

# Neide Carlbom

**Born: Date Unknown – Died: May 7, 2016**

Neide Carlbom was born in Sao Jose DaLage, Alagoas, Brazil to Manoel Prazeres and Arlinda DeBrito Prazeres. She was the second of 5 children and grew up in this small town where her father was mayor. After high school she moved to Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil where she worked at the mayor's office there.

A friend of hers wanted her to meet a guy at the American hang out and that's where she met her future husband, Donald Carlbom. Don and Neide were married June 24, 1965 in Recife. They both returned to Denver where Don was living. They had a son and daughter and Neide was a housewife. They also lived in Conifer and Lakewood, Colorado until 1980. They moved to Don's hometown of Conrad, Montana and purchased the Taco Place and ran that until they sold it in 1984. Neide worked at the Horizon Lodge until her health forced her to quit. In 1991 Don and Neide moved to Great Falls and lived there until Don's death in 1998. Neide then moved to Chester and lived at the Sweetgrass Lodge until her health declined and she moved into Liberty Medical Center in 2012.



Neide passed away May 7, 2016. She was 79 years old.

Survivors include son, Ron (Katrina) Carlbom, of Tillamook, OR; daughter, Glenda (Dennis) Hanson of Chester; granddaughter, Heidi Hanson of Bozeman; step grandchildren, Heather (Loren) Cantrell of Bozeman, Alyssa Sanders and Jacob Sanders both of Tillamook, OR; brothers, Adilson (Ivone) Prazeres of Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil and Edmilson (Zelia) Prazeres of Gloria, Pernambuco, Brazil; Sister, Carmen Prazeres of Macéio, Alagoas, Brazil, brother-in-law, Rodney (Nancy) Carlbom of Shelby and sisters-in-law, Janis (Greg) Hood of Checotah, OK and Sue (Dale) Sheldon of Conrad.

Services will be announced at a later date. Rockman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

# Sheila M. Lakey Coulston

**Born: November 18, 1941 – Died: September 22, 2016**

Sheila M. Lakey Coulston, 74, of Bainville, Montana, died peacefully surrounded by her family on Thursday evening, September 22, 2016. She passed following her 3rd battle with cancer.

Sheila Mae Lakey was born November 18, 1941 to Houston and Nellie Lakey in Rudyard, MT. She was born 6 weeks early and spent her first weeks of life sleeping in a shoebox, staying warm on an open oven door. Throughout her school years, she attended a variety of schools as her family moved around to different oil field jobs. She graduated from Terry Montana High School in 1959.

In 1966 she married Larry Coulston of Bainville, MT. Larry and Sheila welcomed 3 daughters: Lisa, Tina and Lori. The family lived in Oklahoma until 1979, when they moved to Bainville where she lived for the remainder of her life. She worked many years at the Sidney Post Office before retiring in 2007.



Sheila enjoyed traveling, collecting antiques, quilting and playing dominoes. She was active with Bainville Faith Fellowship Church and Kids Club there. She loved her role as a mom and grandma: spending time with her girls and grandkids was a priority for her. She loved watching her grandkids play sports, followed their school activities and encouraged them in whatever they chose to do. She treasured her trips with her siblings as they shared stories and laughs, explored many antique shops and filled their vehicles with newly found treasures. Sheila loved taking pictures everywhere she went and sharing the memories with friends and family.

Sheila will be missed by all who knew her and warmly remembered as a very caring, giving and generous person. She had great faith and remained courageous throughout her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Houston and Nellie Lakey; ex-husband Larry Coulston; three nephews, Michael, John and Patrick Leonard and many aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her children and grandchildren, Lisa, Randy, Riley and Megan Bilstein of Atkinson, Nebraska; Tina, Gregg and Bryce Erickson of Anchorage, Alaska; and Lori, Haakon, Tanner (Taylor & baby Jax), Haakon Tuff (Paige), Gracie and Waylon Jorgenson of Bainville, MT. She is also survived by her brother, John Lakey (Kathy) of 29 Palms, California; sister Naomi Leonard (Pat) of Anchorage, Alaska; sister Sharon Schwartz (Keith) of Baker, MT; brother, Jim Lakey (Patty) of Tioga, North Dakota; and sister-in-law Barbara Moore of Phoenix, Arizona; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The Everson Coughlin Funeral Home of Williston is caring for the family.

# Robert Dean Darnall

**Born: February 19, 1930 – Died: February 9, 2016**

Funeral services for Robert Darnall, 85 year old former Chester, Montana resident who passed away Tuesday morning at the Pioneer Manor in Gillette, Wyoming will be held Monday, February 22 at 10:00 a.m. from the Harness Funeral Home Chapel in Buffalo, with Mike Leibee officiating. Visitation will be at the funeral home chapel on Sunday the 21st, from 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Donations in Mr. Darnall's memory may be made to the Liberty County Senior Center in Chester, Montana in care of the Harness Funeral Home at 351 N. Adams in Buffalo. Online condolences may be made at [www.harnessfuneralhome.com](http://www.harnessfuneralhome.com)

Robert Dean Darnall was born on February 19, 1930 in Fort Laramie, Wyoming to Glenn and Bessie Darnall. He grew up and went to school in Fort Laramie and graduated from Fort Laramie High School with the class of 1949. After high school Robert went to work for the Wyoming Gas Company in Lusk. He was married on August 4, 1950 in Midwest, Wyoming to Zola Lamb and they made their home in Lusk. In 1954 he was transferred to New Castle where they lived until 1965 when he was transferred to Chester, Montana. He was divorced in 1967 and was transferred to Great Falls, Montana. He was married in 1971 in Great Falls to Ethel Keith and they made they made their home in Great Falls. Robert and Ethel operated motels in various towns in Montana, California and Washington for several years. They moved back to Chester where Robert worked at The Lodge Retirement Home as a maintenance man for several years. Ethel passed away in July of 2005 and Robert continued living in Chester until ill health forced him to move to the Pioneer Manor in Gillette in September of 2015, where he lived until his death. Robert loved playing cards and was very good at Pinochle and Cribbage.

He is survived by two daughters, Vicky Gearhart of Buffalo and Rhonda Jay of Waldorf, Maryland; five step-sons, Rodney Keith of Chester, David, Donald, and Calvin Keith all of Great Falls, Montana and Kelly Keith of Twenty-nine Palms, California; one brother Lloyd Darnall of Gillette, Wyoming; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, one brother and one step-son, James Keith.

# Jerry Lee Donovan

**Born: May 16, 1962 – Died: Week of June 29, 2016**

Jerry Lee Donovan, 54, passed away at Fresno Lake this past week.

Cremation has taken place, and his memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 1, 2016, at Fifth Avenue Christian Church with Pastor Frank Donato officiating.

Jerry was born on May 16, 1962, in Havre, to Earl and Jackie (Bullman) Donovan. He was raised on the family farm outside of Kremlin, graduating from Kremlin-Gildford High School in 1980. He briefly studied Ag-Business at Montana State University-Bozeman.

After returning to the Hi-Line, Jerry worked for Mark Aspevig before beginning his 26-year career at John Deere in Havre. Jerry was employed with Gary & Leo's Fresh Foods at the time of his passing.

In 1986, Jerry married Janine Cartwright, and the couple made their home in Havre, raising their two beautiful daughters, Haily and Chelsea. In his spare time, Jerry enjoyed golfing, the mountains, football (especially Montana Griz football), time on the lake with family and friends, crop tours with his brother Dean, riding his Harley and traveling. Music and his family were his passions. He was an amazing chef and handyman.

Jerry will be remembered by family and friends as a loving, caring and hardworking man. He greeted everyone with a smile and had a laugh that was unforgettable. He would ask us to go on dancing and "just be," explore and create new adventures. He wouldn't want us to stay sitting still.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father, Earl Neil Donovan; his granddaughter, Paisley Jo Donovan; and his grandparents.

He is survived by his former spouse and forever friend, Janine Donovan of Havre; his daughters, Haily and Chelsea Donovan, both of Havre; his grandson, Stetson Mummau; his mother, Jackie Donovan of Sandy, Utah; his brothers, Greg Donovan (David Roque) of Oakland, California, and Dean Donovan of Havre; his sister, Stacey (Rich) Stenseth of Sandy, Utah, and numerous beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, former in-laws and friends.

Jerry's family has requested that memorial donations be made in his name to the Montana State University-Northern Foundation to benefit agriculture scholarships, the Friends of [Beaver Creek Park](#), Fresno Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited or Hill County Search and Rescue.

Holland & Bonine Funeral Home has been entrusted with services and arrangements.

Please visit Jerry's online memorial page and leave a message of condolence for his family at <http://www.hollandbonine.com>.

