

Gregory Lynn Bauska, 64

P 118 11 APR 2021

On March 20, 2021, we lost the hero of our family, Greg Bauska. Our beloved Greg died in Queens Hospital in Honolulu. On March 3 he suffered a hemorrhagic stroke, which was a blood vessel bursting in mid-brain. The hospital performed several procedures to try to save him, but the damage was irreversible. He was in a coma for over two weeks and passed on March 20.

Greg was born on Dec. 27, 1956, to Camilla Metcalf Bauska and Lester Bauska, in Kalispell. He attended Elrod Grade School, Central Junior High, and Flathead High School, graduating in 1975. He played forward with the Flathead Braves, and got a full-ride scholarship to the University of Montana. He later transferred to Western Montana College (now University of Montana Western). Somewhere about this time, he was given the nickname Goober, by his Aunt Marian. Many still know him by that name.

He was an entrepreneur beginning back in high school when he had

multiple jobs, from selling baseball caps to organizations, to pumping gas at Buzz

Berry's service station. He proudly managed Moose's Saloon for a number of years. He also managed the restaurant at Four Season's Motor Inn. He owned and managed his own business, Ozzy's Bar & Grill, before going into business with Steve Ferkovich, buying Glacier Lanes in Columbia Falls. They went on to open three other establishments: Ferk's Casino, Glacier Gold and Gold Country. In addition he sold real estate through Flathead Valley Brokers since 2005.

Greg felt a calling to mentor and coach young boys, by volunteering to coach the Columbia Falls High School team, Big Brothers and taking a special interest in friends' sons when they needed encouragement and guidance. Many young men could testify to the difference he made in their lives. He was a very gen-



erous man, always willing to help others without hesitation.

Besides his family and

friends, Greg loved basketball (playing, watching and coaching), and old cars, which he collected like friends. His first love was his 1965 white Mustang, which he painted orange in high school to show his school spirit, and later had repainted to white. His favorite old TV show was the "Andy Griffith Show," and Barney Fife was his hero. He said every episode had a lesson on life.

Greg will be remembered for his quick wit and sense of humor, his loyalty to family and friends and his integrity in doing the right thing. He found peace and renewal at the family cabin on Ashley Lake, sitting on the deck and watching the loons. He enjoyed taking everyone for a ride on his pontoon boat.

Greg was especially fond of and loyal to his pets: cocker spaniels Ceitze, Elliott, and

Fritzee and cats Dave, Cosmo and Pumpkin. Predeceasing him are his parents, brother-in-law Homer Millspough, and brother Roy.

Left to mourn his passing are Leslie Millspaugh, Jack Bauska, Kathy Bauska and Kelly Semenza, several nieces and nephews, several godchildren and a ton of good friends, both male and female. Many would describe Greg as their best friend, always there when they needed him. His family could always rely on him to step forth with comfort and support, with examples being his trips to Seattle to be with Leslie during difficult health issues with Homer; with his trip to Washington when Roy had a serious operation and again after his death; with his trips to Mayo Clinic with Jack, and taking him to infusion appointments in Kalispell. He was extraordinarily attentive to his parents before their deaths.

An open house celebration of the lives of Roy and Greg will be July 11, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Snowline Acres, 3315 Hwy. 93 South, Kalispell.

George Lawrence Bayha

George Lawrence Bayha, 87, died May 22, 2021, at the Timbers in Columbia Falls.

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

Tavian Renee' Beasley, 27

PA 7 26 Sept 2021

Tavian Renee' Beasley, born Aug. 6, 1994, in Kalispell, passed on to her next journey Sept. 18, 2021, in Grand Coulee, Washington. She was raised on a small farm in the foothills of the Swan Range in Kalispell until the age of 10. She then moved on to a new adventure in Bishop, California, where she attended Bishop High School. After school she remained in Bishop, working for several establishments until she took a vacation to visit her mother and stepfather in Grand Coulee. She fell in love with the area and moved herself and her beloved pets to Grand Coulee at the age of 26.

Tavian had the kindest, sweetest spirit and was extremely humble. She always made sure others were comfortable and happy before she thought of herself. Her spirit was shy but so very extraordinary. She loved with all of her heart and if you were loved by Tavian you knew it. She was beautiful in every way and will be missed greatly. When Tavian touched your heart she was in it forever.

Tavian was an incredible artist and enjoyed reading and playing the piano. She often shared her love of baking and decorating together with her mother. She was an avid knitter and made many a knitted gift for others. She also loved gaming when time allowed. Her dogs were



her babies and she took them wherever she went. She and her dogs shared many an

adventure both in Bishop and Grand Coulee.

Tavian spent this last summer working for the Washington State Steamboat Park, as well as hiking and kayaking with her friends, family and dogs. She also loved traveling to Montana to visit family and friends. She enjoyed her special times with her uncle Chris and sweet cousin Karissa.

Tavian is survived by her mother and stepfather Chantel and Chuck Crowe, brothers Mark Hall II and Sean Beasley, great-aunt Sherry Grob, grandmother Sheila Raiman, uncles Chris Turner and Jim Turner (Sarah), aunt Toni Clouse (Tony), nephews Mark Hall III, Todd Hall and Brandon Hall, several cousins, great-aunts and great-uncles, as well as her beloved pets Guinevere, Quelan, Quelana and Joseph.

Tavian was preceded in death by her grandfather George Turner and great-grandparents Chris and Helen Grob.

Memorials will be held on Thursday, Sept. 30, at the Strate Funeral Home in Grand Coulee at 1 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 3, at the Mountain Brook Community Library in Kalispell at 2 p.m.

