

Jim O'Brien, 84

Jim O'Brien, 84, of Whitefish, passed away Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at Brendan House in Kalispell. He was born Oct. 4, 1924, in Chicago, to Patrick and Ida (Gundrum) O'Brien.



He grew up in the city of Chicago and graduated from Loyola Academy.

In Chicago, he met and eventually married his beloved wife, Pat, on June 3, 1953.

He was in the paint manufacturing business for many years, the last years with Val-spar Paint as president of one of its divisions in Chicago.

After an early retirement, Jim and Pat moved with their son, Patrick, and daughter, Annie, to Vail, Colo., in 1981 where they owned and operated the Ace Hardware Store in West Vail. Jim and Pat enjoyed 10 years in the Vail Valley before moving back to Illinois.

In September 1997, Jim and his beloved wife Pat (Quitman) followed daughter, Annie, and her husband, Tom Britz, to rural Whitefish, where they enjoyed an idyllic life on their ranch and being so cared for by those they loved.

A true fan of the boxer dog breed, Jim owned at least one boxer for the past 55

years. Jim was a fan of model airplanes, both building and flying them. He belonged to a model-airplane flying club in suburban Chicago.

Jim always loved fast cars and was meticulous in his care of his large automobiles. He was known to occasionally drag race against willing highway patrolmen in Illinois, Colorado and Montana ... and win.

A devout Catholic, one of Jim's great comforts in life was to attend a daily devotion of blessed sacrament while living in Illinois.

Jim will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Jim was preceded in death by his son, Patrick Louis O'Brien, in 2004.

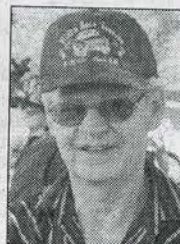
He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Patricia O'Brien, and daughter, Annie Britz, and son-in-law, Tom, all of Whitefish; grandchildren, Ashley Roux of Dixon, Ill., Cooper and Keaton O'Brien of Peotone, Ill., Olivia Britz of Portland, and Amanda Britz of New Castle, Colo.; and numerous precious nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for Jim will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 4, at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls, with Father John Miller officiating.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Jim's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and sign Jim's guest book.

Donald J. 'Don' Odegaard, 75

Don J. Odegaard, 75, of Rock Lake, N.D., died Thursday, July 23, 2009, at Presentation Medical Center in Rolla, N.D.



Donald James Odegaard was born on March 7, 1934, to Peter and Mae (Rasmussen) Odegaard at rural Ege-land, N.D. Don was raised and attended school at Ege-land.

He entered the U.S. Army on Oct. 29, 1953, and served until his honorable discharge in 1955.

Don married Wynn O'Brien on Sept. 30, 1955, in Minneapolis. After their marriage, the couple moved to Whitefish, where Don worked for the Great Northern Railroad.

They lived there until 1969, when they moved to Rock Lake, where they took over her parents' business and built a new grocery store, which they ran for 14 years. Don started a construction company in 1979, along with his sons, Mike and Lee. In 1999 Don retired. Don then worked for the Rock Lake Public School as a janitor with his son and daughter, Darren and Darla, until his time of death. Wynn died on April 6, 2002.

Don really enjoyed working with wood, especially

with projects like building unique log beds and furniture.

He was a past member of the City Council and Fire Department. He was an active member of the All Nations Lutheran Church in Rock Lake.

Don is survived by his children, Michael of Bigfork, Lee and Becky of Issaquah, Wash., Darren and Connie of Perth, N.D., and Darla and Mark Hunt of Rock Lake. Other survivors include his brothers and sisters, Pauline "Polly" Nikolaisen of Kalispell, Doris "Dorie" Johnson of Cando, N.D., Lucille "Lucy" Gau of Cando, Alvin "Al" and Charlotte of Arizona, Everette and Letha of California, and Wayne "Bill" and Mary of Clovis, N.M.; along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Don was preceded in death by his wife, Wynn; his parents; brothers and sisters, Alfred "Bud," Florence Nikolaisen, Howard "Dutch," and Louella Schaefer; an infant brother, Robert; and Anna-Mae.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, July 27, at All Nations Lutheran Church in Rock Lake. Military rites will be conducted by Mooney-Carnahan Post No. 8196, Rock Lake VFW. Burial will be held at All Nations Lutheran Cemetery.

