

Yvonne Arlette Martens Kelley Kalien, 87

Yvonne Arlette Martens Kelley Kalien was called home by her beloved Savior on June 17, 2020.



Yvonne was the daughter born to Henry G. Martens and Berthe West Martens, born June 29, 1932. The family resided in Newcastle, Wyoming, where she graduated high school.

P.A.G. 21 June 2020
Yvonne married Edward S. Kelley and they made their home in Kalispell. Her first marriage ended and several years later she met and married John Kalien. Yvonne worked most of her married life in retail and continued working until John retired from the Montana Highway Department. They traveled extensively throughout Europe, Mexico, Canada, and all 50 states and eventually settled in Mesa, Arizona, where

they lived for 20 years before moving to Sun City, Arizona.

Yvonne is survived by her son Lee Tresler (Pam); daughter Glenda Gilkey; son John Kalien, Jr. (Doreen); daughters, Candy Harrell (Bill), and Karen Neufeld (Ted); 11 grandchildren, Jaime Clarke (Mary), Jeremy Clarke, Jared Clarke, Jennifer Tinker (Ryan), Jeremy Tresler, Jana Treglown (Matt), Kevin Harrell (Nichol), Kory Harrell (Annie), Tonya

Baumann (Shawn), Traci Kalien (Levi), and Tami Payne (Andy). She also was blessed with 18 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

Yvonne was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, two brothers who died in infancy; her beloved husband, John Kalien; a brother-in-law Gary Wittman; and a son-in-law Boyd Gilkey.

A private memorial will be held at a later date.

Adrian Leonard Kautman Sr., 85

Adrian Leonard Kautman Sr., 85, of Whitefish, died at Kalispell Regional Medical Center on Sept. 9, 2020.

He is survived by his wife Agnes and his children Marie Moore and Travis Kautman.

No service is scheduled at this time.

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

Steven Joseph Kastella, 69

Steven Joseph Kastella, 69, of Whitefish, died Dec. 27, 2020, at his home.

He is survived by his children, Davin Kastella and Kim Rasca.

No services are scheduled.

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

Jerry Kasala, 90

AA4 6 June 2020
Jerry Kasala, 90, passed away Nov. 21, 2019, surrounded by his family, in the very home he skillfully crafted with his own hands some 50 years prior.

He was born July 17, 1929, at the family homestead in Roy, Montana, where he spent his formative years. Jerry attended Coal Hill School until fourth grade and then moved to a ranch in Moore, Montana. Hard work was instilled at an early age as the family livelihood was dependent on chickens, cattle and wheat.

Despite the hard times, Jerry found the time to cause some mischief, once slapping the hind-quarter of his sister's horse, startling it and causing it to run out of the barn, knocking her off when her head hit the door jam.

Life on the farm wasn't for Jerry and he skipped his senior year of high school, opting to join the United States Marine Corps. He obtained his GED while enlisted. Jerry enlisted with falsified documents at age 16 and served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater, which encompassed the end of World War II. He also served in the Korean War from 1950 to 1951. He took up boxing while in the Corps and claimed to have never lost a bout due to his hard head. Jerry lived life on his terms with stubborn conviction, but always upheld the three Corps Values: Honor, Courage, Commitment.

He met the love of his life, Claire Kulawik, at the University of Montana, and was always quick to point out that she was the prettiest girl on campus. Jerry made use of G.I. Bill and earned a B.S. in business administration and a B.A. in law.



sweatpants or hand-cut jean shorts were far more practical in case some work

might arise that needed to be done. Nothing was thrown out, everything had a purpose, and his garage would have made a potentially hazardous challenge even for "American Pickers."

There was always more work to be done, but late in life Jerry took up golfing as a hobby he could enjoy with his grandsons and granddaughters. His eyes would light up and a rarely seen smile would magically appear on his almost youthful face whenever his granddaughters Gracie and Madison would visit, eager to drive him around in the golf cart. His swing wasn't pretty due to his damaged rotator cuffs from years of drywalling, but he had a wicked slice and a knack for losing count of his strokes, which kept things light and everyone guessing.

Jerry had one final adventure left in him when he accepted the invitation to join one of the few remaining "Honor Flights" for WWII veterans. He was accompanied to Washington, D.C. by his grandson Brian and the duo viewed all of the memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifice of him and his fellow servicemen. The highlight of the trip was visiting the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and having his picture taken with his grandson capturing the multigenerational bond of two Marines.

Jerry was a man that wore many hats and began one of his first jobs as operating engineer at Minuteman Missile Silos near Lewistown. He would go on to work every facet of flood insurance adjusting with multiple agencies, including working as a Pilot Catastrophe adjuster, traveling the country with Claire by his side in their minivan, always eager for a new challenge. His final career change came when he started his own construction company. On the jobsite he was assisted by Bob Parker, a true friend who stood by Jerry through thick and thin, always willing to lend a helping hand long after the final job was done.

Jerry took hard work to another level; the job was finished when perfection had been achieved and it met the "Jerry Standard," though some concessions were made when the sun set. Jerry dressed like a drywaller; he wouldn't wear anything that wasn't ripped, full of holes, stained with paint, or caked with drywall mud. There was at least one occasion where lunch was paid for by a caring stranger, who thought that he and his grandson Brian were homeless, judging by their attire. He had a closet full of nice clothes for special occasions, but

Throughout 65 years of marriage, Jerry never faltered in his love for Claire. However, he did have life-long love affairs with Diet Pepsi, Dairy Queen XL strawberry milkshakes and banana splits. Jerry believed that his proudest accomplishments in life came in the form of putting all five of his children through college. He was a longtime member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church at Creston in his later years.

