

10 Sep 2017

## Walter E. Wesche Jr. 'Bud' 80

Walter E. Wesche Jr. "Bud," 80, went home where his Lord Jesus, loving wife and family awaited his arrival Sept. 2, 2017.

Bud was born Oct. 28, 1936, to Walter and Elsie Wesche Sr in Great Falls. He grew up in Loma and attended school in Fort Benton. Growing up Bud worked on the family ranch in Loma riding the hills, catching catfish on the Marias River and hunting antelope on the prairie.

He had a love for guns and old cars and often told the story of his first car, a 1929 Model-T that he purchased from the neighbor for \$5. With a cowboy exterior he had a kind heart being an animal lover always having several pets. Later on he made many left turns at the Great Falls speedway



winning a roomful of trophies with his race cars. It was there he met his first wife

and had four beautiful children. He had many jobs over the years from construction to owning his own long haul trucking company taking him all over the country with "the love of his life," his late wife, Karen, helping to raise five stepchildren. Bud was always known to be seen in his cowboy hat and boots along with his long steer horns on his vehicles.

Bud is preceded in death by his parents Walter Sr "Papa Walt" and Elsie "Gramma Gooch" son Wade, and Wife Karen.

He is survived by his sister Jane and brother in law Ron Parker, his first-born son Walter Wesche III "Buck", daughter Deborah Anderson, youngest son Justin Wesche, four nieces and five grandchildren, along with stepchildren Jackie, Kenny, Leona, Shane, Nikki and their families.

A special thanks to Buffalo Hill Funeral Home "Dale" and coworkers for their compassion and help, along with all personnel at the Edgewood for keeping him comfortable in his last days.

No services will be held at this time.

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.

29 Jan 2017

## Doris Rose West, 90

Doris Rose West, 90, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, at Brendan House in Kalispell,

Doris was born in Maui, Hawaii on Dec. 4, 1926, to John and Rosie (Gonsales) Rodregues.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents and husband William Irl West and her son William West.

She is survived by her sons John (Ellen)

West: Dennis West, daughter Dorina (Bob) Manners and their family. four grandchildren 11 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

No services are planned at this time.

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.

## Robert Myers Westberg, 85

Robert Myers Westberg died July 25, 2017, at his home in Kalispell, surrounded by his loving family. He was 85. A retired lawyer, he and his wife Nancy moved to Montana in 2000 from the San Francisco Bay Area.



Hamley was named to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, he invited Westberg

to accompany him as clerk to San Francisco. Westberg and his young wife, then expecting their first child, moved to the Bay Area. The Westbergs lived for 44 years in Marin County — in Sausalito, Mill Valley, Belvedere and Kent Woodlands. They raised three daughters, Britt, Jennifer and Catherine.

Westberg was born in Seattle on July 12, 1932. His father, Alfred J. Westberg, was a lawyer and served as a senator in the Washington State Legislature. His mother, Jean Myers Westberg, was the daughter of prominent Seattle architect David Myers, who laid out the University of Washington campus and designed many of its significant buildings. As a boy, Westberg delivered newspapers by bicycle in the family's hilly Madrona neighborhood. He was an acolyte in the Episcopal Church. He initially attended Garfield High School in Seattle, where he played clarinet in the band alongside classmate Quincy Jones. He worked as a page in the state legislature. He went on to attend the Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire; during the summers, he worked at Sanders Fountain Lunches in Seattle as a fry cook and assistant manager.

After Exeter, Westberg won a scholarship to Princeton University. He waited tables in the student dining hall, was on the Crew, and joined Charter Club. Just short of his senior year, his scholarship was withdrawn when a concerned alumnus notified the school that his father had just bought a new Cadillac.

Westberg was a partner in the San Francisco law firm Pillsbury, Madison, and Sutro, where he worked for 50 years. He specialized in anti-trust law, appellate work, and legal ethics. Among his clients were Bethlehem Steel, AT&T, BART, and Chevron. Politically liberal, he was warned as a young associate at the firm that he would be passed over for partnership if he did not resign his membership in the American Civil Liberties Union, which the senior partner at the firm considered to be a Communist organization. Nonetheless, he and Nancy were active in the politics of the day; they canvassed for Democratic candidates, and participated in the anti-war, environmental and civil rights movements.

In one of Westberg's most significant cases, he represented, pro bono, a group of African American, Hispanic, Asian American and Pacific Islander fire-

Society and — for several years — the Mill Valley Library board.

Westberg had a strongly developed sense of personal integrity and honor. He had a distrust of hiring a tax accountant to prepare his taxes because he thought it was a way to try to get out of paying one's fair share. (Instead he did his own taxes until well into his 70s, using an abacus.) After he retired from practicing law, he volunteered for seven years at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center, delivering mail and newspapers.

Robert Myers Westberg is survived by Nancy, his wife of 62 years, of Kalispell; daughter, Britt La Gatta, and son-in-law Louis La Gatta, of Corte Madera, California; daughter, Jennifer Li, of Kalispell; daughter, Catherine Westberg, of Citrus Heights, California; honorary daughter, Diane Kefauver, and honorary son, Jon Rubin, of San Francisco; grandsons, Robert La Gatta and Steven La Gatta, of Vallejo, California; grandsons, Christopher Oberling and Harold

Oberling, of Kalispell; granddaughter, Alexandra Issacharoff, of Los Angeles; grandson, Jacob Issacharoff, of Placerville, California; grandson, Elijah Issacharoff, of Sacramento; and brother, David Westberg, of Hollywood, California. He also leaves behind Maizie, a miniature schnauzer.

The family plans a private remembrance.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider a donation to the American Civil Liberties Union in his name.

As a result, Westberg returned to Seattle. The University of Washington School of Law was willing to admit him despite his lack of a college degree. By the end of his first year, he was first in his class and became editor of the Law Review. To pay for school, he worked at the Leckenby Structural Steel Company, spray painting steel girders with lead paint.

While at law school, he met Miss Nancy Lyon, an activist and social worker who had been an aide to Tennessee Sen. Estes Kefauver in Washington, D.C. The two were married in 1955. He would always characterize his marriage to Nancy as "the best thing I ever did."

When Judge F.G.

fighters in a successful racial discrimination suit against the San Francisco Fire Department, which at that time had only one African American firefighter. He successfully argued a landmark point on the issue of custody under the Miranda Rule before the Supreme Court of the United States, representing a San Quentin death row inmate.

Robert Myers Westberg was a member of the Bar in Washington state, California, New York state and the District of Columbia. He was chairman of the California State Bar Association Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, president of the San Francisco Legal Aid

## Walter Earl Whirry, 89

Walter Earl Whirry, 89, died Jan. 21, 2017, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

He was born in Missoula on March 10, 1927, to Willard and Julia Whirry. Walt graduated Shelby High School and served in the Coast Guard during World War II.

