

James Lloyd Edwards, 50

James Lloyd Edwards died Dec. 7, 2007, in South Carolina at the age of 50.

He was born April 1, 1957, to James and Muriel Edwards in Kalispell. He went to grade school in the Evergreen school district and graduated from Flathead High School in 1975.



In 1975 Jim joined the Air Force, attending basic training in Biloxi, Miss., and communications training in Duluth, Minn. After being discharged he spent two years in Seattle learning diving and underwater welding.

Jim moved to Buffalo, N.Y., and married Sharon Wrest. In 1983, Jim and his family moved to Los Angeles and he worked in the telephone business.

Jim and Sharon had two children, Jessica and Scott.

In the early 1990s Jim was on his own again and met Donna King working at Digital Telecom, in 1995. On Feb. 14, 2000, Jim and Donna were married in Las Vegas. "Elvis Presley" attended and sang "Viva Las Vegas."

Jim and Donna bought a

home in Winnetka, Calif. They fell in love with cruising. Cruise trips they took included the Caribbean, Alaska, Russia, Germany and Sweden.

Jim's dream of owning a boat came true! Many happy hours were spent out on the ocean.

Wanting to change their lifestyle, Jim and Donna relocated to Myrtle Beach, S.C., in 2006.

Jim was preceded in death by his father, James G. Edwards; and his older brother, Vernon Edwards.

Jim is survived by his wife, Donna; daughter, Jessica; son, Scott; stepson, Dustin King; stepdaughter, Danielle King; his mother, Muriel; sisters, Pat and Pam; and brothers, Mark and Tom.

Jim always had a spirit of adventure and a can-do attitude.

"A time for gathering all the best of a good life into the pages of our memory to be held in the heart forever."

Jim's remains were cremated and in a beautiful service his ashes were spread on the Pacific Ocean at Ventura Harbor, where he loved to take his boat.

"Cherish each moment because it will never come again. What we leave behind is not as important as how we have lived."

Lois Eccleston, 83

Lois Eccleston, 83, passed away "peacefully" Thursday morning, Feb. 1, 2007, at the Community Hospital of Anaconda.



Lois Jane was born June 10, 1923, in Anaconda, the oldest of three daughters born to Harry and Margaret (Bertsch) Barnard. Lois' mother died when she was 6 years old. She was raised by her father and educated in Anaconda.

On June 17, 1942, she married Sylvan William Eccleston in Anaconda. They made their home in Anaconda, where he worked for the Anaconda Company and she worked at Milkovich Grocery. In 1954, they moved to Columbia Falls, where Sylvan worked at the aluminum plant and Lois worked at Davall mercantile.

They were blessed with a daughter, Diane. Sylvan retired in 1985. Sylvan and Lois would spend the next 16 years living in Yuma, Ariz., in the winter and at Georgetown Lake in the summer on Eccleston Bay. In 2002, they moved into Anaconda.

Lois was an avid reader, and enjoyed music, baking, making the best chocolate cake, playing cards — especially pinochle

— and sewing. Her greatest love was spending time at Georgetown Lake with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, where the evenings were spent watching the sunsets over the lake and meadow.

She is preceded in death by her parents; and two sisters, Anna May and Viola.

Survivors include her loving husband of 65 years, Sylvan, of Anaconda; daughter, Diane Slobojan, and her husband, Tim, of Kalispell; four grandchildren, Teresa Monaco and her husband, John, of Anaconda, CWO2 David Slobojan-USCGC-Fir of Astoria, Ore., Mike Slobojan and his wife, Lisa, of Snohomish, Wash., Jerome Slobojan and his wife, Jill, of Kirkland, Wash.; seven great-grandchildren, Meagan, Marcus, Michael, and Mitchell Monaco, Taylor, Connor and Courtney Slobojan; sister-in-law, Ester Eccleston, of Butte; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Service of remembrance for Lois will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 5, at the Anaconda Chapel of KT Riddle Funeral Homes, with the Rev. William Wohlers officiating.

Memorials are requested to the Anaconda School District Special Olympics, c/o Anaconda School District.

Services and cremation are under the care of the KT Riddle Funeral Homes.

Thomas Douglas 'Doug' Egan, 73

Thomas Douglas "Doug" Egan, 73, died Nov. 6, 2007, in Yuma, Ariz.

Doug was born Oct. 10, 1934, in Kalispell, the oldest of five children born to Tom and Marie (Betts) Egan. He loved telling stories of the family times spent camping in Glacier Park and fishing and hunting in the beautiful Flathead Valley.

During World War II, the family lived in Seattle as his dad, a sheet metal worker, was employed by Boeing. After the war, the Egans returned to Kalispell and opened a sheet metal shop, which they later moved to Conrad. Doug graduated from Conrad High School and the University of Montana. After college, he served in the Army and discovered the potential of computers during various duty assignments. When his service time was completed, he returned to Montana and taught high-school math for two years.

In 1964, he met and married Penny Estes. They made their home in Helena. Doug was employed as a statistician and researcher for the state. His employment with the state gave him an opportunity to become more deeply involved with computers and explore their potential. In 1970, he received a Master of Social Work Admin-

istration from the University of Michigan.

Doug and Penny took early retirement and enjoyed many years of traveling and volunteering at state and federal campgrounds. In 1992, they came to Yuma and decided they had found a great place for the winter months. After a few years, they decided that Yuma would be their home.

