

Mercedes Montoya Kalista, 76

Mercedes Montoya Kalista, 76, of Kalispell, died Dec. 14, 2021, at her home.

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

Ken Kalvig, 53



PA 7 30 May 2021
University of Oregon School of Law in Eugene. As a law student, he was a tutor and Philanthropist of the Year Award from Immanuel Lutheran Communities for his countless hours orchestrating the fundraising efforts for The Memory Care Garden. He was instrumental in the new logo and slogan for the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce.

Our beloved husband, father, and brother, Ken Kalvig, passed away on May 23, 2021, at Logan Health after suffering a massive stroke.

He was born on Dec. 20, 1967, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Alvin and Doris Kalvig. He was the youngest of four children and fondly referred to as "Kenny." He spent his early years in Iowa and moved with his family to Blackduck, Minnesota, when he was 5. The family owned and operated the Hideout fishing resort, which influenced the strong work ethic he carried throughout his life.

He graduated from Blackduck High School in 1986 and served as valedictorian of his class. Throughout his school years he excelled in academics as well as extracurricular activities. Ken displayed early leadership skills and a passion for serving his community by organizing a mammoth food drive and being a bugler at military burials while in high school.

He attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where he graduated summa cum laude in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and English Writing degrees. It was at Concordia he met the love of his life, Rhonda. They were married in the fall of 1990 and moved to Marshall, Minnesota. Ken worked as a credit analyst for Schwan's Sales Enterprises in Marshall.

Ken and Rhonda moved to Seattle where he continued to work as a credit analyst for Business Credit Leasing (a subsidiary of Safeco Insurance). He was then accepted to the

did research for the Legal Research and Writing Department, served on the Oregon Law Review, and was published. He graduated magna cum laude with a Juris Doctorate in 1997. He was an avid Oregon Ducks fan.

Ken and Rhonda made their home in Kalispell and shortly thereafter started their family. He began his law career as an associate with Crowley Fleck PLLP and went on to practice at Kaufman Vidal Hileman Law Firm. He was a partner at Scott and Kalvig P.C. and owner/partner at Kalvig and LeDuc P.C. He eventually formed the Kalvig Law Firm, establishing himself as a solo practitioner in 2014.

Ken was proud of his children and reminded them almost daily of the value of hard work and a good education. He supported them in their activities and faithfully attended their events. He hoped each one of them would pursue a college education.

Always wanting to help others, he volunteered his time to serve on the board of directors of Bigfork Center of the Performing Arts. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Kalispell Daybreak and Evergreen, and a KYSA coach. He served both as a member and as president of the boards of Immanuel Lutheran Communities and the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce. Ken received the

Ken enjoyed the finer things in life: a soothing glass of Oregon wine, a well-packed cigar, fishing on a lake in Minnesota, and listening to jazz music with a glass of whiskey, and thoughtful conversation with a close friend or family member.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Al and Doris; his paternal and maternal grandparents; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Ken is survived by his loving wife, Rhonda; children, Maverick, Olivia, and Erik; brother, Dwight (Sandy) Kalvig, of Blackduck, Minnesota; sisters, Dawn Kalvig of Winsted, Minnesota, and Beth Carol of Virginia, Minnesota. He is also survived by nieces, Kate (Ivory) Kalvig of Bemidji, Minnesota, Emilie Kalvig of Montrose, Minnesota, April Thompson of Rochester, Minnesota, and Ashtyn Thompson of Virginia, Minnesota; cousin Doug (Janice) Kalvig, and brother-in-law James (Anne) Wood, all of Kalispell; and many extended relatives.

A service will be held on Thursday, June 3, at 1 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for immediate family, close friends and colleagues. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given to a Kalvig family memorial fund that will be established.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Robert Arthur Kamrud, 88

PAL 15 APR 2021
Robert Arthur Kamrud, 88, of Columbia Falls died April 14, 2021, at the Montana Veterans Home. He is survived by his children, Keith, Rob and Brett Kamrud.

No service is scheduled.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Leore Paul Kanning, 87

PAL 30 MAY 2021
Leore Paul Kanning, 87, passed away May 12, 2021, at the Heritage Place Nursing Home in Kalispell. Services will be planned for a future date.

Leo was born Jan. 9, 1934, in Plentywood. Losing his hearing at a young age, Leo attended the Montana School for the Deaf & Blind in Great Falls in the early 1940s. He was raised on the family wheat farm in Sheridan County until 1945. The family then moved to a wheat farm in Toole County. After obtaining his GED, he attended Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., where he graduated with a Master in Deaf Education degree.

He taught deaf students in Arkansas, New Mexico and Idaho Schools for the Deaf before moving to the Flathead Valley to retire where he taught ASL part-time at Flathead Valley Community College.

Thank you to all who knew him! Leo enjoyed photography, reading, and was an avid bowler, for which he traveled all over the Western states. He could often be seen biking around town on his laid-back, reclining bicycle. Leo was very involved with the deaf community. He was a member of the Deaf Lutheran Church, Montana Association of the Deaf, and other recreational clubs. He was happy to converse with



anyone who had a basic understanding of sign language, and always carried a pad and

pen in his shirt pocket ready to write notes when needed.

Later in life he was able to check off a bucket list trip to Hawaii and attended a Gallaudet Alumni Reunion in Washington, D.C.

Leo had four brothers and four sisters. He had a special bond with his two deaf sisters, Elizabeth and Dorothy, along with several nieces and nephews who could sign, Lloyd Kanning of Shelby, Janice Forseth of Helena, Curtis (Betty) Kanning of Shelby, Fred Kanning of Great Falls, Dorothy Pickard of California, Liz (Bob) Ellesch of Kalispell, Eva McLean of Dunkirk and Calvin (Peggy) Kanning of Devon; and many nieces and nephews around the country. Leo's son, Kent, resides in Arkansas.

Leo was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Rose Kanning; and his brother, Curtis.

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.

Rita Claire Karlin, 71

PAG 28 Feb 2021

It is with deep sadness, and much love in our hearts, that we announce the passing of Rita Claire Karlin, maiden name of Werner, on Feb. 21, 2021, at her home of 27 years, with her husband James Allen Karlin, by her side.

