

## Daniel Joseph LaCroix, 70

Daniel Joseph LaCroix, 70, passed away on Wednesday Dec. 27, 2017, at Whitefish Care & Rehab.

Dan was born Jan. 31, 1947, in Long Beach, California, to Oscar and Betty (Bush) LaCroix. He graduated from Rolette, North Dakota High School, and then Minot State University with a degree in business administration in 1970.

Dan spent 27 years employed with the United States Forest Service working in various locations in Colorado, California and Oregon. He retired in 1997.

Dan dearly loved his family. His three daughters were the lights in his life. His visits with his daughters and grandchildren were so precious to him.

Dan had a beautiful singing voice and a wry sense of humor. His daughters also share his humor, which made for



lots of belly laughs when the girls were visiting. He is immensely loved by his family

and friends and will be forever missed.

Dan is survived by his mother, Betty LaCroix, of Kalispell; daughters, Chelsea LaCroix of Quincy, California, Lark Auban (Tony) of Orangevale, California, and Jenna LaCroix of Sherwood, Oregon; beloved grandchildren, Max and Tessah Belcher of Quincy, and Sloan and Reece Auban of Orangevale. He is also survived by his brothers, Rick LaCroix (Kathy) of Overland Park, Kansas, Ted LaCroix (Wanda) of Arlee, Mike LaCroix, and Robin LaCroix (Carolyn) of Kalispell; his sisters, Anne LaCroix of Helena, and Laurie LaCroix of

Kalispell; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Dan was preceded in death by his father Oscar LaCroix, and stepfather Alfred LaCroix.

Special thanks to Kay Lister, his case manager, who went above and beyond in getting him the care that he needed. He said she was his angel. Thanks also to the nursing staff at Whitefish Care and Rehab for their compassionate care and for seeing Dan as the wonderful man he was.

We would also like to thank Melba Frank of Anaconda for her considerable work with Dan.

The family will be holding a celebration of Dan's life this summer in Rolette, North Dakota, where family, friends and well-wishers are welcome.

Anyone wishing to send condolences may send them to the family home at 447 7th Ave West, Kalispell, MT 59901,

or online at [buffalohillfh.com](http://buffalohillfh.com).

## Michael Oscar LaCroix, 62

Michael Oscar LaCroix, 62, left us on May 15, 2018, in the early morning "for a better place that God prepared for him."

Michael was born Nov. 19, 1955, in Long Beach, California, to Alfred Paul LaCroix and Betty Mae (Bush) LaCroix.

Born with curly red hair, full of energy and promise for this world, Michael began running as soon as his legs were strong enough to carry him, winning several races in high school.

Michael accomplished much in his lifetime. He



worked hard throughout his life and made many friends wherever

he went.

He was an avid collector of Westerns, coins, hats and smiles from those around him. He made an effort daily to enrich the lives of others. He liked go-karts, trucks, and being with family. The grandkids always found a place on his lap and he always had soda and candy for them.

He enjoyed watching their ballgames and was looking forward to traveling to Canada with the kids. He was full of dreams and aspirations even as he struggled through his illness. He was a very innocent person and a cowboy at heart.

Michael is survived by his mother, Betty Mae (Bush) LaCroix, of Kalispell. He is also survived by his brothers, Rick LaCroix (Kathy) of Overland Park, Kansas, Ted LaCroix (Wanda) of Arlee, and Robin LaCroix (Carolyn) of Kalispell; his sisters, Anne LaCroix,

of Helena, and Laurie LaCroix of Kalispell; numerous nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and -nephews.

Michael was especially close to his nephew Chris LaCroix and his children Gabe, Nevaeh and Caleb.

A memorial Mass will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 18, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church.

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.

## James 'Jim' Paul Landis, 80

James Paul Landis was born on March 2, 1937, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to Paul and Annie Bishop Landis.

Jim passed away early on New Year's Eve, 2017.

He was the oldest, and the ringleader, of three boys. His brothers, Robert "Bobby" and Raymond "Skip," were a constant source of energy, amazement and pranks to family and friends. Age did not change that.

Jim spent 17 years serving in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Jim was an avid hunter, counting bear, deer, moose and elk among his many trophies. He was a horseman, and could walk anybody ragged in the wilderness. He has hunting buddies all over the U.S. and Canada.

Jim married Donna Marie Casner in 1965. They raised four children, Jeffery Steven, Jamie Lynn, Jason Lee and Karissa Ann. After Jeff died at 19 years old in a Jeep accident, Jim's dear childhood friend, Ronnie Shover, helped him realize God was not to blame. God has always been with the



Jim never knew the word "quit."

On March 31, 2007, Jim married a friend

from church, Pamela Ann Stewart. They enjoyed a couple of Alaskan cruises, several hunting trips, and mostly each other. The Landis family accepted Pam with open arms, which is such a blessing.

As his Parkinson's progressed, he traveled to Spokane where he had a deep brain stimulator (DBS) surgery in 2009. Though DBS does not stop the disease, it eliminated the tremors that kept him from tinkering in his shop and garage. DBS surgery is now performed in the Flathead Valley, and Jim was willing to advocate the procedure to anyone who called with questions.

He was preceded in death by his father Paul, his son Jeff, his stepfather Cree, his wife Donna, his mother Annie, his brother Bobby, and nephew Doug.

In addition to his three surviving children, Jim has a grandson

Landis family. Jim grew closer to the Lord and lived a life that proved it. He was active in the churches he attended. After moving to Montana in 1989, Jim served as deacon and elder in the Northridge Heights Church of God and the Hillside Church, both in the Flathead Valley.

Jim was a helping hand and a second dad to many. After Donna passed away in 2003, he grieved much. Then, in 2005, he picked up his tools and flew to Florida to help reconstruction after Hurricane Wilma. Also in 2005, Jim and a contingent from the Flathead went to Chile, near Valparaiso, to build a church. During this time, he struggled to cope with Parkinson's disease. Yet the workers and the countrymen of Chile were amazed at his strength and stamina.

and wife, Jacob and Tatyana Landis whose three children Maverick, Stetson and Wren were a source of joy and entertainment to him. Jim's other grandson and wife Damian Hurst and Serina Van Curan have three boys, Zachary, John and Matthew, who also love to hunt. His granddaughter Andrea just graduated from high school in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Jim Landis lived a full-filled and giving life.

There will be a memorial service to remember his life at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Hillside Church, 5685 Highway 93 south of Whitefish.

Jim was not a big fan of cut flowers. Any donations can be made to the Hillside Church.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Joanne Ogle LaPalm, 87

Joanne was born in Butte on Dec. 1, 1931, "and it was only when she returned to the arms of her Lord and beloved husband, Ken LaPalm, on April 25, 2018, did she find a better place than Butte."

