

## Floyd L. Rader, 62

Floyd L. Rader, 62, died Saturday, Feb. 24, 2007 at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Arrangements are pending at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

## Thelma Lukenbill Rales, 82

Thelma Lukenbill Rales, 82, "went home to be with the Lord" on Jan. 9, 2007, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. "The battle's over and the victory's been won, ten thousand years and she's just begun." She was born May 22, 1924, in Kalispell to Herman and Nora Lukenbill.



Thelma was an avid cook and kept active with her sewing, gardening, camping, reading and bowling, but her favorite pastime was her family. She loved throwing "theme" parties for her family and making special memories by creating one-of-a-kind gifts. She had been known to take only her grandchildren with her camping for a whole week. She loved her family.

Thelma held many offices in the local Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge in Kalispell. She became the Montana state president in 1992-1993, an office which she was very proud to have attained.

She was a member of Bible Baptist Church and the Home

Arts Club for many years. She was especially proud of being instrumental in organizing the ongoing Lyght Family Reunion in honor of her grandparents, Caleb and Nancy Lyght.

Thelma will be sorely missed by her family and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Edna Rexford; a brother, Frank Lukenbill; and two grandsons, Ronny Evenson and David Parkinson.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 53 years, Robert "Bob" Rales, of Kalispell; five children, Nora Holmquist, Kenneth Evenson and wife, Rosemary, Nancy Evenson, Robbie Rales, and Shelly Parkinson and her husband, Larry; 13 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Anna Lyght and husband, Don, Lena Rogers and Lu Lukenbill.

Funeral services for Thelma Rales will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at the Bible Baptist Church with burial afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens. The family suggests memorials go to the Missionary Fund at Bible Baptist Church, 2648 Highway 2 East, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

## Juel Louis 'Red' Ransier, 76

Juel Louis "Red" Ransier, 76, died at his home in Columbia Falls on Friday, Feb. 2, 2007, after battling lung cancer and heart disease for many years.

He worked as a parts manager for Intermountain Equipment and later as a salesman and troubleshooter for Western Wire.

Survivors include his wife, Jeannie Ransier, of Columbia Falls; daughters, Julie Clark

of Spokane, Rene Barton of Lewiston, Idaho, Vanessa Ransier of Spokane, and Kelly Ransier-Ross of Columbia Falls.

Viewing will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at the Columbia Falls United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Kennewick, Wash., at a later date.

## John Lee Rasberry, 55

John Lee Rasberry, 55, of Polson, passed away at his home on Tuesday Aug. 7, 2007, from natural causes. He was born on Jan. 11, 1952, to James and Dona Rasberry at Glenwood, Ark.

John graduated from Celina Senior High School in Celina, Ohio, and he attended the University of Montana School of Journalism and also the Salish Kootenai College in Pablo.

John married his high school sweetheart, Mary Piper, in 1970.

John's passion was writing. He started his career at The Daily Standard in Celina, as a photojournalist. He went on to own several printing and publishing companies, his last being the Mountain House Publishing in Polson.

John was also a licensed real estate sales associate at Tradewinds Realty.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1972 through 1974 as an information specialist. He was

one of the last draftees in the Vietnam era.

His parents preceded him in death.

John is survived by his wife, Mary Rasberry; daughter, Erin Rasberry; sisters, Patricia and Dennis Pruitt of Columbia, S.C., "Skeets" and Keith Clayburg of Longview, Wash., and Phyllis and Tom Brinkman of Wilder, Idaho; brothers, Garry and Annette Moorman of Fenton, Mich., Mike and Janet Rasberry, and Richard Rasberry, all of Celina. Also surviving John are his grandsons, Bill and Ben Rasberry, of Henderson, Nev.; along with eight nieces and nephews.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date.

The family suggests memorials be made in John's name to an account set up at the Whitefish Credit Union in Polson. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.groganfuneral-home.com](http://www.groganfuneral-home.com).

## Floyd William Rash, 85

Floyd William Rash, 85, died Thursday, June 14, 2007, at the North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

He is survived by his wife, Mae Dean Rash; three sons, Floyd "Wayne" Rash, Ronald K. Rash and David

E. Rash; and one daughter, Carol Taylor.

Funeral services will be held in Missouri with the Thurman Funeral Home.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring locally for the family.

## Raymond Everett 'Ray' Rasmussen, 69

Raymond Everett "Ray" Rasmussen, 69, passed away April 18, 2007, of natural causes in Kalispell.

He was born Dec. 28, 1937, to Herman Rasmussen and Dolly Dern. He was raised and educated in Kalispell, graduating from Flathead County High School.

In 1966, Ray married Illa Mae Robinson in Kalispell.

He worked at Plum Creek until he was injured, also at Coast to Coast. He also did small-engine repair in Whitefish, and worked part-time at the race track, mostly as a hobby.

Ray's hobbies included gemstone cutting and jewelry making; and knife making, some of



which were featured in the knife makers' guild; quilting and making wildlife quilts; as well as cooking.

He also enjoyed hunting and fishing, and NASCAR.

Ray was a member of the Eagles.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Ray is survived by his wife of 40-plus years, Illa Mae, of Kalispell; two sons, George Rasmussen, and Monty and wife, Patti McIlhargey; two daughters, Linda Rasmussen, and Cindy and husband, Tom Stevens, all of Kalispell; as well as nine grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at Kalispell Christian Church, 1075 Foy's Lake Road. A reception and potluck will be afterward.

## Patricia 'Pat' M. Ray, 72

Patricia "Pat" M. Ray, of Bellevue, Wash., died at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007. She was 72 years of age.

Pat was born on Feb. 28, 1935, in Somers to Henry and Meta Ficken. She graduated from Flathead County High School in Kalispell and attended the University of Washington for two years.

On Sept. 2, 1955, she married Bernard "Bernie" F. Ray in Seattle. They made their home in Los Angeles for four years and returned to Bellevue in 1959. Pat received her nursing degree from Bellevue Community College and worked in day surgery for Swedish Hospital.

Following retirement, she and her husband moved to Oak Harbor, Wash., and more recently returned to the Bellevue area.

Pat was a church organist at Pilgrim Lutheran Church for many years. She also enjoyed cooking, painting, gardening and travel. Her greatest joy, however, was involvement in family activities and spending time with her children and grandchildren. She was a den mother for her sons and a Blue Bird leader for her daughters. Her family remembers her as an unconditionally loving and caring wife, mother and grandmother.

Pat was a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

Survivors include her loving husband, Bernard "Bernie" of Bellevue; sons and daughters, Michael and JoAnn of Redmond, Wash., Stephen and Kimberley of Stanwood, Wash., Alan and Lisa of Redmond, and Kristin Paul Wehrle of Issaquah, Wash.; her son-in-law, Patrick Ryan, of Livermore, Calif.; one brother, Henry, and Florine Ficken, of Kalispell; and 10 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Janice Ryan, in 2001.

A time of visitation for family and friends will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, at Flintoft's Issaquah Funeral Home, 540 E. Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA 98027.

A memorial service will begin at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004.

Friends are invited to share memories and sign the family's online guest book at [www.flintofts.com](http://www.flintofts.com).

The family suggests remembrances to the ALS Association or the Susan G. Koman Foundation.

Arrangements are under the direction of Flintoft's Issaquah Funeral Home.

## Ferol J. Read, 82

Ferol J. Read, 82, passed away Thursday, July 26, 2007, at Springdale Village in Mesa, Ariz. She was born on June 6, 1925, in Livingston, the daughter of Leonard and Ruby (Terri) Lull. Ferol and her parents moved to Creston, to a small farm.

She attended and graduated from Flathead County High School where she met Lawrence E. Bailey, and they were married June 25, 1947.

Ferol had two sons, Larry and Rodney Bailey.

Ferol's main interests were centered on her sons' horse activities; Larry with his show horses and Rodney with his packing and driving horses and mules.

After her husband Lawrence passed away in 1988, Ferol spent a lot of time at the Presbyterian

Church where she met Julian "JC" Read. They later married and spent the rest of their years in Mesa.

Ferol was preceded in death by her parents; and her husbands, Larry Bailey and JC Read.

She is survived by her two sons, Larry Bailey of Providence, R.I., and Rodney of St. Ignatius; and two grandsons, Reese and Riley Bailey, also of St. Ignatius.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 17, at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell. There will be no visitation.

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

You are invited to go to [www.johnsonmortuary.com](http://www.johnsonmortuary.com) to offer condolences and sign Ferol's guest book.

## Katherine L. 'Peggy' Redpath, 85

On May 2, 2007, surrounded by her family, and with three of her children holding and comforting her and "one child reaching out to greet her," Katherine L. "Peggy" Redpath "left this world to go to a better one with no pain."



Peggy was born April 11, 1922, to Arthur and Abbie Brash. She started out life at a dude ranch in East Glacier that her father built, but went through many moves during her early years due to her parents' divorce. She lived briefly in Helena, Westwater, Utah, and in Forks, Wash., but spent most of her school years at Summit and high-school days in Kalispell, where she lived with her foster family until her marriage to high-school classmate Howard D. Redpath on Oct. 11, 1941.