Doug is survived by his wife, Penny. He is also survived by his son, John, and Tawna; grandchildren, Abby, Alex, Ryan and Gracie of Meridian, Idaho; also his special aunt, Boots (Betty) Bills, of Conrad; brothers, George and Jean of Conrad, Duane and Janet of Columbia Falls; sisters, Nancy Floerchinger of Bozeman and Jean Egan; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

At Doug's request, there will be no services. Cremation has taken place, and his ashes will be scattered in Montana next summer.

For many years, Doug was devoted volunteer at the Yuma Reading Council. He took great joy in seeing adults improve their reading and writing skills. Memorial donations can be made to the Yuma Reading Council, 825 S. Orange St., Yuma, AZ 85364.

Forrest A. 'Punk' Ekstedt, 61

Forrest A. "Punk" Ekstedt, 61, of Libby, died Sept. 26, 2007, near Eureka.

He worked as a meat cutter and logger and later for the Job Corps in Centralia, Washington.

He is survived by a son,

Anthony Lambdin, of Missoula.

A gathering was held Saturday at the Tim Ekstedt residence in Libby.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Joann Elgin, 67

Joann Elgin, 67, passed away at her Bigfork home Saturday, March 2, 2007. Joann was born in Kalispell on Nov. 28, 1939, to Wayne and Mildred Clark. Joann was raised in the Marion area.

She was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend. Her last words to family were, "You know I loved them all."

Joann was preceded in death by her parents, Wayne and Mildred Clark.

She is survived by her daughters, Cay Dee Reynolds of Bigfork, and Cynde Knutson and husband, Clarence, of Kalispell; sister, Judy Mathiason, and husband, Glen,

of Marion; five grandchildren, Jessie Cady and husband, Shawn, of Whitefish, Jared Reynolds of Bigfork, Tabbetha Reynolds of Bigfork, and Michelle Cunningham and Kodi Cunningham, both of Kalispell; great-grandchildren, Taylor, Gracie, Ella, Anton and Brooke; stepgrandchildren, J.J. Knutson and Erin Knutson, of Kalispell; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A remembrance celebration and potluck will be held for family and friends at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 11, at Cynde and Clarence's house, 240 Addison Square, in Kalispell.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Grace Marie Elliott, 68

Grace Elliott 68, "joined the heavenly choir" on Jan. 25, 2007, at her home in Happy Trails, in Surprise, Ariz., after a long and strenuous battle against breast cancer. She was born in Missoula on April 15, 1938, to Klaas and Gertrude De Wit. She attended grade schools in Bonner and Missoula. She graduated from high school in Columbia Falls, and attended Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Ore.

Grace was married to Roger H. Elliott in 1959, and lived in Columbia Falls, where they raised their four children. One of her outstanding attributes was her lovely soprano voice. She generously gave her talent through the United Methodist Church in Columbia Falls and Happy Trails Christian Fellowship in Surprise.

Grace was very active in civic, social and fraternal organizations. She was president of the Montana State Jayceens; mother advisor of the Rainbow Chapter in Columbia Falls, a member of Eastern Star and P.E.O. She was a member of Deborah Circle of the United Methodist Women. Her social activities included book clubs, singing clubs and the Red Hat Society. She was instrumental in forming the Happy Trails cancer support group in Surprise. She also enjoyed needlework while watching the humming birds feed at the window.

Some of the highlights of her life included supporting her children through school, sports, and other youth activities and into adulthood. She enjoyed

travel, which included moving onto a boat for three years, where she sailed the Inland Passage to Alaska two times. She enjoyed motor homing from 1992 through 2006, having been around the U.S. and Canada many times. She insisted on settling at Happy Trails in Surprise for her winter home in 2002.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father; numerous aunts and uncles; and a stepgrandchild.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Roger H. Elliott; four children, Diane Elliott of Poplar, Roger F. and Rose Elliott of Columbia Falls, Wayne and Suzanne Elliott of Kalispell, and Elizabeth and Mark Parrish of Sparks, Nev.; her sister, Marjorie and Kent Lindsey of Halfmoon Bay, British Columbia; stepmother, Irene De Wit of Columbia Falls; grandchildren, Stephanie and Sam Elliott, Briana and Elliott Parrish, and Melissa Dodge; a niece, Dr. Jeanne and Roger Mace, and a nephew, Scott and Kelly Lindsey, both of Canada; many cousins and a family of friends in Montana and Arizona.

Her wishes were to have her organs donated to the organ bank and to research.

Cremation has taken place at the International Institute of Advanced Medicine in Phoenix. A memorial will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 24, at the United Methodist Church in Columbia Falls.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Flathead Lake Methodist Summer Camp or the American Cancer Society.

Kent Roger Ellison, 69

Kent Roger Ellison, 69, died peacefully in his sleep on Sept. 16, 2007, at the Brendan House in Kalispell, after a four-year battle with amyloidosis,

a rare disease, he battled with great strength and courage. He was born July 15, 1938, in Minneapolis.

