

## James J. Wagner, 80

James J. Wagner, 80, of Kalispell, died on Feb. 22, 2021, at his home.

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

## Janice Ellefson-Waggener

*PA 7 11 Sept 2021*  
Janice Ellefson-Waggener, born and raised in Kalispell, passed away on Sept. 3, 2021, in Fort Worth, Texas. She was surrounded by her three children: Valerie Ellefson from Fort Worth, Texas, Larry Ellefson Jr. from SanTan Valley, Arizona, and Laurelee Ellefson Lourias from Watauga, Texas. Janice also leaves behind five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren all



living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

A small gathering was held

in Keller, Texas, where she was cremated. Her ashes will be brought to Kalispell this summer for final burial next to her husband Larry F. Ellefson Sr.

## Ted Allen Waggener, 76

*PA 5 22 Oct 2021*  
On Oct. 18, 2021, Ted Waggener went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He is the first-born son of Ted W. Waggener and Lois "Dode" E. Waggener (Harmon) and was born on April 25, 1945, in Billings. He was brought to Kalispell as an infant, where he remained a lifetime resident of the Flathead Valley. Ted graduated from Flathead County High School, where he was an accomplished athlete on both the football and basketball teams. Shortly after graduating, he married the love of his life, Trudy Bea Bergstrom, and hand in hand, they began building their family and their lives together.

At the age of 26, Ted became a Kalispell firefighter, where he served alongside some of Kalispell's finest for 31 years. During the last 12 years of his service, he held the position of fire chief. He was a dedicated firefighter, and over the years, there were many times he faced dangerous situations.

However, without hesitation, he often put aside concern for his own safety so that he could render aid to those in need.

Ted's heart for service extended far beyond his role as a firefighter. Each and every day of his life was spent demonstrating his love for Christ by helping others. Whether delivering meals to those in need, helping out a neighbor, or mowing lawns for people, he always did so in his own quiet and uncelebrated way. His faith in God, his love for family, and his commitment to his firefighting brotherhood were always Ted's most important priorities. His appreciation and admiration for God's creation often meant he could be found walking on a trail through the forest or sitting beside the campfire gazing at the stars. His gentle nature caused children and animals to



gravitate to him, and he was most content with a grandchild in his arms and a dog on his lap.

His legacy as a kind, caring, compassionate man with a heart that truly desired to serve God will live on forever in the memories of all those who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ted; mother, Lois; and brother, Jim.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Trudy Waggener; his sister, Carol Waggener; sister-in-law, Sue Waggener; son, Jim Waggener (Kristen); daughters, Janis Waggener and Jody Waggener; eight grandchildren, Travis Burke, Jordan Burke, Caleb Burke (Jonnie), Spencer Burke, Alicia Ogden/Waggener (Dan), Ashlee Milliron/Waggener (Wyatt), Cody Waggener and Connor Waggener; nine great-grandchildren, Odin, Olivia, Joy, Gracee, Caleb, Tanner, Shay, Jackson and Annabel; and many nieces and nephews, and friends.

A memorial service will be held at Central

Bible Church, where Ted was a dedicated member for many years, on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 11 a.m., followed by lunch in the gymnasium. The service will be live-streamed and can be viewed on the Central Bible Church Facebook page and YouTube CBC Kalispell. In addition to the service in the church sanctuary, for those wishing to attend the service while maintaining social distancing precautions, a live stream will be available in the church gymnasium. Face masks will also be available at the door.

In honor of Ted's wishes, donations can be made to Central Bible Church, 902 1st Ave. E., Kalispell MT 59901; or The Flathead Warming Center, 889 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT, 59901.

Funeral arrangements are being provided by Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell. Condolences and memories can be shared via email to [wecare@jgfuneralhome.com](mailto:wecare@jgfuneralhome.com)

## Eva Wall, 91

Eva Wall, 91, of East Glacier, died July 22, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

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

## Tara LaReene (Rasmussen) Wahl

Tara LaReene (Rasmussen) Wahl went to her reward on Nov. 12, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

She was born in Logan, Utah. She was many years disabled from several car accidents and the onset of Covid-19 was the cause of her death. She attended Flathead County High School. She married an Air Force man in Alaska and moved to Colorado

*PA 7*  
Springs, Colorado where she was administrative assistant to the commander of Falcon Air Force Base. Later in life she graduated from Flathead Valley Community College. From there she graduated with a Bachelor or Art in Art History degree from Montana State in Bozeman. She then pursued a Master of Art History degree from Chico State in Northern

*1 Dec 2021*  
California. She postponed getting the master's to care for two of her grandchildren. She continued her interest in art by painting many works of art here in the valley.

She is survived by her parents, Arlee and Hazel Rasmussen of Kalispell, her sisters Darcy Rasmussen of Anderson Island, Washington, and Tavia (Rasmussen) Barr of Palmer, Alaska, and her brother Wade

Rasmussen of Beaverton, Oregon; grandchildren, Aspen Rogers of Lebanon, Oregon, Austin Young of Kalispell, Jade Wolfe of Kalispell, and Kaine Wolfe of Kalispell; and three great-grandchildren in Lebanon.

She was preceded in death by her only child, Jyana Wolfe, of Kalispell.

A memorial service is planned for early summer.

## Donna Joan Wahlberg, 93

Donna Joan Wahlberg, 93, formerly of Great Falls, died on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, at Beehive Homes in Columbia Falls.

A private family service will take place at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Great Falls at a later date.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## Nancy Ann Waldernberg, 75



Nancy Ann Waldernberg, 75, passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 13, 2021.

Nancy was born in Cut Bank July 19, 1945, to Harry and Ruth Alex, and baptized in the Lutheran Church of Cut Bank. Nancy was the eighth sibling of 11 children. Nancy attended Cut Bank High School where she enjoyed cheerleading, and was voted Cheerleading Queen and most popular.

After high school, Nancy went to beauty school in California, later working for the Disneyland Hotel.

Moving home to Kalispell, Nancy married Sam Waldernberg.

In 1972 Nancy opened, owned and operated, for 30 years, Creators of Beauty Salon, the first salon located in Evergreen on the new Highway 2 East. After her divorce from Sam, Nancy met Art Cunningham with whom she spent 41 years together until Art's death Aug. 8, 2020.

Nancy was a longtime member of the Kalispell Ladies of the Moose Lodge where she enjoyed meeting with friends and family. Nancy loved

playing Tripoley and pinochle. Nancy was preceded in death by her parents Harry and Ruth Alex, brother Gene Alex, and sisters Bonnie Freed, Clara Mcleod and Linda Flynn, all of Cut Bank.