Peggy and Howard had four children, Janet, Connie, Dennis and Randee. When their first child was still a baby, they bought land on Flathead Lake and built a small house there. By the time their third child joined the family they had built a larger log home on the same property, which was where they lived the rest of their lives. There were many hours spent around the dining room table with family and friends and anytime you dropped by you could always count on the coffee pot being on.

It was there where Howard and Peggy hosted an annual Labor Day breakfast for their neighbors and friends. Even after Howard's death in 1994, Peggy, along with her children, continued this as a tradition that lasted more than 50 years. Peggy missed only one of these annual breakfasts in 1955, while she was, appropriately, having a baby on "Labor Day."

Peggy worked as a bookkeeper for Lee Craft Boats for several years, at the Bank of Somers, which later became Valley Bank, and she dabbled a bit in real estate, but her most successful job was being the best mother and grandmother anyone could ever hope to have.

She was instrumental in the founding of the Ben Williams Park in Lakeside. She kept in touch

with a great many of her classmates from her 1940 graduating class of Flathead High and hardly ever missed a class get-together or reunion.

She had many interests, from woodworking, landscape and portrait painting, writing and performing skits for the Somers School PTO and other groups, to her all-time favorite, golf, excelling at everything she did.

Her biggest joy was her family. She loved her family and was affectionately dubbed "Great" by her great-grandchildren. She instilled upon her children, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren such important values as honesty, integrity and, most of all, a sense of humor.

"Great, 'Do you want to ride or do you want to walk?'"

Peggy was preceded in death by her husband, Howard, in 1994; and her daughter, Connie Stein, in 2004.

She is survived by daughter, Janet Bourne, and her family, Dan, daughter Shannie and John Heston, their children, Jordan and Clay in Kalispell, and daughter Corraun Bourne in Portland; her son, Dennis Redpath, and his wife, Robyn, his children Monica and Matt Bradford of Anchorage, Alaska, their sons, Kyle and Brody, Dennis Jr., and Aileen Redpath of Sacramento, Calif., and baby Liam; and her daughter, Randee, and her husband, John Morrow, their daughter Maren and Aaron King in Ferndale, and their children Sadee and Jonathan. Also surviving are her son-in-law, Frank Stein, of Lakeside, and her sister, Betty Jo Steele, of Monrovia, Calif.; and several nieces and nephews. She is also survived by numerous friends, one of whom was her very close friend, Barbara Smith, with whom she shared many rounds of golf and some wonderful travel experiences.

Cremation has taken place, and memorial services will be held to celebrate her life at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at Lakeside Chapel, with family friend Pastor Dean Carmichael of Thompson Falls officiating.

Memorials may be made in her name to Lakeside QRU, P.O. Box 911, Lakeside, MT 59922; in honor of her daughter Connie, who was such a part of that organization from its beginning.

## Elizabeth Redman, 71

Elizabeth Redman, 71, died Thursday, July 26, 2007, at her home near Creston. She is survived by a daughter, Louise Parks, of Flagstaff, Ariz.

Services are pending. Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family. An online guest book is available at [www.johnson-mortuary.com](http://www.johnson-mortuary.com).

## Pierce 'Bud' Reeves, 77

Pierce "Bud" Reeves, 77, passed away after a long illness of diabetes and heart complications on Dec. 25, 2007, Christmas Day.



Bud was born in Los Angeles. He attended high school in Glendale, Calif., where he played football. After he finished high school he enlisted in the Air Force and served for several years.

He was the owner and operator of an RV and van repair shop in Northern California for many years before moving to Montana.

Bud married Synneve "Sunny" Reeves on July 2, 1977, in Lakeside. He and Sunny owned a woodworking and crafts business in Kalispell until their retirement.

An article about their lives was recently featured on the front page of the Sunday, Dec.

16, edition of The Daily Inter Lake.

Bud was an avid reader, football fan, craftsman and friend to many. He had many stories to tell and didn't seem to have a problem finding a good listener. With his love of reading he could always be found with his favorite western-themed paperbacks at hand. He loved to travel and spend time with his wife, Synneve.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sunny; his five children, Gary Reeves of Nevada, David Reeves of Louisiana, Steve and Julie Reeves of Boston, Maria Edwards of Oklahoma, and Larry Reeves of California; nephew, Bobbie Lamprecht, of Butte; numerous grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; his four stepchildren, Yevon and Dan Norman with grandson, Austin of Missoula, and granddaughter, Pandora Gray of Georgia, Ron Beams of Ronan with grandson, Andrew Kirk, Charlene and David Madieros with grandchildren, Matt and

Emily of Kalispell; and numerous nieces, nephews and family friends.

A visitation will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. today, Dec. 28, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. A ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 29, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with Rev. Lee Wild officiating. Burial

will take place at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery after the ceremony.

In lieu of flowers if anyone would like to help with donations to offset medical and funeral costs, they can be made to his surviving wife, Synneve Reeves, at 1045 Conrad Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

## Charles Thomas Reeder, 79

Charles Thomas Reeder, 79, a retired geologist who was a member of Whitefish United Methodist Church since moving to Whitefish 12 years ago, died of natural causes Dec. 22, 2007, at home.

Charlie was born and raised in Morgantown, W.Va., the son of the late Benjamin G. and Angie Reeder. After graduating from West Virginia University with a petroleum geology degree, he worked for Cities Service Oil Company in Louisiana, Texas, California, and Oklahoma through several mergers until retirement in 1984.

He was instrumental in church growth and building committees wherever he lived, most recently here in Whitefish. For several years, he has been an enthusiastic participant of the Whitefish Winter Carnival Penguin Plunge, helping to raise



money for Special Olympics of Montana. He was also involved in the local food bank, raising money through donation jars in local businesses.

His wife of 51 years, Norajane Miller Reeder, died in 2002.

Survivors include five siblings, Louise Seeton of Arizona, Margie Ferguson of North Carolina, Jim Reeder and wife, Jeanne, of Ohio, Carolyn Greiner and husband, Jack, of Maryland, and Bill Reeder and wife, Patricia, of Virginia; his aunt, Helen Waters, of West Virginia; a daughter, Susan Ruffatto, of Whitefish; a son, Thomas, of Louisiana; and five grandchildren, Ben, Kelly, and Brian Ruffatto, and Caroline and Jonathan Reeder.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 5 at the Whitefish United Methodist Church.

If desired, memorial donations may be directed to the Whitefish United Methodist Church, the Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics of Montana ([www.somt.org](http://www.somt.org)) or the Whitefish Food Bank.

## John D. 'Jack' Reitz, 72

John D. "Jack" Reitz, 72, of Cascade, died of natural causes Saturday, July 28, 2007, at his home.

His memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, 2007, at Hillcrest Lawn Chapel. Schnider Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left for the family at [www.schniderfuneralhome.com](http://www.schniderfuneralhome.com).

John D. "Jack" Reitz was the beloved husband of Mary Lyn for 46 years; dearest father of Michael (Pam), Marie (Rob) Doremus, Melanie (Paul) Bjelajac, Rita (Bart) Bauer and Matthew (Dawn); adoring grandfather of eight wonderful grandchildren, Nick, Jackie, Ryan, Bailey, Erich, Garrett, Helen and Cooper; dear brother of sister, Mary Reitz, and Jim (Robbie) Reitz; brother-in-law of Sue (Phil) Wenski, Lois (Terry) Richardson and Joan Bradac; and son-in-law of Evelyn Bradac.



Jack was one of the last true cowboys; there "wasn't a story that couldn't be told or a horse that couldn't be rode." His skill and passion for baseball and basketball earned him the nickname "Lefty," which is still recognized 60 years later.

Although a world traveler, he was happiest at Glacier National Park. Family and friends have wonderful memories of shared times outdoors on the river, fishing, hiking, picking fruit and driving "Stubbie."

"We are sure that heaven now has an ample supply of salt for its water conditioners, its cattle and highways, and that no heavenly lawn is cluttered with unsightly branches. Even though his lawn mower and chain saw have gone silent, we know he has not. In fact, he has probably already engaged Jesus in a lively discussion on politics or religion. We'll miss you as our husband, father, and friend."

Donations may be sent to Peace Hospice of Montana, 2600 15th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT 59405.

## Ronald R. 'Ron' Remp, 52

Ronald R. "Ron" Remp, 52, a longtime resident of Libby, died Friday, June 29, 2007, at his home after a long fought with cancer. He was born Dec. 29, 1954, at Fort Lewis, Wash., to Raymond and Iris Biggers Remp. At an early age, his family moved back to Libby where Ron grew up and attended school.

When he was in high school Ron bought a 1955 Chevy that was being used for a chicken coup, for \$50 and completely restored it. He graduated from Libby High School in 1973. Ron then moved to Laramie, Wyo., where he attended school for two years.

