

Joseph Francis O'Brien, 73

Joseph Francis O'Brien, 73, "got a tractor ride to heaven" on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017. He was born in San Diego on Sept. 18, 1943, and was the first child of Joseph I. O'Brien and Francone Johnson O'Brien. As a child he grew up in Denver. The family moved to Phoenix in 1958. Joseph graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1961. Two weeks after graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was an electronics electrician on the USS Forrestal CVA-59 aircraft carrier. He was a petty officer 2nd class (E-5), serving three years and three months. His tour of duty included the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas. He was honorably discharged just before his 21st birthday in 1964. Joseph received training in electronics and communication equipment in the Navy. He continued to use this knowledge in all of his further careers by working as an electrician. He began working for Sperry Manufacturing in Phoenix, and then the Arizona Highway Patrol in Flagstaff, Arizona.

While in Flagstaff, Joe met Janice Provost and the two married on Feb. 17, 1968, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Prescott, Arizona. They then moved to Denver and Joe worked for the Colorado State Patrol. Later they moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, and he worked for AT&T. Joe then began working for the Mountain Bell

System in Greeley and Cortez, Colorado.

In 1978 the family moved to the Flathead Valley where Joe worked for Northwest Telephone Systems. He then began employment with Plum Creek Timber Company in the MDF Plant and lived in Columbia Falls.



Joe began a career with Bonneville Power Administration in 1986, relocating with the family to Klamath Falls, Oregon, and then Spokane. Joe and

Jan returned to Columbia Falls and he retired from Bonneville Power Administration in 2006.

Joe and Jan were married for 49 and a half years and he is survived by his wife, Janice O'Brien, of Columbia Falls; and all six of their daughters and their spouses, Kathleen and Dan Kirby of North Bend, Washington, Carol and Robert Pleninger of Havre, Sharon and Shawn McShane of Schererville, Indiana, Tamara and Brian Salois of West Richland, Washington, Kelly and Ed Stengel of Colorado Springs, and Jennifer and Jaime Cleveland of Houston. Joe and Jan have 18 grandchildren. He is also survived by his four brothers, Michael O'Brien, Dennis O'Brien, Steven O'Brien and John O'Brien, and his sister, Patricia Olson.

Joe liked construction projects. Throughout his life he and his girls built 12 houses. He was president of the Flathead Tractor and Engine Association. He enjoyed collecting, tinkering, talking about and operating tractors, antique trucks and hit-and-miss engines. He kept busy by spending time in his shop, working in his one-acre garden, fishing with friends, and taking the scenic route wherever he drove. Joe was a teacher in everything he did.

He was a faithful member of St. Richard's Church in Columbia Falls and liked to learn and share about the Catholic faith. Joe was a protector and helped numerous people

throughout his life.

Joe fought a short battle with neuroendocrine cancer. He will be greatly missed.

All are invited to attend services to remember Joseph O'Brien. A

rosary service will be offered at 6:30 p.m. today, Sept. 20, at Columbia Falls Mortuary, Columbia Falls, and a funeral Mass at St. will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 21, at St. Richard's Catholic Church, Columbia Falls.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) or a charity of your choice.

20 Sep 2017

RosaLee W. Olesen, 89

RosaLee "Rosie" White Olesen, 89, passed away in Whitefish on Aug. 17. She was born in Fresno, California, March 11, 1928, the seventh of eight children born to Gladys Radabach and Bertty Lee White. In 1946, Rosie moved to the Flathead. She married Owen Olesen in 1951; they lived on Hughes Bay, Flathead



Lake, for 30-plus years and separated in 1983 but never divorced.

Rosie was never idle. A Facebook post by friends paints a true portrait: "Rosie came to Kalispell Parks and Recreation in 2002, first

to join our senior hiking program and soon as a dedicated volunteer. Her impact was felt in many ways. She made countless phone calls and copies, ran errands, kept a reader board outside our office, handled recyclables, prepared equipment and handed out T-shirts to program participants, ran the clock and down marker at football

games, and disbursed brochures. The most visible impact Rosie had was cleaning up garbage in our city parks. With a luggage carrier converted to a rolling Dumpster in one hand and a set of tongs in the other, she daily, tirelessly picked up other folks' trash. Rosie improved our community, cheerfully tackling daunting tasks with

a smile. In 2011, Rosie was given the Serve Montana Award through the Governor's Office of Community Service for dedication to serving our community. Her spirit was so strong we often kept jobs from her so she would not sacrifice personal recreation. Glacier Park was Rosie's real home, and Rangers will attest to this. She

made visits in every season to hear the Rangers' talks, hike or snowshoe, and glory in the wonder of Glacier.