He is survived by his forever loving wife, Joan M. Ellison, of Bigfork; son, Todd Ellison, of Minneapolis; daughter, Lisa Ellison, of Dallas; son, Eric Ellison, and Carrie, of Kalispell; and daughter, Elizabeth Ellison, of Bigfork. He is also survived by his sister, Kay Ellison Stoltman, and Cyril, of Devils Lake, N.D.; a granddaughter, Katie Susan Ellison; stepchildren, Fred Hamilton of Washington, Maile Baures of Portland, and J.R. Dean of Reno, Nev.; stepgrandchildren, Nani Hamilton, Adrien, Loic and Sylvie Claire Baures; and his nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar "Duke" Ellison and Juliette Ellison.

Kent was the founder and owner of Ellison Meat Company in Minnesota since 1962. Even though he retired in 1996, he remained active in related businesses and consulting until his death.

He was an avid golfer, fisherman, bird hunter and traveler.



His love of life exuded wherever he went, meeting people from all over the world in his travels.

Kent and Joani built their dream home in Mexico together and Kent's Peterson Creek pond project was a labor of love, completed before his death, with lots of help from his friends.

He spent a lot of time with his family and friends this last summer.

To hold his new baby granddaughter, Katie Susan, was the highlight of it all.

Kent was a true warrior against the disease, amyloidosis; he tackled it head on like everything he did. His faith in God and a great appreciation for life kept him going until the end. He will be missed by many and loved by all who knew him well.

It was Kent's request that any donations be made in memory of Kent R. Ellison c/o Northwest Health Care Foundation, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, Montana.

The doctors and staff of the hospital, along with the staff and nurses at Brendan House and the crew of the ALERT helicopter, were very caring and professional to Kent. He spent a lot of time over the years in virtually every aspect of the hospital and related areas.

Also at Kent's request there will be no funeral service. A celebration of his life will be at their home in Mazatlan, Mexico, this winter.

Bigfork Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Emmet Ray Embody, 81

Emmet Ray Embody, 81, a World War II Army veteran and retired Union Oil Company employee, died Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007, at Pondera Medical Center after a short illness.



A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at Pondera Medical Center-Extended Care Day Room in Conrad, with burial following at a later date. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Pondera Funeral Home in Conrad.

Emmet leaves behind his loving wife of 56 years, Billie Margaret, of Conrad; son, Mark Embody, of Kalispell; son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Marla Embody, of Cut Bank; five grandchildren, Michelle, Zach, Jessica (Nate), Matt (Abby), and Tyler; four great-grandchildren, Nathan, Jaycee, Asher and Rafe; sister, Shirley Embody, of Waynesville, N.C.; nephews, Terry and Evelyn Embody of Napa, Calif., David Cambra of California, and Josh Embody of Browning; nieces, Joy and Rick Smith of Monument, Colo., Karen Woodall of Dallas, Sharon Sharp of Richardson, Texas, Judy Conrad of Albany, Ore., Jill Anderson of Granbury, Texas, Penny and Andy Jariabka and Justin of Pasadena, Calif., and Linda Crawford of Kalispell; and family friend, Pat Banka, of Great Falls.

Emmet was born in Valier, on April 6, 1925, to Anna and Carl M. Embody. He attended schools in Valier and Conrad and, in 1943, left high school to enlist in the Army during WWII. He served in the European Theater as a squad leader in the 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry. After his military service, he re-entered

high school and graduated from Conrad High School in 1947.

On Dec. 15, 1950, he married Billie Margaret Beringer, in Conrad, where they resided for five years before moving to Cut Bank in 1955. He worked for E-Line Acid, under Hugh McNamer, for several years before beginning his long tenure with Union Oil Company in the Cut Bank area as a field pumper. He retired in 1986 and the couple moved west of the mountains to Coram, where they resided until 2004.

Emmet was a self-taught artist and an avid Cut Bank Wolves and Griz fan. He enjoyed camping, golfing, traveling to his grandchildren's sporting events, taking drives with his sons, and reminiscing about WWII events and old family history with his siblings. He was very involved in the Cut Bank community as a past member of Cut Bank Elks Club, Golf and Country Club, Booster Club, and president of Little League Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl M. and Anna Embody; sisters, Hattie Embody, Maggie Dupler, Verna Warwick, Stella Kenny, Anna Pearl Evans, Bonnie Embody and Eily Gene Kelly; brothers, Carl, Arlie and Orbie; and an infant granddaughter, Brittany Embody.

Due to the compassion and kindness shown to Emmet during his illness, the family suggests memorials may be given to St. Michael's Catholic Church, 110 S. Maryland, Conrad, MT. 59425; Pondera Medical Center, 805 Sunset Blvd., Conrad, MT 59425; or Cut Bank Booster Club, c/o Kent Shaffer, 238 Third Ave. SE, Cut Bank, MT 59427.

Emmet will be remembered for his immense love and compassion for family, devotion to his wife, and his wonderful smile and sense of humor.

Richard Roy Emerson, 60

Richard Roy Emerson, 60, died Oct. 27, 2007, in the company of his family at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. It was a beautiful, brisk, sunny fall morning, and he was enjoying it from his window seat in the hospital. He asked about the turning of the needles on the tamaracks that morning, as well as the smell of the air, and the temperature outside.

He fought "a long, hard fight with a short stick" for some six months before changing his tactics, and ultimately winning and beating the cancer and illness that had taken the strength and vitality from his body, but not his titan spirit. He knew, as the master tactician he was, how to win and win well. The terms were his. He set them and accomplished them with grace, style, and determination, as he had with all things in his life. He won fully and artfully, with no quarter for his adversary.