He then returned to Libby where he met and married the love of his life, Susan Blake, on Nov. 26, 1977, at the Church of The Nazarene in Libby.

Ron worked with Remp's Sand and Gravel until his dad retired. At that time Ron and his brother Rusty bought the family business. Ron loved running heavy equipment and fix-



ing it as well.

He loved a practical joke and kept life very interesting for those who were around him. Ron loved his family and friends. His hobbies included his wife Susan, working on cars, racing, bowling, hunting with his buddies, camping and fishing.

His father, Ray, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Susan, of Libby; three daughters, Nicole Krause and husband Joshua of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Kristin Remp of Libby, and Kerri Remp of Kalispell; mother, Iris Remp, of Libby; three brothers, Randy Remp and wife Linda, and Rusty Remp and wife Kathy, all of Libby, and Rob Remp and wife Darla of Seattle; two sisters, Roxanne McCallum and husband John of Detroit, and Renee Schad and husband Al of Libby; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday July 4, at the Libby Christian Church in Libby. Interment will follow at the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. today, July 3.

Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

## Betty Ann Brown Remsik, 58

Betty Ann Brown Remsik, 58, of Spokane died Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007, at Holy Family Hospital in Spokane.

She was born March 12, 1949, in Havre. She grew up in Martin City and graduated from Columbia Falls

High School.

She married Frank Remsik in 1968.

There will be a gathering for family and friends from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday at the family home, 713 E. Gordon Ave., in Spokane.

## Clark Edward Reno, 56

Clark Edward Reno, 56, died unexpectedly at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center on June 27, 2007.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 5, at the

Crossroads Chapel in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. A complete obituary will follow.

Bonners Ferry Funeral Home in Bonners Ferry is in charge of arrangements.

## Joanne L. Rexford, 68

Joanne L. Rexford, 68, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007, at Deaconess Hospital in Spokane. She was born July 9, 1939, in Kalispell to Walter and Edna (Lukenbill) Rexford.

Joanne spent her early years in and around Kalispell. In 1992, she moved to Spokane, where she lived with a group of loving people at the Green House as her extended family. Joanne enjoyed going to the East Central Community Center for activities and outings. Her favorite things to do were to eat out, shop and people watch. She was an active and cherished member of the congregation at



St. Ann's Catholic Church in Spokane.

Joanne was preceded in death by her parents; and three sisters.

She is survived by three sisters, Lavon Eastman and Glenda Eagleson of Kalispell, and Agnes McNally of Spokane. She also is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Graveside urn burial will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Memorial contributions may be made to the ECCO-DDProgram, 500 S. Stone, Spokane, WA 99202 in memory of Joanne L. Rexford.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Joanne's family. You are invited to go to [www.johnsonmortuary.com](http://www.johnsonmortuary.com) to offer condolences and sign Joanne's guest book.

## Ronald 'Ron' E. Reynolds, 60

Ronald E. "Ron" Reynolds, 60, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Ron was born Nov. 19, 1946, in Stockton, Calif., to Patricia and Adrian Reynolds.

He started Willow School in Somerset, Calif. He graduated from Ponderosa High School in Placerville, Calif.

After high school, he entered the U.S. Army. He was a proud Vietnam veteran and loved God and country.

He loved Montana and lived in God's country for 18 years.

Ron is survived by his mother, Patty Denton; his brother, Wayne; his fiance, Judy Shively; and many aunts, uncles and cousins, including Giles and Janet Breaux from Columbia Falls; and also many dear friends and special neighbors.

A service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Arrangements are with the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

## Larry Richards, 55

Larry Richards, 55, a long-time Libby resident, died Saturday, May 19, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center from natural causes.

He worked as a guide for Elk Mountain Outfitters.

Survivors include his wife, Gayle Richards, children,

Charle, Varonika, Alex, and Ashley Cislo, and mother, Ruth Richards, all of Libby.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 24, at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

## Jack Rickard, 75

On Nov. 18, 2007, Jack Rickard, 75, "returned to our Father."

Jack has endured several illnesses over the past seven years, and has embraced life's challenges with the same wit and sense of humor that has carried with him his entire life.

Jack was renowned for his artwork and strong wisdom of life. He always had a piece of advice for getting through the tough times.

Jack was born on May 26, 1932, in Big Springs, Neb., to Charlie and Bernice (Van Norman) Rickard. The family moved to Swan River in 1937. He was a graduate of Bigfork High School in 1951. Jack married Mary Ann Torgerson in August of 1952. He served in the U.S. Army in Verdun, France as a photographer. After separating from the Army, Jack returned to Missoula, MT. In 1963 he moved his family to the Bigfork area. In 1976 Jack and Mary Ann separated.

Jack lived and worked around the Flathead the rest of his life. He worked at Glacier Park, Bigfork Sewer Plant, the Forest Service, and as a cook.

Jack married Linda Nelson on Nov. 12, 1988, and they made their home in Kalispell.

Jack enjoyed the outdoors, wildlife, gardening and rock hounding.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents; one brother; one son, Glen Grob; and two daughters, Lauren Rickard and Tina Clark.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Rickard of Kalispell; sons, Arthur and Norman Rickard; and daughter, Michelle Rickard, all of Seattle; daughter, Cindy Rickard and partner, Frank Sleight, of Plains; daughter, Lindy Rutledge and husband, Steve, and their two children, Jordan and Michael, of Kalispell; son, Kirk Grob; and grandson,



Justin, of Kalispell; daughter, Shelly Hrubik of Kalispell; two granddaughters, Lauren and husband, Jay Hiland, and Maureen Rickard, all of Kalispell; four great-grandchildren, Ciara, Brady, Shelby and Jackie; two brothers, Harry Rickard and wife, Yvonne, of Bozeman, and Robert "Bob" Rickard and wife, Ellen, of Kalispell; and several nephews, nieces and several dear friends.

Memorial services for Jack will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Clint Theline of the Faith Baptist Church officiating. Urn burial will be at 1 p.m. in the Lone Pine Cemetery in Bigfork.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Jack's family. You are invited to go to [www.johnsonmortuary.com](http://www.johnsonmortuary.com) to offer condolences and sign Jack's guest book.



## Frank W. Rhodes, 94

Frank W. Rhodes, 94, of Whitefish, passed away at his home in Forest Acres on Friday, July 20, 2007, of natural causes. He was born Sept. 2, 1912, in Eureka, the son of William and Berenetta (Drady) Rhodes.

Frank married Laura Tusen of Rexford on March 8, 1952.

He was employed by the Great Northern Railroad. The couple first lived in Kalispell, then moved to Stryker, in 1958 moved to Olney and finally in 1963 to Whitefish.

He joined the Moose Lodge of Kalispell in 1982.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers; two sisters; two sons, Bernard and Edward Rhodes; and three grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Laura; six sons, Jake and Julie Rhodes of Hungry

Horse, Virgil and Elma Rhodes of Columbia Falls, Wesley and Debbie Rhodes of Coram, Donald and Marie Rhodes of Kalispell, Albert and Theresa Rhodes of Roosevelt, Utah, and Calvin and Brenda Rhodes of Redmond, Ore.; three daughters, Anita Rhodes of Salt Lake City, Teresa and Richard Wassmer of Whitefish, and Brenda Roy of Whitefish; 22 Grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mary Burlingham of Eureka.

Memorial services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 28, at the Kalispell Moose Lodge. Family and friends are invited to come and celebrate the life of a father/brother/uncle/and beloved friend. Rev. Bill Baumgart will officiate.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is in charge of arrangements.

## Kathleen Ruth 'Kitty' Rhodes, 85

Kathleen Ruth "Kitty" Rhodes, 85, of Coram "went home to be with her Lord" on Monday, May 28, 2007. She died of natural causes at her home, surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Kitty was born May 12, 1922, in Prosperity, W.V. She spent her childhood in Prosperity, Beckley, and Parkersburg, W.V. She moved to Charleston, W.V., and attended Roosevelt Junior High before graduating from Charleston High School in 1940.

Kitty married the love of her life, Edwin Franklin Rhodes Sr., of Ripley, W.V., on Sept. 30, 1939, and they made their home in Charleston. They were members of Twin City Bible Church in Nitro, W.V. They enjoyed 54 years together before he passed away April 12, 1994.

Kitty worked for Coyle's Department Store and then attended business school at

Charleston School of Commerce. She worked for Luttrell Robson Insurance Co. and for Reed Horner Insurance Co. until she retired in the early 1980s.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edwin Franklin Rhodes Sr.; and by her grandson, Jeffrey Lance Drake.

She is survived by her children, son and daughter-in-law, Ed and Patty Rhodes of Coram; daughter and son-in-law, Phyllis and Roy Drake of Ocean Aisle Beach, N.C.; daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Jerry Drake of Tomball, Texas. She was loved by nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Kitty was a kind and gentle lady, loved by many. She will be greatly missed and leaves a wonderful legacy.