Rita was born Oct. 16, 1949, in Bismarck, North Dakota, to John and Kathrine Werner. Rita was the youngest of 11 children. She worked in healthcare at the Bismarck Hospital, before venturing out to Montana, on vacation, with two of her dear friends, Dennis and Dianne Peterson, who introduced Rita to James "Jim" Karlin, of Columbia Falls. James and Rita were married on July 1, 1975, and inseparable from one another since.

Rita and her husband later went on to become



to Erica Stone and Scott Wehr. Kenzie was 8 months of age at the time Rita and Jim were able to adopt her. But Rita spent countless hours rocking her as a volunteer in the nursery. Due to the severity of Kenzie's medical needs at the time of adoption, Rita stayed home to care for Kenzie for several years, before later returning to work in home healthcare. Being a wife, mother and grandmother to her three beautiful grandchildren has been Rita's biggest pride and joy in her final years on earth. There isn't much Rita loved

more than being a grandmother, and spoiling her grandchildren, anytime the opportunity presented.

Rita is survived by her adoring husband, Jim Karlin, of Kalispell; her daughter, Kenzie Holdorff, and son-in-law Timothy Holdorff, of Kalispell; along with her beloved grandbabies, Eric Hauser (9), of Minot, North Dakota, Eli Holdorff (6) and Abigail Holdorff (4) of Kalispell.

Rita is also survived by three sisters, Irene Doerr of Bismarck, Sharon Whitten of Pacifica, California, and Gloria Vigil of Fairfield, California; sister- and brothers-in-law, Doreen and Robert Frankenhauser, Carol and Ron Haag, Kathy and Tom Armstrong, Dana and George Karlin, and Corlis and Mike Butzlaff;

along with numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins.

Rita was preceded in death by both of her parents, John and Kathrine Werner; her three older brothers, Andy Werner, Johnny Werner and Leo Werner; along with four of her older sisters, Pauline Ehlis, Viola Wurl, Mary Noon and Lois Schmidt.

Cremation will be taking place. Memorial services are pending for late spring/early summer.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Phloris Yvonne Kartheiser, 87



On Saturday, Sept. 25, at 9 a.m., Phloris Yvonne Kartheiser, loving mother, stepmother, grandmother, gently led away from this world and went on to her heavenly home. At age 87, she was at home and peace in her lovely bed when she passed, where she was surrounded by her children and devoted husband of last 50 years. Phloris, who always met by her middle name, Yvonne, was born in Kalispell on May 13, 1934. She was delivered at home by a friend of the family. She was small enough to put in a shoe that was then put in the kitchen oven to keep Yvonne warm. Her parents were Richard "Dick" Steppe Struble and Minnie Struble and had two siblings, younger brother Wayne, and older brother John. Richard Struble was the maker and owner of the Rubber Welders tire shop in Kalispell, and the family lived right in town. Yvonne attended most of her school years in Kalispell. She was an avid dancer, a high achievement Girl Scout member, a lifeguard, and was very active in school and church activities. In 1952, Yvonne married her first husband and high school sweetheart, Glenn Louis Weaver. Moving out to Deer Park, Glenn Louis and Yvonne built their home and their family — Kathleen "Kathy" in 1953, Glen in 1955, Connie in 1956, Cheryl in 1957, and Richard, but not least, Little Richard was born in 1964. Yvonne was the ultimate homemaker and mistress. She made sure her kids were properly dressed in Singer-made, starched, ironed and matching outfits that they wore to Deer Park school and to church every Sunday. Yvonne worked hard on the little

homestead and you could run a spotless white glove through her home. She also kept busy transporting her five children to school activities, community events, and being the sewing leader of their 4-H Club. Life was not always easy for Yvonne at the Deer Park homestead, but she survived the hardships and eventually moved into town with her children and worked at Jack's Pharmacy for a couple of years, until she met the love of her life and best friend of her last 50 years.

In 1971, Yvonne married her new beau, Glen Nicholas Kartheiser from Columbia Falls. Yvonne had been divorced two years and Glen (late wife Joyce Elizabeth Smith) had been a widower for two years and was a father of six children, Nicholas "Nick," Kathryn "Kathy," Kristine "Kris," Rebecca "Becky," Glenna and Michelle "Chelly." The couple met at a social dance at the Old River Bridge Inn, and really seemed to hit it off. With Glen's industriousness and Yvonne's hard work they made a perfect fit. Glen told her, "You do the cooking, and I will buy the groceries." Dating was a family affair and eventually the two families combined to make 13, and so they started the merge. They bought 150 acres just outside of town, and built a beautiful six-bedroom home at their Bad Rock ranch in Columbia Falls.

Life on the ranch was learning to work outside and in. Yvonne and the girls also had two laundries running inside daily. Everything they did became a family project with everyone pitching in. Making school lunches was a weekly event and Yvonne was thrilled when

the school started the hot lunch program. There were lots of camping trips to the Hungry Horse Reservoir where Yvonne would make hot fried chicken for the group in the old Bell camper. They also weekly took their brood to St. Richard's on Sunday, often driving two cars, and the group of them occupied a whole bench in church. Merging didn't always go smoothly for everyone, but they were a family.

With the blessings of a new large family and ranch, Yvonne continued to remain an avid and perfect housekeeper, cook, gardener, landscaper and seamstress, active in the church, 4-H, and her community. The family grew a big garden in the summer and Yvonne canned every year until she stocked the fruit room full of garden produce for the winter. There was not much that Yvonne did that she did not work hard at. She helped take care of the family finances, and oversaw the ranch and family when Glen was sometimes gone logging and building roads. She did books for Kartheiser Trucking and belonged to Women in Timber. She had a passion to support the logging industry and once lobbied in Washington, D.C., for the timber industry. She got involved in helping organize the local town events such as Heritage Days and Night of Lights. Her family participated in the Student Foreign Exchange Program, and hosted three exchange students; she was the president of AFS for two years, and enjoyed meeting the kids from far away. Yvonne was a beloved member of Chapter BI, P.E.O. She and Glen also went to all the annual fundraisers for Alert and they supported Glacier International Airport. Later in life, Yvonne loved working at Nine Patch Floral with her daughters, joining all

her kids on camping trips up at the reservoir, and hosting large Christmas parties with sometimes as many as 75 people at her house near the golf course. For many years, she got to enjoy golf, warm weather, and the social life in Mesa, Arizona, during the cold Montana winters. Yvonne lived a very full life, and recently it seems she just plain decided that she had lived long enough. Her presence on this earth is greatly missed.