On Aug. 28, 1947, he married Helen Christian in Shelby. After receiving a degree in agricultural economics from Montana State College-Bozeman in 1948, he worked in banking and construction.

While living in Shelby, Walt and Helen raised five of their seven children, as well as developing several small businesses. The family began their own cattle ranch north of Browning in 1959 before moving to a larger operation on the



east end of the Bear Paw Mountains in 1961. They resided in Havre where two additional children were born into the

family, while being highly involved in the St. Jude Catholic community.

In 1968, the family moved to West Glacier where Walt and Helen developed and operated the West Glacier golf course. The golf course was sold in 1974. In semi-retirement Walt and Helen enjoyed their new house overlooking Glacier and traveling in the Southwest. They returned

to the original family ranch on the South Fork of the Milk River north of Browning in 1990 for summers. After 33 years living in West Glacier, they built a retirement home in Kalispell.

Walt is survived by daughters, Jane Mues and Dawn Diskin; sons, Gordon Whirry (Janet), Brian Whirry (Sherry Abel), and William Whirry; nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Barbara Baroch, brother John, wife Helen, son Burt and daughter Judy.

Family graveside services will be held at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, with a celebration of life to be held

later in the year.

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

25 Jan 2017

## OBITUARIES Oct 8

### Lucille Angela Whitaker, 57

Luci was born in Whitefish on April 8, 1960, and was adopted by Alvin George Naccarato and Lucille Fransis Burlingham. She was raised with two sisters (Angela and Lynda), and a brother (Richard), and later learned that she had three more sisters (Joette, Joy and Janine). Luci was married twice, had three children (Travis, 38; Brandon, 28; and Heather, 27) and eventually five grandchildren (Chloe, 13; David, 5; Vanessa, 4; Elijah, 2; and Sarah, 2).

She held many positions in several companies over the course of her life, including convenience store clerk, waitress and hotel night auditor.

Later in life, Luci learned of the love and grace that her Savior Jesus offers. She studied God's word and began

to understand that her hope could only be found in Christ alone. Because of this we can all have joy, peace and confidence that Luci is walking pain free with Jesus now. She was a member of the Fellowship Alliance Church and was baptized on April 27, 2008. After moving to Idaho, she became a member of Cross Of Christ Lutheran Church.

She loved everyone so much and had a giant heart for people and dogs.

She was preceded in death by her mother (Lucille), father (Alvin), and Angela.

Luci is survived by her son Travis, her son Brandon, and her daughter Heather. She also leaves behind her dog Honey.

Luci was "called home to heaven" at the age of 57 on Sept. 11, 2017.

Oct 15

# OBITUARIES

## Margaret L. White, 83

Margaret Lucille White passed away Oct. 12, 2017 surrounded by family at Hidden Meadows in Columbia Falls. She was born on Feb. 12, 1934 in Eagle Grove, Iowa to Harlan and Marcella Toillion.



School in Whitefish for many years. She was active in Saint Charles Church, teaching

Margaret grew up working on a farm that had been in the family since the 1800s, attending the same one-room school house her mother and grandmother had before her. Her family attended the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Eagle Grove. In addition to varied chores, Marg spent time mending injured animals, singing them back to health. Her gentle, comforting manner was evident from her early years. Margaret's devotion to God, love of family and animals of all kinds can be traced back to her loving upbringing on that Iowa family farm.

Sunday school and participated in small faith groups. She and Ed built, owned and operated the Fernwell Apartments in Kalispell which provided low-income housing for people in need. Hers was a life full of compassion, gentle kindness and service. Her family and friends will forever feel blessed and inspired by her.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 53 years, Ed.

Margaret is survived and will be dearly missed by her children, Andy White (sons Garrett and Braxton), Doug White (daughter Katie), and Marcy Birdsell (husband Rich daughter Madison and son Jackson).

After graduating from Eagle Grove High School in 1952, she attended Iowa State Teacher College and became an elementary teacher in Iowa. She then moved to Laurel, Montana to teach where her sister Dort lived. After her time in Laurel she moved to Great Falls. There she met the love of her life, Edgar Allen White. They married on June 9, 1962. Together they had three children: Andy, Doug and Marcy. Ed retired from the Air Force in 1973. He and Marge then settled in Whitefish, a place they fell in love with on their honeymoon, to raise their family.

Margaret is also survived by her big sister Dorothy (husband Max), her little brother Bruce (wife Arnedra), and many nieces and nephews.

Viewing and visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017 at Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church with a Graveside Committal to follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that Margaret's soft, kind spirit will be honored with acts of kindness or support for others.

She and Ed took advantage of the many opportunities Montana had to offer, like skiing, camping and fishing. Margaret taught first and second grade at Cross Currents Christian

Condolences for the family may be submitted online at [www.austinfh.com](http://www.austinfh.com).

## Cecil Ida (Cameron) Whitehead, 82

Our beautiful wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, "moved on to a new adventure" while comforted by her large loving family on the evening of Mother's Day, May 14, 2017, at the Heritage Place.



ing with her kids and grandkids, teaching them how to bait a hook or land a frisky

brookie in Pinkham Creek. She was the anchor of the tug-a-war team, or could expertly stack an entire cord of wood on a small '86 Toyota pickup and, at the same time, was delicate enough to hold an injured hummingbird and nurse it back to health. She was willing to participate in anything that would lead to spending time with her clan. She was also very artistic, an excellent painter who could produce a stunning oil or watercolor painting or paint a rock to look just like a ladybug, or entertain a lucky grandchild for hours creating something lovely out of whatever was available. The whole world was her canvas and she made things around her more magnificent. Cecil was truly one of God's gifts and her large, close family will never outlive the influence she had on their well-being.

Cecil was preceded in death by her parents, Archie and Hazel Cameron; an infant son, Kenneth Allen Whitehead; and brothers and sisters, Vivian Workman, Ken Cameron, Archie Cameron Jr., Goldie Tremis, Fred Cameron, Josephine Bouton, Earl Cameron and Dorothy Jean Cameron.

Cecil is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 64 years, Richard "Nibs" Whitehead; brother, Donald Cameron, and sister-in-law, Pat Cameron; cousin and dear friend, Barbara Fay; daughters and sons, Debbie and Jerome Moore, Mark and Tami Whitehead, Byron Whitehead and Peggy Nau, and Sherri and Michael Hayes; grandchildren, Scott and Michelle

Cecil met the love of her life by chance when a young man who worked for her father courted her and the story goes that she flipped a silver dollar and the man who would catch the dollar would win her affection. Cecil must have tossed the coin in his direction, because Richard "Nibs" Whitehead caught the dollar and ultimately won her heart. He still has her heart and the silver dollar he managed to catch that very consequential day all those years ago. They tied the knot on May 9, 1953, in Kalispell and spent the next 64 years together, mostly in harmony. Cecil accompanied Nibs to logging camps, cooking for the crews, patching him up when he was injured, cutting Christmas trees and monitoring the radio, aiding Nibs and his fellow truckers as they made a living in the vast forests of Northwest Montana. At the same time she managed to nurture her children into strong hardworking adults. Cecil was employed at many different jobs over

the years doing everything she could to make her children's lives better. Over the last 14 years Cecil worked with her daughter Sherri at Imperial Dry Cleaners, becoming grandma to customers and co-workers. We just never met anyone who didn't admire Cecil.

