

## Steven L. Shelley, 86

Steven L. Shelley, 86, of Columbia Falls, died on July 16, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

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

## Jack Reed Sheneman, 93

Dr. Jack R. Sheneman, 93, passed away Dec. 29, 2021, with his wife by his side.

He was born in Kalispell at home to Ralph Sheneman and Lucy Reed. He was their third child and only son.

Jack graduated from Polson High School in 1946. He also earned his Eagle Scout. He attended Montana State University ('46-'52) and graduated from the University of Nebraska Dental School ('52-'56). After an internship at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center ('56-'57), he was stationed at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. While there, he met and married Gloria Madsen, his wife for 63 years.

He graduated from



PA 5 12 Jan 2022  
Saint Louis University Department of Orthodontics in 1967. Jack retired from the Air Force in 1976 as a lieutenant colonel.

Jack established an orthodontic practice in Vancouver, Washington, from 1987 to 1993.

After his second retirement, he and Gloria became snowbirds going between Flathead Lake and Sun Lakes, Arizona.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his middle sister Dorothy Coverdell, his only daughter Dawn Anderson, and two daughters-in-law, Eileen and Thea.

He is survived by his wife Gloria, oldest sister Donna, sons Mark and Jon, eight grandkids and six great-grandkids.

A memorial service will be held this summer in Montana.

Jack's favorite and most happy place was making anyone's smile beautiful.

## Joanie Sheppard, 44

PA 7 9 May 2021  
Joanie Sheppard, 44, of Bigfork, went home to be with her Lord and friend Jesus on the third of May, 2021, after a long journey of multiple health problems, leaving the rest of us who loved her; until we meet again.

Joanie was born on the fifth of December, 1976, in Vermillion, Ohio. An excellent student, she was also involved in sports.

She moved to Montana in 2002, with her children. She received a degree in early childhood development, and taught in Libby. She was known for her passion in taking care of her children, photography, and helping others, counseling, or encouraging.

She was preceded in death by her son Tyler,



and sister Shari.

She is survived by her fiancé Larry Abell, parents

Denny and Drena, daughters Molli and Heidi, and sons Dylen, and Tristan; and two grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, May 12, at Fairview Cemetery with a celebration of life at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, at Hope Church.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Naomi Jane Sherlock, 96

PA 6 20 Oct 2021  
Naomi Jane Sherlock, 96, passed peacefully on Oct. 16, 2021, in Camp Verde, Arizona.

She was born on May 13, 1925, in Enid, Oklahoma, to Frank and Edith (Alexander) Hastie. She was raised in Amarillo, Texas, and attended Amarillo High School, graduating in 1943. In 1947, she married Raymond Sherlock and they had two children, Cindy and Richard.

Naomi owned and operated a Montgomery Ward store in Columbia Falls. She also taught Whitefish Junior Bowling. She was always involved and a wonderful mother to her own kids but also to many other children, as well. Her active enthusiasm in bowling got her inducted



to the WBA Hall of Fame. The last few years of bowling she was legally blind and reluctantly quit at age 90. Naomi was also a seamstress, involved in 4-H, Cowbells, and held various positions in many clubs and organizations.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Cindy Martin; parents, Frank and Edith Hastie; brothers, Frank (Tex) and Earl; and sisters, Evelyn McMahan and Wilma Johnson.

She is survived by her son, Rich (Dona); sister, Bernice Webb; grandchildren, Rich (Kathy) Strand, Mike Moen; great-grandchildren, Tosha (Korey) Heimdahl, Kayla Moen, and Troy Moen and many other family and friends.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 22, at Llano Cemetery, Amarillo.

## Richard 'Dick' C. Sherman, 88

PA 7 28 Nov 2021

Richard was born on Jan. 14, 1933, in Minot, North Dakota, to Waldo and Dorothy Sherman. He passed away peacefully at home in Bigfork on Oct. 27, 2021. He moved to Shelby with his family sophomore year in high school and worked for his dad at Sherman Motors. In Shelby he met the love of his life and his future wife, Beverly Toole.



ties in Bigfork and they built a cabin on Echo Lake, where they spent most of their spare time

retirement gave them the time to relax and enjoy nature at their river getaway.

Richard was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Beverly, on Nov. 1, 2020.

He is survived by his son, Mark Sherman, daughter, Cindy (Dan) Majerus, and son Jon (Dixie) Sherman. He had five grandchildren, Shane Sherman, Stephanie (Elijah) Arnlund, Whitney (Adam) Warren, Justin (Scarlett) Sherman and Christina (Eugene) Hollenbeck. He had eight great-grandchildren.

Richard attended the University of Montana during which he married Beverly. He was drafted into the military and was temporarily stationed in Texas. After his service, the family moved to Shelby and then Great Falls where Dick became an insurance adjuster and eventually state manager for Hartford Insurance. Together he and Beverly also opened an art gallery.

enjoying water sports and family. They loved the Flathead Valley so much they decided to relocate and made several upgrades to their cabin, turning it into a warm and welcoming home.

Together they started Sun Rental and Party Time. When they decided to retire, they sold their ownership of the businesses to their son, Mark and daughter, Cindy. They had built a cabin on Swan River and

Dick loved being in nature at the cabin in the Swan with his wife Beverly. He had a way with people, there were no strangers in his life, just new friends. He had a great sense of humor and will be missed by many.

Beverly had family

## Hsiu-Chih 'Suzie' Rice-Shih, 68

Hsiu-Chih "Suzie" Rice-Shih, 68, of Columbia Falls, died Oct. 29, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

She is survived by her husband Rick Cheek,

and her son Joey Rice. No service is scheduled.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Zachary Shinn, 15, of Kila, died at his home on June 7, 2021.

A celebration of life will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, June 14, at Easthaven Baptist Church, 2010 Whitefish Stage in Kalispell. The Rev. Dan Lambert will be officiating. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## John Jacob Shoal, 90

*PAT 6 June 2021*  
John Jacob Shoal, 90, passed away at his home in Columbia Falls on May 16, 2021.

John was born in Kenmare, North Dakota, on July 21, 1930, to Tilda (Sjaastad) and John Richard Shoal. He was the second of four children, Shirley, John, Donald and Richard. He graduated from Plentywood High School in 1947, and attended Montana State University-Northern, in Havre before enlisting in the Air Force in 1951. He served in the 146th Supply Squadron in Valdosta, Georgia, and Victorville, California. He was honorably discharged as Airman First Class in September 1952, after which he attended Montana State University in Bozeman. He completed his studies at Kansas State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in math in 1953.

John had a lifelong love of flying, and he completed his civilian pilot training in 1952. He worked as a smoke-jumper stationed out of Missoula during the summer of 1955, after which he moved to Hoboken, New Jersey, and then various locations in New York City.

John met Marilyn Lou Armstrong at Kansas State University in the table tennis room in 1962. He worked as a ranger in Glacier National Park from 1964 to 1966, and John and Marilyn were married in Columbia Falls on Jan. 14, 1967. They moved to Seattle after their marriage, where he worked for Boeing as an aerospace engineer and Marilyn was a junior engineer. Their first child, Krista, was born in Seattle in 1968. John and Marilyn returned to Montana in 1969, and



their sons Gavin and Aaron were born in Kalispell in 1975 and 1977.

John loved to learn. As a parent, he would challenge

his children with math problems at the dinner table or ask them to recite the prime numbers between one and one hundred. At school, parent-teacher conferences had a tendency to veer into the unexpected, as when John attempted to explain Egyptian fractions to a surprised middle-school math teacher.

In his later life, John worked as a surveyor and tax appraiser for Flathead County. He was a co-founder of the Glacier Eagles Soaring Club and enjoyed gliding, flying, and sailing on Flathead Lake. He had an abiding interest in chess and loved playing pool and poker and campfires in the yard. He enjoyed teaching his children and grandchildren how to start a fire with 'just one match' and testing the limits of his Datsun B210 on ever more treacherous Forest Service roads. He is remembered as a wise and thoughtful friend and mentor, and a loving husband, father and grandfather.

