

Dale Clothier, 59

Dale Kenneth Clothier passed away Jan. 19, 2014, in Apache Junction, Ariz.

He was born Sept. 22, 1954, in Kalispell. Dale moved to Apache Junction in the early '90s and spent several years there before returning to Marion where he bought a home on Bitterroot Lake. Dale and his wife Betty moved back to Apache Junction in 2010.

He enjoyed fishing, camping along the river and hunting in Alaska. He loved spending time with his family and friends.

Dale was a painter all of his life, a trade he learned from his good friend Ray Limbach. He started his own business in Kalispell, "Inline Painting," along with his partner and good friend Matt Stickney.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents, Keny and Faye Clothier of Kalispell.



He is survived by his wife, Betty; his daughter, Crystal Clothier, of Salt Lake City; his

sister, Bonnie Clothier, of Kalispell; his brother, Ricky Clothier, and wife, Barb, of Clovis, Calif.; his sister, Janet Tyree, and husband, Bud, of Columbia Falls; stepson, David Wood, and wife, Robin, of Juneau, Alaska; niece, Nichole Fenger; and nephew, Toby Gilchrist.

A celebration of Dale's life was held at the VFW in Apache Junction on Saturday, Jan. 25.

His twinkle in his eyes, laughter and his smile will be missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of Dale's life will be held in Marion at a later date.

Constance C. Christiansen, 72

Constance C. Christiansen passed away at the age of 72 on July 24, 2014, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, due to her battle with blood cancer and ultimately respiratory failure.

She was born on Aug. 2, 1941, in Pierre, S.D., to her parents, Grace and Lyle Winjum.

Connie graduated from Pierre High School in 1959, and graduated from the University of South Dakota in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree in education, as well as being a sister of the Alpha Phi sorority. She went on to teach in southern California where she met her husband, Gary Christiansen.

Moving to Missoula with Gary, she further pursued her teaching career, eventually teaching and melding minds of first-graders at Edgerton School; some of you reading this may have been



taught by her. She touched the lives of many people in this community. Being

a member of the BM Chapter of P.E.O. she, along with many others in the sisterhood, empowered further education for women in not only the community but also state and nation.

She is survived by her son, Matthew; her sister, Janice Forbord; Clark Christiansen; Sue Hoo-kano; and many others of the Winjum and Christiansen family.

She was a delightful lady with an always positive personality; her presence will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

A celebration of life will be held at Village Greens Community Center at a later date.

MEMORIAL

Dale Clothier

A celebration of life for Dale Clothier, 59, who died Jan. 19, 2014,

will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Hilltop in Marion.

Peggy J. (Morigeau) Collicott, 85

Peggy J. (Morigeau) Collicott, 85, of Polson, passed away on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

She was born April 28, 1929, in St. Ignatius to John and Amy Morigeau.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John A. Morigeau and Amy (Butterfield) Morigeau; brothers, John "Cyzie" Morigeau and Ben Morigeau; sister, Paulette Morigeau; and son, Kirby Hill.

She is survived by her daughter, Lonny Hill; sons, Stephen Morigeau, Pat Collicott and Michael Morigeau; and numerous



grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A family memorial service will be held later this summer.

Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory is handling the arrangements. Messages of condolence may be shared with the family online at www.groganfuneralhome.com.

Jean Lucille Collins, 87

Our dear mother, Jean Collins, passed away on Oct. 16, 2014, in her home in Columbia Falls, after a courageous battle with cancer. Her three loving daughters were at her side.

Jean was born on Nov. 2, 1926, in Rolla, N.D., to John Pohl and Alice Schell Pohl. She grew up in the Turtle Mountains near the Canadian border and had wonderful memories of her family life there. After 70 years, in 2012, her daughters took her on a trip back to the Turtle Mountains, and met relatives she didn't know she had. It was the trip of a lifetime for her, and she described the experience as "awesome."

Jean moved from the Turtle Mountains to Spokane with her family where she met Waylon Collins. Later, while Waylon was stationed in Greensboro, N.C., Jean traveled to Greensboro where they were married on June 17, 1950. They moved to Montana a year or so later.

Jean spent her life taking care of her family. Jean's special love was that of her six children for which she loved equally and unconditionally. She was always there for her children. She was also called "Mom" by a number of younger people outside of the family.

Jean loved her home, gardening, flowers and nature. She loved her pets and was especially proud of the five beautiful purebred Arabian horses that she raised out of her \$500 mare. She was a strong and determined woman. Even in her last weeks of life, she said that she wanted to ride a horse and swore that she was going to "walk free" again.

In the spring of 2010, Jean endured the deaths



of her youngest and oldest sons, Wesley and James Michael Collins,

as well as her husband, Waylon Collins. She is also preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Neal Pohl.

Jean is survived by daughters, Virginia and her husband Terry Dar-sow, Carol and her husband Richard Davies, and a son, Windford Collins; and five grandchildren. She thought of her daughters' husbands as if they were her own sons, especially Virginia's husband, Terry, whom she told that her lawn had to be manicured, not mowed. Jean also loved John Wallace Jr., as if he were her own son. He called her "Ma" and spent many holidays with the family and visited her often.

Jean's longtime special friend, Norma Dettwiler, spent many hours visiting and supporting Mom and the family during Mom's illness. Norma's honesty, wit and humor brought much comfort to Mom and us. Thank you so much, Norma.

Throughout her life, Mom had faith and trust in the Lord. That faith and trust "has taken her home to Him. Mom is now riding that silvery white horse and is walking and running free."

Words cannot explain how much she is loved and missed. Mom will live in our hearts forever, because all that we love becomes a part of us.

A celebration of Jean's life will be held at 10 a.m. on Nov. 8 at her home at 325 Kelley Road in Columbia Falls. Hospice Pastor Michael Baer will offer support and prayers.

Donald A. Cooper, 93

Donald A. Cooper, 93, died at home Monday, Dec. 15, 2014.

Grogan Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family with arrangements.

Philip Alan Coote, 78

Philip Alan Coote passed away Aug. 13, 2014, in Kalispell.

He was born Nov. 11, 1935, in Michigan City, Indiana, to Richard and Lois (Hileman) Coote. He attended schools there and in Valparaiso, Indiana, graduating from Valparaiso High School and going on to get his degree in civil engineering from Valparaiso University.

