

Douglas Eby, 56

Douglas Eby, 56, passed May 6, 2018, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center due to organ failure.

He was born Nov. 12, 1961, in Whitefish and raised in Kalispell. He attended Kalispell schools and the Anaconda Job Corps.

Doug served in the U.S. Army and was hon-



orably discharged in 1988.

He married his wife, Kerri, in 2014 in Kalispell. They had been married three years at the time of

his passing.

He worked for the Kalispell School District as a maintenance man.

Doug enjoyed fishing, camping and building models.

He was preceded in death by his father Gerald Eby, and mother Jeri Eby Hawley.

Doug is survived by his wife, Kerri Eby,

of Kalispell; his brothers, Kraig Eby, Monty Eby and Mike Eby; his father's wife Vivian Eby; and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Cremation has taken place.

No services are planned.

William Floyd Eckert (Bill), 87

William Floyd Eckert (Bill), 87, of Kalispell, Montana, died August 2, 2018 in Kalispell.

Bill was born on November 28, 1930 in Whitefish, Montana, to Lee and Mary Eckert. Bill married Ellen Eckert April 14, 1951 in Ellendale, North Dakota. He was married to Ellen for 54 years. Bill married Arlene Eckert September 30, 2006. They would have been married 12 years this September.

Bill served in the military as a member of the U. S. Army and was stationed in Korea for two years. After returning home, he started his career in the phone business. He worked his way up from laying lines to executive manager. He retired from US West in 1985 after 33 years. Bill also served as a volunteer on numerous boards and committees



Marina Sears, step-daughters Lori Giese (Randy), and Connie Langton, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents Lee and Mary Eckert, wife Ellen Eckert, son Brad Eckert, brothers Bobby Eckert, and Lee Eckert Jr., sister Mona Benson, stepson Mick Thumm, and son-in-law Jeffrey Sears.

A funeral service in memory of Bill Eckert

He is survived by his wife Arlene Eckert, sister Barbara Wiprud, brother Gary Eckert (Nadine), son Jerry Eckert (Nancy), daughter

to visit us at www.bhfuneralhome.com to leave a note of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Ervin D. 'Erv' Eid, 83

Mr. Ervin D. "Erv" Eid died peacefully in Columbia Falls on Aug. 26, 2018, at the age of 83.

Erv is survived by his wife, Bernice Kvande-Eid, at the family home; children, Carl Eid (Viola) of Port Orchard, Washington, Linda Eid-Carney (Jim) of Spokane Valley, Washington, Marilyn Eid-Osborne (Glenn) of Columbia Falls, and Anita Eid-Housand (Tim) of Foley, Alabama; and 16 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cyrel J. and Vera B (Crowley) Eid, formerly of Whitefish.

Erv was born on April 29, 1935, in Kalispell to Cyrel and Vera (Crowley) Eid. He received his GED while he was enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He married Bernice V. Kvande in August 1958. He and Bernice first made their home in Williston, North Dakota, where Carl was born, then it was on to Polson where Linda was born, and then the next move was to Great Falls where Marilyn and Anita were born, before making the final move to Columbia Falls in 1967.

He was employed at Anaconda Aluminum Plant from June 4, 1967, to May 1, 1997 when he retired.



Erv was accomplished at being a musician and mechanic. He was a humble, caring and generous man who always

had a smile on his face. He was an active and dedicated member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. He also volunteered his musical talents throughout the Flathead Valley wherever he was asked to play.

A funeral is scheduled for Erv at 11 a.m. on Sept. 1 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 401 7th St. W, Columbia Falls, with a reception to follow in the church. Pastor Pete Erickson will officiate the ceremony. Urn burial with military honors will take place at 1:30 p.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Erv's life. The family would like to thank North Valley Hospital, and the Montana Veteran's Home for their care and dedication for his stay at both facilities.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Ervin's family.

Billie Jean Eisinger, 61

Billie Jean Eisinger, 61, of Whitefish passed away July 22, 2018. Billie was born March 26, 1957, in Whitefish, to Maurice "Jim" and Helen Miscampbell. She grew up in Whitefish and graduated from Whitefish High in 1975.