John is survived by his wife, Marilyn; three children, Krista (Barry) Conger, Gavin (Julia) Shoal, Aaron (Shimako) Shoal; grandchildren, Annabel, Delaney and Griffin Conger and Leif and Sable Shoal; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

## Lela 'Dianne' Shoemaker, 65

*PAG 27 APR 2021*  
Our beloved Dianne, 65, left us for her heavenly reward on April 19, 2021.

Dianne was born to Dale and Joyce Brigance on Nov. 19, 1955, in Bellevue, Nebraska. She grew up in Iowa and moved to Montana in 1980 and worked many years at the Nite Owl in Columbia Falls where she met her soul mate, George. They were married July 6, 1985.

Her passion and love in life was her family, her beloved daughter



Amy. She also loved her stepchildren David, Kari, Windy, Vikkie and Holly. She had 12

grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, and her puppy Ruger.

She was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

A celebration of life will be held April 29 at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery at 1 p.m.

## Vikkie Lin Shoemaker, 49

*PAT 13 Oct 2021*  
Vikkie went to be with our Lord and Savior Sept. 21, 2021.

Vikkie was born Aug. 28, 1972, in Whitefish to George and Beverly.

She grew up in Columbia Falls and as an adult moved to the Seattle area.

She loved music, Toot being one of her favorite bands. She liked online gambling, and doing crossword puzzles. Her favorite color was purple. She was goofy, very smart and funny.

She has two daughters and a son, Lacey (Seth), Alexandra and Jacob; a granddaughter Emily, and a grandson Samuel.

She was preceded in death by her stepmom,



Dianne; her Grandma and Grandpa Shoemaker; aunts, April and

Chris; and Grandpa Lambi.

She is survived by her father George, her mother Beverly and stepdad Gary, her brother David and sisters Kari, Windy, Amy and Holly, and multiple cousins, nieces and nephews, all who loved her dearly.

She will be laid to rest at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. and a celebration of life will follow.

## Jennifer Pilar Sibson, 55

Jennifer Pilar Sibson, 55, of Whitefish, died Sept. 9, 2021 at Logan Health Medical Center. Services are currently pending at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Deborah D. Simpson, 67

Deborah D. Simpson, 67, died at Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell on July 14, 2021.

She is survived by her children, Chris Motichka and T.J. Motichka.

No services are planned at this time.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Nicolai Siemens, 94

PA 5 29 Sept 2021

Nicolai Siemens left us on Oct. 7, 2020. He joined God's heavenly choir to sing "How Great Thou Art."

He was born to Nicolai Siemens and Helena Siemens on June 5, 1926, in Karasan, Crimea, Russia.

He was only 5 years old when he arrived in the United States at Ellis Island. He was the eldest of nine children. The family settled in Blaine, Washington, on a dairy farm.

He graduated from Blaine High School as valedictorian. Nicolai served in the Korean War as a second lieutenant. He received an honorable discharge Sept. 12, 1952.

His true calling was to be a teacher. He taught business management and industrial management at the University of Illinois, University of Georgia and University of Wyoming. He also taught overseas in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Singapore.

In 1957 received a mechanical engineering degree at the University of Washington, and in 1965 he received a Master of Administration degree at the University of Oregon. In 1974 he received his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon.

While attending the University of Washington he met and married Petra Joy Strand on June 11, 1955. They adopted their son Larry in 1960 and their daughter Monica in 1962. Petra Joy Siemens passed away in 2001.



Nicolai met Geraldine Westom three years later. They were married on March 23, 2003, adding two more children to their family, Rick Westom and Teresa Chadwick.

He leaves behind his loving family, wife Geraldine Siemens, son Larry Siemens, son Rick Westom, daughter Teresa Chadwick (Johnny), brother Abe Siemens (Terry), sisters Erna Craven, Ruth Roetcisoender, Lydia Harris (Milt), son-in-law Mike Willey, grandsons Nicholas Willey, Matthew Willey (Ali), great-grandson Griffin Willey, brothers-in-law Glenn Garner, Palmer Strand, Jack Cashdollar (Muriel), sister-in-law Phylis Smith, and many nieces and nephews and their children.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nicolai and Helen Siemens, brother Little Abe Siemens, sisters Frieda Siemens, Mary Cashdollar and Helen Garner, brothers-in-law Bill Craven, Bill Roetcisoender, Melvin Strand, Kenny Strand, Jim Aspinwall and Leonard Smith, sister-in-law Signe Aspinwall, and his beautiful daughter Monica Joy Willey.

He will always be remembered for his sense of adventure, love and integrity, and his incredible work ethic; he was still driving his Case tractor at age 94; and especially his sense of humor. A well placed witty remark by Nick would have us bent over in uncontrollable laughter. He was a blessing for all who knew him. He will be loved and missed by all his family and friends. He will live in our hearts and memories forever.

A one year memorial service will be held in Trego, Saturday, Oct. 9, at 1: p.m. at 1318 Jim Creek Road.

the memorial.  
In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in memory of Kenny to Ducks Unlimited, the American Cancer Society or WINGS Cancer Support.  
Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

was an inspiration to many people. He was well loved and will be sorely missed.

To honor Kenny's love of the outdoors, his memorial will be Saturday, Oct. 9, at 2 p.m. in the courtyard behind Snappy's Sport Center. Everyone is asked to write down their favorite Kenny story to share at

## Kenneth F. 'Kenny' Silva, 79

PA 8 3 Oct 2021

just a few years ago for health reasons.

Until their divorce, Kenny was married to Beverly for 38 years, and they had a daughter, Robin, and a son, Ryan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Kay.

Kenny was quick witted, humorous and always ready with a smile. He

shooter many times.

Kenny worked in a lumberyard, then moved on to being a milkman for over 40 years. After retiring from route delivery, he drove a milk tanker truck from the dairy to the processing plant.

When the dairy closed, Kenny moved on to driving a dump truck until finally retiring for good,

lawns. He especially loved hunting ducks and geese. He was a gifted dog trainer and almost



always had at least one Labrador retriever. He was a state champion skeet and sporting clays

Kenny Silva passed away Sept. 22, 2021, in Kalispell. He was born Sept. 4, 1942, to Frank and Kay Silva.

Kenny's love of the outdoors started in childhood. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, clays-shooter, gopher-shooter, golfer, motorcycle rider and a meticulous mower of

## Steven Brian 'Froggy' Sienknecht, 71

PA 7 23 May 2021  
Steven Sienknecht, a love to us all, lost his brave battle with Burkitt Lymphoma on April 15, 2021.

Born in Spokane to Phyllis and Brian, he and sister Barbara attended several schools before moving to California. Being such a bright student, he skipped second grade and went to third where he was the youngest and smallest. He had to rely on his quick wit in order to thrive. He kept us laughing over the years with his reminiscences and "one liners."

Steve attended Millikan High School in Long Beach, California, where he played water polo and trumpet in the Drum and Bugle Corps. He spent summers as a kid at grandmother's cabin in West Glacier. He had many adventures with cousins Bruce and Michael. When he was older, he worked summers on the Sienknecht family farm in Oakesdale, Washington.

After attending the University of Colorado, he traveled to Europe and Southern Asia, and he shared many fond memories of his travels. He then lived with Barbara and Charlie in New York carrying stocks and bonds in a briefcase on the subway from bank to bank.



He joked that he was "the first internet."

When he moved to Montana, he took up the bass

guitar, which began his lifelong career as a singer and musician. He played in local rock bands and on the road for nearly 50 years. While touring, he met and married Carol, and together they raised children Travis (wife Amber), and Michelle (husband Jeremy and children Evie and Fisher).

He toured in a band with Barbara and Charlie (daughter Samantha, husband David) called Redeye, and one with Mike and George called Solar Bozo. There were lots of other bands and friends along the way. He played at the Dry Bean Saloon in the '80s, and had a house gig for nearly 15 years at the Great Northern Bar with The Fanatics. There, Bruce Springsteen sat in with the band one epic evening. Steve and Amanda met at the Great Northern Bar and later married. He helped raise her two children, Weston and Neila. As a little boy, Weston said, "Everybody loves Steve. Even people who don't know Steve,

love Steve."