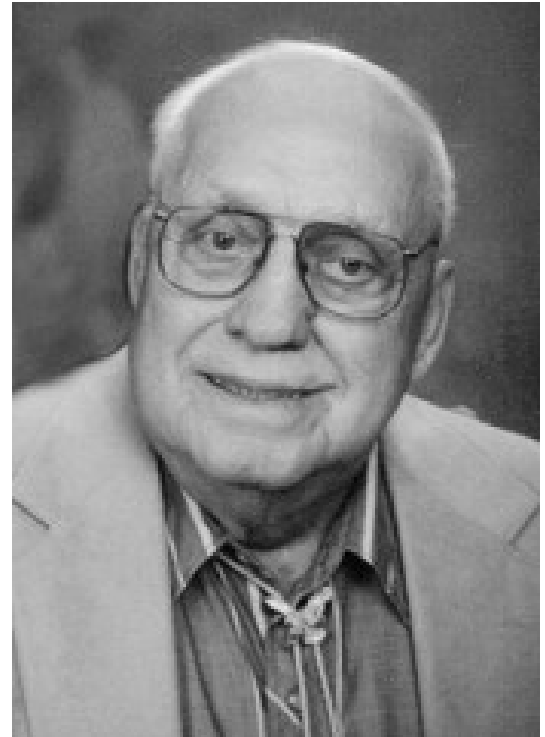


# Earl Wesley Duncan

**Born: January 25, 1928 – Died: May 1, 2016**

Earl Wesley Duncan passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, May 1, 2016 surrounded by his family.

Visitation will be Wednesday, May 4, from 5 to 7pm at Pondera Funeral Home. Funeral services will be Thursday, May 5, at 11am at Pondera Valley Lutheran Church. Earl was the 9th of 12 children born in Conrad to Oscar and Minnie Duncan on January 25, 1928. He grew up with his siblings on the family homestead East of Conrad starting school the summer of 1934. It was so dry in 1935 that his Dad rented an irrigated place north of Conrad until 1941. He joined the Navy in March of 1945. Earl was aboard the ship Oglethorpe when the Japanese surrendered. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in October, 1947. He married Olive Kathryn Davis on November 11, 1950 in Browning. To this union six children were born: Keenan, Shelby; Rhonda (Dave) Ramsey, Buffalo, WY; Susan (Mark) Elings, Lewistown, MT; Khristy (Bill) Barber, Belgrade, MT; Kathy Lynch, Havre, MT; and Kelly (Al) Turk, Benson, AZ. They lived at Two Medicine from 1954 to 1958 and then started farming with his brother Bud out at the home place.



Earl married Linda Corcoran Knobel May 17, 1986, expanding his family with her children Tommy (Kate) Knobel, Colorado Springs, Co; Debbie (Brian) Williams, Taber, Alberta; and Cindy (Jamie) Fuson, Conrad. Between Earl and Linda they enjoy 18 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren: Justin (Mary) Elings, Lewistown and their children Mary Yager, Allison, Jessica, James Elings, Lewistown; Katie Barber (Robert) McDonnell and their children Hub and Maggie, Watford City, N.D.; Zeb Barber, Bozeman; Tara Elings, Lewistown; Sara Ramsey (Robby) Lyon, and their children Jorja and Jake of Glenrock, WY; Langdon Turk, The Netherlands; Erin Lynch, Livingston; Rachel Ramsey, Sheridan, WY; Leah Ramsey, Houston, MT; Rebecca Knobel (Rob) Aspell and son Con of Durham, NC; Jesse (Rebecca) Fuson and daughter Mesa of Conrad; Jack Lynch, Los Angeles, CA; Colby Fuson, Missoula, MT; Breanna Knobel (Jason) Stoops and son Archer of Colorado Springs, CO; Alexandria Knobel of Harvest, AL; Kayla Williams, Medicine Hat, Alberta; Tanner Fuson, Cut Bank, MT; Drew Williams, Taber, Alberta. All were “favorites” and special in his eyes!

He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and sister, Ora Bucher, Reno, NV and brother Bert (Barbara) Duncan, Great Fall; sister-in-law June Duncan, Cut Bank; sister-in-law Jean Duncan, Whitefish and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Earl was preceded in death by his parents Oscar and Minnie Duncan, and siblings, Maynard, LaVeave Miller Hamann, Delwin, Lyall, Gladys Griggs Mortensen, Alice Iverson, Kenneth, Marjorie Prindle, and Annabelle Forster.

Earl enjoyed his family, especially the grandkids, playing cards, reading, fishing, camping, pack trips, and traveling. He was a member of Pondera Valley Lutheran Church, a Charter member of East Slope Backcountry Horsemen and a Life-long Member of VFW No Post 7655. Memorials may be made to the donor's choice. A special thank you is extended to his Dr. Brice Addison and staff for their loving, supporting care for the past 28 years, special nurse Tara Orvis and other people and friends who helped take care of him.

# Betty June Kissee Eklund

**Born: June 2, 1936 – Died: August 9, 2016**

Betty June Kissee Eklund was born June 2, 1936 in Casseville, MO. She was the last of 10 children born to Richard Anderson and Myrtle Cora Kissee.

She met her true love, Ralph Eklund in 1955 and married him January 19, 1956. Betty and Ralph enjoyed square dancing, bowling, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and organizing group activities. They created several trips for education, sports, and dancing. Betty was a key part in getting the Chester Horseshoe Club organized and getting several tournaments to Chester. Betty suffered from wanderlust. As a child of a preacher, they moved every 3 to 5 years, and it continued after her marriage.

Betty worked many years as a cook in the various towns she lived in. She was very proud of the work she did while working for Action for Eastern Montana in Circle, helping with the Native Americans located in Fort Peck Indian Reservation. After moving to Chester she continued working as a cook in several restaurants, and became a nurse's aide at Liberty County Hospital and Nursing Home. She later worked at the hospital in Fallon, NV. She was a Sunday school and bible school teacher. Betty played piano on several occasions for various churches she belonged to. She loved music of all kinds.



She enjoyed many hobbies over the years. Betty was a gifted doodler, tried her hand at crocheting, and worked on rug hooking. She had many close friends who loved to spend hours talking and enjoying each other's company.

Betty was a caregiver. She always fought for the underdog. If she felt someone was being slighted, then she went out of her way to right the wrong. After her retirement, she spent many years looking after her grandson and great grandchildren. In her later years she enjoyed watching game shows, reality dance and music shows. Betty was an avid reader especially Betty Neal and Julie Garwood books. She loved playing cards and watching her Duke boys play basketball as well as Cubs baseball.

She loved deeply and was loved by all. She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; sisters, Majorie and Elizabeth; brothers, Richard, Herrell, Wiley, and Anderson; and her grandson, Kirk Layton.

She is survived by her three children, John and Mary Ann Eklund of Kissimmee, FL; Yvonne and Steve Layton of Chester, and Ronald Eklund of Boise, ID; grandson, Karl and Laura Layton of Meridian, ID; great grandchildren, Trapper, Tina, and Tesla of Meridian, ID; brothers, Marvin and Mildred Kissee of McClusky, ND, John and Jane Kissee of Kansas City, MO, and Vernon and Cheryl Kissee of Reno, NV; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held Friday, August 19, at 2:00 PM at Chester Methodist Church. Burial to follow in Chester Cemetery and a reception following burial at the church.



# Francis L. Engellant

**Born: April 10, 1926 – Died: July 21, 2016**

On Thursday, July 21, 2016, Francis L. Engellant, 90, passed away peacefully at Highgate Senior Living surrounded by his loving wife and family due to complications from Alzheimer's. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2016, at the Geraldine Community United Methodist Church, with visitation held 1 hour prior to the service. Burial will follow in the Geraldine Cemetery

Francis was born on April 10, 1926, on the family farm outside of Geraldine to Hans and Emma (Jochims) Engellant. He was raised with his brother and sister on the family farm, attending Sunnyside Country School until he transferred to Geraldine. Francis graduated from Geraldine High School in 1944, and worked on the family farm until he enlisted in the Army Air Corp in August 1944. During a furlough in March of 1945, he married his high school sweetheart, Blanche Blyth, in the home of her parents Fred and Iza Blyth, and the couple made their temporary home in Denver, CO, where he was stationed until his discharge in October of 1945. Following Francis' honorable discharge, the couple



returned to the Geraldine area where they began farming and ranching in the Graceville country, north east of Geraldine. Throughout Francis' life, he demonstrated a great deal of common sense. The couple only used their 1948 Chevy truck about once a week to go to town, and in the winter months, Francis would store the oil and battery for the truck behind their wood stove in the house to keep them warm. When they were ready to leave, he would hook up the battery and pour the oil into the truck, and it would start right up.

In 1951, the couple purchased Francis' uncle Herman's farm four miles north of Geraldine to expand their farm and ranch. They were closer to town so the children could attend school easier and so they had access to electricity and telephone. However, they kept the original farm to work, raising cattle in addition to farming. Over the years, Francis and Blanche worked hard, and later purchased a summer place at Swan Lake, which has provided many hours of fun for the family throughout the years. The couple retired in 1988, relocating to Fort Benton, continuing to help on the family farm, and spending their time traveling, throwing darts, bowling, boating, fishing, and watching grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The couple traveled, as well, visiting Hawaii, taking cruises, and traveling all over the United States as well as Europe, where they particularly enjoyed a trip to Germany. In January of 2013, the couple relocated one more time, this time to Highgate Senior Living in Great Falls due to Francis' failing health.