Online condolences can be sent at www.dunnigandix.com.

Caden Vincent Odell, 13

Caden was tragically taken along with his mother and unborn sibling on March 19, 2009, as the result of an automobile accident north of Kalispell.

Caden was born at home on Dec. 20, 1995, in Kalispell, to Erin Johnson and Craig Odell. Caden was an only child but was eagerly awaiting the arrival of his sibling.

Caden was an eternal optimist — in his eyes the cup was forever half full, if not overflowing.

He was a lover of nature, camping, hiking, and exploring the world. He was a fearless, uninhibited, free spirit who loved exhilarating experiences like roller coasters and snowboarding. He could also find interest and beauty in the mundane, and bring it to life for those around him.

Caden was a tender-hearted old soul with a vibrant young heart. He possessed boundless energy, and loved climbing as high as he could on anything he could.

Caden was loved deeply by all who knew him. He knew that there was no shortage of people who loved him, and he reflected that right back. His generosity and ability to credit and include others was unending. He treasured his friends. He loved his family, and always made his extended relatives feel like celebrities when they came to visit from out of town.

In the womb he seemed to kick in perfect time, and he also arrived at the perfect moment, the hour that anxiously awaited family rolled into town, so his name was a nod to his cadence. He kept and built that rhythm throughout his life, and was a dedicated drummer with a rhythmic swagger beyond his years. But he was more than a drummer, he was a natural all-around musician. He could easily make up songs, and could pick out melodies on any instrument he had on hand. He enjoyed listening to a wide variety of music, and especially loved Coldplay, Modest Mouse, and his uncle's band, Down and Above.

He was a brilliant boy that had an uncanny sense of humor, even from the youngest age. He was quick-witted and goofy in the best way possible. He was



amazingly creative as a songwriter, a moviemaker, a photographer, a storyteller, and loved to hear and tell a great joke. He loved to rhyme (all the

time) and was always a spirit lifter. He loved expression, be it through dancing, making music, drawing, being overly-dramatic, or making funny faces.

He could easily interact with adults just as well as he could kids his own age. And he inspired both adults and kids who knew him.

Caden was excited to become a big brother, and didn't have a preference of boy or girl, "as long as it's a drummer."

Caden is survived by his father, Craig Odell, and girlfriend, Sarah Elledge; his stepfather, Jason Thompson; his grandparents, Laurine and Chuck Meyer, Wesley and Rosa Lee Odell, and Vince and Dianna Johnson; his uncle, Thaddeus Johnson; his aunt and uncle, Amber and David Young; his aunt, Lindsay Howard; his uncle, Brad Odell; his aunt and uncle, Darren and Alisa Odell; his aunts, Darcy and Cherise Odell; and his uncle and aunt, Tres and Erika Meyer, and Allison and Terry Cox; and many cousins and extended family.

Caden was a ray of sunshine and a breath of fresh air. He will remain forever in the hearts of all who were lucky enough to know him.

A celebration honoring the life, love, and spirit of both Caden and his mother Erin will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 27, at the Christian Center Assembly of God Church in Kalispell.

In place of flowers, the families are requesting that any donations be made to "The Caden Vincent Odell Memorial Fund" at Three Rivers Bank to encourage the joy of music in others for years to come.

A memorial Web site has been set up for Caden at GodBlessCaden.webs.com.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family. To send condolences, please go to www.buffalohillfh.com.

Dwayne Odom, 46

Dwayne Odom, 46, loving husband, father, son, brother, and friend, passed away suddenly on Friday, Oct. 9, 2009, "to be with our Lord." He was born July 13, 1963, in Phoenix, to Bill and Juanita Odom.

It was love at first sight for Dwayne when he met his wife, Rochelle, in 1999 in Phoenix. They moved to Charlo in August 2000 and were married on Sept. 26, 2004. They have two children, Toby and Paige. He loved all six of his kids and grandchildren with his whole heart.

His last loving act was as an organ donor, giving life to

others he didn't even know.

He is survived by his wife, Rochelle; children, Kyle and Katrina, Heather and Travis, Misty K., Dwayne Jr., Toby and Paige; two grandchildren, Hannah and Braelyn; parents, Bill and Juanita Odom; sister, Wanda; and brothers, Richard and Darren. He will be missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Valley Bank to assist in the raising of his two minor children.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at Cornerstone Faith Center, 516 N. Main, in St. Ignatius.