After a house gig at the Blue Moon, he drove a school bus for School District 5 and played in a band with Gary, Dick and Sid called Southern Comfort.

Steve was a rock star in every sense of the word. He loved bus driving, and never missed a day. He always said, "The bus driver is the first person kids see going to school, and the last person they see before going home." His favorite route was driving the "Dream Team" to Big Mountain to train for the Winter Special Olympics.

Here's to another life well-lived, and another loved one gone too soon. A celebration of life will be at the South Expo Fairgrounds Building on June 24, from 4 to 6 p.m. A music jamboree will be at the Great Northern Bar in Whitefish, Aug. 8, at 4 p.m. Musicians can call the Northern if they would like to play on Aug. 8.

The world will never be the same without him. As he fought the horrible cancer, he never complained or became angry. He taught us how to battle a disease with grace, love, hope and kindness. We love you and miss you, Steve.

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## MEMORIALS

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### Steven Sienknecht

PA 6 20 June 2021  
A celebration of life for Steven Sienknecht, 71, who died April 15, will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, June 24, at the Flathead County Fairgrounds South Expo Building in Kalispell.

Food and refreshments will be served from 4 to 5 p.m. The service will begin at 5 p.m.

## Carola Theresa Mann Sirucek, 91

*P. 5*  
Carola Theresa Mann Sirucek passed away on the eve of what would have been her 69th wedding anniversary, June 6, 2021, to her beloved husband Edgar, of natural causes, at Expressions Memory Care in Kalispell.

Carola was born on Oct. 12, 1929, in St. Anthony, North Dakota, a small community founded by German Catholics in 1890. Her grandparents Klein and Mann both immigrated there from Illemtz, Austria, in 1891. Carola was the fourth of 10 children of John and Elizabeth (Klein) Mann. She learned to be a good seamstress and wonderful cook from her mother. Carola and her siblings attended an elementary school in St. Anthony that was run by Ursuline nuns from Austria-Hungary. She graduated from Mandan High School in 1949. Her father believed in education, and was instrumental in her learning to type, which earned her employment in various secretarial positions.

At age twenty, Carola took the train from Mandan, North Dakota to Whitefish to spend five days with a girlfriend, who set her up on an eventful blind date. Her date was Edgar Emil Sirucek, a farmer and World War II veteran, and the love of her life. They began a courtship through writing letters and Ed's many one-day trips from Montana to North Dakota in all kinds of weather. Carola moved to Ronan and worked at Peavey Seed and Grain. She and Ed were married in June of 1952 in Mandan.

Carola and Ed spent their married life in Northwestern Montana. First, they lived in the St. Ignatius-Ronan area, followed by a short time in Creston. They finally settled in the community of Swan River outside of Bigfork in 1959, where



*9 June 2021*  
they started and ran the Green Valley Dairy for 14 years. Ed and Carola later developed the

dairy into the Swan River Tree Farm for decades, and eventually turned the land over to their daughter Becky and her husband Bret to create their own business, Green Valley Sod Farm, on the same acreage. Carola and Ed were active in the community of Swan River for 52 years. Carola enjoyed ceramics with the Swan River Potters, quilting with the Bigfork Quilters for decades, and was continually active in the CCW of the churches of St. Catherine's and Saint John Paul II. Gardening was her shared passion with Ed, and the size of their gardens just got bigger as they aged — the family, neighbors, and church friends always benefited from their sweet corn and zucchini, among other vegetables. No one left Carola's kitchen hungry — she was always ready with a meal for anyone Ed brought home for lunch, and there were many guests over the years.

Carola and Edgar enjoyed 62 years together. In their retirement years, they traveled to Alaska, the Dakotas and Arizona. In the winter months, they enjoyed their second home in the Casa Grande, Arizona, community for many years. Carola and Ed both enjoyed antiquing and collected many treasures in their travels. Carola's strong Catholic faith carried over in the raising of her family, her generosity of giving, and her continual involvement with her children, Dean, Diane, Rebecca and Rene, her four beloved granddaughters, and two great-grandsons.

The family would like to express their appre-

ciation for the care of their mother to April and her wonderful staff at Expressions Memory Care; also, to Frontier Hospice for helping us through this journey. A most important thank you to "Dexter," the four pawed adorable companion who was there for all the years by her side.

Carola is survived by her son Dean and wife Lois of Lakeside, Diane Johnson her husband Eric of Bigfork and Springdale, Utah, Rebecca Hughes and husband Bret of Bigfork, Rene Sock and husband Tom of Kalispell, granddaughters Breanna Hughes and fiance Dan Backeberg of Helena, Stephanie Arnlund, husband Alijah, and great-grandsons Aiden and Austin of Bigfork, Maggie Sirucek of Columbia Falls, and Bailey Hughes and fiance Derrick Williams of Boston. She is also survived by her sisters Ann Grannan of Marian, Iowa, and Mary Kaye Mann of Mandan, and brother James Mann of Waseca, Minnesota.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Edgar, brothers Raymond, Robert and Chuck Mann, sisters Isabelle Besserud, Agnes Fowler, and Clara Sorensen.

A rosary at 10:15 a.m. will precede the Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, June 11, at 11 a.m. at Saint John Paul II Catholic Church in Bigfork. A luncheon will be provided following the service in the basement of the church. A private burial will take place at Bigfork Cemetery at a later date.

As Carola was never successful in "raising a saint," in lieu of flowers, the family would like donations to be made to "Raising a Saint Scholarship Foundation" at St. Matthew's School, 602 South Main Street Kalispell, MT 59901 (406-752-6788).

## Frank Sizemore, 76

PAB 2 May 2021

Franklin Eugene Sizemore, 76, of Columbia Falls passed away on April 21, 2021, due to complications from congestive heart failure.

Frank was born to Bud and Naomi (Dubia) Sizemore on Nov. 15, 1944, in Wallace, Idaho, and was the oldest of five children. The family settled in Kalispell where Frank attended Flathead County High School until his 17th birthday when he joined the United States Navy. He served on the USS Bennington during Vietnam, achieving multiple commendations and was also stationed at San Diego and Fallon, Nevada, before his honorable discharge and establishing a home in Columbia Falls in 1966.

He was married to Judy Elaine (Winegar) Sizemore in 1962 and they went on to have three children, Bud, Darrell and Stacey. Their home may not have had the most square feet, but there was always coffee on, a meal if you were hungry, and space for friends, family and (oh so many) kids — especially those that



needed to feel heard and loved!

Frank worked 40 years in the sawmill for Plum Creek Lumber, retiring in 2007, but his passion was sports.

He played softball in his younger years, was a regular spectator at high school athletic events across the valley and was a season ticket holder for Griz football games, rarely missing the drive to Missoula for the past 35 years. His real impact was on youth baseball and softball. He began coaching in 1971, served as president of the Pee Wee League, president of the Umpires Association, directed numerous tournaments, and was on the field umpiring until his legs gave out. He spent nearly 50 years dedicated to kids learning and playing America's pastime.

Frank was predeceased by his parents, Bud and Naomi; his wife, Judy;

a brother, Bill; a sister, Judy; a son, Darrell; and granddaughter, Frankie.

He is survived by his brother, David; and sister, Susan; two sons, Bud and Stacey; six grandchildren, Dani, Kayla, Bryce, Ashley, Sean and Cameron; and many great-grandchildren.

A memorial is planned at 2:30 p.m. for May 7 at Sapa/Johnsrud field at the Montana Veterans Home, with a reception to follow at The Coop. The family asks that attendees have chairs available, be prepared for inclement weather, and be respectful of covid-safe actions. Because this is a celebration of life for a true sports lover, we ask that attendees be comfortable and casual, so please wear your favorite Wildcat/Kat, Griz, football, baseball or basketball gear.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Columbia Falls Baseball Association or Columbia Falls Youth Softball Association.