Francis was an active member of the American Legion, and supported the VFW, a member of the Geraldine Community United Methodist Church, and numerous other community groups. He served on the Geraldine School Board and the Chouteau County Livestock Protective Association. Francis also was a founding member of the Lippard-Clawiter Foundation, serving as a board member from 1980-2012, and president of the board from 1989-2011, after which he was named an honorary member for life. Recently, he was nominated and selected for the Yoneo Ono Award for volunteerism by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation.

Francis was preceded in death by his parents Hans and Emma Engellant, his brother Arnold Engellant, his sister Edna Bernasek, his son Edward, his premature twin grandsons Lucas and Joseph Dahinden, and his parents-in-law Fred and Iza Blyth.

He is survived by Blanche Engellant, his loving wife of 71 years, of Great Falls; his children, Laura (Merlin) Voegele of Helena, Don (Karol) Engellant and Rick (Becky) Engellant, all of Geraldine, and Jill (Steve) Dahinden of Joplin; his daughter-in-law Lois Zillges of Olympia WA; his eleven grandchildren; his fourteen great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Francis' family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the staff at Highgate Senior Living for their loving atmosphere and caring staff who cared so well for Francis during his last days.

Francis' family has requested that memorial donations be made in his name to the Geraldine Community United Methodist Church, 333 Collins Ave W, Geraldine, P.O. Box 167 MT 59446, the Geraldine Vets Hall, P.O. Box 354, Geraldine, MT 59446, or to the charity of the donor's choice. Benton Funeral Home has been entrusted with services and arrangements. Please visit Francis' online memorial page and leave a message of condolence for his family at <http://www.hollandbonine.com>.



# Lillie Jane Borkse Fritz

**Born: January 14, 1924 – Died: March 13, 2016**

Lillie Jane (Borkse) Fritz, 92, passed away peacefully at Wheat Country Estates in Chester, MT with family by her side on March 13, 2016.

Lillie was the seventh child born to Peter and Susan Borske in Alvin, WI on January 14, 1924. At the age of sixteen, Lillie moved north of Lothair, MT to work for her Aunt and Uncle. There she met a young neighbor, Leonard Fritz. They were married on March 1, 1941. They had two children, Errol and Loretta. Many dear friendships resulted from their involvement in farming, ranching and their registered Hereford business. They lived and worked together on the family homestead for years, where Lillie enjoyed her role as a homemaker. She especially enjoyed huge family dinners, gardening, quilting, fishing and playing cards with friends and family. Lillie was involved in many community groups, including the Red Hat Society, Parish Council of Catholic Women, Cowbells, 4-H and was an enthusiastic member of Fitness Xpress.

Her Catholic faith was very important to her and she maintained a strong faith in God throughout her life. Lillie was a caring, gentle woman. She was the little lady with the huge heart that was an example to many with her kindness, guidance and generosity.

Lillie was preceded in death, not only by her husband, Leonard, but six elder siblings and one grandson, Bret Aklestad.

She is survived by brother Clarence (Opal) Borske of Great Falls, MT, son Errol Fritz of Chester, MT, daughter Loretta (Lyle) Aklestad of Big Fork, MT, grandchildren: Carrie (Jim) Reynolds of Helena, MT, Debra (Michael) Ianniello of Pembroke Pines, FL, Joe (Heidi) Fritz of Brady, MT, Jim (Dena) Fritz of Chester, MT and Connie (Powell) Becker of Stanford, MT, thirteen great grandchildren: Jane, Michael, Eric, Jake, Justin, Nicole, Jack, Isabel, Garrett, Ace, Axel, Briella and Blaze, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Undesignated memorials will be donated to St Mary's Catholic Church and Wheat Country Estates, both of Chester.

Viewing will be from 1 pm to 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 16 at Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester. The Rosary/vigil service will be 7 pm on Wednesday March 16 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester. Funeral Mass will be 11 am on Thursday, March 17 at St. Mary's Catholic church in Chester. Interment will follow at the Chester Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Rockman Funeral Chapel.



# Lauryn Kate Goldhahn

**Born: February 14, 2001 – Died: August 27, 2016**

Lauryn Kate Goldhahn died at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, WA on August 27, 2016 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She was surrounded by her family and many of her close friends.

A Celebration of Lauryn's Life will be held on Wednesday, September 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fairfield High School Gymnasium. The family will hold a private burial at a later date.

Lauryn was born on February 14, 2001 to Pat and Windie Goldhahn in Billings. As a young child, she lived in Park City and enjoyed staying home, hanging out with family and friends, pestering her sister Allix, playing with her sizable toy animal collection, and visiting a local farm and ranch. She attended kindergarten through third grades at Park City Elementary. During this time, she participated in basketball, gymnastics, Awana, and softball. She attended most of the high school sporting events and loved hanging out with her sister, classmates, and high school buddies.



During the summer between third and fourth grade, Lauryn moved to Chester, where she attended Chester-Joplin-Inverness Public Schools. She was an active young lady who was a manager for the high school volleyball, basketball, and track teams and later became a participant in each of these sports. Lauryn was involved at one time or another in Missoula Children's Theater, band, choir, FFA, FCCLA, and swim team. She was also an avid gopher and deer hunter.

Lauryn had just recently moved to Fairfield, where she was looking forward to beginning her sophomore year of high school. She spent the summer painting with her family, traveling with her sister's AAU team, and participating in the high school summer basketball and volleyball programs. Lauryn had just started her career as a member of the Fairfield Eagle Volleyball Team.

Lauryn had a zest for life, and she loved to share it with others. She had boundless energy and kept her friends, family and teachers on their toes. She lit up every room she walked into, even without saying a word. Lauryn had a way of making everyone feel like they were her best friend. She could (and would) talk to anyone, and she could make everyone smile and feel loved. Lauryn was a kind, loyal, and generous friend. She loved children and was an excellent babysitter. She was an animal-lover and was pretty sure she needed one of every shape and size. She was a gracious and caring teammate. She was a fashionista-extraordinaire, although her current style of choice was geared more towards comfort than style. She loved shopping, painting nails, making her favorite treats, decorating, organizing get-togethers, and using her excellent negotiating skills and big brown eyes to obtain permission from her own and her friends' sometimes less-than-enthusiastic parents.

Lauryn is survived by her parents, Pat and Windie Goldhahn of Fairfield; sister, Allix; grandparents, Ed and

and Diane Goldhahn of Fort Benton and Bob and Fran Freeman of Fairfield; Uncle Lance (Jen) Goldhahn of Winchester, KY; Aunt Roberta (Mark) Long of Great Falls; cousins, Taylor, Haley and Garrett Goldhahn and Matthew and Kolton Long; and numerous extended family members.

# Evelyn Gladys Hollatz Hawks

**Born: October 29, 1927 – Died: March 3, 2016**

Evelyn Gladys (Hollatz) Hawks was born October 29th, 1927 at Outlook, Montana. Her parents were Elsie Dickhoff & William Hollatz, and she grew up on a family farm with three siblings. Evelyn received her formal education at Outlook, where she graduated from high school in 1946. She continued her schooling at Northern Montana College in Havre and earned a teaching certificate. Soon after, Evelyn accepted a teaching position at the North Lothair School in rural Liberty County.

Some new found friends arranged a date for Evelyn with a Chester area farmer, Henry Hawks. It was a “match made in Heaven” and they were married on February 9th, 1951 in Galata. They moved to the farm, where Evelyn enjoyed her life as farm wife, homemaker, mother, & grandmother. The couple were best friends and constant companions for 35 years until Hank’s untimely death on July 29th, 1986. Evelyn remained independent and continued to live on the farm until October of 2015, when she moved to the Wheat Country Estates (assisted living) in Chester. On Feb. 28th, 2016 Evelyn developed respiratory complications and was sent to Great Falls for medical care. She died peacefully at the Benefis Medical Center on Thursday evening (March 3rd, 2016). She was 88 years old.



Evelyn was baptized & confirmed at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Outlook. After marrying Hank, she became active at the Trinity Lutheran Church north of Lothair. She taught Sunday school there for many years and served as treasurer of the Ladies’ Aide group until several months ago. She maintained a strong Christian faith throughout her life.

Evelyn was a member of the Red Hat Society in Chester. She was always up for an adventure and enjoyed taking senior bus tours. Over the years she made several fun trips with friends to the National Rodeo Finals in Las Vegas. Being a loyal L. A. Lakers fan, Evelyn was thrilled to travel to California with her sons in 1988 to watch her team in action.

Evelyn was a tiny woman with a big heart and a gentle soul. She was affectionately called “Shorty” and “Evie” by her friends.

In her quiet time at home Evelyn enjoyed gardening, sewing, jigsaw puzzles, word-search puzzles, and reading (mainly, her Bible and the “Reader’s Digest”). She also enjoyed canning, cooking, & baking – her family will never forget her delicious homemade buns! Evelyn was very health conscious and was a loyal member of the exercise regiment at the Fitness Express (where she attended 3 times/week for many years). She also loved to play all card games (be it “Hand-&-Foot” with her friends or “Fish”, “War”, & “Crazy-8’s” with her grandkids). Evelyn’s family was the most important thing in her life. She loved to attend their ballgames, school programs, & special events – she was proud of each & every one of them. She left them with a wonderful legacy of love, kindness, & compassion...

