

Sanford "Sandy" E. Anderson

Born: March 4, 1930 – Died: September 6, 2018

Sanford "Sandy" E. Anderson, 88, of Joplin, passed away Thursday, September 6th, at the Liberty Medical Center in Chester after a long battle with cancer. Family graveside services will be held at the Joplin Cemetery.

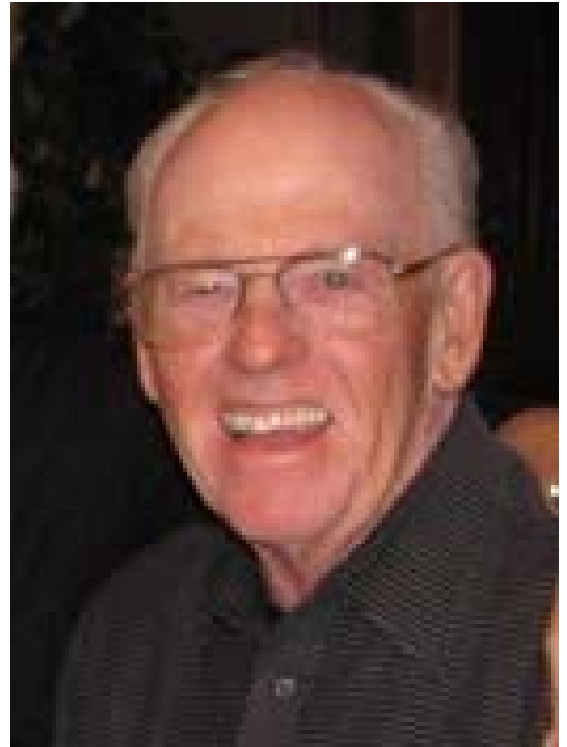
Sandy was born on March 4th, 1930 in Ambrose, ND to Oscar & Elnora Anderson. He was 7th born of 12 children, he being the first boy.

Sandy served in the [US Navy](#) from 1952-1956. Because of his previous experience running a Caterpillar, he was assigned that duty in Guam. He married Arlene Johnson in 1954 and had three children; Sandy, Ron & Sherry. He was the rural mail carrier, worked for the International dealership and farmed. His interests included bowling, playing pan with his buddies and going to Jazz Festivals.

Survivors are wife of 64 years, Arlene; son, Sandy (Jeanette) & their children, Jason (Jen), Doug (Courtney); Ron; Sherry (Scott) Johnson & their children, Adam (Shelby) Wood, Michael (Keisha) Wood & step children, Desiree (Val), Serena (Caleb) and Crystal (Hammond). He is also survived by 7 great grandchildren, soon to be 8 and siblings, Lowell (Joan) Anderson and Doris Waldron.

He was preceded in death by his parent, Oscar & Elnora; sisters, Louise, Bernice, Grace, Dolly, Marlys, Lois, Donna, Lola; and brother, Don.

Our greatest comfort is that Sandy is now in the presence of God with his family and his special friend & brother in law, Gordon Lyle.



Roy P. Balsley

Born: January 9, 1933 – Died: June 8, 2018

Roy P. Balsley passed away at his home in Chester MT on June 8th 2018. He was born in Doyon, ND on January 9th 1933 the youngest of 9 born to Fred and Lillian Balsley. He went to school in Crary, ND where he met the love and his life Karen Burkstrand Balsley. They wed in Devils Lake and began their family. In 1954 they packed the car and brought their 2 boys with another on the way to Montana. They found themselves in Rudyard at Kline's where Roy went in new to town and came out employed. He fibbed to the boss a bit. He had never driven a semi, but learned how to operate one by watching the boss on his ride up to the Sweet Grass Hills. There was a load of rocks that had to be hauled to where they were building Tiber Dam. He made that first haul and 1000s more after that. He moved from Rudyard to Galata following Evan Trucking jobs running his own crew and becoming the bosses right hand man. He left Evan Trucking when he got on with Montana Power company. He was transferred to Havre and started from the bottom reading meters. Havre is also where he bought his first house. During his time in Hill county he bought a bar south of Havre called the Spur Tavern. After selling the Spur and trading towns with his friend and co-worker Jim Englend. Roy settled in Chester in 1964. He worked his way up to Montana Power town manager and built his dream home in 1975. He owned and co-owed many business throughout the years, R and J camper sales, Chester trailer court, Hi Line Trenching, Hi line Yamaha. He was proud of what he made for his family and himself. He retired in 1988 from MT Power, but continued operating Hi line Trenching which he still did jobs up through the late nineties, and Hi Line Yamaha which closed in 1995. His wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and he took care of her at their home until she passed in 2012. The past few years he continued to live his life by his rules. He enjoyed auctions, rodeos, snowmobiling, traveling and just being him. Roy is preceded in death by his loving wife Karen Balsley, his son Michael R. Balsley, his grandson Michael J. Balsley and his great grandson Michael P. Balsley, his parents Fred and Lillian and all of his siblings. He is survived by his sons, Phillard E. Balsley (Debbie)- Helena MT, Wilfred "Fuzzy" Balsley (Sherrill)-Valier MT his only daughter Marilyn Balsley Kealoha-Chester MT. Along with numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren. There will be a grave site service on July 14th at the Chester non-denominational cemetery with a luncheon to follow at the City Park.



Lyle Lee Barbie

Born: March 23, 1952 – Died: February 16, 2018

Lyle Lee Barbie passed away February 16, 2018 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was born March 23, 1952 in Chester, Montana.

Lyle was the son of Alvin (deceased) and Anabelle (Pettapiece) Barbie. He was one of seven children and grew up on the family farm north of Inverness. Lyle attended Inverness schools, graduating from Inverness High School in 1970.

Lyle served in the U.S. Army in Korea, Indiana and Colorado for almost 10 years. After the military service, he settled in Colorado Springs and worked material fabrication and building construction. Lyle has two sons, Joe (Jeralyn) and Scott. Grandchildren, Krista and Kacy. Step-grandchildren Andrew, Ethan and Bella.

Lyle is survived by three sisters and two brothers; Jeanie Belgarde of Forsyth, Mary Ann Barbie-Rice (Steve of Helena, Dr. Jo Barbie of Platteville, Colorado, Bill (Cathy) of Carson City, Nevada and Larry of Inverness. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father (Alvin), brother (Allen) and nephew (Bryan Barbie).

Grave side service will take place on June 25, 2018 at the Inverness Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Marcia Muir of the Methodist Church in Chester conducting the service.

Dr. Richard S. Buker

Born: July 18, 1924 – Died: June 29, 2018

Dr. Richard S Buker, Jr., 93, passed away June 29, 2018. He was born on July 18, 1924 in Boston, Massachusetts. He was born to Dr. Richard S. Buker, Sr and Minola Buker who would soon become missionaries in Burma, and the family moved there when Richard was 3 years old. His formal education took place in Burma (grade school) and India, where he attended Woodstock boarding school. He graduated from Stony Brook High School in Long Island, while his parents were on furlough from Burma. He enrolled in Bates College where he accelerated through the courses and was allowed to start medical school before graduating. He went on to graduate Yale University School of Medicine in 1948. At Bates College he met his future wife, Jean McEnaney, and they were married in 1946. From this union, two daughters were born.



Dr. Buker was accepted into medical internship at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, CO and from there he did his residency at Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis, Washington from 1949-1951. He served at Clark Air Force Base Hospital in the Philippines and Travis Air Force Base Hospital in California from 1951-1954. Following these tours of active duty, he sought to establish a practice in a community where a doctor was badly needed.

This is when the town of Chester and Liberty County came into its fortune! The Hospital Board was seeking a new doctor and brought Dr. Buker to town for an interview. He was treated with warm and friendly hospitality which won him over! And he would stay to practice medicine in Chester for 48.5 years! Many a young doctor practiced under him and learned valuable lessons of practicing rural medicine. And what a teacher he was! In fact, he was named the National Rural Health Practitioner of the Year in 1992.

Although he resigned from active duty in the US Air Force prior to moving to Chester, Dr. Buker continued to serve his country as an active member of the United States Army Reserve for many years. He retired in 1981 with the rank of colonel.

Dr. Buker was a civic leader and he took an active role in many organizations in the community and especially in his church. Some of these were Rotary Club, Liberty County Republican Party, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. He served many terms on the Board of Chester Public Schools and was a board member of the Chester United Methodist church where he taught adult Sunday School for many years.

Dr. Buker was an active sportsman and bird lover, engaging in trapping, hunting, fishing and various other outdoor activities. He often took pack trips into the Bob Marshall Wilderness while elk hunting and each one was an adventure!

Dr. Buker remained active in statewide and local medical organizations. Some of these were : Diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice, Montana Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Family Physicians, Hill County Medical Society, Northcentral Montana Medical Society,

Montana Medical Association, American Medical Association, WICHE Commissioner, Chief of staff at Liberty County Hospital for many years, Liberty County Hospital Administrator, Liberty County Public Health Medical Director.

It should be noted that Dr. Buker practiced solo in Chester for a stint of five continuous years, and nine years total, when no other doctor could be contracted to come to Chester to help out. (No one else wanted to work that hard!) Many of these years were when the town was bustling with businesses and the population was much larger. It was not unusual for him to deliver 100 babies a year. He literally NEVER got to attend one of his daughter's school functions without being called to the hospital. He seldom had a night without sleep interrupted by a call from the hospital. He perfected the technique of listening while sleeping. People would be amazed at how it appeared he was dozing at a school board meeting when he would suddenly join in with very pertinent comments!

Dr. Buker performed numerous surgeries so it wasn't unusual for him to stay late at night to perform a hip pinning if someone needed one. He always wanted to keep patients near home rather than send them to a facility elsewhere.

Because of Dr. Buker we are proud to say we still have excellent medical services and facilities here on the Hi-Line. It is because of him that we have our beautiful and well-run nursing home. Dr. Buker never went a day without visiting every nursing home patient! He was always available to provide support or assistance for a struggling staff member. He had a hard time giving up his medical license and retiring because he always thought he could still be useful in some way to somebody! His loss of vision due to macular degeneration hampered him greatly, but he still always strived to learn something every day, even after he became a resident of the nursing home.

He is survived by daughter, Candace Buker Chang of Boston, and grandchildren Jean Elizabeth Kinsella, Sonia Chang-Diaz, Daniel, Benjamin, David, Rebecca, and Rachel Hoffman, Annie Oumarou and Sarah Wood.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Elizabeth Buker Hoffman, his wife Jean McEnaney Buker, his parents and his brothers Robert and Gerald. His neighbor and special friend, Gary Jensen, was at his side as a business manager, friend and confidant until his passing. Dr. Buker will be remembered as an outstanding servant of God. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him!

A "Celebration of Life" Service will be held at the Chester United Methodist Church on Wednesday, July 18th at 11 o'clock AM. The service will also be streamed live to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. A luncheon will follow in the fellowship hall at Our Savior's Lutheran Church immediately following the service. Memorials may be given to the R. S. Buker, Jr. Scholarship Fund in care of High-Line Health Foundation in Chester or donor's choice.