Columbia Mortuary is making arrangements and caring for the family.

## Michael John Skamnes, 72

Michael John Skamnes, 72, of Kila, died on Aug. 23, 2021, at his home.

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

## H. Peter Skibsrud, 76

PAB 21 Nov 2021

On Nov. 2, 2021, H. Peter Skibsrud succumbed to his long fight with kidney failure.

Pete was born April 29, 1945, in Pierre, South Dakota, to the Rev. Alvin and Marion Skibsrud. He married Linda Marie Schiele of Deer Lodge in 1969 and eventually settled in Kalispell in the early '70s. Pete truly loved the community where he chose to raise his family. He had a 33-year career at the Job



Service.

Pete's true passions were music, talking on the phone, meeting new people,

and donating to a good cause (too many to list). Never learning to text, he was much more apt to respond to a text in person. He loved dinners off the land with his sons, his evening visits to the

hotel, especially when Tommy was working, and checking on his neighbors in person. Pete was sincerely interested in people and their stories, and seemed to make friends wherever he went.

He was preceded in death by his son Josh, wife Linda, and brothers Olaf and Paul.

He is survived by his sons Gabriel and Boone, and brothers Jake and John.

Pete was deeply con-

cerned with homelessness in his beloved community and was a true champion for anyone in need. We ask that any donations on his behalf be made to the local homeless shelter, Samaritan House, 124 9th Ave. West, Kalispell, MT 59901.

A celebration of life will be held at the Flathead County Fairgrounds Expo Building Nov. 27 at 3 p.m.

# Rudolph Anson 'Rudy' Skonord, 75

PAS 4 APR 2021

Rudolph Anson "Rudy" Skonord passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, at the age of 75. In the days and moments before he passed, he was surrounded by family who loved him dearly — Debbie, Daren, Alex (son-in-law) and grandchildren, Kate and Jack.

Rudy graduated high school from Joplin High School in 1963 and then Northern Montana College with a degree in K-12 education in 1968. He then attended Montana State to earn his Master of Education/Administration degree in 1974. He spent 10 years as a teacher, coach, athletic director and elementary principal in Chester, then moved his family to Kalispell in 1978 to work for Universal Athletics. The UA "family" became some of Dad's lifelong friends and Dick, Larry and Herb shared their favorite memories with Dad on a video call a couple of weeks before he passed ... this was priceless! Rudy was a 100%, all-in kind of guy as he would say "If you're going to New York, you don't get off in Chicago." He shared his work ethic with his kids, students, athletes and co-workers. After UA, he worked with Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance and, while semi-retired, worked at Target, Home Depot and Lowe's. His co-workers and customers loved seeing his smile (and Seahawk hat) every day.

When Rudy and Karen



moved to Kalispell in 1978, they dreamed of owning a home on Lake Blaine.

That dream came true, and they bought their first house in 1984. It was a labor of love and they put their heart and soul (and money) into making it a beautiful home that they would share with family and friends over the years. Lots of memories, stories and laughing "to tears" all while eating "Rudy burgers" were our favorite highlights. The family now owns a house down the road from the original "lake house" and it is still a sanctuary and gathering place for our family. Thanks, Dad, for making your dream happen so we can still call it home 30 years later. Even after moving away, Kalispell was always home for Rudy and he looked forward to visiting family, friends, and have Moose's Pizza!

Rudy was an avid Seattle Seahawks fan, as well as MSU Bobcats and WSU Cougars. When you saw him, he'd most likely be wearing a jacket, shirt or hat from his favorite teams. He traveled to many pro and college football games over the years, including the Notre.Dame game in 1992 where the final scene of the movie "Rudy" was filmed. During half-time the crowd chanted "Rudy, Rudy ..." which

was a fun story to tell over the years. He also made several trips to Seattle to watch the Seahawks with friends. Alex (son-in-law) took him to a few Seahawk and Mariners games once he moved to Seattle in 2014. Despite his love for professional sports, his favorite sporting events to attend were his kids and grandkids.

Left to remember his sweet smile and spirit are Rudy's children, Debbie (Alex) Hickox, Daren (Pam) Skonord and Darwin (Maria) Skonord; grandkids, Clayton, Danielle, Kate, Jenna, Kamden, Jack, and Nate; sister Beverly (LeRoy) Green, brother in-law Bud Broadhurst and many nieces and nephews.

Rudy was preceded in death by his parents Palmer and Beth, oldest sister Geri, and brothers Sonny and Gary.

Rudy will be missed by all who knew and loved him. A celebration of life will be held in Kalispell this summer, the date to be announced. We will also gather on Father's Day (June 20) with family and a few close friends in Joplin, where his ashes will rest with his dad, mom, and siblings.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in Rudy's name to: Kidsports, P.O. Box 1205, Kalispell, MT 59903.

Please visit [cascadememorial.com/obituaries](http://cascadememorial.com/obituaries) to leave your fun memories and condolences for the family.



### **Rosalie Skiftun, 93**

Rosalie Skiftun, 93, of Great Falls, Montana, died Monday, May 17, 2021, at Beehive Homes in Missoula.  
Arrangements are under the care of Garden City

### **Janet McLeod Slack, 82**

Janet McLeod Slack, 82, died on June 9, 2021, at Brendan House.  
Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Alta Slaughter, 69

PA 5 14 Oct 2021

Alta Slaughter passed away Sept. 18, 2021.

Alta Jane Johnson was born Jan. 14, 1952, to Earl "Curly" and Edna Johnson. The family moved to Eureka when she was a few months old.

Alta lived in the Tobacco Valley throughout her school years. She graduated from Lincoln County High School in 1970. She gave birth to

a son, Roydon Johnson, in 1972. She married Irvin Williamson in 1973. They had one son, Irvin Wesley, in 1973.

She married Charles Slaughter in 1979. They had two children, a son, Charles, born in 1980, and a daughter, Mamie, in 1982. Mamie passed away in 1992.

Alta was preceded in death by her parents, Curly and Edna Johnson,

her older sister Verla, older brother Gareth, and daughter Mamie.

She is survived by her husband, Charles, of Eureka; sons, Roydon Johnson, Irvin Williamson and Charles Slaughter; and grandchildren, Ashton, Duke, Trayvon and Wyatt Williamson, Mike, Destiny and Leola Slaughter, and Andrew Bronson; and two

great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two brothers, Everet Johnson of West Kelowna, British Columbia, and Duard Johnson of Fortine.

Alta loved and served God and was a member of the First Church of God Eureka. She loved family dearly and was loved by them. She had countless friends and if she wasn't your friend, she probably had not met you yet.

## Arlene J. Smith, 78

Arlene J. Smith, 78, died at her home in Kalispell on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

Arthur George Smith, "Art," passed away on April 27, 2021, in Jefferson City, Montana, from multiple myeloma.

Art was born on June 13, 1939, in Williston, North Dakota, to Arthur Joseph Smith and Elizabeth Smith. Art's parents relocated to Northwest Montana for work shortly after his birth.

Art met his soulmate, Marilyn Kathryn Smith at the Strand Theater in Kalispell. Art married Marilyn on May 29, 1959, at St. Matthew's in Kalispell. They enjoyed 62 years together filled with love and family, residing for most of their marriage in Kalispell, prior to relocating to Jefferson City in 2006.

Art graduated from Flathead County High School in 1958. Art was

## Arthur George Smith, 81

PA 8 2 May 2021



a cement truck driver for McElroy and Wilkin in Kalispell until he retired. Art was honorably discharged from the Montana Army National

Guard after eight years of service. Art was an avid outdoorsman, spending his time fishing and hunting. The last bull elk that Art shot was at the age of 73.

Art is survived by his wife, Marilyn, of Jefferson City; and his children, Kim Smith of Kalispell, Jeff Smith and wife Tamara Smith of Happy Valley, Oregon, Annette Smith and

husband Tom Halsey of Jefferson City, and Anthony Smith and wife Lydia of Columbia Falls. Art has eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Art is survived by his siblings, Lois Jobmann, Joann Smith, Roger Smith and Elaine Szirbik.