The love of his life in those days was playing trombone in the marching bands from late elementary through college, and being a member of the high school swing band.

During college he worked as a surveyor and draftsman for the county surveyor. He met his future wife, Ann Sells, who was working that summer as a bookkeeper in the surveyor's office. They were married March 10, 1959, after she had completed work for her college degree.

In those days being in college usually meant a draft deferment for young men, but often, graduating from college meant a draft notice. Phil entered the Army that spring. During his time spent in the laboratories at the Army Chemical Center, Maryland, he applied for and received a commission as a second lieutenant.

Phil became the superintendent of the Valparaiso Water Works and oversaw both the expansion of the water works and also the technological development of their own computer program. While there he was active in community affairs, serving as United Way Public Service chairman and Center Township chairman. He assisted in the



Valparaiso University Community Campaign and received the Valparaiso University Alumni Service Award. He was active in

Rotary as president and was a Paul Harris fellow. Through the Chamber of Commerce he worked hard to get a new post office for Valparaiso and received the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award. Phil was also active in the Indiana Section of the American Water Works Association, receiving the IWWA Award for Exceptional Community Service, the Water Wheel Award from the Indiana Section and the John N. Hurly Service Award from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

He and his wife enjoyed sailing on Lake Michigan for a number of years and racing competitively in the Michigan City Yacht Club races. He crewed in the Mac Races from Chicago to Mackinaw Island and in the Tri-State Races from Chicago to Saugatuck, Michigan to Michigan City, Indiana. Phil took up backpacking and vacationed from Texas to White Horse, Yukon. He also golfed for a number of years but was "his own worst enemy" on the links.

He and his wife retired to Montana in 1994.

The service for Phil will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

Betsy 'Betty' Ellen (Holloran) Conrad, 84

Betsy "Betty" Ellen (Holloran) Conrad, 84, of Kalispell and Wallowa, Ore., died Nov. 24, 2014, in Wallowa.

She had been the Wallowa city treasurer.

She is survived by her husband, Wesley Conrad,

of Wallowa; and children, Toni Silva and Carol Jean of LaGrande, Ore., Dennis of Lyons, Ore., Clifford of Enterprise, Ore., and Linda Sue and Kim of Wallowa.

A celebration of life was held Nov. 29 at Wallowa Christian Church.

Ernest P. Cormier, 80

Ernest P. Cormier, 80, died suddenly at his home on Aug. 2, 2014, after having sustained injuries which had incapacitated him.

He was born on Nov. 24, 1933, in Gardner, Mass.

Ernest served proudly for 20 years in the U.S. Air Force. After traveling the globe (Vietnam) he retired in Montana (1977) where he made a permanent home and developed many lasting relationships. He will be dearly missed by all of his siblings.

While in the service, he became an accomplished martial arts (Black Belt) instructor and was known to give much of his personal time teaching young aspirant, dependent children. His love of Montana, along with a fondness of hunting, fishing and enjoying the isolation of a dense forest, was known by many of his friends. In his later years he hand made canes for many people in need.

The Cormier family wishes to extend our most heartfelt thankfulness to Patty Walker, Doug Lessard, Larry Peterson, and his neighbors Russell



and Rick, who were at his side for many years and especially during his final days. Many thanks to Donna Koester.

Those of us left here on earth will greatly miss him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar and Margaret Cormier; and his sister, Theresa Grant.

Ernest is survived by several brothers and sisters, Joseph and Ray Cormier of St. Peters, Mo., Edna and Donny Casey of Barre, Mass., Roger and Kerry Cormier of Wendell, N.C., Robert and Carol Cormier, and John and Jeannette Cormier, all of Templeton, Mass.; and many nieces and nephews.

At his request, no memorial services are being conducted; our prayers are with him.

Donations in his honor can be made to the Macular Degeneration Fund.

Yvonne Rose (Dellwo) Cordier, 77

Yvonne Rose was born to Henry and Rose Dellwo in Ronan on Oct. 7, 1936.

She passed away "into the loving arms of her heavenly Father" on June 10, 2014, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula.

Yvonne was the first-born of three children. She spent her elementary and high school years between Ronan, Salmon Prairie, Arlee and St. Ignatius.

She met the love of her life, Charles "Rusty" Cordier while they were in elementary school. They married and became a family on June 13, 1959, along with their two children, Terry Lee and James Allen. Their family grew with the additions of Dalene Jean, Scott William and Brett Russell. As the years passed, their family continued to grow with the marriages of their children, and the births of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who provided both Yvonne and Rusty with much love and many cherished moments. Her passions of sewing, canning, baking and cooking favorite recipes provided countless gifts to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family who will always hold these gifts as treasured memories. She enjoyed gardening, playing dice, card games and enjoyed camping. Her home was always open, the coffee was on and her table was always full.

Yvonne was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Rose Dellwo; her sister, Carol (Dellwo) Kleidosty; her parents-in-law, Vic and Pearl Cordier; her grandparents; and prior generations "who entered the Pearly Gates" before her.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Rusty Cordier; her broth-



er, Tom, and Sandra Dellwo, of Seeley Lake; her children, Terry and Dave Orr of St. Ignati-

us, Jim and Joyce Cordier of St. Ignatius, Dalene and Frank Homan of Kalispell, Scott and Colleen Cordier of St. Ignatius, and Brett and Terri Jo Cordier of Ronan; 15 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws, nieces and nephews and their families, in addition to her many friends.

Although no one was prepared for her passing, her love for each and every family member, and her pride and confidence in them, will continue to provide her family with strength and comfort in the coming days, months and years, as her presence will remain with them "until they are reunited once more."

A private family-only viewing will take place between 2 and 4 p.m. today, June 13, at Grogan Funeral Chapel in Polson. The funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17, at the St. Ignatius Catholic Mission, officiated by Father Andrew Maddock, after which inurnment will take place at the St. Ignatius Catholic Cemetery, followed by a potluck luncheon at the Good Old Days Park Pavillion.

Flowers can be sent to St. Ignatius Catholic Mission at 333 Bear Track Lane in St. Ignatius. In lieu of flowers, donations can also be made in Yvonne's name to the charity of your choice. Her favorite charity was St. LaBre Indian School.