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." — Philipians 1:21

The family will hold a private memorial service per Kitty's wishes. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be given in her name to Canyon Community Church, P.O. Box 130044, 185 Coram School Lane, Coram, MT 59913.

## Lucile Ann Rickert, 69

Lucile Ann Feistner Rickert, 69, died peacefully at home, surrounded by her husband and children, on May 1, 2007, after a seven-year battle with cancer, which she fought bravely and gracefully.

Lucile was born April 18, 1938, in Powell, Wyo., to Henry and Marion Feistner. She was the eldest of four children.

She met her husband, David H. Rickert, while attending Colorado's Woman's College. David was stationed in Denver with the Air Force. They were wed on Dec. 23, 1956. They enjoyed more than 50 years together.

Lucile was a devoted and beloved mother of nine children. She enjoyed sewing, gardening, traveling, reading, and going on family camping trips.

She was an avid Bible reader and lived her life according to what she learned therein.

Everything she did revolved around her family and her love for others, most demonstrated by the more than 40 years she devoted to obeying the Bible's command at Matt. 28: 19, 20, where it states, "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." She enjoyed telling others how God's will being done on Earth



would benefit mankind and even the last enemy, death, would be done away with (1 Cor. 15:26), followed by the Earth being transformed into a paradise where families would be reunited with loved ones they had lost in death (John 5:28, 29).

She dedicated her life to Jehovah God on Jan. 23, 1965.

Her family is grateful for the rich spiritual heritage she has passed on to them.

Lucile was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Steven E. Feistner; and her daughter, Laura J. Rickert.

She is survived by her brothers, Henry and Craig Feistner; sister, Jackie Howerton; her husband, David H. Rickert; and her eight children, David and Loreen Rickert, Dane and Rebecca Rickert, Deborah and Kahlid Sultan, Desiree and Ron Dickman, Drew and Tamera Rickert, Daphne Rickert, Daneane and Justin Hulford, and Darra and Travis Marx. She is also survived by 27 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, all of whom are "confident that Lucile is in Jehovah's memory and await being reunited with her on a Paradise Earth."

She was loved by hundreds of fellow worshipers.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. today, May 3, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1414 Woodland Ave., with Dale Novak officiating. A gathering for family and friends will be held afterward.

## Wilhelmina Ellen Rieben-Krankowski, 93

Wilhelmina "Mina" Ellen Rieben-Krankowski, 93, died Monday, April 23, 2007, at Mountain View Manor.

Visitation will be from 1 to

8 p.m. Friday, April 27, at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Eureka. Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at the Chapel of Praise in Eureka.

## Laura Kiene, 69

Laura Rieñē, 69, beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend passed away peacefully at her family's Columbia Falls home on Monday, Sept. 24,



2007, after a long battle against cancer. She was born July 13, 1938, in Bakersfield, Calif., to Lowell and Dorothy (Mimi) Ball.

She graduated high school in Bakersfield and went on to advanced education at Stevens College, the University of Missouri at Columbia, and UCLA. She also pursued a lifelong education in art, natural healing, and counseling.

Laura was an innately gifted artist with talent in many disciplines and a keen eye for natural beauty. Throughout her life she worked in the fields of art education, art therapy, and alternative healing. She found joy in her ability to listen to others and provide them advice, counsel and comfort. She

greatly enjoyed nature and took delight in any time spent outdoors. Observing the antics of wildlife always brought a smile to her face.

Laura was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her children, Monique, Robyn, Rhonda, and Roger; her four grandchildren; and sister, Brenda.

Cremation has taken place and, at Laura's request, no formal services are being held. Her family will hold a remembrance and celebration of her life at her daughter's home in Columbia Falls on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 3 to 5 p.m. Friends are invited to attend and can call 257-1176 for directions.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests any memorial contributions be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Laura touched many lives and will be greatly missed.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Laura's family. You are invited to go to [www.johnsonmortuary.com](http://www.johnsonmortuary.com) to offer condolences and sign Laura's guest book.

## Gwen Blackwell Riggleman, 88

Gwen Blackwell Riggleman, 88, died Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at her home in Libby.

She worked at the Lincoln County Courthouse, was an office manager for a local dentistry practice, and had been bookkeeper and business manager for the family

construction business for many years.

She is survived by her stepchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home.

## John D. 'Don' Riggleman, 72

John D. "Don" Riggleman, 72, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, in Libby.

He had worked for W.R. Grace and Company as a research engineer and dry-mill superintendent several years ago.

He is survived by his children, Leigh Riggleman of Libby, Michael Riggleman of Missoula, David Riggle-

man of Cusick, Wash., and stepmother, Gwen Riggleman of Libby.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19, at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home Chapel; interment services with military honors will follow at the City of Libby Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday and until noon Monday.

## Lois Rightmire, 84

Lois Rightmire, 84, "went home to be with her Lord," Nov. 1, 2007.

Lois was born June 17, 1923, to Walter and Helen Siebert in Pittsburgh. She struggled with health issues while growing up during the Depression. Her deep belief in the Lord and a desire to survive proved to be her greatest strengths throughout her life as she faced life's challenges.

During World War II she left Pittsburgh for a better life in California. She learned drafting at North American and proceeded to work at Westinghouse. Since Lois loved to dance, she along with other women, boarded a military bus that took them to the USO in Twenty-Nine Palms.

On Christmas Day 1954 in Las

Vegas, she married Peter DeWinter. They were interested in rocks of all kinds. She was a self-taught gemologist as her and Pete traveled throughout the United States digging for and collecting rare fossils, petrified wood and gem stones. Together they started their own lapidary business and organized rock shows in Quartzsite, Ariz., Twenty Nine Palms, Calif., and Kalispell. They had their summer home in Somers, and a winter home in Quartzsite, Ariz. Pete preceded her in death, Oct. 12, 1982.

She loved to teach about the fossils, rocks and gems. She was thrilled when Dorien Baker took such an interest in her rock collections and their his-

tory at such an early age.

Lois continued her road trips from Montana to Arizona every winter until she met and married George Rightmire, in Arizona. They were history buffs and proud Americans. Together they traveled back to the East Coast to visit relatives and visit the historical sites. They walked the land to experience the country where wars were fought for the freedom that citizens of the United States enjoy today. Lois and George traveled to Germany to see what remained of the concentration camps, as George was an Army medic and was one of the first to arrive there after WWII.

George preceded her in death July 10, 1994.

Lois is survived by her sister, Audrey Hamilton, and Jerry of Los Angeles; and her brother, Walt Siebert, of Long Island, N.Y.; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Lois will be dearly remembered and missed by her long time friends and caretakers, Don, Ardis and Lynette Baker of Prescott, Ariz., Darron Baker and her fellow rock enthusiast, Dorien Baker (Darron's son) of Chino Valley, Ariz.

Private burial will be at a later date.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Lois's family. You are invited to go to [www.johnsonmortuary.com](http://www.johnsonmortuary.com) to offer condolences and sign Lois' guestbook.

## Bill 'Billy' Roach, 64

Bill "Billy" Roach, 64, passed away Feb. 21, 2007, in Somers. Billy was born in Odessa, Texas, on March 31, 1943.

Shortly after graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Marines. Most of the time he was stationed at Camp Pendleton.

With Billy's charm, he worked his way into being a swimming pool lifeguard and running a Dempsey Dunker machine, which was used to train pilots how to get out of their airplane after hitting the water.

Being that the camp is on the ocean, he took up surfing; mostly at Huntington Beach, 20 miles up the coast. Billy was discharged in 1964, and for a time became a surf bum, helping out at the local surf shops, partaking of the many beach parties and fitting into the life of a California surfer in general.

In the mid-1960s, Billy was accepted into the Garden Grove Fire Department a few miles inland of Huntington Beach.

After wrecking his Porsche, and another time ending up in the hospital for several days because, while riding his bike to work, the front tire fell through the metal grating of a storm drain., the G.G.F.D fired him; mainly because he refused to cut his hair. Billy had become a full-fledged surfer.

In 1966, he married Suzi Sullivan. His new father-in-law wanted to set him up in a very successful burger chain along the Pacific Coast Highway. This would have been a gold mine but, being an outlaw and surfer, Billy refused.

Suzi died within a year.

Billy moved to Santa Barbara, Calif., and took up fishing. He married Linda Davis. This

lasted a few years.

Billy sold his home in Santa Barbara, his boat and the docking slip (which would now be worth well more than \$1 million), and they moved out-of-state to Utah. After a few years there, Billy moved back to the beach.

Life had changed in Southern California with the increase in crowds both in and out of the surf, so he moved again, this time to Whitefish. He supported himself by playing cards, mostly at Casey's Bar, and perhaps dabbling in the import-export business.

In 1990 he started spending his summers in Alaska, working as a fishing and hunting guide out of Gabbart's Fishing Camp. Winters were spent at Judy Whinny and Mike Turner's house in Columbia Falls. Billy gambled all winter and fished all summer.

