

## David E. Laird, 87

David E. Laird, 87, of Whitefish, was called home by our Lord April 26, 2023.

He was born April 19, 1936, in Bonita, Louisiana, to the late William Elmo Laird and Etta L. Laird (nee Armstrong).

David lived in many cities and states throughout his life (more than 16 that we can recall) and was an avid fan of sports, always rooting for his newly adopted hometown heroes, unless it pertained to baseball. There was only one team in the MLB for him no matter where he lived; The St. Louis Cardinals. His beloved Cardinals occupied the second top spot in his heart after Jesus Christ. He learned to love the Cardinals when "Stan the Man" Musial was hitting dingers in the early '40s and in 1969 he had the serendipitous encounter of picking up a hitchhiking Ted Simmons, whose car broke down and gave him a lift to the recently built Busch Stadium.

David answered God's call to go into full-time ministry at the age of 17. Despite his father's opinion that he would "starve to death" in that vocation, David pushed forward graduating from SW Baptist College and Oklahoma Baptist University before entering his first full-time ministerial position at First Baptist Church in Rolla, Missouri, in 1958.



A family at the church owned a local diner and David ate there regularly, particularly

for the coconut cream pie. He was introduced to the owner's daughter, Janne, and less than a year later they were married, clearing free pie for David until the restaurant closed in 1973.

Disappointed to learn that his new wife did not inherit her mother's pie-making ability, he stuck with her anyway for the next 63 years, finding other things to deeply love about her. Together they had three daughters and many moves throughout the South as he completed his master's in theology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as well as in the Midwest, trying never to stray too far from KMOX Cardinal Broadcasts.

David's lifelong endeavor was to live his life in a manner that glorified God and pointed others to the saving grace found in Jesus Christ his Lord. He was a man who pursued integrity in every aspect of life and strove to be gentle and loving in every relationship he was blessed to have.

He served in many churches, as well as the Illinois Baptist State Association in

Springfield, Illinois, and the Baptist Sunday School Board (now Lifeway) in Nashville, Tennessee.

He wore many hats as a minister but his passion was Christian education and Sunday school. After retiring from full-time ministry he continued to teach Sunday school classes and Bible studies in his local church, teaching his last class this past April 2.

Besides Jesus and Cardinal baseball, David was passionate about cycling. He achieved many long bike rides with friends, daughters and his son-in-law. He completed innumerable "centuries." A leisurely Saturday ride for him was 50 miles, with a piece of pie at the half-way point. He cycled in Nova Scotia, Scotland, the Netherlands and France. Last summer, at the age of 86, he bought an e-bike and cycled the Going-to-the-Sun Road and would have made it to the top if not for a fellow cyclist's malfunctioning bike.

He loved music and especially loved to play the harmonica and ukulele. His diminished hearing made these less enjoyable hobbies for his family with whom he lived. He had a dry, quirky sense of humor which he unleashed on servers at his favorite restaurants, the staff at Big Mountain Chiropractic, as well as the nurses and doctors in ICU the last days of his

life.

His family would like to extend their deep gratitude to the wonderful staff at Logan Health ICU in Kalispell for their incredibly skilled, patient and kind care to David as he fought to recover and their loving compassion when he decided to go home to Heaven. A special thanks to Trisha, Kendra and Dr. Fessler.

David was predeceased in death by his parents and his sister, June Gooding.

He is survived by wife his of 63 years, Janne Laird; daughters, Alysen Dirks, Elizabeth Laird and Tracy Suhre (Todd); six grandchildren and spouses; two great-grandchildren plus one on the way; and numerous nieces and nephews. He did a great job raising his family with love, kindness and respect and regardless of the prediction, we never did starve. He fought the good fight and finished well.

A celebration of David E. Laird's life will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at North Valley Baptist Church, 1750 Talbot Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. Family and friends may begin to visit on Tuesday starting at 10 a.m. Interment to follow services at Fairview Cemetery, 1225 Fairview Cemetery Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

To send online condolences, please visit [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com)

## Terry Carlton Langston, 65

Terry Carlton Langston, 65, gained his angel wings on Aug. 1, 2023, in the presence of family at the family home in Eureka, Montana. Born in Benton Harbor, Michigan, to Robert Langston and Dorothy (Keelen) Langston, he was the oldest of two.

His life was nothing less than amazing. After spending most of his childhood in Southern Illinois, his family moved to White Horse, Yukon Territories, Canada, where he stayed until attending Florida Academy of Aviation earning his Air Frame and Powerplant License. He was Technician for Continental Airlines for 21 years and retired in 2008.

Upon retirement, he built his dream home on the family property in Eureka. He came out of retirement three times, working at Neptune

Aviation, Eureka Dispatch and finally as the CEO of Youth Opportunity Resources.

He loved people, loved to travel and had a heart for the underprivileged; going to Honduras and Ghana doing missionary work and supporting local charities that serve those in need. He coached youth soccer and little league baseball and was a proud member of New Life Center Church in Kalispell, where he loved playing his bass guitar and singing with the worship team.

He met the love of his life, Stormy, in 1988 in Aurora, Colorado, and they were married in Genesee Park, Colorado, in 1993. Although he loved his wife and children with his whole heart and soul, his life became complete when he became a "G-Pa" in 2017 to two grandsons and again to another grandson in 2022.

He loved his grandchildren with everything he had and lived to spend time with them and his children. His passing has left a hole in everyone's lives that he touched.