Richard was born Nov. 13, 1946, in Fargo, N.D., to Earl Duncan and Virginia Julieana Emerson. He served honorably in the U.S. Army. He was in Germany, serving as a staff driver at the young age of 17, after the Berlin Wall was constructed and was there during the Berlin airlift. He later returned to the United States, attended college, and became a surveyor. He came to Montana in the late 1960s and progressed in civil construction, participating in the building of Montana 37, the Kooacanusa Bridge, and the Libby Dam projects. He also worked intermittently in the 1970s and 1980s on the Alaska pipeline, beginning what would become a preeminent career in the petroleum pipeline industry and family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Earl Duncan and Virginia Julieanna Emerson, and youngest brother, Daryl Gene Emerson.

He left many here to remember and celebrate his life, his siblings, Virginia Julieanna Even (Emerson) and her husband, Mike Even, Earl William and Luanne Emerson, Bernard Lynn Emerson, Susan Rose (Emerson) Moe and her husband, Gene; his former wife, Karen Ruth Herbold Emerson; and their children and respective spouses, Richard William and Kimberly Emerson, Donovan Joseph and Weiko Noelani Emerson, Anna Marie Emerson; and Seth and Amy Axelsen (Emerson). He also adored his grandchildren, Daylan Cosmo and Isabelle Moon Axelsen, and Christopher William Emerson. They brought a new energy and sparkle to his life.

Richard also loved and appreciated his pipeline family. There were so many folks with whom he worked and traveled, learned and taught, and fought and built pipelines that there would be not enough room here to acknowledge them all properly. They all had a special place in his heart.

Richard was a man. He had nothing for those whose small-mindedness and slavery to fear and dogma compelled them to simultaneously reach out to him and attempt to change him. He loved all but took no reservation about speaking strongly and setting the limits of what he was willing to tolerate from fools. He had a strong appreciation for those fools who were capable of holding their tongues and deep and abiding contempt for those who would not.

His wit was often dark and cutting. The spark in his eye was unmatched ...

By the late 1980s, he had carved and wended his way into an iconoclastic career in pipelines. By his death, he had become a mentor, a teacher, an advocate, a fighter, and a pillar of the pipeline construction and consulting arena. He was a developmental and involved body in building pipelines on five of the seven continents. He had no fear in reaching out and doing. He was without equal when faced with a challenge. He had traveled the reaches of the globe in his chosen profession and was a gentleman in every regard. In his niche, he was considered an unrivaled adversary and man of accomplishment.

He had an uncanny relationship with the elements in projects in which he was involved.

Cultural boundaries did not exist for Richard. He knew people were people. Regardless of the time or place, he would accept hospitality and extend it, without question; in Lahore, the Congo, Anchorage, Belarus, Denver, Calgary, the bayous of Louisiana, Moscow, London, Oklahoma, the Kern River, Frankfurt, the North Slope, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Azbhekistan, Sakhalin. His experiences in these places were many and varied. Along the way he contracted malaria and valley fever, was exposed to hydrogen sulfide gas, occasional gunfire, and a mortar attack on an electrical generation facility near a camp in Pakistan. Upon returning from such areas and experiences, he would often remark, with a smile, "In many ways, the conference was difficult."

He loved the autumn. He was fond of a fire on a cold fall morning and snowy winter night, a hunting trip, chokecherry jelly and syrup, English mysteries, a cup of coffee and plain cake donuts, good whisky and a ribeye steak. He loved Christmas and hosted a Christmas Eve buffet every year for all who cared to attend ... and there were many. He began to cultivate tea roses when he settled a bit in his consulting years, and also cultivated his grandchildren, along with his children in their "adult years."

His remains were cremated and the ashes scattered in a place special to him, and an 18-year old Glenmorangie was enjoyed in his honor.

Barbara N. Emper, 64

Barbara N. (Wentzell) Emper, 64, passed away on Thursday, May 10, 2007, at her residence in Kalispell with her family by her side, due to cancer.

Barbara was born Nov. 3, 1942, in Somers Point, N.J. She was raised in Hammonton, N.J., where she attended high school.

She worked for 10 years at Pacemaker Boat Company in Lower Bank, N.J., and for five years at Ocean Yachts in Weekstown, N.J. Most recently, she worked for seven years at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

On June 12, 1959, she married Louis Emper, in Egg Harbor City, N.J.

She enjoyed reading, sewing, hiking and bird watching. She also loved her cat, Jeffery.

Barbara was a beautiful woman who loved her family and friends. Barbara and Lou moved to Montana in 1991 to enjoy life in the Flathead Valley. They spent time together enjoying the beautiful countryside and hiking thorough the majestic mountains. Together they built the life of their dreams.

Barbara was a kind person who always thought of others. One of her hobbies was sending greeting cards to encourage others. Friends and family would receive cards in the mail on a regular basis. If anyone had a need, she was ready and willing to help.

Barbara loved spending time

with her children and grandchildren, making memories that will never be forgotten. Lou and Barbara always had an open invitation for family and friends to visit and enjoy Big Sky Country.

