper Iowa University, earning her two-year teaching certificate in 1944.

Meanwhile, Leila was courted by Jim Samuelson. They married on Sept. 23, 1944, just a month before Jim entered the U.S. Army during WWII. Following his discharge Jim returned home to Maynard, Iowa, where Leila was teaching. The couple moved to Readlyn, Iowa. Jim managed a lumberyard and Leila continued teaching. The couple had a daughter, Terri Lee, in September 1947. Sister Roxana Jo was born in April, 1950.

The family relocated to Columbia Falls in 1956, and Jim entered the custom cabinet business with Leila's brother Leo Renfrow. Leila was hired by School District 6. Her fellow teachers called her "Lee" and the name stuck.

Lee and Jim's lives in



Columbia Falls centered on community, church and school events, as they followed

their daughters' many activities. Lee was renowned for her sewing and knitting skills, and she managed to juggle sewing and knitting for others while being a proud mom who enthusiastically supported her girls' activities, all while teaching school full-time.

Teaching was Lee's passion. It was her life-time thrill to be instrumental in young people's learning and growth. She brought her considerable skills and talents to her classroom, working hard to provide rich learning experiences while engaging her students in exciting and unique art and crafts projects. Lee earned great admiration from students who remember her for her caring and kindness.

As her girls grew up, Lee vowed to complete her four-year BA degree before her first daughter entered college. As usual, she accomplished what she set out to do, earning her BA from UM, Missoula in the summer of 1965. After 35 years of teaching, Lee retired in 1983.

During their life together, Lee and Jim built four houses. As a retiree, Lee took painting and cake decorating classes. She made scores of dolls. She was an active member of the PEO for over 50 years. Jim and Lee enjoyed motorcycle touring and RV trips around the U.S., Canada and Mexico. They win-

tered in Yuma, Arizona, and worked summer jobs in Estes Park, Colorado; Arkansas; Ponderosa Ranch, Nevada; the Grand Canyon; and Silver City, New Mexico. In later years they summ-  
mered in Montana.

Lee was known for her creativity and talent, her can-do attitude, her energy and her boundless generosity. She looked for people to give to. Her sewing and knitting skills are legendary. She is one of the first people to own an automatic knitting machine in the Pacific Northwest. It's impossible to calculate the number of people who have felt Lee's love through the handmade gifts she gave them. Lee possessed the Renfrow wit, but thankfully, in a gentler form than that of her three brothers!

Lee is survived by her daughters Terri Lee (Dev) Hill and Roxana Jo Hessman; granddaughter Erin (Kevin) Sahotsky; granddaughter Kristin (Mike) Campbell; great-grandsons Bryan and Cody Campbell; numerous nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews; and all who loved their Aunt Leila.

Lee's remains will rest with her mother in Maynard, Iowa. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, July 12, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Lee Samuelson Art Fund. Checks payable to School District 6. Indicate SAMUELSON ART FUN. Mail to Finance Director, PO BOX 1259, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Leila's family.

### Karen Joann Sanderson, 48



On Aug. 30, 1971, the musician, Sandy Sanderson, and hairdresser, Patti Knapton Sanderson, were thrilled to give birth to their first child, Karen Joann Sanderson in Whitefish. Karen's childhood was idyllic and complete when brother Logan came along. Being a fifth generation Montanan from the Flathead Valley, Karen was surrounded by the love of a large extended family. Karen graduated from Flathead High School in 1989 and obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Communications degree from University of Montana in 1993. Karen's family and many lifelong friends made while in high school, college, the Kappa Alpha Theta house and beyond are left to mourn the sudden loss of dear Karen. She passed on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019, after a short bout of lung cancer.

Karen's career life started with a backpack, Eurail pass and her friend, Denise. Their trip through Europe had many highlights, but there was one thing that stood out to Karen, which was shopping the European markets for delectable foods and wine. At the time, she had seen nothing like it in Montana. Ever since that first trip abroad, Karen developed a deep

passion for and built a career around great food, wine and travel. She fostered that passion while living in Brussels, Seattle, Spain and Portland.

While in Portland, Karen met the handsome and fun pilot, Adrian Strutz, and a romance quickly ensued. At this time, Karen was the national sales manager for Elk Cove Winery, traveling from Portland to America's top restaurants. She used the suitcase method to pack wine around to share with those fortunate enough to join her for a meal and a few glasses of wine.

Out of Karen's relationship with Adrian came their beautiful daughter, Alisa Evelyn Sanderson Strutz. Shortly after Alisa's birth, Karen and Adrian moved to Kalispell to be closer to her family, especially her mother who had been diagnosed with M.S. and whom had desperately wanted a grandchild. Karen fulfilled her mother's wishes and was always a devoted daughter. Together, Adrian, Karen and Alisa immensely enjoyed their Kalispell community, their tight knit neighborhood, and the natural

beauty of the Flathead and Glacier Park.

In Kalispell, Karen worked for George's Distributing selling wine, and in 2012, Karen opened Brix Bottleshop. This labor of love brought Karen's love of beer, wine and delicious foods to downtown Kalispell. Karen knew how to seek out the very best and took great pleasure in sharing her selections with customers, friends and family. Karen became an outspoken advocate for downtown Kalispell, joining the Business Improvement District board to work for improvements. Karen also taught wine classes at Flathead Valley Community College and was a contributing writer for 406 Magazine and Montana Woman, writing about her passions. In 2017, Karen decided it was time to take Alisa to Europe. Adrian was also working there at the time and Karen and Alisa traveled to England, France, Italy, Switzerland and Germany, meeting up with Adrian when they could. They stayed in beautiful chateaus and visited wineries and cheese factories, with Karen bringing her knowledge of European wines and food back to Brix. Alisa will be forever changed by this extensive trip with her mom.

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## David R. Sande, 78

David R. Sande, 78, of Bigfork, died Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He is survived by his wife Linda, and his children, Shawn Sande and

Debbie Landgraf.

A private service will be held at a later date.

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

## Christina Reum Santa, 68

Christina Reum Santa, 68, died Jan. 29, 2019.

Born to Clarence Reum (1912-1954) and Freda Starkel Reum (1920-2000) on April 18, 1950, Christina leaves behind her daughters Christi Rezgui, Lori Kurta (John), and Kari Parsons (Mike).

Grandchildren include Cory Braaten (Amanda), Caitlyn (Dylan), Wylie, Danny, Jordan, Shaylene, and Virginia who all made her smile. Brothers and sisters include Don Reum (Carol), Pete Reum (Karen), Alma Westphal, Diane Rice (Vern), Conrad Starkel (Becky), Ronald Reum (deceased), and many nieces and nephews.

Christina was a hard worker all of her life, graduating from Polson High School, moving on to Boeing Aircraft Company in Washington state. She finished her career at Anaconda Aluminum in Columbia Falls. She was co-owner of a Kalispell restaurant at one time. Christina passed away in Grand



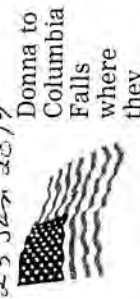
<sup>PAS 26 7 20-2019</sup>  
Junction, Colorado, near her youngest daughter and family and was able to share time

with four of her helpful grandchildren. Cory and Amanda brought great-grandchildren Jack and Dean into her life and Caitlyn and Dylan brought great-granddaughter, Harley to share time and love with for almost a year! The Lord was a friend and comforter.

Christina loved her family time, time with her sisters, calls/visits from her brothers and families, and family events. We will gather at Fairview Cemetery at 11 a.m., June 29, with a memorial potluck following from 1 to 4 p.m. at Lawrence Park in Kalispell, for friends and family.

## Harold 'Hal' Schafer, 95

PAH  
23 Jan 2019



Hal Schafer of Columbia Falls passed away Jan. 17, 2019, at the age of 95. He was born in Kalispell on May 27, 1923. He was raised in the Kalispell area until enlisting in the U.S. Marines in 1942 after the entry of the United States into World War II.

Hal took part in the battles for Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Saipan, where he was badly injured. After spending 18 months in the hospital recovering from his wounds in San Diego, Hal decided to stay in the area where he met his wife Donna and resided in that area until retiring from his job as a U.S. Post Office mail carrier in 1984. Hal loved and missed Montana, so upon retirement moved with

Donna to Columbia Falls where they resided until his passing. He was an avid fisherman, antique collector and golfer.

Hal is survived by his wife Donna, brother Elmer, son Gordon, daughter-in-law Jackie, grandchildren Miranda and Rhiannon, six great-grandchildren and numerous cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father Gus Schafer, mother Amber Nelson, and brother Art Schafer.