He is survived by his parents, Robert and Dorothy Langston of Berne, New York; his brother, Anthony Langston (Tanya) of Jersey City, New Jersey; his wife of 30 years, Stormy (Burdge) Langston of Eureka. His children, Nathanael (Joy) Langston of Jersey City; Jonathan Langston of Whitefish; Abigail (Raphael) Donde of Clark, New Jersey; Evan Langston of Whitefish; and Christian Langston of Burbank, California. His grandsons, Noah Langston, Lorenzo Donde and Lucas Donde. He is also survived by numerous nephews, a niece, as well as many friends.

A service will be held

at 2 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 14, at New Life Center, 1400 Airport Road, Kalispell. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Terry's name to Big Hearts Open Arms (BHOA), PO Box 1398 Eureka, MT 59917 or online at <https://www.bigheartsandopenarms.org>.

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



## Jerry LaRoque, 80

Jerry LaRoque (1943-2023): beloved teacher, coach and adventurer.

Jerry LaRoque, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, as well as an accomplished teacher, high school basketball coach, and outdoor enthusiast, passed away April 4 at the age of 80. He leaves behind a legacy of love, commitment, and adventure that will be remembered and cherished by all who knew him.

Born in 1943, Jerry spent his life embracing the world around him, and his passion for life and adventure made him an inspiration to all who met him. He was married for 59 years to his high school sweetheart, Tisha LaRoque, and together they built a beautiful life and family.

Jerry dedicated 25 years to teaching in Montana, retiring in 2002. His career took him from town to town, coaching high school basketball and football and making a lasting impact on countless young lives. His love of sports



began in his youth, growing up in Williston, N.D., where he played for the Coyotes alongside teammate Phil Jackson, who later went on to play and coach in the NBA. Jerry played football in college before embarking on his teaching career. His crowning achievement in coaching came in 1974 when he led the Three Forks Wolves to their first state championship, defeating Terry in the championship game. This historic win was made even more remarkable by the team's win over Manhattan in the divisional tournament, ending their impressive 41-game winning streak. Among the standout players on that championship team was Mick Durham, who later enjoyed a coaching career of his own, including 24 years coaching the Montana State Bobcats, with 16 of those years as head coach.

When he wasn't teaching or coaching, Jerry was an avid hiker and mountaineer. He spent his summers exploring the majestic peaks of Glacier National Park with his children, instilling in them a deep appreciation for the beauty and power of nature. His adventurous spirit never waned, even in retirement. He traversed the Continental Divide trail three different times from the Canadian to the Mexican border, first on a mountain bike and then twice on a motorcycle.

Jerry and Tisha continued to embrace life and new experiences during their winter months, camping in the Arizona desert with friends. There, they explored the breathtaking landscapes on motorcycles and RZR's, fostering a sense of community and fun. They would also make seasonal trips to Minnesota to watch his favorite team the Minnesota Vikings.

Jerry's dedication to his family was unwav-

ering, and he made it a priority to support his children's activities and later travel the country to watch his grandchildren compete in sports. His love and commitment to family will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on through the countless lives he has touched.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Tisha; and their four children, Jennifer LaRoque, Aaron LaRoque and his wife Sara, Mark LaRoque and his wife Izumi, and Ryan LaRoque and his wife Jody. He also leaves behind his beloved niece, Lisa (Nelson) Hawthorne and her husband Jim; his brother, David and his wife Tammy; as well as seven grandchildren and numerous other nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Jerry's memory to a local youth sports organization or a charity of your choice. A celebration of life will be held at a later date to honor his incredible journey.

## Sandra Joan Lasater-Rosetti, 85

Sandra Joan Lasater Rosetti, 85, of Kalispell died peacefully on Feb. 19, 2023 at Wel-Life Assisted Living.

Sandra was born on Aug. 27, 1937 in Kalispell to Carl and Julia (Sunde) Lasater.

She attended Evergreen school and reigned as the Queen of Evergreen before graduating from Flathead High School in 1955. Sandra attended the University of Montana Missoula for one year before returning to Kalispell. She enjoyed working at Adams Drug store for many years before marrying her husband, Joe Rosetti. The couple moved to Bozeman where Joe went to school until he was sent to Vietnam.

Sandra returned to Kalispell and worked at Drug Fair and Frank's Buy Right. While at Drug Fair, Sandra created an Old Spice display for the store which resulted in winning an all expense paid trip for two to London. She took her sister, Bunny, along on the trip and they had a fantastic adventure. Over the years, Sandra was able to travel and experience cruising with some of her closest friends. After many years at the pharmacy, Sandra went to work in the men's clothing industry at Haarr's Menswear until her retirement.

Sandra is survived by her brother, Edwin Lasater; her sister Bunny and husband Jim Pauli; her niece Jamie and husband Tom Lyman; her niece Jesse and husband Kris Keller; her niece Amber Lasater; her two pride



and joys Collin Lyman and Madison Lasater and many extended family members and friends.

Sandra was predeceased by her infant sister Ruth Elaine Lasater; her sister-in-law Janet Rae Lasater; her nephew Justin Lasater; and her longtime friend Hollister Larsen.

Sandra was the life of the party every where she went. She loved to dance and laugh and could often be found with a martini or a vodka gimlet. We're sure many of you enjoyed one with her from time to time.

In lieu of flowers, Sandra would love donations to the ALERT helicopter through Logan Health or the National MS society.

The family would like to thank the caring hospice staff who kept her comfortable in her final days and the amazing and caring staff at Wel-Life Assisted Living that treated her like family the last two years. There will be a visitation held for Sandra Friday March 10, 2023, from 1-2 p.m. at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home with services to be held at 2 p.m. Burial will take place following service at Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Following the Burial there will be a reception held at Buffalo Hill Golf Course Club House.

