

## Catherine Rose Raff-Moore, 71

Catherine Rose Raff-Moore, 71, passed away on the morning of Oct. 19, 2023, at her home in Whitefish.

She was born in Butte on July 18, 1952. Her parents were George and Lillie Knapp.

She graduated from Whitefish High School and received a two year degree from the College of Great Falls. She was an insurance agent for many years. She enjoyed fishing and reading.

She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Rusty Cargil;



and grandson, Dillon.

She is survived by her husband, Duane Moore;

children, Scott and Keith Raff, Kimberly, Austin and Autumn Raff-Moore; granddaughter, Nikki; aunt, Betty Rickett; and numerous cousins.

At her request there will be no service at this time. A celebration of life will be held next spring.

## Robert 'Bob' Henry Rahn, 88

Robert "Bob" H. Rahn of Great Falls and Swan Lake, Montana, died peacefully in his sleep surrounded by his wife and children on Jan. 3, 2023. He was 88 years old.

Bob was born Aug. 3, 1934, in Great Falls to Robert L. and Gladys (Martin) Rahn. After graduating from Great Falls High School in 1952, he went to Minnesota to attend St. Thomas College.

While attending college at St. Thomas in Minnesota he was accepted into the U.S. Naval Aviation Program in Pensacola, Florida in 1955 and received his designation as a naval aviator on Aug. 1, 1956. He served in the United States Marines as an airplane and helicopter pilot. After his honorable discharge from the Marines, he and his first wife Glenda, a naval



nurse, moved back to Great Falls, where he took a job for the TV station KFBB as an advertising executive.

In 1957 Bob and Glenda

had a son, Tim (Ann) who had his granddaughter Rachel. Glenda passed away in Great Falls at the age of 25 in 1960 of complications of pneumonia.

In 1960, Bob met and married Charlotte (Prevost) and they had 4 children. Daughter, Patrice (Conley Lord) who had his grandchildren — Bridger, Zach, Carson and Austin. Daughter Colette (Rob Nelson) with daughter Lauren, son Riley and

the late lovely Sydney. Son Joe Rahn (Colleen) with grandchildren Jenna and Hunter. Daughter Michelle (Jim Haider) with grandchildren Jackson and Olivia and many great-grandchildren.

After KFBB he took a job selling advertising for the U.S. West Yellow pages in Great Falls where he retired in 1989. Bob started and ran his own franchise of ValPak of Montana until his second retirement in 1999. He and Charlotte lived at Swan Lake and traveled for many years until life slowed them down to stay up at Swan Lake until 2022. He was an avid Griz fan and Semper Fi to the end.

Bob was active in his church, Knights of Columbus, Optimist Club, and Advertising Club. He became an accomplished

carver in his later years. He loved his children, grandchildren, hunting, fishing, golf, carving, bad jokes, poker, boating and time spent at his place on Swan Lake. Bob is preceded in death by his first wife Glenda, parents, Robert L. and Gladys Rahn, sister Patricia Hebien, and granddaughter Sydney Stewart. Bob is survived by his wife Charlotte and his numerous children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; as well as their families and numerous loving nieces and nephews.

There will be a celebration of life for Bob in July of 2023, and a notice with further details will be posted nearer to that time. Simple Cremation Montana has assisted the family. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

## Tami Rasmussen-Heikes, 61

With great sadness, we announce that Tami Jo Rasmussen-Heikes passed away April 19 in Kalispell.

Tami was born Sept. 4, 1961 and spent most of her life in Northwest Montana and Idaho. She was passionate about music; she was a fixture in band at Whitefish High School, from which she graduated in 1979. Her voice was amazing and she shared it easily and often, singing for couples at dozens of weddings over the years. Scouting was also a big part of her life. As a youth, Tami received the Gold Award – the highest honor awarded by the Girl Scouts – and was a longtime leader to boys including her own in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Tami added life, fun and positive energy



wherever she went. She was a sweet, kind soul, playful yet rarely afraid to show a

little good-natured sass. She was truly in her element in the evening around a bonfire, where all of this would come into deep and insightful conversations. Tami was a beautiful woman, truly one-of-a-kind. Her presence here is and will always be deeply missed.

A wake in honor of Tami's life will be held by Tami's many friends and coworkers on Sunday, April 30 from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Gold Dust Casino, 1011 U.S. Hwy 2 W #100, Kalispell.

## Bonnie Ratterman, 72

Bonnie Mateka Ratterman, 72, died in St. George, Utah on Oct. 28, 2023. She was born on Nov. 21, 1950 to Elwyn (Mutt) and Mary (Ann) Mateka, joining an older brother, Gary, at the family home in Columbia Falls.

After attending schools in Columbia Falls and graduating from Columbia Falls High School, she attended the University of Montana where she earned her teaching degree. Her



elementary teaching was done in Evanston, Wyoming where she met her future husband, Greg Ratterman.

She enjoyed her years in kindergarten where her heart never graduated and held years of good memories for her.

After retirement they moved to St. George, to enjoy the warm weather

and sunshine atop the red rocks overlooking the city.

She is survived by Greg, at the family home; nephew, Terry; and family in Spokane; as well as countless children who loved her and called her "teacher."

She is preceded in death by her parents, Mutt and Ann; and her brother, Gary.

In lieu of flowers, it would be nice to remember Bonnie by hugging a kid, wearing your favor-

ite jewelry that sits in a box, shopping till you drop and ending the day with a cup of your favorite hot tea flavored with honey. Oh, yes, don't forget to eat the See's candy or that bag of dark chocolate peanut M&Ms, too.

A graveside inurnment for Bonnie will be held at Glacier Memorial Gardens in the spring.

Family and friends are invited to share condolences at: [www.SerenityStG.com](http://www.SerenityStG.com).



## Heinrich Ratz, 91



Heinrich "Henry" Ratz, 91, was delivered into the arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on July 29, 2023. He passed away in his sleep after

battling COPD and congestive heart failure for several years.

Henry was born April 20, 1932, in Deutsch Sitzk, Poland, to Martha (Krueger) and Wilhelm Ratz. He was the oldest of three children. His earliest memories were of growing up and surviving World War II. After the war, his family got into West Germany. Relatives in the U.S. sponsored the family and they immigrated to Whitefish in June of 1949.

He got a job working with the Great Northern Railroad on a track crew.

He learned English from his Italian crew chief and the crew of primarily Japanese American rail workers. He became a very good phonetic spell-er. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952 and was deployed to Korea in 1953. He became a natu-ralized U.S. citizen while in Korea in May 1954. He returned to Whitefish after his service and con-tinued working for Great Northern Railroad.

Henry married Adelheid "Heidi" Ratz on April 7, 1956, and settled in Whitefish shortly after. He then began working

as a custodian with the Whitefish School District eventually ending up at Muldown Elementary School where many former students remember him to this day. In 1977 he took a job with the City of Whitefish in the Street Department from where he retired in 1997.

He was a longtime member of St. Peter Lutheran Church and was involved with many activities at the church. He was a first-class tinkerer who enjoyed woodwork-ing and helping his wife maintain their vast flower and vegetable garden.