Evelyn was preceded in death not only by her husband & parents, but also by an infant great-grandson (Dutch) and her 5 siblings (Norman Hollatz, Lucille Preble, Dorothy Hollatz, and 2 infants).

She is survived by her 3 children & spouses, Dale & Terry Hawks, Angela & Neil Swartz, and Loren & Jennifer Hawks, all of Chester; 4 grandchildren, Candy Jo (Tracy) Milroy and Bradee, Peyton, & Sydney Hawks; 1 step-granddaughter, Adrienne (Kyle) Dillard; 1 great-grand-son, Dustin Milroy; 1 step-great-grandson, Logan Dillard; a sister-in-law, Frances Hawks of Chester; and many nieces & nephews.

Funeral will be 11:00 a.m. today/Wednesday (March 9th) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. Pastor John Fauerbach will officiate. Holly Frederickson will serve as organist and the congregation will sing "Borning Cry". Vocal music will be performed by John Seidlitz, Lyle Glatzmaier & Anne Seidlitz-Melton who will sing "Amazing Grace". Special family remembrances will be shared by Candy Jo Milroy & Claude Hawks. Ushers are Ann Wickum and Natalie Ghekiere. Pallbearers are Bradee Hawks, Tracy Milroy, Neil Swartz, Bryan Oswood, Mark Wickum, and Kenny Jeppesen. Following burial at the Chester Cemetery, a reception will be held at the church fellowship hall. Arrangements are being handled by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

# Marcus Maurice Holmes

**Born: June 26, 1975 – Died: May 23, 2016**

Marcus Maurice Holmes was born in Billings on June 26, 1975. He was a foreman for the Liberty County Road Department. Marcus died Monday, May 23, 2016 in Inverness. He was 40 years old.

Marc loved to hunt, hike, and fish. Camping was one of his favorite things to do all summer. He enjoyed collecting rocks and was great at taking pictures. Marc was a kind and loving man. He was “really good people”. His was loved deeply by his family.

He was survived by his wife, Rhonda R. Emerson-Holmes; daughter, Alexandria Ferguson; stepchildren, Erika Macaw, Mark Cherry, and Nathan Cherry; father, Vern Holmes; mother, Ellen May Holmes; an expected granddaughter in June; and aunts, Claudette Hughes, Claudia Sorvig, Rochelle Kriewald, and Marlene Mattison.

Private services will be held later this summer.



# Debra Kay Huhtala

**Born: May 20, 1954 – Died: May 2, 2016**

Debra Kay (Currie) Huhtala passed away after suffering many years with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease on May 2, 2016 in Chester, MT. She was born in Susanville, CA on May 20, 1954 to Kathryn Leila and Carlton Edmond Currie Jr. Her father, jokingly, wanted to call her “Chlorophyll” because she remained a lovely shade of meconium green until her first bath.

She later lived with her parents and her younger sister Susan Elizabeth in Costa Mesa, CA where her parents worked in electronics and communications (including building equipment used by NASA) before becoming owners/managers of several motels throughout Southern California. Throughout her childhood, Debbie enjoyed camping with her family, going to Disneyland, and playing the clarinet. She marched with her school marching band in competitions and holiday parades including the Disneyland Parade three times. Debbie graduated from high school at Estancia High School in Costa Mesa and then attended college at Orange Coast College & Golden West College where she studied Nursing. She continued to work as a nurse in Los Banos, CA where she met her husband Stanley James Huhtala in 1980.



Debbie and Stan met through mutual friends and dated for a year before becoming engaged and then married June 27, 1981. As a wedding gift, Stan bought Debbie a one-way ticket to Montana where he had accepted a job with the Bureau of Reclamation at Tiber Dam. They moved just before the winter of 1982 and became pregnant shortly after with their first daughter Janna Marie while living just above Sanford Park and just below Tiber Dam. Two more children a few years later made their family complete (Allyson Leigh in 1987 & Ian Michael in 1988) and they settled into life as a family of five. The Huhtala’s later bought their first home in Chester where the kids attended Chester Preschool & Chester Public Schools. Debbie enjoyed volunteering as a Sunday school and Vacation Bible school teacher, was a member of the Chester Preschool Board and the Daycare Board in early years, and later worked full time at Mike’s Thriftway. When she retired from Mike’s she took a part time job “for fun” as the secretary at the Chester United Methodist Church and cleaned the banks in town so she would have fun money for trips to visit her granddaughter Peyton and to go to the Montana Fair with Suzanne, Sharleen and Jean. She enjoyed reading novels, doing the crossword puzzle, participating in the Chester Garden Club and even took a Master Gardener class with the MSU Extension Agency. She was very proud of her garden, her fish pond and her flowers. She was as funny as she was caring and kept us all entertained with her random singing, wacky road trips and her crazy scavenger hunts for all the kids and their many friends. Deb housed and fed many a stranger over the years whether it was a hunting friend of Stan’s or a friend of one of her kids. She also became “Mother Noah” to many stray/wounded animals including (but not limited to) ducks, geese, salamanders, parakeets, cats, dogs and even five baby raccoons. Her laugh and her biting wit is what we will miss the most.

Debbie was preceded in death by her mother Kathryn and father Carlton, mother-in-law and father-in-law Marion & Charles Huhtala, her brother-in-law Gary Brewer and several grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.



She is survived by her husband Stan of Chester, daughter Janna (Bobby) Lauver of Three Forks, daughter Allyson (Casey) Jones of Chester, son Ian (Amanda) Huhtala of Great Falls, and sister Susan (Jon) of Toledo, Ohio. She will also be remembered fondly by her grandchildren Peyton, Skylar, Katelynn & Joshua, her nephew Gary Jr. (Lorena), her niece Becky (Clint) and many special in-laws, aunts, uncles and cousins on both sides of the family. There will be a memorial service on Saturday June 4th at 2pm at the Chester United Methodist Church where we will remember Debbie with our favorite stories and her favorite music. In lieu of flowers, Debbie had requested that donations be made to Flathead United Methodist Camp where her children attended church camp.

## William "Bill" Edward Hunt Sr.

Helena —Former Montana Supreme Court Justice William Edward Hunt Sr. died Tuesday in Helena. He was 92. Bill Hunt was part of what Tom Brokaw called "the Greatest Generation." Hunt served his country during World War II and then returned and served the people of the state of Montana. Throughout his career, he fought for the people and was a strong defender of their rights.

Hunt was born Feb. 28, 1923, in Tacoma, Wash., the son of William C. Hunt, a dentist, and Ann Nolan Hunt, a registered nurse. He was the second eldest of eight children. After falling on hard times during the Depression, the family moved to the family farm outside Burlington, Iowa. "Even though nobody there had any more money than we did, at least we could grow our own food," Hunt recalled in an interview.

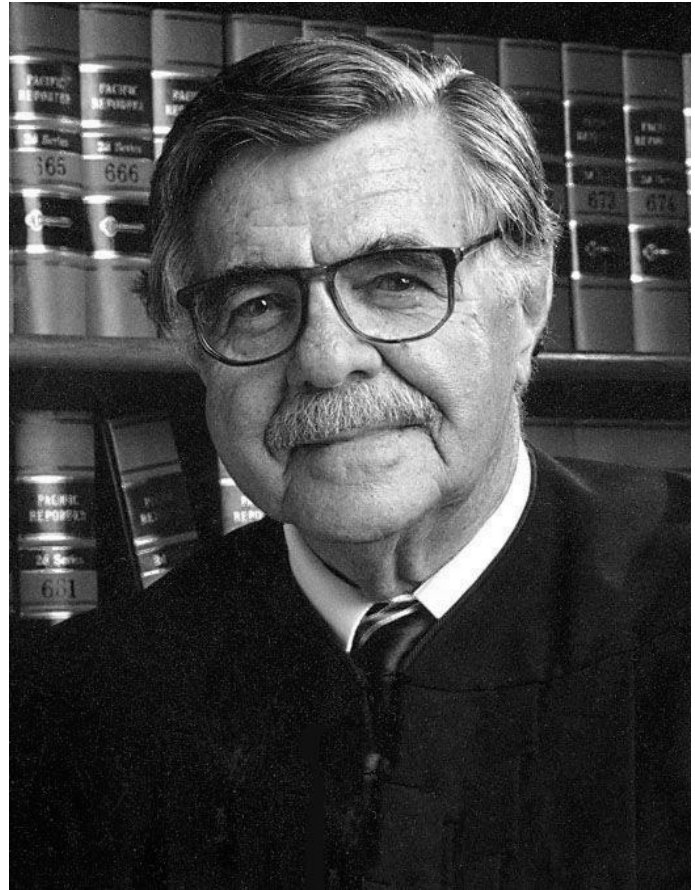
At age 16, Hunt dropped out of school and gave his birthday as Feb. 29, 1920 when he enlisted in the Iowa National Guard April 1939 with his younger brother, Bob. They joined the 113th Cavalry, a horse cavalry unit. The unit was mobilized in January 1941.

