

Joseph Peter Jackson, 81

Joseph Peter Jackson, 81, was born July 27, 1941 in Hamilton, and left this earth on June 6, 2023 in Charlottesville, Virginia. The middle son of reverends, Elizabeth and Charles Jackson, Joe and his brothers, Charles and Philip, and elder sister, Joan, grew up in the Assembly of God parishes throughout Montana and North Dakota.

Joe was an accomplished violinist and singer, he was also concertmaster at Williston High School where he also won the North Dakota State wrestling championship in his junior and senior years. An undergraduate at the University of Missouri, Joe subsequently earned his PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. For his doctoral dissertation Joe traveled



SUNY Buffalo in the pivotal late '60s.

Joe had a deep and rich spiritual life which led him to the Lama Foundation near Taos, New Mexico an ecumenical community in the mid 1970s. While committed to meditation, he was equally committed to carpentry and repair of all kinds. Joe's devotion to greater consciousness, physical labor and the natural world sustained him throughout his life, providing a balm to his spirit.

His true home was always Montana so in

to Vietnam during the war, where he focused on the effect of conflict in children, after which he taught at

1979, he returned to the Flathead to begin his clinical practice and start a family with his former wife and lifelong friend Nura Yingling. He moved to Batesville to join a Sufi Community in 1987, and established a private practice in Charlottesville. In 2004 he married his great love Katie. Joe served hundreds of patients in his practice, taught mindfulness in the community and was focus coach to the UVA football team in the early 2000s.

Joe was a teacher. His Parkinson's diagnosis provided him new opportunities, from Virginia to Montana, to demonstrate acceptance and grace, and share the value of adaptation to loss and change. Disability never diminished his force of character or impact on

those around him. He considered his disease a great teacher.

Joe created a harmonious blended family. He is survived by his loving wife, Katie Jackson; his children, Emily Levis and Peter Jackson; his step-children, Justin and Aaron Meredith; his brother, Philip Jackson; his three granddaughters, Isabelle, Ava and Fiona; his step-grandson, William Meredith; and a multitude of nieces, nephews and friends whom he loved dearly.

The family plans a celebration of life at a future date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Joe's memory to the Hospice of the Piedmont in Charlottesville, Virginia or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Judy Carol Jackson, 77

Judy Carol Jackson went to be with the Lord on May 15, 2023. She was born Oct. 15, 1946 to Nadine and Arly Jackson of Kalispell.

She is survived by her son, Kelly (Brenda) Bernard; daughter, Karen (Erich) Kleinschmidt and daughter Theresa (Adam) Huschka. She is also survived by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; her sisters, Pam Brosseau and Janet Kinniburgh Rossiter; and a host of family and friends.

Judy was a life-long resident of Kalispell. For about 20 years she enjoyed walking to Sykes for her groceries and coffee and to First Bible Presbyterian on Sundays. As her health declined, Jim Huff, the pastor, and his wife would give her rides to church. She had a love-

ly group of friends that picked her up weekly for TOPS and would celebrate their weight loss at Dairy Queen.

Back when she raised her kids, she loved to sew and would make their outfits for them. She was a great cook and loved canning and baking.

She moved to Edgewood Memory care March 28, 2022. She was happy there and grateful for their kindness to her. She loved watching Gunsmoke and Wagon Train and any other western. You could always make her smile by bringing her some popcorn and diet root-beer.

There will be a celebration of life at First Bible Presbyterian at 344 Fifth Ave. West, Kalispell at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 19 with a light lunch afterward.

Francella Jacobsen, 94

Francella "Fran" Jacobsen, 94, passed away on Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, at home in Kalispell, after a long and courageous battle with congestive heart failure. Her son and daughter were at her bedside.

Fran was born Jan. 19, 1929, in Eureka, South Dakota, to Magdalena and Mathias Oster. As a child she moved with her family to Billings.

She graduated from Billings Senior High School in 1946, and worked for several years as a secretary for the

Bureau of Reclamation.

On Dec. 30, 1950, she married Gene Jacobsen, and they moved to Kalispell in 1953.

She was a longtime member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Billings and in Kalispell, and in more recent years, The Church at Creston (Lutheran).

She was very happy as a homemaker, and especially enjoyed baking. She loved camping and picnicking with her family. For many years she crafted beautiful egg decorations, modeled loosely on



Faberge's Famous Creations, using chicken and goose eggs, a Dremel tool, rib-

bons, pearls, etc. She was also an avid reader, and was particularly fond of mystery novels set in England.

She was preceded in death by Gene, her husband of 59 years; her parents; and an infant granddaughter, Alex West.

She is survived by

her son, Tom of Valier, Montana; her daughter, Karen West (husband Rich), of Great Falls; granddaughter, Amanda Manuel (husband Jayden) of Great Falls; and grandson, Sean West of Helena. She is also survived by her brother, Frank Oster of Billings; and several nieces and nephews.

A private burial will precede the service which will be held at noon on Monday, Nov. 13, at The Church at Creston.

Allen A. Jacobson, 87

Allen A. Jacobson, 87, of Columbia Falls, passed away peacefully on Jan. 8, 2023, one day after what would have been the 66th wedding anniversary to his wife, Sharon Rae Hileman Jacobson. Allen, known to many as "Jake," was born on June 1, 1935, to Ella and Leslie Jacobson in Glasgow.