Shirley O'Lexey, 64

Shirley O'Lexey, 64, died Monday, March 30, 2009, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She is survived by two sons, Shanon and Wade O'Lexey.

Private family memo-

rial services will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Whitefish Stage Road.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Bruce Wayne Olson, 47

Bruce Wayne Olson, 47, passed away on Nov. 18, 2009, after a 17-month courageous battle with cancer.



Bruce was born Dec. 14, 1961, in Bismarck, N.D. His early years were spent in Lark, N.D., on the family farm.

In 1965 his family moved to Missoula where he attended Roosevelt Grade School and graduated from Hellgate High School. He worked various construction jobs in Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Montana.

He was an avid outdoorsman and thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his friends and family, sharing all kinds of stories, especially about hunting and fishing.

Bruce was preceded in

death by a sister, Penny.

He is survived by his wife, Pam; son, Andrew, from a previous marriage; his parents, Norman and Beverly Olson, of Missoula; brother, Darryl, and wife, Bonnie, of Kalispell; sister, Deborah, and husband, Rick, of Utah; brother, Randy, and wife, Shawn, of Africa; and numerous nieces and nephews. Bruce especially appreciated his good friends Kevin Kitchen, Doug Honzel and Bill McCourt.

Cremation has taken place and family and friends will gather at the family home at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, at 328 Third Ave. E., in Kalispell. Friends may make donations in Bruce's name to the charity of their choice.

Friends may also visit the Web site at www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Lois Kair Olson, 83

Lois Kair Olson, 83, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009, at Health Center Northwest in Kalispell. She was born on



June 16, 1926, in Sandpoint, Idaho, to Wallace and Ethel (Warren) Kair.

The family then moved to Somers in September 1926 and to Kalispell in 1929. Her very early school years were at the west side school, then following her parents to the Pine Camp at Hog Heaven, she went to what she affectionately called the "Jungle School." She then boarded in town for high school.

In 1942 Lois begged to join her sister in Portland to go to work in the shipyards. After World War II, Lois married Donald R. Olson on Aug. 27, 1945. She often referred to that time as, "Oh happy days."

In 1955 Lois and Don, along with their two small daughters, pulled their long, long trailer down the California coast, looking for work, ending up in Mountain View, Calif., where they spent the next 10 years. While living in her "sunny California," Lois worked for Sylvania, Micropoint Pens Company and Litton Industries.

In 1964, the family returned to Montana where Lois worked at the B&B Bakery. Later she worked at the KM Gift and China for those "Two Dot Montana boys." She had many happy days there.

In the late 1980s she went back to the B&B to work in

the restaurant as a waitress where she could visit with the "last of the locals."

She loved her family, gardening, the holidays, and was a very talented ceramicist.

She and Don enjoyed over 50 years together. They were able to enjoy a few winters in Bullhead City, Ariz. After Don passed away, she enjoyed spending the winters with her daughter and son-in-law in Yuma, Ariz.

Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Don; her parents; two brothers, Morris Kair and Harold Kair; and her beloved sister, Loretta Dietrick.

She is survived by her daughter, Becky Hampton, and special friend, Max Palares; daughter, Donnell Timm, and husband, Don; granddaughters, Dawn Werner, Darcy Hampton and Christine Eule; grandson, David Timm; four great-grandchildren, Jonna Werner, Johnathan Learn, and Grady and Christopher Eule; and a brother, Dick Kair; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Private family graveside services for Lois will be held at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Lois' family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and sign Lois' guest book.

Bruce Edwin Opalka, 69

Bruce E. Opalka, 69, died after a short but courageous battle with acute leukemia, at St. Patrick's hospital



in Missoula, on June 24, 2009. His family and his loving and devoted wife of 36 years were by his side.

Bruce was born Sept. 16, 1939, to William and Anna (Feirstein) Opalka. He grew up in a homestead near Columbia Falls, and graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1957. He served in the United States Army from 1961 to 1963.

Bruce worked at Superior Lumber as a foreman for 30 years. He also worked in the Glacier National Park for four years and as a custodian for Columbia Falls School District for eight years.