She is survived by sisters Shirley Dobson of Payson, Arizona, Darlene and Doug Kohlbeck, Jeri Alex of Kalispell, Debbie Keroac of Helena; brothers Dick and Annie Alex of Kalispell, RJ and Carole Alex of Castle Rock, Colorado; numerous nieces and nephews that meant the world to her.

Nancy, with her bright smile and larger than life personality, could light up a room, especially with her contagious laugh.

Nancy is in the care of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. March 13 at the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge, 2158 U.S. 2 E., in Kalispell.

## Audrey Winifred Heasty Barton Wallace, 90

*PAB 29 Aug 2021*  
After a four-year battle with Parkinsonism, Audrey Winifred Heasty Barton Wallace, 90, passed away peacefully on Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 18, 2021.

Audrey was born Sept. 28, 1930, in the village of Derrygonnelly, County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland to William and Sarah Barton. Audrey worked for several years as a secretary at Erne Engineering in Enniskillen. In the summer of 1953, she and a friend traveled to Philadelphia to spend a year in America. While working at Drexel University, she met the love of her life and was wed four months later to Robert O'Neil Wallace. Their strong marriage continued until his death nearly 59 years later in 2013. In 1959, they settled in Kalispell where Robert built the first cable system in Bigfork and East Lakeshore. Audrey was the office manager for the Cable Company in Kalispell until 1976.



In the last years of her life, Audrey was lovingly cared for by her eldest daughter, Lynn Heasty Wallace, and is also survived by a younger daughter, Karen Lee Wallace Jeffers and her two grandsons, Robert O'Neil Jeffers and Ryan James Jeffers of Reno, Nevada.

Audrey gave wonderful hugs, made great apple pies, and enjoyed gardening. Above all, she was devoted to her close-knit family. She supported, respected and loved us all unconditionally. Her daily love and guidance will be greatly missed.

To honor her wishes, no services will be held. Her ashes have been interred at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

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

## Dale Lee Walter, 77

*PAB 3 Dec 2021*  
Dale Lee Walter, 77, of Kalispell, died peacefully Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, with his daughter Deborah Walter by his side.

He was born July 10, 1944, in Kalispell to Ollie and Eleanor Walter. He graduated from Flathead County High School and then enlisted in the U.S. Army. Upon completion of his service, he worked for, and retired from, the Flathead County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff.

Dale was married to the love of his life, Darlene Combs, for 32 years. They had three children, Doug, Dennis and Deborah "DJ."

Dale was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Wilbur Walter; his two sons, Doug and Dennis; and ex-wife, Darlene.

He is survived by his daughter, Deborah Walter, of Montana; grandsons, Kyle Walter of Pennsylvania and Peyton of Missouri; great-granddaughter,



Vienna, of Pennsylvania; and best friend, Nancy, of Washington. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews

and extended family.

He loved the outdoors, fishing, hunting, camping and hanging out with friends and family. He will be remembered for his audacious sense of humor and compassionate personality.

Per Dale's request, no funeral service will be held.

Flowers may be sent to BeeHive Homes of Kalispell at 242 Stillwater Road, Kalispell, MT 59901. Cards may be sent to Deb "DJ" Walter at P.O. Box 10186, Kalispell, MT 59904.

## Edward Albert Walters, 81

*PB 4 7 Apr 2021 Whitefish Pilot*  
Edward Albert Walters, 81, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away Thursday morning, March 4, 2021.

Ed was born and raised in Whitefish, Montana, whose rugged beauty and terrain shaped his sense of purpose and self-reliance as much as his love of the outdoors. He graduated from Whitefish High School as a member of the greats of '58, and would return to Whitefish nearly every summer. Upon leaving Whitefish, he studied at Pacific Lutheran University (where he met his future wife, Susan), the University of Minnesota and Cornell University.



The entirety of his professional career was spent at the University of New Mexico, where he was a professor of physical chemistry for 36 years. Moreover, the depth of his expertise in the field led to numerous long-term projects with esteemed institutions such as; Sandia National

Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, New York's Brookhaven National Laboratory, the University of Goettingen, Germany, and the University of Kent, England. From 1998-2004, he was selected to join a consortium of scientists gathered to aid post-Cold War nuclear disarmament, leading to multiple trips to secretive Russian cities previously dedicated to nuclear research. He was a published author of chemistry textbooks and numerous research documents.

Ed's dedication to his Lutheran faith was deep, and he served in leadership roles at St. Luke's Lutheran Church for

many decades. But it was his commitment to family and expressing his love through the example of service to others where Ed shone the brightest.

He leaves behind his wife of 56 years, Susan E. Walters, their son Greg Walters, daughter Elaine Walters, and cherished grandchildren Halen, Charlotte, Leo, Albrecht, Mina, Elya and Eva. He was preceded in death by his son Eric N. Walters in 2016.

A virtual service was held Sunday, March 7, 2021. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Luke's Lutheran Church at [www.stlukeabq.org](http://www.stlukeabq.org).

# Joyce Eileen Smith Walkup

PB3 11 Aug 2021 Whitefish Pilot

Joyce Eileen Smith Walkup has left our world after gracing us with her 91 years of life well lived. She lived a life of dignity and strength and had many deep loves including that of her husband of 62 years, French, her children, her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren, her dog Dakota, and her passionate love of travel. She was our matriarch, and we all loved her very dearly. She will live on in our hearts and minds forever.

Joyce was born in Clintonville, West Virginia, to Joe Edward Smith and Dovie Frances Sanford. She was a preacher's daughter who yearned to travel and see the world. After meeting the love of her life, French, at age 15, and marrying him at 18, their adventure began. They were a committed and united couple who loved deeply and who held hands and laughed throughout their lives together.

French's Army career took him to France, and after their wedding, Joyce joined her young husband, traveling by ocean liner to LaChappelle, St. Mesmin, France, where they lived for three years. They would later live in Germany as well as Virginia, Ohio, West



Virginia, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas, and continued their travels after retirement to Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, Chile, Costa Rica, and all over Europe... the list is long. This love of travel brought a love of all people and their customs and Joyce and French infused this love into their children. Their children also witnessed what a loving couple truly looks like.

Her life was filled with trying new things and embracing them fully. Joyce had years filled with riding the motorcycle that she owned, learning and performing belly dancing, bowling with her own ball and outfits, downhill skiing in her gorgeous lime green ski suit, and camping in small to large campers and RVs. She was an orthodontist assistant, as well as owning and operating an RV park, Summer

Wind, on the farmland in West Virginia where French grew up, living in their RV there from May to October. She was a dynamic and wonderful woman, and the most dedicated and loving Mom ever.