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



## Tina Marie Lawler, 63

Tina Marie Lawler, 63, of Bigfork, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023.

Tina was born to Michael and JoAnn (Western) Lawler on Dec. 8, 1959, in Sandusky, Michigan. The family moved around to Arizona, New Mexico, and finally Anderson, Missouri in 1970.

Tina graduated from McDonald County High School in 1977 and attended the University of Arkansas for two years before transferring to the University of Missouri, where she graduated in 1982.

Following graduation, Tina moved to Michigan, where she worked for the University of



Michigan. She then moved to Ohio, where she took over Regional VP responsibilities for a major food service company. She later moved back to the Anderson area, near Grove, Oklahoma, which is where she met her husband, Dalas Silvester. In 2002, they relocated to Bigfork, where they made their home until her time of passing. Tina worked at Harvest Foods in Bigfork and was a shining star within the community. She never met a stranger and was always the life of the

party. She was well known for her contagious laugh and extreme kindness, and always made everyone feel loved and welcomed. She loved being on the lake, spending time with her husband, and spoiling her nieces and nephews (she always included quite the fun surprises in packages she would send to them). Tina was also her brother Fred's biggest cheerleader in life!

Tina was preceded in death by her parents, Mike (1995) and JoAnn (2013).

She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Dalas, and her two dogs Sadie and Jack; brother Fred and wife Lesley of Grove, Oklahoma; niece

Paige (Lawler) Elrod and husband Griffin Elrod, and great-niece Bryce of Lakewood, Colorado; nephew Heath Lawler of Denver, Colorado; nephew Garret Lawler and his wife Lauren of Northlake, Texas; as well as a host of other family and friends.

A celebration of life is scheduled for noon, Saturday, March 18, 2023, at the high school gym in Bigfork. Following the service, the family will host a "Toast to Tina" at the Tall Pines, one of her favorite places in Bigfork. Tina is greatly missed, and we look forward to celebrating her life and with her many family members and friends!

## Donald Leach, 97

On March 21, 2023, Donald Leach died peacefully at his home in Upland, California of natural causes related to his age. He was 97 years old.

Donald is survived by his children, Linda Parker of Loudon, Tenn., Calvin Donald Leach of Wales, Utah, Cary Leach of Upland, Calif., Sharon Malmstrom of Hillsboro, Ore., and David Leach of Anaconda. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, by his first wife, Dawn Delight Slagle, and by his second wife, Helen Rosemary Vitt Leach, and his son, Rodney Duane Leach.

Donald was born on Sept. 26, 1925 in Casper, Wyoming. He attended elementary school and high school in Whitefish before entering military service in 1941 with the U.S. Navy. He served during World War II on the USS Copahoe in the Philippines and was discharged in January of 1946.



Donald married Dawn Delight Slagle in November of 1944 during his basic training in Long Beach, Calif. They welcomed Linda in 1945 and divorced in 1945. After his discharge from the Navy, Donald returned to Whitefish. He later met Helen Rosemary Vitt and they were married on March 12, 1948. They welcomed Calvin Donald in 1949, Cary Bruce in 1951, Sharon Anne in 1953, David Allen in 1955 and Rodney Duane in 1957.



Donald and Helen made their home and raised their children in Whitefish and Columbia Falls. Donald coached the Haines Rexall Drug Little League baseball team in Whitefish, and the Anaconda Aluminum Company little league baseball team in Columbia Falls, while his sons were active in Little League baseball.

Donald worked for a time on the construction of the Hungry Horse Dam and later learned the upholstery trade in which he worked along with Helen for the remainder of his life until he retired in 2011.

## Mary Leach, 93

Mary Elizabeth Leach passed away May 18, 2023, in Red Wing, Minnesota.

Born October 11, 1930, in El Reno, Oklahoma, she married Bob Brandley in 1948 and they farmed there until buying a farm in Steel County, Minnesota, in 1956. They were later divorced. She married David Leach in Owatonna, Minnesota, in 1969. They moved to Bigfork in 1989 and later to Kalispell. David preceded her in death in 2014 and she returned to Minnesota. Through a wide variety of interests, Mary had an impact on many lives. She was an artist at Josten's in the '60s, and was a freelance artist under whose direction the Owatonna Arts Center was founded in 1974. She later helped start a house for youth in crisis there. In Montana,



she was co-founder of Touch of Grace, a free clinic, and created and operated a charitable

mission called "The Gathering Place" in connection with Christ Episcopal Church. In her leisure time, she enjoyed some golf, travel, gardening, wood carving, quilting and she especially enjoyed mountain hiking. She was active in the church throughout her lifetime.

Mary is survived by all of these whom she lifted up faithfully in her daily prayers: James Brandley and Sandra of Ely, Minnesota; Steve Brandley and Annette of Bethany, Oklahoma; Kathryn Brandley

Lockerby of Red Wing, Minnesota; and Deborah Leach Coakley and William of Dubuque, Iowa and her numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mary was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Michael Lockerby in June 2022.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at Concordia Lutheran Church, Red Wing, Minnesota, with a visitation one hour prior. Interment will follow at Forest Hill Cemetery in Owatonna. May God bless her memory and give her His peaceful rest. Arrangements handled by Mahn Family Funeral Home, Bodelson-Mahn Chapel. Online condolences may be sent to [www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com).



## Patsy Ruth Le Bourgeois, 76

In the early morning of Oct. 9, 2023, Jesus Christ called Patsy Ruth Le



Allen, Hailie Allen Elwell, all from the Flathead Valley; Glenn Barrett

Bourgeois home.

