

## Carla H. (Walker) Eaton, 68

Carla H. (Walker) Eaton, 68, formerly of Kalispell, died Monday, Sept. 17, 2012, at her home in Colorado Springs, Colo.

She is survived by her

husband, Richard; and three children, Nate, Kim and Janna Rae, all of Colorado Springs.

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

## Frances A. Eaton, 87

Frances A. Eaton, 87, died Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at Mountain View Manor in Eureka.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, July 20, at

the First Baptist Church in Eureka.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Eureka.

## William 'Bill' Ebert, 57

William "Bill" Paul Ebert, 57, passed away March 12, 2012, at his home in Kalispell, with his family by his side.

Bill was born June 10, 1954, to Vermae and William Ebert in Bethesda, Md., Hospital in Washington, D.C. Bill moved to Racetrack, Mont., with his mom, stepfather and brother in 1964. He attended school in Deer Lodge. He graduated from Powell County High School in 1973. Bill's youth was spent at the Log Cabin Bar and Rodeo Arena. He enjoyed being the rodeo clown. Bill was active in FFA, wrestling and football when he was in high school.

In 1975 Bill married Verna Crooks. From that union they had a beautiful daughter, Tanya. They later divorced. Bill married Sandy Scharf in 1979. From that union they had two beautiful children, William "Willie" and Jackie. They later divorced.

Bill worked various jobs in Deer Lodge including city policeman/EMT and at Montana State Prison. In 1984, Bill and his family moved to Eureka where he was employed at Gwyn Lumber for four years. He then went to work at Plum Creek/Ksanaka until its closure in 2009. At that time Bill took early retirement and had recently moved to Kalispell.

Bill enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing and hanging out with family and friends. More times than not, he was the life of the party. Bill's most enjoyable times were watching his grandchildren, nieces and

nephews compete in sporting events, as well as announcing NBHA barrel races. Bill was known for his witty sense of humor and huge heart. Many said that his heart was as big as he. He will be dearly missed by many.

Bill was preceded in death by his mother, Vermae Pecora; father, William Ebert; stepfather, Dave Pecora; and grandmother and grandfather, Hazel and Paul Hultgren.

Bill is survived by his children, Tanya Rowe of Las Vegas, Willie Ebert, and Jackie and Brandon, "favorite son-in-law," of Helena; brother, Bobby, and Angela Pecora, of Eureka; sister, Kerri, and Roger Schroeder, of Kalispell; grandchildren, Bryce Rowe of Las Vegas, Treston Ebert of Eureka, and Daniel and Owen Ivers of Helena; aunts, June Merritt and Mary Hultgren of Deer Lodge; uncle, Bernard Ebert, of Kalispell; nieces and nephews, Desiree and Adam, Jordyn, Alex, Alyssa, Jarrett and Caden Pecora, and Shelbi and Shea Kyle Schroeder; numerous cousins; and a special friend, Jill Graham.

Jewell Funeral Home in Deer Lodge is in charge of arrangements. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 19, at First Baptist Church in Deer Lodge, with internment following at Hillcrest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Home Options Hospice, 275 Corporate Drive, Suite 6, Kalispell, MT 59901.

## Bertha Eblen, 85

Bertha Eblen passed away peacefully with her daughter and son-in-law at her side on Saturday, March 24, 2012. She had come to Kalispell to spend her last days with her family.



She was born on July 23, 1926, to Edward and Anna (Clarke) Sullivan. She spent her young life in various places in western Montana where her father found work on farms, ranches and doing odd jobs just to keep his family fed. She graduated from Phillipsburg High School and went on to attend Normal School in Dillon where she obtained a teaching certificate — something she was very proud of.

She then took a job teaching at the Pass Creek rural school north of Belgrade, and it was there that she met her future husband Paul Eblen. This confirmed bachelor fell for the young school teacher and they were married in 1947. She became a ranch wife, raising huge gardens, feeding hay and harvest hands, and eventually having four children, Paul Wayne, Patty, Colleen and Mark. Paul and Bertha were married for 22 years until Paul's untimely and sudden death in 1969.

As a widow at the age of 43, she was forced to uproot and took her three younger children, her cattle, and her tenacious and pioneering spirit and moved to a small ranch south of Twin Bridges. When you are the seventh of 11 children born during the Depression, you become a survivor — and survive she did! She ranched until the age of 60 when she sold the cows to her nephew and went to work for the Forest Service in Sheridan. She worked as a forestry aide for 12 years before retiring at the young age of 72!

She was very active in her church, played cards as often as she could, and was what one of her close friends

described as a "country socialite!" She was very proud to own her little piece of Montana despite living in an old farm house with wood heat, septic problems, and a driveway that drifted shut in the winter. Thanks to her many dear friends in the Twin Bridges area, she was able to maintain her independence there until ill health forced her to move to Kalispell to be with her daughter and son-in-law in January of this year. She was truly the epitome of a life lived her way and a life well lived!