Margaret 'Pegi' Mantei Beaudoin, 75

PA 7 28 Feb 2021

It is with profound sadness and much love that we announce the passing of Margaret "Pegi" Mantei Beaudoin, 75, on Feb. 20, 2021, of ALS.

Pegi was born Dec. 28, 1945, to Jacob and Aggie Mantei in the back of a dress shop in Twisp, Washington. Pegi was part of a very large Mantei family as there were 14 siblings.

Pegi attended Brewster High School, North Seattle Community College, Holgate Technical School and Flathead Valley Community College. In her younger years Pegi played an integral part in the opening of several See's Candies stores in the Seattle area. Pegi worked for the Evergreen School District for many years. In 1996 she became a certified nurses assistant and in 2011 Pegi became an ordained chaplain.

It was in Brewster, Washington, that Pegi met George Dennis Beaudoin. They married in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Aug. 8, 1964. They lived in various places but eventually found their way to Kalispell, where they put their roots down with their two sons.

Pegi is survived by her son, Jason Beaudoin and wife Christy of Superior,



her son Loren Beaudoin and wife Marty of Kalispell, and her beloved grandchild-

dren Owen, Lyla, Gia, Jacob and Paxton, as well as many siblings and life-long friends.

Pegi was preceded in death by her parents, sister Betty Edwards, sister Shirley Schade, brother Jim Mantei, as well as the love of her life George Dennis Beaudoin.

Her family was her everything, yet she touched so many along the way as a mentor and guiding light during her time here on earth. She put her faith in God's hands and has now gained her wings to fly.

Services will be held on March 5 at 11 a.m. at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with burial to follow at Fairview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation in Pegi's name to the ALS Foundation.

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

Jerome K. Bechtle

PA 6 25 July 2021

Jerome K. Bechtle passed away peacefully on July 15, 2021, at home in Whitefish, surrounded by his family.

He was born on Jan. 16, 1942, in Hays, Kansas, to Karl and Elaine Bechtle. He lived in Marion, Ohio, for most of his childhood before attending Ohio Wesleyan where he enrolled in ROTC and later served in the U.S. Air Force.

Upon returning to Ohio, he worked alongside his father at the family business before attending the Methodist Theological School of Ohio and began a life of ministry to others. He served in special ministries in chemical dependency counseling before moving to Montana in 1984 to serve the Bozeman United Methodist Church. He also served churches in Whitefish, Butte, Sheridan and Twin Bridges, all in Montana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and is survived by his wife Kathy Parks Bechtle, his son Eric



Bechtle (daughter-in-law Joanie Bechtle, grandsons Jackson and Carter Bechtle); his son Scott Bechtle (grand-

son Austin Bechtle and granddaughter Carissa Grimm); his daughter Laurie Bechtle Micklewright (son-in-law Matt Micklewright and granddaughters Ashley, Megan and Kelsey Micklewright); his sister Anne Bechtle Hering (brother-in-law Jim Hering and four nephews Jim, Bob, Tom and Steve Hering). Jerry believed in serving others and living a life of intention.

In lieu of flowers, do someone a small act of kindness in his memory.

An intimate family gathering will happen later this summer.

Austin Funeral & Cremation Services is caring for the family.

Grace C. Becke, 84

Grace C. Becke, 84, died Dec. 17, 2021, at Hidden Meadows in Columbia Falls. Services are pending. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Beverly Marie Becker, 93

PA 7 4 July 2021

Beverly Marie Becker (nee Smelser), 93, passed away in her sleep of natural causes in the early hours of Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

Beverly was born April 29, 1928, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota to Rex and Apolonia Smelser and grew up mostly in the Midwest. During World War II, the family moved to Washington state so her father could help with the war effort. She married LuVerne Becker in 1946 and had 48 happy years before his death in 1996. She and LuVerne lived in Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas before settling in Great Falls. She



and moved to Polson.

Beverly was active in the church and worked on many mission projects. She made dresses and quilts to be sent overseas. She volunteered many hours at the Country Store and enjoyed being with people. She enjoyed travel and made many trips with LuVerne to Arizona.

She is survived by son Robert Leland Becker of

worked as a cook and a baker for the Great Falls School lunch program until she retired

Polson; daughters Judi Lee Hoefle of Richardson, Texas and Susan Marie Schwartz of Underwood, Minnesota; two sisters, Frankie Morrison of Missoula and Anna Mindt of Polson; seven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 22, 2021 at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. Memorials are suggested to the church.

Messages of condolence may be shared with the family at www.lake-funeralhomeandcremation.com. Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.

Edna Beckler, 94

Edna Beckler, 94, of Kalispell, (formerly of Wayland, Iowa) passed away Monday, June 14, 2021, at Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell.

Edna was born May 31, 1927, in Wayland, the daughter of Jacob and Mayme Unternahrer. Edna graduated from Wayland High School in 1945.

She married Truman Beckler 12/12/1948 in Wayland. Edna was a homemaker who enjoyed cooking, sewing, gardening and baking. Her cinnamon rolls were enjoyed and cherished by family and friends. She worked on the family farm for more than 40 years. Edna was also a cook at

Parkview Home for many years.



as well as Bible school classes. Edna was a very unselfish and caring person.

Survivors include her son, Gerald and his wife Patty Beckler, of Meridian, Idaho; three daughters, Mary and her husband Roger Stutzman of Buhl, Idaho, Jane and her husband Fred Leichy of Mount Pleasant, and Elaine and her husband Gordon Stutzman of Kalispell; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and four brothers,

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Daniel Unternahrer, Harold Unternahrer, John Unternahrer and Clarence Unternahrer.

