

Cheryl Sue Peterson, 83

Sue Peterson, 83, passed away at her home to join Our Lord and Savior in paradise. She was born in 1940 to Lyle and Melva. She grew up in Ponca, Nebraska. She had one sister, Julee.

As a child, she sang, tap-danced, played piano, organ, saxophone and accordion. During this time, Nancy Curry was her best friend and they enjoyed all activities together, often with their entire families present. She and Nancy continued to stay in touch and spoke often by phone as adults. Sue was active in the high school band and was also a cheerleader. She spent many hours singing in church recitals and at school. She was the queen of her senior prom in high school.

Sue attended college at University of South Dakota for three years and earned an associate degree and an elementary teaching certificate with an emphasis in special education. While in college, she married her beau, Larry Peterson. She and Larry were friends for 77 years and were married for 64 years. Sue and Larry lived in South Dakota before moving on to Minnesota, Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Utah, and eventually Montana. In 1985, Sue and Larry relocated to Anchorage, Alaska, where they lived for 10 years before both retiring and returning to Montana.

Sue worked as a Montessori school teacher in both South Dakota and Montana. In Montana, she worked as a book-



Tahiti and made yearly trips to Hawaii for many years. They especial-

ly enjoyed their time making memories with friends in all areas they traveled.

Sue was a member of Daughters of the Nile and spent 65 years as a member of Eastern Star. She also served as First Lady of Montana's Algeria Shrine Temple while Larry served as Potentate from 2001-2002. In Kalispell, she was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and taught Sunday school for a short time.

Spending a great deal of time online, Sue created a site to reconnect people to her hometown of Ponca. At the time of her death, the site had just short of 1,000 members. These members enjoyed her posts about the history of the area, old memories, events, photographs and information pertaining to the residents of the area.

Sue had hundreds of friends. Did we mention she was loved by all? Because she was! Sue had a giving personality and she was overjoyed when she could make others happy. She was the white stuff in the Oreo cookie. We will miss her cheer, smile and the love she provided every day of her life. Now, we expect she is having an absolute blast, probably serving as an event planner, or the like, in Heaven with Our Lord.

keeper/office manager/sales manager at City Service and Tri-City Lumber/H.E. Simpson Lumber. In Alaska, Sue worked as the executive secretary to the manager of the Anchorage branch of Merrill Lynch and as a premium auditor for worker's compensation at Industrial Indemnity.

Sue's creativity was endless. She took joy in crafting, family genealogy, gardening, scrapbooking, parenting and especially cooking, always offering mouth-watering food at dinners where she hosted family and friends. She was an excellent thinker, very good at puzzles and crosswords. She also faced many health challenges throughout her life but was never anything but positive. She was a true warrior when it came to managing her health.

Once she and Larry were both retired, they spent years traveling by RV to nearly all states, Canada and Mexico. They also traveled to

Sue was preceded in death by her sister, Julee; and her father, Lyle.

She is survived by her husband, Larry; mother, Melva; son, Layne; and daughter Lynae (Alan). She had seven grandchildren, Jaimee, Megan, Julee, Amanda, Kyrie, Garth, Ethan (Charlene); and one niece, Kris. She is also survived by three great-grandchildren, whom she adored, Kelbii, Mila and Elias.

Sue's celebration of life will be held July 12 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell at 10 a.m. with a reception to follow. In lieu of gifts, the family asks that memorials be made to either Shriners Hospitals for Children or to J. Armstrong Memorial Endowment Fund at P.O. Box 568 Ponca, NE 68770.

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

Ira 'Pete' Peterson, 82

On Nov. 1, 2022, Ira "Pete" Peterson joined the love of his life in Heaven. He was 82. A celebration of life will be held in summer of 2023 in Havre, Montana, and Pete will be laid to rest with his beloved Mary Ann. Holland & Bonine Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements. Please visit Ira's online memorial page to send a card or leave a message of condolence for his family at www.hollandbonine.com.

Ira was born in Kalispell on April 4, 1940, to Ira and Caroline Peterson. Ira spent his early years in Kalispell playing football and baseball and graduating from Kalispell High School. Ira moved to Havre in 1958 to attend Northern Montana

Collège. There he met and married Mary Ann McLain on Feb. 7, 1959, in Havre at St Jude's Catholic church. They had four children: Greg, Barbara, Tammy and Tim.