Art was a familiar face around Kalispell over the years, and to know him was to love him. Art loved his cats, and his cat Cleo never left his lap. Art was loved by so many and will be greatly missed.

There will not be a funeral service, however, friends and family are encouraged to send condolences to P.O. Box 96, Jefferson City, MT, 59638, or to visit [simplecremationmt.com](http://simplecremationmt.com) and share a memory with the family.

## Yvonne Smack, 75

Yvonne Smack, 75, of Kalispell, died Dec. 15, 2020, due to cardiopulmonary failure.

She was a retired nurse.

She is survived by her husband, Richard Lock, of Kalispell; and daughters, Rebekka, Deborah and Kathy.

## Barry Louis Smith, 48

Barry Louis Smith, 48, of Whitefish, died Dec. 13, 2021, at his home.

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

## Helen Louise (Carter) Smith, 90

PAL 4 Apr 2021

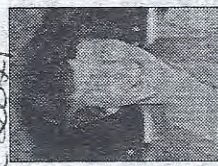
Our loving mother went to heaven on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021, to be with our father Jack and brother John.

Helen Louise (Carter) Smith was born in Moberly, Missouri, to James Wesley and Alice McAllister Carter on Nov. 14, 1930. In high school she worked at a clothing store and spent all her money on clothes (a habit that has passed on to the next generations) and was a classic dresser.

She met our father at the University of Missouri and they soon married and moved to Montana. They eventually settled in Kalispell and she worked while raising four children.

Helen loved to cook even though she said "she couldn't boil water when she was first married." She was a great bowler and bridge player. Those were some of her enjoyments outside of a hectic family life.

She was very talented and sewed a lot of her children's clothes, including college formal, Barbie clothes and Christmas stockings for



several generations of kids and grandkids. Our mom raised us to believe we could do anything we set our minds to. We will always be thankful to her for that.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband John A. "Jack," and lost her oldest child John in January to covid pneumonia.

She is survived by her three daughters, Susan E. Smith, Sarah S. Klassen (Ray) and Mary Kate Smith, her daughter-in-law, Linda Smith, as well as grandchildren Lauren Ortega (Eric), Michael Klassen, Stephen Haines, Kelsey Smith and Meghan Klassen. Great-grandkids are Sydney Haines and Carter, Conrad and William Ortega.

She loved to spend her summers at Swan Lake and the family will hold a celebration of life for our mother Helen and our brother John at Swan Lake this summer.

## Campbell Joshua Smith, 17

PAL 15 Sept 2021

Campbell Joshua Smith died Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021.

He is survived by his mother Debra, father Joshua, brother Kyle, Grandma Sally Sorenson, Grandpa Paul Sorenson, Grandma LaNita Smith, Grandpa Coyne Smith, and many other family members and friends.

Campbell was preceded in death by his Grandpa Coke Crawford.

Campbell was born on Nov. 21, 2003, in Kalispell and had just begun his senior year at Glacier High School. Campbell was born on a blizzardy day and could never get enough of the snow as he grew older. He lived for the extreme and was an accomplished Big Mountain freeride skier that enjoyed competing



in IFSA freeride events. Campbell was almost more comfortable in the air than he

was on the ground. In the summer, he loved water sports. Anything that involved a board, gliding on top of the water, or flipping into it from cliffs or bridges. His other summer passion was mountain biking; so much, that he was one of the first employees at Legacy Bike Park in Lakeside — a dream summer job for Campbell. Campbell spent a lot of his time on the soccer field, also. Clubs he had played for include the Flathead Soccer Club, NSC FVU,

and ODP. Campbell was on the Varsity soccer team at Glacier since his freshman year and loved his team. He was a presence on and off the field, including doing his best to make bus rides fun.

Campbell was smart and did well in school at both Cayuse Prairie through eighth grade and at Glacier, with many semesters of 4.0 grade point averages, and was a member of the National Honor Society. He was involved in various clubs and was the student body president at Glacier High School.

Campbell lived a big life and was a kind and caring soul. Through NHS, Campbell was a junior counselor at the Good Grief Camp for children who had lost

people close to them. He had a special way of listening and caring for others, even when he was hurting. His friend group is vast and crosses all boundaries. Campbell will forever be remembered for his big smile, big heart, infectious personality, and the way you could no longer see his eyes when he smiled big and laughed hard. Campbell will live on forever in everyone that knew him and is already deeply missed. Rest easy, Campbell, we love you.

There will be a celebration of life for Campbell 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, at Canvas Church in Kalispell.

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

## Death notices 1017

Gordon Russell Smith, 82, of Hamilton, died Friday, Oct. 15, 2021, of natural causes at St. Patrick Hospital.

Services were held Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Hamilton Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## John Stanley Smith, 70

PAG 7 Feb 2021

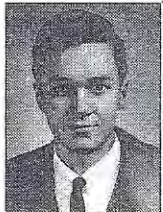
John Stanley Smith was born Feb. 17, 1950, in Bozeman, to John Arthur "Jack" Smith and Helen Louise Carter Smith.

He passed away at home on Swan Lake, Jan. 25, 2021, from COVID-19 pneumonia at the age of 70.

John grew up on a ranch in Bigfork until the family moved to Kalispell when he was 8 years old. He graduated in 1968 from Flathead High School. College education included two years at Whitworth College; he then transferred to Montana State University for his last two years, graduating in 1972 with a degree in fish and wild-

life management. Later he attended Arizona State University and graduated with a second degree in construction engineering.

John was known for his exceptional intelligence, often reading a novel a day. He was always independent and adventurous (and a touch mischievous). He loved the outdoors, hunting in the Bob Marshall and working as a fishing guide in Gardner, rafting rivers and water skiing on Swan Lake. He could



do anything from building a truck to building a house. He lived life his own way and

retired to Swan Lake at the age of 50 after a successful career in residential and commercial construction in Bozeman and Scottsdale, Arizona.

He was an amazing son, brother, husband, father, uncle and friend. He was preceded in death by his father Jack, grandparents Arthur and Elizabeth Smith, and James and Alice Carter.

John leaves behind a

number of loved ones, including his wife Linda Walden Smith, daughter Kelsey Ann Smith, and his mother Helen Smith. He will always be "Big Brother" to Susan E. Smith, Sarah Smith Klassen (Ray) and Mary Kate Smith, and "Uncle Johnny" to Lauren Ortega (Eric), Michael Klassen, Stephen Haines and Meghan Klassen. He also has a great-niece, Sydney Haines, and great-nephews Carter, Conrad and William Ortega.

There will be a family celebration of John's life this summer at Swan Lake.

## Jonathan Blain Smith, 75

PAG 10 June 2021

Jonathan Blain Smith, born Oct. 26, 1945, in Helena to Ralph I. and Alexandria B. Smith (both deceased), entered into eternal life June 6, 2021.

Jonathan was educated in Butte and earned his law degree from the University of Montana in Missoula.

He served in the Army in Vietnam.

He worked first in Helena for the state of Montana, but moved to Washington, D.C., to work for the Department of Justice. From D.C., he came to Kalispell to work for the Flathead County attorney.

Jonathan met and married Margaret Earley on May 27, 1979. (Margaret passed in August of 2019).

He is survived by his children Brittany and Daniel, and grandchildren Miles Conklin and Kathryn Holmquist; brother, James I. (Brenda) Smith of Dillon; sisters, Sister Mary Lex Smith SCL of Leavenworth, Kansas, and Celinda (Paul) Hicks of Helena; and several nieces and nephews.

After retiring from



the county attorney's office, Jonathan continued serving as a bailiff for the county, as well as doing some "lawyer-

ing." He would have celebrated 50 years as an attorney next year.

Jonathan was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He will be remembered for his generous service and kindness by his many friends, colleagues, church choir and the VFW.