In 2005 Billy became a year-round resident of Somers, selling cars in Kalispell.

Billy Roach was a true character. If you were a friend of his, he would literally give you the shirt off his back. His life reads like an adventure story. He loved women, then lost them. He had money, which also slipped away. Yet he was always there, sometimes larger than life. This Texan was born 100 years too late.

He was a true friend and will be missed by all who loved him.

There will be no official service.

Friends who want to say goodbye to Billy can get together at 5 p.m. at the Rainbow Bar on Wednesday, March 12, for drinks and storytelling about the life of Billy Roach — a true California and Montana character.

## Lillian Patricia 'Patty' Riley, 70

Lillian Patricia "Patty" Riley, 70, a native and life-long resident of the Flathead Valley, passed away Sunday, March 25, 2007, at her residence after a long and



courageous battle with cancer. She was born March 5, 1937, in Kalispell to Harold and Lillian Roatch. She attended Hedges Elementary School and graduated from Flathead High School in 1956.

During her young adult life she was busy raising a family. In 1978, she went to work for Valley Bank. She worked for Valley Bank for 20 years, and during that time developed many lifelong friendships.

After her retirement from the bank, she was able to fulfill a life-long dream of owning and operating a unique women's retail clothing store. Most recently she was working for Mountain West Bank, where she made many new friends amongst the staff and customers.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two infant brothers; two husbands, Jack Denton and David Duval; and stepdaughter, Charlotte Riley.

She is survived by her husband, Richard D. Riley; two sons, Jack Denton and wife, Janet, of Charlotte, N.C., and David Denton and wife, Susan, of Anchorage, Alaska.

two daughters, Lisa Duval, and Terri Loudermilk and husband, Andy, all of Kalispell; stepchildren, Donald Riley of Thompson Falls, Sandra Lehman and husband, Charles, of Peoria, Ariz., and Michael Riley of Daytona Beach, Fla.; four sisters, Veletta Mitton and husband, Bob, and, Joey Porteous and husband, Clifford, all of San Diego, Luella Mitton of Helena, and Jackie Roatch of Kalispell; grandchildren, Jack Denton and wife, Beth, Jami Shewalter and husband, Levi, Stacia Denton, Amanda Fowler and husband, Chad, Jessica White, Riley Loudermilk, Sydney Loudermilk, Paige Leighty, Alexandria Clausen, Amy Goldberg and Peter Dero; great-grandchildren, Eden and Elihu Shewalter, Aspen Fowler, and Riley and Ethan Bolton; and many special nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. today, March 28, at Johnson Mortuary. A rosary will be said at 7 p.m. in the Johnson Mortuary chapel. Mass of Christian burial will be held at 12:10 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, with the Rev. Vic Langhans as celebrant. Burial will be afterward at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. There also will be a luncheon in the basement at St. Matthew's church after the burial service. All are encouraged to attend.

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

## Freda Dale Roberts, 85

Freda Dale Roberts, 85, of Columbia Falls was "called home to her Lord and Savior" on Friday, Sept. 21, 2007, in Kalispell, after a brief stay at Brendan House while battling cancer. She was born Sept. 2, 1922, near Hulett, Wyo., to Lyle and Iva (Butts) Brimmer.



Freda was the third child of five and was also the only daughter to Lyle and Iva.

She married Arthur William Roberts on Sept. 23, 1939, in Sundance, Wyo. They lived in various places in Wyoming until moving to Whitefish in 1954.

In 1956, they moved to White Sulphur Springs, where Freda was a cook at the hospital until she became a cook for the ranch hands at Doggett's Ranch.

They settled in Pablo in 1969, where Freda worked as a nurse's aid at St. Joseph's for 22 years.

After her husband passed away, she moved to Columbia Falls to be closer to her daughters.

She was affectionately called "Great" by her loving family,

which included eight children, 21 grandchildren, 51 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great-grandchildren. She has been an inspiration to all for her strength in all situations.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Wiley, Lorraine, Thad and KC; her husband; two infant children, Carolyn and Dwight; and one adult son, Lance Roberts; two granddaughters, Sally Ann Moler and Nancy Lee Foote; and an infant great-grandson, Michael Andrew Bowers.

She is survived by her five daughters, Vonda Nobles and husband, Jay, of Kalispell, Charolette Moler and husband, Leroy, of Long Branch, Wash., Alane Rohletter and husband, Bob, of White Sulphur Springs, Mary Etta Roberts of Columbia Falls, and Nancy Mallery and husband, Ron, of Kalispell; and numerous grandchildren great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held for Freda at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, at North Valley Baptist Church, 1750 Talbot Road, in Columbia Falls.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Freda's family. You are invited to go to [www.johnsonmortuary.com](http://www.johnsonmortuary.com) to offer condolences and sign Freda's guest book.

## Gilbert P. Roberts Sr., 84

Gilbert P. Roberts Sr., 84, died Monday, Oct. 15, at his home in Eureka.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Roberts, and children, Gilbert Roberts Jr., and Emerson Roberts, all of Eureka, Craig Roberts of Knoxville, Md., and Keith

Roberts of Blacksburg, Va.

Mass of the Resurrection will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Eureka.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Homes and Crematory.

## Randall A. Roberts, 47

Randall A. Roberts, 47, of Libby, died Sunday Oct. 14, 2007, at his home in Libby from natural causes.

He owned and operated Wapiti Ridge Skulls.

Survivors include his wife, Jan, of Libby; sons, Randall Roberts Jr. of Wisconsin, Isaac Hanneman of Camp Victory, Iraq; Matt

Roberts, and Kody Roberts, both of Libby; parents Andrew and Mary Roberts of Nekoosa, Wis.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 19, at The Chapel, formerly the Hidden Chapel, 1207 Utah Ave

Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

## Alice J. Robinson, 50

Alice J. Robinson, 50, of Libby died Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at her home in Libby from cancer.

Survivors include her husband, Joe Cielak of Libby; three children, Sperry Robinson, Louis and Jonny

Cielak, all of Libby; and mother, Jean Robinson of Lakeside.

Services will be held at a later date.

Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

## Rudolph Charles 'Chuck' Robbin, 74

Rudolph Charles "Chuck" Robbin, 74, of Great Falls, an Air Force and Montana Air National Guard veteran, retired history teacher and longtime



Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and civic volunteer, died Thursday, March 8, 2007, at a local hospital of natural causes.

The family will greet friends from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Schnider Funeral Home. His memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Monday, March 12, at First United Methodist Church in Great Falls, with Pastor Robert Foote officiating. Burial with military honors will take place at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, in the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

Chuck was born Jan. 31, 1933, in Kalispell and was raised on the east shore of Flathead Lake, graduating from Bigfork High School in 1951. After graduating from the University of Montana in 1955, Chuck served for six years as a navigator in the U.S. Air Force. He continued his military service in the Montana Air National Guard, where he retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1976.

After receiving his teaching degree from the College of Great Falls, Chuck was a teacher in the Great Falls public school system for 29 years. During most of this time he taught eighth grade U.S. History at North Middle School. A true professional, Chuck was a past president of the Great Falls Education Association and a lifetime member of the Montana and National Education Associations.

He married Charlotte Ann Pettit on June 6, 1959, in Great Falls.

Chuck spent the summers managing his cherry orchard on Flathead Lake. After he earned his Master's Degree from Northern Montana College, he wrote a book on the local history of the area of his childhood.

During retirement Chuck volunteered thousands of hours serving various charitable and community organizations, including swim teams, Boy Scouts, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, and was on the boards of the United Way, the Food Bank, and the Cascade County Historical Society.

Chuck was an avid reader and historian who loved music, travel, garage sales, huckleberry picking, his family, friends and pets. He was an avid University of Montana Grizzly football fan.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Charlotte Robbin of Great Falls; sons, Jeff and Peggy Robbin of Flower Mound, Texas, and David Robbin and Sarah Brustkern of Colorado Springs, Colo.; and three grandchildren, Emily Burnett, Dustin Burnett and Heidi Robbin, all of Flower Mound, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ellamae and Rudolph Robbin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to Bridges Day Care, c/o Mary Kunkel, 1130 17th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT 59405; the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, 4201 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405; or the Humane Society, 1010, 25th Ave. N.E., Great Falls, MT 59404.

Condolences may be left for the family at <http://www.schniderfuneralhome.com>

Schnider Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Doris Marie Roberts, 76

Doris Marie Roberts, 76, died Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007, at her home in Kalispell, following a long battle with cancer. She was born March 20, 1931, in Petersburg, N.D., to Earl and Ethel (Brininger) Fontaine.



Doris married Raymond Roberts on April 16, 1949.

He preceded her in death; as well as her parents; her identical twin sister, Delores Pound; a brother, Donny Fontaine; a granddaughter, Leah Roberts; and a grandson, Conner Roberts.

She is survived by six sons, Danny, Ronald, David, Gary, Larry and Kevin Roberts, and one daughter, Delilah Roberts, all of whom reside in Kalispell; 16 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Yvonne.