Memorial services will be held June 17 at 10 a.m. in the old Columbia Falls Jr. High gymnasium, 440 4th Ave. West in Columbia Falls. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Shriner's Hospital at donate.lovetotherescue.org/fundraiser/4362067

When Allen was a young boy his family moved from Glasgow to a ranch in the Bissell area west of Whitefish. Allen was raised there, and at 16 he graduated from Flathead County High School in Kalispell. He went on to college in Dillon and Havre and at the young age of 19 accepted a teaching position in Chinook and then one in Kalispell.

Allen married Sharon, the love of his life, on Jan. 7, 1957. After marry-



Pam Minster and Greg, Gary and Brian Jacobson.

Allen also continued his education through the summers receiving a bachelor of science degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and a master of science degree from the University of Wyoming in Laramie. He received a Fulbright fellowship in 1967-68 for intercultural teaching in Izmir, Turkey, taking his young family with him.

To supplement his teaching income, Allen was in the Montana National Guard, sold Hamilton Life Insurance and stock annuities and worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Hungry Horse. Over the years, Allen bought and sold

ing, Allen accepted a new teaching position in Columbia Falls, teaching junior high science and math. The couple went on to have four children,

the Columbia Falls City Cleaners and acquired many rental properties. His favorite "extra" work was ranching starting early every morning, waking his kids for chores and then herding everyone off to school, teaching, and returning home for night chores.

Allen and Sharon loved to serve their community and were very active in Jaycees throughout their lives. Allen especially enjoyed the Jaycee-sponsored events such as the Jr. Miss pageants, snowmobile races and rodeos. Allen became Montana State Jaycee president and a national ambassador. The highlight of this position was meeting with President Nixon in the Oval Office.

After 30 years, Allen had influenced over 4,000 students who remember him most for the rock collection assignment. He then retired from teaching and ran for Flathead County Commissioner. When he completed his years as county commissioner, representing the Flathead Valley and the people he loved, he sold real estate until his final retirement at age

72. Allen's retirement included spending time in his two favorite locations, Waikoloa Village, Hawaii, and his beloved cabin "up the North Fork" of the Flathead Valley.

Allen was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon; his parents, Leslie and Ella; three sisters, Ester Andersen, Leona Hileman and Marlene Hulme; two brothers, Leland and Leroy Jacobson; and his in-laws, Ernie and Margie Hileman.

He is survived by his brother, Norman Jacobson; sister, Elaine Thatcher; sister-in-law, Lynne Duff; children, Pamela Riedel Minster and husband Dave, Gregory Allen Jacobson and wife Roxanne, Gary Ernest Jacobson and wife Susan, and Brian Leslie Jacobson and wife Keersti. Allen had eight grandchildren, Kyle and Kris Riedel, Kiersten Weaver, Jesse, Anja, Ryan, Justin, and Jake Jacobson; 20 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Donald Raymond "Jake" Jacobson, 93

Donald Raymond Jacobson was born in Garwood, Idaho on Nov. 15, 1929 to Rudolph Ernest Jacobson and Alma Lydia Owen Jacobson.



member of the "Chosin Few" as he was in one of

He spent his childhood in northern Idaho. From first grade to his freshman year he attended 27 schools in northern Idaho and western Montana. He spent his summers with his grandparents John and Anna Louise Flygar Jacobson, both immigrants from Sweden, with whom he was very close. He left school in Thompson Falls during his freshman year to go to work in the woods with his father, Rudy. He worked in every aspect of the logging industry starting with horse logging, sawing with a 2-man cross-cut saw (nicknamed the Swede fiddle or the misery whip) and a 2-man chainsaw. He owned a logging truck and held just about every job in a sawmill working his way up to head sawyer. In 1967 he moved his family to Polson where he was eventually promoted to superintendent at the Pack River sawmill.

the most famous battles of the Marine Corps - The Chosin Reservoir campaign where 15,000 troops were surrounded by 120,000 Chinese and had to fight their way out to the ocean. The weather in Korea that winter dipped below -40 degrees and he suffered frozen fingers and toes. He was sent back to Camp Pendleton in December 1950.

While on leave, he met Rose Mary Mitchell, and they married in October 1951. Their first child was born in June of 1952 at Camp Pendleton. Donald was discharged in August 1952 and they moved back to Idaho. He went back to work in the woods and in sawmills for most of the rest of his career. From 1952 to 1962 they had 6 children: Jeri Lynn Sturm, (Roy), John Henry Jacobson, (Twillia), June Rae Jacobson, (who died when she was 3), Jill Kay Campbell (JC), Judy Ann Jacobson and Jodi Bishop.

At 18 he was living with his dad and step mother at "the cabin" on the Thompson River, which is now back in the family. He left there in September of 1948 to travel to Seattle to join the Marines, then on to San Diego and Camp Pendleton. From there he was sent to Guam where he got his love of volleyball and where he was injured. He rehabilitated back at Camp Pendleton and soon after his cast came off his leg he was sent to Korea. From September to December 1950 he was involved in four major battles. He was a

In 1995 he met Carla Lane Allen, and they were together until the end. They started spending winters in Yuma, AZ in 1995 where they square danced and he played volleyball until he turned 90. He remained the volleyball patriarch until mid-March when his illness accelerated. He was surrounded by family and friends the last two weeks of his life which he enjoyed very much.