Visitation with a prayer vigil will be at 6 p.m. today, June 10, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at noon Friday, June 11, at St. Matthew's. Burial with full military honors will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens. A reception will follow at 2 p.m. at the VFW in Kalispell.

## Lowell Clinton Smith, 75

Lowell Clinton Smith, tragically passed away in a fire, on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021, at his home in Columbia Falls.



Lowell was born on Aug. 25, 1946, to Clinton R. Smith and ClaraMaude Smith (Preston), who have preceded him in death. He grew up in Burdett, Kansas, on his family farm, where four generations came before him. He was the youngest of four, and the only boy. He attended Friends University in Oklahoma, majoring in English and physical education, when he was drafted in the Army, to go to Vietnam. He was a special equipment operator for the U.S. Army, attaining sergeant status.

After the Vietnam War, he ended up moving to Jeffersonville, Indiana, right across from Louisville, Kentucky, where he began attending church at Christ Gospel Churches, Intl. He also met the love of his life, Doris Randolph, at church, and they were married on Dec. 12, 1970. Both Lowell and Doris attended Christ Gospel Church Bible Institute, and Lowell graduated with honors. During the second year of their marriage, Lowell had a tragic accident, being buried alive, while operating heavy equipment. However, the Lord's hand was upon him, and he was saved. During his

recovery, his wife, Doris, gave birth to the first of two children, Nathanael Clayton Smith, born on Nov. 6, 1972, yet Nathanael preceded his father in death in March of 2020, due to cancer.

Lowell changed careers, and became employed by the United States Postal Service, retiring after 25 years, in Louisville. April of 1979 saw Lowell and Doris's second baby born. They named her Miriam Joy Smith (Watts), and she and Doris remain together, today.

Lowell is survived by his wife, Doris, daughter, Miriam, two grandsons, Christian Watts and Isaac Smith. He was also blessed with five great-grandchildren, William Young (6), Gracelyn Watts (5), Samuel Young (4), Liam Watts (3), and Silas Watts (5 months). Lowell has three older sisters, who have also survived him, Lorna Combes (Smith), Lenore Mitchell (Smith), and Cynthia Sticker (Smith). There are also innumerable nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Everyone that remembers him is encouraged to celebrate his homegoing to his precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He will have two funeral services, one in Montana at the Columbia Mortuary, Thursday, Dec. 9, at 11 a.m. He will then be flown to Southern Indiana for a second service and interment. Details on the funeral in Southern Indiana are to be determined.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Norman Stanley Smith, 88

*PA 5 14 Sept 2021*  
Norman Stanley Smith, 88, was called home to be with the Lord on Sept. 10, 2021.

Norman is survived by his wife, Donna Smith; children, Daniel and Lea Smith of Fortine, Susan and Lynn McAnally of Kalispell, Julie and David Dickerson of Utah, Eric and Veronica Smith of Oregon, Dawn and Glen Olson of Kalispell; his brother, Les Smith, and sisters, Phyllis Smith and Janet Stevens. He left grandchildren Christopher and Bethany Smith of Arizona, Emilee Olson of Arizona, Clarissa and Spencer Sammons of Vietnam, Rachel and Reese Hadley of Kalispell, Taylor Smith of Washington, Whitney and Nick Harding of Utah; and great-grandchildren, Rowyn and Raylee Hadley, Jessica Smith, Marshall Wanlass and Nora Harding.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Joann Smith, grandson Andrew Smith and infant son, Michael Smith.

Norman was born in Fort Benton to Joseph and Pauline Smith on Oct. 5, 1932. On Sept. 21, 1952, he married Donna Schoenleber in Bozeman. They were married for 68 years this September. Norman was drafted to service in the Army from 1955 to 1957. After the service Norman worked at various jobs and with four children



made the decision to finish college and get his teaching degree. He attended

Gonzaga University and graduated from Montana State University in 1965 with a teaching degree. He began teaching in Sunburst, Montana, and then moved to Whitefish in 1965 where he taught math at the junior high and then high school. Norman was a teacher in the Whitefish School District for 30 years. He spent summers first at Sweet Grass Port of Entry and then in Glacier National Park working as an immigration officer at Chief Mountain Port of Entry. He coached junior high basketball and was key club advisor at Whitefish High School for several years.

Norman loved the mountains, hunting with his "boys," fishing and woodworking. He will be dearly missed by his family.

Norman chose to be cremated and his celebration of life will be held at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory on Saturday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m. A luncheon will be served after the service. Norman's wish was in lieu of cards or flowers that money be donated to St. Jude's.

## Michelle Patrice Maginn Smith, 69

Michelle Patrice Maginn Smith died on July 1, 2020, in Kalispell after a very brief and brave battle with cancer.

Michelle was born on Jan. 15, 1951, in San Francisco, the only child of Elisabeth Johanna Weber and Frances Thomas Maginn. As a child she lived in several states and in Europe since her father was in the military and her mother was from Switzerland. Her family eventually planted roots in Iowa and she was raised in the town of Red Oak where she attended high school at Red Oak Community High School with the Class of 1969. She married her high school sweetheart, Ronald Smith, and they welcomed two children, Michael and Wendy. After Ronnie's passing, she stayed in Iowa to be near her parents until she met Richard Farrington. Together with his kids, Angela and Robert, and they journeyed west. In 1978, they packed up their family and headed to the wilderness of Montana, first working in and falling in love with Glacier National Park before they found their home of the next 25 years on a mountaintop in Kila. Together they built a beautiful log home; they were joined by her parents next door and welcomed two more children, Shannon and Clinton.

Michelle was a strong lady and was good with her hands. She was active in the 4-H club with her kids, sharing her skills in cooking, crafting, sewing, raising pigs and cows, and she developed skills in anything else that was needed. She was always a hard worker, often on night shifts so she wouldn't miss anything with her kids. She was supportive of all of her family's interests and she would rarely miss a kid's basketball game, track meet, dance competition, spelling bee, talent show, class or lesson. She did everything from owning her own small business, to seasonal Christmas wreath making; janitorial work, and at a thrift store. She very much enjoyed her time working at the Kalispell Food Bank and the people she met and served. She was generous and giving, and never stopped working for her family.

Michelle loved a hot cup of black tea and good Stephen King novel. She had beautiful handwriting

ing and was a creative and thoughtful writer. She loved Birkenstocks and Levis. She loved to take her time with a good meal and try new food. She had one tattoo and always dreamed of more. She loved Janis Joplin, both her music and her spirit. She loved cold, rocky ocean cliffs and lighthouses she found along the coasts of Oregon, New York and Ireland. She was accepting of people and welcomed free spirits.

Michelle loved and was proud of all six of her children, her 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. And she was loved back.

Michelle was preceded in death by Ronnie Smith, her parents, and Richard Farrington.

She is survived by her children and their families, Michael Smith, Wendy Smith, Angela Poe, Robert Farrington, Shannon Pederson and Clinton Farrington; grandchildren, Ethan, Skylar, Tristan, Emily, Abigail, Jordan, Baile, Jaden, Everett, Louise, Koiyah, Kyrrah, Emma and Harper; great-grandchild, Sterling; sister-in-law, Peggy Templeton and her family; and lifelong friend, Peggy Embree.

If you wish to honor her memory, please donate to the Kalispell Food Bank.

## Michael Mallory Smith, 82

PA4 2 Mar 2021

Father Michael Mallory Smith, 82, passed away on Tuesday evening, Feb. 23, 2021, at The Living Centre in Stevensville, Montana, where he resided the past several years.

Michael Mallory Smith was born Dec. 29, 1938, in Spokane, Washington, the son of Adolphe Smith and Gwendolyn Mallory Smith. He grew up in Chaney, Washington, and Essex, Montana. He attended Cheney High School, Gonzaga University, Eastern Washington State College (now University), and graduated from St. Martin College, Olympia, Washington, in 1963. He taught special education in Spokane and Baltimore, and did grad-



uate work at Loyola College in Baltimore. He entered the Trinitarian Fathers in 1972, making solemn profession on Dec. 17, 1976. He studied theology at St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore, and was ordained a priest for the American Province of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity on May 7, 1977 at his home parish in Cheney, Washington. His mission was to preach on behalf of Trinitarian Missions. Due to his father's ill health, he returned to Montana in 1979, and was incardinated as a priest

of the Diocese of Helena on Nov. 1, 1982.