Graduating from Butte High School and raising three children on the flats below the "Richest Hill on Earth," Mom focused on family and nourishing their souls and bodies with love, mountains of home baked food, and the grounding connection of the wild places explored and enjoyed every weekend throughout the fast fleeing years. Miners Lake in the Big Hole reverberated with her whistled tunes and the hum of her Shakespeare reel as she kept the honor of pulling in the most fish, supplying the dinner table with crisp and delicious delicacies cooked on top of the campfire skillet.

Her son Ken tells it best: "The recent loss of our Mother has resulted in a sudden loss of body weight for my sister and I. Not as a result of the tremendous grief, but



will forever continue in her family. The days, hours and years are filled with incredible memories

forged and molded by Mom. We will never cease to relive them, or recall their lessons.

Mom left many members of this family behind, Addrien Marx, her oldest daughter and her husband Jim McLean; and the youngest favorite Ken LaPalm with his wife Lisa Marrow. Words are too weak and hearts too tender to begin to describe the essence of our mother. Rita Stetzner, sister-in-law, much more aptly called sister, with the bond of family and support shared. Then her Kenneth James Herrly, "KJ," Laurie's son, a true highlight in Mom's life and unwavering focus. The last five years the tables were turned and KJ was a true support for her in her battle of loneliness for her missing soul mate. Grandchildren, each were precious as a

singular, highly valued gift to Mom. We felt that our family had to have about 400 immediate family members — but really it was a few less: Addrien's children, Tom Leonard, and his loving wife, Clair, both a wonderful rainbow and constant warming sunshine for Mom. Laurie Joe Thornton and her husband Ash, the first granddaughter and Mom so loved to hear about Laurie's adventures achievements with their calls that filled the distance between. Erin Johnshoy, a mainstay in loving visits and happy moments in Mom's thirst for family. Erin provided that special connection of knowing that presence sometimes is all we require — it was given. Grandson Trenton Marx always made Mom laugh with his boyish pranks and in later his years of raising his own son, she watched them both with admiration and joy. Kyle Marx and wife Shana, adding to the feeling of family. Mom needed family and we supplied. Ken's children, Ashleigh was a

late comer — but Mom as was typical, opened her warmth and heart in welcome. Ken's four boys, Cody, Clint, Cole and Clay Anderson. Their growing-up years were a source hilarious amusement with the stories of lively antics and explorations! Great-grandkids were a special gift and treasure to Mom. Their visits lightened up her days, filled her life with laughter and the most tender and pure moments of love. She was gifted with company, stories, treats and tokens of care — constantly. Tom and Clair's — Tommy, Brighid, Larry. Erin's — Madison and Monika. Trenton's — Benjamin. Kyle and Shauna's — Finnian and Sarah. Ashleigh and Jed's Leighla and Whisper.

Mom was preceded in death by Laura Herrly, her middle child now reunited after waiting for Mom for just over 10 years and Laurie's Emerson that is being held by her now in heaven's peace.

Mom requested no service be held, but families and friends have gathered

in various locations and phone calls shared. Mom is filled with reunions long desired and can guide those left behind with her love and lessons given.

"Rest in peace and joy,

Mom. Say howdy to our sister Laurie for us and we will say howdy to her son KJ. Your recipes will be served, your stories repeated, and your love is already eternal."

from her abrupt ending of our food consumption. Mom's delight was feeding everyone her home cooked goodies and that said, feeding was perpetual and constant until fleeing from the home as quickly as your overstuffed hide would allow would be your only hope."

Mom enjoyed her employment at Metals Bank, but focused on recalling stories of the uptown personalities and the fun she had with friends. The traditions and values realized and shared with awe in life's simple and abundant joys

## DeLyle L. Larson, 74

DeLyle L. Larson was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on Sept. 23, 1943, and slipped away peacefully on Aug. 30, 2018, at his home. He was raised in Clear Lake, South Dakota, where he graduated high school. He served in the Army in Germany from 1965 to 1967.

He excelled at the Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, Vocational Sign Painting program, which led to a career in painting.

He married Cathy Wolverton on June 25, 1982, and welcomed their only child, Kimberly, in Jamestown, North Dakota, in 1986. They moved west in 1989, eventually settling in Heron, Montana, where they co-owned and operated the Maverick House Cafe on Highway 200 near Bull River. A chance encounter in 1994 led to a deep and lasting work relationship and friendship when he painted his first logging truck for Wayne Dykstra



Logging, Inc.

DeLyle and Cathy moved to Thompson Falls in February 2006.

DeLyle loved his family above all. He adored his grand-

children and so loved being their "Papi." As important as family was, DeLyle's home was truly his castle. He was an independent man who lived a rich but simple life by choice.

DeLyle was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and wife. He is survived by his daughter, Kim Martinez (Luke), two grandchildren, Elena and Cole, of Kalispell, and son, Trevor, of Minnesota.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, at Heron Baptist Church.

## Florence 'Flora' Lauman, 97

Florence "Flora" Lauman passed away on Jan. 9, 2018, at the Prestige Assisted Living in Kalispell, at the age of 97.

She was born to George and Florence Lanfear Bruce on May 15, 1920, in Plummer, Idaho.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Bill on July 23, 1986; and her sister Emeline Kinniburgh on Feb. 6, 1980.

At the age of 4 her family moved to Kila, first living on Brown's Meadow Road and later moving to the town of Kila. Flora attended Kila School and then received the rest of her education in Kalispell.

She worked at the post office and store until she met Bill. On April 14, 1938, she married Willis Lauman in Kalispell.

In 1942 Bill, Flora and little Dale packed up and moved to Somers. Bill was employed by Glacier Park Co. in Kila and the Somers Tie Plant for 39 years. Flora was a stay-at-home mom and wife. She lived 73 years in Somers before moving to Kalispell. You could usually find Flora tending to her garden and flowers. She always welcomed the neighbor dogs and loved



to visit with anyone who stopped in; no one was a stranger. She loved the com-

pany but it was really us who enjoyed the time as she had so much history and information to share.

Flora had quite the collection of journals and scrapbooks that she tended to daily for decades. Flora also had quite the collection of antique glass bottles and many other eclectic collectables. In her spare time, you could find her at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee and her deck of cards for solitaire.

Flora is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Dale and Lois Lauman, of Lakeside, family and friends.

Cremation has taken place and a graveside service is planned for 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13, at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the charity of your choice in Flora's name.

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

## Doris Lauzon, 92

Doris Lauzon, loving mother and devoted wife, passed away on Friday, April 6, 2018, at the age of 92.

