

## Barbara Joan Kelley Gallagher, 71

Barbara Joan Kelley Gallagher passed away in her husband's arms on Nov. 29, 2020, after a wrenching three-week battle with COVID-19.

She was born on Aug. 9, 1949, in Santa Clara, California, to John and Elaine (Modine) Kelley. She described her upbringing as "idyllic," surrounded by family, friends, and lots of love.

After graduating from high school, she moved to Seattle where she attended Seattle Pacific College and began a teaching career. After several moves, including a year teaching high school as a missionary in Unalakleet, Alaska, she returned to Seattle. There she discovered her passion for teaching GED preparation to students who didn't thrive in traditional school. Barbara dedicated her teaching career to coming alongside those who were struggling to find a way to help them succeed.

She moved to Kalispell in 1987. She discovered there were laws preventing her from continuing the teaching approach she believed in. In true Barbara fashion, she went to the capital and successfully lobbied to change them. She then found private funding to create the Education Recovery Foundation, Inc., where she was able to help a new generation of students achieve their goals.

A quiet, but skillful leader, Barbara served on the Kalispell City Council in the 1990s. She was committed to working with her colleagues, regardless of political beliefs, to improve the lives of the entire community. She was active in the creation of peer court, a justice program for young people struggling with the law. She served on the boards of multiple human services agencies.



Lawrence Gallagher. They were drawn together by their shared passion for community development and service and their support for one another as they were healing from difficult times in their lives. They married on Valentine's Day in 1997 and eventually moved to Larry's native Helena where Barbara continued to be active in the local community. She was involved in multiple ministries through Life Covenant Church. She and Larry volunteered at Helena Food Share and Barbara also supported the Florence Crittenton Home. Their home was filled with family, friends, laughter and love. Upon moving to the Touchmark retirement community in 2018, she served on their residents' committees. In the past few years, she had also been active in community education about Alzheimer's disease and mental illness. She was generous with her time and talents, always willing to provide any assistance she could to those around her.

It was during her time on the Kalispell City Council that she met her beloved husband,

Barbara loved her family fiercely, whether they arrived through birth, marriage, adoption, or deep friendship. She was especially devoted to her children and grandchildren. Her faith in Christ was foundational to her life, providing a solid footing when times were hard. A good listener, she treated everyone she met with dignity and respect. Barbara was able to balance deep compassion for others with an ability to see the humor in almost any situation. In 2003 Barbara survived a serious car accident and showed grace and grit as she worked to recover.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Larry; children, Kristen (Travis) Moses-Westphal of Middletown, New York; Lara (Kenneth Churcher) Moses of Christchurch, New Zealand; Jonathan Moses of Eugene, Oregon; stepchildren Lawrence Gallagher Jr. of Portland; Lesley (Mike) Gallagher-Tolon of Helena; and Theresa (Harlan) Davis of Helena; her grandchildren, Sean Tippin; Erin

(Kyle Saylor), Cassie, and Hannah Davis; Lymene, Malik, and Elias Moses-Westphal. She is also survived by her siblings, Kathleen (Duane) Quait, of Turlock, California, David (Claudia) Kelley of Seattle, and Ann Kelley of Seattle; nieces, Sara Quait and Christy Quait-Ohlson; along with many Gallagher in-laws. She is also survived by her best chum, Connie Buchanan, of Helena.

The family is very grateful to the entire care team at St. Peter's Hospital for their expert and compassionate care of Barbara.

A private family service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, at Life Covenant Church. If you'd like to attend virtually, you may contact the church for instructions on how to connect.

Memorials in Barbara's name may be made to Helena Food Share or the Florence Crittenton Home.

Please visit [www.aswfuneralhome.com](http://www.aswfuneralhome.com) to offer a condolence to the family or to share a memory of Barbara.

## Calvin 'Cal' Rex Galloway, 91

Calvin "Cal" Rex Galloway, 91, of Kalispell, died on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Graveside services are being held on Dec. 15 at 1 p.m., at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell. Members of the United States Army Honor Guard and the United Veterans of the Flathead will perform military honors.

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

## Matthew William Gallwas, 42

Matthew William Gallwas, 42, died on Monday, June 22, 2020, in Hungry Horse.

He is survived by his children, Spencer, Thatcher and Sheperd

and his mother Jorgi Gallwas.

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

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## Tony Gamma, 36

Tony Gamma, 36, died March 16, 2020 at his home on Ashley Lake. He is survived by his parents Doug and Mary Gamma. Due to coronavirus restrictions, there will be a small family gathering at 2 p.m. on

March 21. There will be a live audio link to the service at [buffalohillfh.com](http://buffalohillfh.com) to sign the guest book and attend the service. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Richard Garey Gardiner, 75

PAS 20 June 2020

Richard Garey Gardiner of Binford, North Dakota, 75, passed away Tuesday, June 16, 2020, in Mesquite, Nevada.

He was born April 28, 1945, in Kalispell to Earl and Katherine (Lighthall) Gardiner.

He married Karen Peterson on Nov. 25, 1972, at West Prairie Church in rural Binford, North Dakota.

Ric was raised in Montana. He attended Evergreen Elementary School and then attended Flathead County High School. Following high school, he briefly attended Gonzaga University. He joined the Navy in March of 1964, then he served with the Marines as a Navy Corpsman Combat Medic. He

fought in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966. He then attended the University of Montana where he majored in creative writing. He attended the Physician's Assistant Medex Program at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks and graduated in 1971. After working as a P.A. in several North Dakota rural clinics, he worked in student health at the university in Vermillion, South Dakota. He served in the National Guard in Vermillion and, while in Las Vegas, he served in the Army Reserve and worked at the Industrial Medical Clinic. While in Las Vegas, he got his Realtor's license and worked in residential real estate. He worked for the Department of Defense and traveled overseas during that time. He worked as a medical officer at the Chemical Weapons Disposal Facility in Tooele, Utah. Then he went to Mesquite, Texas, and worked at Concentra Occupational Health.



He then returned to Las Vegas and continued in commercial real estate. Upon retirement, Ric and Karen moved back to

Binford and enjoyed spending the winter months in Nevada.

Ric traveled all over for business. He was an avid reader and had an extensive book collection in his personal library. His other hobbies included writing poetry and music.

He is survived by his loving wife of over 47 years, Karen Gardiner; cousins, Daniel Bangeman of Somers, Montana, and Nancy Roush of Canton, Ohio; nephew Michael (Cindy) Dunn of Lubbock, Texas; niece, Sandy Dupuy, of Kalispell; sisters-in-law, Phyllis (Larry) of Big Stone City, South Dakota, and Virginia (Ronald) Grove of Grey Eagle, Minnesota; nephews, Paul (Sandy) Grove, Peter (Angie) Grove, Christopher (Vicky) Grove; Timothy (godson) (Kristin) Grove, Aaron (Breck) Grove, Nathan (Amie) Grove, and Joshua (Trisha) Grove; niece, Bethany (Joe) Gieske; and many great-nieces and great-nephews; and a group of Marine buddies with whom he shared a very special bond.

A memorial service will be set for a later date. The family invites you to leave a message or memory on their guestbook at [www.virginvalleymortuary.com](http://www.virginvalleymortuary.com).

# Marilyn G. Garrahan

234 23 Sept 2020 Whitefish Pilot

Marilyn G. Garrahan, 88, passed away at her home due to natural causes Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020, at First Lutheran Church with Pastor Megan Hoewisch officiating. A private family graveside service will be held at Glacier Memorial Gardens at a later date. Marilyn's family has suggested memorial donations be made in her memory to First Lutheran Church. Holland & Bonine Funeral Home has been entrusted with services and arrangements. Please visit Marilyn's online memorial page and leave a message of condolence for her family at [www.holland-bonine.com](http://www.holland-bonine.com).

Marilyn was born April 4, 1932, in Arnegard, North Dakota, to Olai and Blanche



(Hansen) Bolken. Her family moved to Whitefish when she was five, and she graduated from Whitefish High School in 1950. She began studying for a teaching degree at Northern Montana College after graduation, and met her future husband Bill Garrahan shortly thereafter. The couple was married in 1952 at First Lutheran Church. When they

married, Marilyn became part of the family business, Havre Greenhouse and Floral. They sold the business in 1969, and she went to work for Northern Montana College shortly thereafter. She worked in the Registrar's office in a variety of positions, including office manager for the Registrar, and retired after 25 plus years of service to the college.

Marilyn was one-of-a-kind. Her family, friends, and faith were her priorities throughout her life. She was an excellent seamstress, and produced exquisite arts and crafts. She especially enjoyed holidays and food, family, and fun. She also enjoyed retail therapy and "grambling." Marilyn was the personification of grace, faith, joy, and calm, and she was loved by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Garrahan; parents, Olai and Blanche Bolken; and sister, Beverly Thomas.

Marilyn is survived by her daughters, Monica Garrahan and Gretchen Garrahan-Rowin, both of Havre; four grandchildren, Emily, Kayla, Andrea, and Jacob; four great-grandchildren, Ali, Jack, Aria, and Zya; sister, Oris Beaver of Austin, Texas; brother, Wayne (Karla) Bolken of Havre; and several nieces and nephews.

# Nancy Ann McKenzie Garrett, 78

DA 7 26 Aug 2020

Nancy Ann McKenzie Garrett was born June 3, 1942, to Laura Ruppert McKenzie and Edwin McKenzie, Whitefish. Ed had built Bay Point Resort on Whitefish Lake (way before condos). Nancy and her sisters, Faye, Sue and Kona, helped with renting cabins, horse rides and lake tours on "Ranger," the boat Ed built. The family also owned Bay Point Drive In Theatre and Grill.



She graduated in Whitefish in 1960, married Robert Garrett and then came Valli and Curtis all at an early age. Nancy and Bob divorced in 1982. Nancy was a Montana woman who owned her own renovating/decorating business and sold real estate for 51 years, and was in sales of one sort or another her adult life.