After working in a variety of professions across Montana and Wyoming, Ira and Mary Ann returned to Havre to settle down. Ira developed his love of trains through his career in railroading. He started as a brakeman in 1966 with the Great Northern Railroad and rose to conductor, splitting time between routes to Glasgow and Whitefish. After more than three decades riding the rails, Ira spent the remainder of his railroading career

traveling around the country for Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad conducting workforce safety training courses and retiring in 2005.

Never one to sit idle, Ira started Peterson Builders in the 1970s as a part-time business building rock walls and fireplaces in the Havre area. Ira adored his children and grandchildren, and he helped his grandsons Travis and Justin Solberg obtain their rank of Eagle Scout. His other hobbies included wood working and holiday decorations. The Peterson house on 17th street in

Havre was routinely recognized for its elaborate holiday decorations including thousands of lights and festive holiday figures. Ira took his love of the Christmas holiday a step further in 2016 by attending Santa Claus school in Calgary, Canada. Sporting the authentic outfit and his trademark Santa beard, he brought as much joy to families as it did for him serving as Santa from New York to Seattle and many places in between.

Ira and Mary Ann had the opportunity to travel across the United States and Canada. They enjoyed going to Broadway plays, sporting events and concerts



and exploring new cities. Mary Ann passed away in March 2017, the year they celebrated 58 years of true love and happiness.

Following Mary Ann's passing, Ira reunited with a childhood friend, Donna Larsen. They married and lived in Issaquah, Washington. Ira and Donna enjoyed traveling to Arizona and Mexico to get away from the inclement weather of the Northwest. At the time of his passing, they lived in Bellevue.

Ira was preceded in death by his parents, Ira Peterson and Caroline Minette; his beloved wife, Mary Ann; and his daughter, Tammy McLaughlin (Ed).

He is survived by his children, Greg (Pam)

Peterson, Barbara (Bill) Clayton, and Tim (Annette) Peterson; five grandchildren, Travis (Silver Banks) Solberg, Steven (Krystal) Peterson, Justin (Samantha) Solberg and Ethan and Claire Peterson; and five great-grandchildren: Mason Peterson, and Brody, Bryden and Brielle Solberg, and Saffron Solberg.

Ira is also survived by his siblings, Melvin (LuAnn) Peterson, Gordon Peterson, Harvey (Leonor) Peterson, Gloria (Dewey) Morgan-Jones, and Rose (Lowell Alcock) Cloninger. His children and grandchildren held a special place in his heart. He will be forever loved and missed by his family.

David H. Petry, 75

David H. Petry, 75, of Kalispell, passed away on April 17, 2023 in Pampa, Texas. David was born on June 5, 1947 in Ferdinand, Indiana to Alvin and Ardella Petry. David was the sixth of 11 children growing up and attending school in Ferdinand. He had many fond memories of his family and growing up in Indiana.

Later, David would make a life with his family in Montana. He graduated from Flathead High School in Kalispell and did an apprenticeship to become a carpenter which he worked as for many years. In his free time, he enjoyed making furniture and loved fishing and riding his bicycle.

He loved his family with all his heart and would do anything for them, and he longed to be closer to his family that lived abroad.

He was an avid church-goer and passionate about his Catholic faith. David was a wonderful father, father-in-law, grandfather aka "opa" to his German grandchild, brother and friend. He will be greatly missed by his fam-



ily and friends but will live on in their hearts and never be forgotten.

David is preceded in death by an infant sister, Patricia; brothers, Jerry, Eugene and Alvin, Jr.; and his parents, Ardella and Alvin Petry.

He is survived by his daughter, Christine Petry-Anacker and her husband Mirko of Germany; a grandson, Elias Anacker; four sisters, Mary Ann Hegel of Kalispell, Lucy Sterling of Columbia Falls, Deb Cislo of Kalispell and Darlene Vincent of North Dakota; two brothers, Ken and Allen Petry both of Columbia Falls; along with numerous nieces and nephews and extended family members.

David's memorial service will be held on Wednesday May 24, 2023 at 2 p.m. at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell and will be laid to rest at Glacier Memorial Gardens near his beloved family.

John Allen Phillips, 87

John Allen Phillips was called to Glory on Monday, March 20, 2023 at the age of 87. John was born Oct. 31, 1935 in Whitefish, Montana to Allen and Jeanne Phillips. He attended K-12 in Whitefish and began his railroad career as a teenager. He retired from the railroad with 47 years of employment. John was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army.