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul; her daughter, Colleen; her son, Paul Wayne; and nine brothers and sisters. She also lost her baby great-granddaughter Carly Raeann Dickey a week before she moved to the Flathead and that was a very sad day in her life.

She is survived by her sister, Marguerite Logan, and Bob, in Medina, Tenn.; her son, Mark Eblen, in Helena; her daughter, Pat Dickey, and Dave; grandchildren, Patrick Eblen and Brenda in Seattle; Bridget Pedersen and John in Wasilla, Alaska; Brian Dickey and Carrie, Clarke Dickey, and Justin Dickey and Heather, all in the Kalispell area; and great-grandchildren, Blake, Delaney and Kaden Pedersen, Jack Dickey, and Aubree Dickey. She is also survived by her precious extended family of many nieces and nephews who came to visit during her last days.

Funeral services will take place at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 30, at Notre Dame Catholic Church in Twin Bridges, with graveside services following at the Morgan Cemetery north of Belgrade.

The family suggests donations may be made to Home Options Hospice, c/o Northwest Healthcare Foundation, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901; or the Notre Dame Catholic Church, Twin Bridges, MT 59754.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell, and K & L Mortuary in Twin Bridges are caring for the family.

## Muriel Edwards, 87

Muriel Edwards, 87, "went home to God and Savior, Jesus Christ, with open arms, filled with the light and love of Heaven," on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2012.



Muriel Stahlberg was born to Olga and Harold Stahlberg on July 8, 1925. She was the oldest of nine children (three girls and six boys). She was a gifted student and attended first through eighth grades in Strathcona, Minn. She then attended high school in Greenbush, Minn., where she graduated in 1943. She attended nursing school at Midway Hospital and graduated from nursing school in St. Paul, Minn. She left Minnesota after graduation and moved to Montana.

She was married to James G. Edwards in September of 1946. They had six wonderful children and were married for 47 years. Muriel worked many years in nursing at Kalispell General Hospital and Immanuel Lutheran Home, while her family was young.

Muriel's husband, Jim, preceded Muriel in death in 1993. Later two of their sons preceded Muriel in death, Vern and Jim; along with her sister, Yvonne "Bunny" Belston, and brother, Harold "Bud" Stahlberg.

Muriel always had a deep, unwavering religious faith.

"We know she is happy and at peace with her family and loved ones in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Muriel is survived by two daughters, Pat in Kalispell, and Pam in Las Vegas; and two sons, Mark and Tom in Washington. She is also survived by five brothers and one sis-

ter; 18 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and devoted friends.

Muriel was a gifted child, an artist with a talent for sketching in pencil; she played the guitar and had a voice that was clear and beautiful and shared in melodies with her sisters as they grew up and sang together from their hearts. She and sister Fern sang as a duet for weddings and special occasions, and her sister Bunny and she had a love for hymns and fun songs that they enjoyed singing and humming together at church, school, at home, during work and play.

Muriel had a talent for sewing and made many of her own patterns as she sewed for her six children and herself. She discovered a true passion for quilting and crocheting and made beautiful blankets, throws, pillows, afghans and family quilts with a mixture of color and patterns. She always had a big garden and loved spending time planting, growing, weeding and harvesting. She canned fruits and vegetables and made jellies and jams that are still favorites with families, friends and neighbors.

There will be a celebration of life at 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 14, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Please wear something red, since it was Muriel's favorite color and signified the blood of Jesus, her Savior. Following the celebration of Muriel's life there will be a graveside service at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

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

## Jeffrey Leroy Ehlers, 48

Jeffrey Leroy Ehlers, 48, of Coram, died at his home Saturday, April 28, 2012.

He is survived by his parents, Robert F. and Opal (Thompson) Ehlers;

and a daughter, Gracie Anne Ehlers of Washington.

Services will be private. Arrangements are entrusted to Columbia Mortuary.

## Ralph Douglas Eickhorst, 93

Ralph Douglas Eickhorst, 93, formerly of Bigfork, died at home in Eugene, Ore., surrounded by loved ones on Feb. 6, 2012. The cause was age-related.



He was born May 12, 1918, in Downers Grove, Ill., to Frederick and Lillian (Downers) Eickhorst.

Ralph proudly served in the United States Marine Corps until 1945. On Feb. 17, 1945, he married the love of his life, Elsie Mary Ehrenberger. He worked at a variety of different careers of which he spoke of often. He worked many years as an asphalt contractor for the city of Chicago, and then went into sales where he had a long career.