He is survived by Carla, all of his children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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Allen married Sharon, the love of his life, on Jan. 7, 1957. After marrying, Allen accepted a new teaching position in Columbia Falls, teaching junior high science and math. The couple went on to have four children, Pam Minster and Greg, Gary, and Brian Jacobson.

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the summers receiving a bachelor of science degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and a master of science degree from the University of Wyoming in Laramie. He received a Fulbright fellowship in 1967-68 for intercultural teaching in Izmir, Turkey, taking his young family with him.

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early every morning, waking his kids for chores and then herding everyone off to school, teaching, and returning home for night chores.

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Allen was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon; his parents - Leslie and Ella; three sisters - Ester Andersen, Leona Hileman and Marlene Hulme; two brothers - Leland and Leroy Jacobson; his in-laws - Ernie and Margie Hileman.

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Jacobson; sister Elaine Thacher; sister-in-law Lynne Duff; children: Pamela Riedel Minster - husband Dave, Gregory Allen Jacobson - wife Roxanne, Gary Ernest Jacobson - wife Susan, and Brian Leslie Jacobson - wife Keersti. Allen had eight grandchildren: Kyle and Kris Riedel, Kiersten Weaver, Jesse, Anja, Ryan, Justin, and Jake Jacobson; 20 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held June 17 at 10 a.m. in the old Columbia Falls Jr. High gymnasium. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Shriners' Hospital at <https://donate.lovetotherescue.org/fundraiser/4362067>

Barbara Jean Janni, 68

Wife and mother Barbara Jean Janni, 68, passed peacefully and entered the kingdom of Heaven on Nov. 21, 2023. She passed away due to complications related to a cancer surgery.

The world lost a very special person on that day, she was a caring and compassionate woman who touched the lives of many people. She took great pleasure in doing things for others, taking the time to reach out to family and friends to acknowledge their troubles, rejoice in their successes, and make their day just a little bit better. She had many, many friends who will miss her dearly.

She was an active and vivacious person who was always on the move. She was an athlete, playing tennis, pickleball, and golf. She also enjoyed hiking, skiing, swimming, travel, singing, and cruising on the waters of Whitefish Lake.

She loved walking with her dog Ruby wherever the Whitefish Trail would take them and they could be found napping on the couch together afterwards. She was an excellent chef as well as an aspiring gardener. Her dinners brought diners to all corners of the globe and she regularly wowed guests at house parties and intimate dinners alike with her picture-perfect desserts.

She was a thoughtful person and she spent part of each day meditating and thinking about her place in God's world. That mindfulness and serenity existed along



side a lifelong desire to do what is right and to speak her mind, leading her from community involvement in the local school system and North Valley Food Bank

to international involvement in medical mission work.

She was born Barbara Jean Murphy in Great Falls, Montana in 1955 and moved to the Flathead Valley in 1985. She worked at the Alpenglou Inn on Big Mountain for many years before starting a bookkeeping business specializing in restaurant services.

She is survived by her husband, Scott; and her two sons, Derek and Sean.

She was so very proud of those boys and they grew up to be fine young men. Her memory and spirit will live on in them.

She is also survived by her seven siblings; Patty, Colleen, Katie, Mary, Bob, Tom, and John. Plus many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Dec. 16, at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish.

The family requests that any memorials be directed to North Valley Food Bank.

Rest in peace Barbara.

Larry Janoff, 82

Larry Janoff died during surgery from an automobile accident on Sep. 23, 2022, in Kalispell.



Larry was an artist in Bigfork. His paintings included aviation, Western Americana, and Leaning



Tree greeting cards. He was a sculptor, gunsmith, writer and cartoonist for various magazines. He is represented in many private collections worldwide. Among his many distinctions, two of his aviation paintings are in the permanent collection in the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, in Washington, D.C.

and had the ability to captivate people with his passion, explicit facts and deep knowledge of many areas. He spoke, as an expert, for the Lewis and Clark society and had personally canoed the journey of Lewis and Clark several times. Lincoln's New Salem state park, in Illinois, has Larry's painting "Shakespeare on the Sangamon" with Abraham Lincoln reading to the love of his life, Ann Rutledge, as you enter the visitor center. He wrote the children's book "Wimley The Worm Wants a New Home" in memory of his granddaughter Jessie, and their shared fondness for books.

Larry leaves behind his wife, Yvonne; daughter, Michelle Janoff; and son Christian Janoff.

We, his family, miss him terribly.

Larry was a historian

Gary Jefferson, 67

Garry Jefferson passed away peacefully in the early morning, Dec. 23, 2022, after a short battle with cancer.



Bridgett, Aspen and Emma, all of Utah.

He was born July 19, 1955 in Lewistown, to RC and Marjorie Jefferson. He was preceded in death by his father; his brother, Greg; and most recently, his mother in July of 2022.

A celebration of life to be held at 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 19, at 139 Birch Drive. Bring your chair, beverage and your appetite.

He is survived by his wife, Michelle, at their home in Evergreen; siblings, Ginger, Grant and Marian, all of Washington; son, Chad, in Montana; daughters, Lyndsay, Amanda, Heidi,

Until we meet again ... our love is forever, for always, no matter what. To all of you: life is short, make it count.

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

Pam Jette, 81

Pam Jette, affectionately known as PJ by her friends, passed away peacefully with her daughter by her side after a long fight with breast cancer on the morning of April 21, 2023.