Margaret Ann “Peggy” Carter

Born: May 18, 1933 – Died: October 6, 2018

Peggy Carter, 85, of Chester, died peacefully in her sleep while attending her grandson’s wedding in Bozeman. Despite recent health struggles, Peggy found the strength and courage to do the things she loved most: spend time with her family, eat anything sweet, and put puzzles together with friends.

Born Margaret Ann Hanson to parents Jens Hanson and Janet McRae in Miles City, Peggy was the youngest of four children. She graduated from Custer County High School in 1951 and worked as a telephone operator before marrying James (Jim) Carter at the First Presbyterian Church of Miles City on September 20, 1952. They lived and worked on Jim’s cousin’s farm near Olive, MT after they were married.

On September 30, 1954, Jim and Peggy welcomed their first child, Lori Lee Carter. The Carter’s moved to Sidney in 1955 where Jim worked at T&E Equipment and Peggy was a stay at home mom. In 1960, Jim’s boss moved to Chester to run R&M Equipment and Jim was asked to come along, so the Carter’s packed Lori and belongings and moved to Chester. They later became part owners of what became known as Marias Equipment.



On August 1, 1963, Jim and Peggy welcomed their second child, Joy Ann Carter. In 1968, Peggy went to work as a bank teller at the Bank of Montana shortly after Joy started grade school. She worked at the bank until her retirement in 1991. In 1988, Marias Equipment closed and Jim started Marias Repair where Peggy was the bookkeeper. They both official retired in 1993. In her early years, Peggy loved dancing, bowling, and playing cards. After her grandchildren arrived Peggy loved visiting them and traveling to each of their events. One vice that endeared her to both her grandchildren and great grandchildren was sweets. Candy, ice cream, root beer floats, Grandma’s freezer was never without a Schwann's push pop and her candy drawer was rarely empty. She was truly a sweet lady. As the grandchildren grew into adults, Peggy moved on to quilting and taking care of her flowers and garden where she canned anything she could cram into a jar. She also loved watching and learning about the many birds that visited her yard.

Faith was important to Peggy. As a member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church, she participated in bible studies, taught Sunday school, helped within the church and kitchen, and looked forward to evening circle time with the ladies once a month.

After moving into the Sweet Grass Lodge in 2013, Peggy tried to stay as active as her mobility would allow. She was an avid puzzler and would often only take a break to watch reruns of Cash Cab on the Game Show Network. She enjoyed going out to dinner with friends as well.

Peggy is preceded in death by her husband; Jim, her parents; Jens and Janet Hanson, her three siblings; Floyd (Maxine) Hanson, Lilly VanZant, and Thomas (Iris) Hanson, and her nephew; Steven VanZant. Mother in Law: Magdaline Carter; Sisters and brothers in law: Lavawn (Martin) Guerechit, Lucille (Oris) Warford, Laurain (Joe) Powell.

Peggy is survived by her two daughters, Lori (Glenn) Wolfe and Joy (Tom) DePuydt; six grandchildren, Jeff (Deana) Wolfe, Doug (Julie) Wolfe, Matt (Sarah) Wolfe, Haley (Patrick) Menge, Brianne Wolfe and Kurt DePuydt; six great grandchildren, Gwen and Josie (Jeff) Wolfe, Annabelle and Linley (Doug) Wolfe, and Luke and Andrew (Haley) Menge; as well as, many loved nieces and nephews.

Funeral Service for Peggy will be celebrated on Friday, October 26th, at 11:00 a.m. at Our Saviors Lutheran Church with Pastor John Fauerbach presiding. Burial will follow at the Chester Cemetery. Following the service, there will be a celebration of Peggy's well-lived life at the church fellowship hall. Arrangements were handled by Asper Funeral Homes in Shelby. In memory of Peggy, the family welcomes donations to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sweet Grass Lodge, or donor's choice.

Sandra Gail Goldberg Copenhaver

Born: April 29, 1942 – Died: June 28, 2018

Sandra Golberg Copenhaver (76) died peacefully after a long battle with emphysema on June 28, 2018, with her children at her side.

Sandra Gail (Sandi) was born on April 29, 1942 to Arnold and Margaret Golberg in Vancouver WA. She was born during the blackout days of World War II while her father and maternal grandfather worked in the Bremerton Naval Shipyards building ships for the war. Following the war and while she was a small child they moved back to her paternal grandfather's farm near Rudyard, MT. She grew up near family where, as an only child, she always enjoyed the company of her many cousins. The small towns that dot the Hi-Line between Havre and Chester is also the "community" where she connected with many of her "forever friends," who remained dear to her throughout her life.

Sandi married her high school sweetheart, Gerald (Cope) Copenhaver, in 1960. They briefly moved to Spokane while Jerry attended barber school and then again returned to Rudyard where they raised their family. They adopted Marcia in 1963 and then had Mark in 1965. Sandi's boundless energy was spent working full time and caring for her family. She enjoyed the family camping trips to Tiber Dam on summer weekends and vacations to Flathead and Swan Lake. She never missed one of her children's activities. Always the organizer, she worked many jobs as a bookkeeper and executive assistant, including at Hasty Tire, Tire-Rama, Hi-Line Fertilizer, Liberty County Pharmacy, and the Registrar's Office and Industrial Technology Department at Northern Montana College in Havre. Sandi enjoyed learning many crafts and her demanding eye for perfection showed in her talents with ceramics, sewing, quilting and cross stitch. She enjoyed shopping and making gifts for her family and friends. In 2010 following Jerry's death Sandi moved to Helena and she continued to reside there until the time of her passing, yet she yearned to return home to Rudyard.

Sandi is survived by her children, Marcia Welliever and Mark (Tammy) Copenhaver, and her five grandchildren: Tom, Kelci and Steven Welliever, Jacklyn (Ryan) Girard and Jerilyn Copenhaver. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband of almost 50 years, Jerry.

Funeral services are planned for Saturday, July 28, 2018 at New Beginnings Lutheran Church in Rudyard, MT at 1:00 pm. Ashes will be interred at the Rudyard Cemetery later in the year. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be directed to New Beginnings Lutheran Church or Lutheran Social Services of MT.



James Cushing

Born: – Died: 2018

James Cushing, son of Robert Cushing, Billings, and the late Ardith Cushing passed away at Benifis Hospital in Great Falls. He was 57 years of age. During grade school and high school, Jim entered talent shows playing guitar and singing where he won several first place awards. Jim's favorite music was country western, but he would play "Puff The Magic Dragon" with gusto. When traveling with the family he would often take his guitar into Family restaurants, ask management if he could play to entertain the guests. Upon obtaining permission he would proceed to entertain like a professional musician.

James graduated from Chester High School and enlisted in the Navy in 1979. He served in the U. S. Navy for twenty years, retiring at Annapolis Naval Station with a rank of Senior Chief. After boot camp at San Diego Naval Station, he attended Engine Mechanic School at Great Lakes Naval Station; he graduated in August, 1979 and was then assigned as Submarine repair Technician to the USS Hunley. After a complete renovation, the USS Hunley sailed to its home port as a Submarine Tender at Holy Locks, Dunoon, Scotland. Jim served there until 1984 when he was transferred to the Naval Undersea Warfare Engineering Station, Keyport, Washington. He served there two years as Chief Engineer aboard a Torpedo Retriever Boat.



His next assignment transferred him to Great Lakes Recruit Training Command where he served three years as Recruit Company Commander receiving the coveted Distinguished Leadership Award.

His Naval career then took him back to Dunoon, Scotland for three years and three years on the USS Simon Lake at LA Maddalena, Italy. While serving the USS Simon Lake he was Ship Superintendent coordinating between 10 divisions, 53 Repair Shops, and 500 personnel consisting of 18 specialty ratings in repair of SSBN/SSN submarines. His final three years were served at Annapolis Naval Station serving as Machinery Division Officer.

James married Carolyn Deakin in Dunoon in 1982. He is survived by his wife Carolyn, Bellshill, Scotland, daughter Tarra Jo Cushing (Kristian), Carmel, New York; son Cody Cushing, Glasgow, Scotland; three grandchildren; eleven nieces and nephews; his father Robert (Marlene) of Billings; sisters Leslie McNeil (Brian) Great Falls; Kaye Weikum (Roy), Valier, MT; brothers Rob Cushing (Becky) of Grass Range; Ken Cushing, (Djuana) of Billings.

Graveside services will be conducted at Yellowstone National Cemetery, Laurel, Montana on August 24, at 11 a.m.

Seaman's 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift. He leadeth me across the dark waters, He steereth me through deep channels. He keepeth my log. He guideth me by the star of Holiness, for his namesake. Yea, though I sail 'mid the tempests of life, I shall dread no danger, for Thou are with me. Thou preparest a harbor before me in the Homeland of eternity. Thou anointest the waters with oil. My ship rideth calmly. Surely sunlight and starlight favor me on the voyage I take, and I will rest in the port of my God forever

Michael Earl Dauwalder

Born: June 18, 1962 – Died: July 5, 2018

Michael Earl Dauwalder, 56, of Dutton, MT passed away Thursday July 5th, 2018 from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident.

He was born June 18, 1962 to Robert and Judy (Meyer) Dauwalder in Choteau, MT. Michael graduated from Chester High School in 1980. He attended MSU, and was a pioneer in computer programming. He owned his own cyber center, and also worked as a volunteer fireman and EMT. He was a loving son, devoted father to Karri and Jordan, and was the best grandpa to his grandchildren. Michael was always up for an adventure and always willing to help those in need no matter the time of day or distance. Mike never missed an opportunity to help anyone in need. Those who he encountered were treated as lifelong friends, he had a big heart and shared it freely. In his free time he enjoyed reading, studying his bible, and gardening.



Michael is survived by his parents, children Jordan Dauwalder of Williston, ND and Karri (Eric) Sundgren of Chester, MT, four grandchildren; Scarlet, Gwen, Finn, and Archer Sundgren. Also surviving are his brother Mark Dauwalder and his sister Stacey Middleton.

There will be a Celebration of Life that will be held at the Stage Stop Inn Event Center, Choteau, MT, starting at 1:00 PM Thursday, July 12, 2018. Burial to follow in Choteau Cemetery.

Margaret "Peg" Duffin

Born: January 4, 1938 – Died: March x, 2018

Margaret A "Peg" or "Peggy" Duffin was born on January 4, 1938 in Spokane, Washington to Leonard and Cecelia Goughnour. At the tender age of two weeks, she moved to her home town of Missoula.

Her father died in an accident when she was a year and a half old. Her mother could not raise her, so she went to live with her maternal grandparents, Joseph and Alosa Miller.

She attended St Frances grade school and Sacred Heart Academy for girls, graduating in 1956. Her grandmother passed away 1955. She attended Montana State University (in Missoula) for one year.

She loved to dance and belonged to the Live Wire Dance club for young adults. On May 27th, 1958 the club decided on a swimming night at Lolo Hot Springs.