Doris loved many things

— dancing, camping, canning, gardening, pinochle, baking, socializing at Syke's, crocheting, Jehovah God, her family, and many others who called her "Mom."

Graveside services for Doris will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Memorial services will follow at 2 p.m. at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on Woodland Avenue in Kalispell. A visitation will take place from noon to 6 p.m. today, Sept. 11, in the Johnson Mortuary chapel. A gathering will take place following the memorial service at Doris' home at 206 Collier Lane in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite No. 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Doris' family. You are invited to go to [www.johnsonmortuary.com](http://www.johnsonmortuary.com) to offer condolences and sign Doris' guest book.

## John W. Roberts, 94

John W. Roberts, 94, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. He was born on Aug. 18, 1912, in Shelby, the son of William Richard and Margaret (Worden) Roberts.

He was educated in a country school 14 miles north of Shelby near the family homestead.

In 1940 he was united in marriage to Anna Marie Jacob at Conrad. Following their marriage, they farmed and ranched near Shelby until 1944 when they moved to the Flathead Valley where John worked for Homer McClarty drilling water wells for the next 31 years until

his retirement.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Anna, in 1985; a half brother, Donald Edmundson; and a sister, Serena Kraft.

He is survived by his two sons, John Roberts of Havre and James Roberts of Priest River, Idaho; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services for John will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 5, at Glacier Memorial Gardens with Pastor Huston Green officiating.

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



## Dr. Alice J. Robinson, 50

Dr. Alice J. Robinson, 50, of Libby, "entered eternal life" on May 22, 2007, surrounded by her family. She was born Feb. 23, 1957, in Libby



to David W. and Jean Kearney Robinson. At the age of 12 the family moved to Greenville, S.C., where they lived for three years. In 1972 the family moved to Great Falls. Alice graduated from Great Falls High in 1975.

She attended the University of Puget Sound where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. Alice went to the University of Utah Medical School where she earned her master's degree. She then had four years of specialized training in anesthesiology.

In 1987 she moved back to Libby.

Alice enjoyed African drumming and dancing, yoga, gardening, water and snow skiing, swimming and, especially, being a mother.

She was preceded in death by her father, David; sister, Meg; and three brothers, David Jr., Tommy and Mark.

Survivors include her husband, Joe Cielak, of Libby; and three children, Sperry Robinson, Louis and Jonny Cielak, all of Libby; mother, Jean Robinson, of Lakeside; sister, Polly Addison, and John, of Mercer Island, Wash.; sister-in-law, Sabrina Robinson, of Spokane; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, June 11, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Memorials may be sent to the Alice Robinson Memorial Account at the First National Bank of Montana, 504 Mineral Avenue, Libby, MT 59923.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

## Helen (Decker) Roby, 87

Helen (Decker) Roby, 87 died July 6, 2007, in Port St. Lucie, Fla., Medical Center. Her husband, a niece and nephew were in attendance. She was born in Polson to Ruth and John Decker of the Swan River community on Feb. 8, 1920, in her grandmother's house.



She attended Swan River grade school and was a high-school graduate of Bigfork High School, Class of 1938.

In the mid-'50s she moved to Michigan and was a profes-

sional medical secretary in 1973. She then moved to Marathon, Fla., and finally in the Stuart, Fla., area for 27 years.

Helen is survived by her husband, Howard Roby, of Port St. Lucie; one sister, Ileta "Joanne" Dempsey, of Kalispell; and seven nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Lucille Valentine and Dorothy Pierce; and two brothers, Don Decker and Jack Decker.

She remained a Montana girl at heart and returned often to visit.

Inurnment will be in Lone Pine Cemetery, near Bigfork, at a later date.

## Ronald R. Rock, 51

Ronald R. Rock, 51, died Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007, at his home near Coram.

Survivors include his parents, Ellis and Geraldine Rock.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept.

17, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls, with burial afterward in Woodlawn Cemetery. The casket will not be open for viewing.

Arrangements are with the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

## Keith S. Rodaway, 84

Keith S. Rodaway, 84, of Somers, died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007, at his home.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, "Dottie," at their home in Somers; and two daughters.

There are no services planned at this time.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family. An online guest book is available online at [www.johnsonsmortuary.com](http://www.johnsonsmortuary.com).

## Joyce Olsen Rogers, 72

Joyce Olsen Rogers, 72, died Wednesday evening, Jan. 11, 2007, at the Libby Care Center in Libby.

Survivors include her children: Kristine Mortenson and husband, Larry, of Pleasant Grove, Utah, Tina Sumpter and husband, Jerry, of Clearfield, Utah; Cindy Weitzel and husband, Ray, of Libby; John Briggs and wife, Laure,

of Springville, Utah; and Mike Atchley of Provo, Utah;

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, at the LDS Church, 2nd Ward, in St. Anthony, Idaho, with interment afterward at Teton-Newdale Cemetery under the direction of Bert Flamm Mortuary. Local arrangements are by Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

## Loic Justin-Mavric Rogers, 3

Loic Justin-Mavric "Tank" Rogers, 3, passed away tragically Wednesday Jan. 24, 2007, at the home of a family friend in Evergreen. Loic was born Aug. 8, 2003, in Kalispell to Mark C. Rogers and Ariel Weprek Rogers.



Loic was a young man who loved playing with cars, and truly enjoyed the time he spent playing with his sister and brother. He was a very caring and loving young man who is going to be deeply missed by all his family and friends.

Loic is survived by his father, Mark C. Rogers; mother, Ariel Rogers, and stepfather, Jesse James; brother, Kyro; and sister, Indica Rogers; paternal grandparents, Jack and Roxanne Rogers; maternal grandparents, Ron and Cathy Weprek, and Tim and Tammy Keeler; stepbrothers and sisters, Frank, Maliki, Marissa and Matika; great-grandparents, Cynthia and Austin Brixey, Kathy and Jim Barkell, Beverly and Gene Mason, and Bob and Nancy James; parental great-grandparents, Marie Trodick and LaRue Rogers; aunt, Sara, and uncle, Sam Kavanagh;

aunts, Amber Weprek, Mariah and Melanie; uncles, Zane and Justin; cousin, Leila Weprek; and numerous other extended family and loving friends.

Two separate memorial services will be held for Loic.

The paternal family is having a memorial service at 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at New Covenant Fellowship, 436 Birch Grove Road, in Kalispell, with the Rev. Tim Stracener officiating.

Loic's maternal family is having a celebration of life and potluck at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at the Community Kitchen at the fairgrounds in Kalispell, with the Rev. Kurt Rau officiating.

The family wants to be able to personally thank as many people as possible for the tremendous outpouring of love and effort in the search for Loic.

Donations are requested to the Discovery Developmental Center at 756-7295; The Nurturing Center, c/o Susan Christofferson, at 756-1414; or New Covenant Fellowship, 436 Birch Grove Road, Kalispell, MT.

The maternal family has set up the Loic Rogers Memorial Fund, c/o West One Bank, P.O. Box 7758, Kalispell, MT 59904.

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

## Mary Anne Rogers, 64

Mary Anne Rogers, 64, of Bigfork died from natural causes at her home Sunday, April 22, 2007.

Survivors include her son, Chris Koppang; and her daughter, Stefanie Brooke.

A memorial service will

be held at 2 p.m. Friday, April 27, at Mary Anne Rogers' home, 27792 Montana 35.

Assisting the family with arrangements is Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory of Polson.

## Orville E. Rogers, 90

Orville E. Rogers, 90, passed away Saturday Feb. 17, 2007, at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork. Orville was born Dec. 2, 1916, in Cohagen, Mont., to Almon and Elsie (Kubowitz) Rogers. He was raised in Terry, where he attended schools.

Orville married Esther Clark on April 7, 1937, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell. Shortly after being married, they moved to Charlo, where they ran a dairy farm for 30 years. They raised five sons and a daughter. Later they moved to Swan Lake and, with the help of three sons, operated Rogers Guest Ranch. In 1979, they retired to Kalispell.

Orville loved horse racing, breeding paint horses, hunting and fishing. They were very



involved with their church and community activities in Charlo.

Orville was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Esther; and a daughter, Kathy.

He is survived by sons, Ken and Tom, both of Bigfork, Bob of Kalispell, Dan of Woodinville, Wash., and Joe of Alta Loma, Calif.; siblings, Juanita Krause of Lavina, Fern Drake of Citrus Heights, Calif., Pearl Foley of San Jose, Calif., and Harvey Rogers of Glendive; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home; rosary will be said at 6 p.m. Mass of the Resurrection will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, with the Rev. Vic Langhans serving as celebrant. Burial will be after the service at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Darrell R. Roose, 90

Darrell R. Roose, 90, died April 7, 2007, at Mountain View Manor in Eureka.

A lifetime resident of the Tobacco Valley, he was born Oct. 11, 1916, in Eureka to Earl Roose and Marie (Shenefelt) Roose.

