

John Frederick Easton, 87, of Bigfork, passed away Dec. 4, 2017, in Tempe, Arizona, surrounded by family.

His wife of 65 years, Marilyn Jean, preceded him in death in July. John was an avid fisherman, hunter and outdoorsman.

He loved hiking, boating and four-wheeling in his Jeep, and continued camping into his 80s. He was a modeler and built numerous model airplanes, trains and train layouts and boats. A



ham radio operator, John spent many hours enjoying exchanges with people around the world. He was friendly, talkative and knowledgeable, and appreciated music throughout his life.

John is survived by his children, Dan (Becky)

Easton of Juneau, Alaska, Pam (Norm) Saba of Tempe, Arizona, Brian Easton of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Susan (Jack Qutub) Easton of Alexandria, Virginia. He has eight grandchildren, Danny (Jenn), Matt and Zach Saba, Joey and Zach Easton, and Brooke, Piper and Joey Qutub. He has one great-granddaughter, Alex Easton.

John was born in Painesville, Ohio, on Dec. 10, 1929, to parents John Alexander

## John Frederick Easton, 87

and Eleanor Elizabeth (Schmidt) Easton, and grew up in Willoughby, Ohio. He has one sister, Fregis Landman, who is deceased. John went to Bowling Green State University and graduated in 1951 with a bachelor's degree in music. He married Marilyn, his college sweetheart, the following year. John was proud to serve in the United States Navy in Japan for four years. After he was honorably discharged, he and Marilyn moved to Michigan, where he

worked for Michigan Bell Telephone Company in various locations for 12 years.

John and Marilyn then purchased Easton Point Marina in Easton, Maryland, and moved to Oxford in 1969. John was an active member of the community, among other things serving on the board and as vice president of the Waterfowl Festival, the president of R/C Friends Aeromodelers and volunteering for the Power Squadsrons. After

selling the marina, John became a realtor for the Easton-based firm Sharp & Critchlow. He and Marilyn bought the East Haven RV Park and moved to Winter Haven, Florida, in 1987. Years later, they sold the park and retired, enjoying family, friends and hobbies in Bigfork and Fountain Hills, Arizona.

The immediate family held a private service in Tempe. Condolences may be left for the family at [tempemortuary.com](http://tempemortuary.com).

16 Dec 2017



# James Gray Edmiston, 94

James Gray Edmiston, 94, passed away Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Jim was born in Colfax, Washington, in 1922 to James Gray Edmiston and Amanda Robbin Edmiston. His family moved to Kalispell in 1927 where he graduated from Flathead County High School in 1940.

He started college at Whitman in Walla Walla, Washington, but with the onset of World War II, he enlisted in 1942 in the Army Air Corps in the hope of becoming a pilot. With the need for infantry men, he became a heavy mortar gunner Private First Class with Company "M," 101st Infantry, as part of General Patton's Third Army and its big push through Europe. Arriving in Normandy, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge and received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart Award for wounds received in the 'Relief of Bastogne,' Belgium.

After the war, he resumed his college studies at the University of New Hampshire, and eventually received his business degree from Whitman College. Returning to Kalispell, he started work as vice president at the Conrad National Bank where his father was president in 1948. Jim met and married Phillis Parr in 1951, who was secretary to both him, and his father Gray.



1975, Jim went back into banking and served as president of the Bank of Columbia Falls and Inter-mountain Bancorporation.

Jim had many varied business interests and partnerships that included The

Scottsdale Progress newspaper, O'Neil Printing Company, The Daily InterLake, Time Insurance, The Kalispell Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, the Kalispell Meat Packing Plant, Tri-City Warehouse Foods, and was instrumental in bringing the television signal to the valley. He also served on the board of Crime-Stoppers.

Like his father, Jim was a kind and generous man with a giving heart and helping hand. He valued his time with family, and appreciated his long, close, enduring friendships. He enjoyed reading, woodworking and computers, having installed one of the valley's largest banking computer systems. Living through much hardship, he remained resilient and strong, and was most proud of his children and their accomplishments. He was grateful to hold

11 Mar 2017

In 1952, Jim purchased land between Kalispell and Columbia Falls from the Anaconda Co. that had been bought by Harvey Aluminum for a plant. He and his wife started Edmiston Land & Cattle Company there, which became the third largest producer of registered Herefords in Montana. With a foundation herd sire purchased from John D. Rockefeller's son, Winthrop, and a revered, dedicated crew of ranch hands and workmen, his cattle earned top awards at shows including the Northwest Montana Fair, the Montana State Fair, Bozeman Winter Fair, the Missoula Top Cut, Calgary Stampede and others.

While continuing to run the ranch, he and Phillis moved, with their three children, to Scottsdale, Arizona, where he received the charter and built the Bank of Scottsdale in 1960. Returning to the Flathead full-time in 1963, he eventually expanded the ranch to include a large feedlot and fully automated harvester feeding system.

When Gray went on to become president of the Bank of Columbia Falls, Jim oversaw the design and completion of the new bank building and drive-in on Nucleus Ave. After selling the ranch in

his newly born only great-granddaughter on Christmas Day, and again three days before he passed. He died with his daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter at his side.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; wife Phillis in 2015; daughter Janel in 1994; and sister Norma Happ in 2015.