Messages of condolence may be sent to www.groganfuneralhome.com.

Carl Corino, 78

Carl Corino was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and "passed to the other side" on April 26, 2014, the same day as his birthday, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, due to natural causes. He was 78 years old.

He was retired from the U.S. Air Force. He was a decorated veteran with the Office of Special Investigations, Tech Services Division.

Services are yet to be determined, and he will be cremated.



Carl is survived by his wife, Donna

Corino; and three sons, two daughters, and one grandson.

He and his wife had spent most of their life in Florida where he was an avid boater, until the move to Montana to be closer to family.

Carl was a husband, father, friend and cigar buddy. He will be sorely missed.

Darlene Y. Cornwell, 77

Darlene Y. Cornwell, 77, of Troy, died Monday, June 9, 2014, at the Libby Care Center.

Survivors include her husband, Jim, of Troy; and daughter, Donna Bush, of Tri-Cities, Wash. Services will be at 11

a.m. Saturday, June 14, at the Troy Church of God, 212 Kalispell Ave., in Troy.

Arrangements are under the care of Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory of Libby.

Robert E. Cornell Jr., 85

Robert E. Cornell Jr., 85, of Kalispell, died July 5, 2014.

He was born Feb. 5, 1929, in Billings to Robert E. Sr., and Mae (Lance) Cornell.

While serving in the Navy, he met and married Claudia Ritty. They had four children.

He owned the Montana Bar and Townhouse and various other businesses in Havre.

He married Mary Boid and owned the Hanging Tree in Whitefish. They later divorced.

Bob was involved with the Al Bedoo Shrine of Billings. He rodeoed, packed into the Bob Marshall Wilderness, fished and did wood-working.

He was the manager of several apartment complexes in Kalispell.



He was preceded in death by his parents, son Bob III, and sister Jean Stene Bornes.

He is survived by daughters and daughter-in-law,



Roxana Kezar, Danielle and Dave Gulbrandson, and Linda Cornell, all of Billings; and son, Vern, and Joanne Cornell, of Grand Junction, Colo.; three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; sisters, Virginia and Elwin Ness, Sharon (Gene, deceased) Mai, companion Jean Shafer, of Kalispell, and her children Robert Shafer and Mary Shaffer.

Wilma Ellen (Sorenson) Corneliuson, 92

Wilma Ellen (Sorenson) Corneliuson "went to be with her heavenly Father" on March 31, 2014, in Tucson, Ariz.

Wilma was born April 30, 1921, to Carl and Clara (Jacobitz) Sorenson in Nelson, Nuckolls County, Neb. She was the oldest of three daughters born to the couple.

When Wilma was 5 years old, her father purchased a farm from his brother in Judith Gap. Carl packed up the family and moved them all from Nebraska to Judith Gap by train. Shortly after Wilma started her schooling, she contracted Scarlet Fever. She was sick so long she was held back for one school year, which placed her in the same grade as her younger sister, Norma.

Carl sold the Judith Gap farm when Wilma was 13 years old and purchased a farm in the West Valley area of Kalispell. It was said that they moved to get away from the cold winds in Judith Gap.

Wilma attended Judith Gap School, Spring Creek School and Flathead County High School. She was a graduate of FCHS class of 1940. Wilma would often proudly sing her school song, "On, Oh Flathead," when her grandchildren or great-grandchildren asked about her school years.



complications related to Parkinson's.

Wilma worked at a furniture store in Port-

land and later wrote the Gossip Column for the Daily Inter Lake covering events in the West Valley area. She was an active member of the Stillwater Home Demonstration Club, Ladies Aid and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Quilting Club. She was a volunteer for many years in the Flathead County and for the Immanuel Lutheran Home in the crafts group, making crochet snowflakes and angels and a variety of items to sell in the Christmas bazaar. She also helped in preserving the history of the Flathead Valley.

Any one that knew Wilma knew she loved to bake. She was well known for her famous Chocolate Zucchini Cake and Poppy Seed Cake, the poppy seeds and zucchini were fresh from her garden. She found this to be a good way to trick her grandkids into eating zucchini. All her family will miss the days spent under the willow tree eating the snow peas straight from the garden and husking the corn.

friendship with Ruth Horn, Thelma Johnson, Beth Adele Beller, Mary Ruff and many more. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Wilma was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Chet; her infant son, Donald; infant daughter, Janice; her sisters, Norma Johnson and Shirley Ditcher; and her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Arnold Johnson, Howard and Hazel Neas, Royal Corneliuson and Ella Engebritson, Bert and Judy Corneliuson, Jack and Lylah Peavy, and Don and Helen Williams.

She is survived by her son, Vern and Sharon Corneliuson of Bigfork; son, Chet and Bette Corneliuson of Clinton; and daughter, Mary E. and James Childers, of Kalispell; grandchildren, Jami and Bob Lippencott of North Plainfield, N.J., DeAnna and Tom Sapp of Kalispell, Corrina and Alton Arnold of Montpelier, Idaho, Amber Corneliuson of Portland, Kathy McLaughlin of Portland, Leeann Sage of Missoula, Heather Childers and Koralyn Johns of Kalispell, Jesse and Cheryl Childers of Cibolo, Texas, and Vanessa and Jeff Ferguson of St. Ignatius. There are also 16 beloved great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson; and many nieces and nephews and great- and great-great-nieces and -nephews.

Wilma met the love of her life when she was walking home from high school. Her girlfriend Lylah Corneliuson asked her if she wanted a ride and her brother Chester just happen to be in the car that day. Chester "Chet" Arnold Corneliuson and Wilma Sorenson were married at the Stillwater Lutheran Church Dec. 22, 1940. The couple had five children. Wilma and Chet lived in the Stillwater area, Kellogg, Idaho, Grass Range, and for several months Wilma stayed with her cousin in Portland while Chet was in the hospital. These moves occurred before the couple settled down in a home across from her parents' farm in Kalispell. The couple resided at the same address in Kalispell for almost 59 years. On Jan. 28, 1992, Chet passed away at the Immanuel Lutheran Home from

There wasn't a thing Wilma could not sew or crochet. One could show her something in the store and she would get the material and make it. There wasn't a Christmas that would pass that there wasn't an afghan or quilt under the tree. During the holiday season she was always sure to have huge bunches of fresh potato bread rolls, huckleberry pie and lefse on the table for the family gatherings. She was also diligent in ensuring everyone she knew had a Christmas card in their mail box.