She was preceded in death by her husband Truman, her parents Jacob and Mayme Unternahrer, one brother Ralph Unternahrer, and two sisters Ruth Kauffman and Mildred Beckler.

A celebration of life memorial service will be held Saturday, July 24, at 1 p.m. at Bethel Church in Wayland with Pastor Brent Kauffman officiating.

A memorial has been

established to benefit Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell;

<https://immanuelfoundation.org>, and Bethel Church, Wayland.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home of Kalispell, and Beatty & Peterseim Funeral & Monument Services of Wayland are in charge of the arrangements.

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

Dennis Beekman, 29

Dennis was born in Kalispell on Jan. 14, 1992, to Roy and Terry Beekman and joined his 11-year older brother David.

Dennis passed away Sept. 16, 2021, in Minneapolis where he was being treated for complications of Covid-19.

He was preceded in death by both his sets of grandparents, Art and Anne Beekman, and Alex and Mavis Parrent.

Dennis is survived by his parents, Roy and Terry of Kalispell, his brother David, his wife Lori and their children Isabel, Nathan and Alex of Fort Dodge Iowa; aunts and uncles, namely Diane and Jerry Keller of Bridger, Montana, Trish Asbury of Bridger, Allen Parrent of Laurel Montana, Bob Beekman and Judy

Kalitzki of Seattle, Julie and Dick Ryan of Wenatchee, Washington, Artice and Micheal Riehl of Washington, and numerous cousins and other relations.

Dennis attended Smith Valley School and then St. Matthew's through the eighth grade where he played on St. Matthew's first football team for years and later assisted with Coach Gene Boyle. He graduated from Flathead High School where he played football and basketball. Dennis loved his baseball and played Pee Wee Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball, playing on sev-



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eral All Star teams. He played Lakers Baseball briefly and enjoyed umpiring both Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth with his father.

Dennis loved to travel, travel to spring baseball training in Phoenix, travel to Seattle to watch the Mariners, and trips to see new places like Washington, D.C. What he really wanted to do was see his Cleveland Browns play. This was right up his alley with being a champion of the underdogs.

Dennis loved being in service to people and was employed first at Target, then in the hospitality industry at the Red Lion and lastly at the Holiday Inn Express.

Dennis truly loved everyone. He always after

meeting someone would consider them a friend and when describing them would start with, "My friend." Dennis many times found the school-mate that looked lonely and become their friend. He was the ultimate really good guy. He liked everyone and everyone loved him. If anything, he showed us how someone should treat their fellow man. His smiling face and hugs will be missed by all. He is the archangel of hugs in heaven.

There will be a celebration of Dennis' Life on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Buffalo Hill Golf Course Clubhouse.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like memorials to be sent to Kidsports, P.O. Box 1205, Kalispell MT 59903.

Rosa 'Rose' Lee L. (Cramer) Behrens, 92

Rosa "Rose" Lee L. (Cramer) Behrens, 92, of Kalispell peacefully passed away at home on Dec. 23, 2021.



Rose was born in Ronan on Nov. 11, 1929, to Oscar E. Cramer and Dorothy V. Cramer. Rose was the second of four children. As a small child, she moved to Kalispell with her parents, where she lived most of her life and raised her daughter, Terry Learn.

Rose worked as a switchboard operator as a young woman for many years. Later, she worked at the Kalispell Police Department where she retired.

Rose met and married Harold "Jack" Behrens later in life, they were married for 19 years until his passing in 2007. They enjoyed traveling, camping and visiting friends at Sykes together.

Rose had a big heart and a very soft spot for all animals, especially her dog Timmy. She enjoyed working in her flower beds but most of

all she loved huckleberry picking, something she had done since she was young. Even at the age of 92, she talked about huckleberry picking. Rose had many wonderful and interesting stories from her long life on this earth that were enjoyed by many family and friends. She was full of life and loved her family very much.

Rose was preceded in death by parents Oscar E. Cramer and Dorothy V. Cramer; sisters Doris Cramer and Hazel Hill; and husband Harold "Jack" Behrens.

Rose is survived by daughter Terry Learn; sister Shirley Sutton; three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with burial afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

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

Janet L. (Berry) Belikoff, 75

Janet L. (Berry) Belikoff, 75, died on February 9, 2021, at her home in Kalispell.

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

Joyce Andrene Belisle, 86

Joyce Andrene Belisle, 86, of Rexford, died Oct. 4, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Walter S. Beland, 88

Walter S. Beland passed away at home on Nov. 27, 2020, with his family by his side.

He was born on Feb. 21, 1932, in Benafait, Saskatchewan, to Michael Beland and Justine Wok. He was the youngest of three children, sister Sophie and brother Ernie. He moved around a lot in his early years with his family before they settled in Niagara Falls, Ontario. He was an active member of his church, head of the youth group, in charge of the activities and dances.

He met and later married his love of 63 years, June M. Burch, on June 15, 1957, at St. Cyril Ukrainian Catholic Church in St. Catharines, Ontario. In 1963 they moved to Southern California where he worked at the boat yard in Newport Beach before starting his career as a boilermaker with Atlas Tank where he worked for 20 years before retiring in 1994. He was a hardworking man who is now at peace. He moved to Kalispell with his wife in 2004 to join his son Jim and daughter Vicki who already lived here. He was always saying how he wished he was younger when he moved here because there is so much to see and do.

He loved to read, go camping, going dune bug riding in the desert, going on drives to unknown places with his son Jim, but his most memorable pleasure was listening and singing to his records. When you walked in the room while he was listening to them you would hear him singing or whistling away to the music. We will cherish those memories.