In 1973, he married Ellen Margaret Zanto of Highwood. They made their home at the homestead in Columbia Falls. Mary Ellen Opalka and James William Opalka were born in 1974 and 1978 respectively.

Bruce volunteered with the Bad Rock Fire Department. He was also an honorable member of the Knights of Columbus and a devoted member of St. Richard's Catholic Church. He also volunteered coaching basketball while his kids were in school.

Bruce enjoyed doing outdoor activities with his family, instilling a sense of appreciation for Mother Nature in his children. He would take them hunting, fish-

ing, firewood collecting and huckleberry picking. During one successful year he and his family picked almost 200 gallons! He also "adopted" several grandchildren through the years, instilling in them the sense of wonder of picking up turkey feathers, fishing from the pond and enjoying all things outdoors.

Since his retirement in 2002, he hadn't slowed down. He focused all of his energy into maintaining his homestead and helping his family with their endeavors.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Anna Opalka.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen Opalka; daughter, Mary Opalka; son, James Opalka, and future daughter and granddaughter-in-law, Becky and Elizabeth Johnson, of Columbia Falls; brother, William Opalka, of San Diego; brother, John Opalka, and wife, Lynn, of Polson; sister, Diane, and husband, Lyle, of Breckenville, Texas; numerous nieces and nephews; and adopted grandchildren, Jackson and Madison Birdsell.

Bruce was a very patient and wonderful husband, father, brother and friend. He will be greatly missed.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 30, with rosary at 7 p.m. at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 1, at St. Richard's Catholic Church, with Father John Miller officiating. Interment will take place with full military honors at St. Richard's Cemetery. A reception and celebration of Bruce's life will follow in the church's basement.

Edward L. Ornelles, 95

Edward L. "Ed" Ornelles, CTC, U.S. Navy retired, 95, passed away April 17, 2009, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

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

Ed was born in Waipahu, Hawaii, on Dec. 11, 1914. He was the youngest of 10 children. He had four brothers and five sisters.

He went to Saint Louis College in Honolulu.

Ed moved to San Francisco to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad as a court reporter. He joined the Navy when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Ed met Marian in Seattle while he was stationed at Bremerton Naval Yard. They were married in November 1945.

Ed decided to stay in the Navy after World War II. He was stationed in Washington, D.C., the Philippines, Hawaii, London, Alaska and Bremerton, Wash. His last station was Treasure Island near San Francisco. He retired as a communications technician chief after serving 30 years

in the service.

Ed enjoyed going camping in Glacier National Park. He and Marian settled in Whitefish and built a house in Happy Valley. They resided there until the early 1990s and then moved to a condominium in Kalispell when the work of having a house was too much for him.

Ed liked dogs and had poodles and Yorkies. He had heart surgery in the early 1980s. He had another heart attack March 6, 2009, and did not recover.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, April 24, at the All Saints Episcopal Church, 2048 Conn Road, between Whitefish and Columbia Falls.

Burial will be afterward with military graveside honors by the United Veterans of the Flathead and the Montana National Guard at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is in charge of the arrangements.

Elvina Jean Billadeau Orsborn, 72

Elvina Jean Billadeau Orsborn, 72, died Dec. 29, 2009, at St. John Lutheran Hospital in Libby.

She was retired from St. Regis Lumber Co.

Survivors include her husband, Roy Orsborn Sr., of Libby; and children, Ray Orsborn, Roy

Orsborn Jr., Theresa Cox, Peggy Rayome, Dale Orsborn and Ted Maner.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, at Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home. Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, at the funeral home.

John Ortiz, 57

Our amazing John "went peacefully to be with God" in the early morning of Monday, Aug. 17, 2009, after courageously battling pancreatic cancer for one and a half years. John grew up in Victoria, Texas, where he knew from a young age, living with discrimination and tough times, that he wanted to be a police officer. He desired to be able to make a positive difference in people's lives.

John put himself through the Police Academy, worked for a year with the Broadwater County Sheriff's Office, then was hired by the Kalispell Police Department where he worked for 17 years until his death. He was dedicated to his job, his law enforcement family, and was determined to work as long as God would allow him.

John proudly received a Life Saving Award, Fred Award this past spring and the Officer of the Year Award this past July 16th.

John loved his family deeply.