Her dog Dakota was her best friend and was by her side, literally, for 11 years. He could ride for hours in the car, and was a constant loving companion. She loved her little four-legged family member!

Our mother and grandmother was so strong, so stylish, so dignified, and so passionate about her children and grandchildren. She has set these foundations of strength, dignity and love in all of us and we will continue to honor her legacy by keeping her memory and love alive.

She is survived by four children, Joyce (Jr.) Walkup Fischer (Craig) of Whitefish, Montana, David Dale Walkup (Patricia) of Grand Prairie, Texas, Gregory French Walkup (Laura) of Chesapeake, Virginia, and Steven Kent Walkup (Shelly) of Odessa, Florida, and eight grandchildren, Andrew Steven Walkup, Julia Marie Walkup, Keelan Gregory Walkup (Kelly), Ashley DelToro

McMurtry (John), Rachel Walkup Martens (Austin), Sarah Walkup Moore (John), Chelsea Daugherty Mirelez, Amber Daugherty Moniak (James); and five great-grandchildren, Jack and Maddie Moore, Ella and Cora McMurtry, and Colin Mirelez.

A celebration of Life will be held on Sept. 5 in Whitefish, Montana, and on Oct. 10 in West Virginia at End of the Trail, and we will continue to celebrate her life well lived, while mourning our loss, forever.

Please call Austin Funeral Home for details on either service (406) 862-4040.

## Kathryn Marie Walsh, 96

Kathryn Marie Walsh, 96, of Bigfork, died Aug. 29, 2021, in Bigfork. Walsh. No local services are being held.

She is survived by her children, Barbara Borchardt, Patricia Mesker and James

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

## George "Frank" Warburton, 88

PA 5 20 Nov 2021

On Nov. 12, 2021, George "Frank" Warburton, 88, died peacefully of natural causes in Kalispell, and went to "The Happy Hunting Ground in The Sky."

Frank, the name everyone knew him by, was born in Deer Lodge, Dec. 18, 1932, to John and Anna May Warburton. He spent many years in the Elliston/Avon area. During his lifetime, he worked hard at many jobs including for the city of Helena, and he was the last surviving worker from the famous Drumlummon Mine in Marysville. Frank was full of colorful stories from his experiences in the mine. He also served honorably in the Air Force and then joined the Montana Army National Guard where he worked as a cook for 15 years. In 1974, the family moved to Somers where he was half-owner of a cedar fence business with his good friend Lawrence Periman. Then he worked at the tie mill at Somers until an injury forced him to retire.

Frank and Donna Pocha married on Aug. 15, 1953; they enjoyed 64 very happy years together. Even in their 80s, they held hands and enjoyed being together. Donna preceded Frank in death on Dec. 30, 2017. Following Donna's death, Frank was heart-broken; knowing they are reunited in heaven is a great source of comfort to his family.

The Warburtons raised six children, Dave, Jan, Bill, Rick, Lori and Teresa. Sadly, both Lori and Teresa died as teenagers in separate car



accidents, leaving their family devastated. Frank and Donna also took in Frank's nephew George Eden following the death of his parents;

George was considered one of the kids and was a big part of the family. He was killed in Vietnam in 1968 at the young age of 20.

In addition, Frank and Donna were blessed with 12 grandchildren, George Warburton (Stacey), Heather Norris (Kenny), Jeremy Ward (Lesley), Jessica Ward, Jacque DeVaen (Matthew), James Ward (Christina), Mandy Black (Chris), Christopher Warburton, Sydney Newbury (Kyle), Whytni Porter Chris), Tyler Warburton (Kayla) and Lynsey Warburton Dunkin (Michael). In addition, they had 35 great-grandchildren, and 18 great-great-grandchildren. Frank loved them all — from the oldest, Jeremy, right down to the youngest newborn, little Lilly Ward.

The entire Warburton clan remained close over the years and loved nothing more than gathering as many as possible as often as possible. Frank was a great cook who loved putting on a big feed for anyone who showed up at dinner time. Annual family summer trips to Camp Tuffit on Lake Mary Ronan were always a highlight for Frank and Donna, as well as the bi-annual family

reunions at the Lions' Sunshine Club Camp off McDonald Pass. Over the years, he and the family spent a lot of time at Valley Speedway where he both participated and watched others race at the dirt track stock car races.

Blessed with a raging sense of humor, Frank could always be counted on to make a funny wise-crack, tell a joke, sneak up on someone to surprise them, or play a practical joke — always with a wonderful twinkle in his eye. He was passionate about many things, and his wife and family topped the list. He loved meeting all the new babies and just glowed whenever family members called or came to visit and keep him company. Pops got a kick out of teaching the young ones how to play cards, cook, fish, or a number of other things grandpas excel at. Frank really enjoyed hunting and fishing with his sons and grandkids, cooking, reading and talking about Montana history, going to garage sales and thrift stores looking for "treasures," making (and giving away) countless jars of his amazing huckleberry and strawberry and raspberry jams, and getting together with friends. A good chunk of his time was spent at many of his favorite fishing places around Kalispell — usually with several family members joining him. An accomplished fisherman, he received acclaim for his impressive catches; in 1974, he even set a world record for the 41-inch rainbow trout he caught on the Little Bitterroot. For Frank, hunting

was about more than just getting the elk or deer; it was almost a religious experience. He appreciated the solace he found in the beautiful mountains of western Montana as he shared the experience with "his boys." And he loved cooking up delicious meals all year from the meat he got during hunting season.

Frank is survived by his kids, all of whom live in Kalispell, Dave Warburton (Cheryl), Jan Ward, Bill Warburton, and Rick Warburton (Pam). He is also survived by his large extended family, his brother-in-law Gary Dunn (Judy), many nieces and nephews, and by Kali, his faithful dog.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna, his daughters, Lori and Teresa; his parents; one brother, two sisters; and his nephew George Eden.

Frank's body has been cremated and a memorial service will be held next spring. Those wishing to make a donation in Frank's name are welcome to select the charity of their choice.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home in Kalispell is helping the family with arrangements.

His family will always remember Frank as strong, hard-working, generous, kind, and a fun person to be around. But the most important thing we will remember about Frank is how family meant everything to him. He and Donna were dearly loved and are sorely missed.

Give Donna a hug for us, Frank; the world was a better place with the two of you in it.

## Tony Ray Wamsley, 59

PAG 17 NOV 2021

"Forever Young."