She was well-educated and well-read, and had taught writing and real estate classes. Nancy had written for many years, had articles published, and wrote stories and books. She was proud of her two published adventure novels "Bigfoot" and "Bigfoot Returns." Nancy volunteered for many events, sang in

choirs and excelled at whistling. She traveled extensively by buying and selling, visiting family, making many well-loved friends along the way. She loved big family events and dinners regularly. Parkinson's and dementia robbed her last year of life as she resided at Brendan House with her sister Faye, succumbing Friday, July 31, 2020, and Faye had passed away on June 23, 2020.

Nancy is survived by sisters, Sue and Kona; her kids, Valli (Richard) and Curtis (Kathy); grandkids, Brit, Greg, Brianna, Audrey and Kenzie; great-grandkids, Drifter, Autumn, Isaiah, Jonah, Raine, Rylee and Aimsley; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Contribute to your favorite whatever. A family gathering at the Whitefish Cemetery will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, followed by a celebration of life at 12:30 p.m. at the Whitefish Pin-N-Cue Bowling Alley.

# Jean B. Gault, 90

Jean B. Gault, 90, died Feb. 4, 2020, at Echoview Assisted Living in Kalispell. Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Myrtle (Moon) Geis, 95

<sup>PAC</sup>  
Myrtle (Moon) Geis passed on Dec. 16, 2020, in Kalispell at the age of 95.

Myrtle was born to Edley Moon Sr. and Viola (Hill) Moon on Jan. 31, 1925, in Kalispell. The family lived at several places in the valley and settled in the Foys Lake area. There, Myrtle was joined by two sisters and a brother. She graduated from Flathead County High School in 1943.

After high school she went to Bremerton, Washington, where she worked at the Navy shipyards, first in making ammunition and repairing aircraft and finally in office work. While there, she boarded with a family from Choteau, Montana, and there she met the family's son, Harry Geis, while he was there on leave from the Marines. They were married on Sept. 28, 1944. They moved to California, where Harry served at Camp Pendleton and Myrtle worked in the office. It was here their first daughter was born on their first wedding anniversary. After a year and a half they came back to Kalispell to make their home and here their second daughter was born in 1948.

During her younger years Myrtle worked as a seamstress for many people and at Butterys Department Store for many years.

Myrtle was preceded in death by her parents,



<sup>27 Dec 2020</sup>  
Ed and Vi Moon; her husband, Harry Geis; daughter, Sharron Robertson; and many, many dear

relatives and friends.

Myrtle is survived by her daughter Frances "Frankie" Moore and son-in-law Don Moore, her sister Marge Manning, brother Edley "Bud" Moon Jr. (Joyce), all of Kalispell, and sister Helen Baird (Al) of Burlington, Washington; five grandchildren, Donetta White (Brett) of Edmonton, Alberta, Derrick Moore (Spring), Michael Bump (Penny) of Kalispell, Shell Bump, Kim Lillie of Colorado; 17 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews.

There will be no services as per her request. There will be a celebration of life at a later date; spring or early summer of 2021.

We would like to say thank you to the staff at Prestige Assisted Living in Kalispell for taking such loving care of Myrtle for the last three-plus years. You became her second family; and to Kalispell Regional Medical Center and ER staff and doctors, and to The HealthCenter, hospice nurses and staff for their care during her last days.

## Ralph 'Geno' Geldrich, 71

<sup>PA4</sup>  
Ralph "Geno" Geldrich passed away Jan. 25, 2020, at his home in Kalispell.

<sup>30 Jan 2020</sup>  
He was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1948 to Ralph and Minnie Geldrich. Soon after, the family moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he attended school until the family moved to the Flathead Valley where he graduated from Flathead County High School and met and married Jan Bergmann in 1968. They had two wonderful children, Janice (Dave) Hedeman and Russ (Keri) Geldrich, all residing in Kalispell. They also have six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind siblings E. Russell Geldrich (Leona), and Ann MacCary, also of Kalispell, and numerous nieces, nephews and in-laws.

In the early '70s Ralph worked for American Asphalt and then for Pack and Co. He bought a logging truck and hauled logs until 1978



when he went to work for McElroy & Wilken where he retired in 2006. They called him

"Gene Gene the digging machine" because of his ability to dig basements with ease and had the gift of holding grade like very few could. In his later years at work he drove lowboy and hauled heavy equipment throughout the valley and every logging road in the Northwest. His last few years at McElroy & Wilken he ran the D-8 dozer in the pit until his retirement.

He was a die-hard fisherman and enjoyed fishing for bull trout at Foy's Bend, pike at Swan Lake, and perch wherever the bite was on.

Memorial services will be scheduled later in the spring when the grass is green, the birds are chirping, and the fish are biting.

## Jerry Jonethan Gentry, 76

Jerry Jonethan Gentry, 76, of Kalispell, died Oct. 14, 2020, at The HealthCenter.

A private burial attended by family has taken place at Fairview Cemetery.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Carmen I. Gerber, 93

Carmen I. Gerber, 93, died Nov. 16, 2020, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## MEMORIALS

### Michael Patrick Gerrish

A celebration of life and potluck for Michael Patrick Gerrish, 72, who died Nov. 8, 2020, will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the Pin & Cue in Whitefish.

Masks are encouraged.

### Michael Patrick Gerrish, 72

Michael Patrick Gerrish, 72, died Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020, at his home in Whitefish.

Services are pending. Austin Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Linnea Ghilardi, 75

PAT 30 Aug 2020

Linnea Ghilardi, 75  
Linnea was born on Jan. 30, 1945, in Chicago to William Phillip and Doris Bartelt Phillip. She was raised in the near west village of Riverside, designed by the landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmstad.

Linnea passed away on Thursday morning, 1:30 a.m., Aug. 27, 2020, with her husband of nearly 40 years holding her hand and watching her take her last peaceful breaths.

Linnea had an idyllic childhood attending schools in Riverside and then graduating at the top of her class from Riverside-Brookfield High School (R-B). She excelled in her studies. She took to writing very early on in life and it became her lifelong passion to continue writing, even editing the school yearbook for several years. She wrote her own autobiography in eighth grade and had an article published in the Chicago Tribune while in grade school.

She was athletic and at one time was ranked in Illinois as among their best competitive swimmers.

Her parents owned a "cottage" in Green Lake, Wisconsin, and thus began Linnea's affection and need with living on or near a lake, something that would occur even in her later years.

Linnea was accepted to Northwestern University, where she once again excelled in her history major. She was required to learn both German and French for her history major and she mastered both. She was able to enjoy an art history tour of Europe, which grew into a love affair with all that Europe had to offer.

She graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history, and within a few months, earned her Master of Arts degree, becoming the first of her cohort group to earn an MA degree.



pay a way for pay for all of this. Linnea secured a teaching position at Glenbrook North

High School, at that time ranked among the best high schools, not only in Illinois but also the USA.

Linnea further obtained a part-time teaching position at De Lourdes College, which was both a college for order's sisters and a four-year college for women. Linnea's class was a room full of nuns dressed in their habits. This experience would have lifelong ramifications in Linnea's spiritual evolution.

She was a very creative teacher and had students engaged in active learning. She took field trips to plays and other cultural events in downtown Chicago.

She became actively involved with the Illinois Council for the Social Studies, editing their newsletter for a number of years. She also mentored new teachers entering the profession.

She felt that teaching was a calling and that teachers should have a passion for the subject matter and a passion to guide students to become better thinkers and to be precise in their writing. This would come back to her 20 years later as you shall read.

In one of Larry and Linnea's drives around the country, they "discovered" Bigfork in 1975, staying at a fishing campground called Elm Resort near the steel bridge. Those were the days when the kokanee salmon limit was 35 fish per day. She enjoyed canning both salmon and Flathead cherries.

ular American history course as juniors.

In the fall of 1980, Linnea created a week-long simulation of Mao's Cultural Revolution. This placed incredible demands on that freshman class, as they had to have exact discipline and obey commands. While some in the community, even some of her colleagues, thought that Linnea was teaching "communism," in fact, she was doing the exact opposite. Her lesson was on the deleterious effects of blind obedience and blind following of one leader and one supposed cause.

When Linnea had a student who was deaf, she wrote a grant to fund all of the teachers of this girl to learn American Sign Language.

She enjoyed sharing the study of local and Montana government, having the students participate in City-County Days, where students would follow city leaders and learn how a city operates. Field trips to the legislature were regular fare.

Several of her former students now have leadership positions in local government in Helena and in Montana state government, including current Gov. Bullock.

Linnea and Steve coordinated Helena High's Close-Up program, taking students on week-long study trips to Washington, D.C.

Linnea became active in a distance learning program in the late 1980s, which was experimental and in its infancy. She had students in remote areas of Montana and even students in Alaska, all connected via a 300k modem!

a journey to the Holy Land (Israel) and Egypt at a time when there was a modicum of peace in the region.

She delighted in a trip to Alaska to Prudhoe Bay following the Alaskan pipeline, as well as a journey on a paddle boat down the Mississippi River.

Linnea and Steve took numerous driving trips throughout the USA, exploring both the south-east and the southwest regions of the country.

By the early 1990s, in only Linnea fashion, she decided that it was time to return to the greater Chicago area.

She was hired in an administrative position in a suburban school district, a position she held for two years.

After that time, she began to pursue her lifelong dream of earning a doctorate degree and writing a dissertation. As you read earlier, Linnea believed that teaching was a calling, and her research was directed at showing how some of the most inspirational teachers she knew had that calling.

Her dissertation was 450-pages in length, and with exacting research and dynamic observation, she earned her a doctorate degree in 1999.

She decided to retire from education and begin a quest for other intellectual joys.

