

Jeffrey Thomas Rajkowski, 68

PAG 22 Sept 2021

Jeffrey Thomas Rajkowski, 68, passed peacefully into the arms of his Savior on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021, surrounded by his loving wife and children.

Dad was born to Tony Rajkowski and Margie (Bemboom) Rajkowski on Sept. 5, 1953, and grew up on a dairy farm in Mayhew Lake, Minnesota. As a middle child of seven, he learned how to work hard and fend for himself against three older brothers. He often told stories alongside his brothers of the adventures and altercations that gave the Rajkowski brothers a reputation. One such memory was the time Dad tried to Tarzan his way up a barn loft rope just as fast as his little brother, Tim, was untying it at the top intentionally dropping Dad to a broken arm. Dad graduated from Sauk Rapids High School in 1971 and then continued his education at SCSU, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in photo engineering technology in 1976. In his yearbook, he was dubbed "Mr. Irresistible." Dad loved photography and canoeing and took many beautiful photos of his Yukon River travels, and the animals and plant life of the wild, northwest mountains. Shortly after managing a photography shop in Cambridge, Minnesota, Dad packed up his Ford Pinto and adventured out to Montana where he got a job on Big Mountain. It was 1980.

In Whitefish, Dad met the love of his life, Debra

Dodd, a beautiful artist who had been traveling through town from the East Coast.

They were married Oct. 9, 1983. Dad convinced Mom to set down roots and together they raised seven children in Coram. Dad worked for Glacier National Park as a seasonal employee for over 40 years and loved every minute of being close to the mountains and his co-worker friends whom he worked alongside. Dad loved to make people laugh over and over again even if it was the same joke. On any given day, you might hear him say, "If a chicken and a half laid an egg and a half, in a day and a half, how many pancakes would it take to shingle a doghouse?" In case you were wondering, the answer is 23. Dad loved so many things — the mountains of Glacier National Park, early morning whitetail hunts, watching his kids and grandkids play sports, cooking Polish dogs for family cookouts, organizing family singing, and setting up tournament brackets for family games of basketball, badminton or cornhole. He also enjoyed creating his own special trophies for those of us who shot the biggest buck in the fall or had the best March Madness bracket in the spring.

Left behind to honor Dad and remember his love and laughter are



his wife of 38 years, Debra Rajkowski, and their seven children, Sarah (Greg) Loudon, Ruben (Eliza) Rajkowski, Emil (Becca) Rajkowski, Hannah (Josh) Bowerman, Isaac (Jordan) Rajkowski, Maggie (Zach) Falk, and Priscilla (Chad) Frasier. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren, Brinkley, Kenton, Silas, Jackson, Ember, Asher, Loveah, Everly, Maverick, Aiden, Desmond, Sebastian, Elias, and Rosalie. Dad is also survived by his siblings, Bob (Sandy) Rajkowski, Joe (Teresa) Rajkowski, Mike (Sue) Rajkowski, Tim (Gloria) Rajkowski, Joanne (Greg) Marshall and sister-in-law Carol (Sinotte).

Dad was preceded in death by his parents, Tony and Margie

Rajkowski, his nephew Jared Rajkowski, sister-in-law JoAnne (Saldana) Rajkowski, and his brother Ed Rajkowski.

Dad loved his Savior Jesus Christ, his wife, kids, grandkids and friends with all of his heart and will be dearly missed by many.

A memorial service will be held in his honor on Saturday, Sept. 25, at 4 p.m. at Central Bible Church, 902 1st Ave E., Kalispell MT 59901.

The Rajkowski family would like to extend our gratitude to the staff at Logan Health and to all those who supported us with prayer and love during Dad's last few weeks. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Francis 'Fran' Rabideau, 86

Francis "Fran" Rabideau, 86, died at his home in Columbia Falls on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2021.

He is survived by his wife Eva and three children.

A visitation will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8 at Columbia Mortuary. Cremation will follow and a graveside urn burial service will take place at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9 at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

Clifford 'John/Johnny' Arthur Ramsbacher, 83

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Clifford "John/Johnny" Arthur Ramsbacher passed away peacefully on Oct. 29, 2021, at the age of 83 in Polson.

Johnny was born to Frank and Honora Ramsbacher on Oct. 11, 1938, in Park Grove, Montana. He was the ninth of 11 children and is survived by one brother.

Johnny graduated Glasgow High School in 1958 and married the love of his life, Darlene Brenden, in 1960. They were married for 59 years before Darlene's passing on Feb. 3, 2020. They raised three boys in Fort Peck, Randy (Jodi) of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Ron (Valarie) of Missoula, and John (Robert) of San Francisco. They really enjoyed their four grandchildren, Dustin (Albuquerque), Mari (Albuquerque), Sarah (Phoenix), Sean (Butte).