We will celebrate Rosie's life at Central Christian Church, 240 Second Ave. E. in Kalispell at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16. Join us and "...hear the rest of the story."

6 Sep 2017

Violet Elizabeth Olsen, 96

Violet was born in Schuyler, Nebraska, to Czechoslovakian parents Adolph and Ann Novak, who were also born in Schuyler. Together with her older brother Orville and younger sister Loretta

(both deceased), she grew up on the family farm. Beginning school a year early, Violet completed 12 grades in 11 years. She also studied and received her degree and teacher's certificate from the University of Nebraska during high school, then began teaching first through eighth grade in a rural school just before turning 17.

In 1940 Violet married Charles Alvin Olsen. They moved into the new home they built on the Olsen's homestead and Violet taught prior to starting a family.

In 1958 the family moved to a ranch near Missoula. After her family was grown, Violet resumed teaching at Lone Rock School in Stevensville while attending night classes and summer sessions at the University of Montana in Missoula, updating her



teaching certificate and taking various related studies.

The family moved to the ranch in Ovando, where Violet taught at a first through eighth grade rural school on Rogers Pass. They then moved to Bigfork. Violet then taught various grades, second through sixth, for 19 years along with starting and maintaining the library and played piano for their music program. She retired in 1988 from the Swan River School but continued to substitute until she was 75 years old, spanning two generations of students.

Violet was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa an international honorary teacher's sorority and also served as president, continuing her membership for 41 years.

Violet enjoyed cooking for family and friends who often visited. She also enjoyed boating on Echo and Flathead Lakes, and for 14 summers she and Charles towed

their boat to O'Conner Marina north of Seattle and cruised the Inside Passage north toward Alaska, enjoying the challenge and making many lasting friendships along the way, as well as enjoying the delicious salmon, crabs, clams and shrimp fresh from the cold waters. It was special when family joined.

She was predeceased by her husband Charles.

Violet is survived by daughter Betty of Weed,

New Mexico, and son Raymond of Kalispell; six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Violet had a full, active and loving life filled with friends, students and family.

Her memorial will be held at 2 p.m. on March 4 at the Swan River Community Hall. For questions, please call Ray at 406-890-9870.

22 Feb 2017

28 Oct 2017

Pastor John Nolan Olson, 94

Pastor John Nolan Olson died peacefully in Sandpoint, Idaho, on Sept. 28, 2017, at the age of 94.

He was born and graduated from high school in Pierpont, South Dakota, worked on his family's farm during World War II, and enrolled at South Dakota State University after the war.

He met his wife Kay Michaelson during a work camp trip to Germany for the Lutheran Student Association, and they married in 1950. After graduating in engineer-



ing, John and Kay moved to Delaware where John was employed by Dupont.

He attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, beginning in 1954 and went on to serve Lutheran congregations in Ronan, Montana, in Worland, Wyoming, in Irene, South Dakota, in Wessington Springs, South Dakota, and in

Joplin, Montana.

After retiring from ministry, John and Kay moved to their home near Elmo on Flathead Lake and later to Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell.

John was preceded in death by his wife Kay, and grandson Andrew; and is survived by their six children, Arden (Sharon), Alice (Bob), Martha (Glen), David (Karla), Karen (Joe), and Tim (Paula); by 23 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; by sister, Esther

Christensen; and by many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4, at Northridge Lutheran Church in Kalispell, with visitation before the service and lunch after.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are invited to Lutheran Disaster Response through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or to Immanuel Lutheran Communities in Kalispell.

18 Jul 2017

Mary Ruth (Fredenberg) Olson, 75

Mary left this earthly life on July 14, 2017, just as she lived it, surrounded by family and friends who loved her dearly.