Pam was born on Jan. 26, 1942 in Worcester, Massachusetts and reared in a suburb of Los Angeles along with her mom and dad and four siblings. Pam's early adulthood was sprinkled with adventure, working as a stewardess for Alaska Airlines and Flying Tigers Airline, where she flew on several missions to Vietnam with our service men and women. She remained fast and furious friends for close to 60 years with many of the women she worked with and loved them all dearly. While working for the airlines, Pam relocated to San Francisco for several years before moving to Spokane, Washington to start her work with Arabian horses.

Pam's love of dogs, cats and horses encouraged her move to Bigfork where she quickly became involved with volunteering at the Flathead County Animal Shelter and the Spay and Neuter Task Force. She loved attending Native American powwows and contributing to Native American causes. Pam lived in this area for 35 years and adored her many friendships, going to the Swan Valley, picking huckleberries and visiting the Bison Range



and Hot Springs. Her generosity and relentless spirit (a kind way of saying stubborn-

ness) kept her actively working even under extremely painful circumstances.

Pam's family would like to thank the countless number of people that she was fortunate to call friend. (You know who you are). In particular, a big heartfelt thank you to Cookie Davies, Diane Paulsen and Melinda Stivers for their loyal support taking her to doctor appointments and helping her in times of need without complaint. Thank you to Bo and Lisa Holst and their late father Bob Holst for being wonderful hosts allowing her to live in her sweet little cottage that she loved so much. A special thank you to Jill, Pam's daughter, who thoughtfully helped her Mom in the last few months of struggle and was the joy of her life.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Jill Shepherd; brothers, Edward Myska and wife Nancy Myska, Russell Myska, Keith Myska; sister, Wendy Armendariz and husband Raymond Armendariz; sister-in-law, Sylvia Myska; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Jane Myska, Robert Shepherd; sister-in-law, Linda Myska and Frank Jette.

Paul Martin Johannsen, 62

Paul Martin Johnson was born on May 18, 1960, to Jay and Beverly (Watts) Johannsen in Great Falls. He passed away at home after a long, courageous fight with renal cancer on Feb. 3, 2023, at the age of 62.

Paul was raised on a wheat farm in Sunburst, Montana where he learned from his mom and dad how to deal with adversity and fix anything broken. He loved a challenge and a project!

Paul attended Montana State University earning a degree in agricultural business. He began his career in banking and moved to Missoula where he met his wife, Teddi. They wed in 1989 and started their family welcoming their son, Jordan, in 1992 and daughter,

Cassandra, in 1994. In 2003, Paul was given the opportunity to become president of First Interstate Bank and the family moved to Whitefish. Paul eventually left the banking industry to enter real estate and became part owner and chief operating officer of National Parks Realty.

Paul's passions in life, besides his family, were golfing, serving his community, the MSU Bobcats and the Pittsburg Steelers. Over the years, Paul served on more local boards and non-profits than we can count. Some of his favorites were the United Way of Missoula



County, Dragon Hollow, Whitefish Community Foundation, and Whitefish Winter Carnival. Paul was selected as Prime Minister and King of the Whitefish Winter Carnival and he served on the board of directors. Because of his dedication to Winter Carnival, Paul was awarded the High Ullr award in 2018, the highest honor given for Winter Carnival.

His favorite place to be, when he wasn't working, was the Whitefish Lake Golf Course, drinking a Bud Light and telling stories. He enjoyed many rounds of golf with friends but especially enjoyed playing with his dad and siblings.

Paul is survived by his wife of 33 years, Teddi; his son, Jordan (Danielle) and daughter, Cassi; sib-

lings, Tracy, Jay (Robin), and Kristi Summers; his sisters-in-law, Darcel Wesen, Caron (Joe) Lavoie, and Perian Smith; mother-in-law, Diana Burfield; extended family, unofficially adopted kids and friends who loved him dearly.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents Jay and Beverly; his father-in-law, Ted Burfield; his brothers-in-law, Mitch Burfield, Scott Summers, and Curt Wesen; his sister-in-law Marcia Durfee and nephew Cody Weaver.

A celebration of life will be held at Whitefish O'Shaughnessy Center on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Whitefish Community Foundation are appreciated.

Joan Lee Johansen, 90

Joan Lee Johansen, 90, passed away of natural causes, on Dec. 3, 2023, at her home in Kalispell.

She was a domestic goddess.

She was preceded in death by parents, Bruce Lee Menefee and Mary Elizabeth Easton.

She is survived by her husband, Frank Owen duBois of Kalispell; son, Jeff Johansen of

Dallas, Texas; daughters, Virginia Johnson of Dallas, Texas, and Jane Crowshaw of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Services will be held at a later date.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family.

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

Mack Stuart Johnsen, 75

Mack Stuart Johnsen passed away unexpectedly on July 25, 2023, following surgery. He was 75 years old and had been living with his wife of nearly 47 years, Tamra Busch-Johnsen, in Wilsonville, Oregon.



Mack was born in Tacoma, Washington, on May 11, 1948, to Marjorie and Palmer Johnsen. Because he suffered from asthma each spring, his parents moved Mack and his older sister, Judy, to a drier climate in Spokane, Washington (1950), and then to Kalispell (1952). While in Kalispell, Mack attended Hedges Elementary and Central Junior High before moving to Washington state prior to the eighth grade. Mack missed his friends in Kalispell, some of whom have remained good friends until his death. He would visit Kalispell periodically including having attended FCHS 1967 Class Reunions as that was a time to collectively meet grade school friends.