She leaves behind a son, Todd; a daughter, Dana, both in Louisiana; her sister, Connie Hallmark and her children, Eddie and Tammie Hallmark, all in Nocona, Texas; brother, Cheyenne Allen in Lakeside, and Melody Allen, Ethan

(Mom), George Allen (dad), and Nathan Allen (nephew).

Our family thanks the loving care of Renaissance Care Home and the caretakers who loved on her dearly. We thank you and are grateful from the bottom of our hearts.

## Donald William Lee, 70

Donald William Lee, 70, passed away at his home in Kalispell, on Sept. 13, 2023. He was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho, June 9, 1953, to Orson H. Lee Jr. and Alice Briese. He attended high school at Kaiserslaunern Germany, attended ITT Tech.

He proudly served in the United States Army from 1971 - 1973. He was a Vietnam Veteran and was a radio relay carrier.

He was a man of all trades he was most certainly proud of getting his degree at ITT Tech. He worked for Boeing for some time, a waiter, sold fire extinguishers, helped build two churches, and repaired casino machines.

He was very passionate man and always helped when he could. He never wore a long sleeved shirt with buttons while using

a skill saw, a lesson he'd never forget. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, being outdoors were his favorite. He loved to spend time with his stepdad, Lew True, while being outdoors. He also enjoyed going to church.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and daughter, Serena.

He is survived by his wife, Lori Lee of Kalispell; daughter, Faith Benson; son, Dan Hall; his sister, Linda Olson; and brother, Rex Lee; eight grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services for Don will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 22, at Valley Life, formerly North Valley Baptist. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

## Thomas Sverre Lee, 74

Thomas Sverre Lee, 74, passed away peacefully at his home in Kalispell on May 11, 2023, after a lingering struggle with ailments of the heart and lungs. His wife of nearly 42 years, Barbara G. Lee, was at his side.



Born in Kalispell on Feb. 2, 1949, Tom virtually grew up in the boat business, and he was notably handy with engines from an early age. His mother and father, Patricia and Ole Lee, Jr., owned Lee Craft Boats, servicing the Flathead Lake area by Somers Bay. Starting at about age 10, Tom had his own little boat for puttering around the bay, graduating to a bigger engine every few years. It wasn't long before he became a permanent fixture in the Lee Craft mechanic shop as well. Throughout school he was active in sports. He played youth baseball, track freshman and sophomore years, JV basketball, and varsity football junior and senior years as a left guard, earning his letter. He graduated from Flathead High School in 1967 and Flathead Valley Community College in

1969. Tom and Barb met in 1979, through a friend, while she was teaching home

economics at Kalispell Junior High. Their first date was a long drive through Glacier National Park. Tom and Barb married on July 11, 1981, in Hamilton, and decided to make their home in Kalispell.

They were blessed with twin daughters, Cori and Lori, in June 1985. In 1989, Tom opened his own boat business, Lee Marine, just north of Somers, where he sold and serviced boats and motors to many loyal customers. He dedicated his life to helping others enjoy their time in the beautiful rivers and lakes of Northwest Montana. He still made family a priority and often recorded family plays, concerts and events with his trusty video camera.

A devoted fan of the Seattle Seahawks and the Montana Griz, Tom remained true to the Pacific Northwest

throughout his life. He had fond memories of attending the 1962 Seattle World's Fair with his parents and watching boat races over the years. Daughter Lori's move to Seattle for college provided an excellent reason to visit and attend a few Seahawks games. When Cori attended Montana State University in Bozeman, a friendly Cat-Griz rivalry developed in the family. Tom supported local sports teams and theater, attending many Brave and Bravette games and performances at the Bigfork Summer Playhouse. Spending time on Flathead Lake during summer was always a highlight.

At home in Kalispell, Tom loved spoiling his pet dogs and cat and observing the many animals that traveled through his backyard. He loved carpentry and worked on many projects like building bookcases and finishing the basement. Engines remained a passion. Tom also liked attending boat shows, car shows and museums. He owned a Corvette or two in his early life, and he loved finding car shows

on TV. He knew the movie "The Great Race" by heart. Visits with the grandkids, Leo and Melanie, were always special. He enjoyed building Legos, playing games and putting together puzzles with them. He was known to "save" a few puzzle pieces to make sure he got to place the last one.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Patricia and Ole Lee, Jr.; and granddaughter, Evelyn Mattison. In addition to his immediate family, Tom is survived by two sisters, Nancy Lockman, of Jacksonville, Fla., and Virginia Michels of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; and brother, Larry Lee, of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

Donations in Tom's memory can be made to the Flathead Lake Trust's Somers Beach Project or to a charity of your choice.

Services were held in Thomas S. Lee's memory on June 30, 2023, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, 525 S. Main St. in Kalispell. Inurnment was at Glacier Memorial Gardens.



## Andy L. Leighty, 79

Andy L. Leighty, aged 79, passed away April 18, 2023, at his home in Kalispell.

Andy was born Oct. 6, 1943, in Kalispell. He was the 20th and last born child of Bradford and Pearl Leighty. He was raised on the family farm on what is now Middle Road. He attended grade school at Deer Park School. He went to high school at Flathead High School.

He married his wife, Una Sager, in 1965. He loved picking huckleberries, fly fishing and getting firewood in the woods. He could spend hours exchanging stories with friends.

He lived all but 10 years of his life in the Flathead Valley. Andy worked as a butcher when he and Una lived in Washington. When he moved back to Montana in 1971 he worked at a variety of lumber mills, retiring from Stoltze Land and Lumber. He



then helped his wife run Columbia Falls Mini Storage and U Haul until they moved to Kalispell in 2017.