As a soldier, Hunt was a radio operator and participated in the Allied invasion of Normandy on D-Day and the landings in Sicily and Algeria. He was among first wave of soldiers to storm Utah Beach. Those were the defining years of his adult life, Hunt said in a newspaper interview in late 2000 as he was preparing to leave the Montana Supreme Court after 16 years. "If it taught me anything, it taught me how lucky I was," Hunt said. "The war taught me we're all the same. We all do our best, and we can't worry about our differences."

He served for 25 years in active Army, Army Reserve, and Iowa and Montana National Guards. Hunt was an enlisted man and an officer, holding the rank of captain. He served in the Army until 1945, rejoined in 1946 and stayed until 1950.

Hunt obtained his GED and was on his way to Seattle to enroll at the University of Washington. At his mother's suggestion, Hunt stopped at the University of Montana. The dean of men convinced him to attend college in Missoula, a decision Hunt said he never regretted. At UM, Hunt completed his undergraduate pre-law classes and graduated from the School of Law in 1955. While a student, Hunt worked nights for the Northern Pacific railroad as a crew caller.

On Aug. 25, 1952, Hunt married Mary V. Fassler, a registered nurse who had just graduated St. Patrick School of Nursing in Missoula. The couple later moved to Walla Walla, Wash., Havre and Chester. In Chester, Hunt practiced law, served as Liberty County attorney for nine years and was the town's mayor.



As mayor, Hunt was instrumental in forming the Montana Consumer Council in the late 1960s so local governments could oppose a Montana Power Co. rate increase request. That was before the 1972 Montana Constitution created a state consumer counsel's office to represent ratepayers in utility cases. Hunt also was a trustee of the Central Montana Legal Services, which provided legal assistance to low-income people.

In 1970, the Hunts moved to Helena when he was appointed director of Montana Legal Services. Gov. Forrest H. Anderson later appointed him as director of state Aeronautics Board. In 1975, Gov. Thomas L. Judge selected Hunt as the state's first workers' compensation judge. After his term ended in 1981, Hunt opened a private practice in Helena.

He was elected to a vacant seat on the Montana Supreme Court in 1984 and in 1992 ran unopposed for a second term. As a liberal justice on the Montana Supreme Court, Hunt was often in the minority. "I'm a liberal and you guys call me a liberal," he said in the newspaper interview in 2000. "I think a liberal is a person who has had a lot of experience and is not bound by what happens in the past, but understands the past."

In 2000, Hunt received the Montana Trial Lawyers Association's Public Service and Career Achievement awards and the Citizens award in 2007. Hunt received the 2009 Jeannette Rankin public service award from the ACLU of Montana. In 2003, he was inducted in the Officer Candidate School Hall of Honor at Fort Benning, Ga.

Bill and Mary Hunt enjoyed spending time with their grandchildren, traveling and were longtime Grizzly football season ticketholders. When his children were growing up, Bill read books to them after dinner, including "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, one stave each night, concluding on Christmas Eve.

His wife, Mary, died in 2009, and their son, Joe, died in 1998. His parents and siblings, Eileen, Bob, Don, Mary Jane, Larry and Janet, are all deceased.

Survivors include their other children: Jim Hunt (wife Barbara Howe, children Hannah and Isabelle Hunt) of Helena; Kate Hunt (husband Todd Johnson, children Arlo and Jane Johnson) of Creston; Pat Hunt (husband Chuck Johnson) of Helena, and son Bill Jr. (wife Shelly Hunt, daughter Vivienne) of Shelby.

Bill is also survived by his brother, Dick Hunt, of Arizona, sister-in-law Sue Hunt of Nevada; sister-in-law, Helen Coleman (husband Verle), of Washington state, and brother-in-law, Bill Byrne of Missoula. Numerous nephews and nieces also survive.

The family would like to thank the staff of Rocky Mountain Care Center for their loving care for Bill over the last three years.

There will be a vigil at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 23rd, at the Anderson Stevenson and Wilke Funeral Home, 3750 N. Montana Ave. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24th, at the Cathedral of Saint Helena, 530 N. Ewing St. A reception will follow Mass at the Brondel Center in the lower level of the Cathedral. Burial will follow the reception at Resurrection Cemetery, 3700 N. Montana Ave. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to ACLU of Montana, P.O. Box 1317, Helena, MT 59624, or Helena Food Share, P.O. Box 943, Helena, MT 59601. To offer the family a condolence or to share a memory of Bill please visit [www.aswfuneralhome.com](http://www.aswfuneralhome.com).

*Published in Great Falls Tribune on Feb. 21, 2016*

# Edward Leo Hybner

**Born: October 24, 1924 – Died: February 19, 2016**

Edward Leo Hybner was born Oct. 24, 1924 in Portland, Oregon. He was the second of four children born to Antonia "Margaret" Mejstrik and Frank Hybner. Ed's father had homesteaded north of Rudyard in 1912.

The Hybners had gone to Oregon to work in the sawmills to raise additional funds to develop the land on their Montana farm. Edward was raised on the family farm and attended the nearby Oreana country school for eight years, then finished his secondary education in Rudyard, where he graduated from high school in 1943. He continued his schooling at Oregon State College and majored in economics. Soon after, he returned to the family farm to work with his father and brother.

In 1944, Edward enlisted in the U. S. Army to serve during World War II. He was initially stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, then served nine months in Japan as the war ended. He attained the rank of Tec-4 at the time of his honorable discharge in 1946. Ed returned to farming in Montana.

In 1968 Edward moved back to Oregon where he lived in Oregon City and Portland. He enjoyed working as a punch-press operator for Omark Industries until he retired in 1993. Two years later Ed moved to Billings to enjoy his retirement. When his health began to fail in 2010, he transferred to the care center in Chester to be closer to his Hi-Line family.

Ed died peacefully at the Liberty Medical Center early Friday evening, Feb. 19, 2016. He was 91 years old.

Edward was baptized in the Catholic faith and was a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus. He was an avid reader who especially enjoyed magazines and newspapers. A favorite hobby was attending yard sales. Ed was a quiet and reserved gentleman who never married. He was also a proud man - proud of his military service and proud that he reached the age of 90!

He was preceded in death by his parents, his older brother (George, who died as a child), and a niece (Linda). Edward is survived by his brother, Jerry (Mary Lois) Hybner of Rudyard; his sister, Martha (Virgil) Jurenka of Rudyard; and 12 nephews and nieces, including the Hybners (Daniel, Roger, Terry, Joan Marie, and Amy) and the Jurenkas (Tom, Ted, Russell, Doug, Frank, Carol and Paul).

Vigil Prayers will be 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham. The funeral Mass will be 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at the church. Burial will follow at the Hingham Cemetery. Memorials may be offered to the Hi-Line Health Foundation in Chester. Arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester..



# Audrey Lois Kaercher

**Born: May 16, 1928 – Died: July 17, 2016**

Audrey Lois Kaercher passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 17, 2016 at the age of 88.

Services will be held at Van Orsdel United Methodist Church in Havre on Tuesday, August 2, 2016. at 10 a.m. with Pastor Dolly Collins officiating.

Holland and Bonine Funeral Home has been entrusted with services and arrangements.

She was born May 16, 1928 to Arnold and Helen (McCann) Langel at the farmhouse north of Goldstone, Montana. Audrey graduated Rudyard High School and the day after graduation she met her life-long friend and partner, Lloyd Kaercher. Audrey and Lloyd were married October 25, 1947, a union that continued for 68 years. Audrey and Lloyd farmed west of Havre, where they spent more than 50 years.

Audrey was never without a project and was a creative homemaker who kept her children (and later her grandchildren) occupied. Because she felt so strongly that her own life was blessed, she loved helping others and volunteering at community organizations, especially the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line. She particularly enjoyed her membership in Van Orsdel Methodist Church and her lifelong friends that joined her in her Circle and the church's kitchen. Audrey's life was one of countless small gestures of kindness and generosity that will be carried forward in the hearts of all who loved her.

Audrey was preceded in death by her cherished daughter Joyce Slothower of Banden, Oregon, who passed away in 2015; and her parents and siblings Duane, Arnold, Richard, Gerald and Dorothy Langel and Katherine Brandt and Lillian Pfifer.

Audrey is survived by her husband, Lloyd Kaercher, 94, who resides at Care and Comfort Home, Havre. She is survived by her children Diane Kaercher of Mill Valley, California, Susan Kaercher (Larry Pike) of Salt Lake City, Utah, Les (Terri) Kaercher of Havre, Joan (Eric) Hendricks of Billings and Doug (Darla) Kaercher of Havre. She is also survived by her 11 grandchildren; a great-granddaughter: and son-in-law, Bear Slothower. Her siblings, Lucille Miller and Stanley (Willa Rae) Langel, survive her as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Family members extend their gratitude to the staff of Care and Comfort Home for the exceptional and loving care.



# Lloyd Wesley Kaercher

**Born: July 15, 1922 – Died: November 25, 2016**

Lloyd Wesley Kaercher passed away Friday, Nov. 25, 2016, at the age of 94.

He was born on the family farm near Sage, Montana, on July 15, 1922, the youngest of Norman and Eunice Annette (Angus) Kaercher's five sons.