Since her boyfriend was out of town, she walked to the Moose Lodge, where the club held their dances, to get a ride to Lolo. When she arrived, all of the cars were full except one. There was a boy whose brother wrecked his car two days earlier that also walked to the meeting place and they were paired up in the car with a vacancy. They had never met before, but they did get along fairly well that night.

A couple of weeks later, Lin got her phone number from one of the people that knew her, called and asked for a date, which she foolishly accepted. They dated off and on for a few months and then decided to be exclusive. Had she known that her future husband was a Junior in High School, she would never have dated him, but by then it was too late, she had fallen in love.

When Linden "Lin" Duffin graduated from High school in 1958, they decided to get married, which they did on August 7. They moved to Tacoma, Washington where Lin went to work for Boeing Aircraft company in Seattle. The following August, there was a big layoff of over 5,000 employees. Since Lin was new to the company, he got the axe.

They moved back to Missoula in 1959 where Lin went to work in a butcher shop. Their first child, Michael, was born on December 7 that year. When work got slow, Lin was laid off again in June 1960. Getting tired of losing his job without cause, Peg and Lin talked about his going back to school to get an education in accounting. He started in the fall of 1960. All the way through college, Lin worked at Eddy's Bakery as a janitor and Peg worked part-time as a librarian. Their second child, Linda, was born in August 1961 followed by Lisa in December 1962.

Lin had to take time off college periodically to work two jobs so he could pay for his schooling. He finally graduated in June 1966 and took a job as a staff accountant in Conrad. He passed his CPA exam that year. In March 1967, their third child, Mark, joined the family. Lin had a chance to buy a very small practice in Chester and they decided to take the risk, which paid off. They moved to Chester in August 1967 and established their office. In January 1970, Martin decided to join the clan, completing their family.

In 1973, Peg went to the office to help catch up on some typing and she forgot to go home. In 2014, after 47 years, they reluctantly retired due to age and health. On January 4, 2018 Peg celebrated her 80th birthday with all of her kids present, except Mike, who passed away in 1995.

For the first time since Marty was born, on March 1, 2018 Peg entered the hospital and passed away in the early morning of Tuesday, March 6 with family surrounding her.

She was preceded by her parents, grandparents, son Michael, and grandson Matthew. She is survived by her husband of 59 ½ years, Lin; children Linda and Darryl Ford of Federal Way, Washington; Lisa Duffin of Issaquah, Washington; Mark and Marla Duffin of Missoula, Montana; Martin and Sarah Duffin of Cedar City, Utah; Grandchildren Elizabeth and Kenny Jefferson of Bosier City, Louisiana; Joseph Kirgan of Renton, Wash-

Published in Great Falls Tribune on Mar. 8, 2018

Dorothy Anne (Packer) Duncan

Born: April 12, 1925– Died: September 4, 2018

During the early morning hours of September 4, 2018, Dorothy Anne (Packer) Duncan slipped these earthly bonds and raced through the "Pearly Gates". She had a good relationship with her Heavenly Father and she was more than ready to go! Dorothy was the youngest of Erwin and Martha (Suckow) Packer's five children: Marie (Lincoln), Doris (Kegel), Bruce Packer, and Cora Mae "Brownie" (Theobald). She was born April 12, 1925 and her father died only eight years later. Her early school years were at School District #49, the Packer School, and School District #61, Oreana. Dorothy graduated as Salutatorian in the class of 1943 from Rudyard High School. After graduation from RHS, she attended Northern Montana College to obtain a teaching certificate and subsequently taught at the Tingdahl School, north of Joplin. While teaching and living there, she met, fell in love with, and later married John W. Duncan, a local rancher. In the course of time, five little Duncan's were added. Like many other families, most scattered to the four winds: Keith (Katy) Duncan of Great Falls, Sylvia (Jack) McComber of Rocky Ford, CO, Bruce (Tammy) Duncan of Joplin, Rhea Duncan of Hermiston, OR, and Tim (Kelly) Duncan of Lafayette, IN.



Interment will take place at the ranch north of Joplin on Tuesday, September 18, at 9:30 am and a memorial service will be held at Calvary Evangelical Church in Rudyard at 11:00 am, following the burial.

Condolences can be made to Dorothy's memorial page at www.asperfh.com.

John Elmer Eklund

Born: June 21, 1956 – Died: May 25, 2018

John Elmer Eklund, 61, of Kissimmee, Florida passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on May 25th, 2018 at his home of natural causes.

John was born in Polson, Montana on June 21, 1956 to Ralph and Betty (Kissee) Eklund. He graduated from Chester High School in 1974. He joined the United States Navy in 1975. He married Mary Ann Paulette Aakre on March 5, 1977 in Conrad, Montana. Together they traveled the world during the 10 years he was in the Navy. After an honorable discharge from the Navy, John worked as a technician for Bell South in a career that lasted the last 30 years.

John was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew, Kirk Layton.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, his sister, Yvonne (Steve) Layton, his brother Ronald Eklund and his nephew, Karl Layton.

No services are being planned at this time.

Carrie Ann Engstrom

Born: May 26, 1959 – Died: January 4, 2018

Carrie Ann Engstrom, 58, passed away on Thursday, January 4, 2018, in Coupeville, WA. Carrie was born on May 26, 1959, in Seattle, WA. to Norman W. and Margaret A. (Schafer) Engstrom. She grew up in Bellevue, WA. Carrie spent her childhood summers on her grandparent's ranch, in Whitlash, where she loved to spend time with the animals and helping with ranch chores. Carrie was confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church, in Bellevue, WA. In 1977, Carrie graduated from Sammamish High school in Bellevue, WA. Upon graduation, Carrie attended Montana State University – MSU Northern in Havre, MT, receiving a bachelor's degree in Ag-Science. Upon receiving her degree, Carrie moved back to the Bellevue area. She worked at Rodda Paint Company, as well as Ace Hardware. Later in life, Carrie was a caregiver to her Aunt Lois and Uncle Bob, in Sammamish, WA. After her dad's passing, she moved



from Sammamish, to Whidbey Island, WA. Carrie was a loving and generous person with a Big Heart. She enjoyed spending time with friends and family. Carrie loved to cook and was a great one too! Other hobbies, included reading novels, leatherwork and fishing. Carrie had a passion for her many pets (companions), throughout her years. She was a big fan of the Seattle Seahawks and held many football game day extravaganzas. She was known in her neighborhood for her awesome Fourth of July fireworks display and delicious picnics. She enjoyed cruising the neighborhood in her golf cart, giving rides and greeting the neighbors. Carrie's kind soul and warm smile will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her brother and wife Mark and Kathy Engstrom of Whitlash, MT., a half-sister Eleanor Engstrom, of Manteca, CA, nieces, nephews, great-nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Burial will be held Thursday, January 18, at 2:00pm at Whitlash Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to organizations of your choice.

Douglas G. Erickson

Born: February 12, 1935 – Died: July 16, 2018

Douglas G. Erickson, 83, passed away quietly on Monday, July 16, 2018 in Petaluma, California surrounded by family.

He was born February 12, 1935 in Chester, Montana to George Erickson and Ethyl Patterson. He was raised by his maternal grandmother, Emma Erickson.

Doug was a carpenter by trade. Upon his retirement from carpentry, due to an accident, he worked many years as a manager/bartender at Gales Central Club in Petaluma.

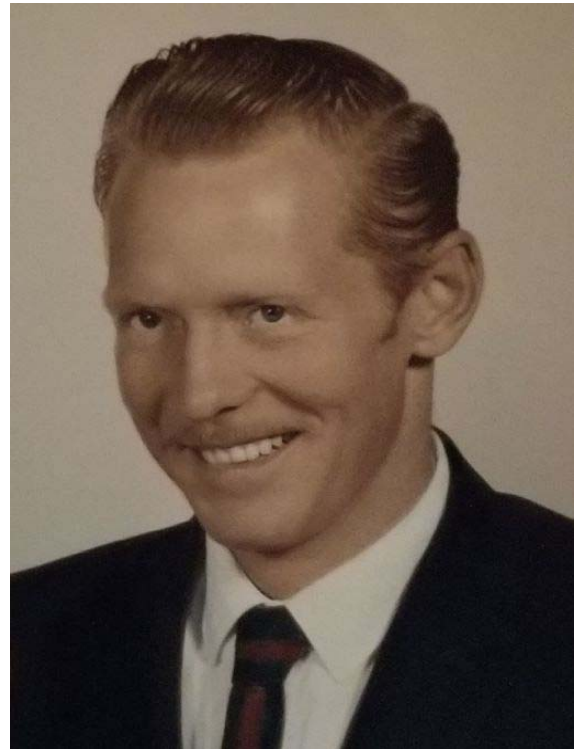
He is survived by his four children, Kathleen A. Ferrari, Karen A. Erickson, Douglas J. Erickson and Tammy L. Erickson. Eight grandchildren, Katrina, Kimberlee, Lynsey, Ryan, Jamie, Briana, Emily and Carter and 7 great-grandchildren Willow, Graham, Benjamine, Westley, Dallas, Vinnie and Phoenix.

He is preceded in death by his parents George Erickson and Ethyl Patterson, grandparents Fred and Emma Erickson, brother George Erickson and his twin sister Norma Hughes.

Funeral services for family and friends will be held graveside on Saturday, July 28 at 10:00a.m. at Erickson Cemetery in Chester, Montana.

His laughter, stories, sense of humor and love for his family will truly be missed.

Condolences can be made to Doug's memorial page on www.asperfh.com.



Douglas Raymond Farnik

Born: February 23, 1948 – Died: August 10, 2018

Douglas Raymond Farnik, age 70, passed away Friday August 10th, 2018, from a severe heart attack at his home in Joshua Tree, CA.

Doug was born in Havre, MT, February 23, 1948, son of Joseph and Dorothy Farnik. He was raised on a farm eight miles north of a small rural town, Hingham, population 150. He loved animals, cows, pigs, chickens, his horse Sye and especially dogs. He helped his dad on the wheat farm from an early age, learning to operate all kinds of equipment. His mother, Dorothy, started him playing the keyboards at age 9, going 100 miles one way to Great Falls once a week for lessons. Doug played organ at Inverness Supper Club with his mother on Saturday nights when he was a teenager. He continued to perform and played almost every weekend and New Year's Eve till recent years. He graduated high school from Hingham High in 1966. He played basketball, did many science projects and acted in several plays. His high school selected Doug to go to Montana Boys State. American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes part of the operation of his local city, county and state government.



He attended the College of Great Falls and the University of Montana in Missoula to pursue his pharmacy degree while playing music at country clubs and bars making many lifelong friends. In Missoula, MT, the band OPUS 3 was formed. In 1969 the OPUS 3 moved to the LA area to join a showband called "The Rising Generation," which toured the United States and Canada and appeared with Tennessee Ernie Ford and Red Skelton. The Rising Generation did a USO tour during the Vietnam War where he played in Guam, Philippines, Korea and Japan.