Doris lived a very active and fulfilled life with her family always being the center of her focus. Doris was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, in March 1926. She and our father, Leo, built their first home in 1950 but then moved to California in 1954 to enjoy the sunny weather and seek new adventures in life.

Doris worked for 25 years as a dental assistant and later as an office manager for a large group of dentists in Long Beach, California. After an early retirement she enjoyed many happy times with Dad and family at their river home in Lake Havasu, Arizona. Riding dune buggies, shooting shotguns and boating at Havasu were just some of the things she enjoyed. Cooking for family especially around the holidays was another passion and a table setting was always there



for anyone who needed a great meal.

She lived to Whitefish and lived there from

November 2013 until passing last week. Doris is preceded in death by her parents, Alma and Elisee Houde, her husband and the love of her life, Leo, as well as her sister Rita and brother Raymond. She is survived by her loving sons, Mark and Dennis, her daughters-in-law Sheri and Shawna, her grandchildren Vanessa, Veronica and Erin, nieces Vivian and Claire.

Viewing will be at Darlington Mortuary in Kalispell at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 10. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 11. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery, Orange, California, on April 17.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Doris' family.

## David Roy Lawrence, 61

David Roy Lawrence, 61, passed away on Wednesday, July 11, 2018, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell surrounded by his loved ones.

He was born on April 7, 1957, in Polson, to James Elmer and Helen Fracene (Morigeau) Lawrence. David was raised in Kalispell where he attended Flathead High School and graduated in 1975.

David was a logger



for 20-plus years and a carpenter by trade.

He loved camping, hunting and, in general, loved

being in the woods and took every opportunity he could to be there.

He married Kathy Turner in 1976 until 1981, and they had one child. In 1982 he then met and married Patty Mellem

Gronley, had three children, and remained married until 2015.

David was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister, Francine Smith.

He is survived by his children, Brandon Lawrence of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Mandy Lawrence, Kyle Lawrence and Austin Lawrence, all of Kalispell. He is also survived by his brother Jim Lawrence, and sister Heidi Currier. He also leaves behind his

partner Cheyenne, numerous nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, loved ones and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, July 21, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

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.

## Donna C. Lazar, 91

Donna C. Lazar, 91, passed away peacefully at The Springs in Whitefish and was welcomed into heaven on Oct. 29, 2018. Donna lived a long, wonderful life and will be dearly missed by her family and friends.



walks to get ice cream, and most especially passing on the fine art of lefse making.

Of course, they also relished their not so infrequent shopping trips with Michelle. Donna also had a knack for sewing. Whether it was prom dresses or dance costumes, her stitches were perfect.

She very much enjoyed a long fall walk shuffling through the leaves making her way downtown for a cup of coffee before heading back home.

Donna was preceded in death by her husband Mike; her parents; her brother LeRoy "Salty" Prichard, and sisters Merrie Thompson and Darlene Smith.

She is survived by her daughter, Michelle (David) Larson, of Marion; her granddaughter Courtney ("Ade" folarin) Ademosu, great-grandson Ayomide Mikail, and great-granddaughter, Simisola Grace of Vancouver, Washington; step-grandchildren Hollister Larson of Kalispell, Kymberly Larson of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and Jeffrey Larson of Ridgewood, New Jersey, and their families; niece Suzanne Marshall of Bozeman, and nephew Neal Prichard of Bismarck, North Dakota, and their families; and

Donna was born March 14, 1927, in Minot, North Dakota, to Letha Albin Prichard and Peter "Dewey" Prichard. She graduated from Minot High School in 1945. Shortly after graduation Donna moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked for the U.S. Department of the Navy. It was there that she met and fell in love with U.S. Navy Storekeeper First Class Mikail "Mike" Lazar and shortly after they married on Oct. 5, 1946. Following Mike's discharge from the Navy, Donna told him about a beautiful little town in Montana where her aunt and uncle had a cabin on a lake.

They quickly realized this was where they wanted to put down roots and so their life together began in Whitefish. The picturesque small town was also a perfect place to raise their daughter, Michelle.

Donna enjoyed a long tenure with the Whitefish School District where she worked first as a secretary to the high school principal and later for the district superintendent.

After her retirement in 1983, you could find her at the Whitefish Lake Golf Club almost every day the warm sun was shining. Then, when the long Montana winters rolled around she and Mike were off to Arizona where they met up with

family and friends to live the fun "snowbird" lifestyle.

One of Donna's greatest joys was her granddaughter Courtney. Donna spent time helping her improve her golf game, baking their favorite gingersnap cookies, taking scenic

granddog Jack.

Donna's family would like to thank the extraordinary team at The Springs at Whitefish. Their love and care are second to none. Thank you also to the Frontier Hospice nurses and staff for her end of life care and comfort.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9, at First Presbyterian Church, 301 Central Ave, Whitefish.

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

## Brian J. Lazorishak, 46

Brian J. Lazorishak, 46, of Whitefish, passed away Tuesday, March 27, 2018, while saving his oldest daughter Elena Lazorishak from drowning at Olivine Pools in Maui, Hawaii.

Brian was a devoted and loving husband, father and godfather. He loved his wife and daughters fiercely, and everything he did was for them. He was a selfless, generous man who would help anyone in need.

Brian took care of many people in different ways during his life. Everyone who knew him would say he was a man of his word.

Brian was born Aug. 11, 1971, in Pittsburgh and grew up in Guys Mills, Pennsylvania. He was an avid Steelers fan who "bled black and gold." He held a Bachelor of Science degree in business and psychology from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and



Chartered Market Technician (CMT) designations.

Brian and his family relocated to Whitefish from Charlottesville, Virginia, in December 2015. He was a senior portfolio manager with Stack Financial Management (SFM). Brian had a strong work ethic and loved working at SFM where he felt valued and connected to everyone there.

It was Brian's dream to live in Montana. He often traveled from Virginia to Montana just to fly fish. Living in the Big Sky brought him joy. He loved fishing, hiking, rafting and boating, and enjoyed being on the water.

Brian was easygoing and rolled with life. He looked at challenges as learning experiences and would often be heard say-

ing, "It builds character," when things were tough.

Brian is survived by his wife Christine Lazorishak, and daughters Elena and Karina Lazorishak, of Whitefish; mother, Janice Jacklett and stepfather Jack Jacklett, of Guys Mills; father, Frank Lazorishak and stepmother Debbie Lazorishak, of Fort Meyers, Florida; and brother, Jay Lazorishak, a federal law enforcement officer, of Parker, Colorado.