He was preceded in death by his parents Allen and Jeanne Phillips and his sister, Kathleen Donovan.

John is survived by his

children, Mick (Laurie) Phillips, Curt (Shelly) Phillips, Velvet (Steve) Phillips-Sullivan, Kelly Frandsen-Magness, Trish (Jeff) Krier, Cheryl (Marty) Drake, numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many others.

Services will be held at Bible Baptist Church (64 Dove Lane, Kalispell) on Friday, March 31, 2023 at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to Bible Baptist Church, the National Rifle Association or the charity of your choosing.

Lacey Phillips, 37

Lacey Phillips (aka Soule) age 37, of Kalispell, passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 13, 2023.

She was born on Nov. 14, 1985, in Sacramento, California, to Keith Phillips who also has passed on. She is the daughter of parents Dan and Nancy Soule-Kolesar of Libby; sister of Jenny



Brown of Kalispell; niece of Sandy Kearney; and cousins Tim and Ashley.

Williams Weed, (Adam); aunt to Lily and Hendrix Weed; mother of Eloise

A celebration of life will be held this summer. Forever in our hearts.

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

Lora Croskrey Steele Phillips, 78

Lora Croskrey Steele Phillips, 78, made her entrance into this world on Feb. 04, 1945. Throughout her life she developed voluminous skills that propelled her into cosmetology, real estate, boating, car clubs, and even aviation.

After retiring, she worked many years in JC Penney's jewelry department, taking



brimming with personality and natural wit; the life of the party, per se. Easy to talk to, willing to help at the drop of a

great care assisting in locating the perfect gem. The Croskrey's were salt-of-the-earth people,

hat. Old-fashioned Irish values, with an infallible, optimistic attitude—even in the most dire of circumstances.

She was exceptional, memorable, and unforgettable in every single facet of her existence. Her loved ones will continue to celebrate her light-hearted and spirited approach to life.

She is survived by an

enormous coterie of family and friends. A tried and true pillar of the original Flathead Valley.

A celebration of life will be held at The DeSoto Grill on June 22, 2024. It will be open to the general public. Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Raymond Pitsch, 74

Raymond A. Pitsch was born on Nov. 24, 1948, to Art and MaryAnn Pitsch, in Sheridan, Wyoming, and entered the gates of heaven on Feb. 17, 2023, in Kalispell. The family moved to Hardin in 1950, where he grew up and worked on the family farm/ranch. He was joined with three siblings, Barbara, Ronald and Marilyn. He attended elementary school at Crow Agency and graduated from Hardin High School in 1968.

Upon high school graduation, Raymond attended diesel mechanic school in Denver and Phoenix. Upon diesel mechanic school graduation he moved back to the Hardin area working on area ranches. He finally returned to the home place and worked with his brother Ron.

In 1991 he "broadened his horizons" and attended a Singles Retreat at Trinity Lutheran Church Camp on the shores of Flathead Lake where he met his future wife, Sharon Hanley, while peeling carrots. Raymond moved to Kalispell and he and Sharon were married on Nov. 20, 1993, at Trinity Lutheran Church. They bought their home in 1994 and moved to the country where he could raise chickens and care for his large and bountiful garden. He worked for Scot Hedstrom Egg Farm, Semitool and Randy



Bohannan Forestry. He attended Flathead Valley Community College learning

woodworking and built several pieces of furniture.

Raymond was a lifelong Christian, and enjoyed having root beer floats on Wednesdays with his church buddies, enjoyed square dance calling, playing cards with his father-in-law and friends, and watching Western movies.

Raymond is survived by his wife Sharon, mother MaryAnn, sister Barbara (Cliff) Berg, brother Ronald (Patricia) Pitsch, sister Marilyn Watson, and several nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephew and many cousins.

Memorial services will be on Sunday, April 23, 2023, at 3 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 405 W. California Street, Kalispell, with cookies and beverages afterward. Private family burial will be at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery. Darlington Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Memorials may be given to Trinity Lutheran Camp c/o Trinity Lutheran Church, 405 W. California St., Kalispell, MT 59901, or a charity of your choice.

Carol Pitt, 56

Carol Ann Pitt, of Kalispell, was promoted to glory on Friday, June 23, 2023, after spending 56 years on earth.

She was born on Feb. 9, 1967, in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, and moved to Helena with her family when she was 1 year old.