The grandchildren and great-grandchildren all experienced many happy times singing "You are My Sunshine" or another melody while Grandma sang and played the piano. Everyone who knew Wilma loved her. She had many friends, but was thankful for her longtime

A viewing will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Monday, April 7, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. There will be a graveside service for friends and family at 2 p.m. on Monday at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Friends and family are welcome. A memorial church service will be held in the summer, date not yet determined.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Montana at 3010 11th Ave. N., Billings, MT 59101.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral is caring for Wilma's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to view Wilma's tribute wall, offer condolences and share memories.

Robert 'Bob' B. Cotner, 84

Dr. Robert "Bob" B. Cotner, a resident of Kalispell, passed away at home surrounded by loved ones on Nov. 19, 2014. He was 84 years old.

Bob was born March 26, 1930, in Bozeman to Frank and Anita Cotner. He was raised in an academic environment. Frank was the dean of science at Montana State University and Anita was a junior high teacher. Bob graduated from Gallatin County High School in 1948. He attended Montana State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in fish and wildlife management in 1952, and a master's degree in zoology in 1953. After completing his master's program, Bob attended the University of Michigan, receiving his dental degree (D.D.S.) in 1957.

Bob and Kathleen Wolfe were married in Billings on June 7, 1952. While pursuing his master's and dental degrees, Bob spent summers working as a park ranger in Yellowstone Park. Bob's studies and work in the park created a lifetime passion for the outdoors, wildlife, and in particular, birds of the Rocky Mountain region.

During his final year of dental school, and after earning his dental degree, Bob and his growing family moved to Fort Lewis, Wash., where he served as a commissioned dental officer in the U.S. Army for four years, 1956 to 1960. After his discharge, Bob and Kathleen made the decision to return to Montana to raise their children and to establish a private dental practice. This decision led Bob, Kathleen and their family to Columbia Falls where Bob served the public "24/7," seeing patients any day, any hour while he and Kathleen raised their five children.



ment to the Council on Bylaws and Judicial Affairs for the American Dental Association, serving two three-year terms. Bob also took a special interest in providing dental care for the handicapped, serving on the State's Advisory Team relating to dental care for handicapped individuals, and teaching "Care of the Handicapped" at the Boulder River School and Hospital. Bob was also instrumental in bringing on-site dental care to the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

In 1993 Bob retired. After retiring, Bob continued snow skiing in the winter at Big Mountain (skiing there until he was 79) while enjoying the beauty of Bitterroot Lake during the summer. He set aside every Saturday in the fall to follow "his" Wolverine football team. Bob most loved spending quality time with his family which he defined to include a short phone call. Nothing meant more to him than his wife, children and grandchildren.

While extremely successful in his academic and professional pursuits, Bob will be remembered primarily as an incredible son, husband, father and grandfather. He poured himself entirely into his family and all of his numerous projects. He was kind and generous to everyone he met. He will be missed by those whose lives he touched.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; and his older brother, James, who died as a result of an accident at the age of 7.

Donald C. 'Don' Coughren, 82

Donald C. "Don" Coughren, 82, died Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014, at St. Joseph Medical Center in Polson.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19,

at Grogan Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will follow services at Lakeview Cemetery with military honors.

Lucille Madole Countryman, 92

Lucille Countryman, 92, passed away Oct. 15, 2014, in Anaheim, Calif. She "went to join her older brother Eugene," whom she idolized, who was killed on Midway Island on June 4, 1942.

She was born Jan. 10, 1922, in Albuquerque, N.M., to Jack and Daisy Madole.

Lucille loved knowledge and music, and pursued several college degrees in speech communication, theater and her beloved music. She was very talented musically, not only singing, but playing piano as well as harp.

She is survived by her children, Roy Eugene Countryman of Hot Springs, Carol Holmes of Merced, Calif., Cherie Clark of Livingston



and Keith Countryman of Kalispell. She is also survived by granddaughter and namesake, Brenda Lucille Kennedy, of Bozeman, as well as six other grandchildren, Ron, Terry, Grace, Carrie, Charles and Keenan, and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her grandson, Wallace N. Clark III.

Until the end, she charmed us with her dazzling smile, corrected our grammar, bestowed little-known information on Napoleon, and encouraged us not to let the world get us down.

Bob loved his professional life as a dentist. He took great pride in his profession and in providing excellent care for his patients. He served as a member of numerous dental groups and organizations, including his service as president of the Montana Academy of General Dentistry; president of the Montana Dental Association; and chairman of the Montana Dental Association Ethics Committee. In 1978, Bob received an appoint-

He is survived by his wife Kathleen of Kalispell his children and their spouses, Bob Jr. of Billings, Tom and Jodi of Boise, Dave and Kathy of Missoula, Caroline Baldwin and Tom of Coeur d'Alene, and John and Brandi of Boise; as well as 12 grandchildren.

A vigil will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25, and a funeral Mass at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at Risen Christ Catholic Church in Evergreen.

Phoebe M. Couse, 64

Phoebe M. Couse, 64, died March 8, 2014, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She is survived by her husband, Pete; and sons,

Todd and Dustin.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Karen Coutts, 63

Karen Coutts, 63, died Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014, at her residence in Whitefish.

She is survived by her husband, Irv Coutts; and children, Lisa Hastings,

Cristofir Coutts and Tina Paul.

There will be no services.

Arrangements are entrusted to Austin Funeral Home.

Kevin Arell Coverdell, 52

Kevin Arell Coverdell, 52, passed away Sept. 19, 2014, in Glasgow.

Kevin was born Aug. 16, 1962, in Kalispell. He grew up in Kalispell, was on swim team and wrestled. He attended Hedges Elementary School and Flathead High School.

As a young man, he moved to California where he met and married Mia Easley. From that marriage came the blessing of two wonderful sons, Braden and Bret. The marriage ended and he moved back to Kalispell. He then met and married Beth Larson in 1994.

Kevin worked at various different jobs which included construction, delivery driver for a plumbing supply company; he also installed gas fireplaces and drove trucks in Wyoming, North Dakota and Montana. Most recently, he had moved back to Montana and was working in Glasgow as a driver.