Friends will be received from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 6, at Christ Lutheran Church, 5150 River Lakes Pkwy., Whitefish, MT 59937. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 6, also at Christ Lutheran Church.

Memorial contributions may be made, in lieu of flowers, to N Kama Kai (<https://nakamakai.org>), an organization in the process of establishing an ocean safety fund in Hawaii to

prevent future tragedies; or to Shepherd's Hand in Whitefish (<http://shepherdshand.com>).

When traveling to Maui, please be safe. A beautiful sight is not worth a life.

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



## Margery A. Mills Faulkner Lee, 79

Margery A. Mills Faulkner Lee, 79, died June 10, 2018, of natural causes in Kalispell at Welcov Assisted Living.

Margery was born Nov. 23, 1938, to Jim and Dorothy Mills in Emmett Idaho.

Margery was married to Leroy Faulkner. They were married in 1955 until his death in 1972. They had five sons. She then married James A. Lee in 1973 and they were married until his death in 2008. They had no children together, but Jim had six children she took on as her own, one being a baby.

Marge survived leukemia in 1978. Marge truly enjoyed her Red Hat activities. She was active in the Church of Christ, and always had enough food to feed an army. She was not content unless she was doing something to help or meeting new people. She loved going to the food bank and helping whenever she could or was needed. She held multiple positions in the United States Postal Service, ending her career as a postal supervisor in Kalispell.

Margery was a mother to 11 children and one that she claimed as her own, grandmother to 34 and a great-grandmother to 31-plus. She knew everyone's birthdays and anniversaries.

Margery was diagnosed with dementia and then Alzheimer's. She slowly began to lose her ability to remember things. She always treated people as if they were family, so it wasn't hard for her to feel comfortable doing that



even if she wasn't sure who someone was.

She was preceded in death by her mother, father,

husbands, LeRoy and Jim, daughter Geraldine, and grandchildren, David and Joe.

She is survived in death by her siblings, Earl Mills (Jeanine), Jim Mills (Cozette) and Virginia Ewing (Monty); her children, Lawrence and Connie Faulkner of Kalispell, Mark and Betsy Faulkner of Fredericksburg, Virginia, Jacki and Jim Sverdrup of Lakeside, Jerry and Marinda Faulkner of Surprise, Arizona, Jim and Debbie Lee of Gig Harbor, Washington, Russell Faulkner of Lacey, Washington, Mark and Shelly Lee of Chattaroy, Washington, Dan and Paige Lee of Spokane, Richard Faulkner of Missoula, Sheri and Geoff Lukasik of Miles City, and Ken and Chrysta Maresh of Spokane.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to the Flathead Food Bank in memory of Margery Lee.

Services will be Friday, June 15, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with burial at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Services begin at 2 p.m. A reception will follow and will be announced.

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.

## David Allen Leger, 65

David Allen Leger, 65, of Kalispell, passed away Jan. 20, 2018.

Dave discovered America on March 21, 1952, and the place hasn't been the same since. He was born in Akron, Ohio, and then the family moved to East Helena before he started school. He received his education in East Helena, and his higher education consisted of about three days at Carroll College, after which he earned several advanced degrees from the school of hard knocks.

He worked at a farm store in Livingston for a few years before settling in the Kalispell area where he worked for UPS for 30 years. Dave had a green thumb and, after his retirement from UPS, he worked at Plantland, Hooper's and the Conrad Mansion maintaining their landscaping. He found great pleasure in his own houseplants, landscaping and gardening.

He was a generous



and caring person and, if you could count on him as a friend, you had

something special.

He loved hunting, fishing, live music, travel, and anything to do with Montana.

He was preceded in death by his parents Lois and Harlow Leger, and his brother Rick Leger.

He left behind a sister Judith, and brother Gary, numerous nieces and nephews, and Dorothy Pruid and her family.

A gathering to remember Dave will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Conrad Mansion.

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.

## Charles 'Charlie' Lester III, 66

Charles "Charlie" Lester III, 66, passed away at his self-built home in Bigfork on Aug. 3, 2018, of cardiac arrest.

Charlie was born to Ida and Charles in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and raised in the Hudson Valley region of New York, where he lived most of his life.

He worked for IBM Flight Operations for 24 years and was an avid private pilot, holding various ratings including an instructor rating. Having been very mechanically inclined throughout his life, he was passionate about firearms, race cars, airplanes and boats. Upon



retirement he took up gunsmithing and was the chairman of the Bigfork gun club.

He is survived by his wife Christine, son Charles "Chuck," and two grandchildren Cora and Charles "Chase."

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.

## Robert Gene "Loop" Letourneau, 85

Robert passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Robert Gene Letourneau was born June 22, 1932, in Minneapolis to Gloria Letourneau.

Robert graduated from Marshall High School in 1951. He participated in various sports, but his first love was baseball. He was drafted by the Boston Red Sox after high school but chose to enlist in the Air Force where he spent three years in the Korean War as a lead gunner on a B-29. After the Korean War, he served six years in the Air Force Reserves.

Robert continued to play baseball while in the Air Force, traveling all over Asia to compete against other units. He also played against the touring MLB players that made an appearance



in Asia. Robert said that their team bus was a converted World War II B-17.



After being honorably discharged, he was re-introduced to Beverly Dunn, a high school classmate. They were married in 1961. Together



they raised two sons. Robert was a devoted son, husband and father that cherished the family life.

In 1959, Robert received his diploma from the Academy of Accounting in Minneapolis. He prepared

income taxes for family and friends. He would travel to their homes and provide this service well after he retired. Robert's day job was with Leef Brothers Industrial Laundry for 25 years. His job consisted of sales and delivery. Robert retired from Leef Brothers in 1995.

After Robert's playing days ended, he turned to coaching baseball. He started coaching at Farview Park in North Minneapolis. When they moved to Osseo, he moved up to Mickey Mantle and then to the American Legion level. One of his biggest accomplishments was being manager of the 1993 and 1995 American Legion Post No. 172 World Series teams, finishing in third place in 1995. Robert was elected into the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003.

In 1995 Robert and

Beverly purchased their dream lake home on 3rd Crow Wing Lake in Nevis, Minnesota. Many weekends were spent working on their cabin home, entertaining friends and family, relaxing and fishing. They moved to their lake home full time in 2005. In 2011, they moved to Kalispell to be closer to family.

Robert is survived by his wife Beverly, sons Terry (Kathy), Gregg (Dawn), and other loving relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

A special thank you to the staff at the Montana Veterans Home for providing Robert with such wonderful care.

Please visit [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to leave condolences for the family. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Allan James Levenson, 73

Allan James Levenson was born Aug. 29, 1944, in Sherburn, Minnesota, and died May 3, 2018, in Whitefish.