Linnea was a member of the American Mensa Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Society of Mayflower Descendants. She enjoyed her research into her family history and proving her connections to her Plymouth Colony ancestors Miles Standish, John Alden and Priscilla Mullins.

(Conte)

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Linnea was looking forward to either pursuing her doctorate degree or teaching in a high school in London, but fate had a different calling. She met Larry Ghilardi and they were married in 1967.

Rather than remain in the USA, they decided to take a lengthy tour of Europe in their newly purchased VW camper. They traveled throughout Europe for over six months, a trip that would have a lasting impact on them.

They returned to London for Christmas on multiple occasions and continued their travels not only in Europe, but also the South Pacific, Australia and New Zealand.

They also traveled extensively in the USA in the 1970s.

Of course, there had to

In Linnea's mind, she had found her home in Montana and she spent the next three years making it happen.

They obtained teaching positions in the Helena school system, with Linnea at Helena High School teaching World Cultures and American government.

She took world cultures to another level by starting an Honors World Cultures course, one that became highly successful. Her program was so unique that the publisher of the textbook used in teaching world cultures around the nation hired Linnea to write the teacher's guide.

Linnea met Steve Armstrong in 1979 when he arrived at Helena High. They were married in 1981.

They enjoyed team teaching many courses and sharing many of the same students. Linnea would have them as freshman and they would enter Steve's AP and reg-

Linnea was an avid outdoorsman. She enjoyed hiking ranches in central Montana seeking the elusive prong-horned antelope. She enjoyed fishing in Flathead Lake. She delighted in hiking in Glacier Park and other trails in the Flathead Valley. Her waterskiing skills could put others to shame.

Linnea was supportive of and enjoyed Steve's music, often sitting behind the trombones while Steve performed with the Helena Big Band. She also followed Steve on his numerous gigs in several locations in and around Helena.

She became politically active in Helena, winning a seat on the Helena Citizen's Council, an advisory group to Helena's City Commission.

She and Steve also continued international and USA travels, visiting China, Japan, Russia and a safari in Kenya. They also returned to Europe on an "If it's Tuesday, it must be Belgium tours."

Another highlight was

Linnea's spiritual journey was extensive. She was raised Christian Science as her mother was a devout CS. A medical emergency in 1965 had Linnea admitted to a hospital for surgery. She was on the critical list for several days, but medical intervention saved her life.

Her next journey was to become a member of the Episcopal Church when she married Larry. Linnea and Larry then sought a new faith in the Baha'i religion.

In the 1980s, all of her spiritual study came to fruition when she began attending Masses at the Helena Cathedral. She enjoyed the Masses and the ceremony of the Catholic Church, especially at the Cathedral. When Steve and Linnea drove to their condo in Bigfork, Linnea attended the Catholic church there.

Linnea started her Catechumen program in 1985 and was confirmed, baptized and took Holy Communion during

Easter in April 1986.

She felt that becoming a Catholic was her true calling, a destiny really. She enjoyed attending Masses and working with other women in the Catholic faith. Her personal vow was that she would never let politics interfere in her beliefs or her faith in the Catholic Church.

Her evolution took her from her Sunday School Bible study with the Christian Science Church to becoming a full Catholic.

She found her spiritual home.

Linnea and Steve returned to Montana full-time in 2013, settling in Bigfork, where they had maintained a part-time home since 1982. They knew that they were going to get older and were fortunate to find a single level home.

Those who knew Linnea really well were aware of her journey these last few years that lead us to her passing. There are so many to thank who assisted us through this process. The hospice staff at Kalispell Regional Healthcare were truly exceptional this past week. I have never witnessed such a group of devoted and caring professionals and I am grateful for their kindness. I was deeply saddened to learn that that the hospice wing on the second floor is being forced to move.

The staff at Riverbend PT in Bigfork helped Linnea in so many ways. All of the staff played a role, but Carly, Ashley and Kacie deserve special recognition.

When returning to Montana, we searched for a family doctor. We found Woodland Clinic and are fortunate to have Dr. Kelly Redfield as our doctor. Kelly was a former student of ours from our Helena High days in the 1980s.

cousins.

Leaving to grieve her death and also to celebrate and remember the remarkable woman that Linnea was is her husband of nearly 40-years, Steve Armstrong. Linnea was grateful that she remained friends with her former husband Larry and his wife Cheryl.

Also mourning her loss is her cousin Grant Macomber. Their ancestor George Macomber served in the Revolutionary War.

Linnea maintained a close network of friends over the years, including Barb and Dan O'Heath of Illinois. Barb was one of Linnea's students at DeLourdes College. Barb left the order and Dan left the priesthood to get married.

There are so many special friends that Linnea had and I will mention a few. Bob and Deb Chance were just so very special to Linnea. She had a large extended group of friends both at Bigfork Harbor and Eagle Bend North. We are grateful to have Ann and Paul, Lloyd and Bonnie, Frank and Kathy, Jim and Mary and so many more in our neighborhood. She had an enjoyable friendship with David Roberts of Western Mountains Property Management and Denise Hamilton of Bigfork Harbor HOA.

Linnea's lasting legacy are in endowed scholarships in both Steve and Linnea's name at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and music scholarships at the University of Montana.

Dr. Kurt Lindsey played an important role in Linnea's journey. We were grateful when he came to visit Linnea in the hospice wing several times in her last days. She recognized his voice and would try to smile.

Linnea met a whole new group of friends through the Rock Steady Boxing program. What a delightful and inspirational group of people. We enjoyed all of our new group of friends at RSB. Marjory, Fred and Lynelle were very special to us.

Linnea was predeceased by her parents, William and Doris Phillip, her Ghilardi father and mother-in-law Si and Louise Ghilardi, and her Armstrong father and mother-in-law, Lewis and Nadine Armstrong. She also was predeceased by all of her aunts and uncles and by several

Among Linnea's favorite local charities is the Wreaths Across America program at the Montana Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls. Steve and Linnea coordinate this annual celebration for our nation's veterans. Each donated wreath costs \$15, two wreaths cost \$30, etc.

If you wish to contribute to this worthy cause, please make your check payable to Wreaths Across America and mail your check to Steve Armstrong, 439 Grand Drive, No. 170, Bigfork, MT 59911. Steve will complete the donation form and mail your check to the Wreaths Across America National HQ in Columbia Falls, Maine.

Linnea's graveside service is Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 10:30 a.m., at the Bigfork Community Cemetery.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home <https://www.jgfuneralhome.com> is assisting Steve with the arrangements. Please visit Linnea's tribute wall to leave a memory, or please mail your memory to Steve's mailing address noted above.

## Daniel B. Gibbs, 94

PA 5 170 June 2020

Daniel B. Gibbs, longtime resident of Kalispell, passed away on June 5, 2020, at the Montana Veterans Home at the age of 94.

Dan was born on March 10, 1926, in Port Arthur, Wisconsin, to Byron Gibbs and Nellie (Sigsworth) Gibbs. Dan was the second of 10 children.

Dan served in the Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Lake Champlain during World War II. After the war, he moved to Montana and worked in the copper mines at Anaconda and Butte. He then moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as an apprentice mechanic. On July 5, 1950, he married Fern White in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. They moved to



Milwaukee where their first son, John, was born. Upon completion of his apprenticeship, the family moved to Ladysmith where he worked for Ford Motor Co. Two more sons completed their family, Gerald and Mark. In 1956 they moved to Kalispell where he worked for various auto repair agencies. His last job was with the city of Kalispell.

Dan's loving wife of 43 years, Fern, passed away in June 1993. In September 1997 he married his longtime friend Geraldine Ross in Klamath Falls, Oregon, at the home of her daughter. They enjoyed 22 years together. He enjoyed showing her Montana by taking Sunday drives in the country. Dan loved fishing, hunting and camping. He had a great sense of humor and loved to kid around with everyone.

Dan was preceded in death by his first wife Fern, his parents, six sisters and one brother. He is survived by his loving wife Geraldine, sons John (Rhonda), Gerald (Rusty), and Mark (Amy); nine grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren; one sister, Thelma

Parmer, of Clarkston, Washington; one brother, Ted Gibbs, of Edinburg, Texas; and many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by three stepchildren, Philip Ross, Mark Ross and Glennis Wilson. Geraldine's children were very happy that Dan chose to spend the rest of his life with their mother. They enjoyed the time they got to spend with Dan.

Graveside services will be held Thursday, June 11, at 11 a.m. at C.E. Conrad Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

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

## Adeline H. Gibson, 72

Adeline H. Gibson, 72, of Kalispell, died on Tuesday, May 27, 2020, at her home in Kalispell. No formal services will

be held at her request. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## Michelle Gibson, 52

Michelle Gibson, 52, died July 8, 2020, at her home in Kalispell. She is survived by her sons Dylan and Jay

Gibson. No services are planned at this time. Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

## William Edward 'Ed' Gibson, 81

In the early hours of Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020, William Edward "Ed" Gibson was with family when he was peacefully called home to be with the Lord. He was 81. Born in Los Angeles



and choir on Sundays. His love for sports was unmatched, but the love of his family was paramount, made evident by the admiration of his grandchildren. Ed can finally reunite with his granddaughter Madison Duke, who, along with his brothers Dave and Larry, were called to the Lord before him.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Wendy, his brother Don, his daughter Stephanie, his sons Mike and Scott, and his grandchildren Jamie and Wyatt, who consider him the "Best Boppa Ever" and their number one fan.

Services will be held at the Lutheran Church at Creston, 5447 Montana 35, Kalispell, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, the 8th of February. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Cancer Research Institute at [www.cancerresearch.org](http://www.cancerresearch.org).

Ed met and married his wife Wendy in 1978 and while on an annual family vacation, fell in love with Montana and moved along with his family to Bigfork in 1995. Ed ensured his love of the outdoors was instilled into his family, organizing countless road trip adventures over the years. His gleeful smile was outdone only by his remarkable voice, which he shared

with his family. Ed was a loving father and grandfather, and he will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Wendy, his brother Don, his daughter Stephanie, his sons Mike and Scott, and his grandchildren Jamie and Wyatt, who consider him the "Best Boppa Ever" and their number one fan.