Henry is survived by his sons, Nathan (Lisa) Ratz and Peter (Teri) Ratz; grandchildren, Emily and Sarah; and Hannah, Nicholas and Elijah; and his brother and sister-in-law, Otto and Deanna Ratz.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Frieda, and his beloved wife of 63 years, Heidi. In lieu of flow-ers, the family requests donations be made to the North Valley Food Bank.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, at St. Peter Lutheran

Church in Whitefish. A visitation will start at 10 a.m. After services, a light lunch will be served at the church. Burial will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens at 1:30 p.m.

Austin Funeral and Cremation services in Whitefish is caring for Henry's family. Henry's family sends thanks to Senescence Care St. Thomas House and Big Sky Palliative and Hospice for the invaluable care they provided.

## Sterling Ray, 72

Sterling Ray, 72 of Whitefish, passed away on Sept. 4, 2023. He was born to Rupert Ray and Anne LeFevre on Dec. 28, 1950, in Pasadena, California.

He is survived by his brothers, Jeff and Chip Ray; his wife, Donna Ray; his son, Jameson Ray; his daughters, Amanda Ray and Rebecca Ray; and grand-daughter Olivia Ray.

He was a loving and giving soul with an amazing sense of humor.

His greatest passion was being a husband, father, and grandfather. He was a great friend to many.

His passion for golf was immense and he was a Marshall at Whitefish Golf Club for many summers. He also was a beloved substitute teacher at Whitefish Middle School and Whitefish High School.



He entered the film business in the 70's and had a prosper-ous career for many

years with a produc-tion company in Santa Monica, California. His love of film was only matched by his passion to mentor future film makers.

He was grounded in faith and God. He was an avid reader of all sub-jects and loved to share his wisdom with others, whether they were inter-ested or not. He had a gift of storytelling with a unique ability to bring humor and laughter in any situation.

Sterlings celebration of life will be held from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. on Sept. 15, at the Whitefish Lake Golf Club clubhouse.

## Thelma Louise Ray, 73

Thelma Louise Ray, 73, passed away on April 8, 2023, at Logan Health in Kalispell.

Thelma was born to Roy and Frances Owings in Lewistown.

In June of 1972, Thelma and Alvin Ray married. They raised their four children, proudly supporting each child's every endeavor.

Alvin and Thelma most recently lived in Kalispell, where they have resided for the last 11 years.

Prior to Kalispell, Thelma and Alvin lived in Lincoln, spanning 40 years. Many great memories were created during that time with

large family gatherings in their home.

Thelma had numerous jobs through her lifetime but is remembered as a loving mother, quilter, homemaker and a follower of Christ.

Thelma is survived by her mother, Frances Owings; her brother, Skip Owings; her loving husband, Alvin Ray and their children, Rita (Tyler), Allen (Marj), Vicki (Joel), Wade (Richann); and 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

No services are planned at this time.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Keith Raykowski, 66

Keith Raykowski passed away Feb. 1, 2023, after a nearly 7 year battle with Younger Onset Alzheimer's disease. By the saving grace of his merciful God, Keith is now fully restored and in the loving arms of Jesus.

Keith was a man of seemingly endless energy and was known for his sense of humor. He was quick to laugh and could tell a joke or story like a professional storyteller, which often resulted in a bonding of family and friends as Keith would invite others to join in the acts. Keith's life was an example of his strong faith by loving God, his family and others. He always put others before himself by serving in many different community and church ministries. He had empathy for others and was generous with his time and resources. He never sat still and always got the job done. He loved kids, was creative, had a great sense of adventure and was loved by everyone who knew him. He brought tremendous joy, encouragement and optimism to many people.

Keith was born at Offutt Air Force Base to Dr. Harley and Betty Raykowski in 1956. While still an infant, his family moved to Missoula. The Raykowski family loved the outdoors. They spent a lot of time in Glacier National Park and at their "lake place" at Flathead Lake. Keith was also active in sports and Boy Scouts, where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

After graduating from Sentinel High School in Missoula and continuing through college at the University of Montana, Keith worked four summers in Glacier National



Park. He eventually found himself working as a tour guide in Denali National

Park, where he met the love of his life. Keith met Laura in Denali in 1979 and they were married in 1981.

Keith and Laura were blessed with two sons, Brian and Tim. While the boys were quite young, the family spent four more summers in Denali National Park. Keith was again a tour guide, which was a good summer job for a young teacher. After Keith became a school psychologist, they moved to Omak, Washington and in 2011 moved back to Montana.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Steve. He is survived by his wife Laura, his son Brian (Rosemary) and his son Tim. He also leaves behind two wonderful grandsons, Weston and Lane. He's also survived by his brother David; aunts; uncles and cousins. He's also survived by his many beloved in-laws: his mother-in-law, brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held in Keith's honor Friday, Feb. 17 at 5 p.m. at Calvary Chapel Whitefish. It will be available for live streaming at [ccwhitefish.com](http://ccwhitefish.com).

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." — John 3:16.

Austin Funeral & Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for Keith's family.



## Ruth A. Reetz, 68

Our dear Ruth Anne Reetz was born on August 5, 1954, in Rockford, Illinois, to Harold and Amy Mae Reetz. The youngest sister of Nancy and Cathy.

She passed away late in the night of June 11, 2023, at Brendan House, in Kalispell. She had her favorite solar-powered full-colored turtles on display and piano music playing softly in the background. Her dear friend, and Angel, Cheryl Hueneke was by her side.

She graduated from High School in Rockford, Illinois, then moved to Montana when she was 17 years old and never left.

She was well known in the medical community, as she had worked in several doctors' offices and around the hospital.

She was hired at the hospital by her dear friend Phyllis Bogdane. She just made her 25th anniversary, with what is now called Logan Health Medical Center.

She had seen many, many changes in her time, during which she held various jobs. She had worked in many jobs from a health unit clerk (HUC), to a scanner for medical records, which she loved, to an insurance biller for secondary claims, to a telehealth sitter at the end of her career, with many other jobs in between.

She was always a quick wit, never passing up a chance to make



someone laugh. An avid dog lover, she had many beloved dogs which brought

much joy to her life. One never saw Ruthie in a bad mood, nor did we ever hear her speak ill of someone else.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Amy Reetz; her sister, Cathy McComb; her nephew, Russell McComb; various aunts, uncles and cousins, including Ross Holcomb.

She is survived by her sister, Nancy Hillman of Illinois; and nieces Lori Hillman and Shannon McComb; her auntie, Wilma Jones. As well as many local cousins in Flathead valley, including Bruce Jones and wife Jacquie; Helen Tyree and husband Darrin; Brenda Carper and husband Brian, and a host of others within the United States and abroad.

Ruth's farewell party will take place at 4 p.m. on June 30th, at the VFW in Kalispell, 330 1st Ave West.

The family would like to thank all her caregivers for the kindness and empathy everyone showed to our dear Ruthie during her hospitalization, and stay at Brendan House. Each and every one of you are Angels on Earth.

## Richard "Dick" Reilly, 77

Dick died peacefully on Aug. 16, 2023, at Logan Health Center in Whitefish due to natural causes. He was born April 9, 1946, in Great Falls, Montana, to Earl J. Reilly and Ada (O'Neill) Reilly.