Phloris Yvonne Kartheiser leaves an awesome legacy for her family and is role model for those she leaves behind. She is survived by her husband, Glen Kartheiser, Nicholas (Jan) Kartheiser, Kathryn (Tom) Freeman, Kathleen (Roger) Beck, Kristine (Randy) Loveless, Rebecca (Kim) Mower, Karen Fisher, Connie (Ray) Fisher, Cheryl (Dave) Dorman, Glenna (Mike) Thompson, Glenn (Jena) Weaver, Michelle (Mike) Fisher, along with 27 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by Richard Struble, Minnie Struble, Wayne Struble, John Struble, Tiffany Freeman, Trevor Fehrenbach, Paxton Fisher, and Robert "Bob" Fisher.

"For the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen. Romans 6:23

A rosary with viewing will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11, at Columbia Mortuary. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12, at St. Richard Catholic Church in Columbia Falls, followed by a graveside committal at St. Richard Catholic Cemetery.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Patsy R. Kasberg, 89

Patsy R. Kasberg, 89, of Kalispell, died on Dec. 3, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

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

Dale Richard Kassel, 76

Dale passed away Jan. 9, 2021, in Gulfport, Mississippi. He was 76 years old.

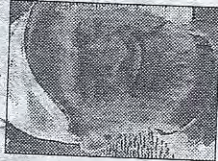
He was born in Chinook, Montana, on Aug. 1, 1944, the son of Richard and Caroline Kassel. Dale grew up in Hogeland, Montana, and Columbia Falls.

For the good part of his life, he worked for a construction company building dams and bridges. He also worked as a Teamster on the Alaska Pipeline in the early 1970s.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents Richard and Caroline, his sister Letha Dudley, his son Kenny, and a baby sister, Judy.

He is survived by his wife Cora Faye, his sister Phyllis Riley, his nephew James Garvin, and nieces Launa Elder and Judy Clark. Dale

is also survived by many great-nieces and nephews and friends too



numerous to mention.

Dale will be remembered for his quick wit and huge sense of humor. Dale absolutely loved to fish; it was his passion. He could catch a fish out of a bucket.

"Dear brother Dale, remember when you were 12 years old and I was 10 years old and we went fishing in the creek? You caught a fish and fell in and lost the fish and the pole. I laughed so hard. We both did. I miss you, Dale." Love, Phyllis.
No services are planned at this time. Go fishing!

Claire Kasala, 88

PA 7

(Dec 2021)



Claire Kasala, 88, passed away Nov. 22, 2021, surrounded by friends and family. She was born in Devil's Lake, North Dakota, on March 15, 1933. Claire was the youngest child in the Kulawik family with two older brothers Don and Gene. Tragedy struck early in Claire's life. At the tender age of 12 her father, Eugene Kulawik, passed away unexpectedly from a kidney ailment. Despite this, her fondest memories included watching her father play semi-professional baseball in both the Minnesota and South Dakota minor leagues. Her mother, Lenore Kulawik then moved the family to Missoula where Claire attended Sentinel High School. Claire was selected to participate in the Miss Montana pageant upon graduation.

Claire attended the University of Montana where she graduated with a degree in economics, as well as a minor in home economics with a teaching certificate. She was an active participant in drama and was also a member of the Tri Delta sorority. Claire met the love of her life, Jerry Kasala, at the university

and they spent the next 65 years faithfully beside one another through thick and thin. Upon being married, she taught school in Missoula, Lewistown, Great Falls and Kalispell. She was also employed as a social worker. Together they had five children, all of whom were given the remarkable gift of a higher education.

Claire was a natural beauty. With stunning blue eyes and a gracious smile people naturally gravitated toward her. She had a fashion sense second to none. Claire was class, no two ways about it. If those traits weren't enough, her warm personality and ability to captivate an entire room with her storytelling ability certainly was. Everywhere she went, people knew Claire. At times, one would have sworn that she must be a celebrity. She was intelligent in a way that few understood. Much like a great chess player, she was always at least one move ahead.

Nothing brought

Claire greater joy than spending time with her cherished grandchildren. Time spent at "Jerry and Claire's" consisted of five-star hospitality in the form of home cooked meals, joyous laughter, and treats from Dairy Queen. Never once did a birthday or holiday slip by without celebration and Claire's skillfully crafted German chocolate cake that will forever be renowned by those fortunate enough to devour a piece.

Throughout the years Claire developed an enduring friendship with Dr. Tobin Hoppes, whom she held in the highest regard on both a personal and professional level. Claire was quick to point out to any other medical professional that Dr. Hoppes was "her" doctor and any care must first be approved by him. Likewise, attorney Randy Schwickert was the only legal counsel that Claire would trust and she was always thankful for his unfaltering friendship and guidance in times of need.

In her later years, Claire visited Arizona during the wintertime, soaking up the sun and immersing herself in new social endeavors while

staying with her daughter Kim and son-in-law Vince. She could frequently be found humming softly to the "King of Rock and Roll" Elvis Presley and often spoke about wanting to visit Graceland. Claire Kasala embraced life. She made many sacrifices for her loved ones, but harbored no regrets. She was always steadfast in her convictions and her word was her bond. Everyone recognized her bright smile and sparkling blue eyes, but it was her heart of gold that brought endless joy to all who knew her. Much like the old Frank Sinatra tune "My Way," Claire lived a life that was full; she traveled each and every highway, and more, much more, she did it her way; earning her golden ticket to Graceland.

Claire was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry, by two years and a day. Claire is survived by her brother Don (Kulawik), daughters Linda (Fredenberg), Kim (DePinto), Sandy and Vicky, son Jerry Jr., grandsons Brian and Kurt (Fredenberg), granddaughters Gracie and Madison, and great-granddaughter Carmen (Fredenberg).

Steven Joseph Kastella, 69

P.A. 6 Jan 2021 Whitefish Pilot

A longtime local was lost on Dec. 27, 2020 when Steve passed peacefully in Whitefish with family by his side. Steve was born on Oct. 31, 1951 in Whitefish, Montana. Being a Halloween baby seemed fitting, as he was ~~the joker~~.



Steve graduated from Whitefish High School in 1970. His list of athletic accomplishments were numerous. Amongst them, he received All-American honors at WHS in basketball and helped lead the Bulldogs to a state championship victory in 1970. He also played in the East/West Shrine game in football, excelled in baseball and was later inducted into the WHS Hall of Fame. Steve received numerous collegiate athletic scholarship offers but chose to follow his high school sweetheart Norma Wagner to The University of Montana, Northern in Havre. He played both football and basketball there before he and Norma married, began a family and moved back to Whitefish.