Ralph will be especially

remembered for his stories of the Marine Corps in Alaska, and his love of peppermint schnapps. He loved going on walks at his property in Montana, before moving to Eugene after a fire destroyed their home in 1998. Ralph continued walking upon moving to Eugene and became a neighborhood legend, walking his precious dogs every day, rain or shine.

Survivors include his beloved wife of almost 67 years, Elsie Mary Eickhorst of Eugene; daughters, Barbara Elise Rodgers and husband Richard of Davenport, Wash., and Kristina-Jo Hoover and husband David of Prineville, Ore.; and sons, Randall Wayne Eickhorst and wife Deborah of Bigfork, and Kurt Alan Eickhorst and wife Christina of Eugene; 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Ralph was preceded in death by his son Douglas Ralph Eickhorst, at the age of 2, in 1951.

## Phyllis O. Ekblad, 83

Phyllis O. Ekblad, 83, died peacefully on July 2, 2012, of ovarian cancer at Brendan House in Kalispell.



She was born in Hitchcock, S.D., on Mar. 9, 1929, to Grant and Garnet Preston as the youngest of three children.

The family moved in 1935 during the Depression to Hot Springs, where her parents eventually purchased the Hot Springs Telephone Company.

Phyllis graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1947, as the Valedictorian, and married in Aug. of 1947.

Her two children, Kathryn Lynn and William Grant were born in 1950 and 1952. Motherhood was a high priority for Phyllis, who was an "honorary mother" to her children's friends and many young people who met her over the years.

She moved from Montana to Texas and back with her Border Patrol husband, Gus S. Johnson.

In 1960, they separated and she moved with Kathy and Bill to Spokane, where she worked for McKesson & Robbins as a clerk-typist.

She was a successful working mother even before daycare centers existed.

She worked as the Manager and then Secretary-Treasurer of the Hot Springs Telephone Company for 47 years from 1962 to 1970, and 1973 to 2012.

During this time the modernization of the company took place through elimination of party lines and introduction of private lines, Internet and DSL.

She was well-regarded for her business savvy and generous nature.

Phyllis married her lifelong friend since kindergarten, Robert B. Ekblad, an Engineer for the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula.

She worked for HSTC

out of her home, moving the office to Kalispell in 1999.

Robert and Phyllis traveled extensively yet found time to grow cherries at their home on Flathead Lake near Dayton.

She was a fun-loving participant in all aspects of life.

She downhill skied until she was 82 and was very active until her illness was diagnosed in mid-February this year.

She was an avid supporter of Hot Springs charities, student scholarships, the Republican Party, many candidates and numerous other philanthropic causes.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Grant and Garnet Preston; and her son, William G. Johnson.

She is survived by her husband, Robert B. Ekblad; daughter, Kathryn L. Johnson; daughter-in-law, Kathe A. Johnson; granddaughter, Harmonee M. Johnson; brothers, Jay and Dwight Preston; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. July 13 at the new gymnasium in Hot Springs.

A reception will follow at the old gym.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Hot Springs Clinic, Eastern Sanders County Hospital District, P.O. Box 204, Hot Springs, MT 59845.

## Marcile Margaret 'Sammie' Eklund, 86

Born Marcile DeBruyn in Everett, Wash., Sammie grew up in Seattle and on Whidbey Island



where her father organized the first farmer cooperatives for carrying island produce to market and was a leader in the push to build the Deception Pass Bridge.

During high school, she traveled the length of the Island to watch for enemy bombers at Oak Harbor, and spent summers at the family homestead on Orcas Island.

She met her husband of 59 years, Bert Eklund, when he left Somers, for training in Fort Lewis and war in the South Pacific. Sammie happily adopted the Flathead Valley, sharing Glacier Park, Hungry Horse Reservoir and remote river campsites beyond graveled roads with Bert and their children.

Sammie was among the small fellowship that founded Central Bible Church, which met in the IOOF Hall before building its permanent church at First Avenue East and Ninth Street in Kalispell. Its operations enjoyed her dedication, from varnishing the original pews (children in tow) to sing-

ing in the choir.

For well over 50 years Sammie organized and taught Bible club, Bible camp, Sunday school, and AWANA. Children showed up every week at her home on Eighth Avenue East, docked their wet boots and snow suits in a heap, and wrapped themselves in Sammie's care. Immersed in faith and in the joy of her material, Sammie later taught Bible study fellowship for her peers and was seen for her depth of understanding.

She worked at the Lutheran Home, Coast-to-Coast Hardware and the Christian Bookstore.

Sammie was the last member of her generation in the Eklund and DeBruyn families. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Barbara, in 1950; husband in 2003; and son-in-law, Larry Bell, in 2011.

She is survived by her children, David and Sharon Eklund of Phoenix, Dianne Bell of Portland, and Linda Eklund and Kenneth Dietz of New York City; grandchildren, David and Joshua Bell, and Jennifer Custis and Miles; and great-grandchildren, Holdyn and Alyssa Bell.