Andy was preceded in death by his parents and 16 of his siblings: brothers, Sam, Earl, Charlie, and Ted; and his sisters, Ellen, Ethel Nellie, Bertha, Thelma, Alma, Esther, Irene, June and Laura. He is survived by his wife; daughter, Linda (Glen) Kumme; and grandsons, Kevin, Kyle and Kasey; and eight great-grandchildren; and his brother Jim and wife, Ann; and two sisters, Violet and Ardith.

A memorial service will be held June 10, 2023, where he was raised at 2231 Middle Road, Columbia Falls, beginning at noon. Please bring a dish to share.



Ronald Clifford Levang, 82, of Columbia Falls went home to be with his Lord and Savior surrounded by family on Feb. 11, 2023. He was born April 20, 1940 in Thompson Falls to Clifford and Mae (Grantham) Levang.

The family moved back and forth from Thompson Falls to Scobey before they moved to Coram in 1949; in 1950 they moved to Martin City.

He joined the Navy at 17 and served as a Sea Bee until his discharge in 1961. On May 6, 1961 he married Loretta Jean Baker Burgess. Ron worked at the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant as a welder. He has worked as a sawyer, owned and operated Columbia Mountain TV Repair in Martin City, worked for Weaver Gravel as loader operator and mechanic. He was a longtime member of the Martin City Volunteer Fire Department and a member of Bad Rock Volunteer Fire Department 36 years, where he also served on the board of directors.

He liked hunting, fishing, and horses. He wasn't a stranger in the kitchen either, as he liked to bake, cook, can and then there was the lefsa. He loved spending time with family and friends, especially his grandchildren. Ron and Jean could most often be seen in Church on Sundays until their health and Covid altered that, as well as Thursday night at the Mexican restaurant for dinner and Sunday at the Nite Owl, usually with other family members. The staff at both places referred to them as "Mom" and "Dad."

Ronald is preceded in death by his parents and two older sisters: Marilyn Opalka and Verona Harshbarger.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jean; daughters: Karina Wiley-Baker, Lorinda (Dan) Seliger and Heidi Pyles; twin sons: Ronny (Donna) and Randy Burgess; grandchildren: Kayla (Vince) Taylor, Cody Seliger, Brittany (Travis) Hughes, Tricia Phillips, Terra Owen, William and Tyler Burgess, Pam Larson, Sonya and Nicole Burgess; and 22 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren; sister, Judy (Gene) Strowbridge; brother-in-law, Bill Opalka; step brothers: Ron and Dick Corcoran; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins and long-time friends.

A celebration of Ronald Clifford Levang's life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023 at Columbia Mortuary with Tod Fox officiating, 1010 4th Avenue West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. Family and friends may begin to visit on Saturday starting at 10 a.m. He will be laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls (next to other family members). To send online condolences, please visit [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com).



## June Marguerite Levenson, 94

June Marguerite Levenson (Gettelman), 94, of Whitefish passed peacefully on Jan. 15, 2023. She was born Nov. 6, 1928, in Minot, North Dakota to Roy and Edna Gettelman.

June graduated from Augsburg College and Minot State Teachers college. She met Myron Levenson in Minot. They were married Aug. 18, 1951. The twins, Brian and Bruce, were born while living in Minot, Diane was born in Rawlins, Wyoming and Jerry, Mike and Julie were born after the move to Whitefish. Myron and June lived in Whitefish the rest of their lives.

June was a creative, positive, loving and welcoming soul. In addition to being a homemaker she also worked as the secretary at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish for 30-plus years. In her spare time she enjoyed sewing, knitting, gardening and making delicious baked goods. Her bread, julekake, hot cross buns and caramel rolls were shared with neighbors and friends. A young neighbor boy enjoyed her baked goods so much he called her 'Mommy Nummy' (Dr. Jon Miller). She was a master at crossword puzzles and kept the post office busy with her many cards and letters. She loved to watch figure skating even though



her weak ankles wouldn't allow her to skate. She had many VHS

recordings of skating competitions to watch on those dark winter nights. Scott Hamilton was her favorite skater. June's grandkids introduced her to Mariners' baseball. She became an avid fan and loved her trip to spring training given to her for her 80th birthday.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Myron; son, Jerry; and sister, Joyce Luhr. She is survived by her children: Brian and his wife, Sheila (Asheville, North Carolina), Bruce and his wife, Edna (Denver), Diane Oddy (Bozeman), Mike and his wife, LuAnn (Richland, Washington), and Julie Shanafelt and her husband, Jim (Olympia, Washington). She has 14 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren who were all the joys of her life.

Services will be held this summer in Whitefish. Memorial Donations can be made to "Christ Lutheran Church" (Whitefish), "Enhabit Hospice" (Kalispell) or "PBS Montana." To send online condolences, please visit [www.austinfh.com](http://www.austinfh.com).

## Ruby Otis Levitt, 93

Ruby "Tiny" Otis Levitt, 93, died Oct. 5, 2023. She was born Jan. 22, 1930, near Shepherd on her parents homestead. Weighing only 3.5 pounds she was dubbed "Tiny" and it stuck.

Growing up in the Great Depression made her early years hard, but the love of her parents and family kept her happy. The family lived several places in the northwest, moving and following where there was work. She settled in Kalispell shortly after she graduated high school.

Tiny met E. "Dewey" Levitt and the two were married in 1950. The two enjoyed a long marriage that lasted 64 years until Dewey's passing. They had four children, 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren, too.