Steve began working at Plum Creek and did so for 34 years. Steve coached many youth athletic teams throughout his life, coaching both his son's teams and his grandson's teams. One of his highlights was coaching his grandson Derek in Glacier Babe Ruth, alongside his son Davin. That team was undefeated and won the league and tournament that year. Steve fondly remembered his time with this special group of young men. He impacted many young lives with his fun nature and will certainly be remembered with love and laughter by the mem-

bers of that team.

Steve was a simple man who had many great qualities. He was very humble and was uncomfortable talking about his own achievements. He was also incredibly generous and kind and did not care about possessions or material things. Stories have been told how he would give his trophies and medals away to the neighborhood kids. He was very giving to those around him and would share his last dollar with a stranger.

Anyone that met Steve was instantly aware of his charm, charisma and sense of humor. He took the time to brighten people's day through his everyday encounters with them. He was a man who could look a stranger in the eye and quickly strike up a conversation. He took the time to get to know people and make people laugh. He genuinely lived in every moment.

His family was especially important to him and he was affectionately called "Papa Cheese" by all his grandkids. He

enjoyed watching Derek and Paytee play local sports and particularly enjoyed taking Paytee fishing as a young girl. He also looked forward when his grandkids Nina and Luke would visit from out of state. He loved his pets and any animal he took in was certainly lucky...including the deer, turkeys, and birds that would frequent his yard and the skunks that lived under his porch. He made it a priority to make sure they never went hungry.

The hole in our hearts that is left by his passing will be felt forever. But the impact he made on those around him will not be forgotten. We have peace in knowing his love for the Lord and know we will see him again one day.

Steve is survived by his son Davin Kastella (wife, Kate), grandson Derek, granddaughter Payton "Paytee," his daughter Kimberly Rasca (husband, Jon), granddaughter Nina, grandson Luke, the mother of his children Norma

Kastella, his brother Tony Kastella (nephews Kobuk and Morgan), his sister Suzan Kawulok (husband Cliff, niece Phoenix), his brother Kelly Wilke (wife Rebecca), and his dear friend Janet Reynolds. He is preceded in death by his daughter Carrie, and his parents Mel Kastella and Frances Wilke.

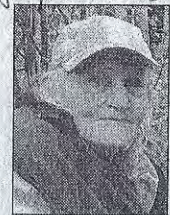
Special thanks to Meals on Wheels and to those at the Wound Center in Kalispell for their care, especially Jill and Hope. A family gathering will be planned for some time during the summer 2021, Covid depending. Austin funeral home is caring for the family.

Carol Linda Kaufman, 74

P.A. 6 26 Sept 2021

Carol Linda Kaufman, 74, of Kalispell, passed away on Sept. 6, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center after a fall and a period of failing health.

Carol moved to Montana from New Hampshire in May 2008. She hiked, camped and photographed extensively in and around Glacier National Park, Whitefish and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. After a few years of seasonal work for the Forest Service, as a ski lift operator in Big Sky and landscaper in St. Mary's, Carol settled into



a small cabin on the outskirts of Kalispell with the help of her dear friends

Susie Rhoades and John Mausshardt. She found much peace and satisfaction there.

Carol is survived by her brother, Jerrold Kaufman, of Spofford, New Hampshire.

Condolences can be made at sentinelsource.com.

Naomi Mary Mast (Kauffman), 85

PAG 28 Sept 2021
 Naomi Mary Mast (Kauffman) was born June 17, 1936, in Creston. Naomi accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and was born into the family of God at age 13. It was after church one Sunday that she unintentionally caught the attention of Jim Kauffman, a young widower and father of two little boys. Jim and Naomi were married September 1961. In addition to her two bonus sons, Elton and Jimmy "Jay," siblings Anita, Willard, Nettie, Renee, Ted and Jeremiah joined the family over the coming years.

Naomi left this earth on Sept. 23, 2021, to be with her heavenly Father for eternity.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Silas and Elma (Sutter) Mast, her beloved husband, siblings Priscilla Buller, Frank Mast,

Martha Boss, Ada Mast, and son Thomas Samuel.

Naomi is survived by brothers Larry (Helen) Mast and Myron (Vicky) Mast; children Elton (Gayla) Kauffman, Jay (Angie) Kauffman, Anita (Bill) Stinde, Willard (Dawn) Kauffman, Nettie (Steve) Wagoner, Renee (Jon) Sanford, Ted (Natalie) Kauffman, Jeremiah (April) Kauffman, foster sons Jerry and Vernon Dachs, their families; 48 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.

Naomi was a generous, compassionate woman who had special loved ones who adopted her for their Mama and Granny. Many other of her friends called her Mom.

There will be a graveside service in Creston Cemetery, 5195 Montana Hwy. 35 on Thursday, Sept. 30, at 5 p.m.

Eileen M. Keane, 63

Eileen M. Keane, 63, of Rexford died on July 14, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

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

Jesse Scott Keesee, 25

PAG 17 Feb 2021
 Jesse Scott Keesee, 25, passed away on Feb. 9, 2021.

Jesse excelled at taekwondo in his younger years, earning trophies in California and Florida. Jesse blossomed when his family relocated to the Flathead Valley in Montana. Jesse loved his children, Jayden 8, Rylan 5, and Kambria 3, as well as his stepchildren.

He enjoyed time spent hunting, fishing and being outdoors. He loved spending time with his children and girlfriend, Jerra Caldwell.

Jesse is survived



by his parents, Robert, Laura and Michelle, stepbrother Keith and sister Anastasia,

and numerous family in Olympia, Washington.

Life changes in a split second. Mental illness is real. Look for the signs in your loved ones. Jesse will be missed by many.

Memorial services for Jesse will be held at Columbia Mortuary at 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 19.

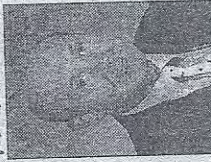
Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

Thomas Francis Kehoe Jr., 80

Thomas Francis Kehoe Jr. passed away March 10, 2020, at his home in Henderson, Nevada, at age 80.

Born in Oak Park, Illinois, Aug. 16, 1939, Tom grew up in West Chicago, Illinois, where he graduated from West Chicago High School in 1957 after serving as class president.