He is survived by his daughter, Marla Edmiston of Kalispell; son, James G. Edmiston and wife Marni of Billings; granddaughter, Katie Edmiston-Luoma, husband Cory, and great-granddaughter Fia Pearl Luoma of Columbia Falls; grandson, Gray Edmiston of Twin Bridges; nephews Craig Happ, Rick Lee, and Lynn L. Lee; nieces Laurie Happ and Norice Lee.

Private military graveside services are pending for a later date at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank the Daily Inter Lake for the telling of 'his and his father's war stories,' and the helpful staff of the Montana Veterans Home for his care the last two months.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to The Museum at Central School, Kalispell.

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



**William "Ike" Jeremiah Eisentraut, 81**

William "Ike" Jeremiah Eisentraut, 81, passed away peacefully on Saturday Sept. 2, 2017 surrounded by his loved ones.

Ike was born in Waubeka, Wisconsin, on Aug. 6, 1936, to Leonard and Katherine (Holland) Eisentraut. His mother passed away when he was young. His father married Lorraine Eisentraut. Ike

graduated from Port Washington High School.

Ike proudly served in the Army, National Guard and Marines throughout his career. He retired from the Los Angeles Police Department after 20

years, the last 14 years as a homicide detective. He was responsible for over 250 murder investigations and his solve rate was over 90 percent. Prior to the LAPD, Ike worked several years with the German and Korean Police Department as a military policeman. He owned and operated Moonlighting Detective Agency in Kalispell until

his retirement in 2014. Ike loved classic cars, hunting, and serving his community as a Deacon at Faith Covenant Church.

Ike married Joan E. Jennings April 4, 1983. He is survived by his wife and children, Cayce J. Eisentraut, Dawn (Mark) Puerling and William (Sharon) Hildebrand, three brothers, Marvin Eisentraut,

Donald Eisentraut, Dale Eisentraut and sister-in-law Jane E. Jennings. Ike is preceded in death by his parents, daughter Jessica E. Eisentraut, wife Joyce Hildebrand, wife Jeannie Eisentraut and his grandson Adam Puerling.

The family would like to note a special thank you to Charles Pesola for his genuine care and support.

Viewing for Ike will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, at Johnson Gloschat Funeral Home



**Annie Ellen Ek, 3 weeks**

Annie was born Dec. 23, 2016, in Kalispell and passed away Jan. 13, 2017, at home in Lower Valley of complications due to trisomy 13.

Annie brought much joy to her family and many others in her short, but sweet, life.

She is survived by her parents, Ed and Mary; sisters, Erin (Bill) Rush of England, Lucia (Tommy) Lindell, Karina, and Sandra, all of Kalispell; brothers, Brian (Meche), Brycen, and Ryan, all of Kalispell, Dustin (Molli) of Kennewick, Washington, and Laison, Caleb, Jonas and Trevor, all at home; grandparents, George and Charlotte Peterson and Alice Ek, all of Battle Ground, Washington; nieces, Sidney Ek and



Lily Rush; nephews, Mattias Ek, Leo Rush, and Belken Ek; great-grandmother, Ellen

Kangas of South Dakota; and a host of Christian friends and relatives who loved her dearly. Annie was preceded in death by her grandfather, Walter Ek.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, at the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church, 215 Blacktail Road, in Lakeside. All are welcome.

Burial will be at a later date.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

**31 Jan 2017**

**Joy Ellen Elgin, 77**

Joy Ellen Elgin, 77, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017, from ovarian cancer, at her home in Kalispell.

Joy was born Dec. 5, 1939, in Canton, Illinois, to Merle and Winnie (Taylor) Elgin. Joy was raised in Canton, graduating from high school in 1957. She then attended Mid State Business College in Peoria, Illinois, in 1958.

Joy worked as a bookkeeper in real estate and for Edward Jones Investments.

In 1958 she married Floyd Glen Miller; they later divorced in 1981. She then married Royce Mikelson in 1988, whom she later divorced in 2016.

Joy enjoyed photography, cooking, travel and Glacier National Park. Her biggest surprise was finding that the stork had dropped her in the wrong place so she moved to Montana in 1986.

Joy is survived by her children, Chris and Tim Miller.

The family request memorial contributions be made to Epworth United Methodist Scholarship Fund.

A celebration of life service will be held March 4 at Epworth United Methodist Church.

To send a note of condolence to the family, please visit [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.



## Randi Lynn (Heinrichson) Elliot, 67

Randi "went to be with her Lord and Savior" on Jan. 20, 2017.

She was born May 22, 1949, in Richland, Washington, to LeRoy and Velma Heinrichson.

She passed away unexpectedly and peacefully. "Her wings were ready but our hearts were not."

Randi grew up and attended grade school in Evergreen and graduated from Flathead High School. She moved to Seattle and attended Lee's School of Cosmetology. Then later on she and her sisters went on an adventure and lived in Denver and she used her cosmetology skills there. She married Bob Elliott and they later divorced.

Randi spent the next 13 years in Alaska enjoying its beauty and splendor and took geology classes, went gold mining and did some commercial fishing and traveled many miles there.

She returned to Kalispell in 1995 and became a certified nursing assistant. She loved her clients and her incredible kindness and loving



spirit will be greatly missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her.

She will be forever loved by those who have survived her. She is survived by her mother, Velma Heinrichson; sister Patti (George) Everett, and sister Linda Rowlette; her niece Amy (Jim) Flammond, nephew Jon (Wendy) Everett, niece Desa Rae (Steve) Parker, Shawna (Nick) Geranios; and great-nieces and -nephews, and many cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father, LeRoy Heinrichson.