Johnny worked for the U.S. Geological Survey for a number of years until he was offered a trainee position at the Fort Peck Hydroelectric Power Plant. He retired in 1994 as the electrician foreman. In retirement, he delivered oxygen to patients throughout Northeast Montana where he enjoyed having a cup of coffee and visit-



ing with his customers. He also served as the mayor of Fort Peck during the time that the town was sold to the residents.

After 73 years of living in Fort Peck, Johnny and Darlene sold the home they loved in Park Grove facing the first dredge cuts and moved to Polson on Flathead Lake. They continued to winter in Wellton, Arizona, where they enjoyed meeting new friends and spending time with old friends from Eastern Montana who were also snowbirds.

Johnny was an avid hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed fishing in the Montana State Walleye Governor's Cup. He also enjoyed the bowling league in Nashua.

The family is planning a memorial for John and Darlene the summer of 2022 in Fort Peck. The date is to be determined.

Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at www.lake-funeralhomeandcremation.com. Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.

Penny Marie Ramón, 62

PA 7 24 Dec 2021



kissing her face and telling her how loved she is.

Affect-ionately known to many as

"Mama Penny," her loving heart could not be concealed by her crustiness and sarcasm. If you were fortunate enough to be in her presence you know that no one left her feeling hungry or unloved. If they did, it was their own damn fault!

Penny adored nature, food and all of her babies. She was a woman of the woods and could cook on a woodstove and stack

wood like no other. While she might argue otherwise, we feel her absence was too soon, and she has left us heartbroken and missing our precious mama, grandma, partner, daughter, sister and friend. The depth and meaning she added to so many lives has forever changed this world for the better.

May her place in heaven have a giant picture window with a view of her beloved mountains, and may she have a good book, delicious food and the best company. We love you Penny and we will see you again, and until then, we will feel your presence everywhere.

Penny is survived by her mother, Betty; her husband, Ted; her sister, Candy; her two brothers, Kenneth and Kelly; her son, Noel; her two daughters, Estrella and Tazia; her five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and innumerable chosen and adopted children, grandchildren and family.

A celebration of Penny's life will be held on Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022 in Fortine. To contribute to her celebration and cremation services, please contact her daughter, Tazia Wisdom, at taziaanne@msn.com or by phone at 504-357-1773.

Johnson-Gloschat funeral home is caring for Penny and her family.

Jared Richard Ranson, 19

FAL 26 Sept 2021

Our beloved Jared Richard Ranson passed away on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021, in Kalispell.

Jared was 19 years old. Born in Kalispell on Oct. 9, 2001, to Travis and Sandra Ranson, he was their first child.

Believe it or not, he was born with a full head of red hair! He was a very happy baby with lots of smiles! Jared attended Bigfork public schools and later graduated high school from Montana Youth Challenge Academy, where he excelled greatly.

Throughout his life, Jared enjoyed the annual camping trips to Holland Lake with his family and friends, floating down the many majestic Montana rivers with a fishing pole in his hand and snowmobiling in the winter across some of the most beautiful country. He also made several adventurous trips to Mexico and Honduras. Most recently, Jared took an amazing trip to Washington with his father, Travis. This was such an incredible trip for both Jared and Travis as they enjoyed bike riding through tunnels, scooter rides and so much more! A time that will never be forgotten!

A friend of Jared's recently told us that anytime someone's vehicle broke down or if they ran out of gas, they would always call Jared and he would say without hesitation, "I will be



there in 10 minutes." His heart was always in the right place. He was truly devoted to

those he called friends. Jared and his girlfriend, Cassidy Webster, also shared many wonderful memories together. Jared was very close to his sister, Anika. As siblings, the two balanced each other out perfectly.

Jared was preceded in death by his great-grandparents Richard and Betty Ranson, Fred and Peg Wilson and his grandfather, Richard Hawthorne.

He is survived by his parents, Travis and Sandra Ranson, sister Anika Ranson, grandparents David and Lynda Ranson, grandmother Gloria Hawthorne, aunt and uncle Tracy and Will Hawthorne, uncle Bradley Ranson, and many cousins and great-aunts and -uncles. We would like everybody to celebrate and remember all of the great moments they had with Jared and cherish them! Jared will be deeply missed and forever in our hearts.

A celebration of Jared's life will be held on Friday, Oct. 1, at 11 a.m. at Saint John Paul II Catholic Church located at 195 Coverdell Road, Bigfork MT 59911. Flowers may be sent to the church.

Robert Luther Reasner, 88

Robert Luther Reasner, 88, of Kalispell, died Sept. 20, 2021, in Kalispell.

He is survived by his sons Robert and Mark, and daughter Karen Fantazzi.

Visitation will be

from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 27, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, with services to follow, also at the funeral home. Graveside services will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Joseph 'Joe' Richard Redfield, 90

Joseph "Joe" Richard Redfield, 90, passed away peacefully on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, after a lengthy battle with dementia. His passion for life, caring spirit and dry sense of humor will always be remembered.

Joe was born May 12, 1930, in Lakeside to Arthur and Dorothy (Asbridge) Redfield. He graduated from Flathead County High School in 1948 where he developed his love of all sports, but particularly baseball.