He could be a tall, intimidating, stone-faced, war-hardened Marine to some. But "Big Jerr" or "Pardner," as he was affectionately known, had a heart of gold, overflowing with compassion and generosity for anyone in need and those who knew him best. He was a man of few words, quick with his temper but even quicker with compassion. Jerry was genuine, honest, selfless, and a man who will greatly be missed by the countless lives he touched.

Jerry is survived by his sister Doris; wife Claire; daughters Linda (Fredenberg), Kim (DePinto), Sandy and Vicky; son Jerry Jr.; grandsons Brian and Kurt; and granddaughters Gracie and Madison.

Burial will take place at Glacier Memorial Gardens at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 6. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

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Arlean Geneva Keister, 97

PA 6 24 May 2020
Arlean Geneva Keister, 97, passed away on May 15, 2020 at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish. Arlean Geneva Keister was born to Axel and Genevieve Peterson on May 5, 1923 in Oberon, North Dakota. Residing in North Dakota for the next 23 years, she graduated from high school in Maddock, attended college in Valley City, and then taught in a one-room schoolhouse by Sheyenne, North Dakota.



Arlean Geneva Keister, 97

On Sept. 20, 1944, she married Joseph J. Keister and they moved to Portland where they were both employed at the shipyards. In 1947, Arlean and Joe, along with their two oldest children, moved to Whitefish, where they raised their five children. When Joe retired, they spent the winters touring the United States and returned to their home on Beaver Lake Road during the summer months. After Joe passed away in 1993, Arlean made three trips to Europe, one being to her father's homeland of Sweden. She also traveled to the Holy Land. Her other travels included a river boat ride down the Mississippi, bus tours to the East Coast and further south, and a rafting trip down a river in Glacier National Park. Having the heart of a caretaker, Arlean committed her life to being a great wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She attended Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish, thoroughly enjoying the Tuesday Bible Study. She also belonged to the Bissell Home Demonstration Club.

Arlean was preceded in death by her husband, one granddaughter and one grandson, and four brothers.

She is survived by her five children: Karen Bronson-Kincaid and husband, Garrett of Sallisaw, Oklahoma; Kenneth Keister and wife, Dorothy of McMinville, Oregon; Caroline Vlachos and husband, Bill of Whitefish; Howard Keister and wife, Tracie of Whitefish; and Joseph Keister and wife, Tera of Salmon, Idaho.

Also surviving her are 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and one sister.

Graveside (family only) services were held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 21 at the Whitefish Cemetery.

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

Daniel Joseph Martin Keenen, 73

Daniel Joseph Martin Keenen, 73, died Aug. 7, 2020, at his home in Kalispell.

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

Gordon 'Gary' Kiefer, 72

PA 6 26 July 2020
Gordon "Gary" Kiefer, 72, passed away in Kalispell on July 13, 2020.

He was born in Newton, Massachusetts, in 1947 to Gordon L. and Priscilla E. Kiefer. He grew up in Auburn, New York, with his brother Kevin and sister Jacqui.

After graduating from Mexico Academy in upstate New York, he enlisted in the Navy and served from 1965 to 1968 on the hospital ship The Sanctuary.

In 1970 he married Gail A. Evans and traveled and worked various jobs until he attended Flathead Valley Community College and graduated as a forest technician. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service at the Hungry Horse Ranger District,



Glacier View in Columbia Falls, and eventually at the supervisor office in Kalispell.

Gordon is survived by his wife Gail and two sons,

Matthew and Jonathan (wife Melody), his sister Jacqui, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Gary will always be remembered for his love of golf and was sad to give up his Thursday tee time and the annual "Outpatient Invitational," three rounds of mad golfing and much fun with his friends.

Samuel Thomas Keirle, 25

PA 6 23 July 2020
Lovingly called "Sonny Boy" by his father, on Dec. 9, 1994, Samuel Thomas Keirle came bouncing into the world at a healthy 9 pounds, 12 ounces in Billings. He was a man of the world — living and growing up in many places: Kalispell, Billings, Bowman, Baker, St. Paul. The Johnny Cash song comes to mind, "I've been everywhere man" and he left good friends in every one of these places. He was a good friend and would help anyone who needed it, but beware of his practical jokes! He loved his family, (defended them fiercely), animals, Harleys, and he had met his person, the love of his life — Caitlin. He was finally able to plan for the future because he had found someone as loyal as he. He was very happy.

Sammy left this world, doing what he loved best, riding a Hog. Thursday, July 16, he left work and collided with a deer.

Sam's choice of profession was cooking and he was the head chef at the Sitting Duck in Bigfork at the time of his death.

Missing him forever



er and always are his one, Caitlin McDonald, of Kalispell; his father, Dean

Howe, of Kalispell; his mother, Danielle Keirle Butori (Dale); his sister, Madison Myla, of Baker; his brother, Brandon Hegg (Kristin), of St. Paul; his grand-parents, Granny Jae, Bowman (his partner in crime), Grandma Mae of Kalispell, and Grandma Mary (George), and Grandpa Carter (Lori) of Dillon. Sam also had so many fraternal and maternal uncles, aunts, cousins, too many to mention but dear to his heart.

This is also true for the people who preceded him in death, his Grampas Thomas, Orville and Dean and again too many others to list. He was also preceded by his little furry friends, Sharmae, Chewy, Izzy and Rusty.

A celebration of Sam's life will be held Sunday, July 26, at 2 p.m. at 174 Redfield Lane in Lakeside. Lake attire, please.

Elouise Ina (Ott) Kendrick, 95

PAL 29 May 2020

Elouise Ina (Ott) Kendrick, 95, passed away at home in Kalispell on May 25, 2020.



Grant, a World War II Prisoner of War.