A son of the Flathead Valley, Tony was born in Kalispell on July 16, 1962, to Jay and Marilyn Wamsley. As a young man, Tony enjoyed the splendors of hunting and fishing in Big Sky Country, and went on to win two state championships racing motocross. In the mid '70s, he met Lorilee Ost, courting until they married in November, 1980. Tony and Lori welcomed daughter, Tory, in 1978 and son, Kenny in 1981. Tony and Lori moved to Pocatello, Idaho, in 1979 before they separated in 1984. They worked together to co-parent in a way that provided love-filled childhoods and cherished summers in Kalispell for their kids. Tony found love again with his partner of 10 years, Carlin Brown, and welcomed their daughter, Shaynee, in 1989. Tony commuted from his home and career in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, from 2011 to 2019; he was devoted to weekly travel in order to spend his days off with his loving and devoted partner, Sandy Krusoff, over the last 12 years. Tony and Sandy were elated that Tony was able to find a new job that he loved, working for Flathead County, allowing him to come home to Kalispell permanently; they bought their home together in October, 2020.

memories.

Tony had a way of making you feel included in his retelling of his time spent fishing, white water rafting, playing with his R/C planes and cars, and his numerous travels. He was also dedicated in showing up to support Sandy's equestrian competitions. His love for family, adventures and animals was evident in much of his daily life. Amongst his various passions, Tony enjoyed bicycling, gardening and took great pride in managing his yard and orchard. Tony was a funny guy. If he could say something to make you smile, you didn't have to wait long. When he found something he liked, he didn't hesitate to buy multiples! His backstock of favorite things, whether it be shoes, espresso machines, Stagg Chili or really just any household products, was something to behold.



He loved to share his experiences with others. Sometimes, he got so excited sharing his experiences that next thing you know, he's handing you "a favorite" from his well-supplied backstock so you could enjoy it, too. Tony was as meticulous as he was intentional, honest and hard working. He will always be admired for his ability to speak his heart and mind genuinely; never slow to offer up advice or his perspective. He was truly one of the good ones. He will be missed dearly by so many. Tony passed away, surrounded by family, on Oct. 24, 2021 at Logan Health Medical Center. Remains are interred at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, Kalispell.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Raymond Wamsley, Kathryn Wamsley and Leo Nig; his parents, Marilyn and Jay Wamsley, as well as his stepdad, Kenny Ingram; his uncle, Carson Newman;

and his aunt, Diane Sigman.

He is much loved and survived by his fiancée, Sandy Krusoff; grandmother, Jesse Nig; uncles, Lyle, Kevin and Dan (Newman) and Ricky Nig; aunts, Renee Wamsley-Morton, Donna Carlin, Karen, Carol, Katie and Dawna; sisters, Deena Dennison and Tammy Denison; his children, Tory Stewart and her husband Ezra, Kenny Wamsley and his wife Erica, and Shaynee Bucknell and her husband Carl; his grandchildren, Aleah, Ezra Jr., Tristan, Aubrey, Nick, Sophia, Nehemiah and Charlotte; and his beloved dogs, Triton and Rafiki.

There is an open invitation to join us for a celebration of life on Sunday, Dec. 5, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Elks, 1820 U.S. 93 South, in Kalispell.

An online memorial and guestbook is available on the website of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Tony made every minute in life count. He was steadfast in investing time on the phone to keep in touch with family, near and far, and was devoted to spending as much time with family as he could. Playing Keno and Family Feud with Grandma Jessie was a weekly highlight. Tony found joy in the simple things in life; he also had the ability to share his enthusiasm and encourage others to try new things and "enjoy the ride"; Tony could be seen enjoying his electric bike rides all over the Flathead Valley. And pies! Tony sure did love pie. Huckleberry was a particular favorite! He spoiled his dogs, took in stray cats and always seemed to have a camera on hand for documenting special moments and

# Elmer James 'AL' Ward

*P 05 2 Nov 2021 Whitefish Pilot*



began his 34-year career at Plum Creek Mill. During that time, he married Lois Strowbridge on Sept. 22, 1962. They had three children Richard, June and Ruby. They were married 26 years when Lois passed away. In June 1990 he met his second wife, Nikki Munski, and they were married on June 29, 1991. Elmer's humor and desire to help people will be missed by many people. He loved to weld and create things. He liked to

drive around the Flathead Valley. He was preceded in death by his parents Earl and Zella; brothers Melvin, Veach, and John; sisters Elnora Jacobson, Lillian Olson, and Lorraine Benzien; his mothers-in-law Grace Strowbridge and June Munski Feenan; and fathers-in-law Eugene (Pete) Strowbridge and Bob Feenan. He leaves behind a loving family: wife Nikki; son Richard (Karen);

daughters June (Darryl) Sasek, and Ruby Duram; sisters Elverna Johnson, Ruth Carter, Carol Haverkorn; sister-in-laws Velma Ward, Ginger (Dennis) Theissen, and Darlene Benson. Elmer had 10 grandchildren: Marni Mandigo-Chaska, Ellissa (Kuraara) Forrest, Matthew (Monique) Ward, Jessica Ward, Shelby (Ashlee) Logan, Tyler Sasek, Kimberly Ann Duram, Nicole (Nick) Nordell, Brendan (Lauren) Ward,

Emily (Ethan) Peterson and 10 great-grandchildren: Caden (Belinda) Mandigo, Jace Linder, Kendra Linder, Jasmine Ward, Amelia Neale, Malia Ward, Ella Epperson, Myles Ward, Tyssen Nordell, Parker Ward. He had many nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Austin Funeral & Cremation Services is caring for the family.

honorably discharged. He then moved to Columbia Falls, Montana where he

Elmer worked at the Plum Creek Mill in Bemidji, Minnesota for six years. He joined the Army and received an

Ward and Kevin Ward. No service is scheduled. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

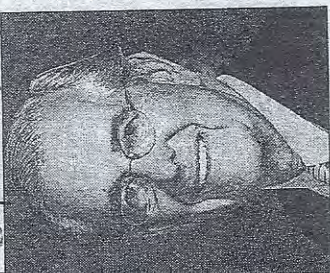
Neil Ryan Ward, 69, of Columbia Falls, died Oct. 30, 2021, at his home. He is survived by his children, Anne Blythe, Amy Campbell, Kimberly Quimby, Kyle

## Neil Ryan Ward, 69

Neil Ryan Ward, 69, of Columbia Falls, died Oct. 30, 2021, at his home. He is survived by his children, Anne Blythe, Amy Campbell, Kimberly Quimby, Kyle Ward and Kevin Ward. No service is scheduled. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Dr. Richard Elwood Ward