Cecil and Nib's love produced five children, 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren and countless others that were treated as children and grandchildren. Everyone was welcome in the Whitehead home and even in tough times there was plenty to go around, no one was turned away, there were no strangers — the Whiteheads lived the Golden Rule. Above all, Cecil was kind and warm and patient, never judgmental, and never selfish; she made everyone feel at ease. Children and animals instinctively loved and trusted her. Cecil could quiet a crying baby just by holding her or him; she exemplified the virtues of motherhood. It is no accident that Cecil was called from this earth on Mother's Day.

Cecil loved Montana's great outdoors. She was at home in the woods camp-

Moore, Travis and Raimie Moore, Amber Franklin and RT Kienes, Kyle Whitehead, Tracie Brown, Alisha and Dallas Thornton, Jeremy and Tommi Walker, Tiffany and Steve Howard, Josh and Megan Shepard, Anna Hayes, John Hayes and Jason Hayes, and one grandchild who shares Cecil's birthday, Beverly Hayes; and great-grandchildren, Mayson Moore, Kenedee Moore, Austen Siderius, Aaron Siderius, Andrew Siderius, Haeli Shepard, Cassidy Shepard, Samantha Shepard, Mia Howard, Remi Howard, Trevor Harman, Kooper Harman, Aariah Walker, Brodie Walker, Janessa Walker, Dalton Brown, Daegan Brown, Decker Thornton and Avery Thornton.

A memorial service for Cecil will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. A celebration of Cecil's life will be held at the Moose Lodge located 2158 Hwy. 2 East in Evergreen immediately following the service. If you can't make it, please send a prayer.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Eleanor J. Wilhelm, 84

Eleanor J. Wilhelm, 84, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017, in Kalispell.

She was born April 8, 1933, in Medicine Lake to Joseph and Isabelle (Bainey) Morin.

She married Joseph "Bud" M. Wilhelm Jr. on Jan. 4, 1953.

Eleanor loved doing ceramics and playing cards games in which she was very competitive. Eleanor loved her family and loved spending time with them.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Joseph "Bud" Wilhelm Jr.; son, Brian Wilhelm; brothers Willis "Sonny" Morin, Willard "Boogie" Morin and Bernard "Bernie" Morin; and sisters, Doris Turcotte and Marquerite "Peg" Hope.

Eleanor is survived



by her daughter, Vicki (Guy) Stickney; son, Donnie (Betty) Wilhelm;

grandchildren, Christopher Stickney, Mandy (Shawn) Hossack, Jeremy (Lynn Rose) Wilhelm, Joshua Wilhelm, Brandon (Brandi) Wilhelm, Caleb Wilhelm and Beau Wilhelm; and seven great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. on Oct. 14 at Glacier Memorial Gardens, 2659 Hwy. 93 North. A reception will follow at the Eagles.

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

11 Oct 2017

## Mary Elizabeth Wilhelm, 91

Mary Elizabeth Wilhelm passed away at home with her family by her side April 20, 2017.

She was born to Joseph and Mary Wilhelm on April 4, 1926, in Kalispell.

Mary moved to Seattle after graduating high school in 1944. She spent many years working for the

University of Washington until her retirement.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her brother Joseph "Bud" Matthew Wilhelm.

Mary is survived by two sisters, Louise Clements of Marysville, Missouri, and Lucille Jones of Yakima, Washington. She did not

have children of her own, but had many nieces and nephews who adored her.

There will be a graveside service 3 p.m. today, April 28, at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Arrangements by Valley Hills Funeral Home in Yakima.

April 28

## Clifford 'Kicker' Oliver Wilkins, 78

Clifford "Kicker" Oliver Wilkins, 78, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother, passed away too soon, surrounded by loved ones, on Oct. 21, 2017, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.



Town basketball team for several years after moving to Flathead Valley.

Cliff was born Jan. 4, 1939, in Hamilton to Oliver (Cliff) and Helma (Maki) Wilkins. He was a graduate of Hamilton High in 1958 where he was involved in many sporting activities. He spent much of his younger years at the Maki Ranch in Corvallis with his grandparents, Aunt Helena and Uncle Earl Maki, and cousins Jack, Neil, Ralph and Kevin, whom he considered his brothers.

Cliff then moved to Coram and began working in the construction and logging field, until he went to work for Canyon Logging, then Ureco Inc. for the next 35 years as a heavy equipment operator. He was a member of the Coram West Glacier Volunteer Fire Department from 1967 until Oct. 21, 2000, serving as assistant fire chief and remaining on the board as an active member.

Cliff married the love of his life, Carol Brooks-Byrne of Kalispell, on Feb. 23, 1965. They shared 53 wonderful and cherished years together while raising a family of four children. He was an amazing man who had unconditional love and kindness for his family and was always there to help those in need.

He helped start the Canyon Men's Pool League around 1972, which he ran until he retired in 2000 and began the Canyon Men's Softball League around 1969 after finding a love for the sport in Libby years prior. He also enjoyed playing for the Columbia Falls Men's

He loved hunting, fishing and spending time with family and friends. He enjoyed long drives and sharing with the family all of the roads he helped build. There was nowhere that the family traveled that Cliff did not point out a road he helped build.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cliff and Helma Wilkins, nephew Mike Potter, and beloved cousins Ralph and Jack Maki.

He is survived by his loving wife Carol, sister Marlene (Allen) Potter of Coram, daughters Lisa (Craig) Knight of Walla Walla, Washington, Ann Thomas of Crestview, Florida, and Becky (Kevin) Mackenstadt of Coram, and son John (Darci) Wilkins Kalispell. Cliff was proud of his eight grandchildren, Matthew (Anne), Jeremy (Julie), Jana (Ryan), Jason, Kacey (Jonathon) Josh, Brittany and Jessi; 13 great-grandchildren, Emily, Natalie, Jake, Robbie, Conner, Amelia, Cora, Matthew, Kinley, Grayson, Avery, Jackson and Lucia; honorary grandchildren, Mike Nicosia, Teal, Aubrey and Aspen Jacobi; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30, at Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, 3408 U.S. Hwy. 2 East, Kalispell. A reception will immediately follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Coram-West Glacier Fire Department.