Kevin enjoyed hunting



and camping. He loved the Lord and his church families. He loved animals, especially

his dogs. He was always ready to help others and had a great sense of humor. Kevin loved everyone. He was a big, warm-hearted guy, who gave the best bear hugs and loved to laugh and tell jokes.

Kevin was preceded in death by his parents, Arell and Madeline Coverdell and Alton and Vera Vinge.

He is survived by his wife, Beth; sons, Braden and Bret; his brothers, Marion, Doug and Stan Coverdell, as well as his sister and brother-in-law, Trish and Pat Walsh; stepsister and husband, Judy and Ron Rabidue; nieces, nephews, cousins and birth family.

A memorial will be planned for a later date.

Russell D. Covey, 91

Russell D. Covey died of heart failure on Jan. 14, 2014, in Kalispell.

Russell was born Dec. 31, 1922, in Missoula to Harry L. and Ava L. Covey. He attended the original Lincoln Elementary School and graduated from Missoula County High School.

After graduation he attended Kinman Business College in Spokane and aviation ground school in Missoula. He joined the U.S. Army Air Force and became an air crewman on the B-17 aircraft.

In 1946 he entered the retail furniture business and was active in that business in Missoula for 30 years. In 1975, the business was sold and Russell retired to manage his personal affairs and enjoy retirement. He relocated to Reno, Nev., in 1989, and lived there until 2013



when he moved to Kalispell for health reasons.

Russell was an active pilot for many years and enjoyed boating, RVing and traveling. He was a life member of the Missoula Elks Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Mary; and a brother, Harry. Survivors include a brother, William Covey, and his wife, Gene, in Kalispell; and many nieces and nephews.

A private burial will take place in the Missoula City Cemetery, followed by a memorial service in May in Missoula.

Memorials may be in the form of donations to your favorite charity.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

J.D. Covington, 85

On March 18, 2014, our beloved husband, father, grandfather and former Richland Bomber head football coach J.D. Covington "went to walk beside his Lord" after a valiant and courageous struggle against an unfor-giving rare, brain disease, CBD.

In 1928, J.D. was born to Don and Edna Covington in the small, west Texas town of Borger. The first son and second of five children, J.D. went on to play football on a scholar-ship for West Texas State, where he also met his future bride, Frances Benson. They married in 1950. J.D. and his team-mates won the Sun Bowl in 1951.

Following graduation from WT, he accepted his first job teaching math at Borger Junior High. At the end of his first year, he was called into active duty during the Korean War where he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy for three years before being honorably discharged with the rank of lieutenant, j.g.

J.D. returned to WT to earn his master's degree and took his second teaching job in Dimmit, Texas. He was a teacher and coach — a well-respected man who, throughout his career, called his players to be better than they ever imagined they could be.

He had been inducted into Richland High School Hall of Fame, the Washington State Football Coaches Hall of Fame and Central Wash-ington State Coaches Hall of Fame. He was named Big Nine "Coach of the Year" on three different occasions.



courage and truth, he was the spiritual leader of his family. He loved the Lord and lived a beautiful life. Together he and Frances

raised five children, Deborah and Mitch Madison, Sandra and John Morgan, Joe and Debbie Covington, Jennifer and Chris Varnell, and Jay and Jackie Covington; 11 grand-children, Ana and Chris Morgan, Courtney and Brent Stenson, Kurt and Jessica Morgan, Jes-sica and Jake Higley, Jordan and Jill Madi-son, Jared and Katelyn Covington, and Jade and Jake Covington, and Kenny, Christina and Kevin Varnell; and nine great-grandchildren, Kaleb, Kyla, Kenny, Elli, Alaina, Emme, Sawyer, Sydney and Abigail.

He is survived by the love of his life, Frances; his sisters, Donna Lee Scott, Murrel and Bill Denbow, and Fern and Wayne Edwards; and sister-in-law, Obie Cov-ington.

He was preceded in death by his mother; father; brother, Bob Cov-ington; and infant son, Teddy Bruce.

"For I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand; I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Timoth-y 4: 6-7a.

Florence E. Cowan, 95

Florence E. Cowan, 95, of Yellow Bay, passed away Sept. 26, 2014, at her home in Yellow Bay, surrounded by family.

Florence was born Dec. 20, 1918, in Edgar to Arch and Barbara (Mill-er) Taylor.

She was a member of the Edgar Methodist Church and the Yellow Bay Women's Auxiliary.

Florence was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Phil; one sister; and four brothers.

She is survived by two children, son Rich-ard "Dick" Cowan, and daughter Sylvia Berkram; five grand-children; and nine great-grandchildren.



A memo-rial service will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 29, at the Yellow Bay Club-

house, located just a mil south of her home. There will be a meal to follow. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell. Burial will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at the Rockvale Cemetery near Edgar.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Angie R. Coxen, 47

Angie R. Coxen, 47, died Saturday, Aug. 16, 2014, at St. Joseph Hospital in Polson.

Memorial services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, at Good Shepherd

Lutheran Church, 409 Fourth Ave., in Polson.

Arrangements are under the direction of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory.

Viewing was held Fri-day at Mueller's Greenlee Funeral Home in Pas-co. Following a graveside service with military honors at 2 p.m. today, March 22, at City View Cemetery, a memorial ser-vice and reception will be held at Pasco's Christian Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in J.D.'s honor to Tri-Cities Chaplaincy Hospice House, a blessing of compassion, courage and comfort in a time of heartache or Bomber Boosters at Richland High School.

The family invites you to sign their online guest book at www.muellersfuneralhomes.com.

They moved to the Tri-Cities in 1968, when J.D. accepted a teaching and coaching position at Richland High School and Frances a teaching position at rival Pasco High. "Coach," as all his play-ers called him, guided the Bombers to a state cham-pionship, King Bowl V, in 1981. He retired from coaching in 1987, and from teaching in 1992. Fol-lowing their retirement, he and Frances made their home in Montana on Flathead Lake, where they enjoyed year-round their life on the cherry orchard they purchased in 1960.

A man of integrity,

Fred Butler Cox Jr., 80

Fred Butler Cox Jr., passed away Aug. 21, 2014, at his home in Henderson, Nev.