He was preceded in death by his parents Vernon and Leona.

He is survived by his dear friend Pam Green, brothers Dennis, Darell and Rick, and sisters Retha and Renee Ward. Renee lives in Kalispell.

Al said he was born because there was an extra seat on a tractor. He left the farm in the mid-1960s and arrived in Montana with little more than a farmer's work ethic.

He worked various jobs in the valley. He dabbled in carpentry when possible, but slow-growth Whitefish of those days offered few opportunities. He operated Big Mountain's early snow grooming equipment. Repairing grooming equipment on the slopes at night during storms persuaded Al to learn to ski and join the ski patrol.

Al and Mike Conklin joined forces and began building houses. The two ski bums persevered through lean years in a partnership that lasted decades. The two "old school builders" turned out quality homes. Many customers have fond memories of sitting at the job site at day's end drinking beer with Al and Mike. They watched their home rise from piles of lumber as they became friends with these two characters — and characters they



there that they met with their subcontractors to discuss their projects.

They never advertised or put a sign in front of their projects. Instead they depended on word of mouth, their reputation and their longevity in Whitefish.

Carrying a sandwich in his nail pouch, Al would grab a bite now and then as they seldom stopped for lunch.

Few friends knew about Al's health problems. He kept it to himself. Matt and Bambi Cole, his neighbors, checked in on him as

did Pam Green. Kidney failure forced him to move in with Pam in Whitefish. Pam cared for him during his last weeks. Pam, Matt and Bambi, Mike Conklin and Pat Muri drove Al to Kalispell for daily dialysis.

Hopes of arresting the kidney failure failed. On May 3, Al collapsed while Pam helped him dress.

Whitefish benefited when Al left that tractor seat and the farm. His friendship, his admirable work ethic and understated sense of humor will be remembered. His friends will celebrate the good fortune to have known him at his beloved home in Haskell Basin at 2 p.m. June 3.

were.

Hollywood discovered Whitefish. Jim Nabors aka Gomer Pyle, moved to Whitefish and chose Mike and Al to build his home.

"Yeah, we have become carpenters for the stars" they would joke in the evenings at their "office," the Great Northern Bar. It was

## Tammy Lewis, 51

Tammy Lewis, 51, passed away May 31, 2018, at 12:33 p.m., peacefully at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

She was born in Whitefish on March 29, 1967, to Gene Raymond Kelch and Lucy Kelch.

Tammy has two wonderful children, David Lewis and Theresa Linn, and an amazing son-in-law, Cole Linn, of Kalispell. Felicity Anne Linn and Harper Edward Raymond Linn are her two amazing grandchild-



dren given to her by Theresa Linn and Cole Linn. She had tons more young adults that looked up to her as a mother figure.

Tammy has a sister, Vernice Lund, brother in-law Mark Lund, and a younger brother William Kelch, from Flathead and Lincoln counties.

She has an amazing

niece Amanda Shepard, amazing nephews Russell Brauer and Robert Brauer, and a ton of cousins, Steve Shiflett, Casey Kelch are just a few to mention. Her aunt is Sandy Shiflett.

Tammy worked at Connector Technology Incorporated as a laborer until the time she "was given her wings." She loved her job and took pride in everything and everyone she saw on a daily basis, and called them her second family.

Tammy enjoyed drawing, painting, knitting, fishing and, most of all, taking care of her grandchildren. She enjoyed the small things in life.

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.

## Walle Way Lindsay, 78

Walle Way Lindsay, 78, passed away in the comfort of his own home surrounded by the love of his family on Nov. 19, 2018.

Walle was born Feb. 18, 1940, to J.L. and Vera Way Lindsay in Tacoma, Washington, and attended Missoula County High School, where he met the love of his life Mary Louise Cadieux. Walle traveled extensively while growing up, which gave him the travel bug he would carry throughout his entire life.

Walle was a loving father, husband, grandfather and friend to everyone. He worked in sales which moved the family across Montana to Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri and eventually back home to the Flathead Valley of Montana in 1977-78 where he purchased OK Hardware in the then Gateway West Mall, where he would meet many lifelong friends that still remain friends to this day. In 1981, Walle started a very successful marketing business, Lindsay & Associates.

Walle spent much of his free time golfing, traveling, painting, writing, taking long walks and being active in local political campaigns. One of his favorite pastimes was meeting good friends for coffee. He could talk for hours and tell the best stories about his life that most people would think he had made up but were (most always) true! He had an extraordinary life filled with travel and adventure. From owning and working a goldmine in Whitehall, Montana, which landed him on the cover of the Wall Street Journal, to his manufacturing company in the Dominican Republic where so many memories would be created.

After retiring, Walle



and Mary Lou would spend the winter months in Hawaii for several years before purchasing

a second home in Fountain Hills, Arizona, which they would continue to enjoy until Walle's health would no longer allow it. These trips created some of the happiest memories the entire family will keep with them forever.

Walle was preceded in death by his parents, J.L. and Vera.

Walle is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Lou; brothers, Myke Lindsay and Reggie Lindsay; sons, Von Lindsay, Bret Lindsay and Wade Lindsay; and daughter, Suzy Lindsay-Moore and husband Keith Moore; his loving grandchildren, Danyelle Ware and husband Pierce, Meagan Lindsay, Clay Lindsay and Taylor Lindsay; and of course his best friend and faithful walking partner Peanut, along with many extended family and dear friends.

A special thank you to the people at Home Options Hospice in Kalispell for their loving care and support during his final days. Also, the family would like to extend their sincerest gratitude toward Dr. Tom Caughlan for years of professional care and friendship.

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

Donations may be made in Walle's memory to Mikayla's Miracles and Blessings, P.O. Box 2868 Kalispell, MT 59903.

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

## Lyle Gene Lindsley, 84

Lyle Gene Lindsley, 84, passed away on Wednesday, June 5, 2018, at Genesis in Whitefish.

Lyle was born Nov. 6, 1933, in Alexander, North Dakota, to Ervin and Floy (Scheidler) Lindsley. Lyle attended school in North Dakota and Sidney, Montana.

He married Arlene Hansen in Missoula on July 3, 1953.

Lyle worked for the Missoula Furniture Mart before he was drafted into the Navy in 1955, serving two years during the Mediterranean Crisis where he entered Russian ships going to Cuba to inspect their cargo.

After Lyle was discharged from the Navy he worked for Plum Creek Lumber Company in Columbia Falls, then went to work for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company where he retired in 1997 after 38 years and four months. While working for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant he earned his GED and took college classes.