## OBITUARIES

Aug 27

### Linda Lillian Williams, 79

Linda "went to be with her family, friends and the Lord" on Aug. 18, 2017. She passed peacefully at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula. It was here that she showed her true bravery, strength and faith in the Lord.



of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived

by her siblings, Rich Alden and Sue Wehrle; children, Brad Williams, Heidi Shepherd, CharLee Williams and Blakely Williams; and grandchildren, Brandon, Stephanie, Cori, Michael,

by her siblings, Rich Alden and Sue Wehrle; children, Brad Williams, Heidi Shepherd, CharLee Williams and Blakely Williams; and grandchildren, Brandon, Stephanie, Cori, Michael,

Samantha, Jesse, Jeremiah, Jonah, Joshua and Kiara. She is also survived by an abundance of the greatest of great-grandchildren.

Linda was an amazingly strong and beautiful lady. Her faith and love for her family, the world and life were truly her most valuable virtues. She was encouraging to all.

Services will be held at noon on Sept. 16 at the Mountain View Mennonite Church in Kalispell.

Linda had a special love and bond with each

27 Oct 2017

## John 'Johnny' Heidler Williams, 84

John "Johnny" Heidler Williams, 84, passed away with "peace and grace" on Christmas morning 2016 with Bonnie, his life partner of 23 years by his side.

John was born in Washoe, Montana, to John and Rose Williams in 1932.

He worked at Jermel Tire.

He married Patricia Meyer.

John enlisted at 18 years old in the U.S. Army. He served from 1950 to 1953 in combat in Korea.

John returned home to start a family while truck driving and getting his CPA license from Montana State University. He was hired by the IRS where his job took him to Miles City, Billings, Missoula and finally Kalispell where he retired at 55.

He picked up flying for a hobby, landing in his favorite place and the home of his retired years, Ferndale, Montana. He babied a dream 182 Cessna, owning it for 37 years. He made far reaching trips to Alaska, Oshkosh, Las Vegas, Reno and Hawaii with his sons and many more local trips to all the towns of his youth in Montana.

John and Bonnie were motor-home snowbirds and enjoyed traveling and visiting many of the national parks of the west and east as far as Florida. During the summers, they could be seen riding John's motorcycle through Glacier Park and picnicking in John's favorite spot looking at Bird Woman Falls. He loved hiking, fishing, swimming in



Flathead Lake, biking, Grizzlies Football, the Denver Broncos, going to rodeos especially watching the bull riding

and walking through the displays at the fair. John enjoyed being involved with local fundraisers and was a longtime member of Bethany Lutheran Church.

John was preceded in death by his parents, siblings and his grandson Kyle. He is survived by his loving partner Bonnie Hoffman; his four sons, Dirk, John Wade (Jackie), Darren and Garth; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service with full military honors will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, 2017, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 8559 MT Highway 35, in Bigfork, with Pastor Christopher Miller officiating. A reception will follow the service at the church. Interment will be at Bethany Lutheran Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in John's name to Bethany Lutheran Church, PO Box 398, Bigfork, MT 59911

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for John's family. You are invited to go to [www.darlingtonfunerals.com](http://www.darlingtonfunerals.com) to view John's Tribute wall, offer condolences and share memories.



## Warren Richard Williams, 90

Warren Richard Williams, 90, of Kalispell, passed away on July 20, 2017.

Warren was born on Feb. 25, 1927, in Missoula to Richard Williams and Alta Bostic Williams. He grew up in the Proctor area, where he attended school, later continuing at Flathead County High School.

In 1945 Warren married the love of his life, Marjorie L. Peebler Williams. They had one son, Dale Williams. On April 23, 2017, they celebrated 72 years of marriage.

He was fortunate that his logging career was also his passion. As an independent contractor he logged in the Swan Valley for over 30 years. Those who knew him considered him to be an honest, compassionate family man who was always willing to



help other people.

Warren is survived by his loving wife Marjorie of Kalispell, sister

Gloria Landon and husband Don of Kalispell, grandson Sean Williams and wife Beth of Bozeman, great-granddaughter Riley Williams of Bozeman, daughter-in-law Brenda Williams Cuthbertson of Bigfork, a nephew they helped raise, Michael DeShazer and wife Lori of Columbia Falls, and many other beloved nieces and nephews.

Warren was preceded in death by his son, Dale Williams, and three sisters, Marietta Davis, Audrey Daken and Pat Hanson.

A celebration of Warren's life will be held

at 2 p.m. on July 29 at the Kalispell First Church of the Nazarene with Pastor Ed Koteskey officiating. Family and friends will also gather at the church immediately following the service.

Johnson-Gloschat

Funeral Home will be caring for the family. Private burial will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens. At the request of family memorial donations may be made to the Kalispell First Church of the Nazarene, 1295 Whitefish Stage Road,

26 Jul 2017

Claire Elizabeth Willis, 34

“She’s gone fishin’.” She was something special to everyone she met ... friend, fishing buddy, cribbage opponent, confidant, niece, granddaughter, aunt, daughter and sister, but she was always our Claire-Bear.

Claire Elizabeth Willis “was called home” on Sept. 9, 2017, at her lake-side cabin in Whitefish.

Born in 1982, Claire entered this world the same way she left it, strong. Raised in Billings, she was the youngest of the Willis family. In 2001, she graduated from Billings Central Catholic High School, moving then to graduate magna cum laude from Gonzaga University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in literature. She loved everything from violin lessons to softball to reading a great book to the friendships she formed ... but she loved fishing. After some time in Spokane, Seattle and Oneonta, New York, she decided that Montana was to be her home again and settled in Missoula. Whether it was fishing, hiking, road trips, brewery patios or family gatherings, no matter the



occasion, if Claire was going to be there, you felt drawn to be there as well. She quickly brought out

the best in anyone she met; her quick wit and infectious laugh made it worth it.

Claire was preceded in death by her father Fred Willis, sister Seely Grace, brother John Richard, grandfather Jack, grandmother Nancy, and uncle, Gordon Willis.

She is survived by her mother, Jenanne Solberg; her two brothers, Austin (Alycia) and Scottie (Sarah); grandparents, Dick and Jane Solberg; niece Audrey and nephew Andrew. She is also survived by a family who provided the absolute best care that anyone could ask for, Chris and Sheryl Solberg (Janssen, Dru, Seely) Sannan Solberg and Angela Zielinski (Nathaniel, Jocelyn, Emily, Morgan) Tina and Bill Corwin (Kristin, Kelly, Taylor, Jamie, Ben, Katie).

Our family stood strong, surrounded Claire

and each other with love and support, and will maintain the positive message that Claire lived by. Check out her recipe for living a full life.

- You get the family you got. Love them hard, love them long.

- Cook, use good ingredients, and share those meals with friends.

- Choose good friends and make them your tribe forever.