Born June 3, 1934, Fred was the son of Fred and Ann Cox. He grew up in Temple, Texas, married Harriet Frost, and received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering as co-valedictorian from Texas A&M in 1956. As a National Science Foundation Fellow, he earned two master's degrees in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, finishing in 1959.

Fred served three years of active duty and three years in the Air Force Reserve at Edwards Air Force Base in California, and for his work on the STARS Program he was awarded three patents in his name and an Air Force Commendation Medal.

After his military service, he studied to become a private pilot, earning instrument, multi-engine and instructor ratings. He worked for Beckman Instruments and later founded four high tech companies in Orange County, Calif. Of those, Microdata and Emulex Corporations became publicly held companies listed on the NASDEC and New York Stock Exchange. Fred held the position of CEO of Microdata Corporation and was CEO of Emulex Corporation for 12 years when he retired and became chairman, and then chairman emeritus.



Palladium Society (donors of \$1 million) and various engineering advisory boards.

He established the Fred and Harriet Cox Senior Design Competition that has enriched the education of young engineers and awakened in them the possibility of entrepreneurship. In 2012 he was the recipient of the Silver State Award by the UNLV Alumni Association that recognizes significant contributions to higher education, UNLV and the community. His support of science and engineering was born of enthusiasm, backed by monetary assistance, and years spent in personal involvement. In May 2014, UNLV and the Nevada Board of Regents awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Science degree.

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Fred and Harriet Cox were proud founders of the Smith Center for the Performing Arts and have been active in supporting other local charities, including the Nevada Ballet Theater, Hopelink, the Henderson Presbyterian Church Food Bank and St. Rose Hospital.

Fred is survived by his loving wife of almost 60 years, Harriet; and his three children, Fred Cox III and Jan of Reno, Nev., Alicia Stanfill and Vern of Kalispell, and Eric Cox and Alice of Los Altos, Calif.; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A physical fitness enthusiast, he ran marathons and completed the Boston Marathon in 1985. Upon retirement, Fred and Harriet divided their time between Flathead Lake and Henderson. They were instrumental in making possible a summer camp for the Boy Scouts on their property — Melita Island — and its eventual purchase by the Boy Scouts of America, Montana Council.

In Nevada, Fred found a home at University of Las Vegas for his passion for engineering, science education and entrepreneurship. He first established engineering scholarships, then became a member of the UNLV Foundation board, the

A memorial service will be held in Fred's honor at 2 p.m. on Sept. 7 in the UNLV Science and Engineering Building auditorium, followed by a reception in the UNLV Foundation Building.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the UNLV Fred and Harriet Cox Senior Design Competition, P.O. Box 454005, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89154-4005; or the Henderson Presbyterian Church Food Bank, P.O. Box 91346, Henderson, NV 89009.

Virginia S. Cox, 83

Our beloved mother suddenly "was called to be with the Lord" Sept. 16, 2014, at her home in Kalispell.

Virginia was born in Castlewood, Va., on July 11, 1931. She attended local schools there and in Bristol, Tenn.

Virginia married Vol-lie White Jr., and they had two sons, Glenn and Tommy.

Mrs. Cox worked in the Bristol area for the textile businesses around the area for many years. She worked for Big Jacks, American Thread and E.W. King, to name a few.

She married Albert L. Cox of Oliver Springs, Tenn. After eight years of marriage they divorced, and she and sons moved to Roanoke, Va., from 1968 to 1974. She worked for Rowe Furniture Manufacturing Company in Roanoke and was the first female upholster employed there. She also worked for Fred Whitaker as a thread twister and North Eleven Lanes as a restaurant manager. Mrs. Cox loved Roanoke and the people she worked with.

She moved to Kalispell for the first time in April of 1974. Mrs. Cox moved back to Roanoke for a brief time before moving to Oakridge, Tenn., where she worked for Boeing, where she held national security clearance. Later she transferred to the Boeing Company in Everett, Wash., where she was employed as a shop-keeper. Upon her retirement, she moved back to Kalispell where she and her sons built a home in 1991 and lived there until

her passing.

Mrs. Cox loved her Lord and Savior. He gave her strength and courage. As a good Christian she was compassionate towards others and would say she never met a stranger and always tried to help them.

Her hobbies included sewing and quilting. She loved working in her garden and rock collecting. She loved making snowmen as gifts and giving them away. She also loved helping others and giving to charities. Her favorite charity was St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, Mont.

She was a good American and loved her country. Mrs. Cox loved all of her relatives and all of her friends and was looking forward to seeing everyone in heaven with her.


A funeral service for Mrs. Cox will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24, in the Weaver Funeral Home Chapel in Bristol with the Rev. Jack Stevens officiating. The family will receive friends from noon to 1:45 p.m. prior to the service. The committal service will follow in Shelby Hills Cemetery in Bristol. Pallbearers will be friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, donation may be made to St. Labre Indian School, P.O. Box 216 Ashland, MT 59003-9989.

Online condolences may be registered by visiting the website, www.weaver-funeralhome.net

Arrangements have been made with Weaver Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Bristol.

Join us in Celebrating the Life of
George R. "Ron" Craft



Saturday March 15, 2014 • 4-7 p.m.
The Lodge at Whitefish Lake
1380 Wisconsin Ave., Whitefish, MT 55937

Laurence Craft, 95

Laurence Craft, 95, died May 25, 2014, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

There are no services planned at this time. Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

Ted Lee Crail, 85

Ted Lee Crail, 85, passed away April 16, 2014, in Kalispell.

He was born Sept. 16, 1929, in Wolf Point to Lloyd and Bertha (Murray) Crail.

He was raised in Kalispell. Though he lived for many years on both coasts, in Florida and California, it was Kalispell he returned to in 2006 with his longtime friend Maria Arnold who became his wife on Feb. 10, 2014. He was previously married to Lee Polivan Crail for 42 years.

Ted was a writer, newspaperman, a family man, pacifist, an animal activist, an artist and he woke up cheerful every single day of his life. His writing career began in high school, Class of 1946, where he was co-editor of the Flathead Arrow. He moved on to study creative writing at the University of Washington. During college, his article "Progress Hits My Town" about the effects of the Hungry Horse Dam on Kalispell was published by the Saturday Evening Post.