1934 17 Mar 2021 Whitefish Pilot



Dr. Richard Elwood Ward passed away on Feb. 23, 2021. Dick touched all who knew him with his generosity, good humor, kindness and gentle spirit. He was born in Easton, Pennsylvania, to Arlene and Harlow Ward on Jan. 19, 1942. Dick was an Eagle Scout, athlete, actor

and chorister at Central Dauphin High School (1962), before attending Pennsylvania State University (BS Industrial Engineering 1964), and West Virginia University (PhD Engineering 1975). He joined the SAE fraternity, where he made lifelong friends. Dick married Diane Rogers in 1965 and they

had three children — Shannon Earle, Jennifer Croskrey and Kevin Ward — and nine grandchildren. Dick taught engineering at WVU until 1986, then served as VP of Education at the Material Handling Industry of America. In 2006, Dick and Diane joined their daughter

Jen in Whitefish, where they established a small farm and quickly became part of the community. For many years they sold their merino wool at the farmers market and they were members of the Whitefish United Methodist Church. Dick served on the board of the Alpine Theatre Project, was a substi-

tute teacher, a regular patron of Montana Coffee Traders and local breweries and was well-loved in the community. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to The Alpine Theatre Project at <https://atp-whitefish.org/>.

## Celia J. Warman, 77

Celia J. Warman, 77, of Kalispell, died Oct. 23, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

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

## Edgar Lee Warner, 74

PA 4 26 Jan 2021

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, Edgar Lee Warner, 74, passed away peacefully. Ed fought a long, hard battle of asbestosis for over the last 20 years of his life showing his never-give-up attitude and he passed it along to everyone he met.



to say "hi." Ed and Betty could often be found camping and boating on Lake

Ed was born Dec. 27, 1946, to Charles and Mable Warner in Grygla, Minnesota. He grew up in a few states but landed in Montana as a child and never left. He was fortunate to meet Betty Hammer in Troy, Montana, and marry the love of his life on June 8, 1968.

Koocanusa, which was their favorite place to spend time with their family and friends each summer. During his retirement years, he was blessed to spend a lot of quality time with Betty, from traveling to see friends in Arizona or over to Washington for family, to attending every event a grandkid had and even just spending the time with her at home relaxing.

They were married for an amazing 49 years before she lost her battle with cancer in October of 2017. Ed had many interests that he enjoyed but none more than spending time with his family and friends, from helping coach and watching their sporting events, to fishing and sharing his love of mechanic work, to playing with his grandkids and fishing on his pontoon boat with his many dear friends. Once he retired he made the most of his time from making the holiday seasons as memorable as possible with his wife and family to spending as much time as possible with his grandkids.

Ed is survived by his son Scott (wife Stacy and their children Kyle and Kendall); his son Joe (wife Karen and their children Harleigh (husband Richie) and Shawn); his sister Lavonne and her family; his lifelong friend Judy Woller; and finally, his dog Buddy who was a great companion and always by his side.

Ed was never at a loss for words. He loved making new friends and sharing many stories. You would often see him driving his four-wheeler around his neighborhood and stopping for a story with his neighbors or just

The family would like to thank all of Ed's incredible doctors and nurses who cared for him and the wonderful team at hospice who helped him and his family at the end when he needed them. The celebration of his life will be at the Stillwater Lutheran Church, 1401 Church Drive in Kalispell at noon on Jan. 29 with a reception to follow at the church. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the Warner family.



## Edgar Lee Warner, 74

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, Edgar Lee Warner, 74, passed away peacefully. Ed fought a long hard battle of asbestosis for over the last 20 years of his life showing his never-give-up attitude and he passed it along to everyone he met.

Ed was born Dec. 27, 1946, to Charles and Mable Warner in Grygla, Minnesota. He grew up in a few states but landed in Montana as a child and never left. He was fortunate to meet Betty Hammer in Troy, Montana, and marry the love of his life on June 8, 1968. They were married for an amazing 49 years before she lost her battle with cancer in October of 2017. Ed had many interests that he enjoyed but none more than spend-



ing time with his family and friends, from helping coach and watching their sporting events, to fishing and sharing his love of mechanic work, to playing with his grandkids and fishing on his pontoon boat with his many dear friends. Once he retired he made the most of his time from making the holiday seasons as memorable as possible with his wife and family to spending as much time as possible with his grandkids.

Ed was never at a loss for words. He loved making new friends and sharing many stories.

*PA 6 24 Jan 2021*  
You would often see him driving his four-wheeler around his neighborhood and stopping for a story with his neighbors or just to say "hi." Ed and Betty could often be found camping and boating on Lake Koochanusa which was their favorite place to spend time with their family and friends each summer. During his retirement years, he was blessed to spend a lot of quality time with Betty from traveling to see friends in Arizona or over to Washington for family, to attending every event a grandkid had and even just spending the time with her at home relaxing.

Ed is survived by his son Scott (wife Stacy and their children Kyle and Kendall); his son Joe

(wife Karen and their children Harleigh (husband Richie) and Shawn); his sister Lavonne and her family; his lifelong friend Judy Woller; and finally, his dog Buddy who was a great companion and always by his side.

The family would like to thank all of Ed's incredible doctors and nurses who cared for him and the wonderful team at hospice who helped him and his family at the end when he needed them. The celebration of his life will be at the Stillwater Lutheran Church, 1401 Church Drive in Kalispell at 12 p.m. on Jan. 29 with a reception to follow at the church. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the Warner family.

## Marilyn Warner, 76

Marilyn Warner, 76, of Whitefish, died April 20, 2021, at Whitefish Care.

She is survived by her children, Chance Reynolds, Teresa Wharton, Sean Reynolds and Travis Reynolds.

No services are scheduled.

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

## Linda Watkins, 69

Linda Watkins, 69, of Kalispell, died Sept. 28, 2021, in Kalispell.

No services are scheduled.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Memori Walter, 60

Memori Walter, 60, of Kalispell, died Jan. 19, 2021, in Kalispell.

She is survived by her husband Ron, and their children Tyler Walter and Feather Ware.

No services to be held at this time.

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

## David Lee Waters, 58

David Lee Waters, 58, of Fortine, died at Kalispell Regional Medical Center on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 6, at Fortine Community Church.

Arrangements are under the care of Schnackenberg Funeral Home of Eureka.

## Shirley Henkel Watters, 84

Shirley Henkel Watters, formerly of Kalispell, passed away July 8, 2021, at Brendan



House due to complications of a stroke.

Shirley was born in Wolf Point, Montana, Nov. 28, 1936, the daughter of Louis and Dot (Edeline) Henkel. She had a sister Amber and a brother Donald. Shirley attended the first grade in Libby. The family moved to Kalispell and she attended Elrod Elementary School, Central Junior High, and Flathead County High.