- Cheer for your teams, winning or losing.

- Cast a wide net with your interests.

- Drink good beer!

- Go fishing ... Lots!

“Scottie is right, she is gone fishin’.”

In lieu of flowers, please send any condolences or memorials in her name to either of the following, which Claire chose, or to the organization of your choice. She has fond memories of Montana Music Institute, Red Lodge Music Festival, Billings Central Catholic High School, and Gonzaga University.

Camp Marshall, c/o Claire’s Campers, P.O. Box 2020, Helena, MT 59624, <https://diomontana.com/donations/>; or

Life Goes On Scholarship, c/o Whitefish Education Foundation, P.O. Box 1417, Whitefish, MT 59937.

**Stephen Ronnie Wills, 65**

Stephen Ronnie Wills, 65, passed away Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at his home in Kalispell after a courageous battle with multiple medical conditions.

He was born March 14, 1952, in Missoula to Robert and Vera Wills. He attended Sentinel High School. He had a love for the great outdoors which he enjoyed with his horse Chad camping and riding through the Sapphire Mountains. He was dedicated to the Boy Scouts, earning almost every badge possible.

Following in his father's footsteps Steve's loyalty, pride and love for his country led him to the Marine Corps in 1970.

On April 29, 1975, Cpl. Stephen R. Wills, a helicopter mechanic and crew chief, was a victim of a tragic accident. According to an article written, 'Helo' Marine Awarded Medal. Cpl. Wills stated, the CH-46 Sea Knight aircraft (call sign YT-14) was on final approach to the USS Hancock and was waived off. The helicopter crew had been flying for almost 14 hours on "search and rescue" detail at this point when the pilot lost his bearings causing the CH-46 Sea Knight to crash into the sea. Cpl. Wills and the first mechanic were the only survivors of the crash. They spent approximately 48 minutes in the water prior to their rescue. Steve sustained broken legs and hip in the accident and spent five months in the hospital. The CH-46 Sea Knight was the last helicopter lost in Vietnam and Cpl. Steve Wills was one of the



last two Americans wounded in Vietnam. Cpl. Wills was awarded a single-mission Air Medal for the actions he took earlier that day during Operation "Frequent Wind."

Steve returned home to Montana where he

worked for the Forest Service, drove truck and worked in sales management. He loved all that Montana offered; an avid hunter and fisherman he spent years enjoying the treasure state. A rugged cowboy by nature, he took after the old "Duke." Steve loved to take drives and knew every road, river, lake and stream. If you were one of the fortunate ones to ride with him you were guaranteed an adventure filled with captivating stories.

Steve had a quiet intelligence, a quick witty humor, he was very generous, and an exceptional "Master Grill" man and chef! Steve would help anyone the best he could, but he never had much himself. Steve would be the first one there if needed. According to his younger brother the best story about Steve was that everything was bigger than life itself.

Steve's loyalty embraced every fiber of his entire heart and soul

for the Marines. In his final years his greatest mission was devoted to Yankee Tango 14 (YT-14). There was not a day that went by in the last 42 years that Steve didn't think about the fateful night April 29, 1975. He was passionate about the retrieval of his fallen brothers left behind in Vietnam and the retrieval of YT-14 that still sits at the bottom of the South China Sea; he hoped to see that mission completed before he was "called up to his final mission in heaven." His pilot and co-pilot are commemorated on a retired CH-46 helicopter in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum slated to be added to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in the coming years.

Whether you were his spouse, child, grandchild, great-grandchild, sibling, friend or family member the ones that knew him and loved him most thought of Steve as a "National Treasure." Semper Fi.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Vera Wills.

He is survived by his spouse, Kathy Skillestad, of Kalispell; his children, Shannon Zimmerman of Missoula, Shane Wills (Heather) of Wasilla,

Arkansas, Stephen Wills Jr. (Alicia) of Minnesota, Brandon Wills of Hawaii and Mardana Wills of Minnesota; several grandchildren, one great-grandchild; several nieces and nephews; and his siblings, Robert Wills (Carlotta) of Missoula, and Randy Wills (Lisa) of Florence.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Kathy who dedicated her every being for caring for Steve in his final years. Her devotion and love to Steve's care will always be forever in our hearts. We would also like to thank Kristi, Laurie and Ryan Waldo for the love and support they gave to Steve during his last years with us.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home with a celebration of life following at the VFW in Kalispell. In Steve's honor, "Come as you are."

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to Steve's greatest mission Yankee Tango 14 (YT-14) <http://www.yankeetango14.com>. Yankee Tango 14 Recovery Project, 12725 East Poinsettia, Scottsdale, AZ 85259.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Lester 'Les' Willmore, 89

Lester "Les" Willmore, 89, of Elk, Washington, and formerly of Kalispell, passed away Nov. 11, 2017.

Les survived his first wife Barbara Willmore, of 27 years, who passed in 1981 and is survived by his second wife of 32 years, Jean Willmore; his children, David Willmore of Joseph, Oregon, Vicki Harding of Tumwater, Washington, Ann Fassbender of Snettisham, Alaska, Curtiss Willmore of Kalispell, Sharron Backstrom of Lacey, Washington, James Willmore of Kalispell and Douglas Willmore of Santa Monica, California; and his step-children, Vickie Adkins of Portage, Wisconsin, Shawn Smith of Kalispell and Trevert Adkins of Kalispell; as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

He was born July 31, 1928. Les grew up and graduated from high school in McLeansboro,



Illinois, and served in the Navy aboard a cruiser during the Korean conflict. Upon leaving the Navy he worked in southern California as an electrician when he met Barbara Jane Swafford and they were married March 1954. Shortly after, they left California and moved to Minnesota where Les attended Dunwoodie electrical school. He graduated and became a fulltime construction electrician, which was his vocation until his retirement in 1991.

He lived on a small farm in Elk with his loving wife Jean where he realized his childhood dream to become a gentleman farmer on their property on which he raised and trained many mules and horses. He is greatly missed by his wife and the large community of friends and relatives he leaves behind.

Services are pending.

## OBITUARIES *Oct 27*

### Linda Kay Willson, 65

Linda Kay Willson, 65, "took her place in heaven" on Oct. 17, 2017, at her home in Lakeside; finally free after many years of bravely battling kidney disease and diabetes.

She was born on May 3, 1952, in Fargo, North Dakota.

Her joyful laugh and loving kindness immediately come to mind when thinking of Linda. Always the first to crack a joke or make a silly face, she loved making people happy and laughing herself out of breath. A woman of strong Christian faith, she treated everyone the same — with compassion and kindness. She often looked people squarely in the eye and made "darned sure" they knew that they mattered; she appreciated them, and she cared. She knew struggle and she knew well the deep impact of kindness.