## Harry Gilder, 84

Harry Gilder, 84, of Coram, died at Whitefish Care on Friday, April 10, 2020.

He is survived by his

daughters Cathy Treat and Christy Melby.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Edwin B. Gilliland, 80

*PAC 25 Sept 2020*  
On Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020, Edwin B. Gilliland, loving husband and father, passed away just a few days short of his 81st birthday.

Ed was born on Sept. 21, 1939, in Whitefish, making him a third-generation Montanan.

Born with an entrepreneurial spirit, Ed owned and operated many business and real estate ventures around the Flathead Valley, but his main occupation was for Burlington Northern Railroad, until a crippling accident on the job forced him into retirement in 1988.

Ed continued his lifelong passion for photography and sailing as member number 1 of North Flathead Lake Yacht Club and his support of the Hockaday Center for the Arts in Kalispell and the Somers Company Town Project Museum in Somers.

He had a keen eye for collecting and a wanderlust for the great Montana outdoors, until very recently, when effects of Alzheimer's dementia began to set in.



Ed was known for his quick, acerbic wit, photographic memory of dates and

phone numbers, his ability to tell a good story and his loyal devotion to friends and family.

Ed was preceded in death by his father, Claudius, and his mother Elizabeth, and his brother Robert.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Nancy, and his son William, his sister Barbara and her husband Dennis Olson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

His family and friends hope to present a show of his photographic works in September of 2021 at the Northwest Montana History Museum.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Northwest Montana History Museum in Kalispell for the preservation of the E.B. Gilliland Photographic Archive.

## Lena Mae Gilman, 70

Lena Mae Gilman, 70, died on Nov. 1, 2020, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

She is survived by her husband Walter and son Burrill Roberts.

Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Connie Ruth Girardot, 82

*P.O. 4 Nov 2020*  
Connie Ruth Girardot, age 82, of Kalispell, passed away at home on Oct. 25, 2020, with her family by her side.

Connie was born on March 12, 1938, in Lincoln, Nebraska, to Willard and Helenlee Jones.

She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1956 and attended Nebraska Wesleyan University graduating in 1960 as a medical technologist and began work at Bryan Memorial Hospital in Lincoln.

In 1959 she married Steve Girardot, beginning a long and loving 61 years of marriage.

Steve graduated as a geologist from the University of Nebraska in 1962, and was hired by the Chevron Corporation and started a 34-year career in the petroleum industry working in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and California. In 1996 he retired and they moved to Kalispell from Houston, the start of 24 years of retirement in a place they loved.

Over the years Connie was an active Girl Scout leader in Louisiana (camping out with lots of bugs and one alligator), sang in choral groups, and worked with several different animal rescue and adoption organizations with several of her "clients" ending up as lifelong residents of her home. She loved to garden and decorate and for the last several years crafted beautiful ceramic dolls. Above all, howev-



er, was her love of family combined with the support and strength she gave to all of them, especially in times of need.

Connie was preceded in death by

her parents, son Robert and daughter Linda Johnson.

Connie is survived by her husband Steve of 61 years; son David (Stephanie) and daughter Susan (Ken) Owen; grandchildren Abby, Colter, and Dawson Girardot, Samantha Knudson, Stephan, Megan and Elizabeth Vanderhoef and step-grandchildren Buddy and Grace Doolin; great-grandchildren Ruby Knudson and Maxine Vanderhoef-Perez and sister Sue Klundt.

No services are planned at this time. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date to share memories and remember again the special person she was. Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Josephine Gladura, 89

Josephine Gladura, 89, died April 13, 2020, in Kalispell.

She is survived by her sons Timothy Gladura and David

Gladura.

No services are planned.

Austin Funeral and Cremation Services are caring for the family.

## Margaret Loretta Goodlett, 92

Margaret Loretta Goodlett, 92, died July 31, 2020, in Whitefish.

No services are

planned at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Donna Marie Glas, 62

On Friday, March 20, 2020, at 11:33 p.m., Donna Marie Glas took her last breath, while holding the hand of her husband of almost 22 years, Bill Glas, at their home in Linton, North Dakota.

Family and friends will be holding a celebration of her life on Saturday, July 25, at Bill and Donna's home in Linton, North Dakota. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Myers Funeral Home.

Donna was born on July 26, 1957, in Wallace, Idaho. At a young age, her family moved to Kalispell, where she was raised by her mother Carrol Wickham and father Don Wickham. She moved to Astoria, Oregon, where she completed Job Corps and received her high school diploma. She was the second oldest of six children: Kenneth Keegan, Dianne Wickham, Kelly Wickham, Darrissa Cowden and Dawndi Cameron.

She enjoyed traveling around the country with her husband, who is a truck driver, as well as watching her NASCAR



and cheering for her favorite driver Kyle Busch in his M&M #18 car and buying paparazzi costume jewelry. She found joy in chasing after storms and taking pictures of them. She had a love for camping and enjoyed the time she spent with her mom and dad up at their lake house at Swan Lake all summer. She really enjoyed Christmas and all the things that the holiday brought, mostly the time she spent with her family.

Donna has five children: Carrolyn Edwards, Marquis Campbell, Elizabeth "Tizzy" Stroh, Misty Campbell and Matthew Ellison.

She was Nana to Tyler, Trevor, Melissa, Maria, Jacob, Tiawn, Mariha, Cassidy, Tanner, Makayla, John, Keygan, Braydan, Landon, Lily and Rylee, and was about to be a Great-Nana to a great-granddaughter this May.

Once in heaven, she was reunited with her mom, dad and little sister Dianne.

Cards may be sent in lieu of flowers to 304 NE 2nd St, Linton, ND, 58552

Friends are encouraged to share condolences online at <https://www.myersfh.com>

## Norma Faye Goodnough, 98

Norma Faye Goodnough, 98, just four days before her 99th birthday went to join her husband in heaven shortly after midnight on Oct. 31, 2020 in Loveland, Colorado.

Faye was born to George and Adeline Marvin on Nov. 4, 1921 in Madison, South Dakota. Faye was preceded in death by her parents, husband Francis Goodnough, 11 siblings and son-in-law, Kent Anderson.

She is survived by her seven children: Carol Anderson (friend Larry) of Greeley, Colorado; Ronald (Linda) of Silverdale, Washington; Gary (Kay) of Kalispell; Norman (Mary) of Somers; David (Barbara) of Western Australia; Greg of Kalispell, and Mari (Larry) Lamb of



Missoula, along with a host of nieces and nephews, grands & great grands.

Faye was a homemaker her entire life, giving of herself to her family and

anyone she considered in need. Her children consider her and their father the most influential human beings on this earth and now in the presence of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Faye will be remembered at a family gathering at some future time.



## Jerildine Cora Goodman, 87

Jerildine Cora Goodman, 87, died on Sept. 12, 2020, at her home in Kila with her family by her side.

Services are pending.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Karl Richard Glass, 76

Karl Richard Glass, 76, of Whitefish, died at his home on Oct. 4, 2020.

He is survived by his wife Peggy, and sons Curt and Shane Glass.

No service is scheduled.

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

## Jon Gneiting, 32

PAG 2 Aug 2020

Jon Gneiting lost his battle to brain cancer on July 21, 2020, after a courageous, year-long



battle at the age of 32. He definitely didn't go without a fight. Jon always fought hard and always gave 100 percent to anything and everything he did. He worked hard and loved even harder.

You could always find Jon being busy. He loved to ride his motorcycle, kayak, tinker with things,

gardening and build things. His most favorite thing to do though, was to be with his children. His kids were his pride and joy. They loved going to church with their dad on Sundays and cherished that special time with him.

Jon was born in Chula Vista, California, on Dec. 23, 1987, to Cathy Gilder and Ron Gneiting. Jon obtained his GED and went on to have a couple jobs until he found his true calling as a truck driver. Jon worked on an oilfield frack hand in Colorado

and North Dakota, until he started working for Central Oregon Trucking Company as a long haul driver. He did that for many years and got to see the world while doing so. Before his death he also drove for Northwest Drywall.

Jon met Amanda(Hill) Gneiting and her son Andrew MacNair in the fall of 2008; they were married Sept. 1, 2009; in that marriage they had two more beautiful children, Amarri and Jovanni "Joey." Unfortunately that marriage ended on July 19, 2017, although

they remained good friends.

Jon was preceded in death by his grandfather Harry Gilder.

Jon is survived by his mother Cathy and stepfather John Treat; his father Ron Gneiting; and sister Aimee Gneiting and their three children Andrew, Amarri and Joey; many aunts, uncles, and cousins and many friends.

A celebration of Jon's life is pending at this time. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for Jon and family.

## Rafael Gneiting, 25

PAG 3 Sept 2020

Rafael Gneiting, 25, passed away Aug. 25, 2020.

We have lost a truly wonderful man. We have gained so much from knowing him. A man who was as genuine as his smile; as true to himself as he was to his word. A man who always fought to help the underdog, because he knew what it felt like to be one. He knew how it felt to fight alone. A man righteous as he was generous. A man respectable as he was respectful. Rafael truly made a difference in the lives of anyone who let him, no matter who they were. He was loved by many and forgotten by none.

He is survived by his daughter Arianna Gneiting, his mother Angie Gneiting, grandmother Laurie Gneiting,



stepfather Reggie Juitt, stepmother Kirsten Juitt, his brothers RJ Gneiting-

Juitt and Jaeven Juitt, and sisters Anjila Gneiting, Jenavae Juitt and Deja Juitt, and will continue to live on in their hearts.

"In Memory"

"It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone. A part of us went with you, the day God took you home.