In Nov. of 1979, he began serving in the Diocese of Helena, as chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Polson. He served at St. Richard Parish in Columbia Falls (1980-1982), at St. William Parish in Thompson Falls and St. James Parish in Plains (1982-1986), at St. Joseph Parish in Choteau and at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Fairfield (1986-1990), at St. Ann Parish in Bonner (1990-2000), and at St. Mary's Mission Parish in Stevensville (2000-2008). In July of 2008, he accepted senior status, living in Missoula until moving to The Living Centre in Stevensville.

He was preceded in

death by his parents and his brother, Gregory, and his sister, Dixie Anderson. He is survived by nieces and nephews.

A vigil will be celebrated at St. Mary's Mission Parish in Stevensville on Thursday, March 4, 2021, at 7 p.m. Bishop Austin Vetter will celebrate the funeral Mass at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Polson, on Friday, March 5 at 1:30 p.m., followed by burial at Lakeview Cemetery in Polson.

Memorials may be sent to the priests' retirement fund: CSSST, PO Box 1729, Helena, MT 59624.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.dalyleachchapel.com](http://www.dalyleachchapel.com).

## Rick Lynn Smith, 68

PAB

29 Oct 2021

Rick(y) Lynn Smith, 68, passed away stubbornly from a rare kidney cancer on Oct. 23, 2021.

He was born on Christmas Day, 1952 in Spirit Lake, Idaho, to Bonnie (Briggs) and Clyde Smith. He grew up in Olney and Whitefish and graduated from Whitefish High School in 1971.

Rick attended Montana State University. He graduated in 1976 with a degree in industrial management engineering. While attending MSU he met his wife, Debora Kay Nicholson. Despite scaring her off

early on, the two were married on March 26, 1977. They made their home in Kalispell, where they remained.

Rick grew up working in the woods with his dad, which he returned to after college. He took over Smith Logging in 1984 and continued logging until his health failed. However, that did not stop him from running Smith Logging from home.



He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman, always in search of the next great hunt or ski run. Any outdoor activity made him happy from huckleberry picking to fishing, even better if his grandkids could join him.

He is survived by his wife, Deb Smith, children, Ben (Frances) Smith of Missoula, Jessie (Michael) Ellis of Corvallis, Heather (Andrew) Remington of Belt, and Megan Smith of Missoula; five grandkids; brother Barry (Cindy) Smith of Missoula, sisters Wenda (Bill) Oehmeke of

Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Pam (Sid) Meskimen of Denver; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and niece Amanda Oehmcke.

A memorial will be held on Oct. 30 at 3 p.m. in the Expo Building - at the fairgrounds in Kalispell. Potluck meals will be provided. Please bring your favorite dish if you are able as well as your favorite "Rick" story.

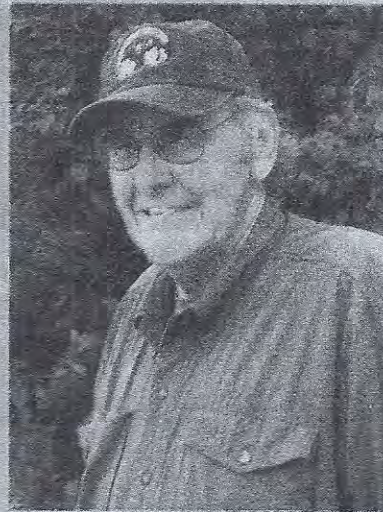
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to A.L.E.R.T., Log a Load for Kids, or Log Jam.

## Celebration of Life

Robert D. "Bob" Smith  
1939 - 2021

Thursday, July 8th  
at 4pm

Lagoon Pavilion at  
Woodland Park in Kalispell



# Robert D. 'Bob' Smith

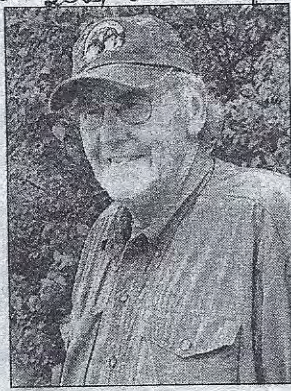
Bob Smith passed from this world to the next on the afternoon of June 6, 2021, at his home, surrounded by his loving wife and daughters.

Bob was born on a farm in southwest Iowa in 1939, son of Ross and Marie Smith. The span of his 81 years started with a childhood of chores before and after school, plowing fields, and making hay. The work ethic and discipline of farm life carried through to his successful 40-year career in business management, corporate leadership, and adventures around the globe. For retirement he returned to his small-town roots and the serene quiet of a home tucked in the woods outside Whitefish, Montana.

Bob led an intentional life, actively pursued his dreams, and supported and encouraged others around him to pursue theirs. He was a pillar of strength and support for his family, including Glenda, his wife and partner in love and life for 61 of his 81 years, and his three daughters and their families: Ellen Rude, her husband Patrick and two step-children Geoffrey Rude and Kelsey Fisher, Kelsey's husband Kevin, and their daughter Riley; Carol Westerdale, her husband Jim and two children, Rob and Roxanne; and Ingrid Ulrey, her wife Page and two sons, Roscoe and Skye McDonald.

Memories of Bob will also be cherished by his sister, Karen Berger, and brother, Guy Smith, and a large extended family in and around Anita, Iowa, a town surrounded by rolling hills covered in corn and bean fields where Bob grew up.

Taking risks, setting



goals, and following through with plans to achieve them were central to Bob's DNA. He and Glenda launched their married life with very little in the bank, two baby girls within the first two years, and a sense of adventure. Soon after buying their first home in Omaha, Bob was recruited for a higher-level management position based in Hackensack, New Jersey, where his third daughter was born. Over the years, Bob's promotions and expanded responsibilities moved the family 14 times to seven different states, and from 1978-1981 to London, England. In 1997, Bob retired from his role as Corporate Vice-President with Avery Dennison International, a company he'd helped guide and grow for 25 years.

During his work years, Bob was as playful and ambitious about his family time and hobbies as he was about his career, organizing family ski trips, houseboat adventures on Lake Powell, and weeks at the beach with Glenda and his girls. In between frequent business trips, he buddied up with a neighbor for dirt biking in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, built a dark room in the garage for his photography hobby, and earned his airplane pilot's

license. *St Pilot*

When Glenda fended off a serious bout with cancer in the mid-1990s, Bob and Glenda made a decision to retire earlier than planned and move to a beautiful place that met two key criteria: good slopes for skiing and a vibrant community with which to engage. By 1997, they were settling into their newly built home in Whitefish and enjoying many hours in the large shop on their property where Glenda honed her stained-glass artistry and Bob started blacksmithing, eventually serving as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Montana Blacksmithing Association.

The shop was also home to Bob's collection of antique motorcycles and cars, and a place where he enjoyed learning from his friends who knew how to rebuild and repair them. He continually expressed his appreciation for their time with him, problem-solving and preparing a bike or car for the next big ride. Bob was an enthusiastic member of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America, Northern Rockies Chapter, and he also loved road runs with his 1915 Speedster, and the comradery of his friends at the Model T Club and the Flathead Pioneer Auto Club, serving as Secretary/Treasurer and contributing in as many ways as he could.

Ever the mentor, Bob leveraged his business acumen in retirement as a volunteer for the Western Montana Service Core of Retired Executives, counseling small business owners across the Flathead Valley. Later, he founded and served as co-chair of the board of the

Frontier Fund, where he delighted in assessing and advising innovative start-ups and investing in the ideas with the most potential.