A graveside service will take place at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls. Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

## Richard Tate Sauerbier, 73

PAH  
30 Oct 2019



cowboy and outdoorsman. In his younger days he enjoyed breaking horses, roping, fishing, hunting and back-



packing on a horse all over Western Montana, the state he was so proud to call home. He was always looking for better ways to serve the veterans and the community. Richard also had a very creative side. He enjoyed woodworking and glass cutting. But most of all, Richard had the utmost respect and passion for all military veterans. He devoted many years and hours to the veterans. He was a member of the United Veterans of the Flathead Valley and served as the commander from June 2015 through June 2017. He regularly participated in

the Honor Guard at veterans' funerals around the valley for years where he honored those vets as they were laid to rest. Richard demonstrated his patriotism by proudly painting a huge American flag on the back side of his barn and displaying the words, "Honor\* Support\* Thank our Veterans," a theme by which he lived his life. There is a light that shines brightly at night so passersby on Reserve Street can read the sign.

Richard is survived by his brother, David (Donna) Sauers, of Missoula; four nieces, Christi Scott, Carin Orr, Diana Sauerbier-Whaley and Carolyn Bush; one nephew, Daniel Sauerbier; and seven grandnieces and nephews. He will be fondly remembered by his family and friends as a loving son, brother, uncle, and as a proud patriot and U.S. Army Reserve veteran.

The family wishes

Richard Tate Sauerbier of Kalispell passed in peace on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, under hospice care at Brendan House, at the age of 73.

Richard was born in Kalispell to Neil and Mary Sauerbier on Jan. 5, 1946. He attended school in Kalispell. After graduating High School, he took some classes at the University of Montana in Missoula where he was part of the roping team. Richard went to work as a heavy equipment operator at the aluminum plant in Columbia Falls. He joined the Army Reserves in Kalispell as a private and retired as a lieutenant colonel. Richard was the base commander in Missoula for the Army Engineer Association where he was awarded the Bronze Order of the de Fleury medal for inspirational leadership to the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Richard was a true

to extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to his caring neighbors Kelly and Eric for adopting his beloved and elderly dog, Brandy.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, in the Chapel at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, 1890 Hwy. 93 North Kalispell. A reception will follow at the Kalispell VFW at 330 1st Ave. West, Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Richard T. Sauerbier to United Veterans of the Flathead Valley, 662 Rock Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901; or North West Montana Veterans Food Pantry, 1349 Hwy. 2 East, Kalispell, MT 59901 (email linda@veterans-foodpantry.org).

Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Genevieve Barbara Schrammeck, 92

Genevieve Barbara Schrammeck, 92, of Kalispell, passed away on Oct. 16 at Brendan House. She was a wonderful wife and mother, and will be dearly missed by family and friends.



She was born February 28, 1927, in Kenosha, Wisc. to Vincent and Mary Batwinski and was the youngest of five children. Gen graduated from high school in Kenosha and was working at the near-

by Great Lakes Naval Training Station when she met and married Kenneth Schrammeck, from Great Falls in 1945.

Ken and Gen enjoyed 73 years of marriage. They lived in Great Falls for many years and raised three daughters there. In 1996 they

moved to Kalispell and lived in Village Greens for 23 years. Gen was an excellent bridge player and loved golf and played for many years. Ken and Gen traveled to Europe several times and enjoyed many trips to Hawaii, Arizona and other states. Gen's 80th birthday was celebrated in Cabo San Lucas with all of her children and grandchildren present.

Genevieve is survived by her husband Kenneth of Kalispell, her daughters Darcy Albert and her husband Bob of Kalispell, Diane Etter and her husband Bill of Kalispell and Marcia

Holas and her husband Marvin of Glendive. Gen is also survived by her grandchildren: Aaron Holas, Janell Holas, Scott Jackson, Becky Jackson, Will Etter, Andrew Etter, and by her great-grandchildren Max Etter, Frankie Etter, Taylor Jackson and great-great grandchildren Trevyn Jackson and Beckham Jackson.

Services will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 21 at Buffalo Hill Funeral

Home, 1890 U.S. 93 North. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial donations be made to the Home Options Department, 275 Corporate Drive, Suite 600, Kalispell. Friends are encouraged to visit our website at [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

## Shirley Schmidt, 80

Shirley Schmidt passed away at her home in Whitefish on March 21, 2019.

She was born in Kalispell on July 2, 1938, to John and Jennie Paola. She graduated from Flathead County High School and attended college at Bozeman, until her then-husband's career took them to live in the Philippines where they raised their three children, Cindy, Jerry and Bryon Granmo. Upon returning to Montana, Shirley worked as a Realtor in Whitefish for over 25 years.

In 1981, she married the love of her life, Mark Schmidt. They developed and ran Forest Acres Mobile Home Park in Whitefish, while Shirley continued to work in real estate and Mark built custom homes. Together they enjoyed a full and exciting life — exploring the Bob Marshall Wilderness on horseback; showing and competing their mules and horses all across the country; and traveling the world, from Argentina to Zimbabwe and all points in between. Shirley walked on the Great Wall of China, climbed Macchu Picchu, boated the Amazon, and dipped her feet in the Ganges River.

She experienced great loss in her life as well, having to bury her two sons before her — Jerry in 1982 at age 22, and



Bryon in 2004 at age 40. She missed her boys every day, but we rejoice that she is with them

now in the arms of her Heavenly Father.

Shirley loved people, and her warmth, generous spirit, and loving nature attracted people to her. She gave so much of herself to others, whether it was entertaining friends and family, sharing seeds and plants from her well-loved, glorious garden, or volunteering for one of her favorite charities. Shirley had a joie de vivre that was contagious and a smile that would light up a room. She will be missed by everyone who was fortunate enough to know her.

Shirley is survived her beloved husband, Mark, at the family home; her daughter, Cindy, of Whitefish; and her granddaughter, Marit, of San Diego.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 28, at Christ Lutheran Church, Whitefish.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made in Shirley's name to Child Bridge, P.O. Box 310, Bigfork, MT 59911.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Kenneth 'Ken' Robert Schoof, 74

*P# 7 10 MAR 2019*  
Kenneth "Ken" Robert Schoof, 74, born in Detroit on March 11, 1944, to parents Harvey and Eleanor Schoof, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2019, at the age of 74, in Kalispell.

Ken lived life to the fullest and led by example. He showed all who were lucky enough to know him how to enjoy and appreciate each day. Ken was a proud American who willingly served in the U.S. Army. He loved chatting with strangers and making new friends over common interests which included cars, outdoor activities and sports. Ken enjoyed telling stories about his life experiences, discussing current events and talking about his beloved family.

Ken is survived by his loving wife of 50



years, Mary Kathleen "Kay" Schoof, of Whitefish; daughter

Natalie Elliott, son-in-law David Elliott, and his grandsons Zane and Ryder of Whitefish; son Steven Schoof, daughter-in-law Natalie Schoof, and his granddaughters Ella and Sara of Midlothian, Virginia.

No service is planned until June.

Ken's favorite charity was St. Jude; <https://www.stjude.org/give/memorials-and-dedications.html>

Friends are encouraged to visit the website, [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com), to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Mary Jean Schroeder, 76

*P# 6 17 July 2019*  
Mary Jean Schroeder, 76, of Graham, Washington, passed away on July 11, 2019, at home surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on Nov. 18, 1942, in Kalispell, the daughter of Emery and Fairy Haug. Mary graduated from Flathead County High School in 1960. On July 18, 1962, she married a handsome airman, George Schroeder "Tony" who at the time was based at the NORAD radar station near her home. After that, Mary traveled the world during her husband's 22-year military career. Mary and George settled into their forever home in Graham in 1980. While there, Mary had a 27-year



career at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Washington.

Mary is survived by her husband, George; her two children, Todd Schroeder (Lenora) and Tanya Harville (Jeff); four grandchildren, Brittany, Jackson, Riley and Luke; her sister, Emerald Clare; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on July 19 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

## Lawrence 'Larry' Schroeder, 96

*P# 6 27 Nov 2019*  
Larry Schroeder passed away at his home Wednesday, Nov. 20.

He was born in 1923 in Franklin, Minnesota. He grew up experiencing different jobs as a young boy and teen, with the locals. He'd help farmers, then worked at his Dad's service station. This is where he learned his mechanic skills. He enlisted in the Marines in 1942. He deployed to the South Pacific where eventually he was wounded in action in 1945. Because of his injuries he was honorably discharged from service. Because of his actions over seas, he earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

After his service to our country, he attended the Dunwoody College of Technology in Minneapolis. Larry wanted to see the country before settling down to his new career. He did jobs for folks as he traveled therefore stocking up on many interesting stories. When he settled down, he hired on with Shell Oil Company as a mechanical draftsman. It was at Shell that he met his wife, Phyllis. Larry and Phyllis raised five children and were married for more than 60 years.

Anyone who knew Larry knew his love for adventure, outdoors, and helping out in his community. He rode motorcycles, fished, and flew glider planes, which were just a few of his activities. He was active with



the DAV for many years. He was a member of the Royal of the Moose in Whitefish. He helped on the Whitefish Depot renovation.

