

## Laura Sue Babarovich, 70

Laura Sue Babarovich, 70, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018, in Kalispell.

Laura was born on June 24, 1947, in Anacortes, Washington, to Rich and Augie (Burgess) Babarovich. Laura attended school and graduated from high school in Anacortes. She later went on to attend classes at Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell.

Laura worked as a teachers aide, and was very active in her Buddhist beliefs and the community.

Laura was preceded in death by her parents, and two brothers, Gess and Brad Babarovich.

Laura is survived by her children, Michelle



Babarovich and Jade Jewell; brother, John Babarovich; and sister, Paula Huss; grandchildren,

Taylor Damm, Dalton Damm, Madison Damm and Jordan Constenius; and great-grandchildren, Kieffer Damm and Hazel Sue Lambertson.

Cremation has taken place and services will be at a later date.

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.

## Darron W. Baker, 45

Darron William Baker, 45, of Henderson, Nevada, passed away on Aug. 8, 2018 in Prescott, Arizona.

He was born on April 4, 1973, in Denver to Don and Ardis (LaBrant) Baker. Darron and his family moved to Somers and remained there throughout his childhood. He graduated from Somers School, Flathead High School and Boise State University. Throughout his life he was an outstanding athlete in all sports and ending with field and track at Boise State. It was there that he developed a love of study for the U.S., world history and economics.

In his earlier years he treasured the hunting trips with his dad and son, Dorien, as well as boating and fishing on Flathead Lake. Darron was the kind of father who spent a lot of time with each of his children to learn what their interests were in school and athletics. He was a very loyal person who valued family, God and country. He was active in helping children through Big Brothers Big Sisters and encouraged his children



to be the best they could be and always help others.

Oh, how he cherished his family, especially the children. He would give each of the kids a nickname for teasing and giggles. When he wasn't working, he would always attend their special events, and was their biggest fan.

To him, once a friend always a friend. Some would say he was our "gentle giant" and our "voice of reason." Darron was a gift to everyone who knew him and will be missed.

He is survived by his parents, Don and Ardis Baker; wife Erica and daughter Abbigail of Henderson; son Dorien (Monique), grandchildren Ethan and Audrey of Nampa, Idaho; sister, Lynette (Zak) Hoyt and nephew, Harlan of Prescott; aunts and uncles, Dale and Lois Lauman, Floyd and Toni LaBrant, Larry and Nancy LaBrant, Bruce and Betty Jellison, Hubert and Bonnie McKenzie; brothers-in-law Anthony and

(Maria) Veltri, Jr., and Marc Veltri; mother-in-law, Karen LoBue; father-in-law, Anthony Veltri Sr. and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

There will be a memorial service in Las Vegas from 4 to 6 p.m. on Aug. 18 at the Palm Eastern Mortuary, 7600 S. Eastern Avenue. A memorial service will be held at the Church at Creston on Sept. 1 beginning at 10:30 a.m., at 5747 Montana Highway 35, Kalispell.

Johnson Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Larry Gale Baker, 69

Larry Gale Baker, 69, passed away Thursday, May 17, 2018, after a valiant fight with COPD, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. He was surrounded by his loved ones.

Larry was born July 5, 1948, in Kalispell to Verne Moses (Smockey) and Eunice Olive

(Holcomb) Baker. He was the middle child of five boys. Larry grew up in the valley and attended Flathead High School. He graduated

in 1966. He worked for a short period of time at Stoltz Lumber. He then enlisted in the United States Army. On March 4, 1968, he was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington, for Basic Training. From there, he went on to Fort Sam, Houston, for medical training. From Fort Sam, he got his orders to ship to the Republic of Vietnam with Bravo Co. 1/52 198th Light Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division, headquarters at Cho Lai, Vietnam.

Larry was a decorated soldier. During his time of service, he received the following medals: the Combat Medical Badge, Purple Heart, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal W/2 Bronze Service Stars, Bronze Service Medal 2 0/5 bars and Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 device. On March 27, 1970, he was honorably discharged from the United States Army.

Shortly after, Larry returned home from his service, Larry married Linda Tordale on May 9, 1970, in Kalispell. They had four children, Terena, Tacia, Larry and Chad Baker. Larry and Linda later divorced on May 17, 1989.

Larry worked numerous labor jobs throughout his life including Stoltz, Plum Creek

and C & C Plywood. He went through the C.E.T.A. (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) program and became a police utility worker, which later led to a supervisor position for the City of Columbia Falls Water Department. Unfortunately, due to health problems he was unable to stay in his position with the city. He later attended Flathead Valley Community College, where he received two Associate degrees, in arts, and in health recreation.

Larry enjoyed growing up in the beautiful Flathead Valley. He was an avid outdoorsman. You would find him fishing at any creek or river, with Pleasant Valley and Ashley Creek being a couple of his favorites. Picking huckleberries, mushrooms, and camping with family and friends was always the highlight of his summers. He became known for his many cherry and huckleberry stands throughout the valley. He started up Santa's Treeland and every year would donate a portion of his proceeds to Coats for Kids, and numerous other organizations. Larry loved to give, and never missed an opportunity to do so. Larry was a member of the VVA Chapter 1087 and the Combat Veterans Group. He enjoyed his monthly meetings with his brother, Terry, up until his health made it impossible for him to attend.

Larry was preceded in death by his father Verne Baker, mother Eunice Baker, and brothers Del Baker, James Baker, and Ricky Baker.

Larry is survived by youngest brother, Terry (Pat) Baker; children, Terena McCormick (Jay) of Bremerton, Washington, Tacia (Hugh) Gladeau, Larry "Tiger" (Kayla) Baker, and Chad (Kirstin) Baker, all of the Flathead Valley. Larry leaves behind numerous grandchildren, Nicole Winters, Brock McCormick, Hugh

Jr. and Haley Gladeau, Kenzie, Ryleigh, Ethan, Brody Baker, Dahkota, Caitlin, Chad Jr. and Brayden Baker. He leaves behind numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and -nephews, and countless friends.

Larry touched the lives of many people. He was a very giving man. To know him was to love him. Aside from his family, he took on many other children as his own, and was a "Dad" to them as well. He will forever be remembered for his giving spirit, contagious

smile, and loving heart.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on May 29 at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Burial is to follow at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. A potluck reception will follow immediately at Lawrence Park in Kalispell.

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.



## Flora Louise Baker-Sladek, 75

Flora Louise Baker-Sladek, 75, beloved mother, sister, aunt and wife, passed away at her home on March 11, 2018, in Whitefish, where she outran advanced Alzheimer's.

Flora was born on Dec. 1, 1942, in Whitefish to William and Edith L. Baker. She graduated from Whitefish High School and then attended Kinmen Business University.

On Jan. 20, 1962, she met Steven Jerome Sladek. They married later that year on June 25. The couple moved to California where Flora worked in banking as a credit union manager for many years. When she retired the couple moved back to Whitefish.

Flora will be remembered for her sense of humor, her love and devotion to her family and friends, her willingness to always go the extra mile for those she loved, her intense love of Montana, Glacier Park, and Elvis. She was proud of her heritage of being the oldest living granddaughter of the founding fathers of Whitefish.