He was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandpa/papa.

He is survived by



his loving wife, June; three sons, Jim Beland and lady Lael, Ken Beland and wife Lisa, Tim

Beland and wife Teresa; daughter Vicki Franklin and husband Rod Franklin; daughter-in-law Mariane Beland; seven grandkids, Brittany Ballard and husband Boyce, Brandon Beland, David Beland, Dylan Beland, Bryce Franklin, Blake Franklin and Gracie Beland; sister-in-law Marlene Sheremetta; nephews Edward Medwig and wife Minnie, Michael Medwig and wife Lucy, Tommy Beland and wife Giselle, Anthony Sheremetta; nieces Patsy Batrychuk and husband Roy, Debbie Burch and Bruce, Deanna and Mike, Cindy Genereaux and Beverly Sheremetta; godfather to Nick Swirski and Laurie Kerling; numerous great-nieces and -nephews, extended family and friends.

He was a beautiful soul who was loved by all who knew him ... he will live in our hearts always. May you rest in God's eternal peace.

Your wings were ready but our hearts were not. Until we meet again ...

A service will be held at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Kalispell, Saturday, April 24, at 9 a.m.

We want to thank Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory for caring for the family.

Celebration of Life for Dave Bell

The Family of Dave Bell would like
to invite you to his Celebration
of Life at Marinette Park
May 22nd from 1-4 p.m.

*All Family and Friends and Ex Plum
Creekers are invited! Will Provide
Snacks, Bring your lawn chairs and
whatever you would like!*

PA 6 16 May 2021

Gerald William Bell, 85

Gerald William Bell,
85, of Stanford, Montana,
died Aug. 28, 2021, at
Logan Health Medical
Center. Burial will take
place at Montana State

Veterans Cemetery in
Fort Harrison.
Buffalo Hill Funeral
Home is caring for the
family.

Janice L. Bell, 74

Janice L. Bell, 74, died July 12, 2021, at Logan
Health Medical Center in Kalispell.

She is survived by her children, Paula
Bartkoske, Brandon Bell, Mike Bell and Tom Bell.
No services are planned at this time.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring
for the family.

Maverick Henry Bench, 9

PA 4 27 Jan 2021
Our little warrior
Maverick Henry Bench
earned his wings on the
morning of Monday, Jan.
11, 2021, after a heroic
eight-month battle. His
parents and four brothers,
which he lovingly
called "the boys," sur-
rounded him during his
final hours.



reputation
for having
the "fun"
room.
Everyone
who
entered
his hospi-
tal room

A beautiful blonde-
haired, blue-eyed 9 year
old in a red baseball
cap, Maverick was the
all-American little boy.
He was born spirited,
fearless, and with a spe-
cial power that made
people gravitate toward
him. At school he was
everyone's friend, and
became known as a
defender for others,
earning him the title
of our mini Captain
America.

An avid wrestler,
Maverick had a shelf full
of trophies and medals,
including his prized
state championship,
although his humble per-
sonality never betrayed
his many talents. His
other passions includ-
ed football, dirt biking,
building Legos for hours
and, of course, annoying
his brothers.

Drive and determi-
nation came naturally
to this sweet boy, along
with a healthy appetite
for competition. He was
the essence of living life
to the fullest and we
miss that immensely.

Throughout his battle
Maverick was known
mostly for his manners,
but he also developed a

had to pull a Jenga
piece, he played Xbox
with his chaplain, and
chased the PA with a
remote control spider.
And he never, not once,
complained or asked
why him.

He had many accom-
plishments in his short
life, but his dream was
to become a Blue Angel
jet pilot, and anyone
who knew him had no
doubt he'd make that
dream a reality. Our
little Maverick, our
sweet boy who earned
his wings way too soon,
is flying high with his
Grandpa now.

Maverick's memori-
al service will be held
Saturday, Feb. 6, at
the Flathead County
Fairgrounds, where he
will be honored and
remembered for the
incredible son, brother,
and warrior that he was.

Children attending
Maverick's memorial are
invited to wear a favor-
ite superhero costume
or mask to honor his
warrior spirit. An open
memorial will take place
from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30
p.m. to pay respects.
Maverick's memorial
service will begin at 1
p.m.

William Paul Benz, 75

PA7 28 Apr 2021
William Paul Benz, 75, passed away on April 15, 2021, due to complications of (B) cell lymphoma, in Kalispell.

William was born on Jan. 5, 1946, to Joseph and Elsie (Froelich) Benz, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

William was a profound, supremely caring Renaissance man who felt every person whom he had come into contact with was important. His occupations included cartography, woodworking, computers and painting. He had a youthful humor that he had never lost.

William was preceded in death by both parents and his siblings.

William is survived by his wife, Maria



Todisco; and his son, Silas Benz of Portland.

A celebration of William's life

will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, May 3, at our home, 110 Cedar Commons Lane no. 2, Kalispell. If unable to attend, please call Maria at 406-607-5332 so we can make arrangements to visit at another time.

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

Lorraine Benzien, 79

Lorraine Benzien, 79, died Jan. 1, 2021, at her home.

She is survived by her daughters, Shelly Bowman and Tammy Benzien.

Services will be held at a later date.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

John 'Rocky' R. Bennett

PA6 7 Mar 2021
John "Rocky" R. Bennett was born April 14, 1953, in Peoria, Illinois, and passed away on Feb. 26, 2021, in Kalispell.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Otis and Katherine Bennett, and his sister, Karen Woodcock.