She lived in Helena until she was 18 years old. After graduating from Capital High School in 1985, she attended Northwest Bible College in Minot, North Dakota. She then transferred to Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, Colorado.

During the summer of 1986 she took a summer job at Star Lake Camp in Bloomingdale, New Jersey.

After Star Lake, she went to Easton, Maryland, for the remainder of the summer where she met Kevin R. Pitt and the sparks flew. They dated long distance while she attended Colorado Christian University, she



then briefly attended Towson University in Maryland.

During her college years, she wanted to see the world. She took the opportunity to visit England, Holland and Germany. She was in Berlin shortly after the fall of the Berlin wall.

Afterward she returned to Easton and began her life with Kevin. They moved to Providence, Rhode Island, in 1989 where Kevin attended school at Johnson and Wales University.

Kevin and Carol married Feb. 27, 1993. They lived in Rhode Island and Massachusetts for 10 years, where they had three kids.

When 9/11 occurred, they decided to move to Helena, and did so in 2002. They lived for four years in the house Carol grew up in on Olive

Street. In 2006, the family moved to Kalispell.

She worked as a paralegal for over 15 years and also briefly at Hope Ranch helping teen girls.

She also attended Flathead Valley Community College during that time. After Kevin and Carol's children graduated from high school, she attended the University of Montana to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a counselor for troubled youth. This dream was inspired by her time at Star Lake Camp and Hope Ranch.

She was an amazingly loving wife and mother, continuously pouring out her kindness and love to others.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary Ola (Bozman-Lytle) Churchwell, and William F. Lytle, Jr.; and her brother, Harold (Hal) E. Peck.

She is survived by her husband, Kevin R. Pitt; three children, Ashley,

Jay, and Angelina Pitt; her sisters, Dorothy Lytle (Chris) Means, of Chandler Arizona; Donna E. Maynard (Paul) Bohler, of Billings; her brothers, Kenneth W. Peck, of Helena; James (Rose) Lytle, of Helena; her mother-in-law, Linda E. (Robert) Rix, of Lower Marlboro, Maryland; her sisters-in-law, Sally Peck, of Helena; Jennifer (Pi) Minor, of Arnold, Maryland; her brother in-law, Douglas O. (Cheryl) Pi, of Auburn, Alabama; and her aunt Ada (Bozman) Southwood of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Her love and sweet gentleness will be greatly missed by all who have known her.

Carol's service was held on Saturday, July 8, at Canvas Church in Kalispell. The service was also streamed live at [canvas.church/broadcast](https://www.canvas.church/broadcast).

Warren Bryant Plympton III, 79

Warren Bryant Plympton III, 79, born May 1, 1944, to Warren Bryant Plympton Jr. and Jaqueline Young Plympton, in Kalispell, died Aug. 12, 2023, in Spokane, Washington at 79 years of age.

He graduated from Flathead High School in 1962. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he served in Korea and Vietnam as a motion picture photographer for three years. Warren was honorably discharged in 1965 with a Medal of Good Conduct, a National Defense Service Medal, and was decorated as a Rifle Expert and Pistol Marksman.

After serving, Warren moved back to Montana



and attend- ed college at Flathead Valley Community College (Kalispell), Montana State University Northern (Havre), University of Montana (Missoula), and Montana State University (Bozeman), before obtain- ing a masters degree in higher education and library sciences with an emphasis in history — finishing just 20 hours short from his doctorate.

It was during this time that Warren met

and attend- ed college at Flathead Valley Community College (Kalispell), Montana State

University Northern (Havre), University of Montana

(Missoula), and Montana State University (Bozeman), before obtain- ing a masters degree in higher education and library sciences with an emphasis in history — finishing just 20 hours short from his doctorate.

It was during this time that Warren met

Marlene Ann Running Crane and the two were married in 1973. Warren and Marlene had three children, Paula Plympton (Schmidt)(1973), Warren Bryant Plympton IV (1975) and Cheryl Lynn Plympton (Peters)(1978).

He is preceded in death by his parents, Warren Bryant Plympton Jr (1988) and Jacqueline Young Plympton (2005); sister, Jane Eileen Plympton (1950); and brother, Vance Vernon Plympton (2017).

He is survived by his wife, Marlene Ann Running Crane Plympton; his children, Paula Plympton Schmidt (Ted), Warren Bryant Plympton IV and Cheryl Lynn Plympton Peters

(Michael); his brothers, Weldon Plympton (Kay) and Steve Plympton (Gay); 15 grandchildren; and four great-grandchil- dren.