Elouise was preceded in death by Grant and her sister Betty Nugent of Whittier, California. She is survived by her sister June Wildeboer of Covina, California; her two sons and their wives; William (Marguerite); David (Denise); grandchildren Jacquelyn Humphreys (Adam); Mark (Leslie Caputo); Joseph Vollstedt (Tina); Christine Vollstedt (Jason Casey); great-grandchildren Emily and Caleb Humphreys; Curren Vollstedt Casey; and her many nephews and nieces, all of whom she loved deeply. At Elouise's request, a graveside service will be held at 2:30 p.m. on June 1 at Glacier Memorial Gardens on U.S. 93 North of Kalispell.

She was born Aug. 14, 1924, in Azusa, California, to William and Myrna Ott. She married Grant Methow Kendrick on May 12, 1946. Elouise loved family, friends and the outdoors. She sewed and canned during her early life and later turned to needlepoint. She loved making things for her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends. After Grant's death, Elouise volunteered for the annual Jazz Festival. She also volunteered at the Kalispell Welcome Center and Veterans Memorial in Kalispell. It suited her in some small way to pay tribute to

Francis Yvonne Kemper, 60

PAS 24 Feb 2020

Francis Yvonne Kemper, 60, a resident of Kila, passed away on Feb. 15, 2020.



in the parish hall. Rite of Christian Burial will follow at St. Edward Catholic Cemetery in North Plains at 1:15 p.m.

For Montana friends and family, a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Services are being provided by Duyck & VanDeHey Funeral Homes, 503-357-8749, in Forest Grove, Oregon; and Darlington Cremation and Burial Services, 406-755-2662, in Kalispell.

A guestbook is available at dvfuneralhome.com.

She was born July 16, 1959. Recitation of the holy rosary and funeral Mass will be held on Friday Feb. 28, at 10 a.m. at St Edward Catholic Church, 10990 313th, in North Plains, Oregon. A reception will take place following the Mass, held

Rick Allen Kerr, 67

Rick Allen Kerr, 67, of Charlo, died Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020, at St. Luke Community Hospital in Ronan.

Memorial services are

pending.

Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.

Vladimir Kigilyuk, 71

Vladimir Kigilyuk, 71, died on Nov. 26, 2020, at his home in Kalispell.

Private family services will be held with burial at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Ann Marie Kimzey, 48

PAL 1 July 2020

Ann Marie Kimzey, 48, of Meridian, Idaho, passed away June 15, 2020. She was a voracious reader, a lover of all things purple, and a vocal advocate for the rights of the left-handed. Born in Kalispell, she graduated Flathead High School with high honors, and earned her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree at Montana State University at Bozeman. Ann moved to the Boise, Idaho, area to partake in the high-tech culture of the "Silicon Potato," working first for Extended Systems, and Agilent before more than a decade-long career at Marvell Semiconductor.

While quiet and introverted by nature, she rose to responsibilities for larger teams and projects, managing with a goal of forming personal connections to her reports and teammates. She provided freshly made cookies and caramel corn to her teams on the holidays and pro-



duced personalized crocheted baby blankets for every new arrival.

Preferring a quiet independent life, she enjoyed leading adventure walks for her nieces at the family cabin, and driving cars with a bit more horsepower than you would expect from her quiet demeanor. She is survived and will be sorely missed by her parents Gerald and Barbara Kimzey, her sister Amy Kimzey, brother-in-law Scott Berger, nieces Katarina and Melanie Berger, as well as a multitude of aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family has chosen to hold a private memorial service, and asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in her honor to local chapters of Habitat for Humanity.

Arlette G. Kinniburgh, 78

PAL 27 May 2020

Arlette G. Kinniburgh, 78, of Kalispell died May 23, 2020 in Kalispell. Arlette was predeceased by her husband Kenneth Kinniburgh. Arlette is survived by numerous

close friends and family, and loved by all. Private family services are being held. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Charles Kins, 71

Charles Kins, 71, died on April 13, 2020, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Services will be held

at a later date.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Michael D. Kirk, 59

Michael D. Kirk, 59, of Kalispell, died April 3, 2020, at Brendan House. He is survived by his son, Adam D. Bishop.

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

Margie Delila Kis, 91

Margie Delila Kis, 91, of Kalispell, died Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, at North Valley Hospital. Burial will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan.

25, at Fielding Memorial Cemetery, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

Susan Ester Kitchen, 67

876 2 Feb 2020



Susan passed away on Jan. 28, 2020, at her home surrounded by her family.

Susan was born Jan. 9, 1953, to Harold and Hazel Clarke. She was baptized into the Lutheran faith and confirmed. She was an active member and firm believer in the Lord all her life. Susan was the youngest of five siblings and grew up on the family farm in the East Valley area. She attended Deer Park School. As a child she enjoyed working and playing with the family. Horseback riding with her sister and fishing with her father were fond memories she often shared. She was the baby of the family and always seemed to have a special connection with her mother, Hazel. She attended Flathead High School and the University of Montana, obtaining her degree in education.

Susan married Jesse Kitchen, on April 7, 1973. Together they logged and milled the timber from their own property to build their forever home near Columbia Falls. Jesse and Susan enjoyed the early years by motorcycle trips and horseback riding in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Two children were born, Laurie and Jess "Albert." As a family they enjoyed many years of farming, raising cattle, horseback riding, fishing, hunting and trapping together. Susan loved the country life, but most of all she loved her family. Family gatherings were always her favorite. She will be remembered for her loving nature, positive attitude and depth of caring for her family and friends. Susan always

made sure everything and everyone was taken care of even to the end. The love for her hus-

band, children and grandchildren was beyond measure. She was also an animal lover. She had many favorites throughout her life — her childhood horse Princess, the cow George, her palomino horses Spook and Goldie and her border collies Princess and Red.

Susan followed her passion for helping others. She substitute taught at many of the rural country schools while her children were young. She then taught full time at Deer Park for many years until she retired to again spend more time with her family. She enjoyed teaching her students and they benefited from her passion for learning. Students in her class always knew there would be field trips, hands-on learning, "hooked on fishing" days, train trips to East Glacier and an endless supply of hugs. She always had a special place for each and every student in her heart.