Billie worked at many things, from food service and lumber mills to property title business. Whatever it was, she gave it her all. She never met a stranger and did not shake hands. Everyone was greeted with a "Howdy" and a hug, and left with her favorite saying, "I love you."

Billie was blessed with a gift from God in the form of her son Byron (Whitcomb). She worked at Louisiana Pacific Mill in Missoula for 11 years, raising Byron with help from her good friend Terry Thomas. Terry has a son Curt and the four of them spent many days together on the Blackfoot River.

Billie was always very proud of being a Whitefish native and wanted Byron to be a "Bulldog" so they moved back to Whitefish, and what a "Dawg" he was. Mama was very proud.

In August of 2008, Billie met her future husband, Tom Eisinger. Their first date was a ride on Tom's Harley, which was the first of many, many miles they



he had to do it again on Valentine's Day in front of his father. That time she took him seriously. On June 5 of that year they were married in Las Vegas and headed down the road of life together.

That road led them on many great adventures together. Being a typical Montana girl, Billie loved the "Big Sky" and all it had to offer, from hunting, fishing, camping and just floating on her air mattress on whatever body of water they were camped by. Billie's kind heart and loving soul allowed her to make friends, which usually became part of her extended family, wherever she went, from Alaska to Mexico.

Tragically, after the loss of Byron in the Army, she became a member of another family, the Gold Star Family of Montana. The annual reunion of the Gold Stars in Bozeman on Memorial Day gave Billie some peace and solace in dealing with his loss.

Billie loved the children of the world, and butterflies. Hopefully, her soul is riding on the

spent on two wheels. On Feb. 13, 2009, Tom proposed to Billie; she thought he was kidding, so

wings of one.

"Go in peace Billie Jean, and Godspeed."

Billie was preceded in death by her son Byron Whitcomb, parents Maurice (Jim) and Helen Miscampbell, and her brothers Jamie and Robbie Miscampbell.

She is survived by her husband, Tom Eisinger, of Whitefish; granddaughter, Kendal Marie Whitcomb; cousins, Tracey (Bob) Martin, Kathy Shellinger, Claudie (Linda) Lidstrom of Fairfield, Montana, Terry Arndt of Kalispell, aunts, Jan (John) Lane of Kentucky, Rubie (Jerome) Enger of North Dakota, Ina Hemges of Kalispell, Geri (Alan) Solum of Somers, and Connie (Dan) Mitchell of Kalispell; and nieces, Jamie Ryan Miscampbell and Alicia Miscampbell.

"We have lost a beautiful person on this earth, but the heavens have a new star!"

Memorial contributions may be made to the Montana Wounded Warriors, 100 Cooperative Way, St. 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

A celebration of Billie's life will be held at a later date.

Condolences for the family may be submitted online at www.austinfh.com. Austin Funeral & Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for the family.

Eric William Emerson, 42

Eric William Emerson died unexpectedly of natural causes on Oct. 27, 2018, while in Rome, Italy.

Born to James Emerson and Dixie Beebe Emerson on Aug. 2, 1976, Eric graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1994. He completed his undergraduate degree at Montana State University, Bozeman, and received his master's degree in sociology from the University of Montana in Missoula.

Eric was employed by OOKLA and as sales director and enjoyed the opportunity to work in offices and service clients around the globe, including Ireland, Russia,

China, Jordan and Norway to name a few.

Eric was beloved by everyone he met, including his family and friends, colleagues and strangers alike. Eric's fun-loving spirit and sense of humor lit up the room and left everyone wanting for more. His positivity, kindness and generosity made him one of a kind and the world was a better place with him in it.

Eric enjoyed golf, fishing and hunting. He looked forward to his annual summer vacations on Flathead Lake as well as attending NFL games in stadiums nationwide.

Eric was a devoted

husband to his wife, Melissa, and this past summer celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary with their kids, while whitewater rafting on the Poudre River, near their home in Loveland, Colorado. Eric's pride and joy were his two children, Liv (10), and Chance (8). More than anything else, Eric loved to play golf with Chance and watch Liv's big, warm personality shine on and off stage.