Warren's service will be at 11 a.m., Aug. 18, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Following the service, the family will be holding a potluck style lunch. If you are planning on attending and are able, please con- sider bringing a dish or side to share. Friends are encouraged to visit our website 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.

Carol Porter, 82

Carol A. Porter, 82, Hamilton, former longtime resident of Columbia Falls, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023, at Barbara Jean's Assisted Living in Goodyear, Arizona. She was born on Aug. 20, 1940, in Missoula to the late Howard and Ruth Davis Carlson (France).



Robert Carlson (Ann Gimpel) and Larry (Jamie) France; two children,

Mark (Becky) Porter, and Geri Lynn Anderson; three stepchildren, Tim (Terri) Anderson, Melanie (Bill) Justice and Waylon (Sandra) Porter; three grandchildren, Brittany (Brandon) Riska, Michelle Tafoya, and Chelsie (Anthony) Schnetter; four step-grandchildren, Wyatt Justice, Zach Porter, Alexander Phelps, and Lauren Ramirez; five great-grandchildren, Treyton Riska, Bailey Riska, Scarlett Riska, Aria Tafoya and Eli Schnetter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ruth (Linc) France and Howard Carlson; brother, Alan (Jan) Carlson; and sister, Patricia (Leroy) Kindsvogel.

Funeral arrangements will be scheduled (and announced) sometime in spring or early summer in Hamilton. In lieu of gifts or flowers, please consider a donation to Hospice of the Valley (Arizona) www.hov.org/donate/. Condolences may be left for the family at www.dalyleach-chapel.com

On April 25, 2009, she remarried the love of her life, Lawrence "Dean" Porter. Carol took great pride in her role as a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She found joy in reading, traveling, singing along to songs and socializing with friends in Montana and their winter home in Arizona. Carol was always happy and willing to share a funny story with anyone. Her infectious laugh and beautiful smile always made her stick out in any crowd. Above all else, she loved to surround herself with her loved ones: both family and friends.

Her family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Banner Del Webb Hospital, Hospice of the Valley, and Barbara Jean's Assisted Living in Arizona for the wonderful care that they provided.

Survivors include her husband, Lawrence Dean Porter; her brothers,

Florence Pound, 77

Florence Idell Burlingham Pound, 77, of Kalispell joined her heavenly family on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. She was born to Ethan and Mary Burlingham in Eureka, Montana on February 21, 1946.



ing with friends/family and her chocolate milkshakes.

She married Grant Pound on June 24, 1967, in Kalispell. They had two children, Minta and Jody.

Florence worked at the nursing home in Eureka and at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, now known as Logan Heath Medical Center, in Kalispell, before retiring in 2005.

Florence deeply loved her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren as well as her dog Socks. Anytime we told her "I love you" she always responded with "I love you the most." She also enjoyed quilting, growing tomatoes, camping with her family, visit-

Florence is now rejoicing with her husband, Grant Pound; son Jody Pound; as well as her mother and father; 5 siblings; and many other family members.

Florence is survived by her daughter Minta Johnson (Joe); and two grandchildren.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 15, at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery in Eureka. A gathering will follow at the Tobacco Valley Senior Center in Eureka.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg Funeral Home of Eureka. Online condolences and memories may be shared by visiting www.schnackenbergfh.com.

AnneMare Emily Poynter, 44

AnneMare Emily Poynter, 44, of Missoula, completed her earthly journey on May 9, 2023, in her home from complications of Huntington's Disease.

She was born in Kalispell to Robert "Bob" and Marria Ross. The only girl of three siblings, she was the princess and sparkle of her father's eye. Her outer beauty was only matched by her inner beauty.

She grew up in Kalispell and attended Flathead High School, where she enjoyed cheer-leading and choir.

Following in her family's footsteps, she attended Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. She graduated with a degree in Elementary Education in May of 2001.

In late May of 2001, AnneMare re-connected with an old High School friend, Sean Poynter, who swept her off her feet in a Bigfork bar. AnneMare and Sean were married June 22, 2002, in Kalispell.

They moved to Hanford, California together where AnneMare taught 6-8 grade grammar and literature for 9 years.

Having a strong desire to be back in Montana, they moved to Missoula in 2010 to be closer to family.

In April of 2006, AnneMare and Sean became the proud parents of their only son, Connor Larrick Poynter. The pride of his Mom, she was ever his champion. She was loved deeply by Sean, whose heart will forever ache her loss until his last breath.