Barbara will be missed but never forgotten, because of her love and kindness that touched so many lives.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Dorothy Wentzell.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 47 years, Louis Emper, of Kalispell; her son, Chris, and Kim Emper, of Kalispell; her daughter, Bernice, and Tom Perry, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; four grandchildren, Jennifer and Mike Newberg, and Shane Perry, all of Tennessee, and Heather Emper and Bethany Emper, of Kalispell; her twin brother, Robert, and Sandra Wentzell, of Hammonton; brother, Joe Grace, of Maine; and sisters, Sylvia Fanslau of Hammonton, and Ellen Johns of New Jersey.

A visitation will be held for family and friends from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, at Barbara and Lou's home, at 1557 Church Drive.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society, 3550 Mullan Road, Suite 105, Missoula, MT 59808; or call 1-800-227-2345; or online at www.cancer.org.

Kathleen Endicott-Cyr, 83

Kathleen Endicott-Cyr, 83, passed away Thursday, July 5, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. She was born Nov. 29, 1923, in Essex, to John and Suzanna (Rush) Page. Kathleen grew up in Essex the youngest of eight children. She went to high school in Troy and graduated in 1941. She lived her early years in Wyoming and later settled in Kalispell until her death.

Kathleen married Charles E. Endicott in August 1945, in Kalispell, and they had three children. Charles passed away in 1986. She met and married Lloyd Cyr in 1988 and worked at Bojangles Restaurant until her health forced her retirement in 2006.

Kathleen was a member of the Eastern Star and the Hotel and Restaurant Union.

She enjoyed cooking and antiques and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Kathleen was preceded in death by all seven of her siblings; her mother and father; and her first husband, Charles.

She is survived by her husband, Lloyd M. Cyr, of Kalispell; three sons, Ernie, Michael and William Endicott; adopted children, Lorraine, Mahala, and Tyler Wigner, all of Kalispell; also by numerous nephews, nieces; and many friends living in and out of Montana.

Funeral services for Kathleen Endicott-Cyr will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 11, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with burial following at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, July 10, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Kathleen's family. You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Kathleen's guest book.

Aril Ryder Engebritson, 93

Aril Ryder Engebritson, 93, of Kalispell, passed away Saturday, Nov. 17, 2007, at his home.

He was born on Oct. 12, 1914, in White Earth, N.D., to John and Matilda Engebritson. He spent his earlier years in North Dakota and came to Montana in 1935 in an immigrant car with his parents, livestock and personal property.

He accomplished many things in life and lived it to the fullest, which included a 70-year marriage to his wife, Dorothy Mae.

He was a farmer, woodsman, welder, builder, taxi driver, security guard and a janitor for nine years at Calvary Lutheran Church where he was a charter member. He dug two basements for the church and was involved in its construction. He also built four houses in the Flathead Valley and remodeled one other.

He also had a local farm with 165 head of cattle. He piled brush for the Forest Service for 20 years with his "Cat." He also cleared many acres in the Flathead Valley for many farmers. He was employed by Plum Creek Lumber for eight years as a security guard.

Aril was preceded in death by his parents, John and Matilda; a grandson, James; a great-granddaughter, Jennifer; seven



sisters, Jerda, Orpha, Bernice, Luella, Patty "Vivian," Mavis and Clarice; four brothers, Egil, Glise "Gus," Erling, and Sidney; an infant brother, Cliff; and a nephew, James Byrne.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Dorothy Mae; son, Vernon and wife, Agnes; and a daughter, Vivian, all of Kalispell. Grandchildren are Tina Engebritson, Vernon Engebritson and his wife, Tracy, of Kalispell, Annette Berryman of Bigfork, and Terry Caudill and husband, Mike, of Kalispell; great-grandchildren are Chance and Cheyene Ovnicsek, Chrissy Van Zant and her husband, John, Trevor, Mike and Lisa Caudill, Kyle and Shane Engebritson, and Brandon and Nathan Berryman of Virginia; great-great-grandchildren are Mya Mcneely and Jowel Engebritson; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Aril will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 23, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Kalispell with Pastor Kurt Rau officiating. Aril will be laid to rest at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will take place at the church for one hour prior to the services.

In lieu of flower memorial donations can be sent to Calvary Lutheran Church or Hospice.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Aril's family. You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Aril's guest book.

Jennifer 'Jenny' Rae Engebritson, 23

Jennifer "Jenny" Rae Engebritson, 23, died on Tuesday, July 31, 2007, from injuries sustained from an automobile accident. Jenny was born on Aug. 12, 1983, in Salt Lake City. Jenny is the daughter of Vern and Agnes Engebritson. She attended Evergreen Elementary and Flathead High School.

Jenny was a kind and compassionate, free-spirited person who liked to travel and loved animals. Jenny has left behind many family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her brother, James Engebritson; and great-grandparents, Lawrence and Mae Whaley.

Jenny is survived by her daughter, Jowell Engebritson; parents, Vern and Agnes Engebritson; great-grandparents, Aril and Mae Engebritson; sisters,



Chrissy Van Zant and her husband, John, and Tina Engebritson, all of Kalispell; brothers, Brandon and Nathan Barryman of Virginia Beach, Va., and Vern Engebritson and his wife, Tracy, of Kalispell; also nephews and nieces, Chance, Cheyene, Shane and Kyle, all of Kalispell. Other family members include grandmother, Vivian Engebritson; aunt and uncle, Terry and Mike Caudill; cousins, Trevor, Mike, Lisa and Mya Caudill, all of Kalispell; grandfather, Harold Israel, of Portbille, Calif.; Annette Barryman, and Jack and Don Williams.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 3, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Evergreen with Pastor Kurt Rau officiating. There will be no visitation.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Jenny's family.