Always a servant and ready to bless others she often turned her hands to baking, or sewing gifts and quilts for others. She was known for her "Mountain Buns"



and home-made strawberry freezer jam. She spent many hours with her

hands folded in prayer, her love of faith and others was evident to all. She always said, "I was loved so much it became easy to love."

She was preceded in death by her parents; all her siblings; her husband; son, Michael; and son-in-law, Tim.

She is survived by daughters, Leslie (Kelly) and Marsha; son, Rodney (Elizabeth); as well as grands, greats, and other dear relatives.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Hope Church, 436 Birch Grove Road, Kalispell. A potluck luncheon and "Tiny" party will be held at the church following a short graveside service.



## Violet Viola Lewis, 92

Violet Viola (Pinkerman) Lewis, 92, passed away quietly on Dec. 27, 2022. She was born to Violet Hazel (Gauss) Pinkerman and Karl Clifton Pinkerman on Feb. 21, 1930, in Anaconda, Montana. The family, along with her brother, Duane, moved to the east shore of Flathead Lake in 1941.

Vi graduated from Polson High School in 1948 and lived and worked at the bowling alley until being accepted into the Hollywood Flight Academy for stewardess training. She was hired by Western Airlines in 1951 where she flew as a stewardess for 10 years out of Salt Lake City where she roomed with fellow stewardess Betty McCoy. She then became a regional manager of stewardesses for Western out of their Denver hub where she lived with her husband, Don Lundberg. They later divorced.

In 1970, Vi retired from the airlines and married Virgil "Escoe" Lewis (her brother's brother-in-law) on Valentine's Day and moved back to Billings, Montana and finally, back to the east shore of Flathead Lake where they owned and operated a cherry orchard.

They were very happily married for 39 years.

Vi had many fun adventures with the airlines and enjoyed being back home on the lake. She loved animals and could not get enough licks and kisses from puppies and kitties.

Vi was preceded in death by her husband, brother and stepdaughters Shari and Merrie. She is survived by her sisters-in-law, Ruth (Lewis) Pinkerman and Rosemary (Lewis) Jensen; her stepsons Mark and Steven Lewis; her niece Kari (Pinkerman) Nelson; her nephew Kip Giles; and step-grandchildren Jason Lewis of Alaska, Emily Lewis of Oregon and Alicia Thomas of Washington and their families.

Any donations can be given to animal charities of your choice. A summer memorial is planned.

Messages of condolences may be shared with the family online at [www.lakefuneral-homeandcremation.com](http://www.lakefuneral-homeandcremation.com). Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.



## Jean Lieberg, 98

Jean C. Lieberg, 98, passed away due to natural causes on Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022, at Northern Montana Hospital. Cremation has taken place, and at Jean's request, no services will be held. Her family has requested that memorial donations be made in her name to the charity of the donor's choice. Holland & Bonine Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements. Please visit Jean's online memorial page to send a card or leave a message of condolence for her family at [www.holland-bonine.com](http://www.holland-bonine.com).

Jean was born on Dec. 18, 1924, in Williston, North Dakota, to Henry and Vera (Tone) Schneider. She was raised in Williston, graduating from high school there. Jean married Gilman Lieberg, and the couple had four children. In 1955, they moved to Havre for Gilman's job with the railroad, and they remained there until he retired in 1976. There, Jean worked as a book-



keeper for the bowling alley. The couple then moved to Big Fork. Gilman passed away and in 2017, Jean returned to Havre to be near family.

For over 60 years, Jean was passionate about bowling. She adored her family and spent every moment with them that she could.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gilman Lieberg; son, Bob (Chris) Lieberg; son-in-law, Otis Frampton; and parents, Henry and Vera Schneider.

Jean is survived by her children: Rick (Patty) Lieberg of Havre, Jerry Lieberg of Friend, Nebraska, and Mary Frampton of Tuscon, Arizona; her thirteen grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and close friends, Joan and Wally of Big Fork and Marlene Pizzini of Havre.

## John Andrew Liebert III, 52

Jack was born to Teresa and John Liebert New Year's Day. Followed by his sisters, Cherie Liebert, Michelle Wagar and Joanne Thompson.

Jack blessed us with his sons, Dillon and Caleb Liebert; and granddaughter, Lyric. He was a proud uncle to Denise Messick, Josh, Dawayne



and Jenna Wagar, Ariel Bowling, Alex Thompson and Leanna Herbert.

Thank you for the love and support in this most difficult time.



## Luther Leon Linquist, 87

Luther Leon Linquist, 87, passed away on June 19, 2023, after a wonderful life of 87 years. His family is grateful for the excellent care he received by the staff at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years Kay; his son, Aaron (Nadine); and daughters, Ione (children Brisman, Nolan and Kutuk) and Leah (Cliff and children Finnbarr, Aidan and Brendan).

He was born to Harry and Freda on Sept. 28, 1935. His birth happened while the rest of the family was at Glenn and Doris Linquist's for a farewell to Conrad, who was returning to Sweden.

He attended Maple Hill School for grades 1-8. Red Oak High School (1958-59) was at Elim Lutheran Church on the south side of Chicago.

He and Kay Spong met at Camp Augustana and were married in 1960. Leon was ordained as a pastor in the Augustana Lutheran Church in June 1961.

He served Augustana congregation in Edmonton, Alberta, Bethesda congregation in Kenora, Ontario and

Epiphany congregation in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

He was pastor-in-residence at the Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon for eight months in 1999. He served Finnish Lutheran congregations in Covington and Trout Creek, Michigan prior to his retirement in 2006.