Lyle was very community involved with groups such as Our Savior Church officers, Columbia Falls City Council, Police Commissioner board, Trinity Lutheran Church elder and officer, coach for baseball with his brother Dick, Pee Wee and Babe Ruth plus tournament teams, foster



parenting, young Democrats offices, local Foster Parent Association, and the Boys Group Home in Kalispell.

Lyle had many hobbies, which included fishing, rafting, hunting, camping, spending time at Spotted Bear for anniversaries, snowmobiling, motorcycling, and time at the cabin on Duck Lake.

Lyle was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Robert, Dick, Gary and Ervin; and sister, Shirley Day.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Arlene Lindsley; sons, David Scott (Patti), of Texas, and Robert "Bob" (Kim) of Kalispell; daughter Judy (Bob) of Kalispell; foster daughter Renee (Steve) of Kalispell; grandchildren, Bawnie, CJ, Randi, Robert, Mandi, Elizabeth, Kaitlyn, Samantha and BJ; and great-grandchildren, Cody, Cameron, Sawyer, Joshua, James and Sebastian.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 9, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Thomas W. Little, 80

It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Tom Little on Jan. 29, 2018, surrounded by family in Phoenix.

Tom is survived by his wife, Carolyn; his sons, Shawn (Capri), Ryan (Wanda), Scott, and Monty (Sabrina); and daughter, Kimberly (Tim); as well as his much cherished nine grandchildren, McKinnon, Lane, Augusta, Nathaniel, Grant, Griffin, Grace, Sydney and Andrew, who will all miss him. He will also be missed by his sister Jacqueline Smith (Pat), and numerous nieces and nephews. Tom is the son of the late Jack and Edna Little, formerly of Great Falls.

Tom had a wonderful life where his family came first. He accumulated friends from all corners of the world and maintained these cherished friendships throughout his life.

Tom was born in Great Falls on May 30, 1937. Tom made his home in Kalispell where



he raised his family and was the owner of Snow Line Tree Company. He was actively

involved in the quarter horse industry and an honorary vice president of the American Quarter Horse Association for the state of Montana. He proudly served on the Flathead County Fair board for 10 years and was a longstanding member of the Elks Club.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial gifts may be made to the general scholarship fund of the American Quarter Horse Foundation. Gifts may be telephoned to 806-378-5029, or mailed to American Quarter Horse Foundation, P.O. Box 32111, Amarillo, Texas 79120.

A celebration of life is being planned for this summer where Tom's many friends and family will gather, with the date to follow.

## Jerry Lee Louterback, 70

Jerry Lee Louterback was born Jan. 4, 1948, in Littlefield, Texas, to Jimmie and Irene Louterback.

Jerry passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 22, 2018, at his home in Elk, Washington.

Jerry grew up in southern California and quickly became a competitive athlete setting many school records at Bellflower High. He became an entrepreneur at a young age and found that he was successful at managing restaurants. He and his older brother, Ron, owned American Family Steakhouses in California. Jerry married Paulette Pierce and had two children, Jimmy Lee and



Sherene.

They later divorced and Jerry moved to Kila where he pursued his dream

of owning a horse ranch and living a simpler life. He married Julie Drexler and had a daughter, Jessica. Julie and Jerry became restaurant owners in Kalispell in 1986 with the Sportsman's. Four years later they opened Julie's Restaurant and Saloon.

When Jerry wasn't busy running two successful restaurants he enjoyed riding horses. He and Julie put in a huge arena

behind Julie's Restaurant and began hosting regular o-mok-sees and eventually team pennings. It was not uncommon to drive by the restaurant every weekend in the summer and see hundreds of people riding and watching. Jerry worked hard and played hard and made countless friends doing what he loved. He remained an intense competitor and earned numerous buckles, jackets, blankets and plaques.

Jerry and Julie divorced in 2000 and, two years later, Jerry closed the restaurant and moved to Elk. He spent the remaining 15 years of his life living a quieter dream, training horses

and giving riding lessons on his small ranch. He loved the slower pace of life and being able to invest in the people around him. He had many friends and all will feel his absence deeply.

Jerry leaves behind his three children, Jim, Jessica and Sherene, and his older brother Ron (Therese).

Jerry was preceded in death by his mother, Irene, his father, Jim, and his stepfather, Doug.

A celebration of Jerry's life will be held in May.

In lieu of flowers or donations, please honor the memory of Jerry by saddling up your horse and going for a ride.

## Rodney Duane Lowitz, 57

Rodney Duane Lowitz, 57, "went to be with the Lord" on June 30, 2018.

He was born on Oct. 1, 1960, in Kalispell to Bud Lowitz and Lamona (Claridge) Meyers. He grew up in Kalispell, helping on the farm. He had a passion for horses. He cruised his motorcycles at a young age around the neighborhood. He loved being outdoors, camping, fishing and enjoying life in the woods. His teen years he worked at Rainbow Texaco in Kalispell. He could never get enough of engines and grease. Just out of high school he married Karen Peterson. They spent a lifetime of 38 years together. He had an opportunity to learn to drive truck with LHC; this was something he absolutely loved to do. He drove the water truck for awhile. Late nights and being chased by bears were fun for him. He hauled logs and pulled doubles down Thompson River Road for many years.

Rod and Karen had two amazing daughters, raised their family on the farm for many years and moved to Kalispell.

He had too many close calls driving truck; it was at that time he decided to join the family business at Lowitz Custom Shoppe. He was the automotive



upholstery expert. He worked at the shop until he became disabled.

He enjoyed spending time with family, watching his grandkids grow up and just loving what Marion had to offer, living in the "woods."

"Dad, the hardest part isn't losing you, the hardest part is learning to live without you."

He was preceded in death by his mom, Lamona (Claridge) Meyers.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Lowitz; daughters, Danielle (Dustin) Bowen, and Nicole (Matt) Tindale, with grandbabies Kaitlynn and Ryker; dad, Bud (Toni) Lowitz; brother, Dave (Melanie) Lowitz; sister, Lisa (Charlie) Sweet; and many nieces and nephews, uncles, aunts and cousins.

"We know your love will always be with us. May the Lord bless you and keep you."

We will be hosting a celebration of Rod's amazing life at 3 p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 4, at 1045 Conrad Drive, Community Center, with dinner following. He didn't want a funeral, just a "cheers" to say see you later.

## Della Fenby Luckow, 87

Della passed away on Aug 21., 2018, in a nursing home in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, due to a stroke she suffered in April.

She was born in Kalispell on Dec. 22, 1930, to Ray and Gertie Fenby of Swan Lake. She was raised in Swan Lake, and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1947.