Shirley met Gene Watters in 1949 while throwing snowballs. Shirley married Gene H. Watters, the love of her life and soul mate, in 1953. They had three children Cynthia, Pamela and Gene Jr. Shirley, Gene and the girls moved to California so Gene could start his career as an electrician. This is where J.R. was born. They were there for four years and made lasting friendships. They also spent a summer in

Detroit for Gene's work in 1966, which was a very trying time. Shirley was a hard worker, taking care of the ranch while Gene was on the road working. Feeding cows, birthing calves, and everything that goes along with farming and ranching. She was most proud of castrating calves; she never lost one. She planted a huge garden, freezing and canning vegetables for the winter, even making her own bread and butter. She also worked at Flathead Outpatient Surgery Center for 10 years, first in housekeeping, then in setting up surgery trays. Downsizing, they sold the ranch and moved west of Kalispell and became snowbirds in Yuma, Arizona, and then became residents, loving the warm weather. They enjoyed going on cruises to places like Panama, the Caribbean, Hawaii and elsewhere.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, sister Amber Smith,

brother Don Henkel and four nieces.

Shirley is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 67 years, Gene, of Yuma, daughter Cindy Buckallew, grandsons Rory, Trey (Brittany) Buckallew, all of Kalispell; daughter Pam (Lauren) Coleman, grandchildren Brandon (Serena), Brooklyn Teeple, all of Alberta; son J.R. (Marissa), grandchildren James, Ashley Watters, all of Kalispell; and 10 great-grandchildren, including two sets of twins.

The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses and CNAs at Logan Health and Brendan House for the care of Shirley.

Shirley has been cremated and, due to family wishes, there will be no service.

Miss Me But Let Me Go — When I come to the end of the road, and the sun has set for me, I want no rites in a gloom filled room. Why cry for a soul set free? Miss me a little, but not too long. And not with your head bowed low. Remember the love that we once shared. Miss me, and let me go!

## Donald Dean Watson, 93

PA4 9 Nov 2021  
Donald Dean Watson, 93, of Kalispell, passed away peacefully at his home on Oct. 27, 2021.

Donald was born Jan. 30, 1928, in Gordon, Nebraska, to Ewart and Minnie Watson. After graduating from high school in Rushville, Nebraska, he enrolled at Chadron State College. His education was interrupted when he was drafted to serve as a radio operator in the Korean War. Don was proud to serve his country. He was a true patriot. After his service, Don returned to Nebraska to care for his mother, help on the family farm, and graduate from college.

Don completed medical school in Omaha, Nebraska. He practiced family medicine in Gordon, Nebraska. His first wife, Betty Turvey, died from lupus shortly after their marriage.

Don married Patricia Petrik in 1966 and moved to Denver. In 1967, their only child, Jennifer, was born.

Don was a gifted physician with a calming bedside manner. He practiced anesthesia at Lutheran Hospital in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, from 1973 until his retirement in 1994. Through the years, Don loved to spend time with family and friends at his cabin in Grand Lake, Colorado. Don also had an insatiable love of travel and a boundless curiosity about the world. He made friends



wherever he went.

In 2000, Don and Pat moved to Kalispell to be closer to Jennifer. In 2008, their only grandchild,

Audrey, was born. According to Audrey, Grandpa Don was "smart, funny and encouraging." He was a wise, kind, generous and gentle soul.

Don was preceded in death by his wife Patricia, parents Ewart and Minnie Watson, sister Charlyn Snyder, brother Rollin Watson, and nephew Gene Snyder.

Don is survived by his daughter, Jennifer, and granddaughter, Audrey Koontz, of Kalispell, as well as many family members and friends whom he loved completely and unconditionally.

Thank you to the Home Hospice caregivers who supported and comforted Don and his family during his final months. A special expression of gratitude to Mike Graham and Charlie Johnson for their steadfast friendship in Don's last years.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 2 p.m. at the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

## Kelly Watson, 65

PA7 28 Nov 2021  
Kelly passed away peacefully on Nov. 22, 2021, at his home in Columbia Falls. He was surrounded by his family and his best friend on his final day. Just like he dealt with all life experiences, Kelly managed his illness with strength and grace, and wanted to spend as much time with his loved ones as possible. Kelly was a loving husband, father, papa and friend to all.

Kelly was born on Aug. 3, 1956, to Robert Watson and Jean DeVall. He was born and raised in Whitefish. In high school, you could find Kelly cooking at Gordy's Drive-In, which his family owned and operated. Kelly would marry his high school sweetheart, Cheri, in 1974. He would then get hired on with Burlington Northern Railroad, where he worked as an engineer. Soon after he retired from the railroad, Kelly went on to own and operate several businesses in the valley. He owned and operated Kelly's Pub and Casino, Mike's Conoco and Buster's Casino & Liquor Store and ran them until his passing.

Kelly was known for his love of Montana Grizzly football, his collection of classic cars, spending his summers boating on Flathead Lake and especially his love for his family. Kelly made friends wherever he went and was loved by everyone. He lived



life to its fullest and the impact he made on those around him will never be forgotten.

Kelly is survived by his wife, Cheri, of 47 years, daughter, Katrina (husband Dan), son KC, grandchildren Kyler and Bailey, brothers Gary (Linda), Mike (Karen), Henry (Lynn) and sister Tana, brother-in-law Scott (Tina), sister-in-law Carol (Robin) and many more nieces and nephews and all his lifelong friends.

Kelly was preceded in death by his mom, Jean DeVall, dad, Robert Watson, and stepdad, Gordy DeVall.

On behalf of the family, they would like to thank his entire dedicated care team, both in Arizona and Montana. They are so grateful for the compassion and kindness during the last three years.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Wings Regional Cancer Support, Kalispell.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, Nov. 30, at St. Richard Catholic Church in Columbia Falls at 11 a.m. A reception will immediately follow the service at The Back Room Restaurant in Columbia Falls.

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



Please join us for a  
**Celebration of Life in Loving  
 Memory of Arthur L. Weaver**  
 9/23/1931 - 11/16/2020

Saturday, July 10th 1-4pm  
 At the family farm,  
 1190 Elk Park Rd, Columbia Falls

A luncheon will follow the memorial service.

PA4 27 June 2021

### Jerome Henry Weber, 82

PA4 20 Jan 2021  
 Jerome Henry Weber, 82, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021. He passed peacefully with family by his side.

Jerry was born on June 12, 1938, in Williston, North Dakota, and grew up in Alamo, North Dakota. He and his wife of 60 years, Elsie, met while attending college at the University of North Dakota. Shortly after their two sons were born, they moved to Williston and Jerry joined his father in the family well drilling business. In 1968 they moved to Columbia Falls where Jerry established Weber Drilling and Elsie handled the business book-keeping and took care of the home. Until he retired, it was a thriving business for over 40 years.