He later volunteered at the Whitefish Depot museum. For many years he and Phyllis attended the First Presbyterian Church in Whitefish.

Larry is preceded in death by Phyllis, his stepson William Snyder, and his son John Schroeder.

Larry leaves behind stepson Joe Snyder and his wife Marilyn Snyder; daughter Susan Smith and her husband Steve Smith, and daughter Sandra Reynolds and her husband David Reynolds. He also leaves behind his son's wife, Nancy Schroeder.

Larry was blessed with grandchildren Julie Yuly, Lacy Martin, Christina Vlinder, Samuel Broughton, John Kessler, and Matthew Schroeder. Larry was doubly blessed with great-grandchildren Wyatt Martin, Carter Williams, and Clayton Broughton.

Larry will be sorely missed but we know he's at peace again with Phyllis.

Austin Funeral and Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for Larry's family.

## Elinore Cecile Schoonover, 89

Elinore Cecile Schoonover, 89, died Monday, Sept. 30, 2019, at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork,

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



## Betty Lou Patterson Schultz, 86

Betty Lou Patterson Schultz, 86, formerly of Whitefish, died June 18, 2019, in Big River, Arizona.

Betty is survived by her husband, Richard F. Schultz; sons, Lee Patterson and Lew Patterson; daughters Lita Taylor and Lona Patterson, and stepdaughter Rena Cleland.

A service and celebration of life will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 29, at Christ Lutheran Church, 5150 River Lakes Parkway, Whitefish. A reception will follow at the church. Graveside burial will be at 2 p.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens, 2659 U.S. 93 N., Kalispell.

## Donald Charles Schultz Sr., 81

Donald Schultz Sr., 81, passed away April 18, 2019, at his home in Kalispell.

Donald was born Feb. 16, 1938, in Hot Springs, South Dakota, to Daniel Louis Schultz and Edna Amick. He attended school in South Dakota and enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 where he spent four years on the USS Intrepid. After his term in the Navy, Donald moved to Kalispell where he met the love of his life, Lorraine Wise. They were married and spent 59 wonderful years together. Donald worked for Plum Creek and Stoltz Lumber for several years before venturing out on his own and operating Flathead Cedar Products prior to his retirement. He had a passion for woodworking, sapphire mining, gold panning and fishing and would spend any spare time he had with his family doing those things.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents Daniel and Edna, brother Francis Schultz, brother Robert Schultz, son Raymond Baier, son Larry Baier, daughter Joy Schultz, granddaughter Darcy Baier, granddaughter Jennifer Lanktree, and great-granddaughter Abigail Mason.

He is survived by his wife, Lorraine Schultz;

PA 7 28 29 2019



nine children, Ronald Baier and wife Shirley of Kalispell, Gail Welch and husband Steve of Helena, Gwendy Hartshorn and husband .

Bert of Bremerton, Washington, Lance Baier and wife Rose of Kalispell, Tami Whitehead and husband Mark of Kalispell, Donald Schultz Jr. of Kalispell, Daniel Schultz and (Tammy) of Kalispell, Todd Schultz and wife Yvonne of Kalispell, and Laurie Schultz of Kalispell; one brother, Jim Schultz, of Kalispell; four sisters, Sharon Ayers of Riverton, Wyoming, Cecelia Thomason and husband Clay of Ironwood, Michigan, Mary Nelson and husband Dennis of Snohomish, Washington, and Carol Oriet and husband Robert of Basin, Montana; 48 grandchildren, 87 great-grandchildren, 12 great-great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

This beloved, hard-working man is now at rest and enjoying all the things he loved to do

with a big smile on his face.

— Gone, but never will he be forgotten!

A small gathering of family and close friends honoring our "Hero" will take place at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, at the family homestead, 580 Batavia Lane in Kalispell.

## Gary Edward Schultz, 67

P 96 L May 2019  
Gary Edward Schultz was born Aug. 20, 1951, in Kalispell, to Edward G. and Edith (Lien) Schultz. He attended Boorman School until the family relocated to Columbia Falls where he graduated from high school in 1968. He received a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Montana, and a second master's and Ph.D. in physical anthropology from Wayne State University in Detroit.

Gary was a researcher, academic instructor, chemical dependency counselor, long-haul truck driver, Alaska fishing boat crewman, and an expert in hide tanning, scuba diving

and custom knife making. He retired in 2017. He died Feb. 22, 2019, at the age of 67, was preceded in death by his parents, and is survived by his sister, Janice, his close friends Buck and Robert, and several cousins.

Gary was sensitive, kind and gentle — a good man, who appreciated his family, friends and good neighbors. He is much loved and greatly missed.

He requested no services.

Janice Schultz can be contacted via P.O. Box 518, in Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Lorraine Gail Wise Schultz, 93

8 A 7 28 Aug 2019

Our beloved little mommy left us on Aug. 26, 2019, to be reunited with many of her treasured family members.

Lorraine was born in Kalispell May 11, 1926, to George and Mary Wise. She grew up on the family farm south of town and attended school in Kalispell. Lorraine married Ray Baier and from that union bloomed six loving children. They later divorced and she then married the love of her life, Don Schultz, whereas six more loving children bloomed.

Lorraine was preceded in death by her husband Don, parents George and Mary, sons Larry Baier



and Ray Baier, daughter Joy Lynn Schultz Barrett, granddaughters Darcie

Baier and Jennifer Lanktree, great-granddaughters Abigail Mason and Ronni Duncan, great-twin grandsons Aiden and Ashner Isaacs, son-in-law Craig Roberts, brothers Doug Wise, Wally Wise, Buzzy Wise, and sisters Rachel Mitton, Mae Lester, Bud Willey, Mary Roach and Sis Kikendall.

She is survived by her sons Ron Baier and wife Shirley, Lance Baier and

wife Rose, Donald Schultz Jr., Dan Schultz, and Todd Schultz and wife Yvonne; and daughters Gail Welch and husband Steve, Gwendy Baier-Hartshorn and husband Bert, Tami Whitehead and husband Mark, and Laurie Schultz; 46 grandchildren, 83 great-grandchildren, and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

Lorraine spent many years working, her favorite job being the Flathead County Jail where she worked for 15 years. During those 15 years, she had met some of her most valued friends. Rumor had it that when she was cooking at the jail, people wanted to be arrested just

so they could eat her food. Lorraine loved cooking for everyone but her main joy was cooking for her family and enjoying her time with them.

Heaven gained one heck of a mom, grandma and cook. She leaves behind many broken hearts who will miss this amazing, kind woman.

Visitation will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 29, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Public graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30, at C.E. Conrad Cemetery with a gathering at Lawrence Park following.

## Marvin Schultz, 89

Marvin Schultz, 89, of Kalispell, died Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019, at his home in Kalispell.

He is survived by his children, Leah Fredrickson, Carla Davis, Lynn Williams, Susan Schultz and David Schultz.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at Buffalo Hill Terrace auditorium, 40 Claremont St., Kalispell Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## William 'Bill' A. Schultz, 82

William "Bill" A. Schultz, 82, of Trego, died July 17, 2019.

Services are pending.

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

## William 'Billy' Schultz, 58

William "Billy" Schultz, 58, of Whitefish, died at KRMC on Feb. 7, 2019.

He is survived by his

mother Darlene Schultz and his sister Erika Astle. Austin Funeral and Cremation Services is caring for the family.

## John 'Jon' R. Schumacher, 81

John "Jon" R. Schumacher passed away Thursday, May 9, 2019, at his home in Missoula.

He was born December 5, 1937, in Missoula.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ione; his children, Kevin, Dana, Melissa and Derek; nine grandchildren and nine



15 May 2019  
great-grandchildren.

He enjoyed a great life.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial celebration of Jon's life will be held at the Schumacher home on Saturday, July 6. The open house will begin at noon.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at [www.whitesittfuneral-home.com](http://www.whitesittfuneral-home.com).

## Charles Schwarz, 92

Charles Schwarz, 92, died at his home in Whitefish on Friday, April 26, 2019.

He is survived by his wife, Chyral Berney; and children, Diana Anderson, Sue Shanks, Scott Schwarz, Glenn

Schwarz and Mark Berney.

No services are planned at this time.

Austin Funeral and Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for Charles's family.

# Charles M Schwarz

*P.A.L. 15 May 2019 Whitefish Pilot*

After 92 years of love and adventure, Charles Milton Schwarz, "Charlie," peacefully left this life to venture on to his "happy hunting grounds."

He is survive by the love of his life, Chyral Berney, who loved him deeply and shared his life in his last years; his sister, Nancy (Bill) Mills; his children — Susan (Frosty) Shanks, Scott (Ruth) Schwarz and Glenn (Danette) Schwarz; step-children — David Breslin, Diana Anderson, Derek (Barb) Todd and Duncan (Sally) Todd; niece, Lesley, and nephew, Wayne; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; as well as many friends who will miss him.