Private interment will follow a memorial at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at Central Bible Church, 902 First Avenue East.

## Christopher Jay Elam, 61

Christopher Jay Elam, 61, passed away suddenly Friday, Aug. 17, 2012. He was doing what he loved best, cooking barbecue for a crowd.

He was born June 7, 1951, to Vernon D. and Sydney (Combs) Elam in Whitefish.

He loved Montana, his family, Jehovah and cooking; and hated lawns.

He thought everything should stay in its natural state and dandelions were beautiful. Jay spent the last few years taking care of his mother who is disabled. He was her rock.

Survivors include his mother, Sydney Combs Derrick; his father, Vernon Elam, and wife, Joan; brothers, Michael and wife Kerry, a niece Kiera; Tracy Elam; children, Jason Gabriel Elam and Melissa Aimee and husband James; grandchild, Jameson; Devon Ciara; and a million friends.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, at the Jehovah's Witness Hall in Eureka.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Eureka.

## Ella P. Engel, 89

Ella P. Engel, 89, of Missoula, passed away on Monday, Jan. 16, 2012, at Village Health Care of natural causes, surrounded by family.



Ella was born Feb. 28, 1922, in Morse, Saskatchewan, Canada to Ted and Elizabeth Nein. Her family moved to Rockglen, Saskatchewan in 1927, where she attended school, graduating from the Rockglen High School.

She married her childhood sweetheart, Irvine Engel, on Oct. 23, 1940. They spent their early years farming the Engel family homestead. After a house fire in 1952, they relocated to Kalispell. They lived in Libby for several years before moving to Missoula in 1963. Ella was known for her baking skills, making the best bread and rolls around and always keeping the cookie jar full. Her home was always open to friends and strangers alike.

She enjoyed gardening and knitting until arthritis interfered with her hobbies. Her grandchildren were fortunate to have items knitted by her. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy.

She loved attending music and sports events that they participated in. She enjoyed participating in the many church activities at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church.

In 1968, Ella went to work outside the home, assisting in the Adult Basic Education

classroom at the Vocational Technical School. While there, she took on the challenge of teaching naturalization preparation classes.

As a naturalized American citizen herself, Ella understood the importance and felt great pride in helping many Missoula residents become American citizens. After retirement, she enjoyed traveling with Irvine and other family throughout the United States, Canada and to Panama.

Ella was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Esther; husband, Irvine; eldest son, Larry; and son-in-law, Chuck Williams.

She is survived by her daughter, Maureen Williams of Kalispell; son, Richard and Mary of Little Rock, Ark.; daughter, Beverley Sherman and Frank of Missoula; grandchildren, Kim Reed and Ron, Chuck Williams and Tamara, Kathy Williams, Dustin Engel, Heidi Engel-Stack, Eric Engel and Athena, Sean Sherman, Meghan Sherman and Caitlin Sherman; great-grandchildren, Michael, Jacob and Ali Williams, Kalen and Kyla Reed, Jared Engel and Josie Stack; great-great-grandson, Aaron Williams; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place; family and friends will gather to celebrate her life at a later date.

Arrangements are by Garden City Funeral Home and Crematory.

The family suggests memorials to the Alzheimer's Association or a charity of your choice.

## William L. 'Bill' Engle, 74

William L. "Bill" Engle, 74, of Kalispell, died Dec. 29, 2012, at the home of his daughter in Gillette, Wyo., due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Survivors include his wife, Irene, of Kalispell; son, Jeffrey, of Biddle,

Mont.; daughters, Lisa Knuppel of Columbia Falls, Theresa Burley of Gillette, Melissa Lewis of Eatonville, Wash., and Vanessa Smitko of Lowell, Mich.; and mother, Rose Vaage, of Kalispell.

Memorial services will be in April in Kalispell.

## William 'Bill' LaPierre Engle, 74

William L. Engle, 74, of Kalispell, formerly of the Broadus-Belle Creek area, "went to be with his Lord" on Dec. 29, 2012, surrounded by family at the home of his daughter near Gillette, Wyo.

Bill was born Feb. 20, 1938, in Glendive.

He was raised by his grandparents, William S. and Anna Engle, near Springview, Neb.

At age 17, they returned to Glendive where Bill joined the Montana National Guard, serving nine years.

Bill married Irene Tuhy in 1958, in Glendive.

He learned about heavy equipment and mechanics working for Davis & Engle Construction, and Ross & Power. In 1962, he worked for George Rake Construction in the oil fields of eastern Montana and northwestern North Dakota before being transferred to the booming oil field in Belle Creek in 1967. In 1977, Bill and Irene formed E. & E. Oil Field Construction Inc., building pipelines and providing roustabout services in the Wyoming and Montana oil fields.