If tears could build a stairway, and heartaches make a lane, we'd walk our way to heaven, and bring you back again.

In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still, in our hearts you hold a place no one could ever fill."

## Jay Harlan Goodwin, 89

Jay Harlan Goodwin, age 89, passed away on April 17, 2020, at his home in Somers.

Jay was born on Jan. 18, 1931, in Lakeside to Jess and Sarah (Serwerda) Goodwin. He attended grade school at the little red schoolhouse in Lakeside. When Jay was a teenager the family moved to Libby. A few years later they moved back to Kalispell, where

Jay attended Flathead County High School. Jay met the love of his life Naomi Pound, and they married on July 9, 1955. Jay did logging and road building for the timber industry. He also worked for Lum Owens for years and continued on to do numerous other road jobs such as Big Mountain and Glacier National Park. He also built all the ski runs at Blacktail Mountain Ski

Area. Jay never really retired.

Jay is preceded in death by his parents, son Duane and several in-laws.

Jay is survived by his loving wife Naomi, six of his seven children: Gayle and (Steve); Jerry (Elacia); Roger and (Sandy); Steve and (Cathy); Brenda and (Bob); April and (Mark) and daughter in-law

Pam; 27 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; sisters Alyce Eastman and Grace Erickson; and brother Ward Goodwin.

A private family graveside service has already taken place. Friends are encouraged to visit our website at [www.buffalo-hillfh.com](http://www.buffalo-hillfh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

## Lorene Yates Gould, 83

Lorene Yates Gould passed away in late March at age 83.

Lorene was born in 1936 in Taos, New Mexico. She was one of four girls and two boys born to Luther and Etheline Yates.

Lorene led an extraordinary life. After graduating from Northwest College, in biblical studies, and marrying Donald Gould they headed to the mission field in Paraguay South America in 1970. There, they fell in love with the people and culture. They treasured their work spreading the Gospel of Christ in these communities. At times they lived in remote areas only accessible by boat and had housing with dirt floors and water from the river. Here they provided their sons Scott and Randy with many adventures and learning experiences. Both boys became fluent in Spanish and the native language Guarani

Don and Lorene retired



after 40 years on the mission field to a cabin 10 miles outside Glacier Park. Here they shared many memories and fun-filled time with friends and family. Many a Christmas was spent with son Randy, his wife Julia, and two of Lorene's greatest joys, her granddaughters, Lucy and Sophie. The holidays passed baking cookies, sledding and sharing a warm comforting meal after a long day skiing at Big Mountain. Lorene was an excellent cook and her granddaughters have her cookbooks and recipes filled with love to carry with them.

Lorene had a true servant's heart, especially for less advantaged and lonely people. She dedicated herself to an active vocation of helping and teaching others. She exemplified the love of Christ, constantly ministering to the "least of these my children." Insightful, kind, energetic and quick to see humor in most situations — Lorene was a natural teacher and genuinely enjoyed sharing her faith with all ages.

Lorene is survived by

her husband Don (married 61 years); son Scott Gould and wife Debbie Gould; daughter-in-law Julia Gould; granddaughters Lucy and Sophie Gould; and sisters Jackie Clarke, Jeanette Marshall and Carmen Hartman.

Her two brothers, Richard Yates and Terry Yates, preceded her in death. We find great peace in knowing she is in heaven with her youngest son Randy, who died one year ago. We just know that they are baking together; and Randy is making her laugh (along with all the other souls in heaven), and that they are waiting for us to join them when our time comes.

A special thank you for loving care and concern to Dan Gould, Carole Tallman, the community at Lorene's Whitefish Assembly of God Church and all the staff at Timber Creek Assisted Living and at Frontier Hospice who worked to make her final days comfortable. Funeral arrangements will be made at a later time when it is safe to do so.

# Paula Theresa (Schiltz) Gorton, 71

*P.P. 6 7 June 2020*

Paula Theresa (Schiltz) Gorton was welcomed into Heaven on May 19, 2020, at the



age of 71, following a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Paula was born on May 25, 1948, in Dickinson, North Dakota, the only daughter of Paul Michael and Lillian "Lil" Frances (Danielson) Schiltz. The family homesteaded in Caldwell, Idaho, where Paula attended grade school before moving to Powell, Wyoming, where they farmed the Ralston Bench below Hart Mountain and Paula was active in 4-H. She graduated from Powell High School and then continued her education at Northwest Community College in Powell and Montana State University in Bozeman, graduating with a bachelor's degree in home economics.

When at Montana State, Paula met the love of her life, John Gregory "Greg" Gorton. They married on Nov. 27, 1970 at St. Barbara's Catholic Church in Powell. Paula and Greg lived in Columbia Falls prior to moving to Henderson, Kentucky, in 1972, where they welcomed their son Michael "Mike." In 1984 the family moved to Butte, and then in 1992 to Mead, Washington, before settling in Otis Orchards, Washington, in 2003.

in Otis Orchards. But her gifts were not limited to just sewing and baking — she cooked, canned, gardened, sketched, cross stitched, knitted, quilted, refinished antique furniture, did calligraphy, and painted, with her art exuding a happy whimsy and her dry sense of humor catching people off guard in a delightful way. Paula was also a Jill-of-all-trades known to pick up a hammer, brush, roller, trowel, shovel, or rake to help with the many home and landscaping projects she and Greg took on over the years. She did, however, call a halt at driving the tractor.

Paula was preceded in death by her parents Paul and Lil, and parents-in-law, John "Jack" and Mary Gorton.

Paula leaves behind her husband of 50 years, Greg of Otis Orchards; son Mike and wife Kelly; grandson Ryan of Walla Walla, Washington; brother Cecil and wife Donna Schlitz of Powell; sister-in-law Lisa and husband James Stack of Whitefish; bother-in-law Patrick and wife Reba Gorton of Southport, North Carolina; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and numerous other relatives and friends.

While Paula's greatest accomplishments were as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and dear friend, she also worked for the Montana County Extension agency in Great Falls, for a styling salon, and for a local fabric store. Paula was also an active volunteer in her churches and communities, donating her time and talents sewing choir robes and seasonal wall hangings for St. Ann's Catholic Church in Butte, sharing baked goods during the holidays and cooking for funeral celebrations at St. Joseph's

We wish to thank Paula's three independent care providers who were her rock every day for many years, her Alzheimer's Group "family" with Family First Senior Care who shared her journey, the aides and staff at Guardian Angel Homes in Liberty Lake with whom she laughed, cried and sang, and the professional staff on the seventh floor of Providence Sacred Heart who treated her with respect and care during her final hours.

Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at a later date at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Otis Orchards.

Memorials may be made in Paula's name to St. Joseph Parish, Otis Orchards or to Catholic Charities Eastern Washington.

## Roger William Graham, 84

PA5 15 Apr 2020

Roger William Graham, Hungry Horse, received his heavenly diploma graduating from this life into heaven on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020, at 9:05 p.m. He was at his home, "Peaceful Pines," after a brief struggle with heart and kidney complications. His departure was gentle and peaceful with his wife Darlene, daughter Dani, and son Doug at his bedside.

Roger was born on Sept. 11, 1935, in Tacoma, Washington, to parents Donald Stuart and Dorothy Hannah (Zimmerman) Graham. Roger and his older sister, Gretchen (Shilling) grew up in a naval family in New London and Gales Ferry, Connecticut. Roger's father passed away from cancer in 1948, followed by his mother, who passed away from polio in 1953.

Roger graduated high school from Norwich Free Academy in 1954, then enlisted in the U.S. Navy serving aboard the USS Irex SS 482, a World War II fleet submarine, earning the rank of E5 SS torpedoman 2nd class. During his years of active duty Roger enjoyed his travels to places such as Bermuda and the Mediterranean Sea, which included ports in Spain, Italy, Lebanon, and Tangier, North Africa. Other memorable military travels took him to Paris and Austria where he fell in love with skiing.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Navy, Roger moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, to be close to the families of his twin uncles, Dr. Charles Graham and Dr. John Graham. Roger enrolled at the University of



North Dakota, earning a bachelor's degree in education. It was during this time that Roger married Barbara Ann Lilleberg in 1958

and their son, Donald Stuart Graham, was born on Oct. 1, 1959. In 1960, yearning to live in the mountains, Roger and family moved to Kalispell where he taught at Evergreen School until 1968. While in Kalispell, son, Douglas Miles was born in 1964, followed by daughter, Danielle "Dani" Lou who was born in 1967.

Feeling the desire to invest himself in the lives of Native American students, Roger took a teaching position in Poplar, Montana, in 1968. Then an opportunity came for Roger to participate in a new Master of Education program at the University of North Dakota, returning the family to Grand Forks. In addition to his graduate studies, Roger taught at Washington School where he influenced students both in the classroom and also in the gymnasium where Roger played floor hockey with students.

In 1974, the call of the Big Sky of Montana resulted in the family returning to Kalispell where Roger served as principal of Lakeside School (K-8) until 1980. Roger took a hiatus from teaching for a number of years and sold insurance with Farmer's Union, but then returned to the classroom, teaching in

Marion and in Whitefish. Roger spent his final 10 years of teaching in Alaska, communities that included Alukanuk, Pilot Station, and Mountain Village. His love for native Eskimo students was evident by his creative and personal approach to teaching in the classroom, as well as the many things he did with students outside the classroom, which, of course, included introducing native Alaskan kids to the game of floor hockey. Roger retired from teaching in 2000.

In 2004, Roger married Darlene Shero and together they enjoyed semi-retirement, both driving school bus for the Whitefish Public Schools. Their beautiful property and log home in Hungry Horse, affectionately called "Peaceful Pines," has been a family gathering place where kids and grandkids have enjoyed the hot tub, horse shoes, fire pit, and sleeping in the Winnebago.