Susan was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Phil Clarke.

She is survived by her husband Jesse, daughter Laurie and husband Mark, son Jess "Albert" and Wendy, grandchildren Jess "Wyatt" and Hudson and the grandchildren's mother Kali, brothers Harold Clarke and wife Pam, Erine Clarke and wife Reva, and sister Mary Ann and husband Greg Lidstrom,

and many loving nieces and nephews.

Susan will be laid to rest at Fairview Cemetery on Monday Feb. 3, at noon.

A celebration of her life will be Monday, Feb. 3, at 2 p.m. at The Church

at Creston, MT Highway. 35, Kalispell. A potluck will follow for family and friends to share Susan's love of gatherings.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for Susan's family.

Rachel Faye Klempel, 51

PA5 3 July 2020
 Rachel Faye Klempel, devoted mother to Levi, cherished companion to many, everyone's favorite massage therapist and longtime resident of Bigfork, died unexpectedly in her home at the age 51.



career as a massage therapist. As a gifted healer and founder of Medicine Owl Massage,

Rachel is survived by her parents Geri and Gene Cooper, her husband Richard Klempel, her son Levi, her sisters Miriam, Debbie (Brian), and Leah (Hassan), her nieces Naomi and Joelle, her stepdaughter Rainey Klempel, grandson Tyrion, and sister and brother-in-law Doris and Jon Rost.

Rachel was born on April 8, 1969, in St. Louis. She graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a bachelor's degree in social work with a strong desire to help the special needs population. After graduation she moved to San Francisco to have adventures with much-loved roommates and developed a strong connection with the wild outdoors. She worked for nonprofit agencies as an advocate for mentally challenged adults. Rachel's love of culture inspired her world travels, taking her to the deep wilderness of Alaska, New Zealand, backpacking through Europe, WWOOFing in Spain and trekking across Morocco. Seeking a way to contribute to the environment, she worked as an intern on an organic farm in Bigfork and it was there she found her true home near the mountains. She briefly worked for the Montana Conservation Corps before pursuing a

she made many a sore body happy through her amazing hands and healing energy. As an active community member, Rachel felt passionately about her time on the board of Ravenwood Outdoor Learning Center, her involvement with the Glacier Jewish Community and her roles in several Bigfork Playhouse amateur productions.

Rachel was a bright, big personality who loved sharing her great sense of humor with friends, hiking, dancing, kayaking, camping, hearing live music, attending book club, cooking foods from her garden and her deepest love, that will endure forever, is her love for her son, Levi.

Rachel's celebration of life gathering will be held online, July 12 at 2 p.m. Mountain Time, due to COVID-19.

If you would like to donate to a fund for Levi Klempel in Rachel's beloved memory, please send checks payable to Edward Jones and send to Edward Jones, P.O. Box 2438, Bigfork, MT 59911. Please indicate in memo if you want to contribute to Levi's General Fund or College Fund. Another option is a fund at Glacier Jewish Community/B'nai Shalom to help with funeral expenses and support of Levi. Thank you.

Helena, Montana, and Deb (Jim) Bebee of Malta, Montana, and his brother Jim (Lisa) Klovstad of Minden, Nevada. In addition, Jack is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to: DREAM Adaptive Recreation, P.O. Box 4084, Whitefish, MT 59937 or Gideon's International, P.O. Box 1305, Kalispell, MT 59903

his love for skiing with his desire to help others.

Jack was very active in his local church and had a passion to tell others about Christ. His faith in Christ was fundamental to his life, providing an essential basis for everyday living. He was also involved with Gideon's International.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents Swede and Hazel Klovstad, and two sisters Patricia DeLucca and Susan Evans. He is survived by his sisters Diane Lonnes of

Engineering and continued on to study for his PhD.

After working at Bolt, Beranek, and Newman in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for several years as a research scientist in speech recognition, Jack retired early and moved to Whitefish, Montana. He loved outdoor activities; hiking, bike riding and skiing. One of his greatest joys was working with DREAM to take disabled people down the mountain on sit-skis. This enabled him to combine

John "Jack" William Klovstad

P 65 9 Dec 2020 Whitefish Post



John "Jack" William Klovstad went to meet his Lord and Savior on November 30, 2020. He was born on May 5, 1946, in Malta, Montana, the third child of Swede and Hazel Klovstad.

Jack grew up in Malta and graduated from Malta High school in 1964. He went on to study at Montana State University where he graduated in 1968 with a degree in Electrical Engineering, and a second degree in Aerospace and Astronautical Engineering. He con-

tinued his education at MIT in Massachusetts where he earned a master's degree in Electrical

John Kluding

PA 5 23 Feb 2020

John Charles Kluding, a Bigfork resident for the last 21 years, passed away



peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020. A loving son, husband, father, uncle and friend, John was known for his sharp wit, inquisitive take on the world, and making the one person he was talking to feel like the most important person in the room. He would probably have wanted us to say something about his golf swing, and so we have.

John was fortunate to have experienced Americana by living in a variety of places throughout his life. Born in Norwalk, Ohio, as a youth he also lived Dedham, Massachusetts, Rockfall, Connecticut, and Dearborn, Michigan. As an adult, he lived in Chicago, Moberly, Missouri, Cleveland, Oklahoma City, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, Portland, Boise, Idaho, Derry, New Hampshire, Denver, and his favorite and most lasting location, Bigfork.

He was preceded in death by his father (Paul), mother (Patricia), sister (Judi), brother (James) and sister-in-law (Sharan).

He is survived by the true love of his life, Jean, whom he shared his life

with for 33 wonderful and invigorating years. He is also survived by his sisters, Paula and Kathi, and his brother, Bob. John had four phenomenal children, Patty, Jennie, Paul and Heidi; and 11 glorious grandchildren, (Johnathan, Jack, Kaelyn, Kim, Grace, Arnie, Kevin, Molly, Billy, Declan and Fiona).

A proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame, John enjoyed a long career in the food service marketing industry, and was a crucial contributor in the dawning of the frozen food industry. He eventually rose to the rank of vice president of marketing for a number of nationally prominent organizations.

John loved the outdoors. Either by taking his children camping, enjoying a round of golf with Jean, or simply partaking in a hike in the foothills, he was inspired by the nature around him.

While he was limited in mobility in his later years, he always maintained an extremely positive outlook on life — a state of mind that served as constant inspiration for those who were fortunate enough to know him.

We will miss you, Dad.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to John's favorite charity, the Humane Society of Northwest Montana (www.humanesocietypets.com) at 406-752-PAWS.

Laura Kochis, 67

Our sweet and loving Laura Kochis passed away on the morning of March 25, 2020, as a result of complications of a stroke (during surgery for an aneurysm).

Laura was born Jan. 14, 1953, in Norfolk, Virginia, the child of a Navy family. Her mother was Yolanda Kochis and father was Peter Kochis, who was a commander in the Navy. She was the oldest girl in a family of eight children. She had three sisters and four brothers.

Her childhood was that of a military family living in Norfolk, Hawaii and San Diego. She graduated from Bishop Amat Memorial High School, a Catholic school in La Puente, California. Upon graduation, Laura worked locally in various jobs including waitress work at Marie Callender's restaurant and she worked in the fashion industry in textiles in Los Angeles with Wamsutta Company as she attended college. She attended Long Beach State College and studied accounting for three and a half years. She left California in her senior year at Long Beach State to take a job in accounting at the Grand Canyon National Park with the Fred Harvey Hotel Company. She moved to Montana by accepting an administrative position with the Glacier Park Lodge in East Glacier. She loved Montana and moved to Whitefish to ski and work on Big Mountain. She worked as a bartender, waitress, bookkeeper and office administrator at various businesses in the valley. As an original member of the infamous Working Women of Whitefish, Laura loved to celebrate the Winter Carnival, parade and dance in the street.

Laura was funny and always had a joke to tell, but she was sharp and could dish it out as well



PA 6
as take it.
She met
her future
husband,
geolo-
gist Rod
Samdahl,
while
working as
a cocktail waitress at the
Outlaw Inn in Kalispell.
After a stimulating debate
over the pros and cons
of drilling for oil, Rod
musingly asked if she
had driven to work in a
car full of gasoline. They
bantered back and forth
for an hour about her
oil-based nylon stockings
and plastic hair brush
but she stood up for the
air, water and all things
furry and cute. She was
secretly impressed with
him and said she didn't
date guys from the bar,
but agreed to see him
again anyway. Four years
later they were married
in Whitefish in 1987 at St.
Charles Catholic Church.
Rod's priest, Father Jack
Darragh, came to co-cel-
ebrate the wedding with
Laura's priest, Father
Hunthausen. Two priests
at one wedding! Maybe
that's why they lasted
together so long. Soon
after, they moved to
Helena where she worked
for the "On Broadway"
restaurant and as an
office manager for Myre
Advertising, an art and
billboard company with
roadside billboards across
the central part of the
state. She and Rod joined
the Helena Cathedral
Parish and flourished
spiritually there before
returning to Whitefish.

Laura's marriage of
33 years to Rod was the
stuff of love stories. They
laughed, rode long dis-
tances on bicycles, skied,
boated and backpacked
through the West. In
1989 they had their son
Michael in Helena. In
1993 they moved back
to Whitefish where they
built their home, and she
lived there with her hus-
band until her passing. In
Whitefish she immersed
herself in the local cul-

1 Apr 2020
ture and community as
an undying volunteer for
a variety of organizations
including youth soccer,
Cross Currents Christian
School, she organized
and ran the Whitefish
Art Festival for several
years, served as the Boy
Scout Troop 17 popcorn
colonel, was a board
member with Sparrow's
Nest and volunteered
many hours at the North
Valley Food Bank. Laura
loved Michael and always
supported him making
food for the football team,
fundraising for his activ-
ities, and feeding his rav-
enous friends at school
lunchtime. In spite of the
fact that she was working
full-time, she came home
at lunchtime to be there
for him.

Laura was a woman
of faith and active in
the Catholic Church
always helping out with
meals, rummage sales,
Shepherd's Hand, and
wherever there was a
need. Laura would always
take on the most unpleas-
ant jobs with a joyous
heart. She was unbeliev-
ably generous, always
overtipped, and gave
many of her belongings
to others in need. She
shared everything with
anyone who asked. Her
life was marked by her
unparalleled generosity
and love for her husband
and son.

Laura was a con-
summate planner. The
high bar she set for her
son's incredible rehearsal
dinner and wedding
to Makayla Darrow in
Bigfork was preceded by
organizing a wonderful
surprise Silver Wedding
Anniversary for her par-
ents in California. She
always put family first
and any time she had
for vacations was spent
visiting the family in
California. She loved to
bring raw huckleberries
to California and bake
delicious pies for the fam-
ily. She had a huge heart.
She will be missed but
not forgotten.

Laura is preceded in

death by her mother,
father and brother Peter.

She is survived by
her loving husband Rod
Samdahl; son Michael
Samdahl and his wife
Makayla; her broth-
ers John Kochis (wife
Denise), Philip Kochis
(wife Patsy), Robert
Kochis; sisters Mary
Mohr (husband Richard),
Lillian Baltes (husband
Bob), Rita Flagler (hus-
band Robert); and dozens
of nieces and nephews
whom Laura knew well
and loved dearly.

Funeral services will
proceed through the
current pandemic at St.
Richard Catholic Church
in Columbia Falls with
immediate family only.
Interment will follow
immediately at the
Catholic Cemetery in
Columbia Falls. A cele-
bration of life will be held
later this summer.