Randi leaves a legacy of love for her Lord, family, friends and wherever her journey took her she always had her beloved dogs by her side and made sure her feathered friends had feed.

Please join us in a celebration to honor Randi from 1 to 3 p.m. on Feb. 4 at the Moose Lodge in Evergreen.

28 Jan 2017



## Roger H. Elliott, 86

Roger H. Elliott passed away on Aug. 1, 2017, at the age of 86 after a lengthy struggle with brain tumors.

He is survived by his daughter Diane of Kalispell, son Roger (Rose) of Columbia Falls, son Wayne (Suzanne) of Kalispell, and daughter Beth (Mark) Parrish of Sparks, Nevada.

Roger was born on May 11, 1931, in Seattle. He was raised in that city by an independent mother whom he considered one of his guardian angels. He graduated from West Seattle High School and the University of Washington. He loved the college and professional teams from that city and often had battles within the family whenever the Huskies or Seahawks would play.

An accounting position with Foley Brothers Construction, which built the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, brought him out to Montana directly after college. He became involved with the local Lions Club and met his wife while "working on the books" at the DeWit home.

He married Grace DeWit on April 17, 1959. Four children were born



between 1960 and 1965. Family trips and experiences from the

Bicentennial on the East Coast, to fishing trips on the far western tip of Washington, to back-packing trips in the Bob Marshall are etched in our memories. He was active in civic and fraternal organizations such as the Lions, Jaycees, Masons, the Shriners and Coast Guard Auxiliary. He supported the community and was mayor of Columbia Falls from 1967 to 1971. While mayor he worked to establish the sewer system and was involved in establishing the current county landfill. During the winter, he helped institute, and at times drove, a ski bus which left the junior high parking lot on Saturday mornings, filled with skis and children for a day of skiing on Big Mountain. He served as a state senator from 1981 to 1984.

He sold his accounting practice in June of 1980 and then the adventures began. They bought Elena, a Grand Banks trawler, in 1984 and

motored up and down the coast from Washington to Alaska. He loved fishing, the scenery and being back on the ocean. After that, Grace "requested" land travel so a motor home was the next mode of transportation from 1992 to 2008. They traversed Canada and the United States and found a second home at Happy Trails Resort in Surprise, Arizona. He rekindled a family connection with Bob and Linda Wingo and his Aunt Mary who live in Phoenix. Tennis, bridge, tennis, water volleyball and tennis filled his days. He also served on the board of directors for the resort. He was a caring and compassionate caregiver for Grace and continued to be a snowbird after her death in 2007.

While he was accurate to the penny in financial matters, he could also fix anything that might need repair, from completely restoring his 1954 Kaiser-Frazer Manhattan to fixing a leaky roof on one of his many rental properties. Much better to repair than buy new! All of his projects and investments were preceded by hours, days, weeks, months and even years of research and preparation.

In May of 2015 he was diagnosed with glioma blastoma. Chemotherapy and radiation did not slow him down. He played tennis until October of 2016 and even hit a few at The Summit between his radiation treatments in January.

He loved his grandchildren, Stephanie and Sam Elliott, Briana and Elliott Parrish and Melissa Dodge. He fully supported their education and loved attending games they competed in and hearing about their interests and plans for the future.

The family wishes to thank the many doctors, nurses and technicians for their excellent care and attention. Hospice with Home Options provided wonderful support during the last few months.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Geneva Johnson, wife Grace Elliott, sister-in-law Marjorie Lindsey, grandson Ron Dodge and great-granddaughter Halia Mandaguit.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 15, at the Columbia Falls Methodist Church with a reception and celebration of life to follow.



### John Royal Ellis, 69

John was born in Kalispell, April 21, 1948, to Royal and Barbara (Vukonich) Ellis. He attended Fortine Grade School, Eureka High School, and art school in California with a minor in ancient history. He then joined the service. The death of his father brought him back to Grave Creek.



responsible for his work ethic and ability to have fun. His last 20 years were spent brushing roads all over Lincoln County with

John put the "you" in unique. Avid reader, constant photographer, John lived a minimalist lifestyle without electricity, running water, refrigeration, or an automobile. However, he could make it to town and back for groceries, dog food, cigarettes and whiskey more quickly than most car owners! He also had a cell phone and knew the local and world news and politics quickly and not without producing an opinion concerning both just as quickly!

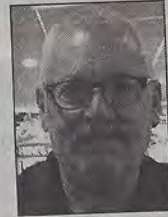
his best friend Roland Snedigar. Outside was his playground where he mapped with David Billow. His time and talents were graciously spent on his cousin, her husband and nine nieces and nephews in the Anaconda area. Wedding and birthday gifts, little notes and lots of pictures arrived unexpectedly.

John died Sept. 6, 2017, on a remote section of road in Idaho doing what he loved best, working as a brusher. Our lives will be changed because he loved us and we loved him ... but love knows no end and goes on to even greater heights, out of this world and on into eternity, where we can hear John say, "Next one here bring the camera, I've never seen things and colors quite like these"! Graveside rites will be at 1 p.m. on Sept. 24 at Fortine Cemetery.

Sensitive, caring, generous, hardworking, art critic and companion ... John could engage quickly, adapt to any condition, jump into any project, and see the funny side of everything. He was generally a peacemaker, loved his friends unconditionally, loved thrift shopping, his dogs, conversation and lots of coffee. His Croatian genes were

### Scott Alan Ellis, 63

Scott lost his battle with cancer on Sept. 3, 2017.