She epitomized the footsteps of Jesus. Her grace, forgiveness, love, generosity, and patience were only equaled by her strength, tenacity, resolve, resiliency and spunk.

She is now free of her broken earthly body



that was no longer capable of containing her titanic soul. Her last breath Tue. morning ushered

her first in Heaven where she is basking in the brilliance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

She is survived by her husband, Sean of Missoula; their son, Connor; her father, Bob Ross and his wife Margaret of Austin; mother-in-law, Vickie of Kalispell; her brother Paul Ross of Sioux Center, and his family: wife Amy, daughter Laura, and son Jacob; her brother Ian Ross of Peshastin, Washington and his family: wife Emily, and daughter Kyrianna; her grand-mother Joanne of Kalispell; and many loving uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Special thank you to Jenny and Zara at Big Sky Palliative and Hospice for the excellent service provided to AnneMare during her most trying of times.

Services for celebrating AnneMare's life will be held at 1 p.m. on July 8, at Frenchtown Community Church, with a short reception to follow the service in the common room below the sanctuary.

In lieu of flowers, donations and tributes can be made to the Huntington's Disease Society of America, HDSA.com.

Donation Opportunities/Tribute & memorial Donations- AnneMare's address for tributes is: 13095 Bunchgrass Crt., Missoula, Montana 59808.

Arrangements under the direction of Garden City Funeral Home, Missoula.

Patricia Ruth Prestegaard, 89

Patricia Ruth Prestegaard, 89, of Kalispell, peacefully went to be with the Lord on Jan. 27, 2023, at her home in Boise, Idaho.

She was preceded in death by her husband Ed; grandson Chad Cislo; her parents and two brothers. The family plans to have a memorial service in Kalispell in the spring/summer at a date to be determined.

Patricia was born Dec. 22, 1933, to Leo and Christel Gordon in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She was the youngest with two older brothers Norman and Neil (Bud) whom she adored. Pat graduated from Nutley High School and received her teaching degree from Montclair State Teacher's College in the French language. She was then offered a teaching position in Kodiak, Alaska, where she taught over 300 native and naval base children each day. This was quite a feat for a young teacher since there was no curriculum or books to start from, but she prevailed and had them singing French carols by Christmas! She met Ed Prestegaard at



a Kodiak church, and they were married Aug. 19, 1956, at her family home in New Jersey. Her grandfather, Dad Eric, was a missionary and an ambassador to Albania and at 89 years old flew from Claremont, California, to perform the ceremony. Before the wedding she and her friend Barbara traveled to Europe on an ocean liner to see France and toured many other countries during the summer. This was Pat's first time crossing the Atlantic and was followed by 11 trips to Norway (son Thor was born there) to see the family. They also attended the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer. She traveled to Dakar, Senegal, as a missionary for 4.5 months to teach French at a Bible school and went to Israel with the "Volunteers for Israel" group. She and Ed moved often during those first years while the kids were young and were never afraid of a new adventure, working hard, or

starting something new! She raised her family in Alaska, Norway and mostly Montana, and then moved to Boise, Idaho, to be near daughter June and Ron in her last years.

She was a natural with music, playing piano on her Kimball upright grand and had a beautiful voice. In her 70s she learned bass guitar and played at her church. While in her 80s she took up pastel portraits, which her family will forever treasure. Her artistic and musical talents were passed on to many of her children and grandchildren. She became an excellent seamstress for herself and her three daughters. She enjoyed acting in several church plays in addition to authoring a few of her own. She also wrote numerous literary pieces about her experiences and family history. She once stood in front of the church congregation and recited two chapters of Isaiah word for word from memory, as she had an excellent mind. Remarkably, she could also speak five languages. She loved laughing and telling stories and always

emphasized her love and prayers for her family, right up to the day of her passing. She was a strong Christian and loved the Lord Jesus with all her heart. We all know Heaven was rejoicing when she arrived home! She and Ed celebrated 58 years of marriage and were blessed with five children, 16 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Grateful for having shared in her life is her family: June (Ron) Juhnke and their children, Chad (deceased); Jordan and Josh, Glen (Carrie) Prestegaard and their children Jacob (Marcela), Kaleb, Judah (Anna) and Kirsten; Thor (Tracy) Prestegaard and their children Eric and Amanda (Cole) Pelican; Sonja (Vernon) Merk and their children David (Brandy), Nick, Erin (Ted) Goodman, Maria and Ariel; and Christel (Carlen) Ritenour and their children Ashley (Joel) Pinson and Colten (Andrea) Ritenour; along with great-grandchildren Ezekiel and Wolfe Prestegaard, Everlee and Dawson Pelican, and Huntleigh Ritenour.