He was the eldest of three children born to the couple. His early childhood was lived in and around Lewistown, Montana, and he recalled this time fondly. Most children at the time had either a pet dog or cat, Dick and his brothers had a pet deer. When Dick got older, his family moved to Anaconda, Montana, where he graduated high school.

After high school, he attended Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, as an Education major. He left MSU and enlisted in the US Army where he spent two years

stationed in Germany. After an honorable discharge, he joined the Montana National guard and worked as a union carpenter in construction. In 1974, he married Barbara Jasmin and had two children. They later divorced.

In the early 80s, he changed careers and began working for the State of Montana Highway Department as a Right of Way agent until retirement. In 1994, he met and began a

relationship with Isaura "Sally" Hanley.

Dick and Sally loved to travel, they would spend their weekends at a cabin on Flathead Lake and vacations traveling abroad. When he retired from work, they became snowbirds, traveling to warmer weather in their RV for the winter and returning home to Missoula, to enjoy the Montana summers.

They eventually decided to buy a little place in Yuma, Arizona, and would make it their winter residence. They continued to be snowbirds together until sadly, Sally lost her battle with cancer in 2014.

Dick continued to split the year between Yuma, and Whitefish, for another seven years until health issues forced him to give up travel. The last few years his health began to decline forcing him to stay in Whitefish, and finally Columbia Falls.

He is survived by his brothers, and their families. He is also survived by his two children; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A memorial for Dick will take place at the Lawrence Park Pavilion in Kalispell, on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023. The memorial will begin at noon, friends and family are encouraged to come. There will be a lite luncheon provided.



## Hans Christian Rensel, 54

Hans Christian Rensel was born the second son of Richard and Sharon Rensel on Dec. 3, 1968. Raised in West Glacier, he attended West Glacier Elementary where his Dad was a teacher before transitioning to Columbia Falls for junior high and high school. Spending his weekends hunting or skiing with Mike Strouse, he graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1987. The family property where he was raised held a special place in Hans' heart; making memories with his Dad hunting and working the land.

Shortly after graduation at age 19, Hans would be hired by UPS as the youngest full-time driver on record. Not an easy schedule at any age, Hans would excel at his career, getting to know every client he delivered to, often giving his personal cell number to ensure no one went without their medication or receiving their holiday gifts on time. Clients quickly became friends, and would call with concern if he ever took a day off! He reached retirement just over two years ago after 33 years of service and earning the rare 25 Years of Safe Driving record bestowed upon only 0.01% of employees. Even after retiring, his coworkers knew he could be counted on for helpful advice and the "right" route to take anywhere in the Flathead Valley.

Hans finally met the love of his life, Tangie Dickinson, in September of 1996. Her family quickly wrapped their arms around the kind, patient man who had captured their daughter's heart. With them, he gained an extended family — the size of which he could never have imagined.

The pair were married by Pastor Bent on May 12, 2001, in a gorgeous cere-

mony at Christ Lutheran Church surrounded by family and friends.

They started their journey as parents in 2003 when their daughter, McKenna, was born. Hans was enamored with her beauty and added her middle name, Skye, as a tribute to his love for



the blue Montana skies. He was always filled with awe for his firstborn, the one that made

him a Dad.

Demye Loren arrived in 2005 filled with her father's determination and fire and quickly became Daddy's little sidekick. He will forever be her biggest (but quietest) fan.

When their son was born and immediately had the Rensel mischievous grin and twinkle in his eyes, Christian Richard was the perfect name to honor his father. Hans would share countless fishing and hunting adventures with his son, just like his father had done for him. He had found his outdoor adventure partner in crime.

Hans and Tangie would build their life on 10 acres off Kuzmic Lane where they could enjoy the outdoors, a bit of privacy, and instill their work ethic upon their children. Neighbors knew that Hans was just a phone call away and they could rely on him to look after their property and always lend a helping hand.

If ever a man could be as tough as nails and soft-hearted at the same time, it was Hans. He could cut a load of firewood faster than anyone and remember to pick his wife wild trilliums for Mother's Day. Every year. He could reach his hands into a burning fire to rotate a log and bring his mother-in-law flowers on her birthday. Every year. He always stood up for what was right, yet he melted with pride at the mere mention of his beautiful family. He held his family at the heart of every decision he made and loved

them beyond measure.

"Love you more" was his favorite goodbye phrase.

Hans will be remembered by his friends and family as a fantastic storyteller, the master of music trivia, someone you could always go to for advice, an avid gun collector, loyal, and as

honest as the day is long.

As we all grieve the loss of his huge presence and contagious, booming laughter, we take comfort knowing he spent his final hours on a mountain, gun in hand, doing what he loved with his son by his side. Tangie, McKenna, Demye, and Christian will remember their beloved husband and father from memories they made in the outdoors — downhill skiing, hunting, fishing, and camping, their family vacations to Hawaii and Alaska, and simply sitting around the family fire. As Hans would tell them, GLYASDI, God Loves You And So Do I. Hans stands now with God and his Dad, scoping out the next meadow just beyond the next ridge.

Hans is preceded in death by both parents, Richard and Sharon Rensel; uncles Jack and Bill Rensel; and Aunt Neen Rensel.

Hans is survived by his wife, Tangie, and children McKenna, Demye and Christian; his brother, Bear, and wife, Michelle, with children Jacob and Jaclyn; In-laws Phil and Susan Dickinson; brothers and sisters-in-law Collin and Trenea Mitts with son, Matthew; Scott and Tricia Rodgers with sons Kamron and wife, Chloe; and Nathan; family members from Pennsylvania, Eric and Suzanne Rensel and family; Sue and Denny Shaffner and family; and Dave and Wendy Yohe and family; Oklahoma relatives Dusty and Candi Dove with Rowdy and Tasha and their families; Shirley Rensel and family in Utah, and the many friends he made along the way. Never forget, if you were his friend, to him you were his family and there was nothing more important than family.

Services will be held at Christ Lutheran Church on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 4 p.m. Please attend and share a story or two about Hans.

In lieu of flowers, an account has been established at Whitefish Credit Union as a trust for the Rensel children.



## Beth Ann Repke, 65

On Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023, Beth Ann Repke, 65, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family whom she cared for and loved with all her heart.

She will be forever missed by her husband, John Repke; and their three children, Rachel (Jack) Thompson of Whitefish, Meredith (Adam) Repke of Missoula, and Jack (Alexandra) Repke of Missoula; her grandchildren, Audrey and A.J. Thompson, and Hope Repke. She is also survived by her mother, Henrietta Kemper-Keith of Bentonville, Arizona; father, Donald Owings of Bloomington, Indiana; sister, Linda (Denver) Beatty of Houston, Texas; and brother Luke (Amber) Owings of Bloomington.

She was born Nov. 25, 1957, in Bloomington. She moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado in high school and later met John, her husband of 43 years, while attending



Ohio State University. She earned a bachelor's degree from OSU in home economics.

Her passions were sewing, quilting, cooking and interior design, starting with 4H as a child and continuing throughout her life.

After marrying in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1980 John and Beth moved to Gillette, Wyoming; Castle Rock, Colorado; Littleton, Colorado; and then Naperville, Illinois; where they spent 25 years raising their family. She was a member of P.E.O. Chapter NE and later Chapter BR, and was active in a number of community organizations.