Mack attended Portland State College (later renamed Portland State University) and earned a Doctor of Dental Medicine in 1974 from the University of Oregon Dental School, (later

oral surgeon, where he met his wife, Tamra. She was referred by friends who knew Mack worked for an oral surgeon. Mack did a follow-up home visit to Tamra after her wisdom teeth removal. They were married a year later.

Mack was always more than a dentist. He believed in creating a practice where people were part of his life. As a result, many of his patients became his good friends. He helped those patients who were experiencing tough times by trading dental work for a variety of payment types: chicken/beef meat, eggs, car or driveway repairs, hay, etc. His bookkeeper joked that she'd need to get a corral outside the dental office for payments.

Mack and Tamra loved horses, dogs, and antiques. They gave each other a horse as their wedding presents. A friend tipped them off about a historic 1860s farmhouse and acreage

named Oregon Health and Science University). Mack's first dental job was with a Portland

outside of Wilsonville which became the perfect setting for raising their two sons, Brandon and Travis, plus the animals that became part of the family.

Mack was preceded in death by his parents, Marjorie and Palmer Johnsen.

He is survived by wife, Tamra; sons, Brandon (Kara) and Travis; his sister, Judy; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mack suffered from a rare muscle disease in his later years, Inclusion Body Myositis (IBM). Because Mack always wanted to help others, his family suggests donations to the Peter Frampton Myositis Research Fund at the John Hopkins Myositis Center. Information about donating can be found at www.secure.jhu.edu/form/Frampton.

There is an open invitation to Mack's celebration of life service on Sunday, Aug. 27 at 1 p.m. at Community of Hope Church, 27817 SW Stafford Road, Wilsonville, Oregon.

Friends and family are invited to leave notes of condolence at www.cornwellcolonial.com/obituaries/Mack-Johnsen/#!/Obituary.

Bob "Robert" Johnson, 90

Bob "Robert" Johnson, 90, died June 19, 2023, at his home in Hungry Horse.

He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on September 10, 1932, to Esther and Clifford Johnson.

In 1950, he was drafted into the Korean War.

He married LaVerne Gaulke in September of 1953 and they became



parents of three sons: Clayton, Jeffery and Dion. Their home was established in Wausau, Wisconsin.

In 1973, he moved his family to the Flathead

Valley and ran a gas station in Coram.

He later established his own businesses in the heart of Hungry Horse; Glacier Bed and Breakfast, and Bob's General Store and Cafe.

His passions were carpentry, hunting, fishing and having conversations with all his loyal customers. He was a hard worker and would still be in his

chair running the gas station if he could be.

He is survived by his sons, Clay, Jeff (Kathy), and Dion (Val). He also leaves grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a host of family and friends who will miss him greatly.

A celebration of life will be organized at a later date this summer. Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

A8 | Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Charles Sackett Johnson, 74

Charles Sackett Johnson, who died unexpectedly at his home on March 4, was widely admired as the most knowledgeable and longest-tenured reporter in the state of Montana. He practiced his craft during journalism's golden age, starting not long after the Anaconda Co. unlocked the copper collar that had hobbled the Montana press, and retiring when corporate newspaper owners began to turn away from their commitment to vigorous reporting.

Chuck was born June 14, 1948, in Great Falls to Franklin Quentin "Q" Johnson and Ruth Ann "Rudy" Sackett Johnson. The family soon moved to Helena, where Chuck spent most of his life, graduating from Helena High School and winning a scholarship to the University of Montana. His love for newspapers was honed at the School of Journalism by professors who he said handed back student stories with so many red marks that he said it looked as if the Crimean War had been fought over them. But it gave him a love for language, a sense of fairness, a passion for thoroughness and a respect for history and politics. He was at his core a shy man, but journalism made him make the tough phone calls, talk to the reluctant sources, find the stories behind the stories and write copy as his old professor used to demand: terse, tight and telegraphic.



and would frequently send books to friends if he thought they'd enjoy them. He made frequent calls to friends, stretching back to grade school and quietly helped many.

Chuck began his journalism career in college, covering summer sports for The Helena Independent Record and later worked part-time at The Missoulian. While in school he won a Sears Congressional Internships, and Chuck was grateful to be placed in the office of Idaho Sen. Frank Church. While in history graduate school he began to work for the Associated Press, initially as a summer fill-in, but his work was so impressive he was hired to cover the Constitutional Convention in 1972. In the fall of that year he began a two-year stint at The Missoulian and in 1974 joined the Lee State Bureau. After Lee junked the bureau in 1977 he was recruited by Great Falls Tribune Capitol Bureau chief Tom Kotynski to work for the Trib at a time when the Tribune circulated in every corner of the state. When the Tribune shook up the Capitol Bureau, Lee Enterprises lured Chuck back as bureau chief, a job he held until Lee disbanded its bureau in 2015. Chuck retired, but missed the work so he covered one last legislative session

Though he shunned the spotlight, he was surprised and pleased when the University of Montana named him a Distinguished Alumnus, and again when Montana State University awarded him an honorary doctorate in May 2022, recognizing not just his storied journalism career but his full life of service. In addition to his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Montana, he studied for a year at Oxford University under a Rotary fellowship. He was able to travel extensively in Europe and said his visit to World War II concentration camps helped broaden his perspective on humanity. In retirement he rarely turned down offers from people in every corner of the state to speak about journalism, politics, the legislature, and the Constitutional Convention and he served as president of the board for the Montana Free Press, and was on the boards of the Montana Historical Society and the UM Alumni Association.