Flora was preceded in death by her parents, William and Edith Baker; her aunt and



uncle, Earnest and Alice (Mickie) Baker; and her brother, Bruce Baker.

She is survived by her husband, Steven Sladek; her beautiful kitty, Earl Grey; daughter, Claudia Ward (Dave); son, Steve Sladek; her brothers, Ernie Baker and Ed Baker; her sister, Alice Baker-Taber (Roger); grandson, Cameron Ward; granddaughters, Danielle Ward and Renee Sladek; and several nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to extend sincere thanks to the doctors and nurses of North Valley Hospital, Genesis, Hospice, and the First Presbyterian Church of Whitefish.

In Lieu of flowers the family asks that you make a donation to cover Flora's final expenses.

A memorial service will be held for Flora at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, at First Presbyterian Church in Whitefish with Pastor Tim Dalton officiating.

Austin Funeral and Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for Flora's family.

## Tanner Dru Balbach, 28

Tanner Dru Balbach, 28, passed away on May 2, 2018, in Marion. Tanner was born on Sept. 26, 1989, in Livingston.

Tanner was an avid outdoorsman; he lived for hunting. If you couldn't get a hold of Tanner you knew you could find him in the mountains. He lived as far away from town as possible. He was working as a logger and finishing a home for his family.

Tanner excelled at wrestling, taking state and going undefeated. Tanner was a kind, generous and loving man. He had many friends from all over the state of Montana, where he was born and raised.

Tanner was the oldest of five younger siblings, whom he loved with all his heart. There is nothing he wouldn't do for them.

In 2014 Tanner met Jessica Culver. They fell in love and in December of 2017 their daughter Olive Ann Mae was born. Olive was the best thing that ever happened to Tanner, the light of his life. He was a proud father! It is a sad loss that Tanner passed at such a young age.

Tanner is survived by his



father Rich Balbach, his mother Lori (Joe) Wagar, his grandmother Penny Balbach (Papa Larry), girlfriend Jessica

Culver, daughter Olive Balbach, sister Shae Balbach (Royce), sister Taylor Turney (Conar), sister Aspen Balbach (James), brother Baron Wagar, brother Rylan Dennis, nephews Reid and Kroy, niece Breella and soon-to-arrive niece Reese; and brothers for life, Seth Anderson and Hunter Meier. Tanner had many aunts, uncles, cousins and good friends for life! You will be missed by all.

"I'm a country boy, Yee-Hee!"

There has been a Go Fund Me Fund set up to help Jessica and Olive with future expenses. Please visit [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com), Jessica Culver & Olive Balbach.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website at [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.

## Berton "Bert" Henry Baldauf, 65

Berton "Bert" Henry Baldauf, 65, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018 at his home in Somers.

Bert was born on Oct. 21, 1953, in Kalispell to Henry and Doloris (Hissong) Baldauf Sr.

Bert attended elementary and middle school in Somers and went on to attend and graduate from Flathead High School. Bert married the love of his life, Joy Pierson, at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Kalispell on April 27, 1975. He started his career as a vehicle mechanic working in his dad's shop, transitioning into auto-body repair which carried him and the family to Conrad. Bert drove school bus all throughout his life until he retired due to his many illnesses.

Bert was very active in his communities serving on the Somers, Evergreen and Conrad Fire Departments, as well as was an active member of Eidsvold Lutheran Church. Bert enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, watching John Wayne movies, but most of all, spending time with his family. Family was his leading life force.

Bert was preceded in death by his youngest daughter, Jenny Lee Baldauf; sister, Lynn McHenry; father, Henry



Baldauf Sr.; and grandparents, Rudolph and Paula Baldauf, and Roy

and Florence Hissong.

Bert is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Joy Baldauf; their children, Lorelee and (Tom) Dalton, Brandon and (Jeana) Baldauf, and Darcy and (Tim) Engebretson; grandchildren, Michael and Gracey Dalton, James Baldauf, Logan Rogers, Matthew Dalton, Kyler Baldauf, Gavin Baldauf and Emma Rogers; great-grandchildren, Dartagnan and Eloise Dalton; his mother, Doloris Baldauf; and brother, Henry and Janet Baldauf Jr.; and close and dear friends, Steve and Kathy Kleinjans.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at Eidsvold Lutheran Church in Somers.

In lieu of flowers, please send charitable donations to Joy Baldauf at P.O. Box 307, Somers, MT 59932.

Friends are encouraged to visit 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.

## Merle John Baldwin, 94

Merle passed on March 19, 2018.

He left a far-reaching legacy and will be greatly missed. We love you.

Merle was born to Edmond and Bretta on May 10, 1923 in Simpson, Montana. Merle had four brothers and two sisters; the family moved to Flathead Valley in 1928. As a young boy, Merle learned to farm alongside his father. He attended Egan school during his elementary years and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1942.

Merle met his wife Emogean at a barn dance, and the couple eventually married on Nov. 20, 1946, during a memorable blizzard. In 1956 Merle and Emogean purchased his father's farm. Merle spent many years farming this land and proudly leaves behind the land that he loved and tended to, hoping it remains farmland for future generations to appreciate. Merle spent 23 years working for the Cenex Farm Store as a means of purchasing the farm and supporting his family. He found meaning in being involved with his community and



spent six years as a part of the Egan school board, and eight years as a char-

ter member with the Creston Fire Department. Merle and Emogean lovingly raised four children together.

Merle is survived by his wife, Emogean; his children, Karen and husband Fonda, Norm and wife Laurie, Marilyn and husband Ed, and Barb and husband Duane; along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 26, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

The family ask that memorials be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell or the charity of their choice.

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.

## Sharan Baracker, 73

Sharan Baracker crossed the finish line into eternity on Monday, Aug. 20, 2018, at the age of 73. A true hero of the faith, she was always willing to believe God for a miracle, and always willing to acknowledge that he is sovereign. She ran her race well, with dignity and perseverance and hope in spite of decades of pain and adversity.

Her family and friends celebrate her victory with many tears. Her life and example are a testimony and legacy that will not be forgotten, her humor, tenderness, strength, faith and love sorely missed by the many people whose lives she touched. She showed love in many ways, not the least of which was tireless hospitality — to family, friends and strangers alike. She cooked countless meals and treats and gave them freely as tangible expressions of her love and care. She was a fierce prayer warrior, the kind of person who would set up a lawn chair in the yard of a hurting family unannounced, and faithfully and persistently petition for God's grace on their behalf.

So many of us were forever impacted by God's response to her fervent, heartfelt prayers.

She was born Oct. 16, 1944, in Clear Lake, Minnesota, to William and Marion Corne, the sixth of 10 brothers and sisters. Her family moved to Poplar, Montana, when she was 3 years old. There, she would meet and marry Jerry, the love of her life and husband of 56 years. Within a year of the wedding, they moved to Whitefish where the five Baracker children were raised, Dawn, Dee Anna, Kelly, Colette and Jami. Sharan was a stay-at-home mother. She also participated in many



business and investment decisions with Jerry. She enjoyed perch fishing

with family and friends on many local lakes, and striper fishing in Arizona.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Pat and Terry, and brother Ronald.