In 1936, he married Lillian Scouten, and they had four children, Linda, Kent, Kurt and Christine. He later married June Knadler on Sept. 16, 1977.

He hauled logs for 17 years and farmed for 20 years. He also was a meat cutter and

house mover. Roose also spent 15 years as a school board trustee and four years on the Eureka City Council. He was also a Eureka fireman.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the First Baptist Church, with interment rites afterward at Tobacco Valley Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. today and until noon Tuesday at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Eureka. Memorials may be made to Eureka Ambulance, Box 670, Eureka, MT 59917.

## Dwain Ralph Rose, 78

Dwain Ralph Rose, 78, of Rifle, Colo., died Dec. 26, 2007.

He is survived by his son, Larry Rose, of Silt, Colo.; and daughters, Gail Schoepner of Silt, and Brenda Moen of Whitefish.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4,

at the Rifle Funeral Home, 1400 Access Road. Funeral services will also be held there at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, with Revs. Jim Warn and Eddie Piker officiating. A luncheon will follow the service at the Rifle Senior Center. Interment will be in Rose Hill Cemetery in Rifle.

## Patricia Anne 'Patty' Rowley, 73

Patricia Anne "Patty" Rowley, 73, of Polson, "went home to the Lord" Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007, at her home on Finley Point. The cause of her



death was due to a fall from a collapsing step stool that resulted in a subdermal hematoma, that, along with complications of a 6-year battle with cancer ended her life far too soon.

Patty was born Feb. 2, 1934, to William and Katherine Shumanoff in Lewistown. At the age of 3 the family moved to Bozeman. Her parents ran Bill's Grill. Both Patty and her sister, Donna, could be found in the back washing dishes and peeling potatoes.

In 1947 at the age of 13 the family moved to Billings. Patty graduated from Billings Senior High in 1952. After graduation she worked at Archie Cochran Motors, then George L. Tracy's as an executive secretary.

On April 1, 1955, she married the love of her life, F. Duane Rowley. Also in 1955, the newlyweds moved to Missoula for Duane to attend the University of Montana and Patty worked for the city manager of Missoula as an executive secretary.

In 1957 the couple made the move back to Billings. While in Billings they were blessed with three children, Patty's greatest treasures.

The family moved to Missoula in 1969 to open and run Crawford Door Sales. In 1972 the family moved to Lolo. Not busy enough, Patty and Duane shifted into high gear and also started Rowley Construction Supply.

Patty focused on the books for both businesses and lighting sales, while Duane handled the window and door business. Both of them did many trade shows together as well.

In 1983, in an attempt to slow down their lives some, they made a final move to the "cabin" on Flathead Lake. Patty continued Rowley Lighting and Design until her death.

Over the past 27 years of life in Polson, Patty was involved in many organizations including; Christian Women's Club, Polson Booster Club, The American Lighting Association, Flathead Lakers, Polson Chamber of Commerce, Polson Community Development and the Flathead Builders Association.

She was preceded in death by her son, Steven Duane Rowley; and her parents.

She leaves behind her loving husband, Duane; her oldest daughter, Julie Rowley; her youngest daughter, Lynda, and Shane Mergenthaler; and two grandchildren, Katelyn and Chase Mergenthaler; and her sister, Donna Frisby-Rambold, of Billings.

Visitation will be from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2, at Grogan's Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church in Polson; with a reception to follow. Graveside services will be at approximately 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Florence Carlton Cemetery south of Missoula. Pastor Rudy Ringhoff will officiate.

The family requests that any memorials be made to the Seattle Children's Hospital.

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

## Dale C. Rowley, 70

Dale C. Rowley, 70, died of cardiovascular disease Aug. 25, 2007, in Kalispell.

He is survived by his daughters, Jan C. Lorenz and Lyn W. Winters.

Cremation has taken place. Burial will be at Fairmount Cemetery in Newark, N.J.

Buffalo Hills Funeral is in charge of local arrangements.

## Ethel Rosean, 86

Ethel Rosean, 86, passed away March 11, 2007, in Spokane Valley. Ethel was born Dec. 31, 1920, in Wautoma, Wis.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Thomas C. Rosean. They were members in the Kalispell and Whitefish communities in the 1950s and 1960s.

Ethel is survived by her son, John, and daughter-in-law, Tess Rosean; granddaughters, Cherri Rosean and Erika Rosean; great-grandchildren, Kelsey, William, Christine and Zofia; and nephews, Rodney and Ken Rosean.

Ethel was an active volunteer

in every community she was in, and participated in many worthwhile events. She was loved and will be missed.

At Ethel's request, no services were held.

Her remains will be placed next to her husband at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, Calif.

Donations in her name may be given to Hospice of Spokane, 121 S. Arthur, Spokane, WA 99202; or to the Cancer Society 1403 W. Third Ave., Spokane, WA 99204.

Arrangements were entrusted to Hennessey Valley Funeral Home and crematory.

## Rian M. Ross, 46

Rian M. Ross, 46, died March 26, 2007, in Kalispell. Private family services

will be held at a later date.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Christopher J. Royce, 59

Christopher J. Royce, 59, passed away unexpectedly at his Kalispell home Jan. 24, 2007. Christopher was born May 30, 1947, in Chicago, the son of Joseph and Lee Royce, both now deceased.

Among the places he resided in his lifetime were Edmonton, Alberta; London, England; Vancouver, British Columbia; Sydney, Australia; Portland; the Philadelphia area; and Jamestown, N.C. In each place he left memories for the friends that remain behind, including Ron Benson, John Fedchuck, Angelo Grasso, Andrew Stewart and Gayle Roberts.

Christopher was employed as an Oracle DBA with several companies: Rothmans of Australia, Meridian, Lifestyle Furnishings and Teva pharmaceuticals.

Christopher experienced life to the fullest. His passions included being an avid skier, active in

several chapters of the Porsche Club, and enjoying track days and riding motorcycles.

In 1988, he was a torch carrier for Canada in the Calgary Olympics, and he also competed in the Royal Victoria Marathon.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly Royce, in Jamestown; his sister, Janet Royce Carter, her husband, Clay Carter, and Clea Royce Carter in Australia; nephew, Tristan Royce Carter, in California; aunt, Rosemary Geiger, and husband in Friendswood, Texas; uncles, Joseph Summerlin in Spring, Texas, and Wayman Summerlin in Butte. Also surviving are numerous cousins, including Stanley Geiger in Austin, Texas.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home in Kalispell.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Joel Alton Rucker, 82

Joel Alton Rucker, 82, died from congestive heart failure Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Bobbi Rucker; children, Joel Rucker Jr., of Libby, James Rucker of Kalispell, and Janna Parsons of Kansas; and stepchildren, Howard Johnson of Lakebay, Wash., Ted

Johnson, Mona Hutchinson, Gerald Johnson, and David Johnson, all of Libby.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the United Methodist Church. Interment with military honors will be afterward at the city of Libby cemetery: Friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday at Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

## Diane Lyn Rudolph, 50

Diane Lyn Rudolph, 50, died in her sleep of natural causes on May 30, 2007, at her home in the Many Lakes area. She was born Dec. 19, 1956, to Mildred and Millard Stough, in Indianapolis.

After her local schooling she met and married the love of her life. She was married to Edgar Rudolph for 31 years, as he spent his life in the Navy while she stayed home and raised three children, Steven, Maresa and David, bringing them up in the Lutheran faith.

On furlough in the 1980s they discovered their slice of heaven here in the Flathead Valley. Upon his retirement in 1995 they came here and built their home,



Diane was active in volunteering work, such as the Creston Fire Department, all veteran programs, and her most devoted love was the Flathead Valley United Veterans.

Her loves were her family, animals, the outdoors, gardening and cooking.

She was very much loved by all that knew her and will be painfully missed.

She is survived by her husband, Edgar; their three children, and their three grandchildren, Vance, Christopher and Tristan; her mother, Mildred; and four sisters Janet, Carol, Nancy and Linda.

Cremation has taken place with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Ceremonies will be held at a later date.

Rather than flowers, her wishes were to have donations sent to the Bigfork Veterans Center's Building Fund.

## Ervin L. Ruff, 86

Ervin L. Ruff, 86, passed away Sunday, April 22, 2007, at Brendan House in Kalispell. He was born March 17, 1921, on the family farm near Lehr, N.D., to L. B. and Emma (Weixal) Ruff.



Ervin attended grades one through eight in a one-room schoolhouse in Lehr and worked on the family farm until he was 18 years old. He was a member of the CCC for a period of time before returning to the farm.

In June 1942, he went into the Army and was stationed at Fort Snelling, Minn., and Fort Richie in Maryland, driving heavy trucks. After being honorably discharged Feb. 10, 1946, Ervin went to auto-diesel school in Nashville, Tenn., for two years.

In 1950, he took a job as shop foreman for Sunbeam Motors in Jamestown, N.D. There he met Mary Jean Falk, and the couple married on April 19, 1952. In 1953, Kalispell became home for the growing Ruff family. Loneliness was not a problem, with seven children and an assortment of cats.