In 2013, John and Beth moved to Whitefish, Montana, full time where they enjoyed hiking and biking in Glacier National Park, canoeing on Blanchard Lake, and

traveling with friends. As much as she enjoyed these activities, her favorite activity by far was doting on her grandchildren.

She bravely fought her pancreatic cancer diagnosis for 14 months, seeking treatment at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland, and Logan Health in Kalispell. She gave us all the time she could. Thank you to all of the nurses, doctors and friends who went above and beyond to care for Beth.

A celebration of life will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Whitefish Lake Restaurant, 1200 Highway 93 North, Whitefish. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that those who are able instead make a donation to P.E.O. Chapter BR (contact Treasurer Leslee Washer washer51@icloud.com) or Stumptown Art Studio ([www.stumptownartstudio.org](http://www.stumptownartstudio.org)). To send online condolences, please visit [www.austinfh.com](http://www.austinfh.com).



### Mary Jo "Mitzi" Rice, 68

Mary Jo "Mitzi" Rice, 68, passed away in her sleep on Nov. 25, 2023, in Fort Collins, Colorado, where she and husband Dixon spent Thanksgiving with their oldest son, Devin.



chair. One of her best friends from college, Andy Rice, introduced her to his older

brother in Moose's Saloon, and on June 25, 1983, she married Dixon Rice and they made their home in Kalispell.

She belonged to Risen Christ Catholic Church in Evergreen, and was active in a number of Flathead Valley nonprofit groups. About 25 years ago, she became owner of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, and prided herself on assembling a caring and competent staff.

She was diagnosed with Parkinson's nearly 15 years ago and fought hard against that progressive and incurable disease, get-

ting involved in exercise and Tai Chi classes and Rock Steady Boxing workouts. In recent years, her husband Dixon became her full-time caregiver so she was able to stay at home.

She is survived by her husband, Dixon at the family home; two daughters, Shannon Wilkinson and her husband Troy in Las Vegas, and Megan Hollenkamp and her husband Logan in Eagan, Minnesota; two sons, Devin Rice and his partner Becca in Fort Collins, Colorado and Jared Rice in Minneapolis; grandchildren, Mackenzie, Kayleigh and Abigail Wilkinson in Las Vegas, and Calvin, Rose and Olive Hollenkamp in Eagan; and multitudes of cousins, friends and former students.

Visitation and viewing

will take place Friday Dec. 1, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Buffalo Hill Funeral Home in Kalispell, followed by a Rosary. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday Dec. 2, at 11 a.m. at Risen Christ Catholic Church in Evergreen, with Fr. Stanislaw Rog officiating. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Mitzi loved children and so the family encourages contributions in her memory to an educational or youth charity of your choice.

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.

### Thomas 'Tom' Sears Rich, 85



Thomas "Tom" Sears Rich, 85, passed away June 14, 2023 at Logan Health in Kalispell, at the age of 85. He was the oldest child of the late Dr. James Sears and Josephine (Bouchard) Rich, born Feb. 1, 1938 in Effingham, Illinois.

He was preceded in death by his in-laws, Percy and Helen Speed. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (Betsy); their two sons, Joseph of Queens, New York, and James (Maura) of Omaha, Nebraska; his granddaughter, Margaret Leah of Omaha, Nebraska; his sister, Jeanne (Bob) Clark of Bothell, Washington.

After moving about during World War II with his parents, in 1948 Tom went to Lexington, Kentucky. Graduating from University High in 1956, lettering in basketball, track, swimming and band. Tom having held his first chair in trumpet, was in all-state band one

ed Boys State which was sponsored by the American Legion.

Tom graduated in 1960, from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, with a BA in chemistry. While in college he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and an eminent scribe. He graduated with BSChE (chemical engineering) from the University of Kentucky in 1965.

After serving two years in the Army as PFC in Huntsville, Alabama (Army Missile Command). He married Elizabeth

year, as well as a glee club member. He held positions of vice president of the senior class and president of student council, and attend-

ed Boys State which was sponsored by the American Legion. Tom graduated in 1960, from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, with a BA in chemistry. While in college he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and an eminent scribe. He graduated with BSChE (chemical engineering) from the University of Kentucky in 1965.

After serving two years in the Army as PFC in Huntsville, Alabama (Army Missile Command). He married Elizabeth

in 1965 in Lexington, Kentucky, and worked as registered chemical engineer at Pennwalt Corp. in Calvert City, Kentucky from 1965 until 1973. Duties included, engineering, production, R & D and maintenance. He became a member of Management Club and was secretary for one term. Also during his time with Pennwalt, he won the company golf trophy one year. Attending graduate school in Nashville, Tennessee in 1973. Tom was awarded a master's degree in social work in 1975. He then worked at the Nashville Veterans Administration Hospital for 25 years until retirement in 2000 as coordinator of Nursing Home Program Inspections. He was assistant scout master for BSA Troop 42 for many years, and also a volunteer in the prison reading program.

He was a volunteer

for Crisis Intervention Center and awarded their first community service award. He held the position of secretary for the Metro Social Service Club, and was a member of NASW. He served several years as board member of the Tennessee Writers Alliance, published many poems in literary magazines and his work was nominated for the 2002 Pushcart Prize.

Tom and Betsy moved to West Glacier in 2002 to retire. He was an avid golfer, fisherman, and hiker, shooting his age of 71 on June 10, 2009. He attended St. Richards Parish.

Tom's service will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 21 at St. Richards Parish. With burial at St. Richards Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Red Cross and/or American Cancer Foundation.



## Carol Luke Richmond, 88

Carol Luke Richmond, 88, was born Oct. 28, 1934, to Leroy "Bud" and Vivian Luke, of Kalispell. She passed away on March 31, 2023, in Kalispell. She grew up in the West Valley area and attended Bald Rock School, graduating from Flathead High School in 1952.

She met her future husband Harold Richmond in grade school and they were married on July 14, 1953. From this marriage was born Sandra (Floyd)

Quiram, Connie (Tim) Clark, Keith and Kevin Richmond. Carol was a wonderful mom, grandma, great-grandma, cook, gardener and canner. She worked as a bookkeeper over the years and retired from Fred Meyer.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Harold; her brothers, Cliff, Bill and Ralph; her sister-in-law, Roberta Luke; and her granddaughter, Brittany Richmond.

She is survived by her brother, Duane (Elenie);

her sisters-in-law, Lynda, Luke and Betty Visser. As well as 11 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives, and special friends Marla Richmond and Louise Porteous.

Carol's private family graveside service will take place at 11 a.m. on June 24, at Conrad Memorial Cemetery. With a Celebration of Life at Blaine Creek Events from 1-4 p.m. We plan to do a potluck so please bring your favorite dish or dessert, and stories to share.

## James 'Bud' Harold Ridenour Jr., 85

James "Bud" Harold Ridenour, Jr., 85, of Coram, passed away July



9, 2023. He was born June 30, 1938, in Kalispell, to the late James Harold Ridenour, Sr. and Edna M. Ridenour (Seville). Bud attended school in both West Glacier and

Columbia Falls.

A celebration of James "Bud" Harold Ridenour, Jr.'s life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, at Columbia Mortuary, 1010 Fourth Ave. W., Columbia Falls. Family and friends may begin to visit on Saturday starting at 1 p.m.