Ted's first job out of college was at the Dunn Daily Record in North Carolina. The Associated Press picked up his stories on a regular basis and sent them around the world on the news wire. He also wanted pictures to go along with his stories and photographers were not plentiful, so Ted taught himself to take pictures and would soon be documenting the news and lives of the stories he went out on. The camera became a daily accessory in his creative life for the rest of his life.



life including his family and other notable encounters. Next, Ted went into public relations and worked as

Jackie Gleason's personal press representative and ghostwriter for several years.

In 1975, Ted with his wife and daughter moved to California, where Ted went to work saving the animals in his new job as vice president of creative affairs for Sacramento's Animal Protection Institute (now re-named Born Free USA). This job also led him to become a filmmaker and an author. His film "The Ninth Crusade" was a movie history of animal-rights campaigns and was narrated by Beau Bridges. His next big project was the book, "Apetalk and Whalespeak: The Quest for Interspecies Communication."

Ted took up making art as another form of self-expression and using his own photographs of celebrities, his drawings and even digital imaging. Ted combined them with text, delivering his clever ideas about love, politics and the meaning of life in a colorful pop-art style. His large collection of posters were displayed in an art exhibit on the long, open walls in the Arts and Technology Building at Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Ruth Crail Broeder and brother, Timothy Crail.

Jonathan Timothy Crandell, 63

Jonathan Timothy Crandell, 63, died in Kalispell on Oct. 19, 2014.

He is survived by his wife, Sally, of Eureka.

A celebration of life will be held in Eureka at a later date.

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

Ethel Marie Cubrda, 103

Ethel Marie Cubrda, 103, died Jan. 11, 2014 at her home in Kalispell. Her remains be

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

Ethel Cubrda, 102

Ethel Cubrda, 102, passed away Jan. 11, 2014, in her home at Prestige Assisted Living, with her grandchildren by her side.

She is survived by her stepson, Ed Cubrda and wife Colete; grandchildren, Art Bielz and wife Tracie, Katrina Vannest and husband Rodney, and

Donald Bielz. She also had several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren who were the light of her life.

Cremation has taken place and she will be interred in Colorado with her children and son-in-law who preceded her in death. She requested no services.

Mary Anne Curran, 71

Mary Anne Curran, 71, died Oct. 14, 2014, in Whitefish.

She is survived by her husband, Tom Curran; and daughter, Jessica

Curran.

No services will be held at this time.

Arrangements are entrusted to Austin Funeral Home.

Ted loved to write, he loved to interview, he loved to talk and he loved to get the story. He and his family moved to Florida and Ted continued his career as a newspaperman. He had many jobs at various papers and finally settled in as the editor of The Miami Beach Sun where he reported on and interviewed dozens of the biggest celebrities of the day.

His daily column, "MY Daze" was a popular feature in the paper, where he put a more personal spin on the stories of his

Ted Crail is survived by his wife, Maria Arnold Crail, of Kalispell; and his daughter, Carr Crail Goslow, of Sacramento, Calif.; sister, Peggy Byrne, of Kalispell; brother, the Rev. Donn Crail, of Claremont, Calif.; and many nieces and nephews.

There are no services planned for Ted at this time.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Ted's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and view Ted's tribute wall.

Everett George Curtin, 58

Everett Curtin peacefully passed away at his home on Nov. 3, 2014, in Kalispell.

He was born July 27, 1956, in Kalispell to George and Jean Curtin.

He left school early to help his mom after his father had passed. He then traveled all throughout Idaho and Washington working at different local newspapers as a pressman. His favorite time and place was when he worked and lived in Seattle. When he spoke about this time in his life he would light up and tell you stories of his adventures and friends that he made there.

In July of 1983 he married Karen. Together they had three children Joshua, Nicholas and Becky, and raised them here in the valley.

Everett has many grandchildren, Chloe, Gabriel, Ashton, Abby, Allen, Maddy and Estella, who were his pride and joy. Being surrounded by his grandchildren was



his heaven on earth.

His siblings are Lloyd, Dawn Taylor, Daniel and Tammy,

and Warren. He also has several nieces, nephews and cousins who adored and loved him. His heart and soul belonged to his family.

He found the good in every person he met. He was always there for a shoulder to cry on, someone to talk to, or just an encouraging word. He was a friend to everyone no matter who you were.

Everett was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service for him will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Salvation Army Community Center, 110 Bountiful Drive in Kalispell, with a potluck to follow. Information about the potluck will be available at the time of the service.

Laurie Anne (Absalonson) Cunningham, 65

Laurie Anne (Absalonson) Cunningham, 65, of Kalispell, passed away April 26, 2014.

Laurie was born in Kalispell to Elmer and Nadine (Copley) Absalonson on Oct. 14, 1948. Laurie was raised in Kalispell and graduated from Kalispell High School in 1966.

She married Martin Gilman in 1967 and had three children. Laurie later divorced and in 1996 married Charles A. Cunningham.

She enjoyed cooking, crafting, scrapbooking, gardening and spending time with her grandchildren.

Laurie was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband of 18 years, Charles A. Cunningham, of Kalispell; children,



Michael Gilman of Irvine, Calif., Elaine Bentzinger of Redmond, Wash.,

Matt Gilman of Kalispell, and stepdaughter, Tamara, of Columbia Falls; brother, Harold Absalonson, of Spokane; and grandchildren, Landon, Noelle, Chase, Kelsey, Nicholas, Cody and Kadyn.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 1, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

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

Leona Mae Cunningham, 58

Leona Mae Cunningham passed away on July 19, 2014, in Tacoma, Wash., of natural causes.

She was born on Dec. 6, 1955, in Kalispell to Herbert and Celia Knopp. She attended elementary and high school in Kalispell and later married Charles Cunningham. They were married for 10 years and had two wonderful daughters together.

Most of Leona's employment was as a certified nursing assistant which she did for over 30 years. She had a passion for taking care of elderly people and she really cared that they got the best care possible. It upset her greatly if she found out that one of her patients was not getting proper care when she wasn't on duty.

Leona's other passion was gardening. You could usually find her on her days off working in her flower gardens. She would spend countless hours working in them and the results were amazing.



Leona was preceded in death by her parents.