She is survived by her brothers, Richard Corne and wife Joan, James Corne, Jerry Corne and wife Patty, Warren Corne, and Michael O'Brien and wife Maria, and sister Janen Pero and husband Rob. She leaves behind her children, Dawn Chan and husband Steve, Dee Anna Dillon and husband Sean, Kelly Baracker and wife Nancy, Colette Baracker-Flynn and husband Tim, and Jami Baracker; grandchildren, Tia and Haley Chan, Zak Dillon and wife Jennifer, Hanna Dillon, JayDee Collins, Melina and Layla Baracker; and great-grandchildren, Fawkes and Finnley Flaherty and KateLynn Collins.

For those of us left behind, there will be a memorial service at 1 p.m. this Friday, Aug. 31, at Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish. All are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, consider sending a donation to one of Sharan's favorite charities: Shepherd's Hand Clinic or Whitefish Food Bank in Whitefish, or Hope Pregnancy Center or Samaritan House in Kalispell.

Austin Funeral & Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for the family. To send the family condolences please visit Sharan's tribute page at [www.austinfh.com](http://www.austinfh.com).

## Kathleen 'Kay' Barker, 79

Our beloved mother and grandmother, Kay Barker, passed away peacefully surrounded by family June 6, 2018, in Kalispell at the age of 79.

Kay loved her family and was grateful for her children and grandchildren. She was a gentle, kind and sweet lady. She will be remembered as someone who loved the Lord and went about doing good by serving others.

Kathleen Fay Burtsfield was born 1938 in Kalispell, Montana to loving parents, William Henry Burtsfield and Henrietta Marie Robinson.

Kay recalled her childhood with happiness, growing up in Whitefish near the lake where she loved canoeing and swimming. In her teenage years Kay's love of swimming led her to become a summer life guard. She also loved the Girl Scouts and enjoyed many years of association.

Kay had a great love of music. During her high school years she performed in the marching band and played the alto saxophone. Most recently she returned to performing in the local New Horizons Band. Playing in the band brought her great enjoyment. Kay played a variety of instruments including the piano, auto harp, ukulele and accordion. She also used her musical talents in her church service as a chorister and pianist. She served for over 25 years teaching the young children about Jesus with music and song. She always carried music in her heart.

Kay had many creative talents as an accomplished seamstress, avid quilter and talented puppeteer. Kay enjoyed blessing people's lives by sharing her talents.



Kay returned to the work force. She enjoyed her work with the WIC and Home Health Programs, and later at the Sportsman & Ski Haus making many valued friendships throughout her career.

Kay was preceded in death by her husband, Fred, and is survived by her daughter Julia Barker; son Byron and his wife, Lonni and children, Holland, Greer, Reese and Kean; son Craig and his wife, Melissa and children, Zach (Sarah), Kyle and Brandon; daughter Korrine Howard and children, Addison and Cessaley.

Kay was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Roger and Robert, and is survived by her brother Ralph Burtsfield and her sister Linda Burton, and husband Jim. We find great comfort in knowing of her joyous reunion with family members preceding her in death.

As her children, we would like to express our gratitude to our Aunt Linda who has always been a loving sister, and a remarkable care giver to our Mother during this past year. We would also like to thank our Uncle Ralph for his daily visits, and all of her friends and loved ones who brightened her last days with their visits. We are also grateful for all those who lovingly cared for her while at the Brendon House. She loved life and remained happy and optimistic to

the end.

An open house will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 15, 2018, at Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, 3408 U.S. 2 East, Kalispell. Graveside dedication will be held at noon Saturday, June 16, at Fairview Cemetery, Columbia Falls, with a funeral service to follow at 1 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 1380 Whitefish Stage, Kalispell. A reception will follow the funer-

al at the church.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

In 1961, Kay married Fred Barker in the Cardston, Alberta, Temple. They were blessed with four children. Kay quickly realized that she was not only married to the farmer but to his farm as well! Kay worked side by side with Fred for many years on their farm in Bigfork. Leaving behind her city life for the country life where she became an excellent cook, wife to Fred, and mother to not only her children but many sows and baby piglets. Needless to say she

## Brandon Michael Barnes, 29

Brandon Michael Barnes, 29, passed away June 7, 2018, in Williston, North Dakota, due to an accident.

He was born Feb. 3, 1989, in Sacramento, California. He was raised and attended school in Columbia Falls and later received his GED.

Brandon was all boy from the moment he was born. He enjoyed all Montana had to offer, from four-wheeling in the summer to sledding in the winter.

Most recently, he had been working as a wire-line operator for Patriot Well Solutions. He had also worked as a derrick



hand and roustabout.

Brandon loved the outdoors. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He

especially love spending time with his children. He was an excellent father. His best friend was his dog, Handsome.

Brandon touched many lives, had many friends and was deeply loved.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Christine Barnes; maternal grandfathers, William Krause and George Hawes; and paternal

grandfather, Lloyd Barnes.

Brandon is survived by his mother, Kara Krause, of Kalispell; father, Patrick Barnes, of California; his children, Orrin Barnes, Christopher Barnes, Richard Flint and Hailey Miller; his brothers, Anthony Barnes of Kalispell and Daniel Becotte of California; sister, Amanda Curtin, of California; and his grandmothers, Lynn Hawes of Kalispell and Judy Barnes of California.

A celebration of life for Brandon will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, at 19 Syth Lane in Kalispell. A barbecue is planned. Come when you can.

## James 'Jim' Ryan Barrett, 44

James "Jim" Ryan Barrett, 44, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018.

James was born on April 15, 1973, in Kalispell to Jack and Shirley Barrett. James was a longtime resident of Columbus, Ohio, but recently moved to Georgia only months prior to his passing.

James was preceded in death by his father, Jack Barrett; and his grandparents, Joseph and Therese Barrett, and John and Lottie Mikalson.

He is survived by his mother, Shirley Barrett; four sisters, Wendy Boll, Jackie Knox, Connie Tuman and Dee Dee Daus; six brothers, Tony Barrett, Stan Foy, Pat Barrett, Mike Barrett, John Barrett and John Roedel; and many nieces and nephews.

James attended Evergreen School and graduated from Flathead High School in 1991. He went on to Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, participating in a student exchange in Mexico and graduated with degrees in accounting and Spanish in 1996. James then earned his Master of Professional Accountancy from Montana State University in 2005. Then James earned his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation and later specialized in taxation during his accounting career in Columbus.

Growing up in the Flathead Valley, James enjoyed skiing at Big Mountain, snowboarding at Blacktail Mountain,



wakeboarding on Flathead Lake, and playing soccer and tennis.

James also played his trumpet. James accomplishments in sports continued as he spent many seasons playing and traveling on softball teams in Columbus and annually attending the Pendleton Round-Up in Oregon.

During all these experiences from a youthful age he valued, appreciated and enjoyed his family and circle of friends both in the Kalispell-Somers area and Columbus.

James was always a character and loved to make people laugh. James had a kind heart and a quick, wicked sense of humor and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

"Jim, we can no longer see you with our eyes or touch you with our hands. But we will feel you in our hearts forever."

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory, 525 Main Street, Kalispell, followed by a reception and lunch at the Buffalo Hill Golf Course.

In lieu of flowers, the family desires that donations be made to a charity of your choice. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for James's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and view James's tribute wall.