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

## Michael "Mikey" J. Riedinger, 64

Michael "Mikey" J. Riedinger, 64 of Kalispell, passed away unexpectedly as a result of a motorcycle accident Oct. 14, 2023. He was born in Kalispell on Aug. 28, 1959, to Jane Riedinger.



her four brothers and sisters. His late father-in-law Hank welcomed him as one of his own

and quickly assigned him as his crew chief for his Bonneville Salt Flats racing team.

In 1998 Mike was able to meet his only son Jeremy from a relationship he had had when he was younger, the two of them instantly bonded over their same love for fast cars. Mike and Melanie welcomed their daughter, Aurora in 2001.

He loved spending time with his family and friends, and anywhere he would go he would always make new friends, which he considered as family. Mike was the family man everyone wanted and enjoyed being with, he took great pride and joy in being "dad" to his own children and all their friends.

In 2004 Mike gained a new title as grandpa, and he was ecstatic. You could catch him playing Matchbox cars and digging in the dirt with his grandkids and always excited to hear their stories and display their artwork. He has always been so proud of his children and grandchildren and would brag to all he met

becoming the assistant manager. Over the years he worked other various jobs such as working for S and S campers for 20 years and Bergerson's RV. These jobs allowed him to use his amazing mechanic skills. He was a simple man with a heart of gold and was always willing to lend a helping hand to those who needed his assistance.

After the passing of his wife Melanie in 2021, he decided it was time to fulfill his dream of moving down south and becoming a snowbird. So, in 2022 Mike and his loyal black lab Hank loaded up in their RV and made the trek to Mesquite, Arizona, where the two of them made friends instantly, with all. Quickly, he became the go-to mechanic in the RV park assisting anyone who needed repairs or maintenance.

He is survived by his children; son, Jeremy (Shawnel) Turner; daughters, Destiny (Brad) Townsend, Mikelle (Waylin) Eckley, Aurora Riedinger; grandchildren, Zayden, Abbigail, Arlo, Willow, Parker, Danny, Audrey, Christopher and Wesley; siblings, Patty Swanberg, Art (Mary) Riedinger, Jed (Kanisa) Lawshe, Hawke (Amanda) Lawshe, Kim Lawshe and Jodi (Alfred) Marsh; as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jane Riedinger; brother, Richard; sisters, Joanne and Bonnie; his wife, Melanie; and so many other loved ones taken too soon.

Mike's celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Oct. 28, at the Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with a reception immediately following at the Eagles in Kalispell.

Friends are encouraged to visit our website, [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.

Being the youngest of six children by nearly 20 years he grew up alongside his 11 nieces and nephews creating a bond that was unmatched. His older nephew David would get all the boys together and teach them how to race around the Fourmile track in his '49 Desoto. His eldest brother, Richard introduced him and his nephew Jan into the world of racing cars and mechanics at an early age, which became a life-long passion.

As young teenagers Mike and Jan built a stock car and would race it at the local racetrack off Lasalle. The two boys later sold the car when a gentleman made them an offer for the car they couldn't refuse. Every Saturday night you could find him at the local speedway as part of his brother Richard's pit crew, and it wasn't long before Mike was behind the wheel racing himself in the bomber class and had a pit crew of his own. He later discovered the love of racing the quarter mile in his '69 Chevelle and other muscle cars over the years.

If he wasn't racing you could find him dragging Main Street or showing off his '67 Camaro at any car show or in his garage rebuilding hot rods and tinkering on various projects.

He was introduced to his high school sweetheart, Sandy Lyon, through his nephew Tony. The two were married in 1978. Together they welcomed daughters Destiny in 1979 and Mikelle in 1987. Later divorcing in 1989, they remained friends throughout his lifetime.

In 1991 Mike married Melanie Lawshe and quickly became part of her family, gaining the love of her parents, and

of how lucky he was to have them.

He was always a man of adventure and wild shenanigans. One of his favorite things to do was attend Rockin' the Rivers with his friends. Over the last couple of years he lived his life to the fullest and was the happiest he'd been in a long time. He always made the best of any situation and wore a smile on his face.

He always had a strong work ethic and one of his first jobs as a teen was moving irrigation pipe for a local farmer. After high school he took a job at the aluminum plant in Columbia Falls, later moving on to Les Schwab (Northwestern Tires) and



## James William Robbins, 95

James William Robbins was born on March 2, 1928, in San Francisco, California, to Hugh and Lucy Robbins. He passed away on Aug. 20, 2023, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

He joined the Navy after Pearl Harbor as a medical technician, he was stationed in Hawaii. His enlistment ended in Seattle, Washington, and he attended the University of Washington. He sold Real Estate and owned his own Service Station with many side businesses.

He married the late Georgia (Jo) Quartman, and they had two children, Jeffrey (Marci) and Georgiann (Jan) and her husband, Stephen, both



deceased. Grandson Carson lives in Shoreline, Washington. Then he married the late, Tina Norton, who brought two children to the marriage, the late Richard (Rick) Norton II; and Carole Smythe and husband George. Many grandchildren and great-grandchildren were added.

He married Barbara McLain on November 10, 1990, and she has two children, Lynn Friede (Dan) and Matthew

McLain plus many more grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was a fisherman extraordinaire, hunter world-wide, golfer (one hole-in-one), proud veteran, trap shooter, hunting and fishing guide, Washington Husky fan, Seattle Seahawk and Mariners fan, San Francisco 49ers fan, tennis and pickleball player, very smooth dancer besides being a family man and friend. He belonged to many organizations.

He is survived by his sister, Roslynn Hughes of Texas; out-laws; and in-laws. Many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

He recently was baptized and professed his faith in God.

The family would like to thank all the Doctors, Nurses, CNAs and staff at the Montana Vets Home for their TLC.

A celebration of James life open house will be held Sept. 2, at the Trinity Lutheran Church fellowship hall from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, come and remember who Bill was to you.

A celebration of life in Seattle will be held at a later time. Any memorials can be made to a charity of your choice.

"All throughout Montana and Washington, the fish will sleep easier tonight."

## Colleen Ryan Kate Robinson, 71

Colleen Ryan Kate Robinson, 71, after a short time in Hospice Care, passed away on Nov. 3, 2023.

She was born on Nov. 29, 1951 in Fort Benton, Montana. She lived in many places but returned to Whitefish to be around her children and grandchildren.

She graduated from Fort Benton High and attended the University of Montana. She served as a flight attendant with United Airlines and volunteered at the Children's Hospital in Denver.

Many friends surrounded her, she loved



talking about her grandchildren and loved the many dogs she had throughout her life.

She is survived by her son, Brittan; daughter, Jordan; five grandchildren; father, Don Robinson; and sisters, Becca Robinson and Renee Augustine.

She is preceded by her mother, Carley Robinson.

A celebration of Colleen's life will be held in the spring of 2024 in Montana.

## Lois Robinson, 87

Lois Ann (Collins) Robinson, 87, a lifelong Flathead Valley resident, retired teacher and outdoorswoman, died Jan. 17, 2023, of natural causes at The Springs Assisted Living in Whitefish.