Roger was raised in the Methodist church and later he and Barb raised their three children in the Lutheran church. In the summer of 1979, Roger was deeply impacted by the charismatic movement that swept into the Flathead Valley, and for many years he participated in the charismatic Catholic Crusillo movement, in particular retreats that took place in the Montana State Prison. Roger was a member of the Kalispell Christian Center (Assemblies of God) and served on the church board for many years.

Roger is survived by his wife Darlene of Hungry Horse; son Doug (Vicki) Graham of

Minneapolis, Minnesota; daughter Danielle "Dani" (Randy) Burtsfield of Kalispell; stepdaughter Michelle (David) Williams of Spokane, Washington; stepson Brian Klem of San Antonio, Texas; grandsons Dustin Graham, Tanner Graham, Kyle Graham, Kirk Graham, and Kaleb Graham; granddaughters, Paisley Miles, Erica Smithman, Karlee Graham, Grace Burtsfield, and Annie Burtsfield; stepgranddaughters, Sierra Williams, Cevanah Williams; stepgrandsons, Derick Morales, and Devin Klem; three great-grandsons and seven great-granddaughters. Roger was preceded in death by his parents, Donald Stuart Graham and Dorothy Hannah (Zimmerman) Graham and his son, Donald Stuart Graham.

Roger Graham will always be remembered by his family and friends as one who lived life to the fullest. His magnetic personality and energetic approach to life left an indelible mark on every person he spent time with. The foundation of Roger's Christian faith was set aflame and deepened in his midlife years which served as his North Star guiding him and his family through the years, all in preparation for the great heavenly reward he received on Easter Sunday evening.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family. Donations in Roger's memory can be made to the Salvation Army or to the Whitefish Hockey Association. A Christian celebration of Roger's life will take place this summer.

## Roger William Graham

A memorial service with military honors for Roger William Graham, 84, who died April 12, will be held at 11 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Hungry Horse Bible Camp. A reception will follow.

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## Scott Grasser, 58

Scott Grasser, 58, of Columbia Falls, died Jan. 15, 2020. A celebration of life is being

planned for the spring. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for his family.

## David W. Gray, 89

David W. Gray, 89, of Kalispell, died at Edgewood Vista Memory Care on Sunday Oct. 11, 2020.

Arrangements are being made at this time. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## Darlene Cunningham Grattan, 81

Darlene Cunningham Grattan, 81, passed away at her home in Whitefish, on Dec. 7, 2020.

Darlene Cunningham Grattan was born to Gwen and Jim Cunningham in Butte. She graduated from Butte high acquiring that "Butte toughness." She graduated from the University of Montana in 1960 with a degree in elementary education. She met her husband in her freshman year and they dated throughout college. They were married two days after graduation and she and her newly commissioned husband Tim went many places. She said, "Many moons and many teepees." She became a camp follower. First, to Fort Benning Georgia, on to Germany, then Fort Knox Kentucky, and then to Cheney



Washington where Tim was an ROTC instructor at Eastern Washington University. There, she

told him she married him for better or for worse, "but not for lunch." After leaving the Army, they went to Bellevue, Washington and finally back to Whitefish, where they had skied during their college years and fell in love with the town and the area.

She was an avid and accomplished golfer winning some tournaments around the state. One of her golfing buddies asked the pro for a new driver. The pro asked, "What kind of driver would you like?" and the reply was, "Anyone that will out-

drive Darlene Grattan!" She was fun and the life of a party. She was the secretary for many ski races on Big Mountain and for many golf tournaments at Whitefish Lake Golf Club. She was a wonderful wife and mate and a wonderful mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years; her daughter Lisa Flint and son Brad; grandsons Joel, Michael and Trevor and her great-granddaughter Thea.

She will be remembered and sorely missed! There are no planned services until summer. Memorials to be sent to the Whitefish Lake Junior Golf Program. Austin Funeral & Cremation Services are caring for the family.

## Frank Mervin Gray, 79

Frank Mervin Gray of Glendale, Arizona, passed away on July 23, 2020, from the effects of the coronavirus — COVID-19.

He was formerly from Lakeside, Montana, and over the course of his years also lived in Wyoming, Pennsylvania and California.

Frank was born in Manhattan Beach, California, on Sept. 14, 1940, and was adopted at birth by Albert and Hilda Simmons Gray, both having arrived in America from England on the ocean liner the Queen Mary, several years earlier. He grew up on land owned by his parents in the Palmdale, California, area where they raised poultry for Swift's Premium and where his father sold a quantity of acreage to the U.S. government at 50 cents per acre, to be incorporated into Edwards Air Force Base.

Frank developed a lifelong passion for automotive endeavors and became a master mechanic and machinist.

PA 7 13 Dec 2020  
NHLA racing and the Bonneville Salt Flats Speed Week in Utah with his son were events he enjoyed immensely. His philosophy of the "pedal to the metal" was applied with abandon. He lived an interesting life and experienced more than most could ever imagine. In many ways, he was bigger than life itself.

Frank is survived by his son, Frank Michael Gray (Brandy) of Montana, daughter Jane Elizabeth Olson (Gary) of Arizona, daughter, Susan Rae Bolin of Arizona, son-in-law and friend, Tommy Gene Bolin of Arizona, as well as friends, Belle Dalton of Oregon, Richard Grasskemper of Wyoming and Pete Stamper of Idaho, among others. It is hoped that his little dog, Dee-Dee, has accompanied him on his final journey.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at a future date, to be announced.

## Cathy Green, 65

Cathy Green, 65, of Eureka died on Dec. 11, 2020, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. Services are pending.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Steven James Greene, 75

*PA 4 21 Jan 2020*  
Steven James Greene, 75, better known as "Jim," was born in Crawford, Colorado, to Edward and Ethel Lorene Greene. Jim grew up between Colorado and Nevada. After high school Jim joined the Navy, where he served during the Vietnam era.

Jim moved to Marion in 1979 where he chose to plant his roots. Jim was an accomplished carpenter, truck driver and could fix anything. But the dearest to his heart was his family. Jim died Jan. 15, 2020, after a long battle with Parkinson's and a short battle with cancer with the love of his life next to him holding his hand.

Jim is survived by his wife, Debbie; his children, daughter Misty (Jim), son Troy (Charlene), son Clint; four grandchildren,



Amanda Holt,  
Kenny Holt,  
Meghan Holt,

Lisa Holt and Samantha Keator-Holt; two great-grandchildren, Joey and Willow; three of his six siblings, Joann (Glen) Spaulding, Pat Dralle and Jerry (Patty) Greene, also many nieces and nephews.

Jim is loved by many and will be forgotten by few. He is the center of our family.

A memorial will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

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.

## Ronald Allen Gregg, 60

*PA 10 30 Apr 2020*  
Ronald Allen Gregg, 60, died on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at Libby Care Center. Heaven got a good one!

He was born in San Antonio, Texas, on Sept. 23, 1959, to Phyllis and Larry Gregg. Ronnie spent many years at Boulder River School, which he referred to as Cottage 12. He moved to Libby in April of 1977 and joined the Huntsberger family. He attended Libby Junior High for one year and was fond of his teacher, Joe Masolo. Ronnie would frequently entertain the school with his gymnastics.

He worked at the Lincoln County Sheltered Workshop, later called Achievements, as a janitor, silk screener, librarian and can crusher. He made many wonderful friends at Achievements. He was also proud of the fact that he was the #1 dishwasher at Pizza Hut for 15 years. Ronnie was well-known around Libby and attended many events. He loved his \$5 walking-around money. It was not unusual to see Ronnie plugging in his BoomBox to dance and to sing wherever he could find an outlet. He liked bowling and was a gold medal winner in the Special Olympics. He also enjoyed going to dinners at the Senior Center.

Ronnie loved the Libby Loggers and was always ready to lead the Logger cheer. He was a Montana Grizzly fan as well. Ronnie never met a stranger and he was always the life of the party. Ronnie had many nicknames including Rocket-man, Ronnie Ball Game, the Batman and Gregg.



Ronnie was preceded in death by his biological father, Larry. He is survived

by his mother Phyllis; brothers David, Robin, and Scott; and sisters Tina and Terry; along with many nieces and nephews.

Ronnie is also survived by the Huntsberger family: Kate and Gary Huntsberger; Heidi, Tory, Colin, and Gavin Blackwell; Andy, Holly and Sean Huntsberger; Vince, Amelia, Luke, Alina and Levi Huntsberger; and Jolene, Drew, Kaleb and Elijah Leeper.

We are grateful for the way the community of Libby embraced Ronnie. He gave us more than he could have ever taken.

Ronnie's life was made better in later years by the care and love he received at Libby's Dialysis Lab and at Libby Care Center.

Ronnie loved country music. We imagine him in heaven with John Denver, singing, "Take Me Home, Country Roads."

The Libby Senior Center was close to Ronnie's heart and if you wish, please send any donations on behalf of Ronnie to Libby Senior Center; 206 E. 2nd; Libby, MT 59923. There will be a celebration of Ronnie's life at a later date. Arrangements are by Schnackenberg Funeral Home in Libby. Friends are encouraged to visit [www.schnackenbergfh.com](http://www.schnackenbergfh.com) to share notes of condolence.



## Russell A. Gregory

Russell A. Gregory, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Sept. 10, 2020, 11 months following his death on Oct. 11, 2019.

Russ was born in November 1943, in San Bernardino, California, but grew up in Needles, on the famed Route 66, as his father worked for Santa Fe Railroad. Two younger sisters, Linda and Thelma, completed the family. He graduated high school in 1961, worked the summer for Southern Counties Gas Company to earn money for college, and left in September for Humboldt State College.