Mary began her life journey in Kalispell on Friday, June 13, 1942. She was born to Orville and Mary (Betty) Fredenberg. Her mother was her namesake and she adored her little girl, but from the moment she was born Mary Ruth was the apple of her daddy's eye and from then on she was affectionately known to all as his "poopsie." Mary returned that special love, calling him Daddy until the day he died.

Mary grew up as a true Montana girl, camping with her daddy, mother and her brother Ron in the Montana forests and fishing its many lakes, rivers and streams. However, her fondest childhood memories were of the times she spent at the homestead of her grandmother Mary Johanna Motichka. Mary Ruth loved her grandmother and would smile happily at the thought of herself and her aunt Roberta holding mock court in the chicken coop with the chickens acting as the jury or retelling the time Roberta fell into the outhouse. She also spent precious time with her much-loved grandfather Anson Fredenberg, just holding his hand and walking through the fields of his beloved farm.

Mary Ruth attended Edgerton Elementary School and then Linderman Middle School and Flathead County High School where she made many cherished friends. While in high school



Mary worked at the Kalispell credit bureau. Although Mary excelled

at business she chose to devote herself to her family when she gave birth to their first daughter Debra Ruth in 1961, and then their second daughter Tamila Beth in 1963. She was a wonderful, caring mother and wife, while always putting her family first.

Over the years Mary found that she loved and had a certain knack for decorating, so for the next few years she strived to make her house a welcoming and beautiful place for all who entered. As we eventually realized, it was more to do with Mary and her beautiful spirit than any belongings in or around her home.

Mary occupied herself with family and friends, but always wanted more children. Then in 1974 Mary and Hank were blessed with their third daughter Kristin Mary. Since Kristin arrived a little later in life they doted on her. It was a very happy time for them. Shortly thereafter they moved to Whitefish, where they owned and operated Hank Olson Chevrolet. Mary was the model for the saying "Behind every successful man is a woman" — she was that woman. Mary, with her amazing head for business, managed the office while Hank sold the cars. Together they were a success. When Hank ran for mayor Mary wasn't keen on politics but true to her character she entered

Kaycee, Jessi and Jolee, then Zoey, Danelle, Kimberly, Donovan and Destyn. She has since become the proud great-grandmother of 18 great-grandchildren, with another one on the way.

As Mary's family grew busy with their own families, she gave of herself and her talents wherever and whenever she was needed. She willingly helped and thoroughly enjoyed planning the Moose Lodge's much talked about fashion shows along with her wonderful friends from the Ladies of the Moose. She also managed the Rose Casino and worked bartending at the Par Three, leaving a spectacular trail of friends. She was a longtime member of the Eagles where she and Hank spent many hours playing pool, keno or just having good times with good people. Mary and Hank were always a hit as they sang together at karaoke. The song they always chose, Ray Charles "I Can't Stop Loving You," has become even more fitting and bittersweet.

Mary truly never met a stranger. She had so many friends from virtually every walk of life and would give her last dime to anyone in need. She didn't judge; she loved each person lucky enough to meet her. She was absolutely one in a million.

Mary was a devoted daughter who cared for both of her parents when their health failed. She loved them selflessly and came to their house daily for many years, which allowed them to stay in their own home. She was a wonderful sister who, despite her brother's lifetime of silly pranks,

that can tell the life story of this amazing woman whom we know and love. How do you put into words the perfect essence of Mary's spirit, which is a sparkling example of pure love and generosity?

"Mary has earned her crown of glory and right now she is probably hugging her precious nephew Dan Fredenberg, who sadly left our world before her. Maybe she is sitting with her daddy and mother whom she had missed daily. Whatever she is doing in heaven we can be sure Mary is healed and whole, no longer in pain and dancing in the presence of her savior Jesus Christ. I hope the angels in heaven know what they have."

Mary, my beautiful mother, you will be missed by all, loved and never forgotten.

Mary Ruth was preceded in death by both of her parents, many loved aunts and uncles and her nephew.

She is survived by her husband Hank, her three daughters and their husbands, nine granddaughters and their husbands, 19 great-grandchildren, her brother and his wife, many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and her loving and adoring friends. Until we each meet her again...

There will be a memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 22, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory, with a reception to follow at the Eagles Club in Kalispell.