A tomboy as a young girl, Linda was full of spunk and mischief with her three brothers and sister in Boyd, Minnesota. After graduating high school from Granite Falls, Minnesota, in 1970 she married and spent the next 35 years raising her four children. She lived in Texas, Washington, D.C., Minnesota, and Iowa before settling in Montana in 1980.

She was intensely proud of her children for whom she devoted her entire life, always putting them ahead of her own needs and always the first person they would call to celebrate their successes. Her children loved her dearly. She delighted in her granddaughters who adored their Nana. She loved her siblings and was proud of their talents. She was blessed with many devoted friends whom she deeply loved.

She is survived by her children, Kristi (Stuart)



Rowland and granddaughter Elizabeth of Maple Valley, Washington, Robert Brovold

of Missoula, Michael (Samantha) Brovold and granddaughter Lynnelle of Lakeside, and Jessica (Noah) Lovewell of Groveland, California, from her marriage to Clayton Brovold; her siblings, Rick (Shirley) Willson of Chapin, South Carolina, and their children Ricky and Alaura; Ken (Kim) Willson of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and his children Kelly, Daniel and Jamie and her children Darci and Haily; and Ron (Becky) Willson of Loveland, Colorado, and his children Ashley and Joe; her nephew, Nathan Willson (son of Kathy); her beloved caregiver, Emily Starr; and her devoted friends and sisters in Christ, Pat Binger, Barbara Bricker, Lorrie Craven, Linda Broeder Paulson and Dee Steckler.

Linda was preceded in death by her sisters, Kathleen Gayle (1954-2001) and Mary Jean (1956), her parents Darrel Duane Willson (1926-1999) and Della Mary (McDonald) Willson (1928-2001) and her dear friend Ruth Broeder (1924-2012).

A celebration of life will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 603 S. Main Street in Kalispell. A reception will follow. Her ashes will be interred at a later date at the family plot in Leal, North Dakota. For more information you may call 206-293-1698 or email sunny-kristi@yahoo.com.

Memorials are suggested to your local food bank, shelter or charity of your choice.

12 Dec 2017

## OBITUARIES

### Lucille Deborah Sprague Wilson, 105

With sadness of her death, but celebration of her wonderful life, the family of Lucille Deborah Sprague Wilson announce her passing on Nov. 15, 2017, in Kalispell.

She had moved to the Flathead Valley in 2011 from the Baltimore-Annapolis area, was a resident of Buffalo Hill Terrace and, most recently, Welcov Assisted Living of Kalispell. She was the widow of Capt. (U.S. Naval Reserve) James Weber Wilson with whom she shared 55 years of marriage.

Debbie was born Sept. 2, 1912, at Eagle Point, Crater Lake Oregon to Henry Albert Sprague and Marjorie Nichols Savage who had homesteaded in Conrad, Montana, in 1911. She attended both one room schools and city public schools, graduating from public school in Port Angeles, Washington, where her parents permanently settled. When the Depression came, her father was reassigned from assistant plant manager of a pulp mill to night watchman ... but he had a job. The stark economic reality of the Depression never left her mindset and she became a shrewd saver and investor ... never spending capital, only the earnings and always saving for the unknown. As an only child growing up in logging camps, and seeing them burned out more than once forcing the family to start over, she became independent and self-assured ... both traits that boded well for her career and relationships with others.



from an afternoon nap in the bush only to find her guards fast asleep and surrounded by hippos.

She loved the mountain views of the Flathead Valley and particularly the Swan River. At 94, she kayaked the Swan and always looked forward to celebrating holidays and birthdays on the Swan with family and friends. She really appreciated the sense of community inspired by the Bigfork Fourth of July parade.

Debbie was president of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maryland, a member of the Society of the Descendants of the Mayflower, and the Hingham Historical Society. She was a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers and the National Association of Parliamentarians. At 101, she rewrote the by-laws for Buffalo Hill Terrace residents. She enjoyed tracing the family genealogy and took the time to write a life story to share her history with future generations.

Her skills in social work were constantly utilized. She had the willingness to listen and support. Family, friends and aides all marveled at her capacity to have interest in their lives

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington where she was president of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority and Mortar Board. She was employed by I. Magnin and Company to start their College Bureau.

In 1936, she and Jim were married in Seattle and built a home on Magnolia Bluff where she raised their three children. She remained there during World War II while he was in the South Pacific in command of three different ships. In 1952, the family moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, where Jim taught at the University of British Columbia and Debbie obtained her master's degree in social work. In 1958, they moved to Washington, D.C., and she became a parole officer at the Federal Court House and then, for 13 years, the casework director and liaison to the American Red Cross for the Navy Relief Society.

At retirement, they moved to Annapolis, Maryland, to enjoy their waterfront home and sailing on the Chesapeake. They subsequently moved to Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville, Maryland, where Debbie was active in the Council and became their longest resident at over 20 years.

Debbie enjoyed the outdoors and traveling with family in friends. At age 91, on a safari in South Africa, she awoke

and appreciated the support she provided through small gifts and their positive impact. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren still shared personal accomplishments such as promotions, dean's list or gymnastic performances. Her pleasure came in helping others overcome life's obstacles and appreciating the power of love and caring.

Until recently, she daily communicated through her computer and cell phone, working hard at staying current with today's trends. Even at the end, her first questions were normally, "What is important that happened in the world today that I should know about?" and "What do you have planned today?"

Surviving are three children, Julia Wilson Meldau and husband Fred from Virginia, Henry Weber Wilson and wife Jill from Rhode Island, and Harry Wilson and wife Holly from Montana. In addition, there are seven grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She will be missed by all for her insights and interest in everyone's pursuits.

Inurnment will be private at the Arlington National Cemetery where her ashes will be in the same niche as her husband.

Her favorite charity is the Nature Conservancy, 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

## Stephen Alston Wilson, 79

Stephen Alston Wilson, beloved husband, father and "Gramps," passed away peacefully at his home in Kalispell on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, with his loving wife and children at his side.

He was born on Sept. 7, 1937, in El Paso, Texas, to Mildred and Howard C. Wilson, and was the youngest of four children.

When Steve was 4 years old, his family moved from Texas to Salmon, Idaho, and then to a small mountain ranch on the Salmon River near Shoup. He attended high school in Spokane, Washington, and graduated from Spokane High School in 1955. Soon after starting college at the University of Idaho in Moscow, he received his draft notice and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served honorably for four years. After leaving the service, Steve settled in Great Falls where he began what would become a lifetime of successful entrepreneurial ventures in



business, agriculture; real estate, and property management.

It was in Great Falls that he met and married his soul mate for

life, Cheryl Anne Fisher. They were married on April 4, 1965, and together they raised three children, and were blessed with 52 wonderful years of marriage. The family moved from Great Falls to Fort Shaw in 1973, to the Gallatin Valley in 1978, and then to Kalispell in 1990. In addition to his business interests, Steve was active in many professional and civic organizations in Great Falls, Bozeman and Kalispell, including the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, Optimist Club, Elks, Masonic Order, Scottish Rite, and Algeria Shrine. He served on several Presbyterian and Lutheran church

councils, and participated in the Stephen Ministry.