Russ' intention at college was to major in wild-life studies. As he commented many times later in life, his idea of wildlife and the college's differed slightly. He finished his first year in academic and social probation. But — as Russ proved time and time again in his life — he didn't quit. He worked again that summer for the gas company in Needles, returned to Humboldt in the fall, and finished in good standing. The following year, he transferred from the rainy north coast of California to sunny Orange State College (now California State University at Fullerton). That is where he met his future wife, Laura; they married a year later. Russ completed his bachelor's degree in 1966, even as he worked full-time for Southern California Gas Company during the day, "digging ditches." The day following graduation, Russ received a draft notice from the U.S. Army, and immediately headed for the Air Force recruiting



office. The year 1966 saw many changes as he transitioned from basic trainee to second lieutenant. Thus, began a 26-year career in the military, which culminated in 1992, when Colonel Russell Gregory finished his service as commander of the Community College of the Air Force (the largest community college in the world).

In those 26 years, Russ and Laura led an active life. Along with starting their family, they raised Labrador retrievers and competed them in field trials around the country, with many rewarding moments. Even as he worked full time for the Air Force, Russ returned to college, graduating with a master's and later, doctoral degrees. Embarrassed when unexpectedly put on the spot to say a few words, Russ joined Toastmasters International, achieved Distinguished Toastmaster status, and learned to love the opportunity to speak to others.

In the meantime, it was Russ' great honor to administer the oath of office to his daughters as they too became Air Force officers. (Years later, Paula, Shannon, and son-in-law Dan, also reached the rank of colonel, and the "Four Eagles" celebrated this rare occurrence.)

In 1992, Russ and Laura left Alabama for Montana to begin the next chapter in their lives. At the time, there was a saying something like "Although

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I wasn't born in Montana, I got here as soon as I could." That summed up their feelings. For Laura especially, daughter of a Marine officer and wife of an Air Force officer, Montana was her "home of heart." The couple soon settled on their 108-acre property in the foothills above Arlee, working hard and learning new skills in the 14 years they lived there. Along with the ever-present Labrador, they raised a variety of animals, including a herd of 250 goats.

Christmas Eve 1992 was another turning point. Russ was 50 years old when he took his first ski lesson at Marshall Mountain near Missoula. Although discouraged, he didn't quit. He embraced the sport, improving enough over the years to become a ski ambassador at the Big Mountain Resort in Whitefish, and later a certified ski instructor. One highlight during this time was serving as a volunteer on the men's downhill ski run during the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. Another highlight was the opportunity to introduce his granddaughters to the sport, on his beloved Big Mountain.

Following a stroke in 2006, Russ recognized the need to sell the ranch and the couple moved to Kalispell. Golf and skiing continued to keep Russ active. He and Laura began traveling the world, usually by cruise ship, visiting places they never expected to see and meeting new friends along the way. Recently, they sold their house and moved into the new Villas at Buffalo Hill Terrace, thinking of this as a "base camp," free of responsibil-

ities while they continued to travel. Unexpectedly, cancer claimed his life in a short period of time, just short of their 55th wedding anniversary.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents, George and Thelma, in-laws Dave and Polly, brothers-in-law David and Bob, and many good friends.

He is survived by his wife Laura, daughters Paula and Shannon, son-in-law Dan, granddaughters Laura, Heather and Gretchen, sisters Linda and Thelma, sister-in-law Brenda, nieces and nephew.

The family wishes to thank all those who expressed their thoughts and prayers throughout the year.

Russ was our rock, our "go-to" guy. His strong work ethic, steadfast personality, and "will do" attitude was at the heart of his many achievements in life, and served as the catalyst for all of us to succeed. He will be forever missed.

## Wil Griswold, 23

PAG 30 Aug 2020

Wil Griswold, 23, was born July 26, 1997, and passed away Sunday, Aug. 16, 2020.



Dirt biking put a smile on his face.

He was the best uncle to his 10 nieces and nephews. They explored the wilderness, taking photos and videos of all their adventures together.

He was preceded in death by grandpas, John Mears, Ray Lambert and Roy Griswold; grandmother, Wanda Lambert; and uncles, Dan Mears, Luke Mears and Rod Young.

He is survived by his mom and dad, Randy and Jenny Griswold; siblings, Angie (Cory), Tyler (Stacia "Tyler's girlfriend"), Tori (Cameron Blake), and Samantha; nieces and nephews, Gabrielle, Ava, Landon, Gavin, Bella, Piper, Nolan, Lincoln, Lennon, and Bentley; and his best friend, Tyryn, whom he truly loved. Many aunts and uncles also survive Wil.

"Gold Souls Last Forever"

A vigil and rosary will begin at 6 p.m. today, Aug. 20, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. A funeral will be held Friday, Aug. 21, at 2 p.m. at St. Matthew's gym. Burial will take place Friday at 3 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery and a reception will follow at 4 p.m. at the Eagles in Kalispell. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Wil grew up in Kalispell. He participated in all the kid sports, football, basketball, soccer, baseball and wrestling. Golf was his favorite sport. He enjoyed golfing with his dad and brother. He loved being outdoors, catching bugs, spiders and snakes. He was baptized, made his First Communion, and was confirmed at St. Matthew's Church. His mom taught him to ski; he taught himself to snowboard. He graduated from Linderman Education Center in 2015.

Wil's heart was in the arts, photography, music and videography. Wil loved talking politics, conspiracy theories, and religion with his mom. He also loved to watch an original movie with his dad. His sanctuary was Tori and Cameron's house. He turned his passions into business ventures with Cardinal Connections, Gold Soul Visuals and Cardinal Construction. His latest venture was dirt biking; he built a dirt bike with Cade Marvin. He loved riding with his brother, Tyler and Jim Jacobs.

## Richard Truman Grilley, 88

PAG 9 Aug 2020



school and was active in track (state champ), basketball, letter club, yearbook staff, Boys

FKH mill, Hungry Horse Dam, and in 1955 he went to work for the Anaconda Aluminum Co. until retiring in 1985.

Richard loved being in the woods, camping, hunting, picking huckleberries and, best of all, cutting firewood. He had a talent for spotting a dead standing larch from a mile away.

In 1998 Richard married Barbra (York) and for almost 20 years they enjoyed traveling, camping, bowling and cards with a group of good friends.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Darrel, Terry and Jack, his wife Janet, and his wife Barbra.

Richard Truman Grilley passed away on Aug. 3, 2020, at Hidden Meadow Memory Care. Richard was born July 27, 1932, in Northome, Minnesota, to Verne and Margaret (Engleking) Grilley. He was raised with his three brothers as the family moved throughout the Northwest following work. Music played a large role in his family, with everyone playing an instrument. Weekends were spent playing for dances where ever they lived.

In 1947 the family moved to Martin City for the construction of the Hungry Horse Dam. Richard attended Columbia Falls high

State, and was student council president senior year.

On July 29, 1950, Richard married his high school sweetheart, Janet (Hollingsworth). They had two children Dan and Sandra. Richard and Janet were married for 46 years and for 40 of those years he took care of Janet who suffered from debilitating rheumatoid arthritis.

Richard worked for

He is survived by his son Dan (Deb) of Columbia Falls, daughter Sandra of Columbia Falls, granddaughter Jenifer (Ricky) Lamosin Carrier, granddaughter Sarah (Nikhil) Kamat of Columbia Falls, grandson Richard (Alexa) McArter of Aurora, Colorado, and nine great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held later this fall at Woodlawn Cemetery.

The family would like to thank Timber Creek, Frontier Hospice and Hidden Meadow for taking such good care of Richard.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## John Robert Grinde, 70

John Robert Grinde, 70, of Whitefish, died at Kalispell Regional Medical Center Dec. 2, 2020, of complications to his health.

Private family services are being planned.

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

## Anthony 'Tony' Grove, Age 52

*PAG 31 May 2020*  
Anthony "Tony" Grove, age 52, died May 24, 2020, in Kila.

Tony was born on Sept. 25, 1967 in Baker City, Oregon. He was raised and attended School in Baker City.

Tony married the love of his life, Dawn Grove in Chugiak, Alaska in August 1989 and they celebrated 30 amazing years together.

His legacy lives on through his daughter and granddaughters, Jessica and Vivyan Grove, Jennifer, Patrick, Thea, and Melody Holmquist, and Jozi Grove; his parents, Dolores White and Stanley Grove; siblings and their spouses, Chuck Grove, Jim (Mary Jo) Grove, Richard Grove, Cyndie (Roye) Baird, and Danny White; and his

extended siblings, Ellen (Joseph) Rowley, and Lorie Beverly; and multiple nephews and nieces.

Tony loved being with his family and teaching his three daughters everything he knew about hunting, fishing, mushrooming for morels, enjoying family barbecue's. He never met a stranger. They always became friends, and would make sure he was the first to offer help when anybody needed it!

The family will be having a celebration of life at Jennifer Holmquist's home on June 2 at 4 p.m. Friends are encouraged to visit [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

## Jeffery Paul Groschupf, 63

*PAG 31 May 2020*  
Jeffery Paul Groschupf, 63, died Wednesday, May 6, 2020.

Jeff is survived by his parents, Jim and Perk; his sons Andre and Micah;

Andre's wife Heather; and their daughter Rosella.

Jeff was born on July 9, 1956 in Columbia Falls. He graduated from Columbia Falls High School and the University of Arizona. He returned to Montana to be employed as an accountant and a musician.

Jeff was primarily a saxophone player and later added the flute to his repertoire. His musical career was a



combination of those two instruments for The Big Band Show, where he brought to life the zoot suit. Jeff was a member and accountant for the Don Lawrence Orchestra, and later performed with the Cocinando Orchestra Latin Jazz Band.

Jeff was a social, active man who was deeply involved in music entertainment for the majority of his life. He enjoyed golf, music, art and his pets. His family and friends will always remember him as a humble and gentle person.

A celebration of his life is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on July 9, 2020 at Jeff's home, 216 Bear Trail in Whitefish. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Jeff's life.

## Cora Beth Guay, 90

*PAG 25 Oct 2020*  
Cora Beth Guay, 90, passed away Oct. 17, 2020, at Hidden Meadows in Columbia Falls.