In 1950 Joe joined the U.S. Navy and served as an aviation technician airman. During Joe's time in the Navy, he received the Air Medal Citation from President Eisenhower for participating in patrol and reconnaissance flights over



State University, majoring in education. Joe also spent four years pitching for the MSU baseball team.

In 1954 he also met the love of his life, Louise Gregor, and they were married in June of 1957. In 1958 Joe graduated and took his bride and both started teaching careers in Monroe, Washington.

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the active compact zone during the Korean War. Joe was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1954 and that same year he enrolled at Montana

During his 28 years working in the Monroe School District, he taught at both the high school and junior high teaching math, science and physical education. He also coached multiple sports for both girls and boys.

In 1988 Joe retired from teaching. He and Louise returned to Lakeside and Flathead Lake. He spent his remaining years visiting with friends, hunting, fishing and enjoying the outdoors chasing grandkids and later great-grandchildren. Joe and Louise were happily married and inseparable for 63 years.

He is survived by his wife, Louise; sons, Richard (Cheri) Redfield of Bigfork, Joseph (Shawna) Redfield of

Lakeside, and Jeffery Redfield of Monroe, Washington; grandson Joseph Redfield of Denver, granddaughter Nicole Redfield of Camus, Washington, grandson David Redfield and wife Sarah, great-grandsons Roman and Leo of Denver; and a brother, Charles Redfield, of Lakeside.

There will be a celebration of life held for Joe later this summer at the family's property in Lakeside. The date is yet to be determined.

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

Kari Reed, 53

Kari Reed, 53, of Columbia Falls, died Oct. 17, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

Private family burial

will be held.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

David Leslie Reed, 58

David Leslie Reed passed away Dec. 26, 2020, at his residence on Rogers Mesa, Colorado.

Dave was born March 23, 1962, to Clarence and Betty Joan Reed in Delta, Colorado. He was the youngest of four children. The family moved to Kalispell in 1972 where he graduated from Flathead High School in 1980. Dave loved Montana, and remained here long after high school. He had great enthusiasm of the outdoors, and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He owned the Conoco Car Care Center on Idaho Street in Kalispell. He built numerous businesses for himself from the ground up, having an



exceptional talent as an entrepreneur. He thoroughly enjoyed working with his hands

and had great aptitude with wood, crafting and designing many beautiful items that can be seen throughout the Flathead Valley. Dave's latest business venture was creating an aviary, Honey Bee Business partnership with Robin Kauffman, called JJ Bee in Colorado, where he had taken on the task of teaching himself as he went along and making many new friends along the way; again,

showing his flexibility with learning new things, and building a business from the ground up.

Dave leaves behind his father Clarence Reed of Arizona, daughter Makaylie Reed of Hotchkiss, Colorado, big brother Ken Reed Utah/Arizona, sister Karen Miller of Washington, and numerous nieces and nephews that will always remember him as the cool uncle.

Dave was preceded in death by his beloved mother Betty Joan Reed, and big brother Eddie Reed.

Dave was an outgoing man and touched the heart of everyone he met. He always used his

skills to teach or help those around him. Rest in peace, Dave. We will always miss your booming voice and one-of-a-kind laugh, your talented work, and your amazing sense of humor.

A celebration of life for Dave will be announced at a later date.

Carolyn Ruth Reich, 68

Carolyn was born to Charles Reich and Edna (Kallner) (Reich) Doyle in 1953 in Whitefish and died July 11, 2021, at the age of 68, in Kalispell.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, and is survived by sisters Charlene Webber of Kalispell and Lorena Reich of Belgrade, and brother Jim (Judy) Doyle of Belgrade.

She graduated from Whitefish High School in 1971 and around 1990 graduated with a degree in history and English teaching from Montana State University.

Carolyn was an active learner and voracious reader and enjoyed shar-



ing her books with everyone. She was particularly fond of fiction and Christian theology books. She had deep faith in Christ and was an active member of her church. She was proud of her Stephen Ministry involvement. Her heart yearned to help others in their walk with the Lord.

Carolyn was known for loving on people and drawing people to her. The compassion and generosity showed in her smile and eyes.

She struggled with

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health issues all her life, most notably respiratory, but she lived her life and enjoyed spending time outside. In her 40s she started to lose her hearing, eventually going deaf. She lived with this disability for 20 years and it introduced her to a whole new group of friends at Summit Independent Living. Despite struggling with health issues, she kept a joyful outlook in life.

One of her joys was being able to hear music again, after she received her cochlear implants. She also loved bright colors on her clothing, hair and accessories and enjoyed coloring books.

As the smoke settles back in for the summer, we are thankful that she doesn't have to breathe the unhealthy air. We're thankful that we had her in our lives, we are sorry that she is gone too soon, but we are thankful that she is in heaven with her Savior.

Carolyn had a deep faith in Jesus. She went to sleep in peace and woke up in heaven with a new body, hearing her Savior's voice.