Kathleen E. Eayrs Price, 88

Kathleen E. Eayrs Price, 88, our loving mother, entered her heavenly new dwelling on Feb. 6, 2023, while in her home with many family by her side.

Her daughters, Jayne Price Hall, Vickie Price Turner and Brenda Price Purdy were so blessed to spend those last special days with her.

She joined many of her loved ones, her husband, Richard Price; her granddaughter, Rebecca Hall Nielsen; her sisters, her brother and her parents.

She is survived by her daughter, Jayne Hall

(husband, Gary), Vickie Turner (husband, Clay), Brenda Purdy (husband, Joe). Her grandchildren, Matthew Hall (wife, Bethany), Zach Purdy (wife, Jana), Brittney Iverson (husband, Drake), Jenny Booth (husband, Cameron). 10 great-grandchildren she adored, as well as many nieces, nephews and



special friends.

Our mother was a teacher of the word, prayer warrior/

intercessor and woman of great faith. She led many Bible studies and prayer gatherings through the years.

We are grateful for the heritage we share, and the mantle of prayer given to us in her passing. She was a kind, generous and loving woman of God who served many during her lifetime.

It was a common thing for her to give her last dollar to someone in need. She truly was a servant to all that knew her and especially to our father who was ill much of their married life.

We will be celebrating her life in a small family and friend gathering on July 2.

Paul Price, 82



March 16, 1940 - Jan. 12, 2023

Paul Richard Price passed away Jan. 12, in Yuma, Arizona. Paul was one of three children born

to Paul and Jane Price in Ely, Nevada. Paul married his wife Judy Meyer in California in 1961. They met while he was working for Stauffer Chemical Company and she was employed by the Bell Telephone Company. The couple then moved to Whitefish, Montana where they found an a-frame house on Big Mountain. They practically raised their children, Shawn and Monique, on the ski hill.

Paul pursued many hobbies, including racing both cars and boats. He

was also very active in his community, especially helping out with the local ski club and the Jaycees, for which he was recognized as an Outstanding State Chairman. Paul had various occupations, including farming and landscaping, before beginning his career as an engineer for the Burlington Northern Railroad.

After Paul retired, he and Judy enjoyed many years of traveling the country in their motor-home to visit family and old friends (often making

new friends while serving as camp hosts). Paul and Judy were married for 60 years before her passing in 2021.

Paul is survived by his brother Robert Price and sister Nancy Moore, his son Shawn (Wendy) Price, daughter Monique Pulse; grandsons Wyatt Price and Dillon Pulse, three great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

No services are planned at this time. Paul's ashes will be released among his favorite places in Montana.

Virginia Pruett, 90

Virginia Marie Pruett was born in Chicago on Oct. 19, 1932, to Everett and Marguerite Breid. She passed away on Jan. 3, 2023. Most of her life was spent in San Diego. She married Jerry Pruett in 1950. Jerry entered the army and so they spent the next couple of years at Camp Roberts, California. Their four children were born over the next six years. Virginia was a devoted

housewife and loving mother, a devout Catholic, who wanted more than anything for her children to follow in the footsteps of her faith. Once her children were grown, she developed some of her artistic talents, such as flower arranging, sewing, gardening and ceram-



ics. After her husband's death, Virginia moved to Kalispell in 1996. She was a member of St. Matthews Catholic Church.

Virginia was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry, her youngest son, Jeffrey, and her sister Marilyn.

She is survived by her siblings: Margie, Sandy, Lorelei, Michael, and Gerry; her children: Cheryl (Sid) Anderson, Steven (Sue) Pruett,

and Denise (Howard) Sabestinas; as well as 13 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren.

Virginia was remembered in a private family ceremony in Marietta, Georgia.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to TurnAround Ministries Inc., 2295 Towne Lake Pkwy, Suite 116-102, Woodstock, GA 30189.

Gloria Ann Puckett, 84

Our beloved mother, Gloria Ann Puckett, 84, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Nov. 23, 2023. She passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home in Kalispell. She was a kind, strong, generous and religious woman, who deeply loved her family, friends and God.