Scott was born May 9, 1954, and grew up in Kalispell, where he attended Flathead High School, and went on to the U.S. Army, proudly serving in the 101st Airborne. He had a passion for music, cars and mechanics. He had been an active member of the local VFWs over the years.

He is survived by his son, Scott D. Ellis; and two granddaughters, Baylee and Sydney; along with brothers and sisters, Leslie, Paula, Brenda, David and Bucky; and many friends.

He was always glad to have a shot of blackberry brandy with his friends. He will be truly missed by all.

Services are planned

for 2 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery, 1911 Tower Street, Missoula, MT 59804. This will be the

niche placement. Honors will be provided by the local VFW, American Legion and the U.S. Army National Guard. A reception will follow from 3 to 6 p.m. at the family home, 2712 Ancabide Lane, Missoula MT 59803.

"Keep moving forward."

Arrangements are under the care of Garden City Funeral Home.



## Karen Ruth Emerson, 74

Karen Ruth Emerson, 74, of Kalispell, passed away on March 23, 2017, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

She was born Oct. 19, 1942, in Lewistown, the daughter of William Herbold and Maryann Langevin. The Herbold family moved to Kalispell, making their home at Rose Crossing in 1948. Karen, the ninth of 12 children, graduated from Flathead County High School with the Class of 1963.

On Dec. 27, 1969, she was united in marriage to Richard Emerson in Eureka. Karen worked as an administrative assistant throughout her life, bringing zest and creativity to every position she held. In 2009 she retired and enjoyed spending time with her grandkids, gardening and working in her beautiful yard on the west side of Kalispell. Having been raised in Montana, Karen had an appreciation for wildlife and loved long rides into the backcountry. As a tribal elder of the Little Shell Tribe of Montana, Karen had a passion for Montana history and Native American culture, and loved the Metis Celebration and



Powwow in Lewistown. Karen was known for her sense of humor and ability to light up a

room. Her warmth was far reaching and she showed kindness and compassion for all that she touched.

Karen is survived by her four children, Richard (William) Emerson, Donovan (Joseph) Emerson, Anna (Marie) Emerson, and Amy (Lune) Axelsen. She also leaves behind her three beloved grandchildren, Daylan (Cosmo) Axelsen, Isabelle (Moon) Axelsen, and Christopher (William) Emerson; as well as two brothers, four sisters, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held in Karen's honor at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 29, at St. Matthew's Catholic Parish, with a luncheon to follow.

To send a note of condolence to the family, please visit [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Margaret Kathleen Emerson, nee O'Reilly, 77

The world grew a little less bright during the early morning hours of Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017, when Margaret Kathleen Emerson, nee O'Reilly, "was called home to her final reward." She was 77.

Though actually born in Seattle where she spent most of her first four years, Kathleen took great pride in being a Butte "native." While in Butte, Kathleen and her siblings attended the Catholic and public school systems. Kathleen graduated Butte High school in 1958.

Of the many things that Kathleen loved about life in Butte, having so many aunts and uncles and cousins around was her favorite. It was this unquestioned importance of family that would remain a defining factor throughout her life.

Some few years after having Butte High, she moved to the Seattle area where she lived with her sister Agnes. Kathleen was able to secure employment with Boeing and it was during this time that she met the man who she would love for more than 53 years, Mike Emerson. Mike and Kay were married June 15, 1963. Despite many promotions and transfers up and down the West Coast, they chose to leave Boeing. In 1971, they purchased a Sears Catalogue franchise in Polson, which would be considered home for the next 46 years.

During their time in Polson, they bought a 12-acre ranchette where they built their home and raised their four children. They also raised cows, horses, chickens and turkeys, as well as a large vegetable garden.

While Mike concentrated on running the Sears store, Kay went to work for the Montana State Department of



Economic Security and focused on raising their family. This included

countless hours attending and helping with sporting events, 4-H, Campfire Girls, hosting kids for tournaments, hours and hours of homework and everything else required to make a wonderful home for her family.

In her spare time, Kathleen was a voracious reader and lover of word games and puzzles. She even authored two murder mystery/thriller novels. In later years, she would develop a passion for researching the family history. This interest was the basis for small trips and adventure with Mike during retirement.

Michael and Kathleen spent their golden years splitting their time between Sun City, Arizona, and their home in Polson, as well as visiting children, grandkids, siblings and cousins. Kathleen's life was a testament to kindness and caring. Everyone who knew her was better for it, and all are lessened by her absence.

Kathleen is survived by her four children, Peggy, Don, John and Matt; five grandchildren, Cody, Jamie, Bobbi, Ty and Casie; and two great-grandchildren; as well as three sisters, two brothers and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents, Robert Eugene and Margaret Cyrilla (Hanratty) O'Reilly; and her husband, Michael Robert Emerson.

A service will be planned for spring 2018 at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Helena.



## Clayton Stahley Emmert

Clayton Stahley Emmert of Bigfork and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, passed away after a sudden illness on Dec. 26, 2017, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Born of Crist Morris Emmert and Marion Hamm Emmert in Goshen, Indiana, he became a standout in high school basketball, track and field, and golf. He attended Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, for one year. He found his wife-to-be by seeing her picture in a publication of nearby DePauw University, which published pictures of all freshman girls. He knew that she was the one, just by seeing her picture in the magazine. Rejected after his first phone call, he called again a week later, and she accepted a date. Kay never had a date with anyone else after that day. She was 18 years old and he was 19. It was instant and lifelong love.