In lieu of flowers,
Laura would want memo-
rials sent in her name
to Sparrow's Nest NW
MT, in care of Sister
Judy Lund, 186 Rosewood
Drive #B, Kalispell, MT
59901.

Columbia Mortuary in
Columbia Falls is caring
for the family. Please
visit [www.columbiamor-
tuary.com](http://www.columbiamor-
tuary.com) to send notes
of condolences to the
family.

Lavonne 'Vonnie' M. Koenig, 92

Vonnie went peacefully to be with her Lord and Savior for some much deserved rest Jan. 17, 2020, after 92½ years of tireless service to others.

She was a staunch advocate for the developmentally disabled, working to promote community-based programs and educational opportunities. Her opinion can be summarized in her own words regarding the disabled:

"What we have started is the hope and possibility that a person of lesser mental and physical ability can also be accepted for what he is — a child of God, a person of worth, dignity and respect, capable of loving and being loved, capable of contributing to our society when provided with needed training and skills."

Vonnie was born on July 15, 1927, in Lambert, Montana, to Douglas Ann and Alvin Ullman. She moved to Fairview, Montana, to live with relatives who were instrumental in introducing her to her Lord and Savior. Later she moved to Billings to live with her mother where she graduated high school in 1944 from Billings Senior High. She then moved to Bozeman where she received her bachelor's degree in social work from Montana State College in 1948.

She married Bill West,



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a vo-ag instructor in Baker, Montana, in 1950.

After Bill's accidental death, she completed her Masters of Social Work degree in 1956 from the University of Denver and moved to Somers to work for the Flathead Welfare Department. She was an active member of the Somers Saddle Club.

In the fall of 1957, she met Herb Koenig. They were married the following spring and have been inseparable for nearly 62 years. She continued counseling with Lutheran Social Services for a time. She supported and assisted Herb in making Koenig Farm a success. She was a wonderful homemaker and earned many blue ribbons for her bread at the county fair. Her cinnamon rolls were heavenly. They were committed members of Trinity Lutheran Church and were founding members of The Church at Creston, Lutheran. She spent many hours studying the Word and was always willing to share with others.

Since 1966 she has volunteered her services to the Flathead Association for Retarded Citizens, served on the Governor's Interagency Council on Mental

Retardation and served as chairwoman of the Region 5 Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. In 1973, she was instrumental in starting the first Hike-Bike. This provided funding to begin Flathead Industries. She served on the board of directors of Flathead Industries for the Handicapped for over 40 years. She had been the recipient of numerous volunteer awards and honors. She also served on the board of the Marion Finley Friendship House.

She was preceded in death by her parents, first husband Bill, and one brother Cal.

She is survived by her sister, Jan Ullman; brother, Howard Ullman; husband, Herb Koenig; children, Dan Koenig, Paul Koenig, and Janet (Rory) Schwalk; and grandchildren, Kayla Adams, Danielle and Joshua Schwalk. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

Vonnie and family request that any memorials be made to Flathead Industries, P.O. Box 1916, Kalispell MT 59903.

There will be a public viewing from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. The memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at The Church at Creston, Lutheran.

Mable Koestler, 92

Mable Koestler, 92, of Whitefish, died Jan. 1, 2021, at The Springs at Whitefish.

She is survived by her husband, Marlin; and children, Rhonda Koestler, Cindy

Thornton and Lory Williams.

A ceremony will be planned for this summer.

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

John Charles Konzen, 77

John Charles Konzen, 77, died Nov. 3, 2020 at Health Center Northwest.

Services are currently pending at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Donald Dale Komenda, 89

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Donald Dale Komenda was born on Jan. 12, 1931, in Hettinger, North Dakota. Donald was the second child of Joseph and Josie Komenda. Donald was a wonderful son, brother, husband, father, father-in-law, grandpa, uncle, great-grandpa and friend.



bus route. Donald loved driving school bus, and his riders loved him! Numerous Kila, Smith Valley and

As a young man Donald was a National Guard sharpshooter. Donald was known as an outdoorsman, hunter, harmless flirt, gadget fixer/maker, state champion bus driver, road worker, storyteller, lion chaser, camper, fisherman, teaser, prankster and practical joker.

He passed away on Friday, Dec. 11, 2020, with family by his side.

In Donald's younger years, he lived in North Dakota, Swan Lake, Evergreen, Somers, and the Komenda family eventually settled in Kila and Ashley Creek where he went to elementary school. He later went to Flathead County High School. Donald loved to recall stories of living in Kila. Their house was situated directly on the "Ore Dock." He recalls they could not have anything fragile sitting out or hanging up when trucks revved up to dump ore because the entire house shook. Donald loved recalling going to elementary school with all three of the "Dons" — Don Komenda, Loveless, and Hall.

Whalebone Road students have loving recollections of Don's days of driving school bus.

Donald loved to dance, play cards, and listen to country music. He loved his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whether he had labeled them a "Diesel" (the big ones), or a "Gas Burner," (the little ones), he was the best grandpa any child could ask for! He and Merle loved watching "Mollie's Polka Party" on Saturday nights. Eventually they had named the dancers who appeared regularly. When Merle passed, Donald continued this tradition. Some of his favorite dancers were "the logger (a Kinniburgh/Schnackenburg)," "Lynn (Hadley)," "Roy (Kidder)," "Lee," and many others. His joy in seeing these "friends" was precious.

In the early '50s, Donald served several years in the National Guard Service. He was awarded first place at a 30-06 marksmanship exercise at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Donald married his high school sweetheart, Merle Kinniburgh, on Dec. 5, 1953. They were married in Marion on the original Kinniburgh home place. Subsequently, they had three sons, Ricky, Robert and Brad, each four years apart.