Della married Carl Luckow October of 1949 and lived in the Swan until moving to Salmon Arm in 1964. She lived there the rest of her life. She was very active in her community, was a very hard worker, and would rather be outside

than in. Della was an avid hunter in her younger years.

Della is survived by two daughters and their families, Rita Every and Marla Drader, four grandchildren and six "great-grands"; her sister Patricia Luckow, nephew Kyle Luckow, nieces Tracy Gordon and Tooie Johnston and families, and three special cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband Carl, parents Ray and Gertie Fenby, brother-in-law Swede Luckow, and other relatives.

To know her was to love her. She was a very special person.

## Ernest "Ernie" Walter Luke, 60

Ernest "Ernie" Walter Luke, 60, passed away in his home in Columbia Falls on July 7, 2018 after a brief battle with cancer.

He was born Sept. 28, 1957, to Clifford and Roberta Luke (Wilhelm). He was the oldest of their four children, alongside Marilyn Cooper (Luke), Colleen Oden (Luke), and Ken Luke.

Ernie graduated from Polson High School in 1975 and attended the University of Montana. He was a radar technician in the Air Force and later came back home to work for Plum Creek in locations across Northwest Montana. An avid outdoorsman, he worked for the Forest Service and spent many summers away from home fighting forest fires across the state and country. Ernie was also hand-picked to join the cleanup of the Space Shuttle Columbia debris over Texas, a project he was very proud of.

He had one child, Nathan Luke, in 1988 with Barbara "Jo" Luke (Williams). They lived all over western Montana before settling in



Columbia Falls for the last 20 years of his life.

He spent his free time hunting, fishing, camping and making log furniture in his shop. He



also loved music, playing a variety of instruments including lead trumpet in high school, college, and beyond.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his son, siblings, numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and countless other family and friends that cared deeply for him.

In lieu of flowers, he would have wanted you to enjoy life in Montana. Go camping, cut down a tree and plant another, make something with your hands. Make the world a better place and keep it beautiful.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Ralph Ivan Luke, 75

Ralph Ivan Luke, 75, passed away at his home in Polson on Sept. 2, 2018.

Ralph was born in Kalispell on May 23, 1943, to LeRoy and Vivian Luke. His family moved to Polson in 1952 where he graduated from Polson High School in 1961. After graduation he attended Montana State University for two years before leaving to join the Air Force. He later completed his degree from Central Washington University.

He left the Air Force to return to Polson to help care for his father and there he met and married his wife Lynda in 1969. His job as an air traffic controller took them to Hillsboro, Oregon, and eventually to Spokane where their son Erik was born in 1979. After the controller strike in 1981 they returned to Polson where he worked at the lumber mill and then Super 1 until cancer forced him to retire.

While in the Air Force in California, Ralph became an avid British sports car fan and loved racing his Austin Healy in the sports car club. He had a love for flying and



obtained his private pilot's license while working in Hillsboro. Ralph also started working with the Boy Scouts while in California.



After moving to Polson, he became very involved with the Scouts as a Scoutmaster and served on the Boy Scout Council until his health made it too hard to continue.

He was preceded in death by his father LeRoy "Bud," his mother Vivian, and his brothers Bill and Cliff.

He is survived by his wife Lynda, his son Erik and his wife Stacy, his sister Carol Richmond, his brother Duane and wife Elanie, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Instead of flowers, donations should be made to the charity of your choice.



## Margaret Mary Coates Lundgren, 95

Margaret Mary Coates Lundgren, 95, "went to heaven" on March 24, 2018, "to be with her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

Margaret was born on June 8, 1922, in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Margaret "passed into heaven" while living at The Springs Retirement Center, Whitefish.

Margaret had many hobbies and was very active in Sunday School and church for years in West Glacier. Margaret's greatest passion was serving her

Lord through the Christian Ministry in the National Parks, which she was secretary for many terms.

Margaret was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Everett M. Lundgren; her son, Rob Lundgren; and her son-in-law, Monty Parratt.

Surviving are her daughters, Laurel Lundgren Parratt, Laraine (Lanie) Lundgren, and Helen Lundgren. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A private family burial at the family plot at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery was held recently.

The family requests contributions to charities of your choice.

## Catherine 'Kate' Church Luscher, 86

Catherine "Kate" Luscher passed away at the Valley Manor Care Center, Montrose, Colorado, on Dec. 31, 2017, battling Alzheimer's. She had just celebrated her 86th birthday.

She was born Dec. 29, 1931, in Libby to Margaret and Paul Church. After graduating from Libby High School in 1949, she went on to attend the University of Idaho at Moscow, where she achieved a liberal arts degree in education. She taught high school in Sutherlin, Oregon, prior to her marriage.

On Sept. 18, 1955, Kate married her high school sweetheart, Charles "Bill" Luscher. His career afforded them the opportunity to move countless times all over the United States — Oklahoma, Nevada, Idaho, Virginia, Michigan, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, and finally returning to their home state of Montana upon retirement. During these many moves Kate developed and treasured lifelong friendships, pursued a variety of employment opportunities, served in numerous organizations; Girl Scouts, church committees, PEO, Red Hat Society and tried her hand at a large range of activities — ice skating, bridge, piano, tennis playing, stained glass, doll making, quilting, tap dancing, bell choir, and a love of travel. Kate and Bill, often accompanied by family and friends, traveled to Europe, Hawaii, Alaska, Ireland, Canada and Mexico. Kate was a voracious reader, an avid Denver Bronco



fan, and probably should have had stock in a McDonald's franchise with all of the

McDonald's diet cokes she consumed and savored.

Kate was preceded in death by Bill, her husband of 58 years; her parents; and sister, Helen.

She was the proud mother of three daughters, Jennifer Hurshman (Tom), Pamela Cushman (Mitch) and Molly Edwards (Steve); and seven grandsons and spouses, Derek Hurshman, Jeremy (Rachel) Hurshman, Bryce (Dana) Cushman, Miles (Kirsten) Cushman, Curtis (Rachel) Edwards, Zachary (Kelsey) Edwards and Cameron Edwards; and two great-grandchildren, Beckett and Lyza Cushman; along with numerous cousins, nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Jan. 20, at the Montrose United Methodist Church, Montrose, Colorado. Those attending are encouraged to wear something red, her favorite color. She will be inurned with Bill in the Libby Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to HopeWest Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado, 725 South 4th Street, Montrose, CO 81401; or the Community United Methodist Church, 750 Electric Avenue, Bigfork, MT 59911.

## Patricia Lutz, 94

Patricia Lutz, 94, passed away on Jan. 8, 2018, at Genesis in Whitefish, where she spent the last two months of her life.