In 1972, he began his career in the appliance/central air, construction business, which he had been currently running for over 45 years.

In 1983 he married the love of his life, JoNell, while living in Whittier, CA. In 1990 they moved to Joshua Tree, CA, and continued to live in both cities for 28 years.

He enjoyed cooking, reading, gardening, entertaining, traveling, mentoring, solving problems, building houses and listening to Jazz music and was a private pilot. His travels and cruises took him all over the world and he especially enjoyed the Czech Republic's food and beer from where his grandfather immigrated. Most of all, Doug enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, especially the grandchildren.

He is survived by his loving wife, JoNell, his children, Jennifer Ciccone (Harold), Jimmy Meyer, Melody Farnik, and Billy Meyer (Sarah); brothers Jerome (Marilyn) and Michael (Denise); nine grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by mother and father, brother Eddy and his favorite dog, "Togo."

A "Celebration of Doug's Life" will be held Saturday, August 25th, 2018, from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Sportsman's Club, 6225 Sunburst St., in Joshua Tree, CA. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made "in honor of Doug" to his daughter's nonprofit: Animal Action League. animalactionleague.us or P.O. Box 1413, Joshua Tree, CA. 92252.

Albert H. Fey

Born: January 20, 1934 – Died: November 16, 2018

Albert Henry Fey passed away on November 16, 2018 in Great Falls. He was born on January 20, 1934 in Shelby, Montana to Anthony and Elizabeth Dusack Fey.

Albert was a rancher in the Sweet Grass Hills for over 60 years. He attended grade school in Sand Coulee, and high school in Shelby, Montana. He also graduated from Montana State University with a degree in agriculture. He was a member of the Montana National Guard.

On October 16, 1982, he married his wife of 36 years Gloria Albers Thompson. They spent many years side by side working on the ranch. Albert liked the simple things in life, he loved nature, land and cattle. He liked working on equipment, always getting things ready and keeping things maintained for the following year. He never over grazed and had some of the happiest cows around.

Albert loved observing the weather and reported daily temperature, moisture and wind for the Cooperative Weather Observer Station from the Gold Butte 7 North location from 1977 – 2017 (40 years). Taking over the job from his father Anthony that reported starting in 1943 (35 years). They had a total of 75 years of reporting and received a very rare recognition award for the same family reporting weather for all these years.

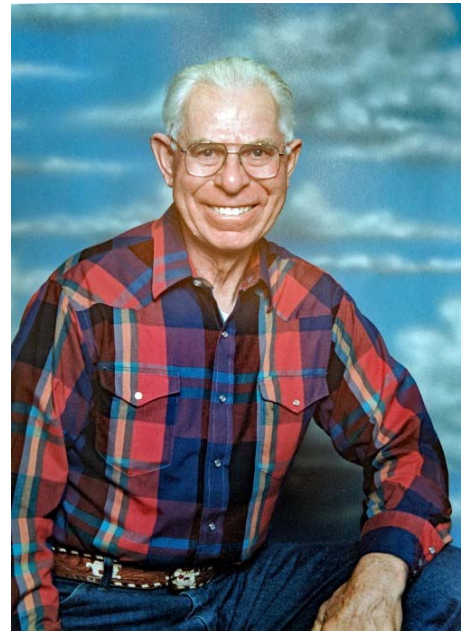
Albert is survived by his wife of 36 years Gloria, a sister Mary Ellen Watkins of Idaho Falls, Idaho. Step children Dwight (Julie) Thompson of Townsend, Mt. Mike Thompson of Columbia Falls, MT, Gwen (Neilson) Pearson of Calgary, Alberta Canada. There are also many nieces, nephews and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father Anthony and his Mother Elizabeth.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, November 21, at 11:00 AM at Sunburst Lutheran Church. Visitation will be one hour prior at the church. A reception at the church will follow the service.

In Liew of flowers the family would like to request that donations be made to:

Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute
P.O. Box 7008
Great Falls, MT 59406

In memory of Albert H. Fey
Or donation may be made to any cancer institute of your choice.



Leonard J. Fusk

Born: March 4, 1953 – Died: February 1, 2018

Leonard J. Fusk, 64, of Helena, and formerly of Joplin, died of natural causes after a long illness Thursday, Feb. 1, at St. Pete's Health in Helena.

Born March 4, 1953, to Donald and Audrey Fusk of Joplin, MT, he was raised on the family farm north of Joplin, and graduated from Joplin High School in 1971. He was a farmer/rancher, construction worker and woodworker. Leonard was the recipient of the Liberty County Conservation District Cooperator of the Year in 1997, in recognition of his organic farm.

He enjoyed karaoke, woodworking, and seeing his grandchildren.

Throughout his life, Leonard lived in Joplin, Havre, the Whitefish area and most recently Helena.

He was preceded in death by his parents, nephew Tanor Dees, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Leonard is survived by sisters and brothers-in-law Christine and Steve Sapp, Debbie and Paul Dees, and Ellie and Bill Keeley; aunt Phyllis Willert; ex-wife Sarah Qunell; son Dustin Qunell; daughters and sons-in-law Devan and Ryan Van Dessel, Cari and Eric Groth, Kayla and Dan Scott, and Mariah and Ryan Hall; 13 grandchildren, with a grandson expected soon; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Published in Great Falls Tribune on Feb. 6, 2018



Ellsworth Brian Graff

Born: July 12, 1929 – Died: October 2, 2018

Ellsworth Brian Graff was born July 12, 1929 in Havre to Clarence and Ruth Graff. He went to meet his lord and savior October 2, 2018 in Chester at 89 years of age.

Ellsworth's father passed away when he was 6 years old and several years later his mother married Cornelius Olson. They lived north of Joplin and farmed. After graduating from high school, Ellsworth attended college in Bozeman where he met Margaret Nelson. They were married in 1949 and just missed celebrating their 69th wedding anniversary on October 9th. Ellsworth and Margaret settled in Joplin where they ran the family farm. He later became a realtor and finished his working career as an insurance agent. Ellsworth loved Montana and his many friends. He was known for his story telling and always had a joke to fit every situation.

Survivors include wife, Margaret; son, Marlin (Ann); daughter, Glenda (Leroy); daughter-in-law, Judy (Greg); 4 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Those preceding Ellsworth in death are his parents, Clarence and Ruth; stepfather, Cornelius Olson; and his eldest son, Greg.

Funeral services will be Sunday, October 28, at 2:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin.

The family suggests memorials to Bethel Lutheran Church or Hi-Line Health Foundation.



Betty Ann Lerum Heimbigner

Born: May 17, 1948 – Died: November 22, 2018

Betty Ann (Lerum) Heimbigner, 70, passed away on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2018, in Great Falls at Benefis Health System after more than four years of battling with leukemia as well as multiple knee replacements.

Betty was born on May 17, 1948, to Clifford Maynard and Doris Antonia (Ruud) Lerum in Cut Bank while the family lived in Ethridge. She was the fourth of seven children. Her father managed several service stations and worked as mechanic as she grew up with her mother helping with the accounting of the service stations.

When Betty was 3 years old, the family moved to Valier and she attended the Valier Public School for first and second grades. She attended the Chester Public Schools for third through eighth grades, Fort Benton Public Schools for ninth through the first half of her senior year to December 1965, and the family moved back to Chester in 1966 where Betty finished her senior year and graduated from Chester High School in 1966.



On December 23, 1965, she married Don Heimbigner. Betty worked as a waitress at the Tip Top Restaurant and at The Grand Hotel and Restaurant in Chester, MT. On September 20, 1967, they were blessed with their first son, Donovan Walter. On June 13, 1970, their second son, Conrad Clifford was born. In the mid '70s, Betty started working at the Liberty County Medical Center, where she worked as a team member of the cooking staff while taking various courses for being a dietitian. In the early '80s, she transferred to the housekeeping staff at the Liberty County Medical Center, where she worked until retirement on May 3rd, 2013, after her right knee replacement had complications. In the '90s Betty started working part-time in the bakery department at Mike's IGA in Chester, MT, until the early 2010s. Betty also took care of the accounting for H & H Pumping from 1960 until 1983 as well as for the current name of Don's Septic Service from the name change in 1983 to 2018. She also helped deliver papers for the subscribers of the Great Falls Tribune with the family from 1977 until 1987 for the town of Chester, MT.

Betty was a one-of-a-kind person who raised two boys and helped Donnie and anyone else that needed a helping hand. Her favorite things in life were God, family, and friends. She could play a mean game of Aggravation as well as many other card games! Betty was a very hard worker with a big heart that would never let her pain be known while she took care of others.

In her "free time" Betty was active in the local Sons of Norway, a member of Our Saviors' Lutheran Church in Chester, MT, as well as an active member in the Martha Circle and other church-related activities as time allowed, and other community events as time allowed between the other responsibilities she was handling including the several trips to knee and joint specialists in Missoula for multiple knee and hip replacements and cancer treatments in Great Falls in the last seven years.

Through the years, she took courses in drawing, started re-covering automotive seats as well as manufacturing home furniture and attended various adult education classes when time permitted including making stain glass windows.

Her most memorable trips include various Glacier/Banff National Parks family trips; a trip to Fir Mountain, Saskatchewan, to visit the Claude Hardin Family in late '70s; a family trip with Alice Heimbigner to West Virginia to visit Alice's daughter Pearl Morton and family in the mid '80s; attending the U.S. Army graduation ceremony of Private C. Heimbigner at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in the Fall of 1988; trips to Oregon to visit her sister Diane at Medford, Oregon, in 1977 and again to visit her son Donovan while working for a logging company in the greater Portland, Oregon, area in the mid 2000s; and a visit to Jacksonville, Florida, to visit her new granddaughter in early spring of 2008.

Survivors include her husband, Don Heimbigner; sons, Donovan and Conrad Heimbigner; grandchildren, Zakary (Zak) Heimbigner of Chester, Severin Heimbigner and Walter Heimbigner of Big Sandy, and Lena Dantas of Jacksonville, FL; and siblings, Monte (Sharon) Lerum of Galata, Vivian (Lawrence) House of Great Falls, and Westley Lerum of White City, Oregon.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, December 1, at 11:00 a.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Chester.

Condolences can be made to Betty's memorial page at <http://www.asperfh.com/>.

Branden Eugene Hunnewell

Born: May 18, 1977 – Died: June 11, 2018

Branden Eugene Hunnewell of Chester, 41, passed away Monday, June 11, 2018.

Services for Branden will be held Monday, June 18, 2018, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Chester, MT. A graveside service and luncheon will follow.

Branden was born May 18, 1977, in Great Falls, MT. He was the middle son of David and Yvonne (Johnson) Hunnewell.

Branden had two brothers, one older, Aaron Hunnewell, 42, born June 29, 1975, of Chester, MT., the younger, Camon Hunnewell, 37, born April 2, 1981, also of Chester, MT., and an older half-sister, Rachel (Rich) Pavlonnis, 48, born Aug. 23, 1969, of Great Falls, MT.