You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Jenny's guest book.

Irene Jeanette Engelbach, 92

Irene Jeanette Engelbach, 92, died Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.



She was born in Kelvin, N.D., on either March 31 or April 1, 1915, the daughter of Olaf Victor and Fern Elizabeth (Stickland) Lagerquist.

She leaves behind many family members and friends who loved her dearly and will miss her laugh, her wry humor, her kind heart, her quiet courage. We, her four children, remember her dedication to her job as our mother. She loved us well. She kept us clean, respectable and honest, made sure we did our best in school, and, on top of all that, was a great cook. We remember her keen interest in our education, determined that her two daughters would attend the university, as well as her two sons. We remember her desire that we all have some musical training, and we remember her love for her husband, our dad, Bob Engelbach. They loved to go dancing, and tried everything from ballroom and square dancing to swing. Her daughters-in-law remember her as a wonderful mentor. She was their mother also.

Irene was born in (In her family memoir she explained that she was born very close to midnight and there was some argument in the family as to the correct date. They finally settled on April 1 and, much to her chagrin as a young child, she became an April Fools' baby.) She wrote, "I lived on a farm in north central North Dakota in the Turtle Mountains about one half mile from the Canadian border." The Turtle Mountains "were rolling, round hills heavily forested with deciduous trees; poplars, oaks, and wil-

lows. Our farm house was on one of these gently sloping hills ..." She attended a one-room schoolhouse — open only during the spring and summer months — and, at one point, was responsible for driving the horse and cart, full of siblings and cousins, to school. She graduated from high school and finished one year of business school in North Dakota before moving, at age 24, to Cut Bank. There she met her future husband and love of her life, Bob Engelbach. They were married June 14, 1940, at St. John's English Lutheran Church in Great Falls.

In 1945, Rene and Bob and their first two children, Bob Jr. and Nancy, moved to Cody, Wyo., where Bob worked in the oil industry. They made their final move in 1947, when they arrived in the Flathead Valley. Two more children, Sherry and Don, were born in Kalispell.

Irene joined the First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell soon after arriving in 1947, and was an active member. She sang in the church choir, taught Sunday school and summer Bible school, organized and helped direct senior high with her husband, and served for many years as a church deacon.

In 1970, Rene and Bob decided they needed an adventure. Their four children had their own lives, and Rene and Bob were not ready to retire. So they joined the U.S. Peace Corps. Their first assignment was in Jamaica, where they lived and worked for three years in the village of Christiana. They made many great friends, did some important work, and discovered the pleasures of life in the tropics. Another Peace Corps assignment took them to Medellin, Colombia, for a year. This was a difficult tour of duty. They worked in the men's and women's prisons, teaching sports and homemaking skills. Their final two years with the Peace Corps were on the

island of St. Kitts in the Caribbean. Again, they found the pleasures of a tropical environment and good friends. During these years, they also managed to save enough of their Peace Corps salaries to take two trips to Europe while awaiting Peace Corps reassignments.

After seven years away from the Flathead Valley, Rene decided it was time to come home to get reacquainted with their grandchildren and to help with the ones soon to be born. She again took up her activities in the Presbyterian Church, joined an aerobics group, was a member of the PEO, and served on the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

Irene was preceded in death by her husband, Bob.

She is survived by four chil-

dren, Bob Engelbach of Anchorage, Alaska, Nancy Hunn and Don Engelbach of Seattle, and Sherry Johns of Kalispell. She had 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Irene Engelbach will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21, at the First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell. All who knew and loved Irene are cordially invited to attend.

Because Irene strongly valued education and reading, the family suggests memorials be made to the Flathead County Library, 247 First Ave. E., Kalispell, MT, 59901, or to a charity of choice.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Irene's family. You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com

Magnus C. 'Shorty' Enger, 73

Magnus C. "Shorty" Enger, 73, passed away surrounded by his family on Monday, March 19, 2007, at his residence near Columbia Falls. He was born on May 2, 1933, in Holcombe, Wis., the son of Thorwald and Adeline (Stoll) Enger. He was educated in Holcombe.



He moved to Montana in 1951, where he worked for the U.S. Forest Service, and was a logger. He also worked on the Libby Dam and the Trego Tunnel projects.

On Dec. 19, 1955, he was united in marriage to Loretta Mike-sell in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He then started a career installing floor coverings and continued for the next 47 years.

He was an avid outdoorsman and he enjoyed hunting, fishing and barbecuing and also enjoyed playing cards.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, three sisters, and a grandson.