Lloyd graduated Rudyard High School and after graduation he spent 22 months in the U.S. Army Air Corps, stationed in Adak, Alaska. He was home on leave when he met his best friend in life, Audrey Langel. They were married Oct. 25, 1947, at the Van Orsdel United Methodist Church in Havre, a loving union that lasted 68 years until Audrey's death, July 17, 2016.

Lloyd was an inventive man who worked hard at being the best farmer he could be. He was active in the farming community, and served on a number of boards including Farmer's Union, and served eight years as a national representative on the CENEX Board of Directors. Lloyd never lost his zest for life, his positive outlook, or his love of a good story. He was happiest surrounded by family and friends, once stating he had everything he ever needed within 100 miles of home. For those who knew him, it was one of life's greatest joys to see Lloyd enjoy a good joke and hear his hearty laugh. He believed in working hard and playing hard, and provided his children and later his grandchildren with homemade monkey bars, merry-go-round, ice skating rink and the legendary go-cart.



Lloyd was preceded in death by his best friend and wife, Audrey; his daughter, Joyce Slothower of Banden, Oregon; his parents; and brothers, Lorn and Eugene.

Lloyd is survived by his children, Diane Kaercher of Mill Valley, California, Susan Kaercher (Larry Pike) of Salt Lake City, Utah, Les (Terri) Kaercher of Havre, Joan (Eric) Hendricks of Billings and Doug (Darla) Kaercher of Havre. He is also survived by son-in-law Bear Slothower, 11 grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line and the Van Orsdel United Methodist Church, or to the charity of one's choice. The family extends their gratitude to the staff of Care & Comfort Home for their exceptional and loving care.

Memorial services for Lloyd Kaercher will be held at Van Orsdel United Methodist Church on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016, at 3 p.m. Burial and reception to follow.

Holland & Bonine Funeral Home has been entrusted with services and arrangements.

# Ellen Catherine Kemper

**Born: June 12, 1940 – Died: May 7, 2016**

Ellen C. Kemper, 75, a longtime resident of Forest Grove, died Saturday afternoon, May 7, 2016 at the Tuality Community Hospital in Hillsboro.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 1:00 P.M. at the Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home, 2308 Pacific Avenue in Forest Grove. Family and friends are invited to attend a reception immediately following the chapel service, to be held at the home of Corey and Shelly Duncan, 1737 Poplar Street in Forest Grove.

ELLEN CATHERINE KEMPER was born June 12, 1940 in Chester, Montana, the daughter of the late Robert Livingston Pugsley and Henrietta (Roark) Pugsley. She was raised and received her education in Chester, having been a graduate of the Chester High School Class of 1958. After a short time in college in Montana, she worked for a Chester lawyer before moving to Oregon with her best friend when she was in her early 20's.

She was united in marriage to Dennis Bernard "Denny" Kemper on June 10, 1966 in Vancouver, Washington. Following their marriage, they made their home in Forest Grove, where they raised two children and were actively involved in the Forest Grove Elks and the Forest Grove Swim Club.

Ellen was preceded in death by her husband, Denny, on April 22, 2003 in Hillsboro, after celebrating over thirty-six years of marriage together.

She worked for J.D. Pence Aquatic Supply in Forest Grove in retail sales and shipping for twenty years, until she retired at the age sixty-six. Among her special interests she enjoyed cooking, baking and was an avid reader. Ellen was a skilled card player, she especially enjoyed playing pinochle and she had a special love for her golden lab, "Emmitt". Watching her grandchildren participate in their many activities brought her much joy, as did the flowers in her yard and the many neighbors and friends who stopped by for coffee.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Mark Williamson, of Medford, Oregon; her son, Bernard "Bernie" Kemper, of Forest Grove, Oregon; her brother and sister-in-law, Bobby and Beverly Pugsley, of Chester, Montana; her sister, Elizabeth Pugsley, of Hillsboro, Oregon and her sister and brother-in-law Edie and Tibo Hernandez, of Cornelius, Oregon. Also surviving are her five grandchildren, Kyle Williamson, of Albany, Oregon; Alec Williamson, of Medford; Katie Williamson, of Eugene, Oregon; Kelcey Kemper, of Forest Grove; and Caden Kemper, of Forest Grove; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

To sign the online guest book or to send a condolence to the family go to [www.fuitenrosehoyt.com](http://www.fuitenrosehoyt.com). Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Forest Grove is entrusted with the arrangements.





# Jacob Joseph Kleinsasser

**Born: January 27, 1923 – Died: March 27, 2016**

Jacob Joseph Kleinsasser, age 93, passed away March 27th of natural causes at Liberty Medical Center. He was the last of his siblings to pass on.

Jacob was born January 27, 1923 in Alexandria, South Dakota to Joseph Kleinsasser and Elizabeth Waldner. He was married to Rebecca (Wipf) Kleinsasser for 65 years. He was an outstanding father, grandfather, great grandfather and uncle.

Jacob was a great help in the Colony. He was a pig boss and a farm boss. He loved helping in the chicken barn and liked gathering eggs. He loved singing Gods praises and loved reading in his bible. He was always kind and loving and shared his knowledge and compassion with everyone who needed it. Jacob created many happy memories during his lifetime so he will be greatly missed by all who loved him, especially his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He had many friends and always had a smile on his face for them.

Jacob was survived by his sons Jonathan (Susie) Kleinsasser of Sage Creek, Joe Kleinsasser of River View and Jhn (Susanna) Kleinsasser of River view; daughters Rebecca Wipf of Moose Jaw, Elizabeth (Tex) Hofer of River View, Lydia (Peter) Hofer of River View, Ester (Peter) Hofer of sage Creek, Sarah (John) Hofer of Sage reek, and Judy (Jerry) Hofer of Raymond, AB; daughters-in-law Susie (Jake ) Kleinsasser, Mary (Dan) of River View, and Mary (Paul) Kleinsasser of Sage Creek.

Jacob was preceded in death by his loving wife Rebecca; daughters Susie and Mary; sons Jacob, Paul, and Dan and son-in-law Joseph Wipf.

The family would like to thank the staff of Liberty Medical Center fo the wonderful care that was given to Jacob while he was in the hospital.

I fly like an eagle,  
But more like a dove,  
For I'm leaving you all with a heart full of love,  
I went to my home far away,  
Where we'll all meet again some day.

# Marilyn Joyce Alex Lang

**Born: May 5, 1935 – Died: November 10, 2016**

Marilyn Joyce (Alex) Lang, 81, of Gildford, passed away on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at Northern Montana Hospital due to natural causes. Graveside services will be at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, December 3, 2016 at Highland Cemetery with Ila McClenahan officiating. Holland & Bonine Funeral Home has been entrusted with services and arrangements. Please visit Marilyn's online memorial page at [www.hollandbonine.com](http://www.hollandbonine.com) to leave a message of condolence for the family.

Marilyn was born May 5, 1935 to Anthony and Verda (Noremburg) Alex in Hingham, Montana. She is the second child of eight children. She attended school in Havre. She worked as a telephone operator at MSTT in Havre. In August of 1952, she married Grant (Bud) Lang. Marilyn and Bud raised 4 children; Margaret, Gail, Cathy, And John.



Marilyn was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She loved baking, cooking, and sewing. She made many afghans, baby blankets and other hand-made items for the family that they still treasure. But she is known most for her passion for cross-word puzzles.

She is survived by Bud, her husband of 64 years, of Gildford, MT; her children, Margaret (Bill) Bjorklund of Phoenix, AZ, Gail (Mark) Aspevig of Rudyard, Cathy (LaNay) Kapperud of Gildford, and John Lang of Phoenix, AZ; 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren; sisters, Cheryl (Bob) Evans of Havre and Pam (Ben) Essary of Stevensville, MT; brothers, Allan (Gail) Alex of Havre and John (Diane) Alex of Casper, WY.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents; granddaughter, Carly Matter, 3 brothers, Ed, Dennis and Tom Alex.

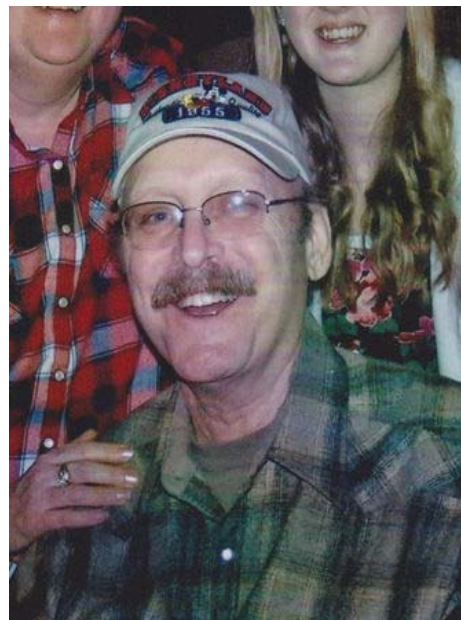
She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

# Gary A. LaValley

**Born: May 1, 1953 – Died: November 18, 2016**

Gary A. LaValley, 63, passed away due to natural causes at Northern Montana Hospital Friday, Nov. 18, 2016.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, at Holland & Bonine Funeral Chapel. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2016, at First Lutheran Church with Pastor Tanner Howard officiating. Graveside services will follow at 3 p.m. in the Joplin Cemetery. Gary's family has requested that memorial donations be made to the LaValley Girls Education Fund in care of Stockman Bank, PO Box 1271, Havre, MT 59501, Lung Transplantation Services at UWMC, 1959 NE Pacific St., Seattle, WA 98195, or to the charity of the donor's choice. Holland & Bonine Funeral Home has been entrusted with services and arrangements. Please visit Gary's online memorial page and leave a message of condolence for his family at <http://www.hollandbonine.com>.