In 1988, Bill and his son, Jeff, moved a hobby sawmill to Kalispell, developing it into a timber and by-products from sawdust business, and creating a quality pellet for use in pellet stoves. He retired from the plant in 2003, but continued to work with his backhoe and welder until 2012, when his health prevented him from such activities.

Bill got his private airplane license at age 31, and his CDL license at 72. He loved challenges and was gifted at designing and building projects. He built their first color tube TV, his first boat and the automation at their plant. There wasn't a job too big for him to take on. If you put a welder/cutting torch, scrap iron, and nuts and bolts in his hand, he would happily design, build or redesign someone else's finished project. His favorite saying was, "What engineer put this together?"

Bill's favorite hobby



was using his skills helping his children and teaching his

sons-in-law.

Bill and Irene enjoyed camping, hunting, boating and fishing with their children and other family members. They also enjoyed vacationing in Mexico and stateside with Irene's sister and husband. Every summer they looked forward to "camping" in the motorhome, visiting children and family members, and spending time with their church family at the Nazarene Church camp meetings. Bill only missed four camp meetings in 22 years.

Bill is survived by his wife, Irene; son, Jeffrey and Maryln of Biddle, Mont.; daughters, Lisa Engle and Chuck Knuppel of Columbia Falls, Theresa and Mitch Burley of Gillette, Wyo., Melissa and Paul Lewis of Eatonville, Wash., and Vanessa and Kurtis Smitko of Grand Rapids, Mich.; mother, Rose Vaage of Kalispell; uncle, L.K. and Hazel Engle of Ainsworth, Neb.; sisters-in-law, Helen and Shirley; 12 grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins, and many friends. He also leaves behind his favorite "hound," Cuddles.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; his father, William S. Engle; stepmother, Jeannie Engle; stepfather, Owen Vaage; uncles, K.L. and Lester Engle; brothers, Tom and Keith Engle; sister and brother-in-law, Arline and Cliff Bonner; and nephews, David Engle and David M. Engle.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at the Church of the Nazarene, 1295 Whitefish Stage Road. Scattering of his ashes will be at the Reiland Ranch in Belle Creek this summer.

Memorials may be sent in Bill's name to a charity of choice.

## Charles 'Tommy' Thomas Elliott, 70

Welcome aboard! This is a phrase many heard from Charles Thomas Elliott, locally known as "The Caboose Guy." Tom-



my "stepped off the train for his last time" Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, after a courageous and exhausting battle with cancer. He was 70 years old.

He was born Nov. 3, 1942, in Eugene, Ore., to Dr. Fae and Betty Elliott.

He graduated from South Eugene High School and attended Southern Oregon College. He served in the U.S. Army as a private in Vietnam and Fairbanks, Alaska. Learning the optical trade from his father, Tom held the position as an optician in Eugene and Portland before moving to Montana.

Two of Tom's favorite Montana getaways were Fran Lake in the Swan Valley and the Yaak River Lodge. Besides growing beautiful tomatoes, Tom excelled at writing beautiful poetry. He loved fishing and boating in a 1963 classic Chris Craft.

Prior to moving to Montana, Tom lived for years on a houseboat on the Columbia River. The last 12 years in Polson, he lived in his awesome red wooden 1942 Great Northern caboose. Tommy loved giving tours of this interesting home. He won the hearts of many and his guest books on board are filled with names of friends from far and wide.

Survivors include a daughter, Karianna; and a loving sister, Betsy. He also leaves behind his companion of 12 years, Grey Kitty, and faithful dog, Honey.

A memorial service to celebrate Tom's life will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18 at Journey Be, 101 7th Ave. W., in Polson. A reception at Journey Be's Soups On will immediately follow the service. Grogan Funeral Home of Polson is in charge of arrangements.

Tommy's family and friends would like to thank the staff at St. Luke's Extended Care in Ronan for the love, comfort and care they gave Tommy.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to St. Luke's Extended Care. Messages of condolence may be shared with the family online at [www.groganfuneralhome.com](http://www.groganfuneralhome.com).

## Rose Marie Enders, 93

Rose Marie Enders, 93, died Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013, at Libby Care Center.

Survivors include five children, Mary of Spokane, Beth Sagan of Troy, Cheryl of Sandpoint, Idaho, Theresa, and Jamie of

Kalispell.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Libby. Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory in Libby.

## Shelley M. Enger, 47

Shelley M. Enger, 47, died in Kalispell on Monday, Oct. 22, 2012.

There will be no ser-

vice.

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

## Eileen (Mackinsie) Erickson, 75

Eileen (Mackinsie) Erickson, 75, died in Kalispell on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012, after a 14-year struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

She was born in Welland, Ontario, Canada, on Oct. 9, 1936.

