

Marjorie Vallas, 81

Marjorie Vallas, 81, died Sunday, April 8, 2012, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thurs-

day, April 12, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. A graveside service will follow at 2 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Larry Valtinson, 66

Larry Valtinson passed away of COPD complications on Monday, March 26, 2012, at the North Valley Hospital. He was 66 years old.

Larry Valtinson was born in Duluth, Minn., on July 15, 1945. In 1949, he moved to Kalispell with his family and, except for military service and college, remained in the Flathead Valley until his passing.

Larry was a caring, loving person who, in his younger years, was a fun loving, outgoing person who never failed to find humor in life. He enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, cars, games and socializing.

Larry graduated from Flathead County High School in 1963, and in 1967 graduated from the University of Montana in Missoula with a bachelor's degree in wildlife technology. Shortly after graduating, he entered the U.S. Army and served in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.

Larry returned as a disabled veteran. He never had the opportunity of engaging in his chosen career. He was instilled with a deep compassion for others. There wasn't a charitable organization to which he wasn't willing to donate. His ties to and concern for veterans, of all wars, was a constant in his life.

Although Larry was a private person, he enjoyed visits to the old B&B restaurant and, after it closed,



Finnegan's and Smith's. A special thanks to the former and current staffs of each for the companionship they gave him. Also, a special thanks to Herman Andros, Rick Blades and his associates, the staff of Whitefish Care and Rehabilitation, and the doctors and nurses of Kalispell Regional Medical Center and North Valley Hospital for the care and support they provided him.

Larry was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Magda Valtinson.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Lynn and Pat Valtinson, of Great Falls; nieces, Erika and Mark Turner of Spokane, and Kristina and Duncan McMullin of Missoula, and their son, Rowan; his aunt, Signe Ferguson, of Evergreen; and uncle, Finney Ueland, of Heron; along with several cousins.

Larry's aversion to funerals will be respected. A graveside memorial will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 30, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Memorials for Larry are suggested to the Disabled American Veterans.

"We take comfort in the fact that Larry is now with those relatives, friends, and military comrades who preceded him in death and whose deaths have weighed so heavily on him over the years."

Larry was a very special person who will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.

Gary Van Aken, 66

Gary Van Aken, of Whitefish, died Sunday, April 29, 2012, at the cabin near Lake Koocanusa.

He was born in Whitefish on Feb. 5, 1946, to Pete and Lois Van Aken.

In August of 1965 he and Della (Buck) were married in Coeur de Alene, Idaho. They have two children, Pete and Michelle.

Gary worked as a brakeman for the railroad, in snowmobile and auto repair, at the Van Aken Gardens and as a logger. He retired in 2001.

He raced cars at Deer Park Raceways, raced snowmobiles and spent many summers flying above in his hang glider. He traveled with

Della to New Zealand and Australia and Hawaii along with Montana adventures, the California coast and to Washington to visit his daughter and granddaughter.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Pete and Lois; and by his son, Pete.

He is survived by his wife, Della, at their home in Whitefish; daughter, Michelle, of Puyallup, Wash.; and granddaughter, Maya. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends.

There will be a gathering from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, May 4, at the Saddle Club in Whitefish. Donations may be made to North Valley Search and Rescue.

Joe W. VanBemmel, 75

Joe W. VanBemmel, 75, passed away from heart complications on Dec. 29, 2012.

Joe was born May 23, 1937, to Johanas and Mary VanBemmel in Manhattan. Joe grew up in Manhattan with his family until May 23, 1947, when they moved to Eureka. He went to school through the seventh grade, and he then went to work at Columbus Clark in Eureka stacking ties.

He worked in the lumber industry his whole life, which included Osler brothers Mill, Kennedy Stevens Mill, both in Eureka, then C and C Plywood of Kalispell and lastly, Plum Creek Plywood, where he retired from in 2004.

He married his first wife, Sharleen Nielson, on July 3, 1959, and they had four children together. They lived in Eureka until she passed away in November 1967.

After mutual losses of their spouses, Joe and Sue Rankin Bjornrud merged their families on Oct. 16, 1969, joining seven children plus one child between the two of them in 1970. After the merger of the families they lived in a log house on Iowa Flats in Eureka.

Joe enjoyed camping, riding his four-wheeler, his Model A, vacationing with his family in Las Vegas, spending time with his family, coffee with his many friends, and crafts with his granddaughter Alyssa.

He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Sharleen; two brothers, David and Danny; and son, Albert Bjornrud.