Lois was born May 9, 1935 in Half Moon, Montana (former lumber company town near Columbia Falls) to Ralph and Anna (Vattendahl) Collins. She married John Robinson in 1953 and they spent their entire lives living in the Bigfork community. Lois was a graduate of the University of Montana and taught Home Economics at Bigfork High School for several years. Lois was an active



person and a hard worker. She enjoyed Bible study, cooking, sewing and homemaking and was a capable woodsman and horsewoman. She was knowledgeable in local and Montana history and had a great memory for names, places, and events.

Lois was predeceased by her husband John in 1994 as well as her brother Lowell and sister Mary Lou. She is survived by her daughters, Jerrian, Jewell, and Lisa; sons-in-law, Boone Jones,

Cliff Benjamin and Andy Kelly; sisters Carol, Alice, and Margerey; brother-in-law Donald "Bud" Robinson; 8 grandchildren and their spouses; 17 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and many friends and neighbors.

A funeral service will be held Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., followed by a catered buffet luncheon. Location: Hilton Garden Inn, 1840 Hwy 93 South, Kalispell. A private family burial will take place at the Lone Pine Cemetery in Bigfork.

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



## Beverly Ann (Jenkins) Robison, 70

Beverly Ann (Jenkins) Robison, 70, surrounded by her family after a long fight against MS, went up to run with her angels on May 6.

She was born on June 28, 1952, in Chouteau to Richard and Mary Jenkins. She was the first baby born in the new Chouteau hospital.

She lived on the family farm in Fort Shaw and later moved to Bigfork, where she graduated from high school in 1970. While attending Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, she competed nationally on the famed Mountaintettes track and field team, for which she was a hurdler and high jumper.

She met the love of her life, Ryan Robison, in 1972, and they were married in 1975. They went on to have three amazing children and raised them in Polson. She always had an open door and a hot meal for her kids' friends growing up.

Beverly was most happy outside, catching perch on the lake or boating. She was an avid slalom water skier and the best boat driver for tubing. She loved to watch her children and grandchildren at their various sporting events and was always one of their loudest fans. Perfectly decorated Christmas cookies and sweets were her specialty. When a family birthday rolled around, Grandma Bevy was the



woman in charge of making the cake.

Ryan and Bev loved to go two-step

and jitterbug dancing. Highly competitive, she hated to lose to Ryan in cribbage, or in any game for that matter. They played every night at dinner and always had a running bet.

Beverly was an inspiration to all with her mental strength during such a challenging illness. She fought for as long as she could to be with her beautiful family and so she could get to know her grandkids.

Bev is survived by her loving husband, Ryan Robison; her three children, David Robison (Ashlee), Darin Robison (Kati O'Toole), and Dana Springer (Cliff); her grandchildren, Madeline, Mark, Cooper, Rowan, Ry, Beau, and Harley.

She is also survived by her siblings, Beth Trent (Tim), Bonny Hanson (Lonny), Ted Jenkins (Cindy), and Jesse Wade (Jeff); and her many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A private ceremony for friends and family will be held this summer.

## Joe Rogers, 81

Joseph Sullivan Rogers, of Coram, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Dec. 30, 2022.

He was born on Sept. 1, 1941, in Washington, D.C., the only child of Joseph and Lucille Rogers. He joined the Marines at age 17 and served a tour in the Mediterranean Sea. After his service, he started Rogers and Ford Construction Company in 1972 in Boca Raton, Florida. He quickly became one of the most successful contractors and builders in South Florida, building substantial commercial and residential projects throughout the state. He was known for his high-quality work, innovation in the industry, and his wise business skills.

In 1975, Joe bought a large farm in Coram with the dream of making it his permanent home. He cherished the quiet nature of Glacier National Park and the natural beauty of the Flathead Valley. In 1982, he made Montana his home with his wife, Mary Linda Rogers. The two have been a part of the Valley community and active members of Canyon Community Church for the last 40 years. Joe and Mary Linda operated Heartwood, a guest ranch, for most of their years in Montana; while managing a large, blend-



ed family of 8 children, including two adopted daughters. Joe was a lover

of animals and owned dogs, cats, horses, mules, goats, chickens, rabbits and other animals he would rescue. Guests through the years were treated to mule rides with a menagerie of beloved dogs, campfires, and peaceful times in the beautiful surroundings. Joseph and Mary Linda always strived to make the ranch as much a home for their guests as it was for them.

He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Mary Linda Rogers.

Joseph is survived by his children, Regina Ryan, Joseph Rogers Jr., Sean Ryan, Sandy Rogers Greenfield, Brandon Ryan, Jennifer Rogers Maggiore, Elizabeth Rogers and Jessica Rogers Fern; 22 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren and dear friend Tanner Johnson.

He was a gentle and compassionate man who positively impacted so many people. He will be wonderfully remembered but sorely missed by those he left behind.

A memorial service will be held at Glacier Homestead in Coram, Montana on July 1 at 2 p.m.



## Eileen Rollins, 86

Eileen Marie Bucher, born Nov. 23, 1936, the oldest daughter of Valley and Hildegard Bucher, passed on Aug. 31, 2023, at the Swedish Hospital.

She is survived by her four children, Curtis (Maria) Kirkland, Wanda (Gary) Gilham, Clinton Kirkland, Tina (Gary) Wolford; grandchildren, Jye (Sarah) and great-grandchildren, Christiana, Laila and Devlin McDowell; Catherine McDowell and great-grandchild, Bentley; Justin Shields and great-grandchild, Laney; Amber Shields and great-grandchild, Mathew; Jacob Harris; Nathaniel (Jamee) and great-grandchild, Brennan; Clifford (Jaime) and great-grandchildren, Jordan and Aurora Gilham, and Mirage Klinger; Krysten (Janette) Danet and great-grandchild, Ivy Danet; as well as sister, Rita Boss.

She is preceded in death by her husband,



Arvil Rollins; parents, Valley and Hildegard; and siblings Larry,

Ida, Martha, Allen and Eugene.

Eileen was the oldest of seven. She enjoyed crafting, cooking, sewing, and genealogy through the LDS Church. She was able to do pretty much do anything. She had a beautiful smile and always helped out.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Oct. 28, at the Johnson Funeral Home, 525 S. Main St., Kalispell, Montana 59901. With a reception to follow at 12:30 p.m., at the LDS church, 1380 Whitefish Stage Road, Kalispell.

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

## Charles 'Chuck' Rorvik, 89

Charles "Chuck" Rorvik, died peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 3, 2023 at 89 years old.



Born in Montana in 1933, Chuck grew up on a farm and learned to be innovative when it came to repairing broken-down vehicles or farm equipment and other problems around the farm.

Chuck served in the Army during the Korean War. After his discharge, he attended college and graduated as an engineering geologist. He worked in the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation where one of the highlights of his career included his service during the third phase construction of Grand Coulee Dam.

A gifted artist, Chuck created watercolor and



oil paintings, wood carvings, stoneware, and other media. His imagination and skill had no limits.

The marriage of Chuck and his wife counted more than 30 years filled with fun, love, and adventure, including hiking and beachcombing on Long Beach peninsula and Chuck breaking snowshoeing trails for the two of them in Glacier National Park.

Chuck is survived by his wife and soulmate, Shirley; his adult daughters, Dawn, Holly, and Sonya; and his adult stepsons Rick and Tim.

A memorial service will be held at a later date, after this Montana winter has disappeared.