They both transferred to Indiana University, where he graduated magna cum laude, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in finance. He was awarded the William A. Rawles Key Award for the senior student having the most distinguished record in the School of Business.

Clayton began his business career at National City Bank in Cleveland, Ohio, then became vice president of commercial lending at First National Bank of Elkhart, Indiana. While in Elkhart, he was a leader in many civic organizations, and received an award for the most outstanding young man in the community.

Always having a passion for entrepreneurship, he became co-owner of Amerigo, a recreational vehicle manufacturer, which he sold five years later to Kampgrounds Of America. After selling the



business, he and his beloved wife Kay took their daughter and son, who were 14 and 10 years

old, out of school for a semester and traveled throughout Europe. After returning to the states, they lived in Vero Beach, Florida, where they were members of John's Island Club. They then moved to Santa Barbara, California. While living in Santa Barbara, he owned a lighting fixture manufacturing company, and also the oldest music business in the city. Having an idyllic life there, Kay read a book by Gail Sheehy that stated that "To change is to grow." They then started considering where they might relocate, in order to have an entirely different experience. They discovered Southern Pines, North Carolina, and while there, Clay established a non-profit corporation with the objective of revitalizing the potentially quaint downtown. Chairmen Clay and Kay transformed an old movie theater into a performing arts center; Clay was instrumental in beautifying the downtown, redoing all the visible wiring to underground wiring, creating landscaping and planting trees on Broad Street, and developing new parking spaces behind all the commercial buildings by buying property from individual landowners. They were members of North Carolina Country Club. With the idea that it was something they could do together, they established S.M. Bradford Co. Apparel Store, naming the store after their two children, Stephanie Michele and Bradford. Both children later became, and still are, instrumental in the business.

Still seeking new experiences, they discovered Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, where they have lived for 32 years. The family now has four stores there. Clay has always loved living on the harbor in Harbour Town, where two of their shops are also located. Clay and Kay also have been members of Wexford Plantation Club in Hilton Head.

Clayton was thrilled when they discovered Bigfork, where they built a home in 1997, and opened S.M. Bradford Co. Nine years ago, they built the beautiful building that houses S.M. Bradford Co. in downtown Whitefish.

In addition to support for many community organizations, he is recognized by Mayo Clinic as a major donor. He and Kay are also special benefactors of Kalispell Regional Medical Center, as well as being members of the K.R.M.C. Signature Society.

The core of Clayton's entire life was his family; the motivating factor in all the actions that he took was the well-being of his family.

Clayton's character, which embodied high ethical standards and respect for others, and has always been a shining example to his family and others. In every

business transaction, his mantra was it that it has to be good and fair for both parties. Clayton was a true gentleman and gentle man who was always kind and caring, and interested in others.

He leaves behind to continue his legacy, his beloved wife, Zonda Kay Stanley Emmert, and his treasured children, Stephanie Michele Emmert, Bradford Hamm Emmert and his wife Claudia Adams, Emmert, and his precious 7-year-old grandson and namesake, Clayton Emmert II.

In addition to leaving behind his valued friends, his survivors include his sister, Anne Taylor of Fort Worth, Texas, and her three children, Catherine, David, and Philip and their seven children; his brother-in-law, Paul M. Stanley Jr., of Terre Haute, Indiana, his nephew, Gregory and wife Kimberly and their two sons, and niece Sherry and her two daughters.

Services will be 2:30 p.m. today, Dec. 31, at Community United Methodist Church in Bigfork.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Glacier Symphony and Chorale at P.O. Box 2491, Kalispell, Montana 59903; or Child Bridge, P.O. Box 310, Bigfork, Montana 59911.



## John Endsley, 73

John "Little John" Endsley was "called to Our Lord" on Feb. 15, 2017.

John is survived by his wife Carol Endsley of Bigfork, daughters Susanne (Paul) Steele of Ashland, Oregon, Carole Endsley of Phoenix, Oregon, and Charlene (Scott) Lanktree of Kalispell, six grandchildren Christianne Steele, Nathan Steele, Lauranna Steele of Ashland, Oregon, Daniel Waggoner and Bryanna Teeters of Phoenix, Oregon, John Endsley Jr. and great-grandson Leo of Columbia Falls as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his parents Harry Merel "Zeke" and Emma Sue Endsley, grandson David Steele, brothers Marvin, Robert and Wayne Endsley, sisters Barbara



Miller, Carolyn Gregg, Phyllis Amerson and Wilma Jean McCormick.

John served in the United States Navy in the

fleet for three years and then the Navy Seabees as heavy equipment operator/mechanic. He retired from the Navy in October 1982.

John was a loving husband, father, grandfather/great-grandfather and friend to many. He loved fishing and camping. He loved doing things with the grandchildren/great-grandchild while visiting with them.

John will be missed dearly by all who knew

him and loved him. There will be a memorial Mass held for John 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at St. John Paul II Catholic Church in Bigfork. In lieu of Flowers,

please give to your favorite charity of your choice in John's name.

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

18 Feb 2017

1 Nov 2017

## Lillian I. Enevold, 95

Lillian I. Enevold, 95, passed peacefully on Oct. 26, 2017, at the Brendan House surrounded by co-workers and her daughter. She suffered from Alzheimer's but did so with dignity.