He is survived by his wife, Loretta Enger, of Columbia Falls; his children, Lorena

Schaeffer of Kalispell, Susan Walhus and husband, Bruce, of Columbia Falls, Donald Enger and wife, Kim, of Kalispell, Nancy Williams of Kalispell, and Wendy Rogers and husband, Roy, of Columbia Falls; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, Alecia Schaeffer and Jesse Aguilar and their daughter, Kaylee, of Rosalia, Wash.; Daryl Walhus and wife, Crystal, and their children, Mackenzie and Beau of Kalispell; Angie Walhus and her children, Cole and Gabrielle of Columbia Falls; Chuck Walhus of Columbia Falls; Samantha, Daniel and Danniell Enger of Kalispell; Brandon Williams of Missoula; Stephanie and Cori Williams of Kalispell; and Kevin Rogers of Columbia Falls; as well as numerous other relatives and friends. He also leaves behind his faithful companion, Shadow.

Memorial services for "Shorty" will be at 1 p.m. Friday, March 23, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel, with Dr. David Kauffman officiating. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, at Johnson Mortuary.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Shorty's family.

Leta M. Erickson 74

Leta M. Erickson 74, of Missoula, passed away Monday, March 19, 2007, at St. Patrick Hospital. She was born July 17, 1932, in Missoula, to Isobel and William Dickinson. Leta attended the University of Montana in Missoula, with two music scholarships for voice and piano. She sang with the U of M Jubileers. She was also a member of the Alpha Phi Sorority.



She married Kenneth H. Erickson in September of 1951.

She worked for the Missoula County Public Schools for 23 years. She was an accomplished musician and duplicate bridge

player.

She was a member of the Holy Spirit Parish and sang in the church choir.

She was loved by many for her wonderful sense of humor and kind heart.

Leta was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth; her parents, Isobel and William Dickinson; and her brother, Bill Dickinson.

She is survived by her brother, Robert; five children, Julie, Jim, Jane, Mike and Beth; as well as six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 24, at Holy Spirit Parish, 130 South Sixth St. East, in Missoula.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Holy Spirit Parish.

Arlonemay Elizabeth Erdman, 78

Arlonemay Elizabeth Erdman, 78, died April 1, 2007, at Colonial Manor in Whitefish.

She was born Jan. 17, 1929, to Charles E. Huntsucker and Alga Gordon Huntsucker in Marshfield, Ore.

Arlone was a tireless worker and led a colorful life. She was best known for the mischievous twinkle in her eye and her irresistibly funny cackle. And, of course, her coffee — with two sugars and a little cream.

Arlone had a strong belief in the Bible's promise of living forever on a paradise earth and she loved to share that hope with others.

She is survived by two sons, Gary D. Harmon and Arthur E.

Harmon.

Appreciation goes out to caring friends who personally assisted her in her weekly activities, Dianne Guyton, and Bob and Pam Shanks, along with her longtime friend Harriett Damm, whose cheery letters always brought a smile to Arlone's face.

Special thanks to the wonderful staff members at Colonial Manor for their warm concern that made Arlone's stay a successful and happy one.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 14, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Whitefish.

Funeral services were cared for by Austin Funeral-Home and Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Henry James Erwin, 24

Henry James Erwin, 24, of Rome, Ga., and also of Whitefish, Alaska and anywhere else he collected rocks, died on Sept. 21, 2007. He passed at his place of residence in Rome where family, friends, and even strangers were always warmly welcome.



Henry James was born on Oct. 24, 1982, proud son of Paul and Marcy Erwin, and loving brother of Spence and Meggie Beth.

This free-spirited and hard working young businessman had owned Henry's Smoke Shack. His passion for cooking made it the best barbecue in town. Previously he had succeeded in his other two passions, nature and helping others. He captured nature's essence in his paintings, inspired by his time in the wilderness.

Henry completed a 200-hour course with Aerie Back Country Medicine in Glacier Park, and in addition, received his certification as a wilderness emergency technician. He also completed a 10-week program at the National Outdoor Leadership

School in Alaska. But he did not stop there. Next he earned his swift water rescue certification with the U.S. Department of Forestry in Montana in 2005.

Those who knew Henry would say that of all his accomplishments and services, the greatest service he provided was giving pieces of his enormous and loyal heart to everyone who stepped into his life. That great accomplishment and service will last forever in countless hearts.

Survivors of "the great Henry" include his mother and father, Marcy and Paul Erwin; brother and sister-in-law, Spence and Mary Katherine Erwin; sister, Meggie Erwin, and John Harley Erwin, his baby nephew.

Funeral services were held Sept. 25 at the First Presbyterian Church in Rome with the Rev. Scott Jackson officiating. Interment was at the Floyd Memory Gardens in Rome.

Pallbearers were Stephen Smith, Hans Davidson, Dustin Higgins, George Barron, Robert Sturdivant, Robert Evans and Herman Scoggins.

Henry's family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Darlington Learning Center, c/o Darlington School, 1014 Cave Spring Road, Rome, GA 30161.

Merle Henry 'Bud' Eslick, 83

Merle Henry "Bud" Eslick, 83, passed away Sunday, April 8, 2007, at HealthCenter Northwest in Kalispell. He was born Oct. 26, 1923, at the family farm near Bigfork, to Henry and Ruth (Morton) Eslick. Merle attended Bigfork Elementary and Bigfork High School, graduating in 1941.

After graduation, Merle worked several jobs including farming for his uncle in Holt, logging and working for Fenby Brothers. He also worked for the Rural Electric Association for a time.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1948, and served his duty in the Korean War. After his honorable discharge in 1951, he went to work for the J. Hofert Christmas Tree Company at its Bigfork plantation. He was involved in all aspects of the tree-farming business until his retirement in the early 1980s. He then continued working the family farm raising

alfalfa, cattle and sweet corn.