Please visit www.jgfuneralhome.com to leave condolences for the family.

Mary Ruth studied and excelled academically. She learned to play the clarinet and was an accomplished baton twirler; she along with others led the Flathead High School band. She was stunning in the full Native American headdress that was her costume. Many a young man noticed her beauty. However, it was during her junior year while she sat in a car with her then boyfriend at the Hut café that a certain young man named Hank Olson noticed her and boldly went up to the car to talk to her. That was the beginning of the next 57 years.

Mary Ruth and Hank dated throughout her senior year. After graduation, she became Hank's bride on July 2, 1960. She wore a beautiful white lace gown and had a bridal bouquet of white stephanotis along with her bridesmaids in lavender chiffon just as the Kalispell Daily Inter Lake reported. She was breathtaking; this left no doubt why she had caught Hank's eye. Early on in their marriage

that phase of their life with the same poise and grace that she carried herself with wherever or whatever situation she found herself in.

While in Whitefish Mary made many wonderful friends, too numerous to mention, all of whom she loved deeply. Many of Mary's children's friends affectionately called her mom and have shared wonderful stories and memories of the amazing person they all felt blessed to have known. There was one person in particular whom Mary took under her wing. This person became Mary's fourth daughter, Julie Watkins, who is forever bound to Mary and her family by Mary's kind heart, love and generous nature.

When her daughters married, Mary became a wonderful mother-in-law to Debbi's husband Neal Barber, Tami's husband Jim Kampf, and Kristin's first husband Dan Pettit and her current husband Shawn Hargrove. She then beamed and blossomed as she became a grandmother, first to Deneal and Dacey, then

loved her younger brother Ron Fredenberg and his sweet wife Liz who truly had become Mary's sister at heart. Mary happily helped in raising her grandchildren and always gave her own children anything she could. She loved her husband Hank beyond measure, her children and grandchildren beyond reason and her friends beyond explanation. She loved deeply, forgave easily, laughed often and she cried when she was faced with the thought of leaving us behind.

There are no words

OBITUARIES *July 21*

Matthew Lee Olson, 51

Matthew Lee Olson passed away at his home on July 17, 2017.

Matt was born on May 6, 1966, in Santa Cruz, California, to Betty and Roger Olson. Matt grew up in Markleeville, California, and attended Douglas High School in Minden, Nevada, where he met his high school sweetheart, Jeri Miller.

Matt and Jeri were married from 1988 to 2012, and began their journey together as business owners and alfalfa farmers. They have three sons, which they raised in Kalispell.

During Matt's life he devoted many volunteer hours to his community as a firefighter and EMT, and to the high school mechan-



ics class students.

Matt's passions were restoring hot rods, volunteering, and

watching his three sons grow up while he worked with them in his shop.

Matt was preceded in death by his mother, grandparents and uncle.

He is survived by his sons, Loren Olson, Brian Olson and Justin Olson; his father, Roger Olson; sister, LeAnne Prince; and his former wife, Jeri Miller.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, at Canvas Church, 255 Summit Ridge Drive, in Kalispell.

Rachael I. (Grigg) Olson, 30

Rachael Olson "went home to her Lord" on Christmas morning, 2017, after a prolonged battle with brain cancer.

Rachael and her twin brother were born on March 4, 1987, in Reno, Nevada, to Kathy (Olson) and Maurice Grigg. The family moved back to Montana in 1989 where she lived and attended school through graduation from Columbia Falls High School in 2005. She was on the cheerleading squad, the student council and a member of the National Honor Society. It was there that she met the love of her life, Craig Olson. They were married July 7, 2007.

Together they attended Walla Walla Community College where she received her associate's degree in science. They then attended North Dakota State University and later Central Washington University where Rachael received her bachelor's degree in middle school math and science education in 2012.

Craig and Rachael were blessed with two sons, Michael Connor Olson in 2012 and Camdynn Matthew Olson in 2015. Her boys were the light of her life.

Despite her illness and a dire prognosis, Rachael never gave up hope. She defied all medical predictions and fought back with her signature quiet grace, strength, and unwavering faith. All those who knew her loved her and admired her tenacity.

Michael says "I love Mama's hugs most."