The Linquists lived in New Haven, Connecticut from 2007-2017. He enjoyed family gatherings and various building projects at their summer place by Iron River, Michigan.

They moved to Kalispell in 2017 where they enjoyed time with their daughter, Ione and her family, as well as friends they made at the senior center and their church.

Tentative date for the Luther's funeral service is at 11 a.m. on Aug. 4, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

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## Marilynn A. Lively, 78

Loving mother and wife, Marilyn Aasheim Lively, 78, passed unexpectedly due to cardiac complications.

She is survived by husband, Jack Lively; children, Lois (Terry) Heckman, Lester Cecil Jr. (Val) Aasheim, Joyce (Darrel) Bosket; grandchildren, Traver (Laura) Heckman, Marissa (Hyrum) Cattaneo, Shayne Heckman, and Peter Bosket; great-grandchildren, Mason, Xander, Brecken, Ellie and Maven; brother, Carl (Judy) Peterson.

She was preceded in death by husband, Lester Aasheim; siblings, Lois Peterson,



Mark Peterson; parents, Harvey and Gladys (Hansell) Peterson.

A funeral service is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Dec. 11, at the Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, 3408 US Highway 2 East, Kalispell.

Reception to be held at the Elk's Club, 139 1st Ave. West in Kalispell.

Flowers and condolences may be offered at 1218 Stonefield, Kalispell, MT 59901 or Darlington.

## Jan Margo Ross Livesay, 77

Jan Margo Ross Livesay, born June 1946, passed away Oct. 2023.

Jan and twin sister, Terry were born on Father's Day in Great Falls on June 16, 1946, to Edythe and Don Ross and joining her older sister, Judy. She spent her childhood in Great Falls, graduating from Great Falls High School and later attending Montana State University, where she and her sisters graduated together in 1968. She earned an elementary education degree from MSU and is a member of the A O Pi Sorority.

While attending MSU, Jan met Bob, who became her loving partner in work, adventures, and play. For nearly fifty-six years, they made countless memories and as many friends around the world. Together they started their highway construction business, Montana Lines, in 1978. Through the years, they traveled the roads of Montana alongside their beloved crew.

She became the first woman president of the Montana Contractors Association in 2002, an honor of respect from her contractor peers.



Together, Jan and Bob received the Constructor of the Year award in 2003 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022, both distinctions awarded jointly by the Montana Contractors Association and Montana State University. She was also on the President's Advisory Council and the Engineering Advisory Council at MSU. Jan and Bob established a scholarship fund for Engineering students at MSU. She was active in the National Association of Women in Construction and was the Great Falls Chapter president in 1997 and 1998.

Many of Jan's friends are fortunate to be the keepers of her artistic ability. She painted everything from rocks, glasses, and plates to beautiful oil paintings. She also had a love of words in the form of poems and sage quotes for her special friends. She loved her family and friends, her work, life, nature, art, cooking, entertaining, traveling and her favorite phrase,

“let's talk,” especially about the Bobcats.

She was a stunningly beautiful woman inside and out. She loved life and her people with clarity and resilience, dignity and passion. We all were grateful and blessed to be a part of her world. She will always be a part of us.

She is survived by her husband, Bob; their son, Trevor (Tricia); her grandchildren, Logan, Harley, and Deklin; her sisters, Judy Oveson and Terry “Torch” Ross; nephews, Ross Oveson (Sandi), Ryan Enos (Dena), Casey Enos (Leisa); and niece, Erika Enos (Garth).

She is welcomed by her nonphysical family and friends, her son Kelly and her mother and father, and other family members and friends.

She loved peace and the beauty of the world. No services are planned at this time. A suggestion is to plant flowers, with a song in your heart, in her memory. Her beauty and laughter will be missed, lucky are the angels that will receive her.

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



## Timothy Ryan Lockwood, 37

Timothy Lockwood, 37 of Kalispell, passed away on July 24, 2023, from a GI Bleed. He was born on June 7, 1986, in Kalispell to James and Leila Lockwood and big brother, Kyle.

He grew up in many places as his father was in the military. Such places as Fort Carson Colorado, Bamberg Germany, Lawton Oklahoma, Fort Lewis Washington and Kalispell.

He graduated in January 2005 from Flathead High School. His favorite subject was music. While in grade school he tried the trumpet. He didn't like how his cheeks puffed out and the wrong notes scared the dogs. So, he decided to switch over to per-



cussion. He really enjoyed that because it was something he could do with his older brother. Once he got into high school, he took a guitar class. That was his calling. He joined many bands in the area, boy he really enjoyed all that music.

In the summer of 2007 he married Ariel. They were blessed with three beautiful girls. He called them his Disney girls; Pippin Alice, Adina Belle, and Lucy DeVille. After their marriage ended, they still stayed friends, he met Cierra. They went on to welcome two

more wonderful children, Johnny Yuma and Lavender Boe McCartney. To know Timothy was to love him. He had many flaws as everyone does but his pride and joy were his five children.

He enjoyed all sports. All of his favorite teams came from Colorado (college to the pros). He was 10 days old when we moved there and 3 years old when we left, but Colorado always had a special spot in his heart. Go Broncos.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Ben Lockwood, Louis and Venetta Kimbrell; two uncles, Timothy Kimbrell and Adrian Lockwood; also his best friend, Paul Boe Mosby.

He is survived by his five children, their mothers, Ariel and Cierra; his parents, James and Leila; his brother, Kyle (Mari); grandparents, Don and Gladys Linderoth. As well as numerous nephews, nieces, aunt, uncles, cousins, and all of their extended families.