Jerry was an avid RC airplane builder and flyer. In 2017 they relocated to Kalispell.

His beautiful blues

eyes and endearing smirk never faded. He will be remembered for his endless care and love for his wife, as well as his entire family.

Jerry was preceded in death by his loving wife in January 2020. Survivors include his sons Doug and Paul Weber, brother Eugene Weber, sister Tanya Roe, grandchildren Desiree, Shyla, Kiley and Nick, numerous great-grandchildren and other extended family.

In memory of Jerry, the family suggests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

A memorial service will be held at a later time when his family and friends can gather safely.

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 caring for the family.

### Shirley Ann Dixon Weaver, 93

PA7 20 Aug 2021  
 "I was born Shirley Ann Dixon, April 2, 1928, in Kalispell. I've lived here my entire life except for a few years after I was married. I went to Elrod School, which my daughter and grandson also attended. In my latter years I walked every morning to Elrod.



"I married Walt Weaver on Sept. 25, 1948. We had one daughter, LuAnn. I am survived by LuAnn and husband Doug Servo, granddaughter Stacey and husband Amador, and grandsons Tyrell, and Beau and wife Beth.

"I was preceded in death by my parents, six brothers and sisters, and husband Walt. Several nieces and nephews survive me.

"I was very active in

school affairs such as PTA, room mother and a Girl Scout leader for several years.

"My church was a big part of my life, serving in many offices and as Deaconess for a long time. I loved to teach Sunday School and the children were my friends for life.

"My most precious love was for my husband, daughter and grandchildren. Each one was so special and I was so lucky to have them. I spent all of my life here and loved every minute. I like animals and we had many dogs and cats. My favorite place was our cabin on Middle Thompson Lake. Thank you for a good life!"

Shirley went to be with her Lord on Aug. 18, 2021. Services for her will be Aug. 21 at 2 p.m. at Central Christian Church.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is tending to the family.

### Robert 'Bob' A. Webb, 78

Robert "Bob" A. Webb, 78, of Hungry Horse, died at his home Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021.

Private services are being planned for a later date.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Bob's friends.

### Stanley Virgil Webber

A memorial service for Stanley V. Webber, 71, who died Sept. 14, 2020, will be held at Kila Country Church, at noon on Sept. 11. A dessert and coffee reception will follow.

### Darla Rene Weed, 58

Darla Rene Weed, 58, died on March 22, 2021, at her home in Bigfork.

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

### Janet H. Weiss, 85

Janet H. Weiss, 85, of Whitefish, died July 19, 2021, at Brendan House.

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

## James Edward 'Jim' Welch, 84

*PAL 28 Feb 2021*

Jim Welch passed away peacefully on Feb. 13, 2021, at 84. He loved his home of Whitefish. He enjoyed the simple life of golfing with his buddies, meeting with his morning coffee crew at the Buff, rooting for the Griz in the north end zone, and road trips with Anita, enjoying the beauty of our state and venturing out to Washington, Alaska, and the Oregon Coast. Jim loved his pets (and everyone else's for that matter), Levi, Wrangler, Buck, Dobbie, Moose, Tracker, Bumblebee, and Zeuss, who all exasperated him and loved him unconditionally.

Jim was born Jan. 11, 1937, in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, to Edna S. Hall Welch and Cornelius Edward Welch, joining his older big brother and sister Don and Janice. The family moved to Whitefish where he grew up in the clubhouse of the Whitefish Lake Golf Course learning the life-long game of golf. Jim's mom divorced and later married Fred Wagner



who would be managing the Havre Elks Country Club. Jim lettered in football, basketball and golf for the Havre High Blue Ponies. Jim attended Montana State University (now University of Montana) and graduated with a bachelor's degree. Jim was enriched with life-long friends wherever he landed at school, on the course, or in a bar.

Jim married Janet Hall of Missoula. During their eight-year marriage they had a son, Michael, and a daughter, Marcia. In 1975 Jim married Anita Martinet Fenner and he raised 5-year-old Shawnee as his own.

Jim was one of the original owners of Western Outdoor, fertilizer manager of Granum Fertilizer, and the last 30 some years was a successful insurance agent.

This quiet man was a loving father to his

son and daughters, and he delighted in the she-nanigans of his three grandsons. He was a loving brother to Janice Gerzema (Larry) and caring and fun uncle to his nephews John Gerzema (Mary), Dan Welch (Kim), Jamie Welch, and Joe Gerzema (Melanie), and two nieces, Margy Bolling (Kevin) and Miki Reid (Jeff).

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, stepdad, his brother Don Welch, sister-in-law Peggy Welch, and niece Mary Susan Gerzema. Jim is survived by his wife of 45 years Anita Welch, his children Mike Welch (Vicky), Marcia Welch and Shawnee Welch, and his grandchildren Keegan, Brady and Kameron.

The family appreciates the kindness and care of the Whitefish Fire Department, the North Valley Hospital and staff, their Special Care Unit, Dr. Elizabeth

Brandenburg, Sue Conner, Dr. John Kalbfleisch and his nurses Desiree and Natalie, and all the staff of Kalispell Medical Supply. We would also like to thank Home Health Flathead Choice Therapists, Beth and Sara, and RN Deb, who all helped Jim with gentleness and encouragement.

If you choose to donate in Jim's memory, the family suggest the Gary Norby Jr. Golf Foundation, P.O. Box 1888, Whitefish, MT 59937; or the Whitefish Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1060, Whitefish, MT 59937, or wherever your heart leads.

We are grateful to all of our friends and neighbors who reached out to comfort Jim and our family.

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

## David Paul Weldele, 70

*PAL 14 Feb 2021*

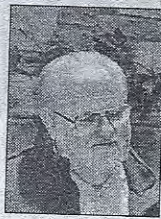
On Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, the town of Whitefish lost a piece of its heart when Dave "Pokey" Weldele passed away suddenly.

David Paul Weldele was born Oct. 3, 1950, in Havre to Dave and Betty (Weber) Weldele. He was the first born of their six children.

Dave spent his early childhood in Billings and the remainder of his life in Whitefish after his family settled here in 1962. He graduated from Whitefish High School in 1968.

Dave was a gifted and talented artist, creating beautiful custom cabinetry and furniture. He owned and operated Poplawski and Weldele Cabinet Works with business partner Jim Poplawski for 35 years.

Dave met the love of his life, Judy (Kamrud) Williams, in 1978. They



spent many happy years enjoying life together at their beautiful property on Skyles

Lake. Dave was stepfather to Judy's two children, Nels and Marla. He never had children of his own but was seen as a second father to his many nieces and nephews.