Rachael is survived by her devoted husband Craig Olson and their two sons, Michael and Camdynn; her beloved mother Kathy Rolfs and stepfather Allen



Sachs (Ben); two step-brothers, Gavin (Melissa) and Alex (Amanda) Rolfs;

and grandparents, Jim and Deloris Matson, JoWana Olson, and Melvin and Carol Grigg. She will also be greatly missed by her nieces and nephews, Hayden, Nicholas, Aubrey, London, Megan, Braydon, Michael, Ava, Miranda, Brynlee, Easton, Camryn, Caplin, Addison, Carson and Mason; as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

She also leaves behind her beloved in-laws, Jim and Mary Olson, Adam and Hana Olson, Aly and John Ronan, as well as countless friends, church family and her cherished cat Fatty.

She was preceded in death by her paternal grandmother Patricia (Patsy) Grigg, maternal grandfather Gerald Olson, and cousin Erik Matson.

Rachael was a dedicated advocate for others, attending and fundraising for cancer research each year at the Seattle Brain Cancer Walk. In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in her honor to www.braincancerwalk.org by selecting her team, Rachael's Angels. Donations may also be made to Moses Lake Christian Church — a congregation which has supported her family through this time.

Services to be held at 1 p.m. Dec. 30 at Moses Lake Christian Church in Moses Lake, Washington.

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to

18 Mar 2017

Carolyn Louise O'Neil, 81

Carolyn Louise O'Neil, 81, of Missoula, passed away surrounded by her family, on Saturday, March 11, 2017.

She was born on Dec. 6, 1935, in Enid, Oklahoma, and was a graduate of Tulsa Central High School, Class of 1954. She moved to Kalispell with her family in 1965 from southern California.

In 1979 Carolyn was voted in as a board member of Flathead Industries and served in various capacities as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. She was also head of the Personnel Committee for many years. Carolyn participated on the Building Committee, Nominations Committee and Long Range Planning Committee. She resigned from the board in August of 2002 in order to assume a paid position as Flathead Industries' administrative assistant. She held that position until her retirement in July of 2008. Her support and love for Flathead Industries was never questioned and many things she implemented are still maintained to this day.

Carolyn always gave back and was an active member of her church and joined a Christian Medical Missionary group. She made a trip to the Ukraine where she helped take medical supplies to a camp for special children suffering from the Chernobyl melt down in 1986. She came home very sick but was also able to help bring two Ukrainian boys to Kalispell, for a month over two summers.

Carolyn moved to Missoula in 2008 to live with her daughter and



son-in-law and be around her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and watch them grow up.

She was preceded in death by her sister Velma Jeanne

Barnett, her daughter Anita Hamilton, and her son Richard Hamilton.

She is survived by her daughter Jeanne Ann Wilson and son in-law Brian Wilson, her grandson David and wife Bert Keith and their children, Connor and family and Maddy, Dalton and Lorelei. She also leaves her granddaughter Nicole Stewart and her children, Landen, Isaac and Adeline, her granddaughter Jess Keith, and her granddaughter Brianna Wilson and children, Jesse and Lexi of California. And let's not forget "Barbara."

Her Aussie fur-family will also miss her terribly as she was the resident Granny Nanny for Big Sky Montana Mini and Toy Aussies.

Carolyn was an amazing woman, full of grace to the end of her generous life. We were lucky to be a part of her family and will miss you Mama, Gma, Granny and Mrs. O. Her last words to us as she took a sip of water, was "Tastes just like chocolate milk, isn't that sweet," and she smiled.

A celebration of life gathering will take place for her this summer.

15 Apr 2017

Duane Verl Onstad, 87

Duane Verl Onstad, 87, beloved husband and father, "returned to the loving arms of the Lord" on April 10, 2017, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

Duane was born on April 3, 1930, in a farmhouse north of Plentywood to Bennie and Vera (Friberg) Onstad. Where his mother gave birth with only the help of her 2-year-old son, Ervin. Joining the family later was Darrell (of Florida), Jerome (formerly of California), Beverly (of South Carolina).