She is survived by her husband, David, in Rollins; two children and five grandchildren in California and Texas.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Eunice Barbra (Olson) Erickson, 82

Eunice Barbra (Olson) Erickson of Kalispell "went to be with her Lord" on March 16, 2012,



surrounded by family and friends. She was 82.

She was born on May 24, 1929, in Kevin, to Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard, then adopted by Leo and Sybil Olson at birth. She was raised in Kevin on a dairy farm where they delivered milk from a wagon.

She married Kenneth Erickson on Sept. 4, 1950, and lived on a sheep ranch west of Kevin until the mid-1950s, when they moved to the town of Kevin and raised five children, then moved to Kalispell in the summer of 1974.

After the passing of her husband, Kenneth, she moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, where she got involved in the Head Start Program. She moved back to Kalispell and met and married Clarence Tipton. They later divorced but remained close friends.

Eunice owned and operated a cafe in Kevin, and worked and managed numerous food service establishments, including schools, hospitals and restaurants. She was involved in various community activities, including Moose Lodge, Elks Club, Head Start, Toys For Tots Marine Corps League, Lions Club, Jaycees Coats For Kids,

and the Food Bank.

Eunice loved to cook and bake. She was famous for her Parker House rolls and "musty" cinnamon rolls (must have another one). She enjoyed meeting her many friends at Sykes' for coffee. She had an open door of love for family, friends and all her grandchildren and extended grandchildren until the day of her passing.

Eunice is survived by her five children, daughters Fay and Bud Klepper of Denver, and Carleen Erickson, and Leona and Gene King, all of Twin Falls, Idaho, and sons Delmer Erickson of Kalispell, and Irving and Robin Erickson of Columbia Falls; extended daughter, Mary Jane Henson Sirucek; 16 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; and numerous loved family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and both husbands.

Eunice lived a full and happy life. She was a much loved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and mentor where her legacy will continue.

Memorials are suggested to Toys for Tots, St. Jude's; the March of Dimes and Mooseheart.

A memorial service and life celebration will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, at the Moose Lodge in Evergreen.

A second memorial service will be held in Shelby this summer at a later date to be announced.



### Henry William Eley

**(Whitey)**, 96, passed away peacefully on December 18, 2013, at the Montana State Veterans' Home in Columbia Falls.

The son of Evelyn and Robert Eley, he left his home in Chicago at the age of 16, lied about his age and joined the Navy to fight in WWII. There he spent the most exciting years of his life as a tail gunner in the Pacific Theater.

In a letter to his parents dated 1943, he described the thrill of flying with his pilot, ENS Durio in a Douglas Dauntless. "I can't think of anything I enjoy more than I do flying, especially dive bombing! You climb to an altitude of 10,000 to 15,000 feet and then drop straight down and pull out at 2,000 to 500 feet. I've gone through almost every maneuver there is. Flown upside down, loop-the-loop, climb straight up till you stall, fall backwards and go into a spinning dive, snap rolls, slow rolls... Mom, I can't tell you how much I love it!" As well as his duty as a tail gunner, he also took aerial photographs of the bombings. Henry received many medals and commendations for his bravery in action.

After the war he returned to Chicago and as a talented commercial artist, opened Eley Screen Printing, the most successful business of its kind in the city. Retiring after 29 years, he moved to Kalispell where he enjoyed collecting and playing music, particularly jazz from the Big Band era. He was especially fond of making personalized tapes and cds for his friends and acquaintances. Continuing his interest in the arts, he also became a skilled painter, with watercolor as his medium of choice.

While a quiet man, he will be remembered for his sly humor, his love of English bulldogs, his artistic talents and for living an honorable life. He leaves no survivors.

Military graveside services will take place at 1:00 on Thursday, January 16, at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

#### "High Flight"

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.  
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,  
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod,  
The high untresspassed sancity of space,  
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.*

Pilot Officer Gillespie Magee  
No 412 Squadron, RCAF  
Killed 11 December, 1941

### Betty Jean Frame Erickson, 56

Betty Jean Frame Erickson, 56, of Afton, Wyo., passed away Dec. 31, 2013, at the Intermountain Health Care Hospital in Murray, Utah.

She was born May 16, 1957, in Polson, the daughter of Ray and Hilda Frame.

Betty attended elementary and high school in Bigfork. She completed Stenographer School in Seattle. Later she lived and worked in Helena and Kalispell, before relocating to Star Valley, Wyo.

Betty married John Clarence Erickson. Together they raised four children, Chance Thompson of Rock Springs, Wyo., Sydney Erickson of Afton, Dusty Thompson Reily of Afton, and Scott Rowdy Thompson of Ogden.

Betty's family life was her full-time hobby. Children, grandchildren, her husband and extended family kept her busy and happy.

Service and benevolence were in her heart and many experienced Betty's smile and service. She will be missed more than words can express.