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

Carolyn Ruth Reich

A memorial service for Carolyn Reich, 68, who died July 11, 2021, will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 400 W. California St., Kalispell, at 11 a.m. on Sept. 9. A light luncheon will follow.

Kenneth 'Ken' G. Reick, 79

Kenneth "Ken" G. Reick, 79, of Butte, died on March 20, 2021. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date and will be announced

when arrangements are complete.

Axelson Funeral and Cremation Services is caring for the family.

John Henry Reid, 77

John Henry Reid, 77, passed away on May 1, 2021, at his home in Kalispell.

John was born in England to William Francis Reid and Ellen Degan Reid. They came to the U.S. on the Queen Mary in 1946.

John served in the U.S. Army for 25 years and then went to work for the U.S. Forest Service for 25 years. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and outdoor activities.

John was preceded in death by his father William Reid, and his mother Ellen Reid.

He is survived by his siblings, Janet and Robert Casne of Camano Island, Washington, Maureen Stanaway of



Kalispell, Thomas and Nancy Reid Kalispell,

Lola and Lloyd Wentworth of Shelby, Larry and Julie Reid of Kalispell, Kevin and Addy Reid of Thompson Falls, and Brian and Sherry Reid of Kalispell; his daughters Lindsay Ellen Reid and Richard Griffin and grandson Gunnar Weckworth of Kalispell, and Elizabeth Patricia Reid and grandsons Raymond John Crawford and Tayo Ryan Hansen of Kalispell.

Join us in celebration of life for John Reid Friday, May 14, at 1 p.m. at the VFW in Kalispell.

John Timothy 'Tim' Reid, 62

John Timothy "Tim" Reid, 62, passed away at his home in Kalispell on July 15, 2021.

He is survived by his brother Ty of Columbia Falls, and sisters Lynde of Columbia Falls and Blakey of Hillsboro, Oregon, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was born in Whitefish and grew up in Columbia Falls. He graduated from Columbia Falls High School, where he played football for the CFHS Wildcats. He took a number of classes at the University of Montana, after which he helped care for his parents in their last years. He then went to work as a Teamster truck driver for 17 years. He retired from his job as a "bread man" for Franz in April 2021.

Tim had a love for the outdoors and had a deep knowledge of the woods. He especially loved picking morels and huckle-



berries and putting food on the table. Tim had a passion for the Jewel Basin and

many family members were blessed to experience hikes and backpack trips, with Tim in the lead. He was known as the "fun uncle" to his older nieces and nephews.

Tim's later years were spent in Polson, where he found a new passion in golfing; he developed many friends in the Polson golfing community.

Tim will be missed by many and may we all cherish the memories we created with him.

Tim was cremated, and no services are planned at this time. A celebration to honor Tim may be planned for the future.

Rhonda Reilly

Our beloved wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend, Rhonda Reilly, of Kalispell, passed away on Friday, March 19, 2021, while battling myelodysplastic syndrome.

She was preceded in death by her father Lawrence Schmidt, and brother Gary Schmidt.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Patrick Reilly; mother, Sheila Schmidt; sister, Carol McMullen (Mike); brother, Scott Schmidt; four children, Beau Reilly (Rebecca), Michael Reilly (Emily), Foston Reilly



(Cecilia), and Kendra Smith (Joshua); and 11 grandchildren, Shea, Rogan, Brooklyn, Cadence,

Mason, Noah, Delainey, Bentley, Tucker, Jackson and Maverick.

A Catholic rosary will be held the evening of May 7. Catholic Mass will be held May 8, followed by a reception for close friends and family. Please reach out to the family for more information if you wish to attend.

Douglas Edwin Ren, 90

PAL 22 Aug 2021
Douglas Edwin Ren, 90, passed away on Aug. 20, 2021, at North Valley Hospital.

Doug was born Jan. 2, 1931, in Wolf Point, Montana.

Doug lived in Columbia Falls since he moved here as a teenager in 1945. He joined the Air Force and spent four years in service. He was stationed in Japan for 18 months during the Korean War. Doug worked for the aluminum plant for 15 years. He then went to work for Bonneville Power for 24 years.

Doug and his wife Ginny would have celebrated 70 years of marriage Saturday, Aug. 21. The couple spent many years snow birding, spending winters in Arizona, but always came back home to Montana.

Doug is survived by his wife Virginia "Ginny"



Ren (Crumley), their children Douglas L. Ren, Kathy Seville and Robin D. Ren. Also surviving are his brothers, Willard, Robert, Johnny, Mike and Terry; sister, Roberta A. Taylor; and grandchildren, Lea Ellen Ren, Andrew Ren and Kelsey Ren.

A viewing for Doug will be held on Monday, Aug. 23 from noon to 2 p.m. at Columbia Mortuary.

A graveside service will be held at Glacier Memorial Gardens on Tuesday, Aug. 24, at 10:30 a.m.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the Ren family.