He was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Helen; his



wife Susan; ex-wife Joan; step-son Daniel and nephew Craig.

Enlisting at age 17, before graduating from high school, he served in the U.S. Army during WWII, spending most of his time in Japan. He came home a man.

Charlie came to



Whitefish, Montana in 1979, after retiring as a Captain with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Here he enjoyed his love of hunting, fishing and the great outdoors. If you wanted that quiet man to talk, just ask him about his hunting trips. If he really

liked you, he might share the location of his favorite fishing spot.

We will cherish our memories and love for this wonderful man, and we are grateful for our time spent with him. We think of you often, Charlie-Pa, we will miss you, until we meet again.

The family wishes to thank: Chyral and Diana for taking such good care of Charlie at home his last months; Home Options Hospice, especially Dana, Amber and Alisha; Dr. Gillespie and Dr. Danielle for being Charlie's doctors for so long; and Chyral's sons, Mark and Rob, for always being there for Charlie!

A Memorial will be held to celebrate his life latter this summer.

## Silas Michael Schwarz, 20

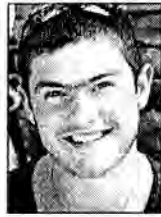
P A 4 11 August 2019

Silas Michael Schwarz passed away Friday, Sept. 6, 2019. After several years of challenges with seizures while sleeping, Friday morning he did not awaken.

Silas was born May 18, 1999, in Kalispell to John and Molly Schwarz. As a young boy he was experimental and playful in everything, often walking around in the house with ice skates or roller blades, acting, jumping and seeming old because we forgot that he wasn't the same age as his older brother David. When followed by brothers, Michael and Nelson, he became one of the "four boys" and the busy life that entailed. The boys enjoyed camping at Hungry Horse and Lake Kooconusa and especially their summers on Flathead Lake. In fifth grade with Julie Bonner, he described his "natural high" as water skiing.

Silas attended West Valley School in Kalispell, Bigfork Grade School, Anderson Middle School in Bozeman, Flathead Valley Community College Running Start and graduated from Glacier High School in Kalispell.

In middle school, Silas



discovered his love of mathematics. He was not only good with math, but he truly loved to

think of mathematics problems, sometimes leaving the rest of us hoping to think about lighter subjects. Saturday morning after Silas left us, John was sure he heard Silas querying him about how much more time John would have now with three boys rather than four.

In high school, Silas participated in pole vault, a continuation of his dreams to jump and fly, and also sang with the Glacier Choir. His challenges with seizures began his sophomore year of high school and many of the things that he would have liked to do became wishes for him.

Over the last year, each night John read to Silas the New Testament, something they both looked forward to and enjoyed together. It will be a lasting memory to John.

This summer in July, Molly and Silas took

a 20-day trip to West Virginia where Silas could be in an environment where he flourished, finally feeling much better. His fun experimental, smiley personality re-emerged and they enjoyed a different little adventure each day in that beautiful place. It was a time of great hope, peace and renewal. Those memories are now such a gift.

Silas was awarded the University of Montana Presidential Scholarship in 2017 but was unable to attend due to his health. UM graciously held his scholarship until this fall and Silas, with his newfound energy and spirit, left for college. He was beyond happy to be independent and finally going to college. He called frequently with news about his classes and his excitement about finding interesting funny classes.

Silas joined the Chamber Chorale at UM and called to describe his first day of singing with and hearing all of those beautiful voices around him. He was on top of the world.

It is hard to let go of and understand why Silas had to leave us but in

reflecting, we believe that Silas' life is not about what he did or accomplished but about what he meant to teach us in his short time here.

Truly peace comes from within, and our relationships in life are so important. When we are frustrated with others around us it may be helpful to say, "Well, maybe that person had a rough night last night." Maybe we can learn to seek out how we are all trying to walk through this life together.

In lieu of flowers, please give your loved ones a hug!

Our thanks to Scout Willcut who was a true friend to Silas.

Silas is survived by his parents, John and Molly; three brothers, David, Michael and Nelson; his grandfather, Nick (and Sarah) Schwarz, of Kalispell; grandmother, Judy Schwarz, of Phoenix; and grandmother, Joan Monaghan, of Kalispell.

A celebration of life service will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13, at Canvas Church in Kalispell.

## Kim D. Schwegel, 60

Kim D. Schwegel, 60, of Kalispell, died on Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019, at home.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m.

Dec. 15, at Smith Valley Grange Hall on U.S. 2 W. in Kalispell.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## Arthur Schwendtke, 88

Arthur Schwendtke, 88, died Sept. 23, 2019, at Hidden Meadows Memory Care Center in Columbia Falls.

He is survived by his

son David Schwendtke.

No services are planned at this time.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Kay Evans Scott, 78

*PAT 28 July 2019*

Kay Evans Scott passed away Friday, July 19, 2019.

Kay was born Oct. 8, 1939, in Windom, Minnesota, to Allan and Billy Evans. She was the middle child. Older sister Mitzi and younger sister Mary Lee made up the family. She graduated from Windom High School in 1958 and while working at Toro Manufacturing, she met Gene Scott. It was love at first sight and they eloped and married on Nov. 9, 1959, in Minneapolis. Their sons Marc and Jeff were born in Minnesota and then in 1969 they all headed west to a funny-named town called Kalispell, Montana. Kay cried all the way as she was leaving all her family. But in a short time



they all followed ... mother, sisters, aunt, cousins. Her husband always joked that he'd moved west to get away from family. They settled in Pablo. Husband Gene worked at Pablo Plum Creek Timber Co. And Kay went into woodcrafts. She built thousands of birdhouses and her little wooden plaques with humorous sayings on them went around the world.

After Gene retired in 1994, they built a new home in Polson and went south in the winter and so enjoyed traveling. When her husband discovered he was an

artist and began painting wildlife on feathers, Kay decided to join him and another career for both of them was begun. They went to Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri, for several years as demonstrators at the National Festival of Craftsmen. They attended various art and craft shows and had their work in many galleries.

There are four surviving grandchildren, Kimberly, Brandon, Brittany and Tia; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Kay was preceded in death by her husband, Scott; son Jeff, daughter Tiffany; and Kay's father and mother.

No services are planned at this time.

## Leonard Lewis Secord, 86

*PAC 25 Aug 2019*

Leonard Lewis Secord, of Columbia Falls, passed away at the Brendan House on Aug. 14, 2019. He was 86.

Leonard was born to Albert and Pearl McCauley Secord on April 23, 1933. He and his four brothers were raised in a home at the base of Nucleus Avenue in Columbia Falls, now the Farmers Insurance Office. Dad grew up roller skating in the old Talbot School building, cleaning the Park Theater for a free movie ticket, and avoiding school as much as possible.

He was known for his talent as a welder, having worked at Anaconda/ARCO/Columbia Falls Aluminum Company for 39 years, eight months. He rarely missed a day. As a younger man, Dad worked as a "gandy



dancer," changing out sections of railway track by hand, and in construction of the Hungry Horse Dam.

He expected perfection of himself — and his kids, maybe too much perfection. But, as Jeff says, "Dad's tough training made the rest of my life and anyone else's expectations seem easy." Thank you, Dad.

Dad served his community as a volunteer fireman (20 years), a Little League officer and coach, a Union Trades Council officer and city councilman (one year). He considered himself an "honorary board member" of the Nite Owl Restaurant, and probably wished

George Steinbrenner would call him for advice on his beloved Yankees.

Dad was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Albert Junior, Jack and Gary; and brother-in-law, Robert McMillian.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Gladyce McMillian Secord; and children, Rilla Secord Presser, Jeff (Christa) Secord, Tim Secord, and Mandi (Spencer) Leer. His grandchildren are Chad Falcon, Alyssa (Aaron) Keil, Samantha (Jared) Dews, Angela Presser, Brady Secord, Logan Secord and Cassidy Leer. Great-grandchildren are Tyler, Conner, Lexi and Ian.

Leonard also leaves the last of his generations of Secords, brother Bill (Barb) Secord of Elk, Washington, and sister-

in-law, Sharon Secord. In addition, he is survived by sisters-in-law Donna Jacka and Dorothy McMillian, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Probably most precious of our memories of our dad are his "original songs," made up spontaneously with a little jig; his die-hard devotion to the Columbia Falls Wildcats; and his special connection with grandson, Logan, who is unable to be in Montana at this time.

No formal services are planned currently.

The family wishes to thank the staff of the Brendan House 500s for their exceptional care of Leonard, and love for the whole family. We are forever grateful.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Jacob Sederdahl, 30

Jacob Sederdahl, 30, died July 26, 2019 at his home in Kalispell. A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 p.m. on

July 31 at 401 Manning Road in Kalispell. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Sheryl D. Sellers, 69

Sheryl D. Sellers, 69, of Missoula, and formerly of the Flathead Valley, died Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, at the Village Health Care Center in

Missoula. Cremation arrangements are under the care of Cremation Burial Society of the Rockies in Missoula.