Branden was raised in the small, tight-knit community of Chester, Montana, where he continued to make his home until his death. Branden attended Chester Public Schools, growing up with a love for reading, sports, his siblings and friends.

During his youth, Branden was involved in many different activities. He spent his summers swimming for the Chester Lions Swim Team and playing baseball in intermediates and Little League. If there was an open lot in town, there was a ball field there, and you could almost always find Branden, his friends and brothers playing a game. Branden spent much of his "down time" reading books. He was an avid reader and as a child enjoyed the Hardy Boys series of which he owned the complete hardback set. Branden was involved in Cub and Boy Scouts throughout his youth, always trying to win that elusive Pine Wood Derby trophy.

During his high school years, Branden loved playing football and cheering on his friends in basketball, making every road trip and every tournament game. He enjoyed writing and plays very much and was often the lead part or supporting actor in many of the high school productions. Branden also participated in the community musical "Man of La Mancha." Being raised in a Lutheran household, Branden was always a godly kid and as a teenager he was president of his Lutheran Youth Organization, or LYO. Being very well-read and a gifted writer, Branden was the winner of the American Legion Oratorical essay contest his senior year of high school.

During high school and his early college years Branden worked at the Chester Community pool as a life guard, as well as teaching swimming lessons. He loved jumping into a 50-degree pool at 8 in the morning! In 2001, Branden started working for Timec. For the next 16 plus years he traveled across the country, mostly the western United States, working "shutdowns" in numerous oil refineries and gas plants. Branden used his intelligence and work ethic to move through the ranks and eventually become a superintendent. Along the way, Branden was mentor to many and never hesitated to show someone how to do things the right and safe way. An excellent leader with an eye for detail, Branden excelled at running night shift during shutdowns.



Branden was an avid sports fan. He enjoyed all sports and loved to hit the golf links before a bad back took him out of the game. Most of all, Branden was a "Die-Hard" Cubs fan! He loved to talk baseball and pontificate about the newest Cubs team, how they would clean up the division and go on to break the curse of the goat. In 2016, Branden's dream came true and the Cubs celebrated, ending that ever-so-long World Series drought. He would tell you that it was the highlight of his life!

Branden passed on to be with our Lord and Savior Monday the 11th of June 2018. He died peacefully in his sleep due to natural causes.

Branden was preceded in death by his parents, David Hunnewell and Yvonne Hunnewell; maternal grandparents, Paul and Jaqueline Johnson; paternal grandparents, Bud and Idella Hunnewell; uncle Richard Hunnewell.

He is survived by his brothers, Aaron Hunnewell and Camon Hunnewell; sister, Rachel (Rich) Pavlonnis; aunt, Paula (Robert) Smith; uncles Craig and Leif Johnson; nieces, McCall Erickson, Zea Erickson and Clarissa Hunnewell; nephew, Conner Hunnewell.

Jane Ann Johnson

Born: October 21, 1939 – Died: July 13, 2018

Jane Ann Johnson was called home in the early morning hours of July 13, 2018.

Jane was born on October 21, 1939, in Havre, Montana. She was an only child and was raised on a farm near Hingham, Montana. On the farm, she learned a strong work ethic and a love for God's earth. She was a devout Christian and her faith was woven into the fabric of her life. Jane left the farm in the fall of 1957 to attend college at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. There, she met her Prince Charming, Jim Johnson. In 1961 they married and moved to Juneau, Alaska. In 1966, they moved to Anchorage, Alaska where they raised their two daughters, Darcy and Valerie, and where she lived for the remainder of her life. She worked in the insurance industry for many years, but her most rewarding work was with the gift shops she owned and operated in downtown Anchorage. She was proud to be a shop owner on Fourth Avenue and was well-known for having Alaskan-made art, jewelry and carvings. Any acquaintance could quickly become Jane's friend, as she was compassionate and loved almost everyone.



After she retired, Jane enjoyed volunteering at the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry and was active in the Lutheran Church of Hope. She was a member of the Pioneers of Alaska. Jane was a master gardener and loved growing flowers and vegetables. Her greatest joy was her five grandchildren, whom she loved dearly and was very proud of. She was in the process of writing her memoirs, "Kernels from the Past," before she passed. She wrote fondly of her life and family and remarked "I find myself reflecting on my childhood dreams and discover that mostly they have come true, although not exactly as I had planned." Jane was strong willed and was known for doing things her way. She had strong opinions about everything and would share them whether you, like it or not.

Her family is thankful that she was such a historian. She kept a written daily journal her entire life and archived everything. She preserved the family's cherished memories that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Jane was preceded in death by her parents, Clinton and Cecile Brevik. She is survived by her daughter Darcy Steger and her husband Richard Steger; her daughter Valerie Johnson; and her five grandchildren, Henry Yawit, Howard Yawit, Clinton Steger, Edward Steger and Casey Steger.

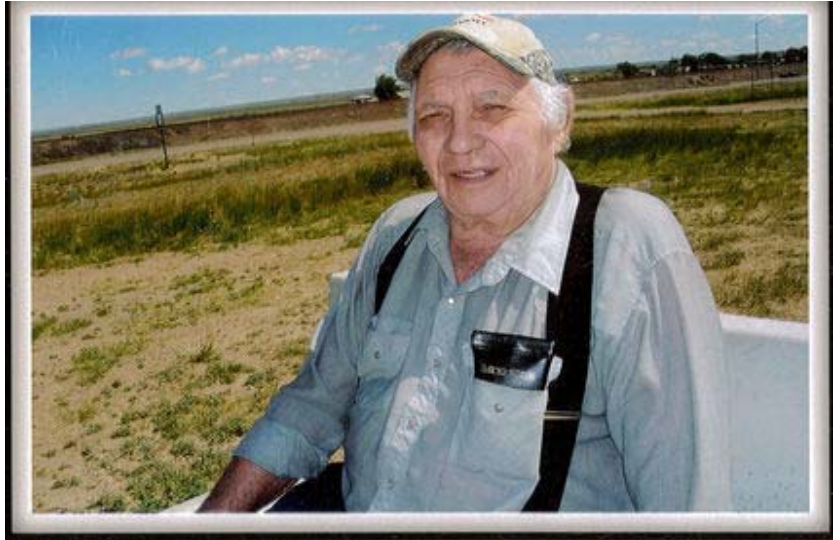
A celebration of life is planned for July 21, 2018, 2 p.m., at the Lutheran Church of Hope located at 1847 W. Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage, AK 99517. A reception will follow at 3 p.m. at The Petroleum Club, 3301 C Street, Suite 120, Anchorage, AK 99503. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Lutheran Church of Hope, or to a charity of your choice.

Charles Fred Lineweaver

Born: May 22, 1929 – Died: January 10, 2018

Charles Fred Lineweaver of Inverness, 88, who loved his family, could tell when the weather was changing and loved his cows, died Jan. 10 in Havre.

Chuck was born May 22, 1929, in Havre to Louis and Bernice Lineweaver. He grew up north of Inverness living first 6 miles north at the Seitters home and eventually moving to Big Sage ... which was 20 miles north. He received his education at Inverness High School, graduating in 1947. He then went to Montana State College in Bozeman and was on the football team for the Mighty Bobcats - Bobcat blood runs deep in Chuck's family.



Oct. 1, 1950, Chuck married Dorothy May in Inverness. Chuck and Dorothy raised three children on the farm. This life was perfect for learning hard work, love of the land and family love.

Dad loved the land and all its creatures. He spent most of his life turning the soil and nurturing the growing crops. He also had a love for "most" animals. He ran cattle and knew each and every one of them and spent countless hours out with them. In his later years the cows were his therapy. He could watch them and surely talk to them for hours. They knew he was a gentle soul and trusted him as much as he trusted them. He fed raccoons in the garage, made sure the kitties were fed and warm and loved his blue heelers. His dogs were definitely his co-pilots and also protectors.

Dad loved Mom's cooking, especially anything chocolate. His favorites were Hershey Bars, Hershey Kisses and Russell Stover chocolates and he always enjoyed a chocolate milkshake. Once in a while he would even add some caramel into the mix.

After Dorothy passed away in 2008, Dad was kind of lost. He spent his time in the pasture, driving to town, visiting and watching out the kitchen window for wildlife. In 2010 he moved to Wheat Country Estates where he thoroughly enjoyed the people, food and visits from friends. In 2013 he moved to Havre to the care center, where he continued to be a happy and gentle soul. He would say, "I have a roof over my head, food and a bed to sleep in so I'm doing pretty good."

Dad served on the Inverness School Board, the Inverness Methodist Church Board, Inverness Commercial Club and Sage Creek Water Board, and was active in various community projects, including bowling.

Dad loved his family unconditionally ... his thought was, "did you learn something from this, and get up and keep going."

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Dorothy, and grandson Kevin Lineweaver. Dad lost a part of himself when Kevin passed that he never recovered.

He is survived by his children, daughter Susan (Craig) of Kremlin, son Ron (Debbie) of Joplin and daughter Bernie (Glen) of Butte. He leaves behinds five grandchildren, Chris (Rachel), Curt (Autumn), Kimberly (Mark), Kels (Jessica) and Randi, and six great-grandchildren Katie, Michael, Kaden, Kenton, Alex and Cooper. Dad loved each one of us unconditionally and miss you.

Memorial services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018, at the Chester United Methodist Church. A reception will follow. His ashes will be buried at the Highland Cemetery in Havre.

Memorials can be given to Wheat Country Estates, Golden Prairie Foundation, or a memorial of the donor's choice.

Condolences can be made to Charles' memorial page at <http://www.asperfh.com>.

Ernestine "Ernie" S. Mader

Born: Aril 25, 1941 – Died: October 29, 2018

Ernestine "Ernie" Smith Mader, 77, of Chester, died peacefully at Benefis Peace Hospice in Great Falls, after a short valiant battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

A memorial Gathering will be 10:00 AM on Saturday, November 3 at the Chester Senior Center.

Ernestine was born April 25, 1941 in Bakersfield, CA. She was the second born of 6 children to Ernest and Lucy (Youngblood) Smith. She graduated Arvin High School in 1958, at the age of 17. Ernie worked for Brocks Department Store in Bakersfield selling housewares for a short time. She married Carl Beshears and had two children, Robin Lynn and Starr Kay. They later divorced. She met Gary Mader in 1969 at Seaside, CA. Gary was in the service at the time and Ernie moved up to Chester Montana in Dec of 1969. Where she stayed with Bernie and Lil Mader, her soon to be in-laws. Gary and Ernie married March 30, 1970. She worked as a CNA at the nursing home in Chester for a short period before their first child, Shannon Lee was born November 25, 1970. They fostered several children through the years. May 30, 1977 they had their second child, Skye Mark. Ernie started working at the sheriff's office as a dispatcher. She loved working as a dispatcher and eventually became the Emergency Disaster Coordinator. She then worked as a bartender at the Vets Club. After that she worked at Circle K.