Gary was born May 1, 1953, in Great Falls, to David and Garnett (Adams) LaValley. He was raised in Great Falls until he turned 12, and then the family relocated to their farm on the Canadian border, north of Joplin, where he spent the remainder of his childhood. He attended Joplin schools, graduating from Joplin High School in 1971. He then spent three years in college studying biology, first at Eastern Montana College in Billings then at the University of Montana in Missoula, and his last year at Montana State University-Northern in Havre.

During and following his school years, Gary farmed with his parents, and during the winters, worked as a metallurgist in Elko, Nevada, worked on the oil rigs in Gillette, Wyoming, or helped his brother out with his business in Portland, Oregon. In 1991, Gary married Yvette Sterner, and the couple had two daughters. In 1999, Gary's mother passed away, and his dad moved to Havre to live with Gary and Yvette. Gary was his dad's caretaker until he passed away in 2007, and his health began to decline early in 2008.

Gary loved sports. When he was younger, he played little league baseball at Sage Creek on their neighbor's pasture. In high school, he played football and basketball. While in college at Northern, he wrestled. Soon after college, he played minor league baseball for the Coors Brewing Company in Denver. He also passed on his love of sports to his daughters by coaching his oldest daughter's basketball team and attending every sporting event in which they participated. He loved spending time with his daughters and always having a houseful of kids. His storytelling was incredibly vivid, but maybe not always 100 percent accurate. He also loved to hike and fish. He met his goal of returning to Grinnell Glacier in August of 2013 after having a double lung transplant in January of 2011. He especially enjoyed his fishing trips to Canada, Alaska and Oregon.

Gary was quite the history buff and loved to travel all over Montana. He later revisited and shared his knowledge and love for Montana with his wife, Yvette. He had love and passion for flying, so much that he got his pilot's license and his own Cessna 150 plane. Another hobby of Gary's was bartering on Tradio, not only for himself but for friends and family as well. Gary was an avid Griz fan as well as a Bobcat fan after his daughter started to attend Montana State University. Gary was an amazing son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and friend. Memories of him will be loved and cherished forever. He was preceded in death by his parents, David and Garnett LaValley; his brother Ronald LaValley; and his sister, Barbara LaValley.

Gary is survived by his beloved wife, Yvette LaValley, of Havre; his two daughters, Breanna (Austin Reichelt) LaValley of Carter and Brooke LaValley of Havre; his two granddaughters, Bromley Reichelt and Hadley Davey; his brother Dave (Brenda) LaValley of Portland, Oregon; and numerous nieces and nephews, including his nephew David LaValley, with whom he was quite close.

# Betty Jane Haymaker Layton

**Born: May 4, 1929 – Died: April 18, 2016**

Betty Jane Haymaker Layton, 86, passed away at Brendan House in Kalispell on Monday evening, April 18, 2016. A graveside service will be at 1 p.m. May 20 at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell. She will be laid to rest next to her husband Richard B. Layton.

Betty was born May 4, 1929, in Rudyard, Montana, to Emery Haymaker and Edna Bradbury. She was one of 11 children.

In 1946 she married John Friesen. This marriage resulted in four children, Richard, Kenneth, Darlene and Charlene.

In 1961 she moved to Chester. She married Richard B. Layton, a widower with five children, in 1967. Together they managed the Tip Top Café and owned the Busy Bee Greenhouse in Chester. In 1973 Betty and Dick relocated to Lakeside, where they bought and ran the Blacktail Inn for many years.

After Dick's death, Betty retired and enjoyed her hobbies. She loved gardening and had the most beautiful flowers in her yard. Betty loved her cats, especially Misty and Sassy. She also enjoyed playing pinochle with her friends, backyard barbecues and holidays with her family, crocheting and putting together jigsaw puzzles. She was known for her scrumptious cinnamon rolls and she was an excellent cook. In 1995 Betty purchased a home in Kalispell, where she continued to reside until 2012 when declining health required her to move into Brendan House.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard; her sons, Kenneth and Richard; siblings, Marion, Harriet, Lorraine, Lloyd, Darlene, Virginia and Clinton; and one grandson, Kirk R. Layton.

Betty is survived by her daughters, Darlene Friesen of Tucson, Arizona, and Charlene Friesen of Seattle; daughter-in-law, Marianne Friesen, of Belgium; stepchildren, Leslie Layton of Las Vegas, Gary and Sue Layton of Chester, Steve and Yvonne Layton of Chester, Carol and Ralph O'Neil of Lakeside, and Marilyn and Bob Buckler of Everett, Washington; 17 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren; sisters, Penny, Beryl and Edna; and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express their thanks to the wonderful caregivers who came into Betty's home to help her with her needs, and to the exceptional nurses, caregivers and staff at Brendan House in Kalispell, where she spent her last years.

# Mark Alan Leighton

**Born: March 30, 1948 – Died: July 12, 2016**

Mark Alan Leighton, 68, died peacefully in his home on Tuesday July 12, 2016. Mark was born on March 30, 1948 in Havre, Montana to Clifford and Elizabeth (Beth) Leighton. Mark received his education in Chester, Montana and graduated from Chester High School in 1966. Mark was active in high school sports. He excelled in basketball and was proud of his Class B state second place finish his junior year of high school.

He went on to attend Northern Montana College in Havre, Montana where he received an Associate of Science Degree in Drafting. He continued his education and received his BS in Civil Engineering from Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana in 1976. He then took a job with the Montana Department of Transportation as a civil engineer where he worked until he retired in 2005. He was most



In 1976, Mark and his former wife, Dawn Shepherd welcomed the arrival of their son, Ryan followed by their daughter Kim in 1979. Mark was proud of his children and their accomplishments. He was an outdoor enthusiast who actively enjoyed camping, hiking and fishing. He was actively involved in his church, loved golfing and always enjoyed a long Sunday drive.

He is preceded in death by his parents Clifford and Elizabeth (Beth) Leighton. He is survived by his son Ryan (Ivana) of Spokane, Washington, and his daughter Kimberly (Shannon) of Helena, Montana. His brother Larry (Bonnie) Leighton of Scottsdale, Arizona and his sisters Sharlene (Ron) Hanson of Havre, Montana, Sandra (Dean) Schumacher of Overland Park, Kansas, Randi (James) Holland of Gig Harbor, Washington, and Chelli (Marlowe) Fossen of Joplin, Montana, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 23 in Helena, Montana at Retz Funeral Home, 315 E. 6th Avenue, at 11:00 a.m.. With a reception to follow at the home of Dawn and Scott Lockwood at 423 Holter Street in Helena. A burial service will be held at the Chester Cemetery in Chester, Montana on Sunday, July 24th at 1:00 p.m. followed by a reception at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 10 e. Madison Avenue, Chester.

# Randall Allen Matkin

**Born: June 25, 1933 – Died: January 24, 2016**

Funeral service for Randall Allen Matkin, age 82 of Macomb Twp., will be Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 3 PM at the Utica United Methodist Church, 8650 Canal Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48314. Reverend Donald Gotham will officiate. entombment of his remains will be in the Resurrection Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Saturday, February 13, 2016 1 hour prior to the service (from 2 PM to 3 PM) at the Utica United Methodist Church.

Randall passed away on Sunday, January 24, 2016 at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township, Michigan. He was born on June 25, 1933 in Great Falls, Montana to Loudon E. and Lora L. Matkin (nee: Clemens). He attended school in Chester until 1944. His mother passed away in 193 and his father in 1944 when he was 11 years old. He was taken care of by family friends, George and Rosalind Ainley in the Kalispell area.

He was an active member of Utica United Methodist Church, in Sterling Heights, MI, a US Army Veteran and retired as a court reporter from the Oakland County Circuit Court.

After World War II, h spent time in the Flathead area with brothers Loren and Harold and sister, Barbara Maynard.

He wished to return to Chester so in 1949 when his broth Bob and Lyla Matkin moved to Chester, he made his home with them for his last two years of high school. He was a great trumpet player for Aden Vie's band and they went to the Rose Parade in Portland, Oregon. He worked for Irvin Hutchison at the Liberty County Times after school and in summers. He was a loyal subscriber of the Liberty County Times.

A 1951 graduate of Chester High School, he attended college in Billings and then entered the army and spent time in Korea. After his discharge he attended a business school in Minnesota, always returning to Chester for vacations and holidays. Upon graduation he moved to Michigan and became a court reporter, a career for 39 years, until retiring. Here he met his wife, Nancy Leffler, and they married June 21, 1958 in Detroit, Michigan.