## Sandra Diane Sesler

*Whitefish*  
*Jane Jane Roberts*  
Sandra Diane Sesler, 82, passed away quietly on Dec. 20, 2019, surrounded by her children.

The family would like thank all the people who enriched her life, including her hiking groups, book club members, and mahjong competitors. We would also like to thank all the care givers at the Springs at Whitefish and North Valley Hospital for their care and guidance



during her final days.

Austin Funeral & Cremation Services of Whitefish is caring for the family.

## Mary R. Severns, 87

*PAS*  
*4 Nov 2019*  
Mary R. Severns, 87, of Great Falls, left this world peacefully on Monday, Oct. 28, 2019, surrounded by her family.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Christ United Methodist Church in Great Falls.

Mary William Royce was born in Ithaca, New York, on April 11, 1932. She graduated from Cornell University in 1953 and married Jack Severns of El Paso, Texas. After living briefly in Texas while Jack attended Divinity School, they resided in Belt, Kalispell, Billings and Great Falls. They divorced in 1990 after having three children, Robin Severns of Menlo Park, California, Jennifer Severns of Tacoma, Washington, and Timothy Severns of Spokane.

The last 30 years of her life were spent with caring partner, Harry L. Geer.

Mary was a special education teacher in the Great Falls Public Schools from 1974 to 1992. At the



time of her death she was a member of Christ United Methodist Church, and was

a 69-year member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

Mary is survived by her first husband, Jack Severns, of Des Moines, Iowa; her three children, Robin Severns of Menlo Park, California, Jennifer Severns of Tacoma, and Timothy Severns of Spokane; six grandchildren, her sister, Ellen Nacinovich; her brother, Charles Royce; and by Harry L. Geer, her caring partner of 30 years.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the YWCA in Mary's honor.

The family is grateful to Mary's doctor, home care givers and Peace Hospice for their care and kindness.

Condolences and memories may be shared at [www.croxfordfuneral-home.com](http://www.croxfordfuneral-home.com)

## Wilbur E. Sevesind, 89

Wilbur E. Sevesind, 89, of Kalispell, died Monday, Aug. 12, 2019, at The HealthCenter in Kalispell.

A graveside service will be held at 10

a.m. Monday, Aug. 19, at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 2659 U.S. 93, Kalispell.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## Jane J. Seward, 85

Jane J. Seward, 85, died on Sunday, March 31, 2019, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m.

Thursday, April 4, at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Carla Shaffer, 70

*PAC 11 Apr 2019*  
Carla Shaffer, 70, died on April 18, 2019. She is survived by her husband and children.

A visitation will take place on Thursday, April 25 from 6-9 p.m. at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. A viewing will also be held on Friday, April 26 from 9-10:30 a.m. at church. A gathering will be from 10:30 a.m. - noon with the funeral service

beginning at noon at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Columbia Falls, 1780 Talbot Road.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Carla's family.

## James Charles Sharp

*PAC 1 Sept 2019*  
Jim was born on June 12, 1940, and left us on April 18, 2019. According to Google he lived 28,799 days.

Everyone he met saw the kind, gentle and supportive man he was, never a burden, always helpful. He was a wonderful listener, always respecting other's opinions whether he agreed with them or not.

Jim spent his life doing what he wanted. From an early age he knew he wanted to be a soldier and wanted to live in the mountains. He spent 23 years in the Air Force living in Japan, Okinawa, and England, as well as several locations in the U.S. Traveling by planes, trains and motorcycles he experienced everything each place had to offer, ultimately retiring and coming to Montana for the next 34 years of adventure in one of the most beautiful areas in the world.

As a Mason and Shriner, part of the Sheriff's Posse and member of the Columbia



Space Shuttle Recovery Team, a volunteer firefighter and DAV driver, a local fire dispatcher and computer specialist, he had

stories to tell.

He worked hard and taught himself everything he didn't know. Loving cars, computers, books and nature, he learned to appreciate and value them all. He lived life to the fullest.

With the diagnosis of Goodpasture, a rare disease attacking both the kidneys and lungs, he knew he would eventually lose this battle. He died as he lived ... he did it his way.

He is survived by three wonderful daughters, a stepson, 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was and is loved and will be missed forever.

## Anna Marian Shannon, 90

*PAC 14 Apr 2019*  
Dr. Anna Marian Shannon died in Bozeman on April 1, 2019, her 90th birthday.

Anna, dean emeritus of the College of Nursing at Montana State University, received her registered nursing degree from Missouri Baptist in 1950, Bachelor of Science degree from University of Missouri in 1955, Master of Science degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1957, and was one of the first nurses to earn a doctoral degree in nursing, a D.N.S., at University of California San Francisco in 1970. Anna was acting chair of Mental Health and Community Nursing at UCSF before returning to her beloved Montana in 1975 to be the dean of nursing at MSU, a position she held until her retirement in 1990. During her tenure, she expanded student enrollment, including collaborating with the former diploma nursing program through St. Patrick Hospital to create the Missoula campus of MSU College of Nursing.

Her professional contributions and honors were many, including Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and a founding member of both the Western Society for Research in Nursing and Western Institute of Nursing. She was the recipient of the UCSF Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Missouri-Columbia Citation of Merit, and MSU Blue & Gold and Extraordinary Ordinary Women Award. In collaboration with her counterparts at two other nursing schools, Anna developed a consortium of nursing schools in Montana to better serve the state and nursing education.

While Anna received ample professional recognition, it is the awards given in her name that honor her enduring impact. In 1992, in recog-



nition of her unselfish efforts to support and promote the professional growth of other

nurses across the West, the Western Institute of Nursing established the Anna M. Shannon Mentorship Award, given annually in her honor. Those who were lucky enough to be mentored by Anna often reflected that she saw more in them than they saw in themselves. She pushed them to achieve beyond what they thought possible. Anna worked tirelessly to inspire nursing faculty — particularly those in rural states — to engage in scholarship and pursue doctoral education to advance their academic careers. Anna Shannon helped to change the face of nursing across the rural West.

Anna was born in Dillon to the Rev. Richard Orwin and Dr. Mabel Wartig Shannon and grew up in Lewistown, Montana, and Perry, Missouri.

She is survived by her nieces and nephews, Sarah Shannon of Bozeman, Gail (Mike) Gagnon of St. Louis, Polly Shannon of Eugene, Oregon, Margaret (Errol Meidinger) Shannon of Rock Creek, Montana, Craig (Peggy) Helsher of St. Louis, and many "grand" nieces and nephews.

No memorial service is planned.

Donations may be made in Anna's memory to either Western Institute of Nursing ([www.winursing.org/donate/](http://www.winursing.org/donate/)); MSU College of Nursing Anna M. Shannon Fund created to support faculty development and research ([gifts@msuaf.org](mailto:gifts@msuaf.org)); or Yellowstone National Park which Anna considered "her" park ([www.yellowstone.org/](http://www.yellowstone.org/)).

## Jacob Edmund Shawback, 91

Jacob Edmund Shawback, 91, passed away on July 11, 2019, at his home in Kalispell.



A celebration of his life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 20, at Central Bible Church, 902 First Ave. E., Kalispell. Jacob always wanted to go to college so he made the decision to donate his body to science.

Jacob, also known as Jake to his friends and Johnny to his family, was born on March 11, 1928, to Edmund and Marie (Walgenbach) Shawback, in Streator, Illinois. He married Mimi Croissant on Feb. 27, 1953, and raised four children, Larry, Davy, Diana and Michael Jon. Jacob worked at Del Monte in Mendota, Illinois, for nearly 20 years before opening Jake's TV and Appliance, first in Mendota and then later an additional store in DeKalb, Illinois. In 1974, he added the sale of firearms and ammunition to his business. He enjoyed trap shooting, building a range on his property that was used by many. Jacob enjoyed his travels to various places within the United States and abroad. In 1984, he and Mimi retired and relocated to Kalispell. Jacob loved farming, flying, hunting, fishing, gardening and telling stories. He was a dog's best friend and loved by the likes of Shorty, Bolognie, Chachi, Ande, Jake, Ruger, Casey, Charley and Alaska.