This past September, Eric, Liv and Chance joined Melissa on a voyage around the world, while Melissa served as assistant dean of students for Semester at Sea. In their final weeks togeth-

er, the family created unforgettable memories, sailing from Germany to Spain, Ghana and South Africa.

Eric is also survived by his mother, Dixie Beebe Emerson; his sister Jodi (Emerson) Tombarge, husband Reed and two daughters Amanda and Alyssa, his brother Chad Emerson and son Logan; and many nieces and nephews. Donations in Eric's memory may be made to Stand Up to Cancer.

Scott A. Emmerich, 61

Scott A. Emmerich, 61, passed away at home on Aug. 11, 2018, after a 2.5-year battle with brain cancer.

Scott was born in Wausau, Wisconsin, growing up in Mosinee. He received his undergraduate degrees in psychology and communications, and later a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He fell in love with Glacier National Park while working at Goat Haunt as a summer Student Conservation Association employee and left determined to return. After obtaining his seasonal law enforcement commission, he began his career with the National Park Service in Yosemite National Park in 1983, where he met the love of his life, Jan Knox. Jan and Scott married in 1989.

After a short stint with U.S. Customs as a criminal investigator in San Diego, Scott was given the opportunity to return to Glacier National Park as the West Lakes Sub District ranger in 1989. He later found his home as the North Fork District ranger of Glacier National Park where he remained until retiring in 2014.

Scott was a ranger's ranger, a jack-of-all-trades — a wildlife biologist at heart, a counselor, mediator, interpreter, educator, friend and leader. He embraced all aspects of the job — wildlife



of the Park Service as well. His love of the hunting and wildlife led him to teach Bow Hunter Education

classes to help educate young people about hunter safety and ethics. He also served as a School District 6 board member for seven years.

His greatest joy was being father to his daughter, McKenna. He always strived to be an involved parent, from volunteering in her elementary school classes and officiating soccer games to attending her piano recitals and music/theatre/dance performances into her college years.

On a ski with his dog and best friend, Mya, in January of 2016, a healthy and active Scott collapsed with a stroke caused by a glioblastoma. For the next 2.5 years, Scott devoted himself to the fight, researching all he could to improve his chances through diet, alternative treatments and exercise, along with traditional Western medicine. Most important to him was to pass on what he learned to others. He inspired many with his commitment and humorous and inspirational posts on CaringBridge.

Scott is survived by his wife and daughter; his parents, Donna and Arden

management, emergency medicine, rescue, visitor and resource protection, training and education, community relations, public speaking, mentoring and leadership. Being a ranger gave Scott opportunity to fulfill his love of the outdoors — hiking, skiing, rafting and climbing. He was a park medic and oversaw the park's emergency medical program including teaching first aid and CPR classes and serving as the park's representative on the Advisory board of the Advanced Life-Support Emergency Rescue Team (A.L.E.R.T.) air ambulance program for 23 years. At a ceremony in Washington, D.C., Scott was awarded the 2010 Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award for Excellence for promotion of the ranger profession.

Scott was very involved in his community outside

Emmerich; his siblings, Susan, Cheryl and Jeff; and his nephews, Jake, Brad, Ben, Ian and Eric. He also leaves behind many loving friends and family who will continue to be inspired by his actions and his will to never give up no matter the odds.

A celebration of life will be held on Oct. 6, details to be announced later.

Donations in his honor are appreciated to A.L.E.R.T., 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901; or Columbia Falls High School Alumni Community Academic Endowment, P.O. Box 1641, Columbia Falls, MT 59912, both of which were very important to Scott.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family. Please visit www.columbiamortuary.com to leave condolences for the family.

Donald H. Emmert, 82

Donald "Don" Harry Emmert was a man of faith, quiet strength and few words. He was born on July 12, 1935 to Martha (Buxton) Emmert and George "David" Emmert in Wolf Point, Montana.