He is survived by his lov-

ing wife, Joy; his sisters, Katy, Gloria and Lynn, and his brother, Joe David, all living in Texas, along with his mother, Helen; three sons, John Paul, Chad and Brock, now living in California, and two daughters, Elena and Sunny, who live in Montana; also four grandchildren in Montana, Keegan, Jena, Mattie and Jaden, and one granddaughter, Taylor, in California. He has numerous other wonderful relatives and friends that will all miss his loving, caring and funny personality. He will live on in everyone's hearts, as he touched so many lives in his short time here on earth.

A memorial service for John will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Christian Center. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate the life John lived and loved so much.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family. Please go to www.Buffalohillfh.com to sign John's book or leave a personal message.

Leslie Osburn, 87

Leslie Osburn, 87, was born June 27, 1922, in Corvallis, to Effie Lenora Chaffin Osburn and Claud Osburn, and passed peacefully on Nov. 6, 2009. His entire life was spent in the Bitterroot Valley. He attended grade school in Victor and graduated in 1940 from Hamilton High School.



In 1942 he married his high school sweetheart, E. Maxine VanBlaricom. Their 67 years of marriage was blessed with five children, 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

His working years were spent at Safeway, Rocky Mountain Lab, and Osburn Dairy, which was founded by his father. After retirement in 1985 he helped his youngest son, Darryl, with his businesses.

Les was a devoted family man with high principles and strong moral values. He had a quiet demeanor and a strong sense of humor. His early farming days followed him throughout his life and every year his family and friends could count on a bountiful harvest from the garden he tended. He took his family on many camping, fishing, hunting, and backcountry trips throughout the Bitterroot Mountains. His time in the mountains with his family was very important to him. He instilled in all a deep love and respect for nature and all outdoor activities that continues to

pass from generation to generation.

He was preceded in death by siblings, Louise, Jamie and Ernie.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Maxine, who continues to reside at the family home in Hamilton. He is also survived by his brother, Glen, and wife, Phyllis, of Idaho Falls, Idaho. Also surviving are his children, Dennis Lee Osburn and wife, Carolyn, of Polson, with two children, Troy and Trevor; Vicky Lynn Osburn Gardner and husband, Davar, of Kalispell, with five children, Todd, Tonia, Tyler, Tracy and Trent; Rodney Jay Osburn and wife, Valene, of Polson, with two children, Thad and Tara; L. Darryl Osburn and wife, Jackie, of Hamilton, with two children, Kyla and Talicia; and Lori Ann Osburn Allred of Tremonton, Utah, with three children, Trishia, Levi and Laci. He will be missed by all.

Those wishing to honor him with a memorial are encouraged to donate to Marcus Daly Hospice, 1200 Westwood Dr., Hamilton, MT 59840; or the charity of their choice, in Les's name.

A graveside service for family members will be held at the Riverview Cemetery in Hamilton. The family wishes to invite all friends to the casual reception that will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in the community room at the Daly-Leach Chapel to celebrate his life, and share the many memories he has left us with.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.dalyleachchapel.com.

John Christ Ost, 58

John passed from this life, Friday, June 26, 2009, at his home in Denver. He was born in Whitefish on May 25, 1951, to Eugene and Ruth Ost.

John was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Debbie Ost, and her son, Christopher Managhan.

John is survived in Denver by his wife, Cindy, and daughter, Arianne and friend, Pete.

Locally he is survived by sister, Carolyn Ost Wehr; brother, Bob, and wife, Brenda Ost; and brother, Mike, and wife, Kelly Ost. John is also survived by nieces, Teri Hill, Kim Role, Dustyne Salminen, Amber Ost, and Devyn, Torey and Christina Ost; and nephews, Jacob and Dusty Ost; "Uncle Freddy" Ost and Aunt Tilly Green; as well as many, many more relatives and longtime friends from the "Good Ole Days" growing up in Whitefish.

John was born and raised in Whitefish. He completed all grades in the Whitefish school system. After high school, John joined the Montana National Guard, worked a short time for the Great Northern-BN railroads, then journeyed to Denver. In Denver, he was hired by the OroWheat Bakery as a mechanical engineer, and recently retired after 32 years of service. He loved working at the bakery and leaves behind many friends.