Ervin worked at Manion's Garage from 1953 to 1964 and the COD Body Shop from 1964 until he opened his own garage in 1967, where he worked until his retirement in 1991.

Ervin and Mary fearlessly loaded their children into cars or campers and traveled around the Northwest,

Canada, California and North Dakota. Sometimes they took the cat along, too. Ervin enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, woodworking and spending time with his family and friends. He liked to meet his old friends at Syke's for a cup of coffee. Ervin was a life member of the Eagles.

Ervin was preceded in death by two brothers, Vernon and Elroy; and a sister, Agnes.

He is now survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Ruff, of Kalispell; their seven children, Julie Ruff, and her husband, Randy Seright, of Socorro, N.M.; Barbara Sawyer, and her husband, Bill, of Missoula; Jan Strait and her husband, Dennis, of Kalispell; Mike Ruff of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Steve Ruff of Kalispell; Teresa Falcon and her husband, David, of Kalispell; and Susanne Boudreaux and her husband, John, of Montgomery, Ala.; seven grandchildren, Melissa, Kristina, Kaitlyn, Charles "Bud," Jessica, Allison, and Kayla; one great-grandchild, Aliyah; one sister, Verna Flaig, of Missoula; sister-in-law, Lucille Ruff, of Lehi, N.D.; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Ervin will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 27, in the Johnson Mortuary chapel, with interment afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 26, in the Johnson Mortuary chapel. A reception will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church for food and "Erv stories."

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

## Dominick L. Ruffatto 88

Dominick L. Ruffatto, 88, a longtime Whitefish resident, passed away Sunday, April 15, 2007, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish, after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease. Dominick was born to Lawrence and Alice Ruffatto in Tacoma, Wash., on Sept. 2, 1918, where his father was stationed at Camp Lewis, Wash.



The family moved to Butte, where Dominick grew up. He was very active in baseball and belonged to the McQueen Athletic Club. He was normally a second baseman.

He married Verna Koski in September 1941 in Butte. World War II was declared, and the couple moved shortly thereafter to Seattle. Dom worked for Tidewater Oil Company and Verna worked in the blueprint department at Boeing Aircraft. In 1942, Dom enlisted in the U.S. Army at Camp Lewis and was stationed at the Chico Army Air Force Base in Chico, Calif. Verna learned to drive by driving the car from Seattle to Chico. Dominick was sent to the South Pacific and was in the battles and campaigns at New Guinea and Biak Island. He was discharged in 1945.

He went to school on the G.I. Bill and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the Normal College in Dillon and later a Master of Education degree at Oregon State College in 1954.

He became a school administrator at Wemme School in Mount Hood, Ore., for five years, then Oak Grove, Ore., for five years before moving to Fremont, Calif., with sons, Christopher and Michael. He was a school administrator for another 21 years. While in Fremont he belonged to many civic organizations and the Principals Organization. He retired in 1980 and moved to 14 acres on the Bitterroot River.

Then in 1993, he came to Whitefish to be near their son, Christopher Ruffatto, and wife, Susan, and their children, Ben, Brian and Kelly. Their other son, Michael Ruffatto, lives in Missoula.

Dominick loved music and was in many music recitals and memorial services. He also sang in two Gilbert and Sullivan operas, "Trial by Jury" and "The Gondoliers." He played the part of Henry Plummer, who was sheriff of Virginia City and also head of the outlaws, who killed at least 100 miners for their gold. All the outlaws were hung and rest on Boot Hill in Virginia City.

He was active in baseball, golf, skiing, dancing and traveling.

He loved people. While living in the Bitterroot he sang at many retirement and nursing homes, from Missoula to Hamilton. He was also a part of the choir at St. Charles in Whitefish. He was a marshal at the Whitefish golf course for many years. If no one was close on the course he was known to break into song. His family will miss dearly his love, humor, and at any time a song from his heart. Dom's family was precious to him. "He will be singing with angels and will once again remember the words."

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Katherine Ruffatto; father and mother, Lawrence and Hilda Ruffatto; his birth mother, Alice Ungherine; brother, Bruno Cello; a sister, Eleanor Ruffatto; aunt and uncle, Clara and Frank Ruffatto, of the Bitterroot Valley; and by numerous other family members.

Survivors include his wife, Verna, of 66 years of Whitefish; sons, Christopher and ex-wife, Susan, and their children, Ben, Brian and Kelly, of Whitefish, and Michael Ruffatto of Missoula; sisters, Thelma Hollingsworth of Columbia Falls, Joyce Chouinard of Bozeman and Evelyn Wilcox of Nanimo, British Columbia; loving traveling companions, brother-in-law and his wife, Walfred and Elsa Koski, of Grants Pass, Ore.; a nephew, Ray Koski, of Livermore, Calif., who lived with them for many years; his Army buddy, Bill Treglown, of Helena; as well many other family and friends in the United States and Finland.

Memorial services will be at St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish, announced at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish.

## Theodore 'Ted' Carl Rugland, 79

Theodore "Ted" Carl Rugland, 79, died Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2007, at Brendan House in Kalispell after a long, brave battle with cancer.



Ted was born Oct. 20, 1927, to Gerhard and Grace Rugland in Appleton, Minn., and married Darlyne "Dolly" Rugland on March 18, 1950.

Ted truly enjoyed his life, his family, and his friends.

In 1986, he moved to Kalispell from Minneapolis. He called Montana "God's Country," and as an avid outdoorsman, he spent as much time as he could skiing at Big Mountain, fishing, hunting, and hiking with his friends in the Over-The-Hill Gang at Glacier Park.

Ted was an air cadet in the U.S. Navy from 1945 to 1946. He graduated with Bachelor of Arts degree from Luther College in Iowa in 1949, graduated with a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University in 1952, and much later in life got his law degree from the University Of Montana School Of Law in 1990.

He worked at International Multifoods for 34 years before retiring, and was vice president of the Industrial Foods Division. After receiving his law degree, he became an attorney

and worked as a tribal attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation in Pablo from 1990 to 1994.

He was a member of the Montana BAR Association, Minnesota BAR Association, a volunteer fireman and board member of the Smith Valley Fire Department, volunteer for Montana Special Olympics ski races, Big Mountain Ski Dream Program. Official for USSA Ski Racing, and member of Northridge Lutheran Church.

Ted was preceded in death by his daughter, Rebecca Sinn.

He is survived by his wife, Darlyne; two sons, Carl Rugland and his wife, Debra, Mark Rugland and his wife, Diane, and son-in-law, Chris Sinn. He had four grandchildren, Paige Rugland, Jake Rugland, Alan Rugland, and Josh Sinn.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 13, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home in Kalispell. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at Northridge Lutheran Church, with burial afterward at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

The family has requested that memorials be made to the Smith Valley Fire Department.

We also want to thank everyone who helped to ease Ted's passing; your friendship meant the world to him.

Buffalo Hill Funeral home is caring for the family.

## Priscilla Anne Wetzel Rush, 23

Priscilla Anne Wetzel Rush, 23, passed away Sunday, March 18, 2007, in Spokane. She was born Dec. 7, 1983, in Great Falls.

Priscilla had been attending college and working at Red's Cafe.

She always will be remembered for her love of motocross racing. She was a member of the Rush Motocross racing team.

She is survived by her parents; sister, Crystal; brother, Charlie; and a niece, Sierra Jo.

A celebration of Priscilla's life will at noon Saturday, March 24, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Burial will be afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Funeral Home is caring for the family.



## Charles E. Rusher, 90

Charles E. Rusher, 90, a life-long resident of Libby, died Sunday, June 24, 2007, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital from natural causes.

He worked for the rail-

road, Zonelite and the City of Libby, as a plumber.

Private family services will be held. Arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

## Joseph William 'Bill' Russell, 71

Joseph William "Bill" Russell, 71, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007, in Spokane. Bill was born Sept. 26, 1935, in Kamas, Utah, the son of Merrill and NaDean (Spear) Russell.



Bill was a longtime resident of the Flathead Valley. He first came here in 1954. Bill had a varied and exciting life. He was a son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was also a rancher, bush pilot, seal hunter, scuba diver, crab fisherman, shrimp fisherman with his own boat, logger, dairy farmer, aluminum plant employee, harbor engineer, saw mill owner, hunter, truck driver, heavy-equipment operator, businessman, entrepreneur, land developer, Christ-

mas tree farmer and established Russell's Used Truck and Equipment.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Merrill and NaDean Russell; his brother, Bob; his sister, Diane; and grandsons, Ramsey and Devon Russell.

He is survived by his four children, Mark Russell, Don Russell, Marci Jo Walters and William Russell. He also is survived by Anne Deniston Russell, whom he married in 1967 and resides in the family home. He has two brothers, Scott and Mike; and a sister, Tamara. He has 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel in Kalispell. Viewing will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. Burial will be private.

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