Following Glenda's lead, Bob agreed to adopt a pair of llamas in 1999, the first of many llamas who they took on treks into the Bob Marshall Wilderness and led down Main Street in the annual Whitefish Winter Carnival parade. Bob delighted in sharing the gentle joys of the llamas on visits to local parks and community events, and watching people smile, take pictures with them, and pet their long furry necks.

As noted by Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Our chief want in life is somebody who will make us do what we can." Bob was this person, in small and sometimes very big ways, for many people who were lucky enough to enter his orbit. In recent years, Bob taught cribbage to fourth graders at Muldown Elementary School, using one of his life-long favorite games to help kids learn how to problem-solve and grow their confidence. Throughout his life, co-workers, friends, and family were drawn to Bob for consult at life's major intersections. He listened, asked questions, and left people with the tools they need to find their own way. He will be greatly missed.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held at the Lagoon Pavilion in Woodland Park, 705 2nd St East, Kalispell, Montana on July 8, 2021, at 4 p.m. Donations in Bob's honor are welcome to: The Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Mouth and Foot Painting Artists,



## Suzanne Smith, 90

Suzanne Smith, 90, of Eureka, died Oct. 20, 2021. No local services are scheduled. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## T.F. Ted Smith, 82

*PAG 17 Jan 2021*  
T.F. Ted Smith, 82, passed away Jan. 14, 2021, at Hidden Meadows in Columbia Falls.

Ted was born Feb. 24, 1937, in Colgan, North Dakota, and attended high school in Crosby, North Dakota.

In 1958 he married Judy Knudson and they just celebrated 62 years of marriage.

He was a shipping clerk at Plum Creek Plywood from 1967 until 1982, when he bought a truck and drove over the road. Many years were spent building roads. He moved to Great Falls at that time and remained there until 2018 when he moved to Rising Mountain Assisted Living in Bigfork.

His greatest achievements were his years in the Flathead County Sheriff's Posse, ambulance driver for Columbia Falls Ambulance Association, and his many students in the



Hunters Safety program, also in Columbia Falls.

He is survived by his

wife Judy, daughter Lori (Wes) Parker of Bigfork, sons Wayne (Sherry) of Columbia Falls, and Tim (Diane) of Columbia Falls. Also surviving are grandsons Mike (Kat) Parker and Kyle Parker of Bigfork, Seth Piiloo of Columbia Falls, and numerous grandchildren and stepgrandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mom and dad, Petra and Tiddles Smith, brothers Allan and Edward Smith and their wives, and niece Claudia Dakin.

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

## Laurence 'Larry' Robert Snyder, 87

*PAG 23 June 2021*  
Laurence "Larry" Robert Snyder entered heaven on June 18, 2021, to be reunited with his departed family.

Larry was born in Cut Bank, on June 26, 1933, to Robert and Teresa Young. He was adopted by his father, Donald Snyder, and was raised in Cut Bank, Gilford and Shelby.

Upon graduating from Shelby High School, Larry enlisted in the Navy and served his country for four years. While stationed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he met and married the love of his life, Ruth Lucht, and together they had six children.

Larry was a deputy sheriff before working for the State GVW, retiring as a supervisor in Columbia Falls. Larry was a devoted Catholic, and he enjoyed serving the community by volunteering for Shelby's Fire Department, Toole County Ambulance, Toole County Search and Rescue, and teaching hunter safety. Some of his passions included scuba diving, airplane piloting, and singing with the Troubadours.

Larry is survived by his brother, Donald (Kathy) Snyder of Deer Park, Washington; sister,



Valerie (Joe) Reinsmith of Florissant, Missouri; daughter, Dawn (Monte) Fauque of Shelby; sons, Paul (Theresa) Snyder of Columbia



Falls and Tom Snyder of Pinnacle; seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; as well as special friends, Barbara Thorensteinson, and Kim and Aron Wides.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth; brother, John Snyder; and children, Tim, Robert and Karen.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes memorial contributions be made to the Toole County Fire Department, or to the charity of your choice.

Services will be Monday, June 28, at 11 a.m. at St. Richard Catholic Church in Columbia Falls.

Condolences can be made to Larry's memorial page at [www.asperfh.com](http://www.asperfh.com).

## Jerald 'Jerry' Leland Sonju, 77

Jerald "Jerry" Leland Sonju, loving father, brother and grandpa, passed away at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle on Oct. 31, 2021, at the age of 77.

Jerry was born in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, to Oliver and Gertrude Sonju. Jerry graduated from Shelby High School in 1962. He was an accomplished athlete and continued a love of most sports throughout his life. He followed countless young athletes including nephews and grandchildren. Jerry always had advice to

help young athletes improve their skills and become smarter about the game.

After high school he joined the Army in 1965 and was stationed in Germany as an MP. Jerry married Terrie Ann Long in 1970. Together they welcomed two beautiful children, Ryan L. Sonju and Dana



Sonju Conley.

In 1987 Jerry and Sherri Hundahl were married. They shared a love for yard work, golf, their countless puppies and most recently they found and cherished the Lord.

Jerry was a believer, a friend, mentor and loving family man. He took great pleasure in spreading joy with everyone around him. He never went anywhere without sharing a corny joke, which most of the time made him laugh more than the person he told it to. He was a goofy character with his main goal in life to spread

laughter. He was the kind of guy that anyone who ever had the pleasure to meet him will never forget him.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents Oliver and Gertrude and brother Oliver Sonju Jr.

He is survived by his son Ryan (Alison), daughter Dana Conley (Owen), grandchildren Tyler Sonju, Stephanie Sonju, KeAnna Henrekin (Cole), Darrian Conley, Aspen Conley and Kyla Conley, brothers Richard (Dick) Sonju, Ed Sonju, and Jack Sonju, and sisters Diane Severson and Kaye Tomlinson.

## Patricia Murphy Sonsteli, 85

Patricia Murphy Sonsteli was born June 5, 1936, in Malta to Joseph and Lorraine Murphy.

She is survived by husband Dale, three sons Terrance Lee, Gary Duane, Timothy James, and two daughters Connie Sue and Shelley Lorraine; four sisters Monica, Jaqueline, Cathern and Pam, and one brother Michael; 10 grandchildren Terra, Dale, Rebecca, McKenzie, Dylan, Alan, Sheree, Mariah, Makayla and Jennifer, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Patricia was preceded in death by her father, mother, two sisters, Barbara Jean and Sharon Ann, and twin brothers James and Joseph.

Sadly, our community lost a pillar on July 22, 2021, when Mrs. Patricia Sonsteli passed away.

Her contributions to the lives of many were endless and embodied her giving nature. Patricia loved farming with her husband Dale in the Creston community over the course of their 51 years of marriage. She was a member of the Creston Auxiliary Fire Department and



several other clubs where she actively enhanced her community.

Patricia

loved sharing her beautiful flower and vegetable gardens with the Veterans Food Pantry, the Creston community and families in need.

She had many hobbies, which included oil painting, traveling abroad, snow skiing, golfing and hiking in Glacier National Park.

Her legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone she interacted with, as well as those she reached but never met.

Friends and family, please come share your stories for Patricia's celebration of life on Aug. 8, at the Swan River Community Hall from 1 to 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please help continue her kindness, loyalty and compassion by making a donation to the Saint Joseph's Indian School; [www.stjo.org/meals](http://www.stjo.org/meals) or call 800-341-2245.

## Sarrah Somerville, 74

Sarrah Somerville, 74, died at her home on March 8, 2021.

She is survived by her husband Rodney 'Zane' Beougher, and her son Zachary Morrison.

No services are planned at this time

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

## Kenneth Edward Sorley, 74

Kenneth Edward Sorley, 74, of Hungry Horse, died at Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021.

An open house visitation will be held Friday, Oct. 29, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, 3408 U.S. 2 E., Kalispell.

A funeral celebration of life will be held Saturday, Oct. 30, at 11 a.m. at Glacier Bible Camp, 400 Fifth St. W., Hungry Horse. Interment will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls. A reception will follow interment at Glacier Bible Camp.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.