## Robert 'Bob' Ross, 88

Robert "Bob" D. Ross, 88, passed away on Sept. 22, 2023, in Kalispell. He was born on July 7, 1935, in Kalispell.

Bob grew up with a deep connection to the forests of Northwest Montana. In high school he spent his summers working for the Forest Service clearing trails and manning lookouts. He believed the Forest Service was going to be his life's path.

At the age of 19 that path would change when he felt a strong calling into full-time ministry. He attended North Central Bible College, graduated in 1956, and married Roberta Cutsforth. Together, they embarked on their ministry journey, starting in a small church in Northern Wisconsin. Bob's ministry took him to Hungry Horse, Billings, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisc., and eventually back home to the Flathead Valley where he pastored Christian Center (now Canvas) for 22 years.

During their years of ministry Bob and Roberta traveled to Alaska, Canada, Africa, Guatemala, Finland, Brazil, Indonesia and Belgium to support the work of local missionaries.

Even after his retirement in 1998, Bob remained actively involved in supporting the local church and World Missions through writing, teaching and preaching. He was known as a man of integrity, dedicated to God, his family, and the people touched by his ministry. Bob was committed to the study and preaching of God's word while being approachable and willing to listen



and learn from those around him. Bob had a passion for the outdoors and

enjoyed hiking, fishing, hunting, and woodworking. His love for reading made him a "life-long learner."

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Roberta Ross; his son, Ronald Ross (and Debbie); his daughter, Rachel Herbert (and Cliff); grandchildren, Breann Schulte (and Aaron), Nathan Ross (and Kristi), Brittany Libby (and Craig), Chaemous Herbert (and Ashley), Collin Ross (and Lindsey); and great-grandchildren, Joshua, Josiah, Trinity, Isaac Ross, Lilly Schulte, Tucker and Cedar Herbert. He is also survived by his sisters, Norma Fredrick and Betty Nolan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore and Esther Ross; his brother, Kenneth Ross; and his grandson, Justin Ross.

A celebration of life will be held at Canvas Church, 255 Summit Ridge Dr, Kalispell, MT 59901, on Wednesday, Sept. 27. Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by the service at 10:30 a.m.

Contributions can be made to Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM.org) or A Ray of Hope Homeless Shelter (arayofhopemontana.com).

The Johnson Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell is assisting the family with the arrangements.

## James "Jim" Donald Roth, 77

James "Jim" Donald Roth, 77, of Columbia Falls, passed away June 13, 2023. He was born Nov. 5, 1945, to the late Donald Louis Roth and Helen Mary Hale in Milwaukee.

He was an adventurer and entrepreneur and moved to Montana with his wife and young children in the winter of 1979.

Soon after arriving in the Flathead Valley, he opened Northwestern Tire, and spent the next two decades working and overseeing his thriving business. Upon retirement from that work, he found a lucrative way to enjoy his passion for flying by working as a char-



ter pilot. Although he was a hard worker, he always found time to enjoy his hobbies including hunting, fishing, shooting and traveling. Enjoying the lakes and mountains of Montana.

He portrayed a tough exterior, earning the high school moniker "tough guy," but he had a heart for those in need and gave generously to multiple charities.

He also had a soft spot for his grandchildren and made it a point to attend their sporting events,

concerts, and special celebrations.

He was a proud Marine Corps sergeant and served an extended tour in Vietnam.

He was also a beloved father and the oldest of 7 siblings. His children and siblings all looked up to him and he was as quick with advice as he was with a joke or a witty jab. We will miss his humor, wisdom, ingenuity and strength.

He is survived by his children, Jeff, Lisa (Gorman), Nikki and Mike; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. His brothers, Terry, Tommy, Ricky and Billy; his sisters, Cindy (Frank) and Patty (Leavitt); as

well as numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Jim is preceded in death by wife, Carla.

A viewing for Jim will be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 22, 2023, at Columbia Mortuary, 1010 Fourth Ave. W., Columbia Falls, Montana 59912.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, June 23, 2023, at St. Richard Catholic Church, 1210 Ninth St. W., Columbia Falls, Montana 59912.

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

## Linda Roth, 75

Linda (Dillard) Roth, 75, passed away peacefully Sept. 20, 2023, at Whitefish Care in Whitefish.

She was born May 8, 1948, in Missoula, Montana, to Arnold and Iris Dillard. She graduated from Bigfork High School in 1966. She attended the University of Montana for one year, and lived in Bigfork for many years.

She married Boyd Roth in 2001 and they lived in Kalispell. Boyd and Linda were Bell Ringers for the Salvation Army and they



were avid church goers. They worked with the NAWMI organization helping the mentally ill. She was known for her sweet spirit, generous heart and ability to tease her friends with a twinkle in her eye.

She knew her Lord and Savior and is in his tender care now.

She has one sister, Carol (Dillard) Larson;

brother-in-law, Jim Larson of Columbus, Montana. Two nephews, Ben and Brielle Larson of Sidney, Montana; Lucas and Amy Larson of Laurel, Montana. As well as two grand-nephews, Rhys and Olen Larson; and two grand-nieces, Malia and Eli Lynn Larson.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at the Sunset Memorial Gardens in Missoula. Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.



## Cecil John Rowe, 64

Cecil John Rowe, 64, lost his battle with cancer on Oct. 29, 2023 in Springfield, Oregon. He passed away peacefully with his wife Sherry by his side. He was born in Whitefish and lived most of his life in Columbia Falls.

He met his wife Sherry Sterna in Mandan, North Dakota while traveling with a seismic measuring team in August 1980. They married in Salmon, Idaho on May 24, 1982. They spent a year travelling together working with the seismologist team before settling down in Mandan. They lived in Mandan until 1994 when they moved to Columbia Falls. In 2022, they moved to Eugene, Oregon to be close to their two grandchildren.

He was a good man; kind, caring and fair. His biggest love was



Sherry. He supported and cared for her in all their adventures. In his young-

er years, he enjoyed fishing and going for drives in the country. After retiring from WoodTech Door in 2016, he found joy in grocery shopping and cooking.

He leaves behind the love of his life, Sherry; his son, Cody Sterna (Kalena); and his grandchildren, Lydia and Harrison Sterna.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jay and Arlene; and his siblings, Vicki and Curtis.

Cecil will be missed by his family and remembered by many more.

## Bruce Freeman Ruby, 85

Bruce Freeman Ruby, 85, passed away peacefully at Logan Health Medical Center on Oct. 11, 2023. He was born in Helena, Montana, Oct. 8, 1938. He grew up in Somers, and made a career with The Boeing Company in Everett, Washington, for 30 years.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed photography, flying and serving his community in between being a devoted dad. He remained active in his hobbies of photography, numerous civic and volunteer groups, most notably was the Museum At Central School, upon his move back to Somers.

He also remained active in the lives of his grandchildren. He was everyone's friend, always actively helping whenever he could and will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his daughter, J.J. (Dan); grandchildren, Joshua, Caleb and Abigail all of Washington; brothers, Gene (Marilyn) Ruby of Columbia Falls, Howard (Frances) Ruby of Somers; and his nieces, nephews and their families.