Betty worked as the regional supervisor for the Wyoming Department of Transportation. She was also a full-time grandmother and mother.

She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Betty is survived by her husband, John; her children; and two grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings, Brian Frame of Bigfork, Judy Pound of Elko, Nev., Jeff Frame of Kalispell, Margot Bissell of Ajo, Ariz., and Jim Frame of Somers.

Funeral services were held on Jan. 4 in the Afton Fourth Ward LDS Church in Afton. Burial took place in the Fairview Cemetery in Afton.

## Victor Francis Erickson, 80

Victor Francis Erickson, 80, born Aug. 13, 1931, "passed into the arms of the Lord" on June 5, 2012.



Victor was born in Fargo, N.D., and was raised both there and in Los Angeles.

He served in the U. S. Army from 1950 to 1952, where he saw action in the Korean conflict.

In 1952, Victor married the love of his life, Lois Elaine Hulebak. Together they raised four sons in southern California. A devoted husband and father, Victor enjoyed many camping and boating adventures with his family.

Victor was a longtime general construction superintendent with Laird Construction in southern California. He retired to Flagstaff, Ariz., in 1995, and then relocated to Bigfork in 2002.

Victor was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Betty Forkert.

He is survived by his wife

of 60 years, Lois; and their four sons and their wives, Rick and Victoria, Dean and Ellen, Scot and Kathy, and Bret and Jennifer. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, Erin, Lindsey, Amanda, Katelyn, Veronica, Christina and Melissa; two great-grandchildren; and many, many friends.

Victor was an active and robust man with a love of life and family. A devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend, he will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched. Victor lived simply, laughed heartily and loved deeply.

A memorial service/celebration of life will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at the Church at Creston-Lutheran.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation in Victor's name to Intermountain of Helena.

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

## William E. Escudero Sr., 29

William E. Escudero Sr., 29, of Libby, died Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012, near Libby.

Survivors include his wife, Aimee Escudero, of Libby; and three children, William Edward Escudero Jr., Isabella Lynn Escudero and Angelina Diaz

Escudero, all of Libby; and parents, Andy and Roxanna Escudero, of Libby.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at Wilkinson Hall, 101 Collins Ave., in Libby.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

## Betty Virginia Evenson, 91

Betty Virginia Evenson, 91, passed away on May 12, 2012, at home in North Pole, Alaska.



Betty was born to Neal Henry and Ruby Bell (Haas) Clapper on May 25, 1920, in Townsend.

She married Joseph Romie Evenson on Oct. 21, 1939, and they had two children, Martha Raye (Hansen) and Warren Evenson. She was a homemaker.

Betty and Joe moved to North Pole in 1980, as Joe's health was declining so that Martha Raye could care for him. Joe passed away in 1985, after a lengthy battle with Huntington's chorea.

Betty loved her family; she loved to sew and loved children. At 91, she could still thread a needle, which brought her joy as she hand-sewed gifts for family and friends.

Betty was lucky enough to spend a few years with a few of her great-great-grandchildren, which brought her special joy, and for that her family is grateful. We are blessed to have had her so long in our world.

Betty was preceded in

death by her husband, Joseph R. Evenson; parents, Neil Henry (Renna) Clapper and Ruby Belle (Haas) Clapper; and siblings, Zeldia, Doris, Shirley, Neal, Clarence and Charles.

She is survived by her children, Martha Raye and Royal Hansen of North Pole, and Warren and Nickie Evenson of Charleston, W. Va.; grandchildren, Deborah and Kevin Knutsen of North Pole, Scott Hansen of North Pole, Eric and Susan Evenson of Richmond, Va., and Miles Evenson of Parkersburg, W. Va.;

great-grandchildren, Joel and Feniss Knutsen of North Pole, Samantha and Brandon Benson of North Pole, and Braeden Evenson of Richmond; great-great-grandchildren, William E. Russell, Jackson L. Knutsen and Aleigha K. Benson, all of North Pole; along with many extended family members and friends.

A graveside memorial service will be held for Betty at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 1, at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Betty's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and view Betty's tribute wall.

## Jay W. Evenson, 68

Jay W. Evenson, 68, died of natural causes April 18, 2012, at his home in Anchorage, Alaska.

He was born Feb. 14, 1944, in Kalispell to Wallace and Judy Evenson. He graduated from Flathead County High School in 1962, and in 1966 from University of Montana at Missoula, majoring in piano and music education.

He married Vicki Sager in 1966 and they had his only child, Toria. He moved to Valdez, Alaska, in about 1969 where he taught music, band and orchestra in the school system. He also had a charter boat that he operated out of Valdez. They later divorced and he moved to Anchorage.

Jay became a Realtor for Prudential and owned his own pesticide business, The Bug People. He had a very outgoing personality and was liked by many people.