Jerry Lee 'Jer' Renfro, 77

PAL 14 Mar 2021
Jerry Renfro passed away Feb. 24, 2021, in Kalispell.

Jer was born on June 18, 1943, in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of Frank L. Renfro and Mildred Louise (Ward) Renfro.

Jer had many accomplishments throughout the years. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Missouri, and traveled to different countries. Jer worked as a commercial driver throughout the 48 states. He traveled different states while working

for an oil and gas exploration company. Jer's greatest passion was working with wood. There was nothing that Jer couldn't build — oak roll top desks, cribs, dining room tables and, of course, his beautiful 14-, 16-, or 20-foot-long canoes. Jer and his family built two log houses on property when he moved to Montana.

Jer loved the outdoors. We would go horseback riding, hiking and camping, and white water rafting.

While never married,

Jer touched many hearts during his travels.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father Frank L. Renfro, his mother Mildred L. (Ward) Renfro, and brother Donald E. Renfro.

He is survived by his brother John F. Renfro, wife Paciencia, and sons Johnathan and Jeremiah Renfro, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

No services are planned.

Jerry, you will be missed but never forgotten, with love.

Nicholas Reviglio, 50

Nicholas Reviglio, 50, of Eureka, died Oct. 22, 2021, at Logan Health Whitefish. No local services will be held.

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

Timothy 'Tim' Shawn Reynolds, 50

Timothy "Tim" Shawn Reynolds, 50, entered into the loving arms of God on Jan. 15, 2021.

Tim was born in Whitefish to William "Bill" and Kathleen "Kathy" Reynolds. He graduated from Whitefish High School and began a thirty year career in bartending. Dubbed "Mr. Professional" by many who knew him, Tim was in his element behind the bar. Many recount his million dollar smile and charismatic personality that made him the life of the party. When not working, Tim enjoyed playing pool and travelling. Tim blessed the lives of those who knew him and he will be missed by many.



Tim joins his grandparents and his big brother Randy in heaven.

He is survived by his parents Bill and Kathy, wife Joy, his children Zackary, Shay and Neena, as well as his grandchildren James, Luke, Shawn and Lilah, all of Kalispell.

A Mass and celebration will be held for his family and close friends this summer.

"As long as there is love and memory, there is no true loss." — Cassandra Clare

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

David H. Reynolds, 83

David H. Reynolds, 83, of Marion, died on June 23, 2021, at The HealthCenter. Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Maryann Taylor Rhine, 74

Maryann Taylor Rhine, 74, died at Logan Health Center on Aug. 12, 2021.

She is survived by her husband William Rhine and children Elizabeth Willcut, John Taylor and Kimberly Stratton.

Services will be held at a later date. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Shelly Rose Rhodes, 54

Shelly Rose Rhodes, 54, of Columbia Falls, died Oct. 25, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

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

MEMORIALS

Timothy Reynolds

A funeral Mass for Timothy Reynolds, 50, who died Jan. 15, will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Whitefish on Sept. 29 at 11 a.m., followed by a reception in Father Strom Hall at St. Charles.

William Haley Rice, 79

PA7 30 June 2021

William Haley Rice was a lion of a man. Blessed to be a part of his life, his family is gutted to announce his passing on June 15, 2021.

He was predeceased by parents Dr. William L. and Treasure Rice and sister Treasure Ann Sachnoff (Bruce).

He leaves behind wife and beloved key to his heart, Peg Rice, his spawn Haley Bianca (Paul), Jason Cajune (Vedra) and Sarah Smith, his nephew Brian Anderson (Carly), his grandchildren Lindsey Greene (Travis), Heather Peterson (Mike), Vincent Bianca, Sophia Cajune, Elsamín Cajune and Courage Smith, and his great-grandchildren Aliyah Peterson, Mia Peterson and Mason Bianca, to live on by way of his impressive example.

Born in Detroit on Oct. 8, 1941, Bill grew up in Brighton, Michigan, attended Albion College and graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science degree. While attending Detroit College of Law, he was drafted and joined the U.S. Air Force, serving our country as an air traffic control weatherman at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls. It was this great fortune of being assigned to Montana that guided him to the Flathead Valley at the end of his USAF duty where he met Art Burch Sr., beginning a 50-year connection with Glacier National Park and the Burch family business, Glacier Park Boat Company. Bill operated the Two Medicine boat concession, captaining the 45-foot wooden excursion boat "Sinopah"



tained and carried him throughout his life.

Bill was a man that recognized opportunities that arose in his life and took advantage of them to their full-

est. One of those chance encounters was when he met Peg, his wife and partner of over 40 years. They were exactly what each other was looking for, which became a solid series of love stories ... Montana, New Zealand, and the two of them.