For several years he, Mike Dennison and Rob Saldin participated in Capitol Talk, a weekly program for Montana Public Radio hosted by Sally Mauk.

Chuck loved and actively participated at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in many roles, including making blueberry pancake breakfasts and serving as the unofficial timer of sermons. Above all else, he was unfailingly kind.

At UM he was sports editor of the Montana Kaimin and later the managing editor. His interest in sports led to his first memorabilia collection, the programs for every high school basketball championship played in Montana. He grew up loving the New York Yankees, a team favored by his father. A Helena neighbor found herself on the same train as the Yankees and got several players, including Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris and Whitey Ford, to sign a yellow legal pad to their "friend Chuck Johnson." But once the Yankees fired manager Yogi Berra Chuck switched his allegiance to the team his mother favored, the Chicago Cubs. Chuck's last trip just weeks ago was to Arizona to see the Cubs in spring training. His collection of political buttons, some dating back more than 100 years, was so extensive that the Montana Historical Society asked for the collection.

Chuck was messy, but only on the outside. He could fairly quickly lay his hands on any one of thousands—maybe hundreds of thousands—of pieces of paper, magazine articles or excerpts from books. He was a voracious reader

in 2017 for the Bozeman Chronicle. During his years at the capitol he mentored countless reporters, helping make their work better because better journalism, he thought, made for a better Montana.

While Chuck loved journalism, it was family that sustained him. He loved his brothers Tom and Peter and sister Sally and cherished their children, telling them the same jokes from the time they could talk until the weeks before he died. He'd teach them things that he knew would annoy their parents. He never tired of the Three Stooges and would often text the family clips he knew would make them laugh. One of his greatest delights was making his wife, Pat Hunt, laugh at the most inappropriate times. He and Pat were married on July 7, 2000, and she said she picked that date—07-07—so he could easily remember it, though she was the first to forget. Pat saved his life and kept him, mostly, from spending all his time among his books and papers. Chuck wanted to live to read the final Robert Caro book about Lyndon Johnson, a goal he inherited from a friend who also didn't realize that goal.

Chuck quietly contributed money to people and organizations he thought would put it to use to help those who couldn't always help themselves. His gifts were often anonymous, as he hated the spotlight, though some organizations persuaded him that his name attached would encourage other potential donors to contribute. In that spirit, Pat asks that contributions in his name be made to the Charles Johnson Student Reporting Endowment at the University of Montana School of Journalism, via the UM Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807, or the elevator fund at St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral, P.O. Box 619, Helena, MT 59624, or the Montana Free Press, P.O. Box 1425, Helena, MT 59624.

In addition to Pat Hunt, he is survived by his brothers, Tom (Kerry), and Peter (Carol Potera), and sister, Sally (Ross Miller) and nieces and nephews, Allison, Curtis, Luke, Jacob and Florence, Arlo, Jane, Hannah, Isabelle and great-niece Abigail.

Services will be March 18 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Peter's. A reception will be at 3 p.m. at the Great Northern Hotel, 835 Great Northern Blvd, Helena.

LaVerne Johnson, 91

LaVerne Lois Johnson (Gaulke), 91, of Columbia Falls, passed away peacefully June 28, at North Valley Hospital. She was surrounded by her family and so much love.

She was born to Oscar and Elispeth "Elsie" Gaulke March 23, 1932 in Wausau, Wisconsin. She was one of eight children; Jeanne, Marian, Lorraine, Pearl, Harold, Oscar 'Bud' and Lucille.

She married Robert (Bob) Johnson in September of 1953, at Zion Lutheran Church in Wausau and they became parents of three sons; Clayton, Jeffery and Dion.

In 1973, they moved their family to the Flathead Valley and



established a business in Hungry Horse.

Her greatest passion was spending time

with her family and friends and was devoted to the Lutheran Church.

She enjoyed spending time in the sun, shopping, traveling and enjoyed putting together puzzles as a pastime. She was always well put together, from her outfits and make up, down to her nails and jewelry.

She was a wonderful grandma to all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and

loved them all so much. Her door was always open and she would happily jump up to make them food whenever they came over.

She was their home away from home and never turned down an opportunity to spend time with them. Not one of their birthdays went by without her mailing a card or calling to send birthday wishes. On certain occasions she would make her special rum cake, it was the best.

Her unwavering love for her family was admirable and the way she'd squeeze you with each hug will be missed dearly.

She is survived by

her three sons, Clay, Jeff (Kathy), Dion (Val); five grandchildren, James (Ashley) Johnson, Cameron (Megan) Johnson, Keely (Steven) Goe, Cayla (Dustin) Andersen and Mysti; along with several great-grandchildren that held a very special place in her heart.

LaVerne's celebration of life will be held from 2-5 p.m. on Aug. 4, at Marantette Park in Columbia Falls. We'd like to invite friends and family to join us for a potluck, bring your favorite dish to share in her honor.

To send online condolences, please visit www.columbiamortuary.com

Loren Thomas Johnson, 79

Loren Thomas Johnson was born Dec. 7, 1943 in Kalispell.

This kind and generous man combined a quiet strength, through good times and bad, with wit and loyalty. Despite the progressive challenges and agony of Parkinson's disease, Loren remained an engaging and caring man. He died Sept. 27, 2023 from complications of Parkinson's, surrounded by loved ones at Legacy Retirement Village in Salt Lake City.