He graduated from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, before embarking on different career endeavors such as coaching football and teaching at St. Francis High School in Wheaton, Illinois, serving in the United States Navy and establishing a successful business in Texas selling



PAG 28 Sept 2021
 in death by his parents, Thomas and Florence (Breen) Kehoe, his sister Marianne, and his brother Patrick.

He is survived by his wife, Margie, sons Tom and Andy, daughter Kathleen Martindale (Danny) and her daughters Mary, Grace and Molly, his sister Betty Maurer (Charles) and brother Jim (Marianne).

Due to restrictions from the pandemic a memorial was delayed until family and friends could gather to honor his memory. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. June 26 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Chicago.

supplies to transform-er, electric motor and oil and gas companies.

Tom was known for his generosity, quick wit and smile. He made

numerous friends in many locations including Horseshoe Bay, Texas, Columbia Falls, Montana, Dominican, Costa Rica, and Las Vegas where he had homes. His greatest passions in life were Notre Dame athletics, fishing and golf.

Tom was preceded

Jack A. Keller, 86

Jack A. Keller, 86, of Kalispell, died Oct. 5, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

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

PA8 8 Aug 2021 Melissa Ann (Porter) Kellenbeck, 68

Melissa Ann (Porter) Kellenbeck, 68, passed away at BeeHive Homes July 26, 2021, after succumbing to her battle with brain cancer.

Melissa was born in Belvedere, Illinois, Aug. 26, 1952, to Rex and Beverly (Neufer) Porter and was raised in Rockford, Illinois.

She graduated from Rockford East High School in 1970, Melissa continued her education in the medical field becoming a CNA and pharmacy technician. Throughout Melissa's career she spent over 35



years in the medical field and several years as an owner and operator of the "Deli Haus" in Worland, Wyoming.



Melissa was an avid golfer, skier, gardener and outdoor enthusiast.

She loved spending her summers at the cabins with her husband Frank

at Kelly's Camp.

Melissa was preceded in death by her parents Rex and Beverly, her brother Gerald, her first husband John Grosch, and second husband Frank Kellenbeck.

Melissa is survived by her children, John Paul and wife Amy Grosch of Libby, and Hilary and husband Bob Edgerton of West Glacier; siblings, Cynthia Bear, Pamela and Ron Trybula, Joe and Beth Porter, Debbie and Curt Anderburg, Linda and Bob Mancuso, Teresa Porter, Jason Porter, Sheila and

Richard McClelland, Rex Jr. Porter, Aaron Porter, Brian and Renee Porter; and grandchildren, Vivian Rose Grosch and Robert Wyatt Edgerton; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held summer of 2022, time and date to be determined.

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.

PA6 8 Dec 2021 Robert 'Bob' Kenneth Keller, 67

In the early morning hours of Dec. 6, 2021, instead of saying happy birthday to our husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and cousin Robert "Bob" Keller, we said our loving goodbyes.

Bob was born on Dec. 6, 1954, in Kalispell to Kenneth and Ruth (Hankinson) Keller.

He attended Peterson Elementary where he enjoyed playing Pee-Wee baseball. Then, while attending Kalispell Junior High School, he found the joy of wrestling and later graduated from Flathead High School in 1973.

Bob served in the U.S. Navy as a printmaster aboard the USS Midway from 1975 until he was honorably discharged with a grade of LI2/E5 in 1981. Some of his fondest memories in the service was the time he spent in the Philippines and all the "secret" crab and lobster bakes he held on the ship. Bob was extremely proud of his time in the service and was honored to have spent it aboard the USS Midway.

PA6 8 Dec 2021
Soon after returning from home, he met the love of his life, Joannette Elletson, and on Oct. 16, 1982, they married. In doing so, Bob graciously became an

instant father of two little girls, Nickolette and Amy. By April 1983 they welcomed the first of two sons. Then in July 1984 they welcomed their second.

Bob was employed for 39 years at Thomas Printing in Kalispell and another five years at Top Copy before retiring in 2016.

From the early '70s through 1996 he was an avid race car driver. He raced Bombers, C-Stock and Nostalgia. Bob spent many nights working on his cars with his side-kicks and together they won many trophies.

He enjoyed cooking for his family, making many delicious meals. With this



love of cooking spawned a sibling rivalry with his sister Judy. Together they entered their pies in the Fair, resulting in his proudest blue ribbon-winning cherry pie.

Bob truly enjoyed anything outdoors, which created a pure love of camping. He and his wife Jo spent many long weekends camping with family and friends creating lasting memories to be cherished forever.

He also enjoyed watching his sons play baseball, basketball, football and track. Bob was so very proud of his boys and all their accomplishments.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents Kenneth and Ruth Keller, grandparents Herman and Clela Keller and Earnest and Gurtrude Hankinson, and many aunts and uncles.

He is survived by the love of his life Jo, his four children, Nickolette (David) Henke, Amy Elletson, Jeff Keller and Kenneth (Brandon) Keller, three granddaughters, Jona Leigh Miller,

Brilyn Joleigh Keller and Rylee AnnMarie, his sister Judy and her husband Terry Fosbery, many nieces and nephews, and all his cherished friends.

The family is being cared for by Darlington Funeral Home. Cremation will take place and a memorial service will be held on Friday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. at Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, 3408 U.S. Hwy. 2 East in Kalispell.

"He was the best Grandpa we could ask for!" Love, Jona, Brilyn and Rylee

Barbara Jean Kelly, 77

PAG 5 Dec 2021
Barbara Jean Kelly, 77, passed away on Nov. 9, 2021, in Billings.

Born in Springfield, Ohio, Barbara moved to Montana in 1968 and served as a special education teacher for thirty-five years.

Barbara is survived by her loving sons, Thomas Kelly (Kristen Kelly) and Beau Kelly (Anna-Mariah Kelly); as well as her grandchildren, Amelia, Rosemarie, Faith, Shane, Ashara and

Josie. She was preceded in death by her husband, former captain of Fish and Game, Edward Kelly.

There will be a memorial service at St. Matthew's Church on Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. 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.

Jerry Lee Kelly, 85

PAG 17 Jan 2021
Jerry Lee Kelly passed away Jan. 2, 2021, at his home in Everett, Washington.

He was born July 3, 1935, in Kalispell to parents Maurice L. and Margaret (Soderstrom) Kelly. Jerry attended school in Kalispell. After graduating from Flathead County High School in 1953, he began working at Somers Lumber Co., where he became office manager.