He worked with Flathead Lake Lodge for 35 years, using all his talents to maintain and upgrade the beautiful lodge. Over the years he made many friends with not only his coworkers, which included the seasonal ranch hands from all over the country, but lodge guests as well. Rocky also helped manage a Buffalo Ranch in Browning for several years, living on the ranch and maintaining the herd, mending ever-breaking fences on the vast acreage, and keeping the ranch house and barn in tip-top condition. He spent months at a time on this bison ranch in total isolation and it was then that the non-techie Rocky soon became computer literate, using email for the first time. It was also during that period, when he came to Bigfork for supplies, a friend introduced him to what became the love of his life, Jennifer Ehlers. Jennifer would visit him on the remote Browning ranch, and he won her heart by including her on repairing fence-lines, hauling hay for the buffalo, burying unlucky calves killed by wolves, making endless equip-



ment repairs, and after a long, hard day, enjoying the beauty and solitude

of the mountains. They were blessed with 21 years together before his passing.

He was known for his kind and gentle spirit and was cherished by all those whose lives he touched. Rocky was always willing to share his abundance of knowledge and was a guide to those he knew needed an extra hand. He was gifted with many amazing qualities, one of which was his extremely talented woodworking abilities. He enjoyed his annual prairie dog hunting trips as well as reuniting with old friends at fishing camp. Rocky and Jennifer took many adventurous trips around Montana; he would drive, Jennifer would photograph the animals and birds, and they would share their discoveries with friends.

Rocky was taken far too soon by a rare and quickly developing autoimmune disease, and all those who crossed paths with him will truly miss his cheerful, encouraging presence.

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

Michael William Bennett, 83

PA 4 15 Aug 2021

Michael William Bennett passed away peacefully at home in Whitefish on Aug. 5, 2021, with his wife, Merry Lynn Southers, by his side.

Michael was born in Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey, England on June 22, 1938, to William Henry Bennett and Nora Frederica Bennett. As a 5 year old, he experienced the bombings of London and was soon sent to live with his Welsh cousins until the end of the war. In fact, his early years of public school were in Wales. As a late teen, he hitchhiked through war-torn Europe staying in youth hostels. Michael continued to travel throughout his entire life.

He was the first in his family to graduate from college, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and physics from the University of Southampton in 1959 and a Master of Science degree in geophysics from the University of London's Imperial College of Science & Technology in 1962. His early assignments as a geophysicist took him to Greenland and North Africa. Then in 1966, he accepted an offer to join Chevron Oil & Gas in Houston. He adapted very quickly to his new life and in 1973 Michael became a naturalized U.S. citizen. He resided in Houston and, for a short time, in New Orleans, until he and Merry Lynn



retired to Montana in 2006. While at Chevron, he had many more opportunities to travel — to the

Middle East, Indonesia, Singapore and Australia.

Michael and Merry Lynn met in Houston — both working in the geophysical community. And both were very interested in seeing more of the world. Michael first introduced Merry Lynn to the UK — England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales — and then to France and Spain ... with many more countries to follow during their long life together.

Besides traveling, Michael's other interests included skiing, sailing, hiking and golf. As a young man, he first skied in several areas in Europe. In Houston, he joined the Space City Ski Club and skied much of the U.S. Then in 1989, he and Merry Lynn discovered Whitefish. That did it! They fell in love with this awesome place and wonderful community. While in Houston, Michael owned a sailboat and sailed Galveston Bay almost every weekend. He and his two brothers were all avid sailors and together they sailed the English Channel and beyond many times. When he and Merry Lynn retired to Whitefish, Michael sold his boat and took up golf for the

first time at the age 70. He took some lessons and joined the Geezers. Golf became a big part of his life for many years while making so many new friends. Between 1989 and 2006, he and Merry Lynn traveled to Montana every year — to ski Big Mountain in the winter and to hike in Glacier National Park in the summer.

Family meant everything to Michael! He was the middle son of three boys, who were very close. His father had been a "boy soldier" in India long before Michael was born and he so enjoyed listening to his father's stories of India. His father taught all three of his sons to be "scrappy" and to stick up for themselves. His mother taught him to be self-reliant and encouraged him to get an education. He was probably his mother's favorite. He truly admired and respected her for her strength, her accomplishments and her independence at a time when those traits were not common in women. Thus, he always had a deep respect for women and was comfortable conversing with any woman he met. And of course, his charming British accent and sense of humor never failed him! Michael was also extremely close to his two nephews — watching them grow up, seeing them develop successful careers and becoming loving fathers. He was so

proud of them both. Over the years Michael also stayed in touch with special old friends and work buddies ... who were like brothers to him.

Michael was preceded in death by both of his parents, and both of his brothers, Peter Charles Bennett and Geoffrey David Bennett.

He is survived by his wife/best friend, along with his family in the UK, nephews Paul David Bennett and Guy William Bennett, great-nephews Matthew Nicholas Bennett and Luke William Bennett, and great-niece Violet Matilda Elizabeth Bennett-Stevens.

Michael was always the considerate and thoughtful gentleman who was loved by so many. And even though he was born and raised in England, he felt truly at home and at peace in Montana. He will be missed!

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Michael's memory to either of these two charities: Whitefish Community Foundation, Inc. or Doctors Without Borders USA, Inc.

No services are planned at this time. However, the family hopes to have celebrations of life in both the UK and Whitefish at a later date.

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

Romona Berg, 78

Romona Berg, 78, of Kila, died on Sept. 17, 2021, at Logan Health.

Services are pending.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Bruno 'Michael' Benedetti, 72

Bruno "Michael" Benedetti, 72, of Kila, died Dec. 4, 2021, at Logan Heath Medical Center.