Bill was a user-friendly human being made up of a million different moving parts. There isn't enough ink in all of the world to prepare this obituary in his name completely. He was a keen observer of the world and had the ability to speak clearly about an astonishing range of subjects in an eloquent, composed manner. He listened with perfection, never seeking to be the center of attention. Yet when he spoke, the room would turn in anticipation of his observations that were delivered with a combination of humor, pinpoint accuracy and depth. For decades he was the master of fish fries at the Two Medicine cabin, top dog on opening day pheasant hunting trips with the boys (and granddaughter!) in Great Falls, and he ruled the "royal hang" with a glass of wine in the evenings.

once gift-wrapped a live ground squirrel for a dear friend's birthday; he was a member of the Lodge Brotherhood, co-founding member of CBNZ, and proud member of the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club in New Zealand. He was Fork Man; he was the undefeated champion of Jumbo Valley in college and an avid hater of mayonnaise. He was co-founder and member of the Stoolies. He was a minister of the Mother Earth Church and wielded that mighty power to unite in marriage not only various friends — but also his son Jason to the beautiful bride Vedra. He was a founding member of B&J; Racing and raced a 1955 Chevy named MadDog (a real screamer!). He placed first in one race and then MadDog burst into flames the next, thus ending his racing career.

He leaves a giant hole in life for all of us so lucky to love him and have been caught up in his vast, quiet orbit of perfect understated wisdom, beautiful dark humor and a laugh that could bring neighborhoods down in both hemispheres. He was a man who was strikingly handsome with a smile and laugh that would transform any group of people into a festival. He was stealthily wise when talking with his friends and family and knew exactly how and what to say in order for his message to resonate. In addition to providing advice (only when asked), he openly offered words of great admiration which supported and applauded the smallest of things that he felt a person should feel good about when reflecting on themselves.

mourn the loss of this man struggle as we feel the intense warmth of our specific connection to him well up strongly in our memory, heart and soul. Family and friends aspire to be more like him, as he was the coolest of cats, the dude, who carried no enemies in his wake. Above all, he has been at the very core of each of our beating hearts since the day each one of us entered his world.

In the end, as we all cried out "Wait! No! Not Now!", we came to realize that we cannot select the time for the loss of a loved one. It is the natural progression of life and we feel blessed that we had the gift of a bonus five years with him after recovery from a heart attack. He couldn't have done any better with the timing of his earthly exit. In the end, he graced us with a decisive nod that he was moving on and was done here. We are fortunate to know that when he left us, family and friends were waiting for him on the other side to begin another adventure out of our immediate reach. We know we have an open invitation to join him for another round of laughs when each of our times come. As deaths go, he really stuck the landing.

He has now gone back to the source and his grand laughter and gentle, loving hands await us another day. With that being said, we are all just trying to "rub a little dirt on it" and move forward with our sorrow.

Class act Bill.

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William H. Rice, 79

(Cont)

in that incredible valley for 30 years; a job he referred to as the best he ever had, and he never left Montana again. As a dream of his younger years, he finally took a trip to New Zealand in 1985, where he and Peg purchased a home in the Bay of Islands and spent a majority of their winters there over the last three decades. The deep friendships that evolved from those worlds sus-

He was a boat builder, a mentor, a counselor of life lessons, a voracious reader, a lover of music, a champion, a hero, a rock, the master of storage, a king of kings, the leader of our pack, a magic man, the ace of spades, the captain of our boat; he was gracious and brilliant and funny. He was a raconteur extraordinaire who collected his own and retold those of others. He hosted actors and filmmakers in Glacier National Park in the '70s and promoted "happenings" and rock 'n' roll legends in Detroit in the '60s. He

It was always important to him that his family and friends were recognizing their own individual greatness and value in life. He had a special devotion to all in his life and his relationships with anyone lucky enough to have been in his company were individual, specific and deep. All of us who

The family will honor his wishes and privately scatter his ashes in the lands he so loved.

In lieu of flowers, any charitable donations may be sent to North West Veterans Stand Down & Food Pantry at 1349 Hwy. 2 East, Kalispell, MT 59901; 406-756-7304; Web: <https://veteransfoodpantry.org>. This is an organization he greatly admired and worked with over the years through his storage business in Evergreen.

Anna Mae 'Bobbie' Ridgway, 75

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21 Sept 2021

It is with profound sadness and much love that we announce the passing of Anna Mae "Bobbie" Ridgway, 75, on Sept. 6, 2021, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Bobbie was born on Sept. 4, 1946, in Kalispell to Robert and Erma (Thompson) Ridgway. She attended Augusta, Flathead and Helena high schools, graduating in 1964. Bobbie had several different career paths in her life including working at Northwest Montana Human Resources, bartending at various local establishments, including the Sportsman's Bar and Julie's Bar, but she was most proud of being a



professional florist at Super's Flowers, Woodland Flowers and eventually opening Bobbie's Flowers.

her own shop

Bobbie's family and friends were her everything. She was a real rock for many and accepted folks without judgment, touching so many along the way as a mentor and guiding light, especially her beloved grandchildren. She had a passion for hot rods and all things Harley Davidson, rocking the look in her leathers

with her blue rose tattoo and sometimes blue hair!