Cora was born on July 29, 1930, in Glasgow, Montana, to Lawrence and Elizabeth Grainger. She was the first of four kids.

Cora attended school and graduated high school in Glasgow and went on to one year of nursing school in Great Falls. When her family moved to Kalispell in 1949, Cora followed them and that is when she met the love of her life, Frank Guay. They were

married on June 25, 1950, and had two children, Jean Marie and Lawrence Joseph. Over the years, Cora worked as a medical assistant for many local doctors until she retired in 2006.

She was preceded in death by her husband Frank in May of 2015, her parents, and a brother Howard Grainger.

Cora is survived by her sister, Donna Jean Went and husband Roger, and one brother Harold (Farley) Grainger and wife Jean, her two children Jean Kelly and hus-

band Terry, and Larry Guay and Rhonda, six grandkids and nine great grandkids.

Cora resided at Hidden Meadows Memory Care where she left behind some awesome caregivers and many friends.

Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29, at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

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.

## Hallowese 'Hailie' Tomingas Gunn, 96

Hallowese "Hailie" Ellena (Morrison) Tomingas Gunn, 96, formerly of Somers, died May 19, 2020, in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

She is survived by her two sons, Byron and Henry Tomingas.

Burial took place at the Aspen Cemetery in Jackson, Wyoming.

A memorial dinner will be held at Vista Linda in Somers mid-August. Contact [Byron@Tomingas.com](mailto:Byron@Tomingas.com)

## Vera Loraine Gunderson, 85

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Vera Loraine Gunderson peacefully entered eternal rest Dec. 25, 2020, at her residence in Kalispell.

She was born June 27, 1935, to Hazel and Bernell Johnson and grew to adulthood in Power, Montana, attending Pleasant Ridge and Power schools. She and her younger brother Gale came into the world during the Great Depression and grew up during the Second World War, so life on the dry-land farm afforded modest comforts, plenty of chores, and the company of farm animals and pets. Church activities at the Zion Lutheran Church and later, the United Church of Christ built a network of friends that sustained for nine decades. The company of her many cousins and friends were treasured, and cultivated. A momentous occasion for the

Johnson family was the move to the bountiful irrigated land of the bench and an architecturally modern house.

Marrying in 1951 to Martin "Billy" Gunderson, (son of Effie and Ole Gunderson, also of Power), they commenced a baby-boomer family with Loren (1952), Bruce (1954) and finally a long-awaited girl, Charlene in 1959. Loraine was a dedicated booster of her family's fortunes, encouraging children's participation in Cub Scouts, 4-H, school activities, and piano/voice/dancing lessons, while also attending to the tireless work of raising sheep, chickens and a substantial garden. Her own self-improvement continued with focused

self-education, graduation from a commercial college, and an ongoing interest in vocal performance, horseback riding, dog-breeding and early ventures into adventure travel.

As her children grew to adulthood, the dissolution of her marriage led her to begin a working career and prompted a move to a lovely suburban home in Great Falls. With great pride she landscaped and decorated until it met the standards suitable for herself and pampered pets, too numerous to mention.

Retirement brought about travel adventures, time with grandchildren, Makayla and Kimberly Completo (from marriage of Charlene and Kenny Completo), Kate from the marriage of Bruce and Allison, and stepgrandchildren (Amber, Caleb and Hannah). A disciplined mindset drove her

to compiling remarkable compilations of family history in extensive binders of photographs, all of which she could keenly recount in story and detail to her last day.

Many people touched the life of Vera and their company was a joy and comfort. Mentioning a few of the many we would like to recognize are Arlene and Audry Odden; Don, Dick and Barbara Bauman; Dolores Gettel, Dolores Gunderson, Carol Suek, Bertie Turville, Floyd Grassman, Joan and Terry Weber, Carol Halcro, Cliff Crawford and Rochelle Galloway, and many others. Each friend from church, work and the community knew her as someone who was generously expanding her "family" to include them and their children.

Deeply missed by all, she is survived by all her children and grandchildren and brother Gale.

## Melvin Leroy "Gus" Gustafson, 79

Melvin Leroy "Gus" Gustafson, 79, of Somers, died at his home Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020.

Services for friends and family are being planned for this summer.

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

## Joan Gurule, 77

PA 4  
15 Feb 2020  
Beloved sister, mother, grandmother and friend, Joan Gurule, 77, of Spokane, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 10, 2020.

She was born on Feb. 13, 1942, the daughter of Ernie and Margaret (Nicholson) Gallagher. Joan was born and raised in Inglewood, California. After graduating from Inglewood High School, she moved to Denver and attended Denver University where she studied accounting and business. Joan and her family then moved to Bigfork, in 1978, and made their home on Echo Lake. The Echo Lake residence will always be considered "home." The home is a very special gathering place where many great memories were shared. Joan later moved to Spokane in 2004 to be closer to family.

On Oct. 8, 1967, she married the great love of her life, Dave Gurule. They had two wonderful children together, DJ and Peggy. Joan and Dave spent over 30 wonderful years of marriage together until his passing in 2016.

Joan was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection as well as the St. Steven's Episcopal Church. She was also a member of the Alter Guild for both churches. Her faith was a very important part of her life. Joan also dedicated countless hours to the Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank, an organization she held near and dear to her heart.

Although Joan was always busy helping others, she still had the time for watching the Gonzaga Women's Basketball team, cooking her famous Mac and Cheese dish, cross stitching, needlepoint, shopping and supporting Gonzaga University.



Most importantly, she always made time for family. To her, family was the

most important thing in her life. She adored her four grandchildren and was very active in their lives.

Joan was known for her quick wit, her caring and compassionate personality, and her authenticity. She will be greatly missed by all those she loved.

Joan is survived by her children, DJ (Katie) Gurule and Peggy (Jason) Overland; her sisters, Peggy (Tim) Buzbee and Anna (Larry) Merriman; her grandchildren, Bryce and Quin Colvin and Eliana and Calliope Gurule; her nephew, Brandon Buzbee; and her nieces, Jill Frazier, Jeni Masaki, Whitney Buzbee and Megan Wallace.

Joan was preceded in death by both parents, Ernie and Margaret Gallagher; her beloved husband, Dave Gurule; as well as her grandson, Gabriel Gurule.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Feb. 21 at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection: 15319 E. 8th Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99037, with the Rev. Linola Bartholomew officiating.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank, 10814 E. Broadway Ave., Spokane Valley, Washington, 99206.

Please share your memories of Joan at [www.belltowerfuneralhome.com](http://www.belltowerfuneralhome.com). Bell Tower Funeral Home and Crematory is entrusted with services.

## Michael J. Gwiazdon

PA 7 22 Nov 2020

Michael J. Gwiazdon passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 13, 2020, after a long battle with cancer. To know Mike, whether it was for 60 years or as a new acquaintance, was to feel you had a very good friend, and you did. Though his life was accomplished in many areas, Mike's true priority and greatest joy was in the relationships he shared with the people. Mike had the gift of connecting with and making each and every person he met feel special, known, and appreciated. He spent the final months of his life honing these skills and sharing his loving, generous spirit with friends and family near and far. Mike was a deeply spiritual person and had an unshakable faith that he loved sharing. He attended and found support in Christ Lutheran and St. James Catholic Church.

Mike was born in Minneapolis, the son of Mary and Mike. He grew up with his siblings, Joe, Jane, Tom and Anne. Mike found his way to the Flathead Valley via Glacier Park where he came to work in the summer of 1962. It was at Glacier that he met his first wife Nancy Nei and in 1964 they decided to make Whitefish their home. Mike had two daughters with Nancy, Courtney and Millie. Mike married his wife Linda in 1986. With Linda, he became the stepfather of Koan, and together they had Matt. He was the proud grandfather of five grandkids who truly adored



him, Ella, Mia, Bode, Merritt and Roke and special Grampie Unc to Alania.

Being an accomplished skier and an avid golfer, when Mike signed on with the Sportsman & Ski Haus in 1973, he found his lifelong calling. Over the years he established enduring friendships with people in retail across the nation. He rose to president and C.E.O. of the Sportsman, and Tri-State Outfitters in Idaho and Washington when those stores were purchased in 2010. His door was always open to his team and he often offered support and took a personal interest in their lives. Mike welcomed ideas and appreciated the talents of his employees. Mike was truly passionate about his work, and true to form, most passionate about the people, both employees and patrons, that brought that work to life.

The positive impacts Mike had on the Flathead Valley are vast and far-reaching. He volunteered with many organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, Whitefish Trails, Whitefish City Council, and many more. Mike was a philanthropist and truly passionate about his community and the people within it. He was always willing to step up and lend a hand, and through his unique ability to effortlessly form friendships and connections wherever he went, he managed to accomplish much. We

would be remiss in not mentioning his passion for his morning coffee club at the Buffalo, a daily gathering filled with storytelling and laughter and true friends. He found a passion after retiring in caring for his friends and spent many hours giving comfort and good cheer. He cared deeply and took great joy in those relationships.

For all of his community involvement, Mike was first and foremost a family man. He took incredible pride and joy in his children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and their children. Mike will be remembered as a caring and loving friend, father, and adoring grandfather. Mike and Linda loved spending time with their children and grandchildren, whether that be on family trips, visits to their homes, or summer gatherings on Flathead Lake. Every occasion was filled with laughter and love. Mike will always be remembered for his genuine caring personality and his big heart. He was never afraid to show his emotions and to tell you how much you mattered to him. He will live on in the love we share with each other. When asked what mattered most in this world, Mike would answer with unwavering certainty and conviction that love is what matters most.

Memorials in Mike's honor can be made to Sparrow's Nest of NW Montana, or the charity of your choice; <https://www.sparrowsnestnwmont.org/>

A celebration of life will be planned for this summer.