Ernie loved going camping and spending the summer down at the lake south of Lothair. She had a passion for reading, checking out 10 books at a time, and able to read them within a week. She crocheted, sewed, and spent many hours at craft shows. First with her daughter Shannon, selling handmade doll clothing, and scrubs, then later with her sister Tonia and daughter Starr. In her later years she loved spending time with her grandkids. Dictating what everyone should do from her recliner. And coloring in the adult coloring books. And of course reading books on a kindle.

Ernie was preceded in death by her father Ernest Smith, a sister Wanda Gibson, her mother Lucy Smith, a niece Magen Wickum, a half-sister Thelma Brown and recently her oldest daughter Robin Maples.

Ernie is survived by her husband Gary, two daughters Starr (Terry) Tyler and Shannon (Ken) Jackson, a son Skye (Tabitha) Mader, 15 grandchildren Dustin (Jerin) Tunget, Jamie (Chris) Roloff, Stacey (Banjo) Servis, Kerry (Michael) Tunget, Randi (Trevor) Violett, Ryne (Alissa) Tyler, Justen (Kyanne) Mader, Maxx Mader, Brodie Jackson, Camden Jackson and Branch Jackson. 13 great grandchildren and two additional babies on the way. 1 brother Don (Pat) Smith, 3 Sisters Shirley Harrington, Jan (Danny) Hendricks and Tonia (Steve) Wickum. And many nephews, nieces and friends.

Robin “Jinx” Lynnette Beshears Maples

Born: October 15, 1959 – Died: September 6, 2018

Robin “Jinx” Lynnette Beshears Maples was born Oct. 15, 1959, in Bakersfield, Calif., to Carl and Ernestine Beshears. She went to be with the Lord on Sept. 6, 2018, after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

With her father being a minister she attended many schools in California, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Arizona. She received her GED in Arizona. She attended West Coast Bible College where she met Terry Tunget. They were married in August 1979. They had four children, Dustin, Jamie, Stacey and Kerry. They divorced in 1986.



She went on to receive her licensed practical nursing degree in Texas. She moved to Clark Fork, Idaho, in 2005, and became known as Jinx to the people there. She fell in love with the community and the people in it. She wrote for The River Journal under the column name “Jinxed.” In 2009, she reconnected with an old friend, Brad Maples, and fell in love. They married in 2010. They enjoyed many journeys and adventures together and he was with her until her last moment here on earth.

She was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer on July 6, 2007. She underwent chemotherapy and was thought to be in remission. She was rediagnosed on July 6, 2018, 11 years to the day of her first diagnosis. She fought hard and was an inspiration to everyone who knew her.

She could light up the darkest room with her personality and wit. She had a way of bringing the best out of the worst situations. She saw the best in people that others could not see. She had a heart for veterans after making a special connection with a soldier overseas, Matthew McCown. She went on to send many care packages overseas to those serving. She had a special place in her heart for people with special needs.

She had 12 grandchildren, all of whom she loved and adored. She was very proud of her family and always put them and her husband first.

She leaves behind her husband, Brad Maples; her four children, Dustin Tunget (Jerin), Jamie Roloff (Chris), Stacey Servis (Banjo), and Kerry Tunget (Michael); 12 grandchildren, Valerie, Kelsie, Jacob, Billie, Gracie, Lorelei, Logan, Jesse, Kagan, Landree, Jensen, and Sarah; a mother, Ernestine Mader; a stepmother, Marlene Beshears; three sisters, Star Tyler (Terry), Shannon Jackson (Ken), and Joyce Duncan (Owen); one brother, Skye Mader (Tab); and many neices, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her hero and father, Carl Beshears.

There will a celebration of life at the Clark Fork Senior Center in Clark Fork on Sept. 15, 2018, from 2-4 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to Hi-Line WABC (Women Against Breast Cancer), P.O. Box 491, Chester, MT 59522.

Susan Stone Story McCracken

Born: September 14, 1954 – Died: April 29, 2018

Susan Stone Story McCracken passed away April 29, 2018 at St. Vincent Hospital. She was born September 14, 1954 in Chester, MT to Alfred and Maxine Stone. Her father worked building bridges on roadways so the family moved often. After moving to Park City where she attended high school, she met and married Robert Story. Together they had three children, Carman, Tina and Zane and raised them on the family farm and ranch. Susan made breakfast for her kids every day before school and waitressed in the evenings. She became a licensed and certified EMT and truly enjoyed working in the emergency medical field.

Susan moved to Missoula and continued her work in the emergency medical field as a dispatcher before starting a new career with the VA Hospital at Fort Harrison in Helena. She later transferred to Billings to be closer to family and started working at the VA Clinic in Billings. While working there, she met Dick McCracken, a driver for the DAV. They married in 2009 and continued to live in Billings. They enjoyed traveling across the country and spent time cruising on the Harley or in their many Corvettes. Susan retired in 2015 and enjoyed spending more time with Dick before his passing on May 5, 2017.



Susan enjoyed gardening, traveling, and cruising in her red Corvette. She was rather particular about her hair and nails and faithfully kept her appointments to keep up with the latest trends. She had a weakness for shoes often boasting of her “shoe room”. She had a spirit that kept us on our toes, a great sense of humor, a bit of a stubborn streak, and was never afraid to voice her opinion.

She is preceded in death by her husband Dick, her parents, one nephew and one niece. Survivors include her three children and eight grandchildren; Carman (Robert) LaPlant, and their children Gabby and Kellen; Tina (Greg) Zimdars and their children Garrett and Stockton, and Zane Story and his children, Hayley, Kendyll, Wyatt, and Brody; her brothers Stuart Stone and Spike Stone and her sister Nancy (Mitch) Stone Hauge; several nieces and nephews and her dogs Olivia and Chance.

The family would like to say a special thank you to the staff at St. Vincent ICU for their exceptional care during her stay.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held Tuesday, May 8 at 10:00a.m. at Smith Funeral Chapel 925 South 27th Street. Dick and Susan will be buried together at the National Veteran’s Cemetery in Laurel in a small private family ceremony.

Kent Meldrum

Born: , 1941 – Died: March 2, 2018

Kent Meldrum passed away on March 2, 2018 to be with our Heavenly Father after a valiant battle with cancer. A Montana native, he and his family farmed in Saskatchewan for several years, owned and operated a cabinet business in Oregon with his brother Lon and settled in Forestville, CA managing the Empire Mini Storage.

Kent is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary, together with sons Darwyn (LaDonna), Greg (Kim), and daughter Joni Schmidt (Brian), grandchildren Marcus, Alexandria and Maximillian Schmidt, brother Gene (Pat), sister Marlene Rocks, and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside memorial service in Joplin will be held on May 5 at 2 p.m. Condolences may be sent to 6320 Forestville St., Forestville, CA 95436.



Robert W. Moog

Born: August 1, 1925 – Died: June 2, 2018

Bob W. Moog, 92, passed away June 2, 2018.

Born Robert William Moog Aug. 1, 1925, in Inverness, he was the third child of six born to Otto and Irene (White) Moog. Known to all as Bob, he attended school in Inverness.

Bob and Una Nadine Alley were married June 2, 1946, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Conrad, Mt., while Bob worked at Safeway.

They moved to Joplin in 1947 to farm his Aunt Violet (White) Smith's farm until the farm was sold to the Errol Fossen family, and he also worked at the Joplin Grocery.

They moved to Inverness in April 1951, where Bob continued to work at Joplin Grocery. In 1953, they bought into the International Harvester business from Eddy McClellan which would then become Hi-Line Equipment Co. with partners Tommy Wood and Elmer Klemm. Besides selling I-H farm equipment, trucks and pickups, the partnership began buying small parcels of land to farm. Bob and Tommy eventually bought out Klemm and in 1962 they sold the equipment business to Marias Equipment in Chester. Bob continued to be an I-H salesman for Marias Equipment until 1990 - the last two years for Dick and Gary Brown of Big Sky Equipment in Conrad. The Hi-Line Farms partnership continued until April 15, 1988.

Other activities Bob did in his spare time included having a lifelong membership at the Sacred Heart Church, Inverness, where he was usher and greeter, kept the grass and weeds mowed and made sure the church was always warm for Mass and other events held; being a director of Hill County Water District 1982-95, replacing Lester Kenfield. Bob was one of the founding directors of Inverness Water District, established in 1964. He enjoyed square-dancing and league bowling in the 1960-'70s. He also enjoyed mowing grass for several neighbors to keep Inverness beautiful.

Bob and Una briefly spent time at the Sweet Grass Lodge, moving into the Wheat Country Estates in March of 2015. Then Bob moved into the Long Term Care facility in Chester Sept. 27, 2017.

Bob is survived by Una and actually passed away on his and Una's 72nd wedding anniversary, June 2, 2018. He is also survived by all nine of his children and their spouses, 35 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, sibling Leonard (Madeline) Moog, sister-in-law Bev Moog, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, siblings Alice Lakey, Otto (Bud) Moog, Vern Moog, Margaret Bailey and two grandsons, John David Moog and Cole Keith Moog.



A vigil is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6, at 7 p.m., funeral Mass and reception Thursday, June 7, at 11 a.m., both at Sacred Heart Church in Inverness, Montana, followed by the burial at 2 p.m. at the Chester Cemetery.

Pearl Katherine “Kathy” Heimbigner Morton

Born: January 4, 1940 – Died: April 2, 2018

PEARL KATHERINE "KATHY" MORTON, 78, Milton, W.Va., was born on January 4, 1940, to the late Walter and Alice Heimbigner in Chester, Mont. Kathy passed peacefully at her son's home in Albuquerque, N.M., on Monday, April 2, 2018. Kathy is survived by her three loving children and their spouses, son Ronny Lee and Lyn Morton of Rainier, Wash., daughter Rene Lynn and Greg Nevens of Triangle, Va., and Rodney Lowell and Barbara Morton of Albuquerque, N.M.; two sisters, Ruby Borst and Opal Borkse of Great Falls, Mont., and one brother, Donnie Heimbigner of Chester, Mont.; four grandchildren, Kyra, Amber (Day), Alyssa and Cody; two step-grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her brother and sister, Roy Heimbigner and Donna Perdue of Chester, Mont. Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, April 9, 2018, at Wallace Funeral Home, Milton, W.Va., by Pastor Rick Sovine. Burial will follow at Forest Memorial Park, Milton, W.Va. Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 8, 2018. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at

www.timeformemory.com/wallace.

Published in The Herald-Dispatch on Apr. 7, 2018

Richard Allen Overlie

Born: March 1, 1961 – Died: July 23, 2018

Richard Allen Overlie was born on March 1, 1961 in Havre, MT. He was the first of four children born to Richard (Dick) Overlie and Bonnie (Overlie) Eppers.

Rick started school in Chester, MT. The family moved to Kremlin when Rick was in the second grade, but returned to Chester that year. HE graduated from Chester High School in 1979.