Bobbie is survived by her son Dean Moore of Kalispell, daughter Marleita Moore-Beaudoin and husband Loren of Kalispell, daughter Breanna Glenn of Libby, her grandchildren Jacob, Aiyden, Destinee, Riley, Zander and Paxton, her siblings and their spouses Robert Ridgway Jr., Kevin Gaab, Carol Jeffries, Patty Brewer, Nancy Swanson, Terry Hamper, Glenda Dupuis and Jacky Fowers, as well as more nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, special friends, "family" by choice, in-laws and out-laws to be allowed in

print.

Bobbie was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Erma, foster mother, Leita Converse, and Ridgway siblings, Pete, Wanda, Deana and Tracy.

A celebration of life will be held at her sister Nancy Swanson's property "out west" on Sept. 25, beginning at 2 p.m. Bring a dish to pass, beverage of choice and stories to share. Contact the family for additional details.

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

Bonnie Jean Riedinger, 78

PAG 17 Oct 2021

Bonnie Jean Riedinger, 78, of Kalispell, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Bonnie was born Jan. 21, 1943, in Boise, Idaho to Arthur and Jane. Her family moved to the Flathead Valley in December 1949. She attended schools in Martin City, Columbia Falls and Kalispell. In Kalispell, she married George W. Bland Jr. and they had two sons, George Bland and Anthony (Tony) Bland. They divorced shortly after the boys were born. Bonnie then met and married Harold John Oftedahl and for many years they remained together raising the two boys.

In 2003, Bonnie joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She married Stan Flagg, in the Temple on April 17, 2004. During this marriage Bonnie also took loving care of her



mother who was in the Lutheran Home.

She was a wonderful, attentive daughter and made

her mother's last year's most enjoyable.

After a few years, Bonnie and Stan divorced. However, she returned to his home to take care of him. She also worked in Whitefish caring for an elderly lady where they developed a wonderful friendship or more of a mutual admiration society for about five years until the lady passed away.

Above all else, Bonnie loved her family. She was so proud of her sons and her grandchildren. She would do anything to help her brothers, sisters, her mother, as well as her many nieces, nephews and their children.

Bonnie was an excellent homemaker who

delighted in decorating for the holidays and cooking lots of goodies, great meals to have family and friends over to share them with. She also took in several women in need of a place to stay. She had a very large heart and wanted to help anyone who needed it.

She had a natural artistic talent. She loved to paint pictures and draw as well as create many different crafts which she often sold or gave away. Over the years she was commissioned by local stores to paint artwork on their windows for the holidays and various sales events.

She loved her little dogs and missed them dearly every day she spent in Brendon House.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her father Art in 1952; her mother Jane in 2006; a brother Richard in 2016; a brother-in-law Ted in 2021; sister-in-law Melanie in 2021 and one great-grandchild

JayLee.

She is survived by her partner Paul Stanley Flagg; her two boys, George and Desiree Bland of Kalispell and Tony Bland and Vicky of Las Vegas; three granddaughters, Christina, Kimberly, and Shawna; one grandson, Andrew and 10 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her two sisters, Pat Swanberg of Utah and JoAnn Oftedahl of Kalispell, two brothers, Art Riedinger of Washington and Mike Riedinger of Kalispell and many nieces and nephews who adored her. She showed each of them how much she cared about them, remembering their birthdays and special events. She most certainly will be missed. Until we meet again ... we love you Bonnie.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, Oct. 21, at 2 p.m. at CE Conrad Cemetery. Next summer we will have a celebration of life.

Melanie Lawshe'-Riedinger, 53

On Sunday, June 27, 2021, Melanie Lawshe'-Riedinger won her five-year battle with cancer.

Born on Feb. 17, 1967, in Corning, New York, Melanie was the second of five siblings. After moving to Kalispell in 1976, Melanie attended West Valley School, Kalispell Junior High School, and graduated from Flathead High School in 1985.

After high school, Melanie traveled to Denver and worked in the corporate world for a time. She then traveled to Alaska, where she explored the world of commercial fishing. Melanie was also an integral part of the Salt Circus Bonneville Racing team created by her father, Hank Lawshe', and George Campbell. She was extremely proud to be part of a team that holds three land speed records on the Bonneville Salt Flats and that she earned her 200mph license on the Salt Flats in the family race car Salt Shadow number 117.

Melanie worked various careers throughout her life, but the one she had the most pride in was being a wife and mother and taking care of her family. On Sept. 21, 1991, Melanie married the love of her life, Mike Riedinger. With this union, Melanie became



the proud "bonus mom" to daughters Destiny and Mikelle, and in 2001, Mike

and Melanie were blessed with the arrival of daughter Aurora. For almost 30 years, Mike was her beloved "Boss Man" and she was his right-hand gal. Melanie loved being a mother and Aunt Moo Moo to all of "her" kids. She was always good for a cheese burrito, quesadillas, and many popsicles. Moo Moo's kids are going to miss her terribly. Moo Moo lived a life full of love and adventure. She rarely met a stranger and has a huge extended chosen family.