The written word was Loren's first love — especially a good double entendre — and he shared it enthusiastically through book clubs, Shakespeare festivals and his classes. Author Willa Cather held a special place in his devotion.

Loren's second love was travel, and he proved an attentive par-amour. Favorite destinations usually included Europe, but his passport was well used around the globe. If you were lucky enough to join him, the experience would always be "educational." Post retirement he lived briefly in La Junta Colorado and Klamath Falls, Oregon — to be near the hiking wonders of our national parks.

He expanded so many lives as our beloved brother, uncle, cousin, neighbor, teacher, companion and friend. The



oldest of three sons born to Ruth and Floyd Johnson in Kalispell, Loren graduated from Flathead High School in 1962, studied at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, and received degrees from Eastern Washington University (BA) and Westminster College (MA). Kearns High School served as his educational home for 35 years, where thousands of students broadened their minds under his tough English and Advanced Placement classes, and he earned recognition as Utah Teacher of the Year.

In his own words, "Even before I started kindergarten, I began 'teaching' my younger brother. I will always have concepts to learn, ideas to share, skills to master and lives to touch." He kept true to his word. Each life task, volunteer role, and casual exchange with family, friends, coworkers and care givers was touched with love and joy.

Many knew Loren through his years working alongside spouse, Paul Larsen, at the Oaken Bucket restaurant in Granger. They took pride in providing gracious hospitality,

fine cuisine and joyful friendships. Others knew him from one of his other second jobs which a lifetime of teaching often requires. Loren's generosity continues with bequests to Glacier National Park Fund, Utah Shakespearean Festival, and The Willa Catha Pioneer Memorial and Education Foundation.

Predeceased by his parents; and spouse, Paul; he is survived by brother Mark (Trish) Johnson of Highland Ranch, Colorado, and their children, Christine (Andy), Matt (Sarabeth); brother, Herb (Pam) Johnson of Vancouver, Washington, and their children Jamie, Katie; numerous friends, neighbors, co-workers, students, and admirers.

Special thanks and blessings to the staff at Legacy Village and Renew Hospice. Please join us in a celebration of life on Loren's 80th birthday from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at Legacy Village of Sugar House.

"Nothing is so strong as gentleness and nothing is so gentle as real strength," St. Francis de Sales.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks Funeral Parlor. Please visit www.Starksfuneral.com to share photos and memories with Loren's family.

Sue Ella Johnson, 75

Sue Ella Johnson, 75, passed away peacefully at her home in Whitefish, surrounded by family on June 14, 2023. She was born to the late Osborne Francis and Jennie Mae Francis (Simmons) on Nov. 5, 1947 in Prineville, Oregon.

She will always be remembered for her determination, strength of character and love of family. Even after fighting cancer for six years, she never lost her positive, happy nature.

She enjoyed adventure, traveling with friends and growing flowers, minus the weeding. She also enjoyed watching her grandchildren's activities, especially the sporting events.

She was the glue that held her family together, organizing family reunions, get-togethers and making full sit-down dinners, including homemade bread.

Although she was very independent, she always had time to help others and enjoyed sewing, cross stitching and making special things for those she loved. In her spare time, she also enjoyed going out for a game of



bowling, dancing the two-step with her husband, and playing pinochle.

She attended the Whitefish Assembly of God Church since 2018.

She is preceded in death by her parents and two sisters.

She is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Allen "Sonny" Johnson. Her children, Cindy Johnson, Kari Ratz and her husband Jon, David Johnson and his wife Shelly. Nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, eight siblings. Numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Sue's memorial service will take place at 11 a.m. July 1, at Whitefish Assembly of God Church, 150 Lamb Lane, Whitefish, Montana 59937.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made payable to www.stjude.org. To send online condolences for Sue, please visit her tribute page at www.austinfh.com.

William 'Bill' Johnson, 75

Bill Johnson, a loving husband, devoted father, and proud papa, passed away at home on Sept. 26, 2023, in Yuma, Arizona. He was 75 years old.

Bill was born on Sept. 12, 1948, in Kalispell. He was the son of Clarence and Vivian Johnson and grew up with his three siblings Gary, Connie, and Mary. From a young age, Bill loved the outdoors, playing sports, fast cars, and everything about small town life.

In 1966, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army with friends Jack McManus, Dick Kolden, and Dan Kerzman. He served in the Vietnam War where he was recognized for his heroic efforts receiving several medals. After his



service, he lived in both Colorado and Washington states but ultimately returned home to the Flathead Valley.

He met his wife Shelley in 1976 in Kalispell. The two married on May 14, 1977, and had two daughters, Lacy and Lindsay. They celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary this year.

As a logger, Bill was known for his strong work ethic and dedication to his craft. He spent

countless hours in the rugged woods, working tirelessly to provide for his family. Outside of his work in the woods, Bill enjoyed a good project. You could always find him working in the yard, shining a motor or bumper, or building something. Throughout his 32 years of sobriety, he always said he could not have done it alone, his faith and relationship with God were truly important to him. Bill was a loving and supportive father, always encouraging his girls to pursue their dreams and instilling in them the values of hard work and perseverance. Bill was also a great friend. He was always ready to

lend a helping hand to a neighbor or friend. His warm smile and friendly demeanor brightened the lives of those around him.