## Genevieve Barry, 89

Genevieve Barry of Kalispell passed away on July 23, 2018.

She was born in Minneapolis on Sept. 14, 1928, to Thomas and Helen (Dobrowski) Gonsior. The family moved to Wibaux, Montana, when she was an infant, and then to Kalispell where she, her sisters and brother attended St. Matthew's Grade School and graduated from Flathead County High School.

During the war years she spent the summers with her aunt in Bremerton, Washington, where she held down several jobs supporting the war effort.

When she returned to Kalispell, she met Ralph J. Barry and they were married on May 5, 1948. Their daughter Lorraine was born in 1951. As a stay-at-home mom, Genevieve enjoyed sewing club, and volunteering for St. Matthew's School and Altar Society.

The family moved to Libby in the early '60s, where Genevieve worked for Dr. James Lusher, and at Gamble's Hardware Store. She was also active with St. Joseph's Church.

When Ralph left logging in 1980, they moved back to Kalispell and bought their dream house, where they spent their retirement, with Genevieve enjoying her hobbies of sewing, crafting, gardening and spending the summer months with her visiting granddaughters, Charlene and Allison, passing on her skills, and sharing the beauty and joy of



Montana. In the winter months she and Ralph became "snowbirds," traveling

south (often in the company of other family and friends) to explore the geology and hiking trails of Arizona. She also traveled regularly to visit family in Oregon, Georgia, Washington and Hawaii.

She was an avid swimmer, and enjoyed making many friends at The Summit pool.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tom and Helen Gonsior, husband Ralph J. Barry, son Ronald Barry, and brother Bobby Gonsior.

She is survived by her daughter Lorraine Busch (Tom), granddaughters Charlene Hamilton (Scott) and Allison Brakefield (Nathan), great-grandchildren Kristopher Lancaster, Corrina Biggs, Mirriarr Hamilton and Morgan and Connor Brakefield. She also leaves behind her sisters, Betty Dahler, Joan Neils and Rosemary Forsyth, her sister- and brother-in-law Elaine and Wayne Moothart, and sister-in-law Lorraine Gonsior, and numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

Services will be held 1 p.m. Monday July 30, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Graveside services will immediately follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens. A luncheon will follow at the Eagles in Kalispell.

## Peter 'Pete' John Barten, 85

Peter "Pete" John Barten, 85, passed away suddenly at his home near Lake Blaine Nov. 28, 2018.

Pete was born Jun 5, 1933, to Ted and Mary Barten in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, and was the oldest son of 14 children. Pete moved to Chicago where he met his wife, Geraldine "Pat" Barten, and where he learned the welding trade.

Pete and Pat were



Pete owned and operated Barten's Portable Welding Service for many years.

He continued working until just a couple of years ago and passed

married in Chicago on Sept. 1, 1951.

Pete and Pat moved to Kalispell in 1977, and

the business over to his grandson Logan.

Pete was preceded in death by his parents, Ted and Mary, his wife Pat, his brothers Ray Barten, Ole Barten, Ted Barten and Chuck Barten, and his sisters Ida Turner, Charlene Barten and Gerry Barten, and his grandson Tony Redmond.

He is survived by his daughters Dawn (Mike) Redmond of Ray, North Dakota, Joy Barten

of Shelby, Michigan, his sons Dave (Alice) Barten of Kalispell, and Dean (Donna) Barten of Huntsville, Alabama. He is also survived by nine grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

No services are being held at this time. A private celebration of life will be held by the family at a later date.

## Helen Bates, 98

Helen Bates, 98, passed away on Friday, March 30, 2018, in Lakeside with her family by her side.

Helen was born in her parents' farmhouse in McCone County, 10 miles south of Wolf Point, on Aug. 3, 1919, to Marcus and Borghild (Oamodt) Braaten. Helen attended school in Wolf Point and graduated from Wolf Point High School.

On Oct. 1, 1939, Helen married Earl Bates. They were married 60 years. Earl passed away on March 23, 1999.

Helen was a stay-at-home mom and homemaker. She loved spending time with family at the hunting cabin, playing cards with family and friends, square dancing, knitting, reading and traveling with Earl.

Helen was preceded



Olga Rhodes, Henry Braaten, Gladys Baker, Howard Braaten, Alice Christiansen, Merrel "Bud" Braaten and Arnold Braaten.

Helen is survived by her children, Thomas (Jane) of Silver City, New Mexico; Rodney (Michael) of Dayton, Montana; Barbara (Reggie) of Lakeside; by her sister, Mary Schrock, of Seattle; grandchildren, Madeline Chalenor, Robin Bates, Sonya Greef and David Greef; great-grandchildren, Amber Bates, Nathan Dunnihoo,

in death by her parents, husband Earl, and her siblings Solveg "Sylvia" Bauer,

Michael Dunnihoo, Leah Arington, Samuel Arington, Elizabeth "Libby" Lichte, Andrew Lichte and Madeline Lichte; and 29 nieces and nephews and numerous great-nieces and -nephews.

A celebration of Helen's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, at Eidsvolds Lutheran Church.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to Eidsvold Lutheran Church or to the Lakeside QRU.

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.



## Marie (Gross) Bauer, 97

Marie (Gross) Bauer, 97, passed away peacefully at her home in Lakeside on Sept. 17, 2018. She was in the presence of family.

Marie's life journey began on Jan. 10, 1921, in Piliscsaba, Hungary, as the eldest of three daughters. The end of World War II brought her and her immediate family to Germany where she would meet and marry Friedrich "Fred" Bauer in 1949. In 1952, with their 2-year-old daughter, they left their entire family and embarked on a monumental journey to a new land, home, and opportunity in America. Shortly thereafter, a son was born and following that, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, became their home for the next 49 years. They established a successful business, Bauer's Tailor Shop, working side by side until the passing of Fred in 1995. They were an unbeatable team! Marie continued running the shop another 10 years single-handedly. At the tender age of 84 and without hesitation, she moved to Lakeside to be near family.

She loved her new life in Montana; she cherished each and every day, the beauty of the area, and the friends she had made. Marie re-established herself as a seamstress, which



brought her great happiness. She enjoyed conversing with people and sharing her

love of Hungary and her colorful, unmatched history. The Lakeside Ladies' Club was one of her favorite social gatherings and she made many wonderful friends there, making her life in Montana all the more special.

Marie's greatest love throughout her life was her family and friends both here and abroad. She was greatly loved and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her daughter, Betty Schlagenhauser; son, Frank Bauer, and wife, Jenny; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister, Emma, in Germany; and countless extended family in the US, Europe and Chile.

At her request, there will not be a service.

A special thank you to Home Options Hospice for their care and support for Marie and family.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Marie's family.

## Donna Mae (Stertz) Beaver, 94

Donna Mae (Stertz) Beaver died Feb. 12, 2018, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Donna, the eldest daughter of John and Christine Stertz, was born Aug. 3, 1923, in Sutton, Nebraska. The loving and hardworking Stertz family included two sons and four daughters, Richard, Donna, Jean Haver, Ardell, Ardis Foster and Joan Smith, now all deceased, but who had remained close throughout their long lives.

They always managed to have a darn good time with one another.