She battled cancer for five years ferociously, refusing to give in and squeezing every single extra second that she could get out of what she called "this beautiful life." She lived life on her terms, and she left this life exactly the same way.

Melanie is survived by her mother, Patricia Lawshe'; husband, Mike Riedinger; daughters, Destiny (Brad) Townsend, Mikelle (Waylon) Eckley and Aurora Riedinger (Jasper Hart); siblings, Kym Lawshe' (Marvin Loftis), Jed (Kanisa)

Lawshe', Jodi (Alfred) Marsh and Hawke (Amanda) Lawshe'; soul sister, Marty Moore (Loren Beaudoin) who was right beside her every step of the way over the past five years, and brother-in-law Joe Dimmer. Melanie is also survived by five grandchildren, of whom she was very proud and loved dearly along with numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws, and hundreds of chosen family members.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents on both sides, father Hank Lawshe', bonus dad Ron Peters, brother AJ Peters, nephews Adler and Henry and many friends way too soon. We know she's having the time of her life hanging out with all of them.

We love you, Moo.

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

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to suggest donations to the Wings Cancer Foundation or the North West Montana Veteran's Food Pantry.

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

Wes Riggin, 86

Wes Riggin, 86, of Kalispell, died on March 25, 2021, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He is survived by his son, Wesley and his wife, Kay Kerne.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. April 1 at the Eagles. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

Tess Rieke, 43
PA 3 Oldersh
Tess Rieke, 43, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021.

She was born in Billings March 3, 1978. At an early age she and her mom moved to Hawaii. She graduated high school and later went on to attend a few different colleges in Pennsylvania, Colorado and Hawaii.



Tess decided she loved Montana and returned in 2017 and resided in Somers. Tess enjoyed water sports, gardening and tending to her babies Mouse, Pixie and Rhino. Tess also loved shopping with her mom.

In 2020 Tess started work at Fedex Ground where she also met the special love of her life, Patrick.

She is survived by her mom Pas Rieke, boyfriend Patrick Otis, and their loving family members. Cremation has taken place and no services are planned. Friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohill-fn.com to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

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Anna M. Riley, 83
PA 14 Feb 2021

Anna Mae Riley, 83, passed away on Feb. 6, 2021, at her home in Columbia Falls. Her long battle with a rare liver disease ended peacefully as she was surrounded by her family.



down roots and have a place that would one day be filled with grandchildren and

ture refinishing talents. Most of all, Annie loved family and all that being a part of a large family entailed. She was close to all her many siblings and her numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and in-laws. Of course, she was a loving and devoted mother and grandmother to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Annie had a remarkable memory and was known for her storytelling, which recounted the lives and events of her vast family.

Eugene "Hoosier" (Judy) Strowbridge, as well as scores of nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

Annie touched countless lives and will be greatly missed by so many. No funeral services will be held at this time, but a memorial gathering will be arranged for this summer.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Anna, known as Annie to her family, was born Oct. 6, 1937, in Bemidji, Minnesota, to Eugene "Pete" and Fay Strowbridge. She was the third oldest in a family of 13 children. On March 25, 1956, at the age of 18 she married her lifelong soulmate, Don Riley, who preceded her in death just five days before their 55th wedding anniversary.

great-grandchildren. Annie's own upbringing among such a large and loving family instilled in her a great sense of compassion, kindness, responsibility and generosity, which were evident in every aspect of her life. For several years she donated her time and efforts volunteering at the Columbia Falls Klothes Kloset. Everyone — friend, family or newcomer — was always welcome at her table. She was renowned for her cooking and baking, skills that she joyously taught to her children, grandsons, and great-granddaughters. She was also creative and resourceful, always looking for a great bargain or interesting new project idea at yard sales and auctions where she would find objects to transform through her sewing, upholstering, and furni-

She was preceded in death by her husband Don Riley, her son Robert "Bob" Riley, parents Pete and Faye Strowbridge, sisters Lois Ward and Linda Weikel, brothers Johnny, William "Billy," Kenneth "Kenny," and Larry Strowbridge.

She is survived by her daughter Cynthia Riley Augé, grandsons Peter Newbury and Riley Workman, great-granddaughters Isabeau and Alora Newbury, sisters Alice (Jim) Riley and Judy Green, brothers James "Jimmy" (Jody), Fred, Randy (Debbie), and

Throughout their life together, Annie and Don traveled the world. While she was not an adventure seeker, she was always supportive of and committed to her beloved husband's love of travel as the U.S. Air Force shuttled them around the United States, Germany, and even Iran. After over 20 years of moving and traveling, in 1973 they settled down in Columbia Falls and built the house that would be their forever home. Annie was happy to finally set

Anna Riley

A memorial reception and luncheon for Anna Riley, 83, who died Feb. 6, 2021, will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Columbia Falls Senior Center.