In high school Rick participated in football and wrestling, but settled on wrestling as his only sports interest and was on the wrestling team until graduation. He qualified for the state wrestling tournament his senior year. His favorite classes in school were art and industrial arts.

After graduation Rick joined the U.S. Navy and went to boot camp in September of 1979. He graduated a couple of months later. He then went to sub school in Groton, Connecticut and ended up being a cook on submarines. He was based on the East Coast for his entire term of service and left the Navy in 1983.

He came home to Montana and stayed in Chester for awhile before settling in Great Falls for more than a year. However, he missed many things about the East Coast so he traveled to the Boston area where he lived, married, raised a family and worked for most of the last 30+ years.

During his time as a cook and chef in the Boston area he received an award as Best Master Chef of the Northeast in the 90's and catered the wedding of Jamie Frances who played Laura on General Hospital. He also was the head chef at an event attended by Mohammad Ali. Ali asked to meet the chef and congratulated Rick on a meal well done. He also worked the "First Thanksgiving re-enactment at Plymouth Plantation" every year for many years. Later in his career he became a lead chef and trainer. He loved the money, but hated losing the "hands on" work in the kitchen, the travel and time away from his family.

Rick suffered a major head trauma slipping on the ice the winter of 2013 and nearly died. He came home that year to try and recuperate and start over. Alas, it was not to be. In spite of the after effects of the injuries, the Boston area was his home and where his kids were, so he returned there in late 2014.

He died on or about July 23, 2018 in his home. His death was due to complications from medical problems that had begun to plague him before his return to Boston.

Rick is survived by his mother Bonnie, his brother Ron, sisters Kaloni and Laura, his wife Lisa, his sons Cory (Choral) and Justin (Amanda) and his granddaughter Telvina Rose as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Richard (Dick) Overlie.

Beloved son, brother, father, grandfather and friends, Rick will be missed.

A memorial service for Rick will be held in Chester on Thursday, October 4th, 2018 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The service will begin at 11 a.m. with a luncheon to follow.

Olive Gillette Ritter

Born: October 21, 1927 – Died: May 3, 2018

Olive Gillette Ritter, 90 years old, of Bozeman, Montana, passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends on May 3, 2018 in Eugene, Oregon.

Gillette was born October 21st, 1927 in Havre, Montana, the fourth of six children to Edwin Olaf Obie and Ann Rose Obie. She joined brothers Norman and Gordon and sister Rose; and was later joined by brothers Willard and Laurence.

She held many fond memories of growing up on her parents' homestead north of Joplin, Montana. Even during the great depression of the 1930's, she remembers no deprivation due to her parents' resourcefulness. Gillette enjoyed walks on the prairies where she acquired an interest in plants and flowers, a growing passion she shared with her father.

Gillette attended country school for eight years and graduated from Joplin High School. She attended Northern Montana College for one year.

On February 6, 1945 Gillette married the love of her life, Roland Ritter. Upon Roland's discharge from the U.S. Army in 1946 they settled on the family farm north of Rudyard, Montana where they worked together, loving and raising their six children.

Roland and Gillette moved to Bozeman, Montana in 2006 where she had since resided. Roland passed away in December of 2012.

Most recently, Gillette had come to spend the winter months near her loving brother, Laurence Obie, in November 2017, where they each had an apartment at Sheldon Oaks Retirement Center.

Gillette carried her passion for gardening and flowers throughout her life, raising ample gardens and beautiful flowers for her family and home. Fresh cut flowers always adorned her dining table.

With a love for sewing, Gillette created beautiful quilts for family and friends. She made hundreds through the Lutheran churches in Rudyard and Bozeman, and many at home, to gift to the less fortunate, including many in Mexico which she gave away during winter vacations there. She continued this work in Eugene, sewing and donating several quilts for non-profit organizations to be given to children in need.

Gillette also held a voracious appetite for reading, with a special interest in historical books, never ceasing her quest for further education. Her wealth of knowledge could be recognized by others while watching the televised game show, Jeopardy.



The apples of her eye were her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Gillette's sincere interest in people quickly created lifelong friendships in every town she lived. She felt incredibly blessed and loved spending time with her many loved ones, who will deeply miss her thoughtful and caring nature.

Ever positive in spirit, Gillette embraced the final days of her life with grace and faith, fully ready to be taken home by her Lord. The many who miss her now are comforted by thoughts of her much-anticipated reunion, now dancing with her beloved Roland while he sings, "Hallelujah! My beautiful, lovely wife is home!"

Gillette was preceded in death by her husband Roland Ritter; her parents, Edwin and Ann Obie; her brothers Norman, Gordon and Willard Obie, and her sister Rose Groven. She is survived by her children: Jerry Ritter (and Joie), Lila Heydon (married to Kenneth Heydon), Fay Johnson (married to Conrad Johnson), Jeanie Konopatzke, Ross Ritter (and Kimberly) and Wanda Condon; her grandchildren Jill Ritter, Kari Sue Ritter, Scott MacFarlane, Cory Heydon, Kelly Heydon, Doug Johnson, Sara Lala, Alex Konopatzke, Max Konopatzke, Crista Konopatzke, Sasha Keller, Tess Ritter, Olive Solache Ritter, Kelley Condon, and Brenna Condon; 11 great grandchildren; and her brother Laurence Obie.

A Celebration of Gillette's Life is planned for July 22, 2018 in Bozeman, Montana.

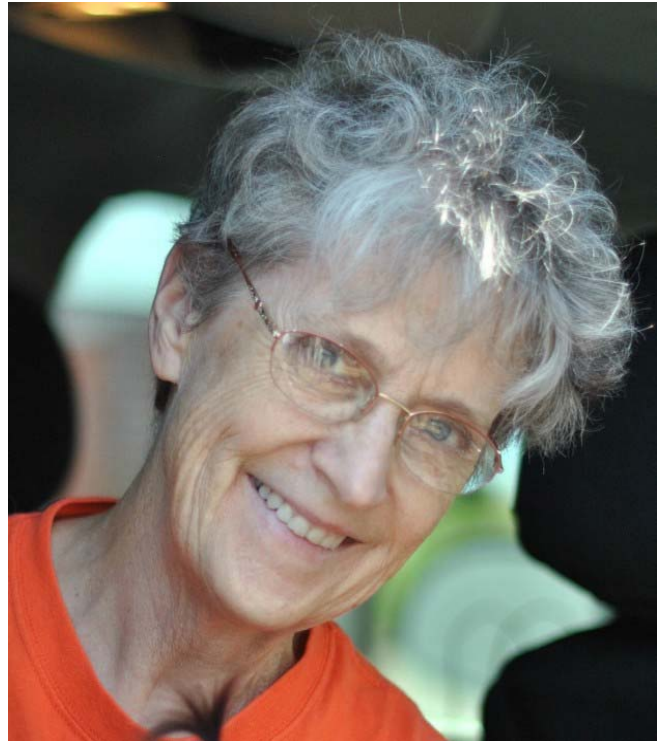
Published in Great Falls Tribune on June 3, 2018

Karen Jayne Salo

Born: January 11, 1952– Died: April 4, 2018

Karen Jayne Salo, age 66, passed away on Wednesday, April 4th, at the Peace Hospice House in Great Falls, Montana. She was with her daughter & went peacefully in her sleep. She was born in Helena, Montana to Stanley & Mary Salo. She was the oldest of two children. She married Randall Boumans of Valier in 1975 & they had one daughter together. They later divorced.

Beginning at an early age, Karen had a deep love for animals. She would often rescue baby birds fallen from their nests during storms, take in stray cats & dogs, & was the founder of Prairie Oasis animal shelter in Shelby, Montana. She loved reading, gardening, & quilting, & was a fantastic cook & baker. She was outspoken, opinionated, independent, & if you were her friend, you were her friend for life. There was nothing she wouldn't do for those she loved. She worked as the Toole County sanitarian for many years & retired in 2013.



Karen was diagnosed with AML, an aggressive form of leukemia, in 2014. She fought fiercely & bravely & stayed incredibly strong. As many others can attest to, no one was as tough & tenacious as she was.

Karen is survived by her brother, Brandt & his wife Cathy; her nephew Andrew & his family; her aunt Josephine; as well as her only daughter, Amanda, & her husband Robert. She had four grandchildren, Tucker & Hailey Anderson, & Riann & Charlotte Brown. She loved being their Nana & was always so proud of her grandkids. She loved sharing their accomplishments.

Karen chose to not have a funeral, as she wouldn't want everyone to make a big fuss over her. Instead, we will have a small gathering at the Alibi Lounge in Shelby, Montana on Friday, April 13th beginning at 6 pm. Please come & raise a glass, share your stories, & celebrate her incredible life.

Carolyn "Carrie" L. Seidlitz

Born: December 1, 1929 – Died: November 7, 2018

Carrie was the daughter of Jess and Ada Flo Blair, and was born on December 1, 1929 in Havre, Montana. She and her brother Cliff were the first twins born in the Havre Hospital.

Carrie, Cliff and Floyd Blair were raised on the Blair Ranch north of Lothair, and enjoyed the typical farm/ranch lifestyle of chores, hard and smart work, and being good neighbors.

Carrie went to elementary school at Eagle Creek, and later attended high school in Oilmont and Chester, graduating in 1947 from Chester High School. After high school, Carrie enrolled in Beauty School in Missoula, Montana, and then worked in Hamilton and Helena.

On September 12, 1950, she married Joe Seidlitz at St Mary's Church in Chester, Montana. Shortly after being married, she and Joe moved to Bainbridge, Washington where Joe was stationed with the Navy. Following Joe's discharge from the military, Joe and Carrie returned to Chester, and Joe was a farmer and Carrie was a homemaker, and an outstanding homemaker at that. During this time, they raised six children: Sharleen Pulst, Deb (Phillard) Balsley, Daryl Jean (Larry) Aaby, Joan (Jon) Boucher, Wendy Dauwalder and Gene Seidlitz.

Carrie was a loving daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend. She is survived by her two Brothers, Cliff (Nell) Blair of Hobson, and Floyd Blair of Lewistown; Her six children, 13 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Carrie enjoyed her time as a homemaker, a gardener, bird watcher, and collecting angels and hummingbirds. And of note, she was an outstanding cook. Her cinnamon rolls, buns, cookies and casseroles were her signature food items.

She loved her family, the grandchildren and great grandchildren, and when possible showered them with loving kindness and attention. Carrie was fond of the phrase "Having Someplace To Go is Home, Having Someone To Love Is Family, and Having Both Is A Blessing".

Carrie passed away on November 7, 2018, at the Liberty County Nursing Home. She was 88 years old.

Carrie was preceded in death by Joe Seidlitz, her husband, and her parents Jess and Ada Flo Blair; and great grandson, Michael.

Visitation will be Tuesday, November 13, from 3 to 6pm. Vigil service will be at 7pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Funeral mass will be Wednesday, November 14, at 10AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church.