No services are planned at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Donna Mae Berglund, 90

Donna Mae Berglund passed away Aug. 15, 2021, with family surrounding her.



Donna was born April 25, 1931, to Alfred and Evelyn Beaver in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. She married Robert W. Berglund on June 25, 1950, in Plentywood, Montana. The couple had three children: Natalie Berglund, Bruce (Carol) Berglund, and Brian (Shelly) Berglund, all of Kalispell.

Donna is survived by all of her children, six grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and

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great-great-grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews, one brother, one sister and many, many adopted-by-heart children.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, parents-in-law, husband, two sisters, twin great-grandsons, two great granddaughters and one great-great-granddaughter.

A viewing will be held at 12 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 20, 2021, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home with a graveside service at 2 p.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

All are invited for a potluck at Donna's home immediately after the service.

Richard Cary Benner, 74

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Richard Cary Benner, born Jan. 30, 1947, in Eugene, Oregon, went gently into his heavenly Father's arms in his sleep in Polson on July 30, 2021. The only book that Dick ever read was the Bible, and he had it right on his table where he sat each morning. He had lots of extended family, cousins and friends that loved him.



soaked in WD 40, but it worked. He loved his friends and loved to grab a burger and shoot some pool at the VFW

with his vet buddies.

Dick was a very good cartoonist, and when he was younger, he frequently would draw caricatures on napkins when the family gathered! Dick was a natural athlete and became a golden gloves champion in Kalispell when he was younger. When he was a freshman at St. Regis High School, he made the varsity basketball team and played in the Divisional tournament that same freshman year. Dick graduated from St. Regis High School in 1965 as valedictorian of his class.

Jim, our brother, shares that before Jim had his drivers license, Dick talked him into taking Dad's Oldsmobile for a solo spin. Naturally, the county highway patrolmen were nearby and gave Jim the ticket; how's that for luck!

Dick volunteered in the Army to serve his country, and as more luck would have it, he landed a tour of duty in Panama during the Vietnam War. After he was discharged, he attended pilot training school in Missoula under the GI bill. He was in the Reserves until 1971.

Dick lived his life on his own terms and never strode to impress anyone. He did love family, and when Mom moved from the Great Falls area, so did he. He loved the camaraderie of family and the special dinners. For years here, Dick lived with his mom, did the lawns, and shoveled the snow, and at family parties, he would slip off to his room when he was tired. Her death affected him greatly, and after her death, he had his own apartment with a lovely view of the lake, and brand new furniture, but life just wasn't the same for him. We're happy he is at peace in his heavenly home.

Family who preceded Dick in death were Albert J. Benner (died at 45); his bonus dad, Lynn S. Brown (June 25, 1988); his beautiful mom, Pearl (Main) Benner/ Brown/ Jackson (Dec. 27m 2017); his sister, Alberta A. Nebel (2017), and pastor brother, Rodney Lee Benner (2018); all of our aunts and uncles have passed and Pearl, his mom, was from a family of 12.

Linda Ray Benson, 76

Linda Ray Benson, 76, of Somers died on April 1, 2021, at her home in Somers.

She is survived by her husband Roger Benson. Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Margaret E. Benson, 78

Margaret E. Benson, 78, of Greely, Colorado, died July 19, 2021, at The HealthCenter. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Dick is survived by his five siblings, Sharon Benner Adamson (Jack) of Polson; Jim Benner (Elaine) of Las Vegas; Mary E. (Benner)/ Aaronson of Florida; Gary Benner (Kim) of Billings, and Bruce W. Brown (Suzanne) of Colstrip. He had over 20 nieces and nephews and he spoiled them with gifts whenever he could.

At one point, both Jim and Dick lived in Billings, and Dick would frequently drop off candy for his niece, Martha. Elaine suggested that maybe he should bring fruit instead of candy. Not long after that, Jim and Elaine came home to find a whole pineapple on their porch that Dick had left!

Dick sold cars for a living and did quite well. He worked for the Pierce's in Billings and Great Falls and various dealerships. The only way he got a vacation was to quit. Mom had quite a collection of photos of Richard Benner, Car Salesman of the Month. He did retire early at age 62 because of his severe loss of hearing.

Dick's passion was fishing. He always carried a rod and reel in his car and he could sniff out many a good fishing hole. Jim shared that he, personally, never got into fishing off the pier in Polson with a sausage

Dick's celebration of life memorial will be held at the Polson Community Church on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 11 a.m. with military honors and a reception following. Burial will be at the St. Regis Cemetery on Friday, Sept. 10, at 1 p.m. We invite all of you who knew Dick or the family to please attend. Church services are located at 1814 First St. East, Polson, MT 59860.

Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com. Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home in Polson.

Janis Bensch

P A 4 2 June 2021

God happily delivered Janis Lynn Conn to us on April 15, 1969, in Whitefish. He brought her back home to him on Thursday, May 27, 2021. Janis was surrounded by her loving family as she gracefully passed away after a courageous, 13-year battle with metastatic breast cancer.



ing with family and friends while enjoying s'mores, adult beverages

and countless games of cribbage with anyone willing to lose.

Janis wished to send special love to her beloved godchildren, Hannah and Jackson Brugger, as well as her non-biological sisters, Rhonda Kelch Ohlin and Connie Jenkins.

Her life was shared with her loving husband Paul of 26 years. When asked how long they had been married, Janis would exclaim: "Seems just like yesterday," and would often tell him that she loved him "25% less" based on an old TV commercial; dad W. Vance Conn, brother-in-law Raymond (Michelle), and nephew Walter Pearson, in-laws Harold and Marie Bensch, Julia (Terry), and nephew Christopher Dunnigan.