Duane attended school in Plentywood, graduating in 1948. After graduation, Duane moved around eastern Montana and held many jobs until he joined the Army in 1951. He served during the Korean conflict as ammunition chief until his honorable discharge in 1953. While in the military, Duane traveled to many parts of the country spending most of his time in El Paso and Philadelphia. After the Army, he returned to Wolf Point and accepted a wiring apprenticeship with High Line Electric and later became an active member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Duane wired the Hesper household where he met his future bride, Margaret, on Dec. 29, 1956, Duane and Margaret were married. They had two children, Nancy of Billings, and Shelly of Missoula.

In 1960 the young family moved to Columbia Falls where Duane worked as an electrician for Anaconda Aluminum Company. In 1967, Duane was recruited by Bonneville Power Administration and moved his family to Vancouver, Washington. In 1969, Duane transferred with Bonneville



back to Kalispell where he stayed until he retired in January 1993 as the electrical foreman of Northwest Montana.

During his retirement Duane enjoyed

hunting, fishing, camping, card games, traveling and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Duane was an active member of the Moose Lodge and of Risen Christ Catholic Church.

Duane is survived by his wife, Margaret, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

There will be a visitation for Duane on Monday, April 17, from 6 to 7 p.m. prior to the Rosary. A Rosary will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, April 17. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 18, at Risen Christ Catholic with burial at Glacier Memorial Gardens and a luncheon following at the Moose Lodge in Kalispell.

Friends are encouraged to visit www.buffalohill-fh.com to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Robert Theodore Orsua, 65

On Feb. 20, 2017, Captain Bob (Robert Theodore Orsua) lost his short battle with pancreatic cancer, "and began his final and most glorious charter, into heaven." Bob was 65 years old and lived with his beloved wife, Lynn Orsua, in Kalispell.

He was born Dec. 5, 1951, in San Mateo, California, to Ted and Helen Orsua.

He was preceded in death by his mother Helen Garcia, and great-granddaughter Lillyen Paige Hiland.

Bob is survived by his wife, Lynn Orsua; his parents, Ted and Sherri Orsua; his sons and their wives, Ray and Angie, Ben and Carolyn, and Mike and Jennifer; his stepchildren, Lisa Lake, Tiffany and Dan Burgad, Kim and Chuck Mitsch, and Jay Hiland; 20 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Bob was proud of his children and grandchildren and always had a story to share about each of them. He enjoyed countless hunting and fishing trips with friends and family, teaching and passing on his passion to even his youngest great-grandchildren. The memories made, from hunting and fishing, to heartfelt talks, and even his lectures will be forever cherished. His absence will be desperately missed.

Bob earned his degree in forestry and for a time



worked for the U.S. Forest Service where he had the opportunity to immerse himself

in his active passion of nature. He also owned his own leather repair shop, and retired from UPS. As he drove the UPS truck, his daily gaze upon Flathead Lake, his avid passion for the great outdoors, and his entrepreneur-driven personality inspired him to begin MoFisch Charters. Together, with his wife and business partner, Lynn, by his side, the business thrived, and gained an impressive nationwide reputation. He took great joy in sharing his time with his clients, friends and family. Captain Bob's legacy will live on as his dedicated and loyal guides assume and carry on the business that was born of this honest, opinionated and generous man.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held July 8. Details will be published on the MoFisch website and the newspaper at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a charity of your choosing.

Bob always said, "My worst day of going to work is better than most people's best day."

"Gone fishing."

March 5

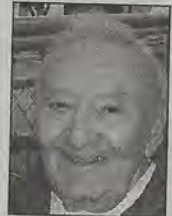
Herbert Joseph Osorio, 93

Longtime Kalispell resident, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Herbert Joseph Osorio died Aug. 1, 2017, in Missoula.

"Herb" was born April 13, 1924, in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, to Dr. Roberto and Sarah Sosa Osorio. He was a pre-schooler when his family, escaping a Mexican revolution, immigrated to New York city. Initially, he struggled at grade school with the English language, but he was a force to be reckoned with once he mastered it. He joined the United States Army, quickly climbed the ranks, distinguishing himself by becoming the youngest command sergeant major to serve in the history of the United States Army, until recently when his long standing record was broken. A highly decorated soldier, with medals awarded to him from United States, France and Korea, he served both in World War II and the Korean conflict, retiring after 25 years from the U.S. Army.