John and Cindy welcomed numerous foreign exchange students into their home



over the years. Some interests John and Cindy participated in were live concerts, Western and Southwestern Indian

art collecting and galleries, attending Renaissance gatherings, collecting hundreds of Hot Wheels from the 1950s through the 2000s, and the notorious Beany Babies!

Above all his hobbies, John loved riding his motorcycle most. Last May he loaded it in the back of his truck, drove to Montana and went on a great ride with brothers Bob and Mike.

Cancer threatened John's life at the early age of 19, but he survived that battle and was blessed with 38 cancer-free years. Last May, 2008, the cancer demon rose again, and John began fighting battle after battle.

"A more courageous warrior I have never known."

But John grew tired and lost the final battle and "has joined his family and friends in Heaven, blessed with the love of our Lord."

A service for John is scheduled today, July 1, in Denver.

A memorial service for John will be held locally with the date and time announced in the near future.

John's family asks that donations in John's name be made to the local Wings organization in Kalispell, in lieu of flowers, food, etc.

Mabel L. Ottenbreit, 84

Mabel L. Ottenbreit passed away in Kalispell on Nov. 29, 2009. Mabel was born to Marinus and Nellie Sather Ibsen on Jan. 17, 1925, on the family farm at Dagmar.



During World War II, Mabel worked for the Quarter Master Supply Depot, Civil Service, Seattle. She later transferred to the Persido in San Francisco. She also was employed by Pacific Transport.

She married Math F. Ottenbreit on Oct. 29, 1948. They lived in Eureka, Calif., where they both worked.

They returned to Montana and settled in Whitefish

where their son was born. They farmed near Dagmar until 1981, spending summers there. During that time they also maintained a home in Whitefish. Mabel and Math built a home on Whitefish Lake in 1972 and they spent their retirement there.

Mabel enjoyed music and dancing, and led an active life. She cherished her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Math F. Ottenbreit; and her brother, Vernon Ibsen.

Survivors include son, Steven Ottenbreit, and Paula, and granddaughters, Jennica, Erika and Teresa Ottenbreit, all of the Seattle area; and her sister, Helen Ottenbreit, of Billings.

A memorial service is being planned and will be announced at a later date.

Virginia Ann Oursland, 73

Virginia Ann Oursland, 73, "went home to be with the Lord" on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009, due to a serious heart infection, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

She was born on May 10, 1936 in Bismarck, N.D., the daughter of Harold and Olivian (Amundson) Nelson.

She married her sweetheart of 53 years, David Oursland, on Dec. 28, 1956, in Cut Bank.

Virginia was an elementary school teacher for 25 years. She spent 17 years at Hedges School and one year at Russell School. She also taught in Libby, Ethridge, Evergreen and Somers.

Central Bible Church has been an important part of Virginia's life. She was active among the women's ministries and "Grandma" to many babies in the nursery.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Olivian Nelson.



She is survived by her husband, David; her son, Mark, and Sheryl; her daughter, Marcia, and Jeff Snyder; grandchildren, Beth and Jay, Janel and Dustin, Kirsten and Jesse, Bryce, Michel, Paul, Austin, Grant and Grace; great-grandchildren, Jorja, Israel and Marcus; her stepmother, Lois Nelson; two sisters, Susan and Sharon; and a brother, John.

Funeral services for Virginia will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 4, at Central Bible Church, with Pastor Ron Youde officiating. Visitation will be from 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3, at Johnson - Gloschat Funeral Home. Burial will follow services at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to Central Bible Church, 902 First Avenue East, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

James Donald Owens, 82

James Donald Owens, of Bigfork, passed away on June 6, 2009, at his home on the shores of Flathead Lake, at the age of 82.



Jim was born on March 6, 1927, in Ada, Okla., to James Evan and Aurora Eloise Owens. He was an Eagle Scout and an All-American high school football player. When Jim was 15 years old, he met the love of his life, Martha Jane Wood, of Oklahoma City. They were married in 1947 and remained deeply in love for 62 years.

Jim completed two years in the United States Navy as a bombardier/navigator during the final months of World War II. He returned to Norman, Okla., where he became an All-American receiver for the University of Oklahoma Sooners football team. During his final season at Oklahoma, the Sooners went 11-0, winning the Sugar Bowl and the 1949 national championship. One of the highlights of that experience for Jim was traveling to New York with his Oklahoma teammates, where they were treated to front-row seats for the premier run of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Oklahoma" on Broadway. Jim was a lifelong lover of music and theater and was a voracious reader. He was enshrined in the National College Football Foundation Hall of Fame as a player, in 1982.