In 1958 he married Carla Samuelson of Kalispell. In 1964, the family, which included their sons, Curtis and Joel, relocated to Southern

California. Jerry started his tax and accounting business. Daughter Jill was born there in 1967. The family later moved to Everett where Jerry continued his tax and accounting business.

In 1976 Jerry married Barbara Hall. They lived on Whidbey Island and the surrounding area.

He is survived by Barbara at the family home in Everett; sons, Curtis and Joel, and daughter, Jill Kelly; and sister Karen Slack (Jerry) of Kalispell. He is also survived by stepsons, Jerry, David, Steve and Doug Petrich.

Scott 'Scotty' Kelly, 53

PAG 18 Feb 2021
Scott R. Kelly was born May 11, 1967, and passed away Feb. 11, 2021, after a long battle with cancer.

Scotty grew up in the Flathead's Lower Valley. Scotty attended Hodgkins School, Somers Elementary and Flathead High School.

Scotty's early years were spent working at NuPac where he learned his road construction skills. Scotty won prize after prize as one of the best equipment operators



in the valley. Scott went on to be a foreman of multiple construction crews, building highways and infrastructures throughout North and South Dakota.

As hard as Scott worked, he enjoyed riding his Harley, skydiving and spending a Sunday afternoon with his two

dogs on his lap watching NASCAR.

Scotty's precious time was spent with his two children, Kuger and Klæe. Scotty was so proud of them. He also spent time reading his Bible and listening to Scriptures on his notebook.

Scott was preceded in death by his father Jack Kelly, and his grandparents.

Scotty is survived by his children, Kuger and Klæe, his brother Andy,

niece Morgan, his mother Kari Lincoln and husband Bill, plus many close aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Scotty will be missed dearly by many.

Services will be Friday, Feb. 19, at 1 p.m., followed by burial services at 2 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Johnson Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

William Kelly, 73

William Kelly, 73, of Condon, died on July 2, 2021. Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Betty Lee Kelton, 85

PAY 3 Mar 2021
Betty Lee Kelton, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, joined our Lord and Savior in heaven Feb. 2, 2021, at the age of 85, surrounded by family.

Betty, born of Mattie and Bill Madison in Imperial, Nebraska, graduated from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and Married Harold Kelton. Together they traveled to Wasilla, Alaska and proceeded to log land to create a homestead and a dairy farm. They raised four children, LeDette, Leonard, LaShell and LaDonna. Around 1974 they moved the family to Shoshone, Idaho to a 1,000-acre ranch. About 1976 they traveled with the family to Moise, Montana to a ranch. She enjoyed working as a farmer, rancher, substitute teacher in the Charlo school district, and working at St. Luke Hospital in Ronan. Then, she retired in Pablo on 10 green acres.

Betty lived an adventurous life that revolved around her family, friends and especially



her love for the lord. Betty had many talents that included gardening and

animals but her greatest gift was how she brought love, light, and laughter to those she met. She loved telling stories and could connect with anyone, as she knew no strangers, often offering words of wisdom, love, support, and engaging us with her contagious laugh.

She will be missed by all four of her children, 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and many others who knew and loved her.

There will be no service at this time but her immediate family will have a private celebration of her life later this year. In lieu of flowers please donate to CASA in Polson, because she was a foster parent, or the Polson/Ronan Boys and Girls club to honor Betty and her love of children. God Bless you all.

Volene Kemp, 96

PAY 21 June 2021
Our beautiful mother Volene Kemp, 96, joined her heavenly family on June 14, 2021.



Brammer (Dane), Carol Downes, April Van Winkle (Jake), and Aaron Tucker;

and eight great-grandchildren.

Born in 1925 to William and LeVonne Rowley in Maywood, California, Volene enjoyed a fun-filled childhood with her three brothers, Bob, Bill and Jim. After graduating high school Volene achieved an AA degree and joined the Cadet Nurse Corps and became a registered nurse. In 1948 Volene married Glenn R. Kemp of Sacramento and began their love story which spanned 56 years. Glenn and Volene had three children, son David Kemp (deceased), daughter Marilyn Tucker (Curt), and daughter Eileen Downes (Scott). Volene is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews; her grandchildren, Steve Kemp (Sumie), Gina Moon (Josh), Julie Stewart (Shawn), Erik Mencarini (deceased), Rosie

Glenn and Volene lived their married life in Sacramento, California and enjoyed traveling, swap meets, collecting antiques, writing poetry, friends and family. In 2017 Volene joined her daughter Marilyn and Son in law Curt in Montana. Volene embraced the welcomed change and loved her place by the lake. Volene will be missed by her entire family. We are grateful for God's plan and for her long life which allowed us many fun experiences. We will all cherish her memory.

A celebration of Volene's life will be held at a later date. Remembrances honoring Volene can be made to her favorite charity, St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The family wishes to thank all who have sent their love.

Marguerite Kendrick, 66

PAY 27 Oct 2021
Marguerite passed away Oct. 20, 2021, at Logan Health.

She was born May 5, 1955, the fourth of five children of James and Gloria Doyle.



She worked many places, but her favorites were the office at Evergreen Elementary, then Flathead High. She enjoyed seeing students years later.

There will be a graveside service Thursday, Oct. 28, at 2 p.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

She is survived by her husband William, son Joseph Vollstedt, daughter Christine Vollstedt, son-in-law Casey and grandson Curren Casey, sisters Gloria Carpenter and Cathy Doyle, and brothers James and Thomas.

Raymond Kennedy, 67

Raymond Kennedy, 67, of Hungry Horse, died at his home on Sept. 28, 2021.

No services are

scheduled at this time. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Karen Kay Kessinger, 72

Karen Kay Kessinger, 72, passed away Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, surrounded by the love of her family. She is now home with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Karen was born Nov. 16, 1948, in Whitefish, to Louise (Bee) and Helen Fortin.

Karen went to grade school in Coram and high school in Columbia Falls. She went to barber school when her daughters grew up, and was a barber until the time of her retirement.

Karen married John Kessinger on Dec. 30, 1967. They enjoyed 39 years together before John passed away in 2007. During their marriage they raised two daughters, Wendy and Michelle.

After John passed away Karen was blessed to have Ron Lamoreaux as her companion until she passed away. They enjoyed many winters together traveling to Arizona and Texas.