Donna graduated Bridgeport High School in Nebraska and married Robert Beaver Nov. 15, 1941. They moved to Hanna, Wyoming, until Bob went to Navy radio school at Texas A&M when World War II began. During the war Donna returned to Nebraska and her parents' home, working as a dental assistant until after the war. Donna and Bob first settled in Wyoming before moving to Kalispell in 1967 where Donna was employed at Montgomery Ward until her retirement.

Donna and Bob had two children: daughter Kaye (Michael) Brabec of Colorado Springs, Colorado, has two children Laura (Jeremy) Koselak, also of Colorado Springs, and David (Jenny Hall) of Ashland, Oregon; and seven



grand-sons, son Jack (John) Beaver and Val Bronson and children Norman and Jacob Larson and Alyssa (Sam) McCarthy and six grandchildren

of Kalispell. Family was certainly Donna's joy each and every day, every occasion together, with daily care by Jack and Val.

Donna was a good cook, certainly family famous for her special cheesecake and her many delicious Christmas cookies. She found great pleasure with family sitting around her table sharing a meal.

Thanks to all the medical personnel who were so warm, attentive and encouraging to Donna through the years, especially Woodland Clinic. Donna loved you all.

"Donna, wife, mother, grandmother and friend, you made all of our lives so much richer. We miss you so much."

Services will take place in June.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Flathead Valley Community College.

## Pauline Becker, 84

Pauline Becker, 84, of Kalispell, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018.

Pauline was born Oct. 29, 1933, in Kingswood, South Australia, to Charles Russell Nottle and Minnie Mrytle (Wundersitz) Nottle. She was the second oldest of six children: June, Shirley, Graham, Kay and Brian Nottle.

Pauline was predeceased by her father, Charles Nottle; mother, Minnie Nottle; and husband, Wayne Becker.

She is survived by her three daughters, Susan and husband Patrick Mulvey of Houston, Sandra and husband Warren Davis of Lakeside, and Annette and husband Caven Boggess of Pewaukee, Wisconsin; four grandchildren, Jeff Bauer, Kaley Boggess, Kimberly Mulvey Benjamin and husband Noah Benjamin, and Patrick Mulvey Jr.; and one great-grandchild, Caden Bauer.

She was raised in Kingswood, South Australia, and graduated from Mitcham School, then later worked in the retail industry. Pauline was also an excellent tennis player.

Pauline met Alex Szeberenyi shortly after he emigrated from Hungary and they were married in 1955. Together they had three daughters. In May of 1962 the family emigrated from South



Australia to South Bend, Indiana, where she worked as a fashion buyer at Robertson's

Department Store from 1972 to 1986, and then for Olan Mills Photography Studio.

On May 20, 1990, Pauline married Wayne Becker in South Bend and in 2003 they relocated to Gilbert, Arizona. During her retirement, Pauline found her talent for pastels, continued to play golf, became a champion at the community tennis club, and enjoyed traveling. She especially enjoyed charity work for children.

A Christian service will be held in April at Mariposa Gardens Cemetery, Mesa, Arizona.

We send a special thank you to the devoted caregivers of Expressions Memory Care who danced with Pauline and watched her sparkle, and to Frontier Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association National Office, 225 N. Michigan Ave., F. 17, Chicago, IL 60601, www.Alz.org.

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

## Jack (John) H. Beckstrom, 64

Montana dog mushing legend Jack (John) H. Beckstrom, 64, of Olney, died unexpectedly March 5, 2018.

Jack Beckstrom was born on April 20, 1953, in Tinley Park, Illinois, the son of Marge and Howard Beckstrom.

He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts in Animal Science degree. He worked on ranches in Idaho and Montana in the early to mid-'70s.

In 1976, after moving to Montana, he took over the dogsled building business after Lee Fishback passed away. Eventually he bought the ZIMA Harness Company from Lee Fishback's wife, Mel, and a new company was birthed. Adanac Sleds and Equipment grew to become an international .com, web-based business. He also owned and operated Adanac Kennels, a boarding kennel near Kalispell, for many years.

Jack competed in the Governor's Cup 500 Mile Sled Dog Race multiple times. He race marshaled the Altitude 500 Sled Dog Race twice in Australia along with races in Canada, California and Montana and competed in races in Minnesota, Canada, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

Adanac Sleds and Equipment supplied equipment and sleds in movies such as "Iron Will," "Eight Below," "Call of the Wild 3D," "Marmaduke" and the six-part National



Geographic mini-series "Klondike 1897." He and wife, Pam, wrote articles for an online magazine

and he was featured on the cover of Mushing Magazine for his dedication to the sport of sled dog racing.

He was active in men's ministries and was an elder and deacon at Whitefish Assembly. He was an original founder of the Race to the Sky, a board chairman for many years and a member of the Montana Mountain Mushers.

Beckstrom was preceded in death by his father, Howard, and his mother, Marge.

He is survived by his spouse, Pam; stepchildren, Geoff and Lauren Otto; granddaughter, Madison; sister, Mary Jo Gowing; brother, Tom Beckstrom; sister, Ann; and brother, Rob Beckstrom; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jack loved sled dogs, dog mushing and being with people. He loved to share his faith, was kind, loving and had a great sense of humor. He was always a free spirit.

The celebration service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at Whitefish Assembly, 150 Lamb Lane, Whitefish.

Austin Funeral & Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for the family.

## Randy Bekkedahl, 60

Randy Bekkedahl passed away on May 10, 2018, just 60 years young. Randy fought a decades-long battle with multiple immunologic disorders. During the last three years of his life, he and his wife, Rebecca, found solace and inspiration living at their mountain lakeside cabin.

Randy is lovingly remembered by his wife of 34 years, Rebecca (Lawrence) and by his siblings: Pam (and Ben) Seiders of Fruitland, Idaho and their children, Joseph and Jennifer; Linda (and Jacob) Magot of Salt Lake City; and Larry (and Denise) Bekkedahl of Portland, Oregon and their children, Kelly, Brianna and Brooke.

Randy was born to Joseph and Frances (Holmquist) Bekkedahl.



His family moved back to the Flathead Valley in 1967 and built their home on family property near Ashley Creek. Randy graduated from Flathead High School in 1975 and attended Northwest Nazarene College and the University of Montana before enrolling in the Culinary Program at the Missoula VoTech Institute. It was there that he met the love of his life, Rebecca. Their shared careers in the culinary industry began at the Kootenai Lodge. The couple moved to Kalispell in 1983 and opened a cafe in remembrance of Randy's father, lovingly naming it "Joe's

Legacy." Randy's mother, Fran, was the backbone of the operation and took great pleasure in working alongside them.

In 1986, Randy and Rebecca took a trip to San Diego, fell in love with the sunshine, and decided to stay. Unfortunately, during this time, Randy also suffered an injury that triggered the first signs of his autoimmune disease. It soon became evident that he would no longer be able to work. Thus the couple became the original house "flip or flop" team, using their talent for home improvement to gradually increase the quality and size of one home after another.