She was preceded in death by her beloved mother Judy, and sister Katy.

Along the path of life, Janis met the love of her life, Paul Bensch, from Jamestown, North Dakota. Janis and Paul blame their introduction on Shawn Moos, who introduced them on a blind date. Once Janis spit chewing gum into Paul's mouth on March 23, 1989, that is when he knew that she was the woman for him. They were married in Eldridge, North Dakota, on July 9, 1995, after Janis's dad, Vance, ran her down the aisle as quickly as possible. Grateful to have been born in Montana and lived in North Dakota, Janis said that "It was an adventure that will never be replicated!" Janis touched so many lives in a kind, caring and inspirational manner. Just remember the next time you have an ache or pain, think to yourself "What would Janis say or do?"

In Janis's famous last words, "My party has ended!" Please laugh and love each other in Janis's memory with a huge smile on your face as you jump in those mud puddles and toss back a handful of popcorn while drinking "unsweetened iced tea - No lemon!"

A prayer service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Friday, June 4, at Eddy Funeral Home, Jamestown.

Please join us in a celebration of Janis's life at Club 1883 (KC Hall), 519 1st Ave S., Jamestown, following the service. Please dress as you wish.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund or the Jamestown Regional Medical Center - Cancer Center.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, June 5, at Grace Episcopal Church, Jamestown, with Father Bob Hoekstra officiating.

Arrangements are in the care of Eddy Funeral Home, Jamestown.

Janis graduated from Whitefish High School in 1987 and the University of Montana ("Go Griz!") in 1992 with a degree in business administration in accounting. She worked at the Stutsman County Abstract Company where she was part owner and vice president, until the family business was sold and became Stutsman Title. She continued to work there until she was forced into medical retirement in February, 2021. Janis proudly served as a member of the International Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood, Chapter K of Jamestown, North Dakota; where she served as state president from 2013 to 2014; was a member of the Whitefish Chapter 597 Women of the Moose; a life member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; and proud lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. Summers were spent going camp-

Dixielee Rika Bergeson, 70

PA 5 27 Feb 2021
Dixielee Rika Bergeson passed away peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021, at her home away from home, the Beehive in Columbia Falls with her granddaughter Nicole by her side.

Dixie was born Oct. 26, 1950, to Glenn "Bud" and Cornelia Kelsey in Whitefish. Dixie was the second oldest of her five siblings, and spent her childhood and teen years in Whitefish, graduating from Whitefish High School. Dixie had fond memories of working at Gordie's drive in restaurant and Frenchie's Chinese Gardens when she was a teenager. Dixie's maternal grandparents immigrated to Whitefish from Holland to work on the railroad in the early 1900s.

Dixie met Doug Bergeson in high school and they went on to marry in 1969. The joy of Dixie's life were her three boys and she spent her early married years rearing Bruce, Shawn and Donovan (and the rest of the neighborhood, too). Dixie was an amazing cook and mother and was always available with a smile, an ear, and a cup of coffee. Dixie had many talents and hobbies, including taking beautiful photographs

and collecting many family mementos and antiques. She was an animal lover at heart and had many, many pets that she loved and cared for throughout her lifetime.

Dixie was predeceased by her parents, her beloved husband and best friend Doug, and her sister Patty Ross.

Dixie is survived by her three children, Bruce, Shawn and Donovan (Debi). Also surviving are her grandchildren, of whom she loved with all her heart, Justin, Samantha, Jordan, Lauren (Levi), Nicole, Auston (Sofie), Brady, Carter and Josephine. In addition, Dixie's great-grandchildren are Bryson, Westley, Waylon, Nicholas and Hunter. She is also survived by her sisters Judy Stevens and Jeannette Krueger, and her brother Byron (Cory) Kelsey, all of Kalispell, and sister-in-law, Robin Strunk and family of Oregon.

For the many friends and family of both Dixie and Doug Bergeson, we will have a celebration of life for them together this spring and we will announce a date soon.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell is caring for Dixie's family.

Inez Berner, 59

PA 7 10 June 2021
Inez Rae Berner was born Dec. 11, 1961, in Bountiful, Utah, and raised in Washington state. She was the youngest of three girls, raised mostly by her single, hardworking mother. She worked her first job at 14, then diligently at numerous jobs and businesses most her life.

She first met Tom Berner, (who lived on the same street) at age 12. They attended the same junior and senior high school, but only said hello in passing. Little did she know at the time, that they would run into each other after graduation and quickly become the best of friends. A single kiss under a full moon, a campfire, marshmallows, sparked a love that lasted an incredible 38 years. Tom became the love of her life that stories are made of.

Along with their two young children and two dogs, they moved to Kalispell on a whim in 1993, transferring with State Farm Insurance and Tom at Fed-Ex Worldwide. Shortly thereafter, being passionate about the idea of homeschooling, she dug in all the way and taught her beloved Austin and Emily and both graduated at age 16! She was an amazing, dedicated educator, coach,



mother, and set the example for so many people.

Together, Inez and Tom owned multiple

businesses, including operating a mobile coffee van. Not only physically beautiful, but inward as well, Inez was a beacon of light, chipper, friendly and always willing to give helpful advice or encouragement. In fact, her nickname is hummingbird, because she rarely stopped moving!

For all who ever had the privilege to meet her or know her, you will truly miss her and will remember her as an extremely kind, unselfish, giving, vibrant and beautiful soul who never spoke harshly of anyone. She is survived by Tom Berner, son Austin Berner, daughter Emily Berner, one grandchild and numerous relatives.

Inez passed away Dec. 24, 2020. Thank you to all who loved, prayed and gave her hope these last five years with her cancer fight.