He "slipped peacefully into heaven and the waiting arms of Jesus" on April 6, 2018. He showed his love for his family and his deep faith in God by his actions. He modeled the servanthood of Jesus as he cared for his wife of 63 years, Joyce Edena Hedman Emmert, and worked hard as a logger and a truck driver to provide for their six children. Don was a proud American who always prayed fervently for our country. He served honorably in the Korean War and came home to marry his sweet heart.

Don and Joyce met when he was 15 and she was 12. She saw him ride his horse up the road to their farm and she told a friend, "I'm going to marry that boy



someday." Don would say he never had a chance, because Joyce had made up her mind. They corresponded while he was overseas and one day

she received a letter asking her if she could plan a wedding in as little as three weeks so they could marry when he came home on leave from Korea. She was 17 when they married on March 20, 1955.

They raised their children in Whitefish and Columbia Falls surrounded by loving Hedman and Emmert grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

In 1996, Don and Joyce co-owned a ranch in Hot Springs with their son, Gordy. Raising cattle was a dream of Don's, and he and Joyce loved their years on the ranch.

Don could get big bulls to obey him with just a word and he became affectionately known as the "Bull Whisperer." Every day after they had their morning coffee and Bible time, Don would head off on the tractor to feed the cows. Joyce always listened for the tractor and would run to the window to wave to him. He would tip his cowboy hat to her as he drove by.

Don is survived by his sister, Shirley (Evan) Speer, and his children, Rodney Emmert, Gary (Jane) Emmert, Randy (Melody) Emmert, Donita (Dave) Toavs, Gordy (Susy) Emmert and Darlene (Scott) Meehan and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents George "David" and Martha Emmert, brother, Bill Emmert, daughter-in-law Laurie Emmert, and grandsons Baby Randy Emmert, Erin Emmert, Wesley Emmert and Travis Vandersloot.

Those of you who knew Don well know that he wasn't overly fond of large crowds or parties, particularly if he was the center of attention. Instead of a funeral, he asked that the children and grandchildren gather for a potluck dinner and spend time together. Over 50 family members were present to celebrate the man we loved and admired.

We know that he is out of pain now and we rejoice because we will see him again. In his final hours he reminded us that, "It's not enough to live a good life. You need to give your life to Jesus and live for Him. Do that, and we'll meet again in Heaven."

We're looking forward to seeing him there.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to the Wounded Warriors Project or the St. Jude Children's Hospital in memory of Don. Austin Funeral & Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for the family.

Harris William Endreson, 91

Harris William Endreson, 91, of Kalispell, "went to be with the Lord" on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018, at Edgewood Vista in Kalispell, with his family at his side.

Harris was born on Jan. 22, 1927, in Grant County, Minnesota.

He attended the North Dakota State School of Science, earning a degree in the electrical trades. Harris was employed by the Montana Power Company for 35 years, retiring in 1988. He was a World War II Navy veteran. He was also very civic minded, serving in many different capacities wherever he lived. He was



very active in his local Lutheran Church.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Delores, and his son Mark. He is survived by his

wife, Avis; daughter, Pam Jones, and her husband, Greg; stepchildren, Verna Hedrick and husband Chris, Denise Kemp and her husband Roy, Steve Thompson and his wife Linda, Diana Winters

and her husband Jay; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service for Harris will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23, at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Columbia Falls, with a reception to follow. Inurnment and military honors will be at 1 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Darlington Cremation and Burial is caring for Harris' family.

Vernon Ray Engebritson, 75

Vernon Ray Engebritson, 75, born Sept. 11, 1943, passed away peacefully in his sleep, Oct. 10, 2018, at his home in Kalispell.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Agnes (Whaley) Engebritson; his sister, Vivian, and her husband, Jim Burnett; his daughter, Tina Mae Engebritson; his son, Vernon Aril Engebritson, and his wife, Tracy; daughter, Christina VanZant, and her husband, John; cherished grandchildren, Chance, Cheyene, Shane, Kyle, Jowell and Harmonie; along with many nieces, nephews and extended family members. Proceeded in death were his parents, Aril and Mae, and his son James Sidney Engebritson, and daughter Jennifer Rae Engebritson. Born and raised in Kalispell, he was a lifelong resident of Kalispell. He graduated from Flathead High School in 1966, where he met his wife, Agnes Whaley. They were high school sweethearts and married at the Calvary Lutheran church in Kalispell on July 1, 1967. They were married for 52 years.