Karen was a true treasure who will be missed by so many people who loved her. She was especially proud of her family. She enjoyed many things in her life including camping, water-skiing and long days on the lake.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Helen and Bee Fortin, and her husband John Kessinger.

She is survived by her brother Larry Fortin and his wife Erna and their family; her brother, Gary Fortin; her companion, Ron Lamoreaux; her daughter, Wendy Caldwell; her daughter Michelle Pullen and her husband Jim; her grandson, Seth Caldwell and his wife Mariah; her granddaughter Jamie Caldwell and her husband Blake; her grandson Jesse Caldwell; her granddaugh-



Jareth Pullen; and her grandson Curtis Caldwell and his wife Amy. She is also survived by many great-grandchildren and her bonus son, Jeff Lamoreaux and his wife

ter Natali Martin and her husband Michael, her grandson Zackery Becker; her grandson,

Heather and their family. Memorial services will be at Darlington Funeral Home on Saturday, Oct. 16, at noon. There will be a viewing from 11 a.m. until noon.

We want to thank the wonderful staff at Logan Health ICU, as well as all of the loved ones who cherished our sweet mom, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend and companion. She will be forever missed, forever loved.

Michael Kessler, 79

Michael Kessler, born April 12, 1942, passed away at age 79 on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2021. He was a patriotic American and veteran of the U.S. Air Force and the Michigan Air



National Guard. He leaves

behind his wife of 56 years, Lynn Schnell Kessler; his two daughters, Kimberley (Mark) and Pamela (Rance); five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mike was predeceased

by two sisters and three younger brothers.

Services for Mike are at 2 p.m. Oct. 16 at Glacier Church of Christ in Columbia Falls, with Pastor James Williams presiding.

Dwight Kimzey, 77

Dwight Kimzey, 77, of Hamilton, formerly of Columbia Falls, died Sept. 16, 2021, at home.

He is survived by his wife Sylvia, and children Kelly, Dan and Kathy.

Services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Hamilton at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021.

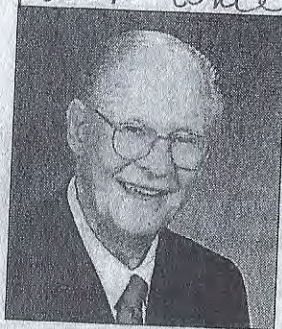
Arrangements are by Brothers Mortuary and Crematory in Hamilton.

Rev. Dr. Roald Amund Kindem

PB5 12 May 2021 Whitefish Pilot
Roald Amund Kindem was born in Northfield, Minnesota, on May 16, 1929, one of eight children born to Norwegian emigrants Ingvald and Anna (Sekse) Kindem.

He was raised at "101 South Lincoln," across the street from St. Olaf College, where his father worked as a boiler engineer. His mother Anna, a well-known storyteller in the expatriate Norwegian community, regularly supplied Norwegian lefse to the College for special occasions.

Following his graduation from Northfield High in 1947, Roald enrolled at St. Olaf, where, as a student-athlete, he majored in history and earned varsity letters in football and track. After receiving a bachelor of arts degree from St. Olaf in the spring of 1951, Roald set aside a planned career in coaching when he sensed God calling him to public ministry. He enrolled at Luther Theological



Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, in the fall of '51.

He and St. Olaf classmate Shirley L. Johnson were married at St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, on June 8, 1953, before heading to Roald's assigned seminary internship site at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell, Montana. In 1954, Roald and Shirley welcomed the first of what would eventually be eight children: Randi (1954); Peter (1955); Erik (1957); Kari (1959); Kristofer (1960); Mark and Mikal (1963); and Joel

Following Roald's graduation from Luther Seminary and his ordination in 1955, he served parish calls at First American Lutheran (later Christ Lutheran) in Whitefish, Montana (1955-1957); First Lutheran in Havre, Montana (1957-1966); and Grace Lutheran in Albert Lea, Minnesota (1966-1973). In 1973 he became Vice President for Public Relations and Development at California Lutheran College (now California Lutheran University) in Thousand Oaks, California. In 1978, Roald became National Director for "Momentum for Mission," a program of The American Lutheran Church (ALC) and moved his family to Apple Valley, Minnesota. In 1980 he became Vice President for Communication and Mission Support of the ALC. In 1986, Roald launched his own stewardship consultation

ministry — Stewardship Growth for Congregations — and worked successfully with congregations around the country until his retirement in 2003.

Pastor Kindem served on the national board of the Luther League and was a member of the Board of College Education of The American Lutheran Church. He also served as a board member of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Quarterly and was an occasional guest instructor in homiletics at Luther Seminary. In recognition of his contributions to the life of the church, the degree of Doctor of Divinity honoris causa was conferred on Rev. Kindem by Dana College of Blair, Nebraska, in 1981.

During his final years, Roald became a resident of Arbor Lanes Assisted Living in Burnsville, Minnesota, where he continued his lifelong habit of making connections with those who crossed his path, and closely fol-

lowed the fortunes of the Minnesota Vikings, of whom he was a lifelong fan and longtime season ticket holder. Though his physical abilities slowly diminished, his mental acuity remained strong to the end, and he enjoyed hearing from family members, friends, and colleagues, and valued the pastoral visits and ministry extended to him. By inaugurating with his wife Shirley the biennial Kindem Family Reunion tradition in Whitefish, Montana, in 1995, they gave their family a gift that endures to this day.

Roald was a passionate churchman, looked up to by those he served, valued by his colleagues, admired by many whom he touched, and deeply blessed through his long and fruitful marriage to Shirley and the family life they shared. His spirit lives on in all of our hearts as a life-long example of deep Christian faith, generous stewardship, enthusiasm, perseverance, hopeful vision,

and devoted service to Christ's church.

Roald was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Shirley. He is survived by his sister Margit Anne Thacher, his eight adult children and their families, including 19 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, and number nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for family and close friends will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, Minnesota, on May 26, 2021. Numbers limited due to COVID protocols. Call in advance. Visitation is at 12:30 p.m.; worship is at 1 p.m., followed by the interment of Roald's ashes at Oak Lawn Cemetery, Northfield, Minnesota, for family only. In lieu of flowers, you are invited to consider a gift to Luther Seminary, Lutheran World Relief, the Good Gifts ministry of the ELCA Hunger Appeal, or the Grace Lutheran Church Mission Fund.