Pat was born June 10, 1923, in Fairmont, Minnesota, to Leonard and Pearl Raverty. Childhood ended abruptly at the young age of 11 when she lost her mother and then her father at 13. She and her three sisters were raised by her grandparents and their beloved Aunt Orlene. Pat attended Our Lady of Good Counsel Boarding School; after graduating, she began nursing school but soon realized this was not for her. It was during these early years that Pat's beautiful lifetime faith in and love for Jesus was formed.

Pat arrived in grand style by train in East Glacier Park during the summer of 1945 to work at the lodge then owned by the Great Northern. She instantly captured the heart of Ray "Buzz" Lutz, who saw her disembark from the train that fateful day. They were married Jan. 20, 1946.

They enjoyed a won-



derful life together and East Glacier became a social hub filled with elaborate dinner

parties, hiking, fishing, bridge games, and her notorious walks. All was done with a great attention to fashion and flare.

She and Buzz loved to travel, visiting family and friends, exploring much of this country and abroad.

In 1954 they bought Mike's Place and expanded it many times creating a legacy that became the Glacier Village Restaurant and Villager Steak House. It remained in the family and touched many lives until 2008.

Pat ran the front of the house, instilling in all her great appreciation of fine desserts, food and wine (in that order). Many employees returned season after season and became well trained in the Pat Lutz school of fine etiquette, developing great skills in math and good work ethics.

In 1968 they began to

spend winters on Big Mountain where Buzz was head of the food service for the next 25 years. Skiing became Pat's new passion and she enjoyed it avidly until the ripe age of 79!

If one didn't see Pat skiing they would most likely see her walking. She was born legally blind so walking was always her main mode of transportation and she often walked from the top of Big Mountain into the town of Whitefish, hence one of her many names, "Lady who walked on the Mountain."

In the summer she would pick wildflowers for the tables in the restaurant and often shared special time with her grandchildren and friends evoking their help. She knew the name of every flower and she was often referred to as "The little white haired lady that picked flowers."

She loved nature and all of God's creations and it became her mission that this beauty not be spoiled by littering. She was not bashful about counseling others to do the same. This became

her new title and the one of which she was most proud, "The Garbage Lady of East Glacier."

In 2006 she moved to the Mountain View Manor in Whitefish, where she was very pleased to receive her final title, "The Garbage Lady of Whitefish."

Most people will remember seeing her tooling along in her walker picking up litter, sometimes with an entourage of kids she was training for the next generation! Her family was always amazed how this legally blind woman who couldn't see to recognize people, could see a speck of garbage on the ground!

She was always so proud of her Irish heritage and celebrated it to the max year around. March was always heralded in with great fanfare — decorations, parades, Irish food, and the wearing of green all month! In fact she drew her last breaths hearing that St. Patrick himself might possibly be at the pearly gates alongside Jesus, Buzzy Baby and other loved ones to welcome her into God's

Kingdom!

Pat's beautiful faith inspired many and it was the essence of her very being. She so loved her heavenly Father and appreciated all that he created in nature.

For many, a glorious sunset, a full moon, the stars, mountains, wild flowers or the color green will forever be a reminder of this beautiful lady and a call to be grateful for all that God created. Hopefully we will all be more aware of taking care of this beauty and never see a piece of litter and not pick it up. She would want her legacy to be: Keep it clean, green and eat ice cream!

Pat was preceded in death by her beloved "Buzzy Baby," infant son Steven, parents Leonard and Pearl Raverty, sisters Marvis Fowler and Shiela Appel, granddaughter Shellie Little Dog, Aunt Orlene Raverty and stepmother Margaret Raverty

She is survived by her children, Maureen (Wheeler) Little Dog, Peggy Lutz, and Paul Lutz; grandchildren, Cammie Grace, Matt (Debbie) Little Dog,

Lisa Little Dog, Chip Little Dog, Nathan Little Dog, Tricia Little Dog and Nick Little Dog; great-grandchildren, Alex Little Dog, Anie Larsen, Sophie, Colton and Auston Little Dog, Maddie Grace, Malakai Little Dog; great-great-grandchildren, Leo, Laki and Koda Zitnik; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

The family will always be grateful to the wonderful staff that loved her and took such amazing care of her at Genesis.

A memorial service will be held for her on March 15 (in honor of her special month) at 11 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo in Whitefish.

A celebration of life will be held June 8 in East Glacier Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family desires that donations be made to the Cursillo Movement in Browning, as it was very near and dear to her heart. Please send to Little Flower Parish, Cursillo Movement Attn.: Father Ed Kohler, Browning MT 59417.

## Olive Betty Lyon, 88

A celebration of life for family and friends of Olive Betty Lyon will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 26, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

On Oct. 3, 2017, with her family by her side, Olive Betty Lyon, 88, "joined her beloved husband and other family members in heaven," after complications from several strokes.

She was born on May 21, 1929, in Kalispell, daughter of Oliver and Gertie Frederick. She met her husband, Norman Lyon, at the Blue Moon bar, and was married on Sept. 1, 1956. They raised two daughters, and together they all enjoyed many camping and fishing trips. They were active members of the Eagles, as well as the Evergreen Fire Department.

After retiring in 1991, Norman and Olive enjoyed many excursions traveling from Alaska in the summer to Arizona in the winter. Her travels also included a trip to Norway to meet relatives from her heritage.

For everyone that stopped by for a visit, they could count on being treated to a fresh cup of coffee and Olive's famous sugar cookies! As for family get-togethers, "Grandma" was in charge of the homemade dinner rolls. Interests in her later years included contributing hand-crocheted shawls and afghans to her church for clothing drives.

After the death of her husband, Olive received companionship from June, her lifelong friend of 80 years. Together they spent many hours going for drives, shopping and laughing together.

She is survived by her children, Sandy L.



Krusoff of Kalispell, and her daughters Destiny Townsend, Mikelle Eckley and Carissa

Morton, also Judy Lyon and her daughter Emily Dempsey. She was also blessed with three great-grandchildren whom she cherished dearly.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the caregivers at Heritage Place. Without your care, love and understanding, her last months wouldn't have been as special.

The following poem describes how blessed we all were to have Mom in our lives.

Mother

Like whispering grains of sand, blowing in the wind

Your gentle ways have guided me through all the tears and grins.

Our walks and talks and lots of hugs

Have taught me truth and wisdom

As well as firmly reined in tugs

That saved me from temptations.

The bustles and burdens of each day

Made each moment precious

When I could cuddle in your arms

And tell you all my wishes

Though many years have come and gone

Sweet lullabies and storybooks

Still echo in my dreams

Please know how much I love you, Mom,

For I know that God must see

What perfection he has wrought

In choosing you for me. (author unknown)