During a posting in Anchorage, Alaska, at a soldier/nurse dance, he met Betty Feeney of Minot, North Dakota, whom he married in 1948. They raised four children together, Karlene, Debra, Linda and John.

He chose to retire to the Flathead Valley, making his home in Kalispell for 48 years. He worked at Gambles, Manions and Rygg Ford. He owned several businesses and managed the VFW club in his later years.



For many years, he was delighted to share birthday parties with his granddaughter, Laura, with whom he shared the same birth day. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, teaching all his

children and grandchildren the joys of the great outdoors. He enjoyed stamp collecting and was a member of the local Philatelist Club.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty; his two sisters, Ligia and Nidia; and his great-grandson, James Dean Thorson Jr.

He is survived by his brother, Roberto Osorio, of Cuernavaca, Mexico; his children, Karlene Osorio-Khor, Debra Thorson, Linda St. Peter and John Osorio; his 10 grandchildren, Laura, Julie, Kristina, Andrea, Jonathan, Joseph, Jacqueline, Melissa, Megan and Mathew; and 11 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will take place at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 4, at 229 7th Street West in Kalispell.

Editor's note: A separate obituary for Herbert Osorio appears on this page.

2 Aug 2017

Herbert Osorio, 93

Herbert Osorio, 93, of Missoula, and a longtime resident of Kalispell, passed away at his home in Missoula on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017.

He was born on April 13, 1924, in Merida, Mexico, to Robert Osorio and Sara Sosa Osorio. As an infant, Herbert and his family moved to New York city where he became a naturalized citizen. He worked as a busboy and waiter in some of the most famous restaurants in New York city where he learned many foreign languages.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army April 3, 1943, to Nov. 1, 1945; re-enlisted Jan. 15, 1947, until retirement in 1965 with the rank command sergeant major. During his battles and campaigns in Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Korea he was highly decorated. Among his numerous awards, he received the Bronze Star (as a private) for distinguished service in World War II in France and Luxembourg (April 1945), the World War II Victory Medal AOM (Germany), ETO with silver star (5 campaigns), the Bronze Star (First Bronze Oak-leaf Cluster) as a Master Sergeant for meritorious service in Korea (1950-53), European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal (October 1945), Foreign Service Award: Wharang Distinguished Military Service Medal as a Master Sergeant for meritorious service in Korea, (1952-53), Korean Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars



for service from 1952-1953); Korean U.N. Medal, France Croix-deguerrew (1956), Letter of Commendation: First Place enlisted

contestant and second over-all high score in the 25th Infantry Division Military Stakes Competition for 1959.

Herbert met Betty Feeney at a Christmas party in Anchorage, Alaska, and the couple married June 15, 1948. During his military career Herbert and his family traveled throughout the United States including Hawaii and Alaska while they were territories.

Upon retirement from the military, Herbert moved to Kalispell where he enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. For many years he managed the VFW Club. He was an avid stamp collector and belonged to the local philatelist-club. He worked for Rygg Ford selling cars before opening his own used car lot.

He was a devoted grandfather. He attended all his grandchildren's important events and was present for many of the unimportant events as well. He entertained his grandchildren during the summer with fishing, camping and installing a swimming pool for their enjoyment. Although proud of all of his grandchildren,

he was especially proud that one of his grandchildren followed him into military service as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Herbert followed his grandson's career with great interest and enthusiasm.

Herbert is survived by his brother, Roberto Osorio; and his four children, Karlene (Francis) Khor of Kalispell, Debra (Jim) Thorson of Bakersfield, California, Linda (Don) St. Peter of Missoula, and John (Angel) Osorio of Cherry Hill, New Jersey; 10 grandchildren, Laura, Julie, Kristina, Andrea, Jonathan, Joseph, Jacqueline, Melissa, Meagan and Matthew; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his two sisters, his parents, one grandchild (Jimmy), and his beloved wife, Betty.

Rosary vigil service will be held at 5:30 p.m. today, Aug. 3, at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4,

at St. Anthony Catholic Church with the Rev. John Miller as celebrant. Burial will take place at the Western Montana Veterans Cemetery in Missoula.

Arrangements are under the care of Garden City Funeral Home and Crematory.

Editor's note: A separate obituary for Herbert Osorio appears on this page.