Lillian was born in Reynolds, North Dakota, to Oscar and Selma (Jorgenson) Svien on Sept. 18, 1922. She was one of six children. She grew into adulthood in McIntosh, Minnesota, where she met and married her husband, Marvin C. Enevold, on Oct. 16, 1940.

They moved to Shelby, Montana, for 10 years and then lived for a short time in California, before moving to Kalispell where Marvin worked for the post office until his death in 1976. Lillian worked at the Valley Bank for a few years but retired to become a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin; her parents; her five siblings, Helen Dyrdaahl, Joe Svien, Olga Ostenaar, Marion Knudson and Ralph Svien; her two nieces, Kelly Knudson and Marlys (Dyrdaahl) Lunde; and nephew, DeWayne Ostenaar.

She is survived by her daughters, Jeanette



(Jan) Hartman of Kalispell, and Donna (Tim) Holsapple and

only grandson, Jeffrey Holsapple, of Alta Loma, California. She is also survived by three nieces, Beverly (Dyrdaahl) Hallburg, Debbie (Svien) Relaz and Lois Ostenaar; and two nephews, James Dyrdaahl and Ron Svien.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 6, at the First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell. Lillian's final resting place will be at a later date at Our Savior's Cemetery in McIntosh.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Brendan House for all the years of caring and support, the staff at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and the Presbyterian Church family for their support during this difficult time.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website, [www.buffalohillfuneral.com](http://www.buffalohillfuneral.com), to sign the guest book and leave notes of condolences. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.



## Bette J. Engle, 94

Bette J. Engle, 94, passed away Saturday, May 6, 2017, in Kalispell.

Bette was born April 11, 1923, in Des Moines, Iowa. She grew up in Sioux City, Iowa, and attended Morningside College there. She was on the debate team and was reportedly a great dancer.

Although they were engaged before World War II, she married Bill Engle in 1946 after he returned from serving during the war as a navigator in the Air Force. Together they moved to Michigan. There she worked as a departmental assistant at the University of Michigan and later at Michigan State while raising two daughters, Jerret Ann and Christianne Kay.

Bette and Bill chose to retire to Kalispell in 1984, and spent the happiest years of their lives in the Flathead Valley.

Bette was an active member of St. Matthew's, and loved square dancing



and hiking in Glacier Park. She gave her daughters an enthusiasm for life and a love of adven-

ture for which they will always be grateful.

She is survived by her much beloved husband, William James, and their two daughters, Jerret Ann and husband Cort Tramontin of Brooklyn, New York, and Christianne Banford and her husband David Banford of London, England.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 12:10 p.m. Thursday, May 18, at St. Matthew's Church in Kalispell. A brief committal service will follow immediately at approximately 1:30 p.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Francis J. 'Nick' Engel, 97

Nick passed away on Jan. 6, 2017, at the Immanuel Lutheran Nursing Home in Kalispell.

Memorial services will be held later this spring.

Nick was born in the small prairie town of Sweetgrass Hills, Montana, to Nicholas and Frances Schorn Engel on Feb. 13, 1919. He was an only child. He attended school in Sunburst and graduated from Sunburst High School in 1937. He then went to Montana State University in Bozeman where he received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree.

Upon graduation, he went to work for the Curtiss-Wright Aircraft Corporation in Columbus, Ohio, designing aircraft such as the Hell Diver for the U.S. Navy during World War II. At the end of the war, Nick returned to Sunburst to work for Texaco Oil Refinery. He worked for Texaco at locations in Casper, Wyoming, and Wilmington, California, before he retired from Texaco in 1979. He took a leave from Texaco for three years from 1959 to 1962 when he worked with a childhood friend, Francis O'Haire, in Great Falls. During this time, they designed and built several projects including the O'Haire Manor in Great Falls which is home to the renowned "Sip 'N' Dip Lounge."

After retirement, in 1979, he moved from California back to Montana to the Flathead Valley. His hobbies included building homes, fishing and golf. He and Mary built and lived in homes in Whitefish Valley and Mission View Terrace in Lakeside before they moved into Kalispell to Village Greens Golf Course.

Nick was married to Virginia Johannsen from 1943 until her death in 1972. He and Virginia had five children. He then married Mary Strickler,



in 1974, a widow with six children whom he helped raise as his own; and she survives him.

Nick was preceded in death by wife, Virginia Johannsen Engel; infant son, David Engel; stepdaughter, Kim Strickler; son-in-law, Buster DuBrock; and granddaughter, Amy Engel. He was also preceded in death by his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Russell and Rita Johannsen, Jay and Bev Johannsen and Jim and Margie Leary, from the Johannsen family who were lifelong friends of his from Sunburst; sister-in-law, Bland Keiner, and sister-in-law Carey Rasmussen.

Nick is survived by wife, Mary Keiner Strickler Engel; children, Ed Engel, MarJean DuBrock, Bob Engel and Rich Engel (Katie); and stepchildren, Belinda Stoneham, Steve Strickler (Janet), David Strickler, Kelly Strickler and Laura Petty (Jerry); and brother-in-law-Darrell Keiner. He is also survived by 10 grand- and stepgrandchildren, 11 great-grand- and stepgreat-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was a caring husband and the best dad anyone could ever ask for. All of his kids knew his limit and everyone tested him once, but never again, as the feeling of disappointing him was greater than any punishment that could be thought of! He was the most supportive parent and urged his children to strive for their best.