Clinton James 'CJ' King

PA4 2 Mar 2021
Clinton James "CJ" King was taken from us on Feb. 19 2021 in Austin, Texas.

He enjoyed being with family, the outdoors, cooking, music, movies, and drawing.

He was born on April 12, 1987, in Sandpoint, Idaho.

He is preceded in death by great-grandmother Wanda Trent, great-grandparents Frank and Leona Sanford, grandparents Pat and Louise King, and brother Casey King.

CJ is survived by



mother Tracy Sanford, brother Brandon Floyd, grandmother Royce Willhite, grandfather Mike Sanford, father Billy J (Pete) and step-mother Stevie King, brothers Jamie and Steven King, four nieces, one nephew, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Services will be held at a later date.

Donald V. King Jr., 73

Donald V. King Jr., 73, formerly of Whitefish, died Dec. 6, 2021, in Great Falls.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at Hillcrest Lawn Memorial Chapel in Great Falls.

Schnider Funeral Home in Great Falls is handling arrangements.

Kitty Lee Kirby, 69

PA7 28 Mar 2021
Kitty Lee Kirby, age 69, of Kalispell, passed away Thursday, March 18, 2021, after a long-fought battle with breast cancer.

She was born on Dec. 18, 1951, in Evanston, Illinois to Serwin and Jane Pusczewicz. Shortly after her birth, the family relocated to Downey, California, where Kitty graduated from Warren High School in 1970.

During high school Kitty worked several service jobs and briefly dated Dennis Kirby. They renewed their relationship in 1970, leading to marriage on Feb. 12, 1972. Kitty and Dennis lived in Huntington Beach, California where she worked as a telephone operator until they relocated to Kalispell. She then worked at the local



phone company for ten years and for the US Forest Service in several positions. Some of her favorite hobbies were pottery, painting, and gardening. She was a devoted believer in her Lord Jesus Christ and was a member of the Spokane Healing Rooms, where she would spend time praying for others even after being diagnosed with breast cancer. She was known to strike up a conversation with anyone who was willing to take the time.

Kitty is preceded in death by her parents Serwin and Jane Pusczewicz.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Dennis Kirby; daughter Sharon (Troy) and their two children; son John (Theresa) and their three children; daughter Kera (Derek) and their three children; and three siblings: Sandra Pusczewicz, Teddy Pusczewicz, and David Pusczewicz (Donna).

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on April 10 at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

The family would like to thank all those who were there for Kitty during life's finest moments and when things became more challenging.

Notes of condolence can be shared at <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/VYafQUAi>

Kenneth Richard Kjelstrup, 98

PAG 17 Feb 2021

Retired Lt. Colonel of the Montana Air National Guard, Kenneth Richard Kjelstrup, son of the late Ed and Hazel Kjelstrup, was born Dec. 24, 1922, in Plentywood, Montana. His family moved to Glasgow where Kenneth graduated from Glasgow High School, then attended Montana State College in Bozeman (now MSU).

Kenny was one of the oldest members of community organizations to which he belonged. Kenny was an active member in Canvas Church, Loyal Order of Moose 1922, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2252, and the Flathead Shrine Club. He lived an amazing life: World War II war veteran, military aviator, land developer, commuter airplane pilot, and he even sprayed crops. As a result of his generous spirit and outgoing personality, Kenny was cherished by many. Kenny's Christian and patriotic life was an influence that will forever remain in the lives of his many closest friends and family. After 98 years, Kenny quietly departed this life Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021.



rior to the formation of the Air Force). Kenny had two life changing memories, the first being the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was helping clean the fraternity house after a party and the radio was playing. The music was interrupted

with a newsflash about the Japanese bombing and his buddies came running downstairs and confirmed it was real. The other life changing memory was the day of first flying a B-17 bomber mission over North Africa. One of his buddies, a real trickster, was the tail gunner and shared news that had just broadcast over the radio telling President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had passed away. Kenny first thought the tail gunner was joking, but it was no joke. This surreal moment in time stood still for Kenny as he flew his mission.

After the war, Kenny had up to seven businesses at one time. Among those were flying a commuter plane (wearing out two aircraft), and helping to develop Big Turkey Creek Subdivision near Peterson Field in Colorado Springs, Colorado. One of the more humorous moments for Kenny was when he sprayed crops north of Glasgow and accidentally took out a power

line. Surviving the collision that caused much of the local countryside to go dark, Kenny continued his luck with flying.

Kenny was an employee of then locally operated Grizzly Gaming. He made many friends while maintaining machines at Flathead area establishments. Kenny, Barry Farrell and Kristen (Sully) Sullivan became lifelong friends.

The family expresses great thanks and gratitude to Kalispell Hospice for keeping Kenny comfortable during his last peace with life. Great appreciation is also extended to Barry and Sully for assisting their good friend

Kenny during his many elder years.

Life celebrations: The first celebration of Kenny's life will be Saturday, March 6, 2 p.m. at Moose Lodge, 2158 U.S. Highway 2 East, Kalispell, Montana 59901; 406-752-4038. A second celebration of life and laying to rest will be scheduled for this summer in Glasgow, with the date to soon be determined and shared.

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.

Kenny was preceded in death by his former wife Betty Jo Opp, sister Dorothy Billingsley, brother-in-law Charles Billingsley, brother Gerald Kjelstrup, sister-in-law Elaine Kjelstrup, brother-in-law George Avina, and great-niece Brenna Sunby.

Kenny was companioned in Kalispell for the past 20 years and survived by Ina Jean Metty who will forever cherish their years together. He is survived by his sister, Marlene Avina; and his children, daughter Randon Freund (Dan), son Edis Kjelstrup, and son Kenneth Alan Kjelstrup (Joyce); grandchildren Tana Loring (Scott), Larry Hawthorne (Kimberly), Tory Kjelstrup (Lisa) and Terri Neiskens (Mike); great-grandchildren, Dustin Peres (Ashley), Katelin Conway (Nolan), Jace Loring, Faith Kjelstrup, Ty Kjelstrup, Dylan Neiskens, Ashley Muesing, and John Ryan Muesing; great-great-grandchildren, Addison Conway, Deni Conway, Finley Peres and Rhett Peres; and the many nieces, nephews and cousins that he loved very much.

While in college, Kenny was in ROTC, but when Pearl Harbor was bombed, he resigned his commission and entered the Army Air Corps (a precur-