28 Jan 2017

Nancy I. Ostheller, 76

Nancy I. Ostheller "went home to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" on Friday, Jan. 20, 2017, with family by her side.

Nancy was born March 28, 1940, in Polson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Wesley Ostheller; father, Eldon Coverdell; and sister, Elda Rae Peterson.

Nancy is survived by her daughter, Korri Ostheller-Munyan (husband, Lee Munyan); three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Nancy grew up in Northwest Montana and in 1957 she married Wesley Ostheller in Libby. In 1969, she and Wesley settled down in Kalispell to start their family and resided there for the next 23 years.



In 1992, she and Wesley moved to Libby and opened a new business, Specialty

Products of Libby. She happily retired in 2007.

Nancy loved her family deeply and thoroughly enjoyed spending time with her daughter, son-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her cat Callie; they lit up her life. Nancy loved the outdoors and going camping with her family, she enjoyed golfing, bowling, reading and sewing. Nancy will be deeply missed.

Cascade Memorial is caring for the family.

Upon his discharge from the service, Shannon spent the summer of 1980 as a boat captain at Many Glacier in Glacier National Park. That fall he enrolled at Montana State University in Bozeman. It was during this time that he was diagnosed with a form of adult onset, progressive muscular dystrophy. Despite the diagnosis and the beginnings of some physical limitations, Shan completed a second year at MSU before transferring to the University of Montana in Missoula.

In 1989, Shannon became a seasonal ranger in Yellowstone

outings. The nurses and staff enjoyed Shannon's humor, positivity and friendliness.

Shannon is survived by his parents, George and Iris; and his siblings, Heidi, Wendy and Clark and their families. He leaves behind nephews and nieces, aunts and uncles and many cousins and friends. Shannon was a gentle, kind soul. He was dearly loved and he will be as dearly missed.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service at 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 6, at the Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, followed by a desert reception.

Shannon Alva Ostrom, 58

Shannon Ostrom, beloved son, brother, uncle and friend, passed away June 24, 2017, at North Valley Hospital from complications of pneumonia.

Shannon was born Feb. 25, 1959, in Kalispell, to G. George and Iris Ostrom. He attended Cornelius Hedges Elementary School, Linderman (seventh grade), Kalispell Junior High and Flathead High School. His school years were filled with bike riding, bug collecting, swimming and skating at Woodland Park, sledding at the "gully" and hanging out with the neighborhood kids. He played baseball and spent many years in Scouting, from Cubs to Webelos. He and his dad built at least one award-winning Pinewood Derby car.

Shan was on the high school debate team and involved in student government. He played alto saxophone in band, and was one heck of a dancer, taking top honors in a local jitterbug competition. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved and excelled at fishing, hunting, hiking, camping and mountain climbing.

After graduating with the Class of 1977, Shannon signed up for a three-year stint in the U.S. Army. He served his tour of duty near Pisa, Italy, as a military policeman at Camp Darby. Shan made the most of his overseas deployment, saving up leave and traveling widely throughout Europe and northwest Africa. He participated in NATO maneuvers in Norway and, as an accomplished skier, represented the Army ski team during international military races in the Austrian Alps.



Park and enjoyed that job for five years. He then got on at Glacier National Park where he spent the final five years of his ranger

career before retiring due to his worsening disability.

Throughout the years, Shannon climbed with the Over-the-Hill-Gang and continued to enjoy hunting and outdoor photography. He co-authored a beautiful wildlife photography book with his dad titled, "Wondrous Wildlife," featuring photos they had taken over their many years of outdoor adventures together.

Shan was active in Big Brothers Big Sisters, sponsoring a "little brother" and teaching dozens of fourth graders how to play cribbage as part of their math studies.

He was able to take a photographic junket to Alaska, enjoyed a Hawaiian vacation with his folks, and shared an unforgettable exploration of the rainforest and jungles of Costa Rica with his dad and brother.

Living at home under the care of his parents, Shannon for years continued to be able to go on annual fishing and hunting trips with lifelong buddies who made special accommodations for him — though catching the largest fish or shooting the biggest deer was all his doing.

In 2012, Shannon moved into the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. Family and friends continued their visits, card playing and occasional