He was well liked, respected and loved by all who had the good fortune to know him and will be truly missed by all he leaves behind. To send a note of condolence to the family, please visit [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

15 May 2017



## Carolyn Kembel Ennis, 76

Carolyn Kembel Ennis passed away on Oct. 20, 2017, at the age of 76, in Whitefish. She loved Montana, was a remarkable woman, and will be remembered as a beloved civic champion who made innovative and generous contributions to the quality of life in her city and state.

Born July 29, 1941, in Los Angeles, Carolyn was the first child of Robert and Marjorie (McDivitt) Kembel. She moved with her family to Kalispell in 1948. After graduating from Flathead County High School in 1959, she attended Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, majored in history, graduated in 1963, and was elected alumni class president in 2008.

After college, Carolyn married Bruce L. Ennis at St. Matthew's Church in Kalispell. She worked at the University of Montana Law School library while Bruce attended law school. Following his graduation, they explored Europe in a convertible Volkswagen visiting friends and seeing historic sites. It was the first of many adventures Carolyn had with friends and family throughout the world. Upon their return, they settled in Billings where they raised two children Greg and Felicia. In 2009, Carolyn returned to live in the Flathead area to be near her family.

Carolyn was actively involved in the Billings community and throughout Montana. Her lifelong dedication to community involvement resulted in the



involvement and gave her time quietly to dozens of new initiatives.

In mid-life, Carolyn took on another challenge and enrolled in Law School at the University of Montana. She passed the bar exam in 1988. She served as executive director of the St. Vincent's Hospital Foundation, and then began private practice in Billings.

Carolyn was pre-deceased by her parents Robert and Marjorie Kembel.

She is survived by a son, Gregory K. Ennis, and his wife Laura L. Ennis, and their children Claire L. and Theodore K., of Kalispell; and her daughter, Felicia L. Ennis, of Whitefish. She is also survived by her brother, Robert D. Kembel, and his wife Joanne; sister, Kathleen A. Douglas, and her husband William Staack; nieces and nephews, Christine A. Gavigan, Marcella L. Stuewe, James S. Wheeler, Geoffrey E. Wheeler, Brennan L. Schwarz, Lara A. Porrini and Carolyn J. Nissley; and her former husband, Bruce L. Ennis.

The family is especially indebted to all of the remarkable caregivers and friends who offered loving support and kindness throughout Carolyn's gracious struggle with Alzheimer's. She was aware of those gifts and will be eternally grateful.

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legislative campaign to pass mandatory public school kindergarten in Montana. She was instrumental in developing Billings' first historic district. She served as board member of the Yellowstone Art Center, the Alberta Bair Theatre for the Performing Arts, the Montana Cultural Trust, and the Montana Committee for the Humanities (Humanities Montana). In addition, she supported and participated in many other civic projects. She cherished her community

All are welcome to attend a funeral liturgy at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 10, at St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral, Billings. A special celebration will follow at Yellowstone Art Museum.

Gainan's Flowers of Billings has made floral arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Flathead Lakers, P.O. Box 70, Polson, MT 59860; or Home Options Hospice, c/o KRH Foundation, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901.



## William Ross Epperly, 79

On June 29, 2017 William Ross Epperly passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family. "Papa" Bill died as he lived with great character and compassion. Pancreatic Cancer was his battle these past several months eventually succumbing to the disease after being diagnosed in late February.

Bill was born in Billings on Jan. 3, 1938 to Les and Evelyn Epperly. His childhood was spent in Miles City and Butte. His love for athletics began at an early age as he played a variety of sports as a youngster. He later became a multi-sport star for Butte High School graduating in 1956. Bill then went on to Montana State University and played basketball for the Bobcats. While in school, he met and married the love of his life Karen Kay Blankenship. Their loving and loyal marriage began on Aug. 31, 1958 and lasted almost 60 years.

After finishing college, Bill enlisted in the Army in 1961 and finished his military career as a First Lieutenant in 1963. He then began his teaching and coaching career in Forsyth. Just three years later in 1966, he moved his family to Kalispell where he taught and coached at Flathead High School. But then in 1971, he took the opportunity to become a head basketball coach by taking a teaching position in Lewistown at Fergus High School. Five years later, Bill returned to his roots by moving his family to Butte as he ventured into the college ranks becoming the head basketball coach and athletic director for Montana Tech.



coach for the Braves track program until this past spring. It goes without saying, he dedicat-

ed much of his time to the youth of the Flathead Valley.

Bill was inducted into the Montana Coaches Hall of Fame in 1990, the Kalispell Legends Wall of Fame in 2005 and, more recently, was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in June of 2017.

Bill was a loving family man. Known as "Papa" to his children and grandchildren, he actively mentored them, setting a great example of character and conduct. "Papa" and Grammy Kay were "road warriors" as they traveled to support their 10 grandchildren in their activities around the state.

Bill enjoyed camping, fishing and hiking in Glacier National Park. In his later years, Bill loved golfing with family and friends especially being a part of the golfing "angels" with Walshy, Scalfy, Sider and Geno.