Through the years they lived in Swan Lake, on Ashley Creek, the Marion highway house, and then were able to return to the "old home place" (Kinniburgh homestead) in Marion when they built a house in 1980.

Donald worked for many years for the Montana State Highway Department, followed by several years of driving the Kila High School

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, brother and his wife, Merle, whom he was married to for 60 years.

He is survived by his sons, Ricky (Charlotte), Bob (Julie), and Brad (Laili); grandsons, Ricky Montana (Meghan), and Montana's mother, Mary; Jason Davis (Jackie), Roman Koziol (Amanda), and Erick Koziol; grandsons, Jason (Lindsey), Brandon, Shane (Sabrina), Tyler and Travis; and great-grandchildren, McKenna, Madelynn, Colby, Tyler, Jade, Zane, Gavin, Hunter, Kaiden, Nathan, Hudson, Cooper and Blake. Donald is also both preceded and survived by a host of extended family and friends. Donald's caregivers, roommates and new friends at Hidden Meadows are also among his survivors.

Friday, Dec. 18, a private service will be live streamed at 9:30 a.m.

— go to jgfuneralhome.com Graveside services will be held at 10:45 a.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens.



Betty Jane Kraft, 92

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Betty Jane Kraft made her journey home in the arms of the Lord and joined her beloved husband, Jerry, the morning of Dec. 26, 2020. Betty was surrounded with love and family as she peacefully went.



The story that Betty's life tells reflects most in those she leaves behind, the pieces of her in each of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Betty's strength, tenacity and love of life were incredible gifts she gave each person she touched in her 92 years.

Betty was born on Dec. 10, 1928, to Netty and John Miller. Her mom passed when Betty was 13, and although it's not the most important part of Betty's story, it is a true reflection of strength in who she grew to be right up to the end of her journey on earth.

Betty married John

Kraus in 1948 and together they had three children, Ron (Debbie) Kraus, Nancy

(Pat) Hanley and Kathy (Ron) Brandt. John left her a widow at 26 and she moved her three kids to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where she started working for C & C Beauty School. The beauty school took her and her small family to Kellogg, Idaho, where she met the love of her life, Jerome (Jerry) Kraft. They married in 1960 and their family grew with Jacque (Tom) Sands, Martin (Marty), Jerome (Renae) Kraft and Michelle (John) Grubb. Betty's job with C & C Beauty School would bring their family to Kalispell where Betty and Jerry settled permanently.

As the family grew with grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, Betty, AKA Grammie, kept busy through the years. Betty did her best to attend every sporting event, school play or concert she could. Some of the fondest memories her grandkids have of her is the time they spent with in her house on First Ave and all the sweet treats she would make sure they had on holidays and birthdays. Her family will miss her making her famous "marça," caramel rolls, banana bread and candied yams most.

Betty was a passionate card player and enjoyed her pinochle and bunco groups, and playing cards on Wednesdays with her children. The stories that the cards could tell of the years of fun she had with her family and friends would fill a book.

She loved to attend music at Snappy's on Tuesdays and concerts at church through the years when she wasn't busy with her family's events. As we have looked through the hundreds of photos she has taken through the years, it is a beautiful reminder of the incredible life she built around her. She loved with her whole heart and as her family grew, so did her love and dedication to each and every one of them.

She will be missed more than any words can truly express.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in her honor.

A private graveside service will be held for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

Joseph M. Krawiec Jr., 75

Joseph M. Krawiec Jr., 75, died at home on Nov. 18, 2020, in Kalispell.

Burial will take place on Nov. 30 in Missoula. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Arvid "Chris" Kristoffersen, 91

Arvid "Chris" Kristoffersen, 91, of Kalispell, died Monday, Sept. 7, 2020.

He is survived by his wife, Roslyn "Roz"; and his children, Darlene Wagner, Deborah Castro, Douglas Wagner, Darrell Olson and Deelynn Olson.

Services may be planned at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory.

Reinhold J. Kraft, 85

A true hometown American hero has been put to rest. Retired Col. Reinhold "R.J." Kraft passed away on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020, in Bigfork.

R.J. dedicated 37 years serving in the United States Army, protecting our homeland and our freedom. During his career, R.J. earned the Soldiers Medal of Honor, four Bronze Stars with one for Valor, four Air Medals and three Army Commendation Medals to highlight a few of his awards. His life was to serve our country.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jacob and Molly Kraft and oldest son, James Merritt Kraft, his brother Conrad, sisters Carrie, Martha, Helen and Emma.

He is survived by his sister, Arlene Sodestrom, of Kalispell; sons, Robert Kraft of Fresno, California, and Kirk Kraft of Libby; granddaughters, Addison Kraft, Patsy Kraft and Chelsea Kraft, all of Libby; and great-grandson, Hudson Mugoard of Libby.



retiring from the Army after 37 years on active duty. Before retirement, Reinhold "R.J." enjoyed several

hobbies. He was a self-taught carpenter and home builder. He once said "I can fix anything if I have the right tools and know how to do it." And right he was. He put a new roof on his mother's house, built furniture, repaired cars and taught himself how to refinish and repair antique clocks, eventually turning this into a small business.

He never stopped traveling and loved the RV lifestyle, traveling around the western United States and staying out of the snow. Nobody will know if it was that freezing winter of 1963 in Missoula, or the winter of 1965 on the DMZ in South Korea that was his incentive

Reinhold "R.J." was born on April 8, 1935, to Jacob and Molly Kraft in Yellowstone Township, North Dakota. He was the sixth of seven children. After his birth, the Kraft family traveled across the Northwest and California before finally settling in Kalispell where he finished his schooling and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1953. After his graduation, he married Lois Merritt and joined the Montana National Guard. He worked several jobs including roofing contractor, sheet metal fabricator and Flathead County deputy sheriff.