Jacob is survived by his wife of 66 years, four months and 15 days, Mimi; three children, Dave (Lois) Shawback of Kalispell, Diana (Kurt) Ryll of Kalispell, and

Michael Jon (Mariko) Shawback of Otsu, Japan; and sister, Beverly Delman, 92, of Chicago. Dave and Lois Shawback are the parents of two sons, Dallas (Anya) and Logan (Andrea), grandchildren Tyler, Addison, Davis, Daniel, Isaac, Aaron, Michael and LilliAnn, all of Kalispell, and four exchange students and four grandchildren from Brazil, Antonio (Ana Claudia) Antero and daughters Maria and Ester, Carlos (Luana) Antero and son Nicolas, Ligia (Diogo) Ridolfi and son Bento, and Sarah Albuquerque. Diana and Kurt Ryll of Kalispell are the parents of Amelia of Scottsville, Kentucky, and Albrecht of Indianapolis, Indiana. Michael Jon and Mariko are the parents of Jacob and Emily, all of Otsu, Japan; Alysia of Lebanon, Ohio, is the daughter of Michael Jon and Kazumi Osugi. Larry was the father of three daughters, Natasha, Melissa and Kayla who live in Oregon along with their mother Sherry.

Jacob was preceded in death by his parents, son Larry, and great-grandson Landon.

So many wonderful things could be said about Jacob. One source of great pride was his many namesakes, son Michael Jon, grandsons Dallas Jacob, Logan Jacob, and Jacob Eisuke, great-grandsons Daniel Jacob and Tyler Jacob, and friends Jacob Croissant, Jacob Franklin, and Matthew Jacob Thompson.

Charitable donations in Jacob's name can be made to the Flathead County Animal Shelter, 1035 1st Ave. West, Kalispell, MT 59901, or Stillwater Christian School, 255 FFA Drive Kalispell, MT 59901.

## Beatrice Lee Shepard, 72

Beatrice Lee Shepard, 72, died Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019, at Brendan House in Kalispell. She is survived by

her son Wade Shepard. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Delores "Dolly" Shepard, 73

Delores "Dolly" Shepard, 73, of Columbia Falls, died July 25, 2019 at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

Arrangements are

being made at this time. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Dolly and her family.

## Raymond Earl Sherlock, 92

Raymond Earl Sherlock, 92, passed away at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls on Nov. 12, 2019.

Raymond was born on Jan. 1, 1927, in Wood, South Dakota, to Clifford Sherlock and Betsy Galentine. He was raised in Wood, where he attended grade school and graduated high school. Immediately after graduation he and a friend left for Chicago to enlist in the Army, becoming a paratrooper with the 182nd Airborne Unit. Raymond married Naomi Hastie in Amarillo, Texas, in 1947 and they were married 40 years. They divorced and later Raymond married Josephine "Jo" Newman.

After moving to Whitefish from Texas in 1954 with his wife and daughter to buy his parents' farm, he worked at Safeway as a butcher. In 1955 he started his career at the Anaconda Aluminum Company, retiring in 1989.

Raymond was a member of the Assembly of God Church, the Masons and the Eagles. He enjoyed farming, singing, telling jokes, poetry, bowling and playing horseshoes.



He was preceded in death by his wife, Jo; brothers, Don and Gale; sisters, Mildred Strom and Dorothy Schmidt; and daughter,



Cindy Martin.

He is survived by son, Richard (Dona) Sherlock; stepchildren, Ellen Barge, Steve Reel and Kathy Longstreet, brother, Lyle Sherlock; sister, Elna Rudd; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Nov. 16 at the Montana Veterans Home Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Raymond Sherlock to United Veterans of the Flathead Valley, 662 Rock Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.



## Paul Sherman, 55

Paul Sherman, 55, of Hungry Horse died April 27, 2019, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his

four children. No services are planned at this time. Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

## Richard Mark Sherwood, 65

Richard Mark Sherwood, 65, passed away on Aug. 10, 2019. Mark was born on February 19, 1954 in Seattle, Wash.

Mark was retired from Boise Cascade as a salesman. Mark is survived by his wife Kay (Fels) Sherwood of Kalispell, formerly of Spokane, Wash., mother Mary Betty Sherwood of Klamath Falls, Ore., son Aaron (Breanne) Sherwood, grand-

children JeanMolly, JamesHenry Sherwood of Nashua, N.H.

A memorial service will be held at 12:00 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7

at Easthaven Baptist Church.

Friends are encouraged to visit our website at [www.buffalohill-fh.com](http://www.buffalohill-fh.com) to leave notes of

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

## Loretta 'Lori' Sieler, 63

Loretta "Lori" Sieler went home to heaven to be with her Savior on May 3, 2019.



Lori was born July 5, 1955, in Whitefish to Douglas C. Duncan and Grace K. Riefstahl. She lived her early years in Columbia Falls and in Smith Valley. At the age of 16 she fell in love with and married Phillip A. Sieler Sr. They were married on June 26, 1972. Their son, Phil Jr., soon arrived and their daughter, Yvonne, a few years later. Lori had what she always wanted — a family. She was a dedicated and faithful wife and mom. While she worked different jobs throughout the years, her favorite and most important job was her home. Once her children were grown she received some of her favorite blessings — her grandchildren. She was a fun grandma and she made many memories with each of them that they will always treasure. Phil Sr. died in August of 2011 and Lori was never the same after

losing him, but she held on as long as she could for her kids and her grandchildren. She suffered with Lupus since 1993, and these last years were not easy ones for her, but she gave each of us all that she had. We are at peace knowing that she is in the arms of Jesus and our dad.

She was preceded in death by her mother Grace K. Duncan, her father Douglas C. Duncan, her mother-in-law Ellena M. Edens, her brother Dogy Duncan, and her husband Phillip A. Sieler Sr.

She is survived by her two children, Phillip Sieler Jr. and his wife, Romalie, and Yvonne Schultz and her husband, Todd; eight amazing grandchildren, Jamie Cofer, Jeffery Schultz, Treven Schultz, Tiffany Keck, Todd "Tyler" Schultz Jr., Ellena May Schultz, Felipe Sieler and Cassia Sieler; five great-grandchildren, Sophie, Nathan, Benjamin, Jessie May and Emily; and her sisters, Ginger Sieler, Penny Curtiss and Barb Duncan.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. today, May 7, at Bible Baptist Church in Kalispell.

## Raymond Short, 80

Raymond Short, 80, son, died at his home in Martin City on May 8, 2019. He is survived by his

No services are planned at this time. Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

## Christopher Showen, 39

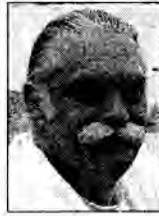
Christopher Showen, 39, of Whitefish, died April 28, 2019 in Helena. Chris is survived by his mother, Joann; and his

children. Austin Funeral and Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for Chris' family.

## John Martin Sivertsen, 74

John Martin Sivertsen, 74, passed away on Sunday, April 28, 2019, at Teton Medical Center, Choteau, due to complications from COPD.

The oldest of four children, John was born on May 29, 1944, in Chicago, to Eddie and Elizabeth Sivertsen. During the summer of 1951, the family moved to San Diego. Later, they moved to Pomona, and then to Santa Paula where John graduated high school in 1962. John's interest in computers landed him a job at Point Mugu Naval Air Station, which led to another job at Vandenberg AFB in their Missile Systems computer room. In 1973 he moved



*PAC 19 May 2019*  
with his wife and children from Lompoc, California, to the Flathead Valley,

a place he would call home for the next 44 years. John worked at the Flathead County Courthouse in the computer department, then was hired at Plum Creek Timber in Columbia Falls as a computer operator. After 28 years, he retired from Plum Creek in 2005. In 2017, John moved to Choteau to be closer to his daughters Julianna and Mamie.

He was known for

his sarcastic sense of humor and generosity. When it came to music, John was all about the blues. He enjoyed tinkering on his Corvette and Firehawk Trans AM. John was a motorsports/racing fan, whether it was Indycar, NASCAR, Formula 1, motorcycle, or boat racing. His favorite though, was NHRA drag racing. Over the years he frequented Moose's Saloon, where he was affectionately known as "The Mayor." John was good friends with the late Moose Miller and his family and staff.

He was preceded in death by his parents Eddie and Elizabeth, his brother Edward Karsten,

and his sister Carol.

John is survived by his son Joseph (Shena) Sivertsen of West Chicago, Illinois, daughters Julianna (Craig) Parsons of Conrad, and Mamie (Nick Thompson) Sivertsen of Choteau, sister Jeanette Robinson of Ojai, California, and aunt Marge Goslin of Turlock, California, as well as seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and three nieces.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, at the Choteau Pavilion.

Condolences may left on-line at [www.gorderjensenfuneralhome.com](http://www.gorderjensenfuneralhome.com)

## Beth Lou Sine, 91

Beth Lou Sine, 91, died Sunday, July 21, 2019, at The HealthCenter in Kalispell.

She is survived by her children, Robert Sine, Richard Sine, April (Sine) Rambo, Peggy

(Sine) Keller and James Sine.

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

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

## Paulo Sitagata Jr., 61

Paulo Sitagata Jr., 61, died Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019, at his home in Kalispell. Services are

pending.

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

## Lester Gene Sjong, 81

Lester Gene Sjong, 81, died at his residence in Polson on Nov. 6, 2019. No services are planned at this time.

Arrangements are being handled by The Lake Funeral Home in Polson.