Bill is survived by his wife Shelley; daughters Lacy (David) and Lindsay (Chad); and four grandchildren, Ashlyn, Carson, Collin, and Wesley. He is also survived by his siblings Gary (Marilyn), Connie (Jim), Mary (Jerry), Jacki, Marta, Brenda (Russ), Lora (Marshall), and Mark (Pam); nephews, nieces, cousins, other family members, and friends.

A memorial service to celebrate Bill's life will be held in both Yuma, Arizona (October) and Kalispell (July).

Helen Lenore Jorgensen, 94

Helen Lenore Jorgensen, known as Lenore, spent most of her adult life in the Flathead Valley. She was born on Sept. 14, 1928, in Logan, Utah, and was the oldest of three children to Dr. Alton S. and Ora Packer Hansen.

While living in La Junta, Colorado as a young child, Lenore's mother became ill with a strep infection. At that time, antibiotics were not available and Ora unfortunately died at age 35 leaving behind her husband and three young children. Her father was a family physician and was called to serve as a doctor in the Army at the beginning of World War II. Lenore ended up living with several different relatives until she grad-



uated from high school in Rexburg, Idaho, where she placed first in the high school state debate competition.

Lenore attended Utah State University in Logan, Utah where her loving maternal grandmother lived. Grandma Packer was Lenore's rock and had a great influence on her. Lenore loved college life and was happy to be reunited with her sister Beverly in Logan, Utah.

In 1956 Lenore and her family moved to the Flathead Valley and she raised her two children, Cal and Nancy, in Kalispell. She made

lifelong friends in her neighborhood as a stay-at-home mom. Lenore loved the outdoors and especially skiing. She instilled that love in her children spending every winter weekend at Big Mountain in Whitefish.

In 1964, after attending night classes, she started working at the Conrad National Bank (now First Interstate) in Kalispell. She began as a secretary and by the late '60s she had earned a position as the first female loan officer. She continued working at First Interstate Bank until her retirement in 1990.

Lenore is preceded in death by her husband Gene Hedman, with whom she shared a profound love and deep commitment for more than

35 years. After living in Whitefish and Arizona, Lenore and Gene spent their last few years in Helena.

Lenore is also preceded in death by her parents; her brother, John Hansen of Madison, Wisconsin; her stepchildren, Debbie Hedman and Doug Hedman.

She is survived by her children, Cal Jorgensen and Nancy (John) Emmert; stepdaughter, Gina (Austin) Merrill, stepson, Dale (Annette) Hedman, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

No services are planned at this time. Please visit www.aswfuneralhome.com to offer a condolence to the family or to share a memory of Lenore.

Ruth Julian, 86

Ruth Ellen (Staab) Julian, 86, of Martin City, Montana, passed away peacefully on May 17, 2023, surrounded by family. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband Don, daughter Marcia, sister Faye and sisters-in-law Phyllis and Omae.

On May 16, 1937, Ruth was born to Laurence and Dorothy Staab in Kalispell. She grew up in the Kalispell area. She played piano, sang in choir and was a Girl Scout while attending Flathead County High School where she was on the honor roll. During the Cold War in the mid-1950s, Ruth and her sister Faye served as civilian plane spotters for the Ground Observation Corps and were trained to spot and identify enemy aircraft. In 1954 they were awarded wings for serving the required number of hours as observers.

She married Donald Julian in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and they made their first home in



Kalispell. She was active in the Eagles Auxiliary. Don moved to Mill Valley for work, with

Ruth following afterward by train with Linda and Marcia in tow and being pregnant with Barbara. Ruth was a loving wife and resourceful mother to their six wonderful children, Linda, Marcia, Barbara, Don Jr., Alan and Wayne.

As a creative artist, Ruth had many hobbies. She was quite the seamstress, she also crocheted and knitted. Using small pebbles, she created several works of art. She learned lapidary and created jewelry from rocks they found while traveling as "rock-hounds." She excelled at gardening, with flowers and a vegetable garden every summer. She loved camping in the great outdoors, traveling all

over Northern California. They made many trips to Mexico. In later years she and Don became snow-birds, making the annual trek to Arizona to escape the winter.

Volunteer work and helping in children's events was something that she did throughout her life. After relocating back to Montana, the Martin City Volunteer Fire Department welcomed her into the Ladies Auxiliary. She especially loved family reunions that she hosted at her home.

Ruth is survived by five of her children: Linda Rutherford (Robert), Barbara Julian-West (Scott), Donald Jr. (Debbie), Alan (Patty), and Wayne (Judy). She is survived by her brother Roger Staab, sister Margaret Hubber; and sister-in-law Ellen Hart. Her grandchildren include Sondra Ameperosa, Marilyn Muldoon, Ricki Vanderslice, James Muldoon, Matthew

West, Teresa Singer, and Hannah McMahon. Her step-grandchildren include Jenny Ray, Danny Ray, Eddie Ray, T.J. Ray, David Douglas, Brian Douglas, and Benton Housand. She is also survived by 22 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren; as well as several cousins and many nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to Logan Health Healthcare providers for taking such good care of mom; Dr. Baker, Dr. Barker and Dr. Lessmeir were amazing. Mom was so happy with all the nurses, and everyone was so nice, especially Melia, Azarel and Caleb.

Inurnment will be at Glacier Memorial Cemetery. A celebration of life is planned for this summer.

In memoriam, please send any donations to the Martin City Volunteer Fire Department.