Joe is survived by his wife, Sue, at their home in Kalispell; daughter, Dorothy

Bates of Anchorage, Alaska, son Roy Bjornrud of Kalispell, son Rick VanBemmel and wife Carol of Massena, Iowa, daughter Barb Penney and husband Kurt of Kalispell, daughter Deb Peterson and husband Ray of Eureka, daughter Kathy VanBemmel and husband Reid McFarland of Kalispell, and daughter Bobbie Conrad and husband Todd of Kalispell; daughter-in-law, Teri Bjornrud, of Kalispell; brother, Albert "Abe," and wife, Geraldine VanBemmel, of Eureka; sister, Hope Ivers, of Great Falls; sister, Sherry Sterner, of Kalispell; brother, Bob, and wife, Jennie VanBemmel, of Exira, Iowa; sister, Marie, and husband, Eldon Heidi, of Hillsboro, Wis.; numerous nieces, nephews, grand- and great-grandchildren.

Visitation for Joe will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 3, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Private burial will be held by family. Celebration of life services will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 4, at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family. Friends are encouraged to visit the website, www.buffalohillfh.com, to leave notes of condolence.

Julia VanSant, 60

Julia VanSant, 60, died Saturday, June 2, 2012, at her home in Kila.

Arrangements are pending with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

Edward George Vasecka Jr., 81

Ed Vasecka loved to tell stories. All he needed was an audience. He told his last story Oct. 1, 2012, in Helena, at the age of 81. He died of congestive heart failure, his children beside him.

Edward George Vasecka Jr., was born Nov. 27, 1930, in Chicago to Bohemian parents. He grew up in back of the stock yards with his many Czech cousins, in the comforts of a middle class working home during the Depression. He was an only child.

After graduating from high school in 1949, he surprised his folks by joining the United States Air Force. He had originally wanted to join the Army, but the recruiter was gone that day, so we went to the Air Force recruiter instead and never regretted it. After basic training, he was stationed at Keesler Air Force base in Mississippi, where he met PFC Janis Munsterman and they married. Their first daughter, Terri, was born there.

Sgt. Ed was in charge of maintaining the radar equipment that searched for "enemy" aircraft during the Cold War days. Most of these radar sites were located in the northern part of the U.S.; so that is where the family went.

In North Dakota, his second daughter, Vicki, was born, and a year later his son, Scott. In South Dakota, his fourth child, Linnea, was born. The family was then stationed in Spain for three years.

It was 1964 that the Vasecka family first arrived in Montana to a radar station 40 miles north of Havre. The Vasecka family had found a place they loved.

In 1968 he received orders to go to Labrador; his family remained in Havre. When his year there was up, they went to Oregon. That radar site closed in 1970, so Ed asked to come back to the place he loved — Havre.



He retired from the Air Force in 1976, and immediately went to work as a justice of the peace of Hill County.



In 1971, he and Jan took an

anniversary vacation to Glacier National Park. That became their second love and when he retired a second time, they bought their first permanent home in West Glacier and lived there until ill health in 2009 forced them move to Helena to be near their children.

Jan passed away in 2010 and Ed spent the last few years with their cat, Missy, telling stories to the people who cared for him. He enjoyed railroad-ing, history and puns. He worked with the Red Cross, Boy Scouts and was an honorary member of the Havre Sons of Norway. His sense of humor and his knowledge of almost all things were his biggest assets. He had an excellent memory right to the end.

He is survived by his daughter, Terri Vasecka Atwood, of Clancy; his daughter, Vicki Vasecka Kulbeck, and her husband, Glen, of Big Sandy; son, Scott Vasecka, of Havre; daughter, Linnea Vasecka, of West Glacier; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Ed will be coming back to Havre, where his funeral service will be held at the Holland & Bonine Funeral Home Chapel at 2 p.m. on Oct. 13. A time of fellowship will be held at the Havre Elks Club following the memorial service. Ed and Jan's ashes will be scattered in Glacier National Park.

Holland & Bonine Funeral Home in Havre has been entrusted with services and arrangements.

Robert A. 'Bob' Vaughan, 67

Robert A. "Bob" Vaughan, 67, of Whitefish, died April 16, 2012, at his Chandler, Ariz., home.

He is survived by his wife, Sue, of Whitefish and Chandler; and daughters, Robin Boyko of Glendale, Ariz., Melody Niese of Chandler,

and Tina Logan of Chicago.

A memorial and celebration of life will be held at 10 a.m. Aug. 10, at the United Methodist Church, 1150 Wisconsin Ave., in Whitefish. Burial of ashes will be at the Whitefish Cemetery.

Thomas VanVuren, 75

Thomas VanVuren, 75, died Wednesday, May 9, 2012, in Kalispell.

A celebration of life service will be held at a

later date.