A man of great determination, wisdom and integrity, Steve's legacy of love, faith, service and devotion to his family will be passed on for generations. He cherished his children and grandchildren, and one of his greatest pleasures was the joy of family gatherings. Steve will be remembered for his strength of character, generosity and tremendous work ethic; and for always giving "The Old Boy Upstairs" the credit for his many blessings. He loved the Lord, his family and his country ... and had a great appreciation for a fine mule, and a good bottle of Scotch.

Steve is survived by his wife, Cheryl; daughter Janey and her husband Dan Salomon of Ronan and their daughters, Christa (Mike) Schallock, Kelsey (Alan) Skogen and Katie (Trenton) Harding; daughter Jody Beth and her husband Mike White of Kalispell and their children, Michael (Stacey),

Marcy, Mitchell (Julia), Monte and Monica; son Jeff and his wife Lauri of Kalispell and their children McKenna, Greg and Georgia; 10 great-grandchildren; his sister, Jane and her husband Ray Beasley of Helena; his parents-in-law Lowell and Mary Fisher of Mesa, Arizona; and a host of treasured nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Howard, and sister, Bernice.

At Steve's request, there will be no formal service. He asked that family and friends gather and have a party to celebrate his life. The details for this will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Steve's honor may be made to charities that benefit the people and critters of the Flathead Valley.

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.

## Mildred D. Winkler, 88

Mildred D. Winkler, 88, passed away on Sept. 25, 2017, in Kalispell.

She was born on Oct. 31, 1928, in Forsyth to George and Josephine (Moser) Zempel.

She was a dental assistant in her younger years and a mother of seven children.

She is survived by her children, Cheryl Winkler, Michael Winkler, Cynde Bohannon, Lynda Altenburg, Duane Winkler and Judy Tintzman; 16 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Guy Winkler, and son Milo Winkler.

Visitation will be held



from 5 to 7:30 p.m. today, Sept. 27, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with a rosary at 6:30 p.m. A

Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday Sept. 28, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Whitefish. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Please visit Mildred's memorial and sign her online guest book at [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Harry Samuel 'Slim' Woffenden Jr., 88

Harry Samuel "Slim" Woffenden Jr., 88, died Sept. 13, 2017, at his home in Eureka.

He is survived by his children, David, Douglas, Jeffery, Jason Woffenden, Jennifer Jessup and Diane Goyins.

A public viewing will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Sept. 22, at the Schnackenberg

& Nelson Funeral Home in Eureka. A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, at the

Fortine Community Church, followed by a graveside ceremony at Tobacco Valley Cemetery. Following, a lunch will be served at the Fortine Community Church.

19 Sep 2017

## James Lester Wohler, 78

An extraordinary man passed peacefully from this life Nov. 14, 2017, due to complications after mechanical heart pump surgery at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane.

James "Jim" Wohler was born to Lester and Hilda Wohler on May 16, 1939, in Melrose Park, Illinois. He attended Proviso High School in Chicago and Western Michigan University where he played both sides of the ball as a tight end and defensive end, graduating with a degree in education in 1962.

He met the love of his life, Judy, in college at a party where Jim was singing "Johnnie B. Goode" and they were married in 1962. They settled in Utica, Michigan, and welcomed three children, Joan, Eric and David.

In 1977, Jim moved his family to Kalispell where his career shifted from building houses to working for Coca-Cola. He transferred to Great Falls in 1987 where he became the Coca-Cola plant manager. He retired from Coca-Cola in 1999 and started his "second career" as the "Great Harvest Bread Guy." He loved the bread store customers as much as they loved him.

A man who lived his faith, Jim was a volunteer at Camp Mac-A-Dream and was active in his Bible study, Men



of Faith group, and church choir at Faith Lutheran.

Jim cherished his grandchildren and had a unique ability to make each one feel special in their own way. He approached life with great enthusiasm and he maintained his positive, joyous outlook until his last breath.

Jim is survived by his loving wife Judy, his children and their spouses, Joan and David Miltonic, Eric and Carla Wohler, and David and Darcy Wohler. He is also survived by his "7 Heaven" grandchildren, Mark, August, Elise, Jack, Daniel, Ali and Alex.

Jim's memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at Faith Lutheran Church, 1300 Ferguson Drive, Great Falls. A reception will follow.

"Though we will miss you greatly, Papa, we will strive to live your legacy, and 'Keep Our Faith.'"

16 Nov 2017

## OBITUARIES

### Zeona Lisa 'Zoni' Wolf, 15

Zeona Lisa "Zoni" Wolf, 15, died unexpectedly of natural causes on Nov. 16, 2017.

Zoni is survived by brother Zane, sister Zia, mother Kristy (Korn) Wolf, and grandparents Dr. James and Norah Korn of Kalispell.

A family grave-

side service was held Wednesday, Nov. 22, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Darlington Cremation and Burial Services cared for the family and, at the mother's request, provided a space for family to gather, reminisce and decorate Zeona's casket.

25 Nov 2017

## Robert Arnold "Bob" Woodhouse, 72

Robert Arnold "Bob" Woodhouse, 72, died or, as he liked to say, he was called home to the "Big Aquarium in the Sky" after a two year siege with cancer. He died peacefully at home July 16, 2017.

Bob was born to "Woody" Arnold Ernest Woodhouse and "Dani" Hazel Adelide Danielson in Compton, California, Sept. 24, 1944. He grew up in Swan Valley where his grandparents owned Holland Lake Lodge. Bob graduated from Missoula County High School in 1963 and entered the Navy in 1964. Trained as an aircraft mechanic, Bob served as an airman on helicopter flight crews in Iceland, the Mediterranean and Virginia for his four-year duty.

After military service Bob worked at his step-father Alvin Rovero's businesses in Seeley Lake and attended the University of Montana, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and sociology in 1972. He always said that he promptly put his degree to use convincing his customers to purchase fish and tanks when he began the Aquarium Shop that year. When the area saw a growth of large stores, Bob became an expert in premium pet foods and added Dogfood Express to challenge the competition.



Assistance Fund, a 501 c3 charity. Although Bob liked to present himself as a "tough businessman," he had a softer side and was

always helping those in trouble, those in need or those who needed a new start.

Avid interests included boating on Flathead Lake, owning and driving fast cars, fishing, shooting trap and skeet every Sunday with his buddies at the Bigfork Gun Club, and being with family, friends and his "boys."