After a short move to Missoula, he went on active duty with the U.S. Army in 1963 and moved his family to Fort Ord, California. This was the start of a very successful career taking him from coast to coast, Hawaii, Vietnam and South Korea. All the while, serving full time for the Army, he continued his education with night and weekend classes, eventually earning a degree and graduated from Missouri Western College in St. Joseph, Missouri, with a degree in political science in 1973. R.J. is one of the very few soldiers that joined the Army as a private and earning every grade, rose to the rank of colonel before

to move south and eventually buy property in Quartzite, Arizona, where he would spend his winters and then back up north in the spring. Besides staying out of the cold he mentioned all the fantastic down to earth people he would meet and befriend through his travels. He was a people person and loved nothing more than to stay active as a member of the Sheriff's Posse or being the manager of the Moose Club in Ellensburg, Washington. He also worked with veterans throughout his retirement, ensuring they had access to all the benefits they were due. Reinhold "R.J." eventually moved back to the Kalispell area where he spent his last years close to his grandchildren and great-grandkids. Reinhold was known for his sense of humor. He made it his job in life to make everyone smile. Reinhold "R.J." was indeed, our "Hometown American Hero." He will be sorely missed.

Due to COVID-19, the memorial service will be delayed until a further date.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Veteran's Association would be appreciated.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home of Kalispell.

Mary Ruth Clark Krager Larson Krona, 74

Mary left her earthly body on April 21, 2020, due to COVID-19.

Mary was born on April 26, 1945, to James and Nova Clark in Eureka, Kansas. Mary married Raymond Allen Krager on April 10, 1965, and they had two children, Nova and Christopher. They also adopted four children, Ceto, John, Tina and Julie, and they fostered even more. After 36 years of marriage, Ray passed away from a stroke in 2001. Mary later married Paul Larson and they served on mission trips and traveled the world together. Several years after Paul's death in 2007, Mary found love a third time and married Ed Krona. Mary and Ed filled their years together with as much fun as possible, going RV'ing, dancing the night away at the Eagles, going to concerts, and attending one of their favorite events, the "Red Ants Pants Music Festival." They took great joy in watching their kids and grandkids cultivate their talents and interests. The grandkids called her the "fun" grandma because she intentionally made memories with each of them. like taking the

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Penguin Plunge into an icy lake on New Year's Day and celebrating their 21st birthdays with them. Mary found even more family in Hope Church, where she used her giftings to show true love to others. Mary was a faithful servant of Jesus Christ and confident in what her afterlife would look like. She created adventures, could make a feast out of nothing, prayed like a soldier, sought out the lonely, and even on her death bed, she prayed for US.

Mary is survived by her husband Edward Krona; her children and step-children Nova Lakey; Christopher Krager and his wife Cary Krager; Julie Green and her husband Darrell; John Krager and his wife Stephanie; Jody Davis and her husband Martin; Loeuy Charette and her husband Eric; Erik Larson and his wife Barbara; Tammy Arlint and her husband Joh; Pete Krona and his wife Kena; her grandchildren: Christopher Lakey and his wife Hanna; DG Lakey; Courtney Lakey Kaplan and her husband Peter; Christian Krager; Ruth Krager; Isabelle Green; Brian Green;

Abby Krager; Jeremiah Krager; Gwendolyn Krager; Elijah Krager; Jordan Larson; Jesse Larson; Sara Larson; Tim Larson; Joshua Larson; Gwendalyn Charette; Rebecca Charette; Joe Charette; Blaine Krona; Sarah Arlint; Brian Sawyer; Adam Arlint; Codi Evenson; Taylor Stafford, her great-grandchildren: Cody Lakey; Lily Lakey; Autumn Larson; Liam Charette; Gray Charette; Vera Charette; Loeuy Charette; James Charette; McKenlee Evenson; Sawyer Evenson; her siblings: James Clark Jr.; Terry Clark; William Clark; John Clark; David Clark; Todd Friesener; Brenda Friesener; Dan Friesener; Sherina Clark; James Clark; Michael Clark; Steven Clark; and her stepmom Sharon Clark.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents James and Nova Clark; her husbands Raymond Krager and Paul Larson; her siblings Richard Clark and Hannah Martin; her children Ceto Martin, Tina Krager and her unborn baby Christina Marie; John Burnell, her stepson Jon Larson; and granddaugh-

ter Anna Larson.

There is so much more to say about this amazing woman. She deserves to have a book written about her life, but no words could truly describe her legacy. We will have a celebration of Mary's life when the social distancing orders have been lifted and it is safe to do so. Friends are encouraged to visit our website at www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

James Paul Kutzman

PA 3 5 Feb 2020 Whitefish Pilot
On Jan. 28, 2020, we lost our brother and uncle, Jim Kutzman.

Jim was a devoted son, an awesome brother, loving uncle, and good friend. He was a big guy with a big heart that he loved to hide behind a gruff exterior. He befriended stray cats who wandered into his life and even though he never

ventured far from home in Columbia Falls, he maintained a presence on Facebook that kept him connected to his family and friends.

An MSC alumni, Jim was proud to be a Bobcat football player. He was drafted into the Army his senior year and was proud to serve his county in Vietnam.

A graveside service will be held for Jim 11 a.m., on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020, at Sunset Hills Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will be held for Jim this summer. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.dahl-cares.com.

Josef E. Kunz, 81

Josef E. Kunz, 81, died on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at his home in Bigfork. Private family services are being planned. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

Lief E. Kvamme, 83

Lief E. Kvamme, 83, of Kalispell, died Aug. 29, 2020, at Whitefish Care & Rehabilitation Center. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is assisting the family.

Ruth Kvamme, 85

Ruth Kvamme, 85, died Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. Private family services are being planned. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

John Wendell Kyes, 88

John Wendell Kyes, 88, died Feb. 9, 2020, at his home in Lakeside with his family by his side. Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.