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

Donna Lee Veigel, 62

On the evening of Aug. 15, 2012, Donna "left this life to be with her Lord and Savior"



from her home in Creston, with her family at her side. She had put up a hard fight with COPD for a number of years.

Donna was born on March 8, 1950, in Missoula, to Clarence and Sally Brown. Her family moved frequently throughout Montana, and in 1968 they moved to Columbia Falls.

On Aug. 16, 1969, she married George Ritter. To this union two children were born, Tana and Nicole. In 1978, George was killed in a woods accident.

Donna worked at the Nite Owl and continued raising her two daughters. On Feb. 20, 1987, she married Larry Veigel. They celebrated 25 years together earlier this year.

Donna loved people and working at the Nite Owl, which she had to give up due to her disease. She also loved her roses, Betty Boop, bailing hay, cooking, canning, family gatherings and her cat Tippy. She was very versatile

and could do anything she put her mind to, and loved new challenges.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Sally Brown; her first husband, George; and a sister, Clarice Brown.

She is survived by her husband, Larry, of Creston; her two daughters, Tana and husband Gary Anderson, and Nicole and husband Herb Ferguson, all of Columbia Falls, and her children through marriage, son Gary Veigel of Creston, and daughter Tricia and husband Kevin Alexander of Louisiana.

She is also survived by her siblings, Constance Brown, Carrie McCalpin and Clarence Brown Jr., of Helena; 10 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls with inurnment following at Fairview Cemetery, after which a reception will be held at the Back Room.

Arrangements are entrusted to Columbia Mortuary.

You are invited to go to www.columbiamortuary.com to offer condolences and to view Donna's tribute wall.

Timothy A. Veyna, 53

Timothy A. Veyna, 53, of Kalispell, died on Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012, in Libby, of natural causes.

Services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Alexander Vezane, 88

Alexander Vezane, 88, died Friday, June 1, 2012, in Kalispell.

Arrangements are pending with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

Alexandra Vinichenko, 76

Alexandra Vinichenko, 76, of Whitefish, died Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2013, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

A viewing and prayer service will be held at noon Monday, Jan. 7, at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Marilyn Vinje, 79

Marilyn Vinje, 79, of Bozeman, formerly of Kalispell, died July 7, 2012, in Bozeman.

Memorial services will

be at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at Christ United Methodist Church, 2900 Ninth Ave. S., Great Falls.

William F. 'Willie' VonBracht, 66

William F. "Willie" VonBracht, 66, died Sunday, July 8, 2012, at his residence in Kalispell.

He is survived by his children, Leah Laatz of Seattle, Kurt VonBracht of Issaquah, Wash., Serena Talcott Baughman of Port-

land, Will VonBracht of Othello, Wash., and Lance VonBracht of Provo, Utah.

Services will be private by the family.

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

Timothy Andrew Veyna, 53

Timothy Andrew Veyna, 53, died in Libby on Feb. 29, 2012, of natural causes.



Tim was born in Arcadia, Calif., in 1959. He attended elementary and junior high school in Chino, Calif., before moving to Montana with his family in 1972, where they operated a resort on Swan Lake. Tim attended Bigfork High School and was active in football, ski club, student council and high school rodeo. He was also a member of the Flathead Lakers Baseball team in Kalispell.

After graduation, Tim traveled the country installing commercial restaurant kitchens. He later created his own company that he successfully ran with the help of his family.

Pursuing his lifelong love of all things cowboy, Tim became a team roper and bull rider. Tim was an avid outdoorsman. He loved to camp out under the stars and pack into the South Fork to hunt.

Tim was a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. As a lineman, he loved nothing more

than to chase a good storm and help people in need. Tim returned to Montana several years ago to be closer to family and his children, whom he dearly loved.

Tim is survived by his mother, Penny Miller, of Yellow Bay; father, Peter Veyna, and wife, Susan, of Bigfork; and children, Amber Veyna of Somers, and Timothy Veyna of Kalispell. Surviving siblings include Terri Swenson of Surprise, Ariz., Lynn and Keith Wadley of Ketchikan, Alaska, Lisa and Lee Lykins of Kalispell, Kevin and Austina Veyna of Kalispell, Keith and Heidi Veyna of Denver, and Clyde Athey Veyna of San Jacinto, Calif. He also leaves behind 14 nieces and nephews, and aunts, uncles, cousins and numerous dear friends who played very important roles in his life.

Tim's ashes will be interred at the Bigfork Community Cemetery and Swan View Memorial Gardens in a private ceremony. The family invites you to join them for an evening of remembrance and celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, at the Bigfork Senior Center located on Commerce Street.