Music was an important part of his life. He was born with "true pitch" and could play almost any instrument. He started studying the piano at age 4 and continued playing until he was no longer able. He sang in the Anchorage Choir, which toured Europe. He loved classical music.

Jay's belief in Jehovah was also important in his life.

He was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. He felt if anyone brought something to his home for him, they should leave with information about the Bible. It was important to him to tell people what the Bible really teaches.

He was preceded in death by his father, Wallace "Wal-y" Evenson; his grandson, Victor Estes; and nephew, Bret Shanks.

He is survived by his daughter, Toria Estes and husband David, and grandchildren, Alec, Samuel and Olivia, all of Anderson Island, Wash.; his mother, Judy Evenson, of Kalispell; and sister, Pam Shanks, and husband, James R. "Bob" of Whitefish; nephews, James Shanks and family of Wheat Ridge, Colo., Randal Shanks and family of Everett, Wash., and Joel Shanks and family of Missoula.

Memorial services were held April 21 at the Sand Lake Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Anchorage. Arrangements were made by the Anchorage Funeral Home.

Jay loved Alaska and he will remain there. No memorial services are planned locally.

## Mary Ella (Logsdon) Evenson, 82

Mary Ella (Logsdon) Evenson, 82, died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

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

## Basil V. Everin, 92

On Dec. 8, 2012, the world lost a remarkable man. His energy and love for life was endless. Always with a smile on his face and a friend to all that met him, Basil lived a full and contented life.

He loved music, sunshine and adventure. Traveling, golf, skiing, boating and hiking were among his many passions. Time spent with his family and friends were the highlights of his life.



He passed away peacefully at home in Denver where he spent the past three years of his life, to be near his family. Born in Kalispell in 1920, Basil lived, worked and raised his family in Columbia Falls.

He leaves behind his two daughters, Diane and Vickye; three grandsons, Brett, Clayton and Tyler; and two great-grandchildren, Logan and Liv, all of Denver.

"Farewell, best friend. You are loved and will be greatly missed. The world was blessed the day you entered it, and better for the love you leave behind..."

## Ann Evertz, 84

Evertz passed away on March 1, 2012, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, after a short illness related to complications from a previous surgery.

Ann was born on Nov. 11, 1927, the eldest child, to Minnie and John Hanje in Witt, Ill., and attended school there. She helped on the family farm when she was old enough.

At the age of 19, she came to Montana for a visit with her aunt and uncle. She liked it here so she stayed and got a job at a clothing store in Roundup. She worked there for several years, then went to Billings where her sister worked and got a job in a laundry there. This is where she met and married John Evertz of Terry, on July 8, 1950.

She and John ranched for a short time in Edgar before John began a career in the timber industry. During this period they lived in near Darby and in Missoula where he worked in the saw mills. While in Missoula, Ann worked at JCPenney. In November of 1962, they moved to Polson and John worked at Plum Creek Lumber Company in Pablo.

Ann resided in Polson at the home she built with her husband and children until her death.

In the late '60s, she began working in the Dietary Department at St. Joseph Hospital. During her 20 years at the hospital, she worked in dietary, purchasing and laundry. After she had retired from the hospital, she worked as manager of the Elks Club Lounge for a few years. In 1990, she began volunteering in administration

at the hospital and continued until her health failed in September of 2010.

From 1974 until her husband's death in 1995, she was intimately involved with the Mission Valley Speedway. She and John were avid race car participants and supporters, and volunteered many hours at Mission Valley Speedway. Ann worked with Mission Valley Auto Racers Auxiliary managing the concession stand and as secretary-treasurer.

As her grandchildren grew up, she supported them in their sports activities. She tried to see as many games as possible. Her other passions included watching college and NBA basketball, college and NFL football and, of course, she was a UM Grizzly through and through.

Her parents, three brothers and her husband preceded her in death.

She is survived by her six children and spouses, Mark Evertz, Donna and Jerry Whealon, David and Eileen Evertz, and Joanne Evertz, all of Polson, Diana and Dave Baird of Spokane, and George and Yulanda Evertz of Hungry Horse; her sister, Doris Guhrt, of Hamilton; and 11 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place and services will be held at a later date. Grogan Funeral Home, Polson, has been entrusted with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting memorials be made to the Lake County Relay for Life.

Condolences may be shared with the family online at [www.groganfuneralhome.com](http://www.groganfuneralhome.com).



## George Albert Eye, 79

George Albert Eye, 79, died Wednesday, June 20, 2012, of a heart attack.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and son, Gordon Eye, both of St. Ignatius; and daughter, Sherilyn Stoner of Belgrade.

Funeral services will be at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 26, at the United Methodist Church at the top of Post Creek Hill. Interment will follow at Pleasant View Cemetery in St. Ignatius.