## Allen Ingvald Skare, 89

*PA4 30 Feb 2019*  
Allen Ingvald Skare, 89, passed away on Feb. 15, 2019, at Edgewood Vista in Kalispell.

Allen was born on Sept. 5, 1929, in North Dakota to Ingvald and Amanda Skare.

Allen is survived by his children Sharon Skare of Kalispell,

Daniel Skare of Wichita, Kansas, Francie Skare of Kalispell, David Skare of Kalispell and Becky Skare of Kalispell.

To send a note of condolence to the family, please visit [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family

## David William Skranak, 67

*PA4 17 Sept 2019*  
David William Skranak, 67, passed away on Sept. 10, 2019, at Health Center Northwest in Kalispell.

David was born on March 3, 1952, in Libby to Frank and Gloria (Hoefner) Skranak.

David married Elizabeth Finch in 1983 in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. They celebrated 36 years of marriage.

David is survived by his wife Elizabeth, his parents, two sons, two

daughters and two stepdaughters.

No services are planned at this time.

Friends are encouraged to visit [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.



## Patricia Anne 'Patti' Lyonais Slack, 81

FAG 17 NOV 2019

On Monday, Nov. 11, 2019, our beloved wife and mother passed to eternal life surrounded by family, due to complications from a recent diagnosis of metastatic lung cancer.

Patricia Anne "Patti" Lyonais Slack was born April 3, 1938, in Sidney, Montana, to Ed and Cecilia Lyonais, joining siblings Jim, Janice, Doris and Gail. Soon thereafter, they moved to Kalispell where the family grew to include Judy and Chris. Patti attended St. Matthew's Catholic School and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1956. She attended Business College, worked at Arnold's Refinery, and at Wheeler Jewelry. Patti valued education and learning; she was a voracious reader and the "Book Nana" to her grandkids and great-grandkids.

On April 12, 1958, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, she married her high school sweetheart, James A. "Jimmy" Slack. Together they found a friendship, raised a family and built a beautiful marriage of 61 years. She was secretary for Jim's trucking and logging



business until they retired in 2000. Making memories to last a lifetime, they enjoyed traveling the USA, including Alaska and Hawaii, and also Mexico.



A compassionate person and devout Catholic, Patti was always willing to make herself available to help others. She gave glory to God throughout her life and relied on him in both good times and difficult times. She was very active in her Catholic faith, first at St. Matthew's and then at Risen Christ from the time it was started. An avid gardener, lover of nature and wildlife, Patti cherished the glory of God's creation. Her meticulously kept gardens were a reflection of dedication to hard work and her nurturing spirit.

Founded in 1960, Patti was a charter member of the Young Mother's Club,

later called Domestic Engineers, and finally the Friendship Club. Her Club was an important part of her life, offering friendship and support. The club served the community in many ways and still meets regularly for lunch.

Family brought her the most joy. She was the one to gather everyone together for special events, holidays, and just because. Her love of family was evident to everyone who met her. Her ability to love, support and encourage her husband, kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, and friends made her treasured by all. She made sure to attend every possible event and performance: sporting, musical, academic and otherwise! Nana baked the best pies — whether apple, pumpkin, huckleberry or lemon meringue, the crust was flaky and the flavor delicious.

Patti was preceded in death by her parents; in-laws, John A. and Phloris M. Slack; siblings, Jim Lyonais, Doris Davis, Gail Mitchell and Judy Carr; and her dear niece, Danette Mitchell.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Slack;

sisters, Janice Burnell of Seattle and Christine Neal of Canby, Oregon; sons, James M. Slack and David A. (Deneen) Slack; daughters, Laura A. (Paul) Putnam and Debra S. Slack-Miller; grandchildren, David A. (Laci) Slack Jr., Dustin M. Slack, Cecilia P. Putnam, Robert J. Putnam, John E. Putnam, Aggie M. Putnam and Thomas J. Putnam; great-grandchildren, Dillon A. Slack and Leah M. Slack; and brothers-in-law, John C. (Sharon) Slack, and Jerry L. (Karen) Slack. She also leaves behind many beloved relatives in Lyonais and Slack clans and many dear friends.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 17, at Risen Christ Catholic Church, with rosary to be prayed at 7 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will take place 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 18, at Risen Christ Catholic Church, with luncheon to follow. Burial will take place following the luncheon at Glacier Memorial Gardens at 1:30 p.m.

The family suggests memorial donations be made to Risen Christ Catholic Church.

## Steven J. Sladek, 75

Steven J. Sladek, 75, of Whitefish, died March 20, 2019, at KRMC.

He is survived by his children, Claudia Ward and Steven Sladek Jr.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later time.

Austin Funeral and Cremation Services is caring for the family.

## Ralph Sletten, 89

Ralph Sletten, 89, died Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He is survived by his

wife, Adare Sletten. Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Henry 'Hank' Slemberger, 100

Henry "Hank" Slemberger, 100, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born on Aug. 26, 1919, to Anton Slemberger and Helen Sterle Slemberger in Great Falls. His mother and father were immigrants from Austria. He was the youngest of seven children and left school in the ninth grade to help support his family.

He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps camps in Neihart, Montana, and helped by sending money home every week.

Later, he married Liz Dunn from Klein, Montana. Three years after his marriage and the birth of his first daughter, Judy, he was drafted into the Army. He served in World War II and was stationed in Italy and Germany as a military policeman. While he was away, Liz gave birth to their second daughter, Carole. Their third daughter, Jennie, was born in 1961.

After the war, Hank was employed for many years as a sheet-metal worker and was a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Union. He was the oldest living member of that union in his region.

The couple moved to Kalispell in 2006 to be



closer to their family. His wife died in 2008 and since then he had lived alone and maintained his own home, check-book and

bill paying. He enjoyed sports, especially baseball, bowling and golf. He was also a musician and could play the piano, harmonica and accordion by ear.

Over the summer, he celebrated his 100th birthday at a great party surrounded by many family and friends.

He is survived by his three daughters, Judy Fraser and husband Glenn of Kalispell, Carole Nelson and husband Norman of Tucson, Arizona, and Jennie Jenks and Jeff Bell of Olympia, Washington; six grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; five great-great grandchildren; and his friend and neighbor, John.

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

## James Gary Sloan, 87

PA 6 17 July 2019  
James "Gary" Sloan died on June 11, 2019, at his home in Whitefish with his wife Mary O'Neill Sloan at his side.

Born on March 31, 1932, in Troy to Jim and Bonnie Sloan, Gary was raised during the Depression on a small farm with his sisters Gail and Diane (both deceased). After deciding to quit high school, Gary logged for his father for a year, using a crosscut saw and horses, and falling into bed each night exhausted. When September came, without a word he returned to school, graduating with his class in 1951.

During the Korean War, he joined the U.S. Air Force. After studying Russian at Army Language School, he served as a Russian military radio monitor on Saint Lawrence Island and later trained as an interrogator. He was honorably discharged in 1956. He attended the University of Montana from 1956 to 1960 on the GI bill, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a minor in library science.

From 1958 to 1970 Gary worked summers for the United States Forest Service as a fireman, fire prevention tech, aerial observer and fire dispatcher. The Forest Service often used Gary's outstanding abilities in the woods to get fire crews to the right place.

Gary taught English at Whitefish High School from 1960 to 1984. Gary was a teacher with a reputation. One story remembered by students and teachers was the day he burned a student's essay over the trash can. He loved to tell this kind of story, but, in reality, Gary was a very kind and understanding teacher. While perspective students might be afraid of having Mr. Sloan, the students of his Composition, Seminar and Ideas, and Basic



English classes had great respect for him, learning to understand English grammar, write essays, think critically, and appreciate literature and ideas. Former student Jim Mohn stated, "Mr. Sloan, you may never receive an award for your lifetime as an educator. Please remember that your legacy walks streets all across the country. You taught us lessons that are indelible."

After his retirement, he and Mary (his wife of 51 years) enjoyed hiking and camping in the great outdoors. Both formed a long-term commitment to conservation as volunteers for Montana's wild country, wildlife and outdoor recreation. Volunteering included Flathead National Forest, Montana Loon Society, Native Plant Society and other conservation organizations in the valley. They received numerous awards for their work, including the Danny On Conservation Award, and, recently, the Audubon Conservation Achievement Award.

Gary's passion was the out of doors and hunting. In 1965, a student journalist asked him if he had had any outstanding experiences during his hunting expeditions. He replied, "Hundreds!" These stories of hunting moose, deer, elk and antelope only multiplied over the years. After retirement, he wrote articles for shooting, hunting and camping magazines. He also introduced many novices to the art of hunting and working with firearms.

Gary will be greatly missed by his wife, Mary, and close friends.