A celebration of life will be held in early summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made at Gofundme.com. Search Inez Berner.

Marie Berta (Nguyen Thi Bê), 71

PA 6 15 Sept 2021

Marie Berta (Nguyen Thi Bê), 71, of Columbia Falls, was born on Dec. 3, 1949, and grew up in Vung Tau, Vietnam.

God called Marie home on Sept. 8, 2021, where she was reunited with the love of her life. Her beloved husband of 50 years, James Edward Berta passed away in 2015, and Marie looked forward to reuniting with him in heaven.

As a young girl Marie enjoyed the beaches and loved music. She was a hard worker from a very young age. She met her husband, Jim Berta, when she was only 14 years old while working at a restaurant in Vung Tau. Jim was serving in Vietnam and had Marie's boss ask her if she wanted to grab a Coke with him, to which she agreed. They sat on the beach, drank their Coke and their love story grew from there.

While Jim was stationed in Vietnam, he and Marie went on numerous dates. Jim proposed to Marie on the beach, and they were



Marie back home with him.

In 1965, they settled in Columbia Falls where they raised three children together. Marie had many roles and loved earning her own paycheck. She eventually stopped working to join Jim on the road during his trucking career. She loved collecting souvenirs on the road, including a T-shirt at each stop and trinkets for her grandkids; she loved to shop.

Marie lived her life in full color and loved "bling, bling." Her home and heart always remained open to all who met her and all who met her became her extended family. She loved being around people and loved taking pictures. Marie was always excited to travel, go to

married before returning to America. Jim traded his guitar to a nurse for her plane ticket to get

concerts and experience everything new that she possibly could. She was selfless and loved to watch people "enjoy" and have fun.

Marie loved to watch sports. She was the Wildcats/Kats no. 1 fan. If there was a home game, you could guarantee that you could find her in the stands and when possible, she would travel to watch the teams play. Marie loved to go to every sporting event, it did not matter what sport was being played. She was known as "Grandma" to many people in Columbia Falls and she loved to support the kids, whether she knew anyone playing or not.

Her laugh was contagious, her soul was genuine and her love for life and for people was evident.

Marie lived a full, vibrant, adventurous, and happy life. She passed away at the Logan Health Medical Center after a short battle with cancer.

Marie is survived by her three children, Elizabeth (Gregory)

Mutzenberger, Robert Berta, and Denise Holm. She was a loving and fun grandma to six grandchildren, Ryan Mutzenberger, Rylie Mutzenberger (Josh Ericson), Ashton Berta (Trevor Russell), KC Holm, Montana (Levi) Gottsch, and Hailie Holm. Marie is also survived by her "bonus son" Edward (Nichole) Bechtel and their children Tavia and Logan.

Marie was preceded in death by her husband, James "Jim" Berta; son-in-law, Mackenzie "Mac" Holm; mother, Nguyen Thi Hoa; father-in-law Patrick Berta; mother-in-law Edith Berta; and numerous relatives and friends.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, Sept. 17, at 1 p.m. at St. Richard Catholic Church. A reception will immediately follow the service in the basement of St. Richard Catholic Church.

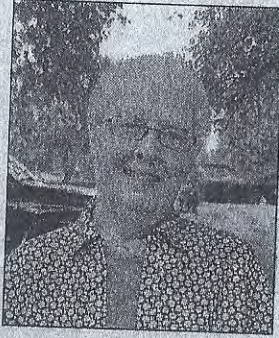
Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Sally Bethel

P. 66 25 May 2021 Whitefish Pilot

Sally Bethel, 89, passed away on May 6, 2021 at Pete Moore Hospice House in Eugene, Oregon.

Sally was born on March 13, 1932 in Kalispell, Montana, to Roy and Effie Bethel. Her father worked on the Great Northern Railroad as a fireman and then as an engineer. Her mother was a schoolteacher in Essex until her marriage. Sally Ann was born on March 13, 1932 completing the family following the birth of her two older sisters: Betty Mae, born May 29, 1919 and Vera Margaret, born on June 17, 1920. Sally spent her youth in Whitefish, Montana and graduated from Whitefish High School in 1950. She then attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and received a



degree in education. She entered the teaching profession in Kalispell, Montana near her hometown, then to the island of Oahu for a couple of years, eventually landing in Eugene, Oregon in 1962 spending the rest of her career with the students and faculty of Edgewood and Harris Elementary School.

Sally found great joy in music through the attendance of many Eugene Symphony performances or through her talents as an accomplished pianist and an organist at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish. She was also accompanist for the music teachers in both Kalispell and Eugene.

Sally had a love of travel with friends and family and often came away with new ideas and content for her students from the experiences she enjoyed. Among her destinations were trips throughout Europe, Africa and Asia as well as the wondrous sites of the United States. She was blessed to have many friendships both within Eugene and with others across the country and valued the time spent

with them by phone, while traveling or at her home and flower garden. As a lifelong learner, she was an avid reader of a wide variety of literature and enjoyed the experiences provided with reading.

Her family will miss her gentleness and the grace she displayed in her deep relationships with others.

Sally was preceded in death by her father, Roy, mother, Effie and sisters Betty Adams and Vera McCurdy. She is survived by her nephew, Michael McCurdy of Des Moines and niece, Sally Sandvik of Steilacoom, Washington, and her two sons, Mark Sandvik of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and Jon Sandvik of Steilacoom, Washington.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, June 16 at Central Lutheran Church in Eugene at 1 p.m. Contributions in Sally's

memory may be given to Central Lutheran Church or to Food for Lane County.

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