In 1991 Randy and Rebecca moved to Portland. Randy was renowned for his intelligence and creativity, so

he used the restrictions imposed by his health as an opportunity to pursue self-employment as a realtor. Rebecca worked in management for several prominent Portland restaurants, including Jake's Famous Crawfish, McCormick & Schmick's, and Henry's Twelfth Street Tavern. During the course of their time in Portland, the couple beautifully renovated three homes.

In 2003, they seized the opportunity to return to the Flathead Valley in order to be close to their parents. Randy turned his focus toward supporting family, maintaining their rental property, and managing the increasing demands of his declining health. Randy's love of family made him the hub around which friends and relatives radiated.

He loved to cook and host gatherings — which invariably included a final card game.

Randy had a lifelong love of learning and was a voracious reader. He was a gifted writer and collaborated in several writers' groups in the valley, including volunteering for the Yellow Bay Writers' Conference. Randy's fiction has been published in the Whitefish Review.

As a final act of love, and despite his own limited mobility, Randy dedicated himself to the daily care of his mother during the last years of her life. He was preceded in death by his father in 1983 and his mother in 2015.

His intelligence and curiosity never faded, and he will be remembered as a living history

book — able to recap, in detail, the myriad events of both family history as well as the history of the world. Randy loved sitting in his chair curled up with Tolstoy overlooking the lake and being at peace in ways so many only dream about but he lived it every day. You could see him by the light of his computer as he formed words into sentences that took readers on a journey with him.

Randy will be remembered for his kindness, his warmth, his intelligence, and his insight. He was a compass pointing true north.

A celebration of life will be held on Friday, July 13, at the First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell.

## Paul Clayton Beliveau, 77

Paul Clayton Beliveau "passed to the happy hunting grounds" on Dec. 26, 2017, after a severe stroke.

Born to Rita Gladys and Paul Lawrence Beliveau of Lebanon, New Hampshire, Paul and his three brothers were raised up in the great outdoors where they hunted, fished and learned to respect the land.

After graduating high school, Paul joined the U.S. Navy and served his country as a radio technician aboard an ice breaker in the Arctic Ocean. After the Navy, Paul settled in Connecticut where he started his family and career in forestry. But still his passion was for the great outdoors. Paul was restless and, with four growing boys, he continued to look for a better life. In 1977 a newspaper, the Daily Inter Lake from Kalispell arrived. After a short visit from a family



member who knew Paul would love this new territory, there were a few garage sales and some heart felt goodbyes to family and friends the new journey began. Paul and his wife Brenda packed up their boys and belongings into a pop-up camper and headed west for a new adventure. After a summer long of vacationing and exploring, the family landed in the Columbia Heights area. Paul then signed up for classes at Flathead Valley Community College to begin his career in forestry.

After a hard winter and a lean summer, Paul landed a job as the head ranch hand at Doubletree Farms in Bigfork. He stayed there until the

ranch sold to Eagle Bend Golf Course in 1985.

Later, after Paul and Brenda divorced, he moved to the Thompson River area where he joined Hargrove Ranch. He stayed there until he retired and was able to really enjoy his hunting and fishing with his boys and close friends.

In addition to leaving behind many valued friends, his survivors include one brother Mike, his wife Linda and their three children Bekah, Sarah and Kyle; his four boys, Scott, his wife Carol and four chil-

dren Shane, Amanda, Kyle and Tony, and five great-grandchildren Aurora, Oaklee, Owin, Brynlee and Baylee; Todd and his wife Connie and four children Abigail, Amber, Grace and Elizabeth; Jeff and his wife Shelli and three children Josh, Jaden and Jace; and Matt and his wife Jennifer and five children Kendall, Bradley, Ashley, Breanna and Mason.

Services to be held at 3 p.m., Friday, Jan. 12, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

## Joyce Victoria Belstad, 76

Joyce Victoria Belstad, 76, passed away in Kalispell on Nov. 6, 2018.

Joyce was born on March 16, 1942 in St. John, North Dakota, to Joseph and Mary (McMaster) Cartwright.

Joyce married Jerry Belstad on June 27, 1959, in Stanley, North Dakota. They were married 44 years. Jerry and Joyce came through Kalispell on their honeymoon in 1959 and fell in love with the Flathead Valley and vowed to return. In 1965 they moved to Whitefish and then to Kalispell to raise their three children. Tanya, Jerry and Steven. Jerry opened his own barber shop on Main Street called J bar J and Joyce was instrumental in the success of the barber shop. Joyce was a stay-at-home mom when the children were growing up. She then worked for Rosauers and also had her own cleaning company. She also was a Brownie Girl Scout leader. Joyce enjoyed reading, camping and her dogs. Joyce loved Glacier National Park and always said she felt closer to heaven there.



in death by her parents, husband Jerry Belstad, and grandsons Skylar

Belstad and Kyle Linrude.

She is survived by her children, Tanya Belstad, Jerry Belstad and Steve Belstad, all of Kalispell; brothers, Joe Cartwright of Kalispell, and Jim Cartwright of Great Falls; two special nephews, Ardell and Adrian Belstad; and numerous nieces and nephews; grandchildren, Allix, Taylor, Carsen Linrude, JD, Jordan, Paige, Jade, Courtney, Kelsey and Doug Belstad, and Steven Hanson; and great-grandchildren Able Belstad, Emily Belstad, Lenni Howell, Kynlee Howell, Talan Hanson, Cole Hanson, Aleigha Gill and Kyson Belstad.

A celebration of life will be held in the Swan this summer.

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

## Benny Ray Benson, 69

Benny Ray Benson was born Dec. 3, 1948, to Robert and Donna Benson in Livingston, Montana.

On Sept. 20, 2018, Benny Benson lost his courageous battle with cancer.

He graduated from Park High School in 1967. After graduating, Benny worked for Burlington Northern Railway as a hostler while commuting from Livingston to Bozeman to attend Montana State University. After earning an accounting degree, Benny immediately went to work as an engineer for Burlington Northern in Livingston before transferring to Whitefish in 1987. He retired from BNSF after 42 years.

Benny will be remembered most for his love of family. In return, the entire Benson family showed their strength, love and support throughout Benny's illness. He was incredibly proud of his children Tara and Jeff, but his heart was stolen by grandchildren Maxwell Douglass and Sheri Rae.

As well, "B" loved people — the more the merrier. That was never more evident than when he and Shirley returned every winter from Mesquite, Nevada, to entertain for his favorite time of year, Whitefish Winter Carnival. He welcomed everyone into his home with coffee brewing in the mornings and Bud Light later in the day. He



was truly a kind, non-judgmental, and caring man — one of the "good guys." We

will forever remember his big smile and especially his hearty laugh while throwing his head back and slapping his knee.

He loved watching sports, especially golf, the MSU Bobcats, the Chicago Bears and the Boston Celtics. Although Benny wasn't talented using tools, he was a wizard with a television remote.

Benny is survived by his loving wife Shirley, daughter Tara of Whitefish, son Jeff (wife Stacey and two grandchildren Max and Sheri) of Vancouver, Washington, his mother Donna of Livingston and Whitefish, brother Bobby (Mona) of Whitefish, and brother Jeff (Teddi) of Billings.

Benny was preceded in death by twin sons, his father Robert Benson and his ex-wife Sheri Walden Benson who remained a lifelong friend.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26, at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish. Burial will be in Livingston on Friday, September 28 at 1 p.m. at Mountain View Cemetery. A reception will follow the graveside at the Livingston Inn Golf and Country Club.