She was born Jan. 10, 1939, to William and Nellie (Moon) Paumer in Basin, Wyoming. She attended grammar school in a small Hyattville, Wyoming, schoolhouse and high school in nearby Manderson.

The youngest of four daughters, she found herself outside working with her father on the family ranch near Hyattville. She was his "right-hand man." Loving to ride her favorite horse, Cricket, she never found the time or the need to learn to ride a bicycle, her love for music also began here. She played the clarinet and sang in school and church choirs.

Upon graduation, she enrolled at Eastern Montana College to pursue her teaching degree. She paid her way through college by raising champion Hereford bulls. While at EMC she was a member of the United Campus Christian Fellowship. She continued her music here as well as singing in choirs and being featured in the opera, "The Cloak."

She then moved to Wolf Point for her first teaching job. It was in this town where she met her life-long love of 60 years, Edward.

She taught in the Wolf Point school system for a few years before moving to Great Falls and Fairfield to start a dry cleaning business. They had two kids along the way, Brent and Michelle.



They moved back to Wolf Point and opened another dry cleaning business, where they had Valerie. Gloria began teaching again while also working at the family dry cleaning business. An opportunity arose, and the family moved to Glasgow Air Force Base where she continued her teaching as the Director of the Head Start Program. Van, their fourth, was born there.

The family camped many weekends and traveled to many places around the West, including the Black Hills, Disneyland, the International Exposition on the Environment in 1974, and a caravan of 18 relatives to the Pacific Coast for clam digging and salmon fishing.

The family remained in Glasgow until another opportunity arose to move the family overseas to Iran. With the overthrow of the Shah imminent in 1978, Gloria and her husband moved the family back to Montana.

On the trip back, Ed and Gloria took the entire family and 18 suitcases on an epic, six-week, lifetime adventure through Europe. The family visited nearly every Western European country. For 10 of those days, the family traveled in a VW camping van through Northern Europe, with no iPhones or GPS. The family visited Washington, D.C., for a week before returning home. After a nearly two-year absence, the Pucketts returned to Montana, moving to Kalispell.

Over the next 40-plus years, Gloria raised her family and had careers at

a few valley businesses including as a bookkeeper for a retail business and as the activity coordinator for the Immanuel Lutheran Home, a job she dearly loved.

At Immanuel, she was able to use her lifetime of talents for the enjoyment of the residents. These included crafting, music, flower arranging and gardening, and she applied them all to her final vocation. It was here that she was also able to share faith through love and prayers with residents. All the while, Gloria remained active in her church by singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, and through outreach programs.

Her greatest joy was spending time with family, friends and helping others. She loved to sing, have tea parties, or do crafts, like making corn husk dolls, with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed crafting, playing pinochle, creating costumes and visiting with her friends. Gloria loved to spread the Word of Christ through prayers, words and actions. Comforting all the best she could with kindness and companionship.

In her free time, she was a generous person who often helped people less fortunate than herself. She could often be found baking cinnamon rolls and growing raspberries and flowers to give to friends.

After retirement, she remained active by attending her grandchildren's events, thrifting, participating in a book club, a woman's church fellowship and growing amazing gardens.

She treasured and bragged about her four children, 14 grandchildren, and three

great-grandchildren. Ed and Gloria attended every one of their children's and grandchildren's high school graduations, three grandchildren's weddings, and all but two college graduations. This was one of Gloria's proudest achievements. She was devoted and fiercely protective of her family.

She was proud of her family history, tracing one side to Pilgrims on the Mayflower, another side to Czechoslovakia, and beyond. She often was proud to say, "even though they weren't rich people, they felt their family was their wealth."

She is survived by two sisters, Helen Stevenson (Robert) Payson, Utah, and Virginia Frisbee, Basin, Wyoming; her four children, Brent (Ellen) Castle Rock, Colorado; Michelle Sundh (Marlon) Kalispell; Valerie Kouns (John) Kalispell; and Van (Heather) Twin Bridges; 14 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

She will be remembered for her singing, her love of God, her contagious laughter, her red hair and her love of flowers.

Our dear, sweet mother has been carried away by the angels and is now resting peacefully with her loved ones and God. She will be greatly missed by all that knew her.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Dec. 9, at the Buffalo Hills Terrace in Kalispell. The immediate family will hold a private interment service at Woodlawn Cemetery on a later date to be determined.

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