He was a gentle and caring spirit who was always known for being there to lend a hand, always putting others first and he did so up until the day he died.

When Dave wasn't spending time with Judy, he enjoyed all that Montana had to offer. He spent many summers floating the Smith and Missouri Rivers with a group of his closest

friends. He also enjoyed life on the water in his own handcrafted canoes. In 1985, he won the Great Lake to Lake Race with his brother Mitch, paddling from City Beach on Whitefish Lake to Wayfarers Park in Bigfork. In addition to life on the water, hunting and fishing, Dave was a longtime member of North Valley Trap Club. He spent many years volunteering for their youth league, handcrafting trophies for the kids each year.

As one of the few remaining longtime residents of Whitefish, Dave acquired a circle of friends too numerous to count. For several years, he could be found at the Buffalo Cafe with a cup of coffee, a smile and a joke. His coffee buddies included Ron Millard, Dave Sipe, Bob James,

Steve Johnson and Danny Hodges. In recent years, he became a regular at the Firebrand, enjoying a cup of coffee and visits with his niece, Alison Weldele.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents, stepdaughter Marla Williams Medrud, brother Danny, and niece Angela Weldele.

He is survived by his soulmate Judy, stepson Nels Williams, brothers Darryl Weldele and Mitch (Janna) Weldele, his youngest sister Denise Weldele, and several nieces and nephews and many great friends.

Austin Funeral Home is caring for the family.

A celebration of life will be held when Covid restrictions allow.

"From the cradle to the crypt — is a mighty short trip — so paddle while you can." — Pokey

## Curtis J. Wellington, 55

*PA 6 15 Aug 2021*  
Curtis J. Wellington, 55, of Whitefish, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021.

Curtis was born on Dec. 22, 1965, in Great Falls. He grew up with his family in Whitefish where he attended Whitefish High School and graduated with the Class of 1984. In high school he excelled both in the classroom and in his athletics.

After high school he moved to Oregon where he spent most of his adult life and attended Willamette University. Curtis then married Jean Engelke, also of Whitefish, and together they had a daughter. He pursued a career as a sales representative for Sherwin Williams for almost 20 years before moving back to his hometown and working at Lowe's in Kalispell.

Curtis enjoyed traveling to live concerts, fly fishing, sports and spending time with his family. He was a huge Dallas Cowboys and Cincinnati Reds fan. Curtis' greatest accomplishments in his life was raising his daughter and becoming a grandpa. He was blessed with two grandsons whom he loved deeply and they brought him so much joy in his life. He was very proud of his role as their grandpa and enjoyed talking about his family. He was an amazing father, grandpa, son and



brother.

Curtis can be remembered as being a kind, nice, funny, witty man

and always had a John Wayne phrase for you.

Curtis is survived by his daughter Ali and her husband Josh and two grandsons Colton and Wyatt Keller, mother Roberta Wellington and stepfather Mike Spint, brothers Cory Wellington and Ryan Wellington, sister Ramona Hayes, stepsister Jane Hoyt and stepbrother Kevin Wellington, followed by his nephews and nieces.

Curtis was preceded in death by his father Jerry Wellington, brother Douglas, grandparents Alfred and Gladys Baumgartner, and grandparents Art and Louise Labrie.

A private funeral will be held for the family and Curtis will be laid to rest peacefully in Choteau.

The family asks in Curtis' true strength of having a rare muscular disease, inclusion body myositis, anyone wanting to make donations could donate in Curtis' honor to the Myositis Association at [Myositis.org](http://Myositis.org).

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Donna Jean (Grainger) Wendt, 88

Donna Jean (Grainger) Wendt passed away Feb. 23, 2021, with her sons at her side.

She was born to Lawrence and Elizabeth Grainger Dec. 17, 1932, in Glasgow, Montana. Donna moved to Kalispell with her family in 1949 and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1950. She married Roger Wendt Oct. 8, 1950, in Creston, where they raised their four children, Diane (Tom) Brunkow of Gresham, Oregon, Duane (Pam) Wendt of Kalispell, Carol (Jerry) DeRego of Warner, New Hampshire, and Jim (Charlotte) Wendt of Kalispell.

Donna is survived by her children; nine grandchildren, Laura Sullivan, Nathaniel Wendt, Peter DeRego, Shane Salisbury, Diana DeRego, Heather Roberts, Jennifer Johnson, Brandon and Brock Wendt; 14 great-grandchildren, Lily Turay, Mahala, James, Noah, Jonah Roberts,



DeRego and Jessica Johnson; brother, Harold Grainger; many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Roger preceded her in death Nov. 27, 2020.

Donna canned vegetables from her garden, took her family berry picking, made jam and syrup, and always had baked goods on hand for family and visitors. She was known for her legendary apple and huckleberry pies, homemade bread, cookies, cakes and pastries. She was one of the original members of the Gabba Gabba Club in Creston. Donna was mom not only to her children but to all their friends. The door to her home was always open.

Donna worked as a

Gabe and Zoe Wendt, Angela and Bryan Wells, Maribel, Daniel, Cecilia, Vivian

medical assistant for doctors in Kalispell. After her retirement, she traveled the country with Roger in their motor home, spending summers at the Elks campground in Kalispell. Donna made many friends wherever she went.

Graveside services will be held March 11 at noon at Fairview Cemetery. A celebration of life for Donna and Roger will be held July 17, 1 p.m. at the Hampton Inn, Kalispell.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family. Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohill-fh.com](http://www.buffalohill-fh.com) to leave notes of condolence; or cards can be sent to Jim Wendt, 160 Jellison Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.

In lieu of flowers, memorials on her behalf can be sent to Shodair Children's Hospital, 2755 Colonial Drive, Helena, MT.

## Roger Verne Wendt and Donna Jean Wendt

A celebration of life for Roger Verne Wendt, 91, who died Nov. 27, 2020, and Donna Jean Wendt, 88, who died Feb. 23, 2021, will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 17, at the Hampton Inn in Kalispell.

## John Fred Werner, 56

John Fred Werner, 56, died Jan. 10, 2021, as a result of an automobile accident.

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

## Beatrice M. Wenthine, 90

Beatrice M. Wenthine, 90, of Columbia Falls, died Oct. 20, 2021, at her home.

She is survived by her husband Duane, and son Daniel.

No services are sched-

uled. Private burial was held in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Theodore Girard deWerd, 85

Theodore Girard deWerd, 85, of Columbia Falls, died on March 11, 2021, at the Montana Veterans Home with his family by his side.

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