"Uncle Merle" was known and loved by several generations of young and old alike, and will be greatly missed by those whose lives he touched so deeply.

Merle is survived by his sister, Mary Britton; brother, Joe Eslick, both of Bigfork; nieces, Marla Britton, Maureen Mueller and JoAnn Eslick, all of Bigfork; nephews, Jay Eslick and wife, Barbara, of Chinook, and Lee Eslick of Bigfork; and many great- and great-great-nieces and nephews.

Memorial services for Merle will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, April 13, 2007, in the Johnson Mortuary chapel, with Pastor Ron Pierce officiating.

The family suggests memorials be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Merle's family.

Beverly Jean Espelin, 76

Former Great Falls native, Beverly Jean Espelin, 76, died after a prolonged illness caused by mercury poisoning on July 12, 2007, at Brendan House Hospice Care in Kalispell.



Loved and missed by all, Bev never met a stranger she didn't like. Bev's smile and gentle sensitivity has been missed these years as she slowly slipped away from her loved ones. Even the last few days of her life, she managed to offer up a smile and a short laugh.

Survivors include her husband, Tom Price; her children, Dawn Schandelson and Arnold, Henry "Ted" T. Espelin III and Roberta, and Nancy Espelin; grandchildren, Scott Schandelson and Shannon, Brett Schandelson, Bryan Brennan, Kellie Brennan, Tony Guida and Carrie, Nick Guida and Jennifer; and great-grandchildren, Alex Schandelson and Aidan Schandelson.

Additionally, she is survived by Tom's children, Tom Delong and Annette, Willie Stevens and Tran, Barry Price and Cathy, TH Price and Amy, Florrie Benner, Gail Mee and Kelly; 28 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sisters-in-law, Claudia Higson and Phyllis Nelson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Henry T. Espelin; her daughter, Heidi Espelin; and her brother, Nels Ballestad.

Beverly began life April 1, 1931, the daughter of Louise and Nils Ballestad. She was joined several years later by a brother, Nels.

After finishing school in Great Falls she married Gayle "Jack" Collins and had a daughter, Dawn Marie. After divorcing in 1949, she married Henry T. Espelin, first moving to Bozeman to complete Henry's

education at Montana State University, where she also attended classes; then moving to Forest Grove, Ore., where Henry attended Pacific University and she continued her own education. During this time Henry "Ted" Espelin III was born.

After graduation, the family moved back to Great Falls where Ted started an optometric practice.

The family relocated to Columbia Falls in 1958 when Ted relocated his practice. They rented a house until Bev and Ted built their own home, the first of three for Bev. Daughters Nancy and Heidi were both born while the family was in Columbia Falls.

In 1969 the family returned Great Falls when Ted purchased a practice. Bev worked at Ted's office, volunteered on many civic and non-profit causes such as the Heart Association, American Cancer Society, auxiliary boards of the Salvation Army, American Optometric Association and other nonprofit causes. She also helped build their home at Woodland Estates on the Missouri River.

After the death of Ted in 1984, and her daughter Heidi in 1986, she moved to Eureka. In 1990, she married long time family friend, Tom Price, and built a house in the foothills.

Bev volunteered in several community projects in Eureka including Toys for Tots, The Pet and Doll Parade, Special Olympics, VFW Ladies Auxiliary and the annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner. She sat on the board for District 5 for the developmentally disabled.

Her personal interests included golf and skiing, and she was an avid reader and bridge player.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 29, in the backroom of the VFW in Eureka.

Memorials may be sent to VFW Ladies Auxiliary, P.O. Box 1008, Eureka, MT 59917.

Neva Irene Evert, 85

Neva Irene Evert 85, of Kalispell died Saturday, May 26, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. She was born May 26, 1922, in Augusta, Ark.,



to Thomas Andrew and Georgetta (Peebles) Anderson.

She received her early education in Augusta and went on to graduate from business college before moving north to the Chicago area. She met Elwood Davis, and they were married Dec. 13, 1948. The couple operated Davis Oil Company until they sold the business and retired early. Elwood died April 26, 1960.

On Sept. 9, 1961, she was united in marriage to Fred Evert at Downers Grove, Ill. Neva was surprised but still felt blessed with a son at the age of 40. Fred and Neva later divorced.

Neva enjoyed golfing, playing bridge, and traveling, and she was proud that she was able to manage her own investments while raising her son. Her family was very important to her. She moved to Kalispell in 1988 to be closer to her grandchildren and family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and eight brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her son,

Mark Evert, and wife, Pam, of Kalispell; two grandsons, Daylon and Connor; and a sister, Edith "Dolly" Cooper, of Arkansas; as well as numerous other relatives.

Neva was a caring mother, a gracious mother-in-law, a loving grandma, and an endearing friend to many. She will be truly missed.

Graveside services for Neva will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 31, 2007, at Fairview Cemetery on Middle Road east of Kalispell. Visitation will be held Wednesday, May 30, 2007, from 4 to 6 p.m., where the family will receive friends at Johnson Mortuary.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Neva's family. You are invited to go to johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Neva's guest book.