Bob is survived by his sister, Judie Woodhouse, of Polson; stepbrother, Loren Bartelt, of Polson; the Aquarium Shop's longtime manager Darel Ridenour, current employees Kelly Dixon, Shaw Robinson, Jessica Knoll, and volunteer Chrissy Siefke; his many past employees spread across the country; his good friends, Bob and Paula Smith, Mike and Kathy Smith, Chris Colvin, Tom Baker, Dugan Anderson, Stuart Cole, Carla Kelly, Matt Soteris and Mary Jo Kelly; and current set of boys, Willie, Monte and Rusty.

18 Jul 2017

Bob delighted in creating humorous newspaper advertisements using his "boys," his current pet dogs at the time, as the characters. His boys also worked at the shop greeting customers and roughhousing with children who wanted to play. Bob had a strong love for animals throughout his life. Kitty Mom's Rescue Organization hosted many events at the Aquarium Shop; he helped many a dog and cat find good homes, and when a destitute veteran came to Bob for help for his dog who had a large abscess, Bob not only helped him find a veterinarian but he worked with Kitty Mom's to begin the Veterinary

The family would like to thank Dr. Jose Ness and the wonderful, caring, professional staff at The Rock's Northwest Oncology Infusion Center. Everyone there became a family of friends to Bob. A special thanks to Shaw Robinson who was with Bob and Judie for the last several days. Upon Bob's wish, no services are planned. A celebration of life will be scheduled later.

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.



## Evelyn 'Louise' Grothe Woodring, 88

Evelyn "Louise" Grothe Woodring, born March 3, 1928, in Hugoton, Kansas, to Robert Grothe and Maude Mae (Hawk) Grothe, "left this Earth" on Feb. 20, 2017, at 7:11 a.m. at her home in Kalispell.

Louise grew up in Kansas. She attended elementary school at Lone Star School and during her high school years she moved to Liberal to board with her grandmother, Etta Hawk to attend Liberal High School.

She knew of Earl Woodring as a child, but met him again at a dance after he was discharged from the Navy in 1946. Louise and Earl married on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 1947, and had just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Louise was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Maude (Hawk) Grothe, her son, Michael Woodring, and her brother, Robert Grothe.

She is survived by her husband, Earl; their children, Trace and his two children, Hayden and Grace; Kim and his stepdaughter, Heather, and daughter, Stephanie, his son Mat and his wife Angie, and their daughter, Kora; Eric and Kami and his stepdaughter, Dana Winn and her husband, Michael and their daughter, Maryah, and stepsons, Garrett and Clay McAllister; and Sue



Mine-sweeper reunions. If you talked about travel, Louise could tell you how to get there. She was so thankful that she was able to attend her family reunion at

State Park in Hinton, Oklahoma, in 2012 as this would be the last time she saw her brothers. Robert passed shortly after the reunion and while none of us realized it, it was the last opportunity she had to spend with her humorous little brother, Clarence and all the Goodman-Grothe reunion group.

There is no argument that most mothers are amazing, but Louise was a very special person and an exceptional mother and her children believe the world would be a better place if more mothers were like her. She was an excellent cook and always had something good to eat. She was organized, thoughtful and she loved her family like a family should be loved. While she wasn't much for saying it, there was never any question from her children that she loved them, and they all knew it, but more importantly, felt it. Louise loved

She spent much of her time bookkeeping for their businesses. And thankfully for her children, was an active grandma who cherished each and every one of her grandchildren.

To all of you who knew Louise, we will always remember how truly special she was. There will

be a memorial service and potluck at Ashley Lake at a later date this summer.

Memorials may be made in Louise's name to the Shriners Hospitals for Children or charity of your choice.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Cameron and her husband, Jim and their children, Parker, Story and Cable; honorary daughter, Penny Woodring, her brother, Clarence Grothe and his family, her niece, Kelli and her son Perry who became regulars in Montana, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Louise would also want to mention that she had the privilege of spending her last days here with some wonderful caregivers who thought the world of her - thank you.

Louise and Earl were well traveled. They were on their fourth motor home and enjoyed every minute they could. They experienced the entire West Coast, Canada, Niagra Falls, Florida, Hawaii and enjoyed a cruise to the Mexican Riviera, they attended Louise's high school reunions and Earl's Navy

to spend time with family and friends at the lake and looked forward to the next get together right up to the end. She was always a planner and knew what she was making and taking to the next event.

Louise was active in many things, but notably, was the clerk for the Lone Star Friends Church, a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary and Eagles, 4-H, Grange and was on a bowling league.

### Financial Solution



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# Allan Jerome Wroblewski, 76

15 Oct 2017

Allan Jerome Wroblewski, 76, formerly of Bessemer, Michigan passed away at his home with family by his side in Kalispell on Oct. 13, 2017.

Born on April 1, 1941, in Bessemer, Michigan, to the late Andrew and Margaret (Hamel) Wroblewski, Al graduated from A. D Johnston High School and attended Gogebic Community College.

His love of travel and adventure started with his first job as a traveling salesman. The majority of his working career was at White Pine Copper Mine, Ison John Deere and Bessemer Plywood Corporation. Al retired to Kalispell, where he spent his final years building his dream home, "just a tar paper shack," in the mountains of Montana.

Al was active in the communities in which he lived, including member and former president of Bessemer Lions Club, member of Marty's Goldenaires Drum and Bugle Corp and member of Kalispell Sunriseser Lions Club. He was a board member and past president of the Ashley Lake Property Owners' Association.

Al was a skilled carpenter, an avid hunter and always enjoyed a new adventure. He traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and the world, with one of his most treasured trips being a 2016 visit to Poland, his father's homeland, which had been a life-long dream. However, his favorite place to be was home, in the role of grill-master, entertaining a house filled with family and friends.

In addition to his parents, Al was preceded



in death by his son Jacob Sutton, brother James Wroblewski and sister Carol

(Wroblewski) Qualey. He is survived by his wife, Constance Thomason Wroblewski, who feels blessed and honored to have shared life's adventures with him. He is also survived by his children Christopher (Tammy) Wroblewski, Jill Wroblewski, Kristen (Charles) Kariainen, Marjorie (Carl) Sutton Gustafson and Jason (Christy) Sutton; his siblings Joseph (Marilyn) Wroblewski, John David (Doris) Wroblewski, Mary Jean Wroblewski and Rita (David) Johnson; and his grandchildren Andrew (Hannah), Alec and Alyssa Wroblewski; Adeline and Braden Kariainen; Sienna, Jacob and James Gustafson; Elisha, Aiden and Olivia Sutton.

Al was a welcoming host who created a backdrop for memories across generations. He had a gift for making each person he met feel special and unique. His smile and generous spirit will be missed by all.

Al's life will be celebrated with a service at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20 at the Hampton Inn in Kalispell. There will also be a service in Bessemer, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made to Kalispell Regional Healthcare Foundation - Hospice Home Options, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT, 59901.