Vern was a lifetime member of the Flathead Sheriffs' Posse. He served four years with the United States Navy, worked

for Anaconda Aluminum, Kalispell Feed and Grain, A&R Trucking, McElroy & Wilkins and eventually ended up at Alert Security. Vern was a hard worker, had a passion for animals, and was an avid outdoorsman, who hunted regularly with his grandchildren. He enjoyed doing leatherwork and loved to travel with Agnes and his sister and brother-in-law Mary and Henry Scott.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 14, and will be at Blaine Creek Grill in Kalispell.

Funeral arrangements will be made through Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory.

Loretta Enger, 82

Loretta Enger, 82, of Columbia Falls, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018, surrounded by her loving family at The HealthCenter in Kalispell.

Loretta was born on May 6, 1936, to Glen and Thelma Mikesell in Whitefish.

She married Magnus C. Enger on Dec. 19, 1955, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Loretta was a homemaker for many years, staying home and raising her children.

After her children were raised and out on their own, she went to work with her husband,



Shorty, installing floor covering for many years.

Later she went to work for

her daughter at the Wild Rose.

Loretta had a lot of hobbies. She enjoyed sewing quilts with her daughters and making cards and numerous other projects she collected stuff for.

She knitted, crocheted and embroidered most of her life and taught her daughters and various others the art of these

crafts.

She is survived by her five children, Lorena and her partner Doyle, Susan and her husband Bruce, Donald and his wife Kim, Nancy and her husband Scott, and Wendy and her husband Roy; 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and her brother Marvin.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Magnus and her sister Glenda.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. today, Nov. 2, at Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, 3406

U.S. Highway 2 East, Kalispell.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 3, at Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, Kalispell, with a reception to follow at the Eagles Club, 37 1st Street West, in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Loretta may be made to Home Options Hospice, 275 Corporate Drive, Suite 600, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

Karen Kay (Blankenship) Epperly, 78

On Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018, Karen Kay (Blankenship) Epperly passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family at Immanuel Lutheran Skilled Nursing Facility. Grammy Kay died the way she lived, with great courage and toughness. She was 78 years old.

Kay was born in Bozeman on Aug. 13, 1940, to Vern and Laura Belle Blankenship. Her childhood was spent in the Gallatin Valley, graduating from Bozeman High School in 1958. Later that summer she married the love of her life, William Ross Epperly, on Aug. 31. They were married almost 60 years before Bill's passing in June of last year.

Grammy Kay overcame much in her later years. She had a 26-year battle with rheumatoid arthritis in which there was not a single period of remission. Yet her spirit was indomitable. She did as much as she could do and never complained. As other medical issues piled up, Grammy lost much of her functional status. This was limiting in some of her great loves. She could no longer hike in Glacier Park, nor could she go for long runs or do as much around her home. But through this physical decline she never lost her spirit for life and her passion for living.

It goes without say that Grammy Kay was beloved by her family. Her creative cooking was something everyone anticipated because she very seldom used a recipe and it would turn out delicious. As a result, we always looked forward to something new and different but fabulous.



Grammy Kay also was an incredible baker, often including the grandkids in the

process, allowing them to fully engage in every step.

Finally, Kay was fiercely loyal to those close to her. She loved her husband Bill and was his biggest fan. Her grandkids felt like they all had a special relationship with her. She loved each of them in her own way.

Kay was preceded in death by her husband Bill, her brother Richard, and her parents Vern and Laura Belle.

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

A celebration of life will take place at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 30, Buffalo Hill Golf Club.

The Epperly family would like to thank Hospice and their amazing team of caregivers as well as the love and support of many friends and families who came alongside us in our time of need. Memorials are suggested to be made to Sperry Chalet Re-Construction Project at www.glacier.org/sperry-chalet/action-fund/.