A family memorial service will be held at a later date. Internment will be at the family cemetery in Wyoming.

His loved ones would like to say if you or someone you know and love have an issue with alcohol addiction or any addiction, please seek help. Timothy would always wish everyone to be kind to each other. This world is hard enough to try and live in.

## John Love, 87

John Bracy Love, 87, nationally known numismatist, went to meet his Lord on Dec. 19, 2023. He was at his home in Whitefish, Montana, surrounded by all his loved ones. In his last years, John was blind and had many health problems, but he stayed positive and strong, seldom complaining unless you interrupted his Grizzly game.

He was born to Virgil and Florence Bracy Love on June 6, 1936, in Carbondale, Illinois. As a small child the family moved to Burbank, California, where Virgil went to work for Columbia movie studios. He graduated from John Burroughs High School in Burbank, and then went to Los Angeles Valley Junior College on a football scholarship. His team was successful, and they went on to win the championship for their football league in 1955.

After graduating, he was offered a football scholarship to the University of Montana. He only played football one year, but his senior year he played and coached tennis for the U of M. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fra-



ternity. He graduated from the University in 1959 with a bachelor's degree in education.

While at the U of M, John met his wife of 63 years, Karla Kay Kluth. The couple were married in 1960. Shortly after they married, they moved to Cut Bank, Montana, where John managed the Orpheum Theater Company for his mother-in-law. They lived in Cut Bank for over 50 years and raised their daughter, Lisette Lee Love and son, John Byron Love, there.

During the time John worked at the theater, silver was the currency people used and he soon got interested in silver dollars. That was the beginning of his career in the coin business. He started Record Coin in 1962. At the same time, he hired Diane Biegler as his secretary and she is still there today. Throughout his career he was a member of the Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG), a lifetime member of the American Numismatic Association

(ANA), honored with the National Silver Dollar Roundtable Lifetime Achievement award in 1990, and inducted into the Professional Coin Grading Services (PCGS) Coin Dealer Hall of Fame in 2011.

He loved to go to work and was still working up until the time of his death. In addition to his coin business, he and Roy Roper of Twin Falls, Idaho, along with Theo Bartschi and Byron Kluth started Interstate Amusement in 1967 in Twin Falls, which grew to 25 movie screens. They sold the theaters in 2014.

He loved animals, horses in particular, and soon he started running racehorses. His horse trainer was Tommy Roberts, and they raced up and down the West coast, using jockeys such as Gary Stevens, Johnny Longden, and Will Shoemaker. In the 1980's, John was the leading owner in races won in the nation. He also had a horse named Blue Rimrock, which was voted best claiming horse nationwide in 1985.

His greatest love, however, was his family. He was a great father, amazing grandfather, and

a doting great-grandfather. He was supportive and encouraging in all their accomplishments, and always so proud of all of them. Besides his two children, Lisette (Bill) Pickens and JB (Kim) Love, he had three grandchildren, Kalee (Derek) New, Noah Love, and Jonah Love, and one great-grandson, Donovan John New.

He is survived by his brother-in-law, Byron (Rose) Kluth; and nephews, Brice (Diana) Kluth, and Coby Kluth.

At John's request, there will be no funeral, but a viewing and small service will be held at 1 p.m. on Dec. 28, at the Asper Funeral Home in Shelby, Montana. A private burial will take place at the Mountain View Cemetery in Shelby.

In his memory, we ask you to tune in and listen to Louis Armstrong singing, "It's a Wonderful World" or "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," by Israel "IZ" Kamakawiwo'ole. He loved those songs and would always get a smile on his face whenever he heard them.

Condolences can be made to [www.asperfh.com](http://www.asperfh.com).



## Socorro "Cora" Luna, 92

Socorro "Cora" Luna, of Lakeside, passed away Thursday morning, Nov. 2, 2023, at the Prestige Assisted Living facility with her family around her. At 92 years of age, she was close to the church and dedicated herself to praying the Rosary.



have a place to sit or sleep (the best hostess) and needed to feel at home.

Although she was typically quiet, she had her moments with witty one-liners that would surprise you and make you burst out laughing. She was the "wind beneath our wings," as we grew up and ventured into adulthood. She was the strong woman behind our dad's very active life. She was an Air Force wife for over 20 years, and she loved her Lakeside community, her home, her view of Flathead Lake, her church and her friends. The deer knew exactly where to come for a midday snack since Cora kept bags of apples ready for them and made sure her fountain had

fresh water for her wild-life animals.

Cora's "home making" was more than raising four children, in addition to making homemade tortillas daily, she made lunches and fabulous meals for everyone. She, along with Hando, volunteered time at the "Seniors," serving lunches and leading chair exercises. She was also a gifted quilter, a seamstress, and a big sports fan. She was especially fond of her Lakers, Kobe and Phil Jackson. Of course in the most recent seasons, she found herself rooting for Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors.

It sounds cliché when we say that we had the best mom, because we know there are millions of "best moms" out there. It is honestly how we feel. We will miss her strength, her support, and most of all, her love. Kels, her granddaughter,

and Chito, her cat, will miss their best friend.

The family would like to thank the staff at Prestige and the hospice team from Encompass for the loving care that surrounded Cora and our family. Special thanks to Holly Ward who spent countless hours visiting nightly with Mom, it was such a comfort to her family to know she had such a caring friend.

Cora's funeral mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Nov. 10, at St. John Paul's Catholic Church in Bigfork. A rosary will precede the mass at 10:30 a.m. A luncheon will be provided after mass and her interment at the Bigfork Community Cemetery will follow. Everyone is invited to join us in celebration of her life.

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