Leona is survived by two daughters,

Rebecca Cunningham of Kalispell and Tammy Acord of Great Falls; five sisters, Lorraine Zabel of Tacoma, Wash., Linda Smith of Tacoma, Lucille Treat and husband Ronnie of Tacoma, LaVonne Crawford and husband Rick of Gig Harbor, Wash., and Loretta Johnson of Anchorage, Alaska; three brothers, Gordon Knopp and wife Judy of Kalispell, Ray Knopp and wife Meriam of Kalispell, and Gary Knopp and wife Helen of Kenai, Alaska. Leona is also survived by six grandchildren whom she loved deeply.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 4, at the Christian Center, followed by a reception.

Susan Kay Currie, 66

Susan Kay Currie was a selfless and caring person who always put herself second to the needs and desires of others. She died Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, at age 66 at Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto, Calif., of complications following heart surgery, with her husband of 40 years, Brian, and her daughter, Kia Sullivan, at her side.

Mrs. Currie, born in Waterloo, Iowa, daughter of Leo and Virginia Quinn, was an 18-year breast cancer survivor and a world-class philanthropist and charitable fundraiser. She was the consummate organizer, leaving nothing to chance, whether it was a golf tournament or a travel vacation. She left detailed instructions for the music to be played at her own funeral service.

Services are planned for Jan. 14 at the St. Simon Catholic Parish in



Los Altos, Calif.

Susan and Brian Currie met at Motorola Semiconductor in Mesa, Ariz.,

in 1973. They married the following year and soon moved with their daughter Kia to California. Following 10 years with AMD the Curries founded and operated a sales representative organization (Phase II) for 12 years before retiring to the Southern California desert.

In 1985 Ms. Currie joined the founding group of the Silicon Valley Charity Ball. In its 10-year run, the event raised some \$5 million to support area causes and nonprofit groups. At meetings where the funds were allocated, Mrs. Currie was often "reduced to tears" at the dire needs of the individual charities,

remembered Paulette Beemiller, a longtime friend who termed Mrs. Currie "the kindest woman I've ever known."

The year before she tested positive for breast cancer, 1995, she was named the outstanding volunteer of the year by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives for her work with the Charity Ball and other leadership roles including Peninsula Volunteers, Catholic Charities, Los Altos Newcomers, as well as Ronald McDonald House at Stanford.

Mrs. Currie is remembered as being a great outdoors person and an ardent athlete — as a youngster she once bowled a game of 299. When she was 40 — the same year she received a degree in business with honors from San Jose State University — she ran the Los Angeles Marathon. Her favorite sport

was golf. Vicki Hammer, who played golf with her in Bigfork where the Curries have a summer home, noted that "Golf was a challenge and a struggle — her best game might have been 102."

Not to be stopped by breast cancer or the associated bone marrow transplant, in 2000 she and Brian completed the 60-mile Avon Cancer Walk from San Jose to San Francisco. She was one of seven people selected to lead the march. She raised more than \$50,000 for the event.

In addition to her husband and daughter, Mrs. Currie is survived by her grandchildren, Bryn Hana and Kobe Quinn Sullivan; and a brother, David Quinn, of Phoenix.

Donations, in lieu of flowers, should be sent to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University or the charity of one's choice.

Ronald Glen Olaf Curtiss, 73

Ronald Glen Olaf Curtiss, avid bowler, outdoorsman, pontoon boat "Capitan," and accomplished fire boss, passed away peacefully on the morning of Friday, Sept. 26, 2014, in Libby, at the age of 73.

He was born in Colville, Wash., to George and Bessie (Kyllo) Curtiss on May 27, 1941, the second of three boys. He grew up in Washington and Oregon, and was very active in football, baseball, basketball and track throughout his youth. After graduating from Kettle Falls High School in 1960, he went to work as a firefighter for the Forest Service during the summer months and attended college for two years at Eastern Washington College in Cheney, Wash.

In his second season with the Forest Service, Ron entered the smoke jumper program and began the first of 98 total fire jumps in most of the western United States and Alaska over a span of 11 years. Ron worked in fire and fuels during his entire Forest Service career. In 1984, he became incident commander on one of the 18 Type I National Fire teams. He served in this capacity through 1988, managing fires up to 250,000 acres and fire camps of over 5,000 people plus military personnel. He was fire management officer for the Fisher River District from 1972 until he retired in 1994.



which held an annual bowling tournament.

Throughout his life, Ron was an outdoors

enthusiast, devoted hunter and fisherman, golfer and member of the Ski Patrol in Missoula and Libby. He was vice president of the Bull Lake Rod and Gun Club and remodeled the clubhouse after the asbestos cleanup. He also was a member of the Libby Trap Club.

Ron was one of those top-notch people that you knew as soon as you met him that he was all action and little talk — a "go to" guy when the chips were down. His last years were spent at the Bull Lake lot, making it a wonderful and memorable place for family and friends to visit and ride with the "Capitan" on the boat. Throughout his years, he touched many lives and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Bessie Curtiss.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon, of Libby; daughters, Sandra Watts and Mike of Albuquerque, N.M., Mary Kruse and Bob of Kalispell, and Stacie Burns and Jason of Helena; and brothers, Kelly Curtiss and Johnnie of Metaline, Wash., and Mike Curtiss and Judy of Colville, Wash.; also grandchildren, JR Rebo of Libby, Teri Berschneider and George of Kailua, Hawaii, Elizabeth and Odin Kruse of Kalispell, Kijrstjn Kruse of Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, and Kenyon and Kyle Burns of Helena.

Ron married Norma Rhett in Grangeville, Idaho, on Dec. 6, 1961, and fathered two children, Sandra Lee, born in 1966 in Missoula, and Mary June, born in 1968, also in Missoula. They moved to Libby in 1972. Ron and Norma divorced in 1986.

He married Sharon Adkins on June 4, 1988, in Libby and with that marriage came a daughter, Stacie Kay Adkins.

Ron loved to bowl and was president of the Libby-Troy Bowling Association for many years. He was a director for six years and second vice president for three years of the Montana State Bowling Association. He also supported the Libby youth bowling program

Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at the Libby Christian Church, 100 Kootenai River Road, Libby. Visitation will be 1 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, at Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Arrangements are under the care of Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby. Online condolences and memories may be shared by visiting www.schnackenbergfh.com.