Penny Colleen Stevens

Born: December 28, 1960 – Died: September 18, 2018

Penny Colleen Stevens, 57, of Great Falls passed away Tuesday, September 18, 2018. Penny was the fifth child born December 28, 1960 to Darlene (Johnson) Stevens and Thomas Stevens. She attended schools in Great Falls and graduated from Great Falls High. She worked at various jobs, the last being Centene Corporation where she processed insurance claims.

Penny loved her animals, cats and dogs alike. While growing up her mom raised and sold Siamese cats, which is where she got her love of cats and had one until lately.

Penny loved the outdoors. You would find her camping every weekend, weather permitting, with her best friend, Molly, a red blue-heeler.



She is preceded in death by both parents, Darlene and Thomas. She is survived by Dave, Bonnie, Joe, Roger and Randy. Her care has been entrusted to Croxford Funeral Home.

William “Bill” Twedt

Born: July 26, 1954 – Died: August 2, 2018

William “Bill” Twedt, 64, passed away August 2, 2018 from complications of a fall.

Bill was born July 26, 1954 to Gordon and S. Lorine Twedt. He was raised on the family farm south of Ruyard, Montana. He cherished his time on the hi-line and was always a flat lander. His family moved to Great Falls, where he graduated from GFHS. Bill then graduated from MSU (Go Cats!) with a degree in Ag. Business. He worked for Cargill and Montana Merchandising. Bill earned an MBA and began a new career in Real Estate and Land Management.

Bill truly enjoyed life. He loved meeting people and was easily befriended because of his wit, and charm. He was a member of the Elks and enjoyed golfing and bowling as health permitted. Bill's greatest gift was gab, embellishing stories with truth, bull and humor.

He will be missed by all who survive. His spouse Judy; brothers, James (Suzie), Russell (Jackie Watson); sister-in-law Marcia Hocevar; parents-in-law Joe and Mary Hocevar; and all the extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister-in-law, Diana Twedt; brother-in-law Wayne Luckey; mother-in-law Dorothy Hocevar.

A celebration of life and shared stories will be held at a later date. Charitable donations can be made to the BPOE, Elks # 214 Scholarship Foundation, Meals on Wheels or donor's choice.

Norma Waite

Born: February 8, 1929 – Died: June 13, 2018

Norman Waite, 89, of Shelby, passed away on Wednesday, June 13, 2018. Services will be held Saturday, June 23, at 10 a.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Shelby.

Norman was born Feb. 8, 1929 to Homer Waite and Mildred (Johnson) Waite in Shell Lake, Wis. Norm was raised on the family farm along the Yellow River in northwestern Wisconsin, which made for an exciting childhood, but also a need to always be on the move. Known to many by his boisterous voice, "Stormin' Norman," he was a friend to many, and a helping hand to all that called on him.

Norman married Patricia Ann Swetland on Sept. 25, 1948 and they enjoyed 57 years together while raising a family of nine children.

Norman, in his ever-unsettled way, left the family farm in Wisconsin to move to Montana in 1950 with his loving bride Patricia and two young daughters Alice and Patty. Upon settling in Shelby, Norm found work in the lumberyard and then with Montana Dakota Utilities in the Whitlash Gas Field which later became property of the Montana Power Company. Norm retired from the company in 1988.

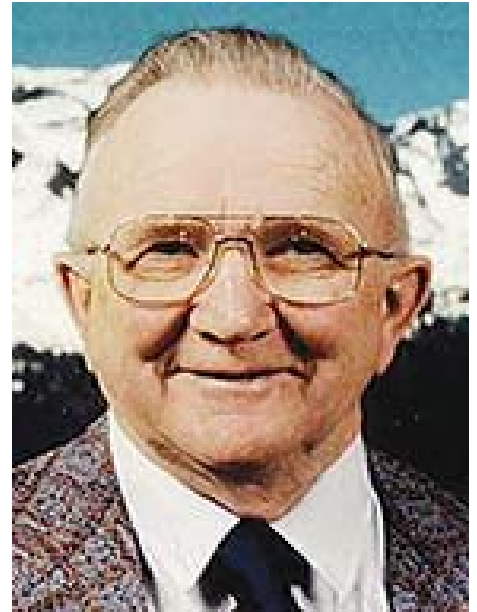
While at Whitlash, Norm and Pat added to their growing family — Paul, Kathy, Mary, Mike, Bill, Frank and Little Stormin' Norman Patrick. Norm and Pat's most precious years were lived while in the Whitlash Community and while spending time at their cabin in Essex with friends of Bill W. and Dr. Bob.

Norm's most notable contribution to his friends and family was his willingness to help a neighbor in need and his 51 years of sobriety in the AA Program. Giving up was not a part of Norm's innermost being, but letting go became a necessity after the loss of his second daughter Patty in 1963, his father Homer in 1967, mother Mildred and older sister Eileen in 2000, his bride Patricia in 2005, his first child Alice (Waite) Kanning in 2014 and his granddaughter Mandy Waite.

After retiring from the Montana Power Company and moving to Shelby, Norm often traveled back to his roots in Wisconsin to help his two sisters Evelyn and Eileen care for his aging mother Mildred and to visit friends and extended family. Norm also enjoyed spending time with friends at the Shelby and Cut Bank Senior Centers playing cards and enjoying potluck dinners as well as attending Lutefisk dinners at the many surrounding area churches.

As Norm goes on to his eternal rest he leaves behind daughters Kathy (Tom) Lakey and Mary Waite; sons Paul, Mike (Tammie), Bill (Tami), Frank, Patrick (Brenda) and son-in-law Fred Kanning; grandchildren Shawn, Becky, Erik, Christopher, Sandra "His Beloved Aggravation Player," Tommy, Lynn, Terry, Juley, Dylan, Heather, Douglas, Ryan, Raegen, Raquel, Kristy, Darren, Steve, Tara and Jessica; great/ great-great grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Benefis Peace Hospice of Montana or to a charity of one's own choice.



Kenneth L. Watson

Born: June 29, 1934 – Died: May 5, 2018

Fort Benton - Kenneth L. Watson, 83, passed away May 5, 2018 due to natural causes while at his favorite fishing hole at Virgelle. His funeral service will be 1:00 p.m., Friday, May 11, 2018 at the Ag Center in Fort Benton. Ken was born on June 29, 1934 to Leon and lone (Kimble) Watson in Fort Benton, Montana. Ken married his high school sweetheart, Judith Blanchard and they spent over 60 happy years together. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, his brother: Ronald Watson, and brother-in-law: Ken Moura. He is survived by his wife Judith; children: Jackie Watson (Russ Twedt) of Chester, James (Cheri) Watson of Bozeman, Barbara (Don) Wolfe of Chester, foster daughter: Peggy (Kerry) Aakre of Fort Peck; grandson: Travis (Tauna) Watson of Helena; granddaughters: Nikole Wolfe and Erin Wolfe of Chester; brothers: John (Lorraine) Watson of Helena and Gordon (Joann) Watson of Bozeman; sister: Leona Moura of Missoula; and several nieces and nephews.



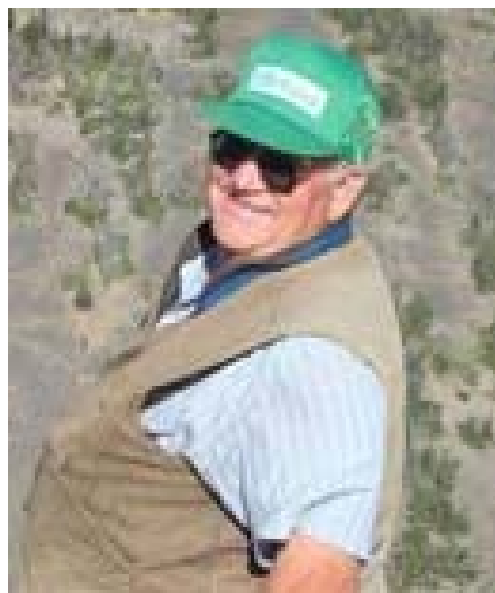
Warren Duane Wickum

Born: December 26, 1951 – Died: September 29, 2018

Chester - Warren Duane Wickum was born December 26, 1951 in Conrad to Roy and Maxine (Fowler) Wickum. He died September 29, 2018 with his wife of 43 years at his side, in his home near Hill, MT at the base of East Butte, Sweetgrass Hills following a 2 1/2 year battle with lung cancer.

He grew up on the farm at Hill, MT, hunting, fishing and riding motorcycles with his cousins and neighbors. He attended grade school through the 6th grade at the Hill school, 20 miles north of Chester and graduated from Chester High School in 1970.

Warren was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church and was a lifelong member there, serving on various boards. During the last few weeks of his life, he mentioned to his family that he felt he had lived a full life and was content and at peace with the Lord. He never stopped fighting because there was always a couple more things to do.



Warren married Marcia Cresswell in 1975. Together they farmed and ranched and raised 3 children. Warren loved his occupation and considered it a privilege to farm and ranch, nestled in the beautiful Sweet Grass Hills. He enjoyed going camping in Glacier Park every summer and taking his kids and grandkids hiking and fishing. His grandchildren will remember him for always giving them a big bag of candy from North 40 "because their parents won't buy them any."

Warren was the guy that always had 5 minutes anywhere to make a friend out of a stranger.

Survivors include his mother, Maxine Wickum of Chester; his wife, Marcia Wickum and 2 grandchildren, Warren Thomas and Saige Bachteler, residing at the family farm; daughter, Kresta Wickum of Chester; son, Lance (Brenda) Wickum with their children Ivan, Erik, Isaac, and Zoe of Shelby and son, Robert Wickum, also residing at the family farm; siblings, Wayne Wickum, Cliff (Helen) Wickum, Ann Wickum, Bev Wickum, and Dale Wickum.

Warren was preceded in death by his father, Roy Wickum, and his grandparents: Richard and Beulah Wickum, and Theodore and Ann Fowler.

Services will be Wednesday, October 3, at 11AM at Trinity Lutheran Church, North of Lothair. Visitation will be at church one hour prior to service.

Condolences can be made to Warren's memorial page at www.asperfh.com.

David C. Wilmes

Born: 1936 – Died: June 24, 2018

David C. Wilmes was born in Havre, Montana in 1936 and passed on June 24, 2018 surrounded by his loving family in Everett, Washington. David is survived by his wife Nancy of 60 years; son Joel and wife Carrie of Dallas, TX; son Michael and wife Gail of Everett, Washington; son Christopher and wife Leslie of Idaho Falls, Idaho; daughter Gina and husband David Evans of Snohomish, Washington. Grandchildren Nicholas, Taylor, Whitney, Nicole, Trey, Ali and Kwyncie. Great grandchildren Brooke-Lynn and Ryder. Sister Rosalie and husband Don Martinson of Helena and step mother Flo Wilmes of Montana.

David was preceded in death by his mother Marie, father Joseph and brother Roger Wilmes. David was a lifetime farmer and retired from the BNSF Railroad. He loved his family and beloved pets.

A private family service will be held.

Send condolences to Nancy Wilmes, 4419 137th Street SE, Mill Creek, Washington 98012.