## Lee Evan Berger, 77

Lee Evan Berger passed away peacefully on Feb. 20, 2018, at his home after a courageous battle with cancer. He was surrounded by family "as he went to be with the Lord."

Lee was born Dec. 31, 1940, to Lee "Bud" and Frances Berger, in Helena. He grew up in Helena and graduated from Helena High School in 1959. He went on to attend Montana State University, graduating with a degree in accounting.

It was during high school that Lee met the love of his life, Sharon VanNoy, when Sharon needed a pair of white buck shoes for a high school pep assembly. She introduced herself to Lee, borrowed his shoes and before they knew it these high school sweethearts were married in 1966 in Butte.

Lee enjoyed a very successful career in banking, starting with Union Bank and Trust Company in Helena, then Norwest Bank in Casper, Wyoming, followed by First Interstate Bank system in Great Falls and ultimately retiring in 1997 as president of First Interstate Bank of Kalispell. Following his retirement from banking, Lee purchased Flathead Property Management, fulfilling a lifelong dream of owning his own business. During his career, he supported multiple community causes, notably years as board members for United Way



and for Kalispell Regional Medical Center, the pride of his community causes.

Family was always the first priority for Lee. He and Sharon have three wonderful children and six grandchildren, all within a long day's drive from Kalispell. Papa Lee, as he became known, was always eager to do anything for his kids and grandkids and, just like the grandkids, was never one to sit down and take a break; he was constantly in tow with one or several of them.

Outside of work, Lee was an avid runner as well as a meticulous wood worker. Lee seldom missed an opportunity to take a jog and would spend countless hours in his "shop" where no project was too large, too small, or too complicated for him to take on. At the drop of a hat, Lee would be on the road with tools in hand to assist with any home improvement or repair for family and friends alike. He just requested there be a glass of wine ready for him at the end of the day! Time at home was also special to Lee and Sharon where countless hours were spent working side by side in the yard and Mom's flower garden.

Lee was an exceptional husband, father, grandfather and friend. He courageously battled can-

cer, never giving up and never stopped thinking of the well-being of others. He touched many people through his years on this earth. No one more so than Sharon "Meema" and his family. Ask him any day how he was, and his response was always "Outstanding!"

Lee was preceded in death by his parents Bud and Frances, Sharon's parents Art and Violet VanNoy, sister-in-law Ardie Slaughter and brother-in-law Howard VanNoy.

He is survived by his loving wife Sharon, sons Derek (and Simone) Berger, Buddy (and Janell) Berger, daugh-

ter Dacia (and Craig) Prather; and six wonderful grandkids, Blake, Brienne, Spencer, Kamryn, Hagen and Axel.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 5, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be directed in Lee's name to Kalispell Regional Medical Center Foundation.

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

## Bryce Lawrence Berner, 79

Bryce Lawrence Berner, of Kalispell, was welcomed into our Lord and Savior's arms on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018, surrounded by his loving family.

Bryce was born Dec. 9, 1938, to Laurence "Red" and Frances "Fran" Kohler Berner in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Bryce married Katherine Fhlug in 1957 and welcomed children, Susan, Jeffrey and Cheryl.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force 1957 to 1961, stationed at Charleston Air Force Base as an airplane engine mechanic. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to Waukesha and worked at Hughes Automotive and then Wisconsin Centrifugal as a supervisor machinist for over 21 years.

In 1983, Bryce met Reneé (Devall) Hanson, moved to Montana where he fell in love with the Montana countryside. Bryce and Reneé married in 1985. He was employed at Semitool in Kalispell until his retirement in 2000.

Bryce enjoyed golfing, fishing, bowling, hiking and downhill skiing. He loved sharing the beauty of Glacier National Park with family and friends. Bryce loved his garden and pristine yard work. He had a special place in his heart for Englewood, Florida. He spent many years vacationing there, sitting on the beach reading his favorite books and listening to the ocean waves. He was a diehard Green Bay Packers fan and was thrilled and proud to have attended the "Ice Bowl" at Lambeau Field in 1967.



Bryce loved his Northridge Lutheran family and was a member of the Whitefish Lake Golf Club.

Bryce is survived by his beloved wife Reneé Berner, children Susan (Richard) Klabunde, Jeffrey Berner, Cheryl (Michael) Kaye, and step-daughters Krista Hanson and Kari (Mark) Hooper. He had a special love for his grandchildren Robert (Giselle) Stelmaszewski, Christopher Stelmaszewski, Heather Kaye, Rebecca Klabunde, Mathew Kaye, Mileah Roberts, Thomas Kaye and Brock Hooper.

Great-grandchildren are Jordan, Ashlee, Carter, Liam, Blake and Sylvia. Kathleen Keller, his "baby sister," also survives him as do aunts Mary Elizabeth Wright and Eileen Mathis, many cousins, nieces and nephews and special friends.

His parents preceded him in death.

Our family would like to extend their gratitude for the compassionate care given by Kalispell Regional Healthcare.

A celebration of Bryce's life will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, at Northridge Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

Memorials can be made to Northridge Lutheran Church or the KRH Foundation.

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

## Kenneth Berosik, 53

Kenneth Berosik, 53, a lifetime resident of the Flathead Valley, passed away peacefully on Nov. 14, 2018.

He is survived by his parents, Jerrold and Sallie Berosik; longtime companion, Vicki; children, Brooke Berosik and Trevor Miller; three grandchildren; siblings, Steven Berosik, Cammie Bean and Terry Richards; and aunt,

Rosie Berger.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Lavonne Ivers Berosik; brother, Darwin Berosik; grandparents, Joe and Ella Berosik and Elsie Cooper; and uncle, Joe Berosik.

A graveside memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

## Erma Ruth (Bruyer) Bibb-Swennes, 89

Erma Ruth (Bruyer) Bibb-Swennes, 89, entered heaven on Aug. 25, 2018, and is now walking the streets of gold with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Erma was born Feb. 14, 1929, at Kalispell General Hospital to Elmer and Clara (Koenig) Bruyer. She attended grade school at Pine Grove School and graduated from Flathead County High School on May 22, 1947.

She married Robert Hunton Bibb Jr. on March 21, 1949 and had three children. After Robert passed away in 1978, she married Erling Swennes on May 3, 1993.

Erma was a member of Bible Baptist Church, Birch Grove Willing Workers and LaSalle Grange. She worked at such places as Anderson Style Shop, Kalispell Feed & Grain, Skyline Dairy and was a school bus contractor for School District 5 for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands Robert and Erling, brothers George



and John Bruyer, and sister Mary Swennes.

She is survived by her sister,

Josephine (Jim) Walter; her children, Suzanna Vaughn (Lanny), Michael Bibb and Douglas Bibb (Lois); and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 30, Glacier Memorial Gardens. The family wants to thank for all the loving care Mom received through the years since 2011 at Wel-Life, 2013 at Edgewood Vista, and 2015 at Heritage Place of Kalispell.

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.

## Eugene Birks, 86

Eugene Birks, 86, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018 in Kalispell.