## Thomas Sluiter, 79

On Jan. 9, 2019, Thomas "Tom" or "Tommy" G. Sluiter Jr., 79, left this earthy home to go tell jokes and seek free meals on God's celestial plane. He was greeted in his tomfoolery of death by his son Marcus, his mother Louise, and his father Thomas Sr.

He leaves behind his beautiful wife of 53 years, Virginia, and his loving daughter, Kristen, both of Columbia Falls.

Tom began his earthy adventures on an auspicious day in 1939 — April 1. As many would come to know, this birthdate fit him perfectly. His specialty was a quick wit along with a knack for telling jokes. As he grew older, the jokes grew bolder. He was a man who lived aloud, as himself, despite what society expected. He successfully embarrassed his son and daughter multiple times on many occasions with his choice of outrageous attire.

He was a lover of learning and never stopped thirsting for knowledge. An avid stu-



*P. H. L.*  
dent of history, mathematics and current events, he was a treasure trove of knowledge.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Dickinson State University and went on to procure two master's degrees as well. He was a gifted teacher of mathematics, physical education and social studies. He was beloved by many a student. He took great pride in his chosen profession and nothing made him happier than to run into students years afterwards.

After choosing to teach, he decided to apply with the Department of Defense and was hired to teach on various military bases over the years. He met his beloved wife, Virginia, on a teaching assignment in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. They were both avid travelers and instilled a love of traveling in their children when they chose to

*20 Jan 2019*  
teach in Japan from 1984 to 1988.

His early years he lived on a farm near Sidney, Montana, with his mom, dad and older sister. He had a short stint in the military after college to train as a pilot but, oddly enough, he had no love of heights. He held various jobs, including working in a juvenile home for boys and in a funeral home, before settling on teaching. For a short minute, he was also mayor of Hingham, Montana — having won the vote thanks to his wife.

A man with a big heart and short temper, he was always willing to help a neighbor out with a project, visit someone in the hospital or offer words of encouragement when needed. As he grew older he became more vocal with his short temper often dropping the "F" bomb when frustrated. It was always known in his household to never go near him when working on a project in the garage.

Additionally, he had an unflappable work ethic that led him to build a home in Polebridge together with his wife. Alas, it burned in the Red Bench fire of 1988 while they were teaching in Japan. The family moved back to Montana and, with help, but largely on his own, Tom finished a second cabin in Polebridge.

Known for his gift of gab, he kept up with friends on a daily or weekly basis. He was an avid letter-writer and never failed to send his daughter a daily email when she was away at college.

Never shy, he could easily befriend any stranger and took a great joy in people.

A celebration of life will take place in Polebridge at Sonderson Hall on June 21 starting at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please bring your favorite dish. He always did love a good potluck.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Alda Smithson, 91

Alda Smithson, 91, of Kalispell, died in Kalispell Aug. 31, 2019.

She is survived by her children, Susan Smith, John Smithson and James Smithson.

A celebration of life held will be at 1

p.m. Friday, Sept. 6, at Buffalo Hill Terrace. Urn placement will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

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

## Annette Jeanne Craig Smith, 61

Annette Jeanne Craig Smith, 61, known to most as Annie, began her journey across the Big River the morning of Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019. Her daughter Ellie, brother Michael and trusted friend Eileen stayed close by to offer comfort to our redheaded Montana legend while she finally gave in to the vicious and painful beat down from esophageal cancer. While Annie may have lost the physical battle, until she could talk no more, she kept whispering. "Don't worry, I'll be getting better tomorrow." She was not about to let the cancer inside her overcome her mind and spirit.

Annette Craig was born on Sept. 5, 1957, in Billings to Albert Steven "John" Craig and Sioux Ellen (O'Connell) Craig after a sister and then three brothers, but before four more brothers. Besides destined to grow heavily influenced by the presence of several smelly boys, all different from each other, Annie's birthday was the same as her dad's. She didn't have to use that fact to her advantage often, but when she did, Craig boys better run and hide. As she grew, her independent spirit constantly baffled the nuns at Holy Rosary and the stream of would-be suitors at Lincoln Junior High. The thought of having to deal with her brothers certainly thinned the pool of boys brave enough to approach her.

Growing in a Catholic household overrun by mostly renegade boys, a dad that tired of renegades easily, a mom who worked evenings and weekends while rearing a small tribe and inspiring humility and spirituali-



ty, Annie was more at home climbing trees and wearing jeans than meeting feminine expectations of the times. In a home of 20-plus potato soup recipes and powder milk convincingly disguised as something drinkable, Annie developed positive characteristics that only improved as she grew. She made tomboy appear sexy, sarcasm sound flirty, a green-eye glance emit intelligence, and a Dutch boy haircut look deliberate.

After attending Holy Rosary and Lincoln Junior High, Annie's academic career was replaced with lessons of life, a comeuppance thrusting this creative soul into adulthood and parenthood early. Thank goodness it was Ellie Carmen (Craig-Chauvin) Suda, who jumped into our world from the union of Annie and John Chauvin, a fast-talking banjo-playing Cajun from south of Morgan City, Louisiana. Next, and single again, the Annie- Ellie duo grew in Somers and Kalispell. With her amazing work ethic, Annie became one of the better-known bartenders of Northwest Montana. While all things in life were secondary to her love for her family, Annie cherished her work and fishing and creating. She leaves in this world many things crafted to perfection with an Annie flair. Equally leaving her impression was her ability to outfish every person who dared to get in a boat with her or stand on the shore next to her.

Taking her bartending,

*D.P.C. to Sept 7th 19*  
fishing and artistry skills with, Annie, with Ellie close by her side, devoted her next several years to fishing partner Tim Fry and a roller-coaster journey from Montana to Alaska and back. The final chapter to Annie's life was accompanied by Lindy Smith, a loud handsome fella who tried his best to give her a fishing challenge. All the while, Annie was always creating and sharing her talents. We would be remiss to not mention her culinary skills as well. Throughout her journeys, Annie always kindled a great love for her daughter and son-in-law Josh, grandchildren Bridger and Elise, and each of her seven brothers, letting them know at every opportunity. Importantly, Annie's Sioux heritage from her mom constantly shaped her spirituality to find the good in each and every soul she encountered.

Annie was preceded in death by her parents, sister Linda Ellen O'Connell, brothers Randy, Larry and Patrick Craig, and Donald Knaub; her dear nephew, Allen John Craig; and all three of her life companions.

She is survived by her daughter Ellie and son-in-law Josh Suda; her grandchildren, Bridger and Elise Suda, the two reasons that fueled her strong will to live; her constant and devoted four-legged companions, Artimus and Cash; brothers, Mike, Tim and John (Sheila) Craig; and numerous relatives scattered throughout the land. Annie would insist that we include her friends as her family as well, and that we do. She left her unique mark in the hearts of many,

and she had in her heart room for all.

The overwhelming sorrow that comes with the loss of Annie is perhaps tempered with her being out of physical pain. After 61 years of honing her survival instincts, Annie's body fought to keep her spirit within. Her beautiful eyes spoke loudly as she finally let go. But, Annie, those projects will have to wait, you are beckoned to a destiny much greater than that you left behind.

Celebrating Annie's life will occur sometime in late spring or early summer 2020. In the meantime, a potluck reception dinner at 4 p.m. with party to follow celebrating Annie's 62nd birthday will occur Sept. 7 at the Elks Club, 1820 U.S. Hwy. 93 South, Kalispell.

Please direct correspondence to P.O. Box 2684, Kalispell, MT 59903.

Annie, we miss you like crazy and love you so much it hurts. We will never forget, in Mom's words, love is forever.

## Christopher Scott Smith, 52

Christopher Scott Smith, 52, died Aug. 5, 2019 at his home in Kalispell.  
Funeral arrangements

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

## Clark 'Smitty' Smith, 75

Clark "Smitty" Smith, 75, of Coram, died on Friday, April 19, 2019 surrounded by his family at Invigorate in Whitefish.

No services will be held at this time.  
Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Smitty and his family.

## Danny Roy Smith, 72

Danny Roy Smith, 72, of Kalispell, died Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019 at his home. He is survived by his wife, Diana "Kay" Smith and his children: Darrin Smith, Anne Durand, Susie Harris, Joshua Hull and Kimberly

Beckwith. A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at Fairview Cemetery in Kalispell. Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory.

## Francis Smith, 88

Francis Smith, born 1931, passed away Nov. 13, 2019, from Parkinson's.

Born and raised in Vermont, he moved his family to Montana in

1974.

He worked as a heavy equipment mechanic, though his main goal was to serve his God Jehovah. He believed in the resurrection until his passing.

*fA4 4 Dec 2019*

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gloria.

He is survived by his son Jay Smith (Debbie), and daughter Wendy Wilson (Mike).

A memorial will be

held at 2 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses Whitefish.

## Larry D. Smith, 84

Larry D. Smith, 84, of Columbia Falls, died Monday, Feb. 4, 2019, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Services are being planned for a later date.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.