Bill is survived by his wife Kay and their four children: Joanie Bowen and her husband Bruce of Polson, Jeff Epperly and his wife Kyra of Kalispell, Jim Epperly and his wife Heather of Bigfork, and Julie Epperly and her husband Jeff Dohn of Missoula. Bill is also survived by his 10 grandchildren: Keegan Bowen, Hattie Bowen, Emma Epperly, Ezra Epperly, Evan Epperly, Anders Epperly, Isak Epperly, Jake Arledge, Ellie Arledge and Aden Dohn.

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Coming full circle, Bill moved his family back to Kalispell in 1979. He returned to Flathead High School teaching business classes and coaching basketball and track for the Braves. He retired from teaching in 1993.

However, Bill never stopped coaching. He continued to coach basketball around the valley spending several years as an assistant coach in the boys and girls programs in Bigfork. He also coached "travel" ball teams, taking advantage of the opportunity to coach his grandchildren as they began their athletic endeavors. In addition, Bill returned to coaching track as an assistant

A private service will be held at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home on Tuesday, July 11 at 2 p.m. An open reception honoring Bill's life will be held at Buffalo Hill Golf Course from 4 to 7 p.m.

The Epperly family would like to thank Hospice and their amazing team of caregivers as well as the love and support of many friends and families who came alongside us in our time of need. Memorials are suggested to be made to Home Options Hospice or to the Flathead High School Basketball Program.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.



## Allana Marie Erikson, 87

Allana Marie Erikson a beloved friend, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 16, 2017, at home surrounded by her loving daughters and granddaughter.



mother in Swahili) enjoyed the white beaches of Mombasa, slept under the

stars near Kilimanjaro, and rode the train from Nairobi.

She is survived by her daughters Kristina and Kori of Whitefish, Kimberley of the Netherlands, and her son Dirk of Columbia Falls. She is also survived by her grandchildren Liam, Kenzie, Tyler and Porsche, as well as her great-grandchildren Jaxson and Wesley.

Though our hearts are heavy with loss, we find comfort knowing her spirit is flying free and she has found everlasting peace.

The matriarch of the Erikson clan, Allana's favorite occasions were family holidays where she could fill us in on the latest family news, politics, sporting events/scores, and where the damn dog got out of the fence.

Her favorite pastimes were gardening, fishing, bowling, taking care of animals, arts and crafts, reading, writing (her first book was called "Woman Canaday"), watching football and tennis. A diehard San Francisco 49'er fan, her loyalty never faltered even when their skill did.

Allana enjoyed traveling and exploring the world. In 1987 she traveled with her daughters Kim and Kris and granddaughter Kenzie, through the Western states visiting multiple national parks and the Pacific Ocean.

In 1990 she visited Kenya to experience "The Great Migration." Mama San (honorable

We look back on the last 54 years of her life spent nestled in the heart of Flathead Valley with proud smiles. We fondly remember her tending to her garden, helping raise her grandchildren, cooking at family gatherings, late nights watching "Lonesome Dove" and playing in the sun. It was indeed a wonderful life because her favorite saying was "I had a laugh today!"

In lieu of flowers, Allana requests something be planted for remembrance and prosperity.

Next summer at Glacier National Park her ashes will be spread along with her parents and son Ryke.

## Sylvia Earleen Erickson, 94

Sylvia Earleen Erickson, 94, passed away on Tuesday May 9, 2017, at Brendan House in Kalispell, with her family by her side.

Sylvia was born on March 22, 1923, to August and Tana (Moffet) Johnson in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Sylvia met her husband to be, Stanley Erickson, when they were both 16 years old and they married on Oct. 25, 1945. They had five children total, three girls (Diana, Sharon and Bonnie) and two boys (Edwin and Arlen); the last two, Bonnie and Arlen, were twins.

Sylvia worked for Swift Meats in St. Paul, Minnesota, and later for the Land-o-Lakes Butter Company in Minneapolis where they cut large blocks of butter down into 1-pound cubes and wrapped them for sale. They placed the ones they shipped overseas to the GIs in wooden crates and Sylvia's job was to assure quality. During this same time Stanley spent four years in the service in the South Pacific during World War II.

Music had been Sylvia's lifelong hobby. She sang in the Minnesota State Community Choir for three years before she began playing piano for the group and they even cut a record during the time she accompanied them. She also played piano for her church for many years and kept a small keyboard in her room that she enjoyed until her passing.

Sylvia also loved to drive. Her first car was a green Dodge coupe; later on she purchased a white Mustang and her last car was a red Pontiac Grand Am. She got her driver's license when she was 17 and that same summer she drove her mother to Nebraska, Colorado and back to Minnesota. In



all of her 60-plus years of driving Sylvia never got a ticket and prided herself

on her perfect driving record. Sylvia loved traveling and said she had traveled from border to border and shore to shore of the United States in one form or another.

In 1956 Sylvia and Stanley moved from North Dakota and made their home in Kalispell until Stanley's work took them to Havre in 1975. Havre was home until Stanley passed away in 1982. At that time Sylvia moved back to Kalispell to be near her children.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, daughter Diana and son-in-law Larry, and brother Percy Johnson.

She is survived by her children, Edwin Erickson (Connie), Sharon Holcomb, Bonnie Tobiason (Jim), Arlen Erickson (Faye); grandchildren, Steven Zorb, Kristi Zorb-Seals, Matt and Joe Erickson, Jim and Collin Holcomb, Nicholas Tobiason, Sabian Fairweather, Annie Kirchner, Dawn Veltri, Sarina Sterner and Trevor Erickson; and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday May 19, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Interment will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Brendan House.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.