Gene was born Sept. 1, 1932 in Logan, Iowa, to Clay and Garphelia Birks. He was raised on a farm with two older brothers and one sister. He rode his horse to school, and later his motorcycle. He graduated from Logan High School in 1950 and shortly after joined the Navy. He served for four years during the Korean War, was stationed on Guam and later aboard the USS Helena.

On shore leave in Seattle he met Sharol. It was, as they say, "love at first sight". Later that year, after his discharge from the Navy, they were married at her home in Kalispell. They moved to



Seattle and Gene began his career with "Ma Bell". Their three sons were born in Seattle. Later Gene's work took them to eastern Washington, California, Billings and finally to West Glacier. Gene loved his telephone work and helping all his customers in East and West Glacier. He retired in 2004 after 50 years with the phone company.

He struggled with serious health problems the last years of his life. He loved his Great Dane, Zoe, who was his best friend through all his illness.

Gene is survived by his

wife, and three sons Doug, Dan (of New Jersey) and Dave (of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico); his five grandchildren, David, Stephanie, Emmanuel, Joanna and Monica, and two great grandchildren, Andre and Valeria. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers and sister.

Services for Gene will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Faith Covenant Presbyterian Church, 611 Third Avenue East, Kalispell, Montana. Lunch will be served at the

church after the service. There will be no graveside service.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Gene and his family.

## Braydon Michael Birky, 24

Braydon Michael Birky, 24, of Columbia Falls, passed away unexpectedly Friday, Sept. 28, 2018.

Braydon was born in Billings on Jan. 10, 1994, to Mike and Marie Birky. He spent the first three years of his life in Harlowton, Montana, before moving to Columbia Falls.

Braydon had many passions. He was a talented musician and he loved to play his guitar. Braydon enjoyed the outdoors and was always up for camping, fishing or rafting. Cooking was also a great joy to Braydon and he enjoyed cooking special meals for family and friends. Above all, Braydon loved his family.

We will miss his beautiful smile, his clever sense of humor and



his kind heart.

Braydon is survived by his parents, Mike and Marie Birky; sister

Brooklyn (Jason) Keibler; niece Payton, nephew Parker, baby Keibler, niece; sister Heidi Birky (Richard Bertch); niece Scarlett; Torie Crow, sister, and grandparents Cal and Kathy Grise. Braydon is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

A memorial service will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 8, at St. Richard's Catholic Church. A reception will follow.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Braydon and his family.



**STEVEN BIRKY, 63***April 15, 2018 at 5:00 am |*

Steven Larry Birky passed away April 12, 2018 at age 63 from a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

He was born July 1, 1954 in Whitefish to Vernon Larry Birky and Dorothy A. (Norris) Birky.

He graduated from Flathead High School in 1972 and went to work for Chainsaw Sales and Service as a small engine mechanic. He later went logging with his uncle Jonas until 1985 when he was injured in a woods accident. He was a bodyman and fibreglasser for years.

He married Renee Pritchett and a son, Jacob Larry Birky, was born in 1990. He joined big sister Terra. Steven and Renee later divorced.

In 1995 he was diagnosed with cervical dystonia for which he became a donor.

He is survived by his son Jake and girlfriend Jeinna, stepdaughter Terra, her husband Gary and their three children, Zander, Natilie and Gabrielle.

He is also survived by sister Patsy Holt and four nieces: Corinne (Kirt), Johnna (Leonard), Sandra (Jim) and Alaina (David), as well as many great-nieces and nephews, cousins and many friends. Also one aunt, Lois Birky, and good friend Jeff Morton.

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He was predeceased by his parents, brother-in-law Richard Holt and his uncle Jonas Birky.

He was cremated and a family gathering is planned for later this summer with interment in Conrad Memorial Cemetery, with date and time to be announced later.

The family wishes to thank Kalispell Regional, Brendan House and hospice for his care. A special thank you to his life-long physician, Dr. Andrew Palchak.

## Robert 'Bob' Leslie Bishop, 76

Robert "Bob" Leslie Bishop passed away on July 12, 2018, after a 7.5 year battle with metastatic prostate cancer with his loving wife, Rita, and devoted daughters Leslie and Allyson, by his side.

Bob was born in Los Angeles on May 11, 1942, to Maude and Francis Bishop. He had one younger brother, Bill. In the 1950s, the family moved to a Hollywood Hills home where they created wonderful memories. They were members of the Bel Air Bay Club where Bob enjoyed sneaking into their cabana to sleep on summer nights so he could surf at first light.

Bob attended University of Redlands, graduating in 1963. At Redlands, he met his first wife and mother of his daughters, Darlene Linton, and joined Pi Chi fraternity where he made many lifelong friends. From 1986 to 1995, Bob was honored to serve on the university's Board of Trustees.

After Redlands, Bob served in the Air Force Reserves for six years. He started his professional career at Security Bank before moving on to sales at IBM. In 1970, Bob joined ITEL where he ran a division that purchased large computer systems and leased them to major corporate users. In 1979, he was part of a small group that bought their division from ITEL and launched their own company, TXL, which offered lease financing, transportation and large equipment. They sold TXL to



enjoy the activities he came to love — golfing, skiing, snowmobiling, hiking (especially in Glacier National Park), and life on the lake.

Bob and Rita traveled the world together but always felt a special connection to the island of Maui where they returned many times and renewed their wedding vows on their 25th anniversary surrounded by their daughters, sons-in-law, and grandsons.

Bob was a true "people person" — leaving a lasting impression on all who crossed his path. He was a consummate host, a great storyteller, and loved nothing more than a cocktail party. Bob was a voracious reader, an astute (and opinionated) political observer and an avid email joke forwarder. He was given nicknames throughout his life by those who loved him including: Bob-o, The Bish, BBQ Bob, Pool Bob, The Mayor, Bubba and Papa Duck.

Bob is survived by his wife of nearly 36 years, Rita Bishop; daughters, Leslie (Rick) Franco and Allyson (Bart) Crawford; grandsons, Will, Jay, Holt, Si and Luke; brother, Bill Bishop; and many loving extended family members and friends.

Please join Bob's family from 1 to 3 p.m. on Monday, July 30 at the Whitefish Lake Golf Club to share your stories and memories of Bob, and to

toast to a life well lived!

In lieu of flowers, Bob requested donations to the Alzheimer's Association, c/o Leslie Bishop Franco, Alzheimer's Association Northern California and Northern Nevada, 2290 North First Street, Suite 101, San Jose, CA 95131 or [alz.org/norcal](http://alz.org/norcal)

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

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.

In 1982, Bob married the love of his life, Rita Anderson. They wed in San Francisco and lived for many happy years in Marin County, California. With frequent visits to Rita's hometown of Kalispell, Bob quickly fell in love with Montana and the community of Whitefish. He said when he retired he wanted a place there. So in 1990, they built a home on Whitefish Lake. Bob happily jumped into all the activities the lake could offer and embraced all the new adventures winter could provide for a California guy. Bob was gregarious and loved to connect. He wanted to be a part of this new community, so he reached out — literally. Early on he was always shaking hands and introducing himself. People thought he was running for mayor!

In 1995, Bob and Rita bought a second home in Scottsdale, Arizona. Bob now had two beautiful places to "play" and