Following graduation, Jim played professional football for the Baltimore Colts and Pittsburgh Steelers before suffering a career-ending injury. After his playing days, Jim entered the University of Oklahoma law school. After two and a half years of study, his plans for practicing law were put on hold when Paul "Bear" Bryant invited Jim to join his coaching staff at the University of Kentucky in 1951. He flourished as an assistant coach with Bryant for two years at Kentucky and three years at Texas A&M.

In 1957 at the age of 29, Jim Owens became the youngest head football coach in the history of the University of Washington. He coached the Huskies for 18 seasons, winning three conference championships and earning trips to the Rose Bowl in 1960, 1961 and 1964, and a national championship in 1960. He was honored as a member of the inaugural class of inductees into the Husky Hall of Fame in 1979.

Jim retired from coaching in 1974 at the age of 47, and the hundreds of fans, friends and loved ones who attended his retirement party at the Olympic Hotel in downtown Seattle will never forget that wonderful night. Jim was flanked at the head table by a who's who of college football legends that included Paul "Bear" Bryant, John McKay, Darrell Royal and his own college coach, Bud Wilkinson.

Jim continued his professional career as a vice president of Rowan Drilling (Houston). His work in the oil business allowed him to travel the globe. He collected great memories of trips to Alaska's North Slope and Saudi Arabia, and helicopter landings on oil rigs in the North Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. He retired in 1992, when he and Martha moved to their home on Flathead Lake in Bigfork.

Jim was in heaven on any golf course and on any dance floor. His favorite partner for both activities was, of course, his wife, Martha Jane. He also enjoyed bonfires by the lake at night and long conversations on just about anything.

Jim Owens leaves behind a large and loving family, including his wife, Martha Jane; his daughters, Kathy Bygren of Seattle, Leslie Hinkle and her husband, Lon Hinkle, of Bigfork, and Martha Sue Mills of Seattle; and son, Steve, and his wife, Robin, of Walla Walla, Wash. Jim had six grandchildren, Tyler Bygren and Casey Bygren of Bigfork, Drew Cable of Missoula, Kelley Bygren of Seattle, and Carly Owens and Lacey Owens of Walla Walla. His two great-grandchildren are Chloe Bygren and Carter Bygren of Bigfork. He is also survived by his sister, Eloise "Mick" Calkins.

Jim was a man of deep loyalty, flawless character and soaring intelligence. He was surrounded at the time of his death by his family and his friends, Paisley, Riley and Buck, the family golden retrievers, and Tucker, an old cowdog who wanted to sleep at the foot of his bed during Jim's final nights.

A local celebration of life service for Jim will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Jim and his family ask that donations be made to the Jim Owens Scholarship Endowment Fund at the University of Washington. The address is UW Athletics, Jim Owens Endowed Football Scholarship, P.O. Box 354070, Seattle, WA 98195-4070.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family locally.

Mary Olive Owens, 77

Mary Olive Owens, 77, passed away on July 23, 2009, at her home in Martin City. She was born on Jan. 24, 1932, in Indiana, the daughter of Robert Harold Bergen and Letha Cooksey Bergen.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, John Ed Powell; second husband, James Owens; and son, John Powell; two brothers, Paul Bergen and Lowell Edward Bergen; and a sister, Rebecca J. Foreman.

She is survived by her three sons, Mark and Angie Owens of Vancouver, Wash., James and Linda Owens of Martin City, and George Owens of Vancouver, Wash.; two daughters, Barb and Chris Schneller of Salem, Ore., and Joyce Wolverton of

Pasco, Wash.; three sisters, Thelma Allen of Cincinnati, Tressie Boulware of Connersville, Ind., and Valetta Shook of Georgia; four brothers, Dale Bergen of California, Robert Thomas Bergen of Indianapolis, Clarence Bergen of Connersville, and Kenny Bergen of South Carolina; 13 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, July 27, at the Lion Hill Baptist Church in Martin City, with Pastor Pat Pierce officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Lion Hill Baptist Church in Martin City.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is in charge of the arrangements.