At his request, no public service is planned. However, it is encouraged to celebrate his life in a way that honors his impact. An informal ceremony is tentatively planned for next summer. Please email [jjruby92@yahoo.com](mailto:jjruby92@yahoo.com) if interested.

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.



## Sharon Ann (Hansen) Rumley, 78

Sharon Ann (Hansen) Rumley, 78, passed away on Sept. 24, after complications from rheumatoid arthritis and pneumonia with her beloved daughter and son, Jennifer and Dave, by her side.



the joyful songs of the numerous birds visiting the succulents and flowers in the

gardens that she created. She loved children, baking, and entertaining, loved to laugh, and was active in supporting social causes for the environment and for people in need.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Yvonne and Harry Hansen of Kalispell.

Sharon was born Oct. 11, 1944, to Harry and Yvonne Hansen of Kalispell. Sharon was a member of the 1962 graduating class of Flathead High School. After attending Concordia College, she married Owen Asa Rumley III of Somers and had two children. With Owen being in the Navy, they lived in California, Connecticut, Virginia, and South Carolina, before returning to Kalispell in 1972. Sharon worked as a bank secretary and for her parents' electrical business, Electric Motors, Inc. until she and the kids moved to Spokane, Washington, in 1984. During her time in Spokane, Sharon fulfilled her dream of becoming a travel agent. She was passionate about traveling and often included family members in her worldly travels.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Dave Christenson of Spokane, Washington; her son and daughter-in-law, Dave and Linda Rumley of Arroyo Grande, California; her much-adored grandchildren, Eli and Emily Christenson and Harrison and Oliver Rumley; her sisters, Linda Hansen of Olympia, Washington; and Carol Morlock (Chris Morlock) of Spokane, Washington; and numerous nieces and nephews, extended family, as well as many friends, especially her Flathead High School group of girlfriends. All will miss her cheerful, caring, and gentle nature dearly. Our forever "sweetie pie."

Sharon's joy in life was her family. She was able to be with all of her grandchildren as they grew and loved being included in their families' lives, first, with Jennifer's family in Spokane, Washington, and then with David's family in Arroyo Grande, California. She was always drawn to the ocean and enjoyed many walks along the Pacific beaches near her home, where she was diligent about cleaning up "her" beach while collecting shells. She was an avid gardener and awoke to

A celebration of Sharon's life will be planned for Summer 2024 as her wish was a party in her honor in her daughter's garden.

Donations may be made in Sharon's name to the Arthritis Foundation, as she battled rheumatoid arthritis for over half her life.

## Daniel Jay "Red" Ryan, 75

It is with great sadness we share the death of Daniel Jay "Red" Ryan of Trego, Montana Feb. 1, 2023, at the age of 75. He passed away peacefully at Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell, with both his children at bedside.

He was born in Oakland, California to Kenneth Malcolm Ryan and Betty Albertine "Abbie" (Kyle) on Feb. 15, 1947. He graduated from North Central High School in Spokane, Washington in June of 1965 then went to work



for Nalley Foods in Tacoma, Washington until he moved back to Spokane and began working for the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1967. Working as a foreman on the railroad eventually brought him to Whitefish, where he later settled and eventually retired in Trego in 1995. He enjoyed rebuilding cars and built a large workshop where he spent the majority of his time

tinkering.

He was preceded in death by his parents and eldest brother Robert Ryan. He is immediately survived by his siblings: sister Nancy Ryan and (Dave) of Eugene, Oregon and his brother Stephen Ryan (Annie) of Tacoma, Washington. He is also survived by his two children: daughter, Shéri Ryan Dirksen (Shawn) of Santa Barbara, California and his son Daniel Ryan and (Kristine) of Lakewood, Washington. Additionally, he is survived by his four grand-

children: Conner Ryan (25), Caitlin Ryan (23), Sophia Dirksen (18) and Taylor Dirksen (16).

A private celebration of his life was held Feb. 3, 2023, at his home in Trego.

Plant a tree, say a prayer or light a candle in memory... 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 caring for the family.



## Linda Schwab Ryder, 75

Linda Schwab Ryder (Robinson), 75, passed away quietly in her sleep on Mon. Oct. 9, 2023, in Kalispell.

She was born Jan. 21, 1948, in Missoula to Alfred and Stefanie Schwab as an only child. Alfred was originally from Hebron, North Dakota, and Stefanie (Lehner) from Vienna, Austria. She took great pride in her Austrian heritage and enjoyed multiple trips outside the country to visit family. She was raised in Missoula and graduated from Sentinel High School in June 1966. She had deep love for her parents and stayed close to them throughout their life.

At 20 Linda married her first husband, Dennis Robinson on Aug. 31, 1968, and had three children, daughter Kimberly, and twin sons Ryan and Kelly. She prided herself in being a great at-home mom and always put family first. She had an affinity for crafts applying herself to painting, calligraphy, crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitching, and decorating for the holidays. Life was filled with camping, kid's sporting events, travel, and managing the many moves the family made through-



out the Northwest until finally settling in Kalispell. She cherished all the small moments of joy she shared with the family at each of these new areas, making life-long friends along the way.

As her kids transitioned to college she also enrolled and achieved her dream of getting a college degree graduating with an AA degree with honors in business education at FVCC. Following her divorce in 2003, she built a new life in the Kalispell Village Greens community, golfing in the Women's League, avidly playing bunco with the local playing group, going on trips to the Caribbean on a sailing yacht, and traveling to Mexico to take in the culture. She developed a successful career in medical office management and transcription, later retiring from KRMC. All the while she kept busy with family events, keeping up with graduations, marriages, and the births of her dear grandchildren. Her favorite place was anywhere with babies and kids in

her arms.

In 2006, she developed a close relationship with a member of the local senior singles group, beginning a new chapter in her life. She married Rick Ryder March 7, 2011, and spent the remaining wonderful years with him until her passing. Their time together included a lot of travel to her favorite oasis Hawaii, visiting her family roots in Vienna where Rick was enthusiastically welcomed, cruising the Mediterranean to favorite ports of call, as well as visiting the Eastern U.S. for fall colors, historical monuments, and big city excitement. She would also fly out for visits with her daughter Kimberly and family, as well good friends. She maintained her interests in scrapbooking, golfing, and fulfilling her joy for the outdoors through biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, kayaking, and horseback riding.

She was preceded in death by her parents Stefanie and Alfred Schwab in 2003, 2005 respectively.

She is survived by her husband, Rick Ryder; her daughter and her husband, Kimberly and

Andrew Kitchen, with their children Spencer and Nathaniel; her son and his wife, Ryan and Sarah Robinson, with their children Grady and Weston; and her son and his wife, Kelly and Mandy Robinson, with their children Graciee, Gunner, Grafton, and Gandenn. She was blessed with these eight wonderful grandchildren, and always cherished the time she had with them as well as other family members and friends.

Linda was compassionate, caring, loving, and always a magnet for joy and laughter. She was well loved by family and friends. She will always be remembered as being full of life, a willing hugger, and having a deep sense of family togetherness.

Service will be held at 1 p.m. on Fri. Oct. 27, at the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, followed by a gathering at 3 p.m. at the Village Greens Community Center. In lieu of flowers we ask that you donate in memory of Linda S. Ryder to the Alzheimer's Association at <https://www.alz.org/get-involved-now/donate>.