He is survived by his Wife, Nancy Jane Matkin (nee: Lefler) of Macomb Twp.; 2 Sons, Gregg A. (Lisa) Matkin of Utica, Michigan; and Robert J. (Monique) Matkin of Roseville, Michigan; Proud Grandfather of Alex, Daniel, Emily and Abigail. Predeceased by 4 brothers, Robert, Harold, Loran and John Matkin and 1 sister, Barbara Fortson.

In Lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to: Alzheimer's Association - Greater Michigan Chapter 25200  
Telegraph Road, Suite 100  
Southfield, MI 48033  
248-996-1047





# Laverna Margaret Struck McFadden

**Born: September 14, 1918 – Died: March 29, 2016**

LaVerna Margaret McFadden, 97, went to be with her Lord on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, in her Lakeside home with her youngest daughter by her side. She was born Sept. 14, 1918, on a farm south of Rudyard, Montana, to Frank and Bertha Struck and baptized into the Lutheran faith that same month. She was the second of eight children and lived her entire life in Montana. LaVerna received her first year of education in Kalispell. Her family then moved back to Rudyard where she continued her schooling, graduating in the class of 1936. She participated in athletics, basketball and track being her favorite sports. After graduation she worked in Cut Bank for a year, in the secretarial area. The following year she attended Kinman Business College in Spokane. She was unable to complete the last quarter of college because she had to return home and care for her ailing mother.

While attending a community dance at Minneota Hall with brother Truman, she met her future husband, Dean McFadden. On March 29, 1940, LaVerna eloped with Dean and made the long journey to Shelby in a silver pickup to be married. They spent 59 wonderful years together on the family farm north of Inverness. LaVerna was the mother of three children, Teddy, Betty Rae and Paulette.

At an early age LaVerna was cooking for harvest crews, hence, she became an incredible cook and baker. Family and friends enjoyed many delicious meals because of her expertise. She was an immaculate housekeeper and an excellent seamstress. Having six brothers, almost all in the military, she was very patriotic. She thoroughly enjoyed parades. Although the farm pace was extremely busy, she still had time for community commitments, too. Using her business education she kept the school lunch accounts in check for the Inverness School District as well as for the farm. Not only was she active in school and church activities, but became involved with the Hill County mental health programs, later serving as secretary on the Montana State Mental Health Board. Among her special interests she enjoyed playing cards, board games, reading, gardening — especially flowers, embroidery and watching basketball games on TV. Whether she was on the prairie or in the mountains, birds fascinated her. She was an avid collector of owl images. LaVerna and Dean had a passion for dancing. As the decades rolled on that passion grew stronger during retirement years.

Flathead Lake was their ideal place for retirement. In the mid-1980s retirement home was designed and constructed by them. There were numerous memorable moments with family and friends. Taking road trips in the motorhome was a treasured event for LaVerna. Upon moving to Lakeside she became a member of Eidsvold Lutheran church. Her greatest love was her family. She was always there for them. She was dearly loved by her husband, her children, her five grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

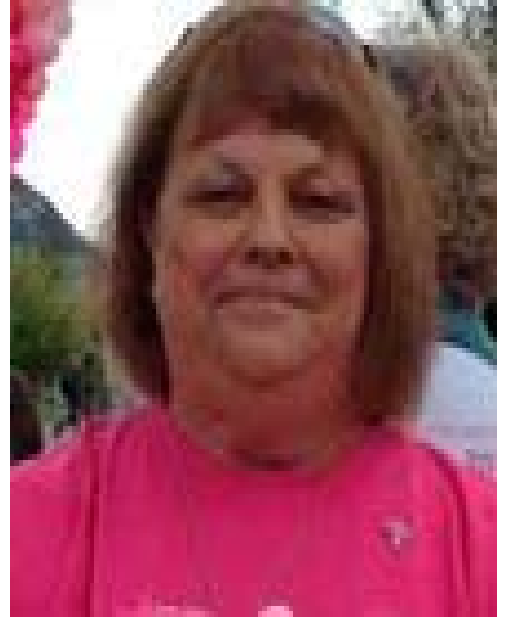
She is survived by two daughters, Betty Rae Mowen and husband, Tom, of Havre and Paulette McFadden of Lakeside; four grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Carol Struck of Great Falls; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Lawrence, Truman, George, Dennis, Harley and Harold, one sister, Dorothea in infancy; her husband, Dean; her son, Teddy; and one granddaughter, Heather. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the North Star Foundation, P. O. Box 14, Rudyard, MT 59540; Hi-Line Health Foundation, P. O. Box 705, c/o Julie Erickson, Chester, MT 59522; Lutheran Hour Ministries, 660 Mason Ridge Center Drive, St. Louis, MO 63141-8557. There will be a memorial service at 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 28 at St. Paul Lutheran, Church, 1100 11th Ave., Havre, with a luncheon reception to follow.

# Jan Dell Dolezal Nelson

**Born: April 29, 1954 – Died: May 23, 2016**

Jan Dell Nelson, 62, peacefully entered Heaven's gates May 23, 2016, with her family by her side in Chester, MT. Jan passed away after a VERY long and strong fight with Metastatic Breast Cancer. A Vigil will be held Friday at 7pm and a funeral will be held Saturday May 28th at 1pm, both at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester, MT. Graveside and Reception to follow after the funeral also at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Jan was born April 29th, 1954 in Shelby, MT to John and Vivian (Rockman) Dolezal. Schooling: Attended Eagle Creek School out in the country 1st – 6th grade. She then travelled into town to attend Chester Public School 7th – 12th grade and graduated from there. College: Easter MT College in Billings 2 year Associate of Art Degree in Business, Carroll College: 1 semester – business Northern Montana College – 1 ½ year to finish a 4 year Bachelor's degree in Business in 1987 (after being diagnosed with Cancer). Jan met the love of her life when she was at the young age of 16. She spotted her soulmate right away and said to her friend that she was going to become his girlfriend. Shortly after, she did just that. Jan and Larry started dating in October of 1970. And 4 years later Jan married Lawrence (Larry) Nelson on June 8th at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester.



Jan was a VERY loving and caring soul who lived to help others and always put others needs before her own! This became VERY evident throughout her life after her first battle with breast cancer. Once Jan was "cured" from Breast Cancer the first time, she started helping out with the local Hospice and talking to any patient that wanted/needed her assistance. She was also a very active member in Reach to Recovery. In 2001 she and a group of ladies formed Hi-Line WABC and started holding Golf tournaments to raise money for other women fighting breast cancer along the Hi-Line and surrounding areas. This money always stayed local and helped A LOT of women through very hard times.

Jan had a love of many things: God and her faith, watching her kids and grandkids in ANYTHING and EVERYTHING they did, cooking, reading, playing cribbage with Larry, music of all kinds, traveling, golf and most importantly spending time with and taking care of her family!! Her grandkids are the very reason she fought soooooo hard for soooooo long. Along with loving so many different things, Jan was active in a wide variety of organizations. She was a part of Bethel Welca and Church Board, Liberty County Hospice (helped it get accredited), Reach to Recovery and of course starting Hi-line WABC and being a part of it up until the very end days.

Jan Dell is survived by her husband, Larry Nelson; son Michael, Deena, Molly, Nate, Levi, Jenell and Josie; daughter Kali, John, Ledger and Maddax; brothers, Jerry (Cheri) and Rick (Susan); sister; Jaci Dolezal Anderson. Many nieces and nephews, cousin and in-laws. Her 5 God Children: Danielle Dolezal Boelter, Travis Nelson, Darien Nelson-Henry, Erin Wolfe and Jenell Vivian Nelson. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Vivian Dolezal. Donations may be sent to Hi-Line WABC, Box 154, Chester MT 59522. Arrangements made by Rockman Funeral Home. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength They will soar on wings like eagles: they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint"

# Margaret O'Neil

**Born: July 9, 1939 – Died: June 30, 2016**

Margaret Opal (Taylor) O'Neil, 76, passed away June 30, in Great Falls.

Graveside Services will be Friday, July 15, at 11:00 am at Big Sandy Cemetery. A luncheon at the Big Sandy Lutheran Church will follow the service.

Margaret was born July 9, 1939 in Hendricks, West Virginia to John "Jack" and Opal Mae (Helmick) Taylor.



She grew up in Choteau and graduated from Choteau High School in 1957. Margaret married Alfred Burkhead in September 15, 1956. Together they had 2 sons, James and Jack. Alfred later died in 1974 in a car accident. During that time Margaret was a secretary at the Chester Public Schools for 10 years. She later married Arnold O'Neil in 1976. They lived on the family farm west of Big Sandy and eventually retired to Big Sandy. Margaret moved to the Big Sandy Nursing Home in February 2014 and eventually to HighGate Senior Living in Great Falls in July 2014.

Margaret was baptized in the Lutheran church and she enjoyed the Ladies group activities and sang in the church choir. She read romance novels and had collected nearly 2000 books along with music boxes. She enjoyed visiting friends and family, her many pets, and working in her flower garden. When she was younger Margaret showed horses and had won many awards buckles. She was an active member of the Eastern Star, Big Sandy Senior Center, and assisted with Rainbow Girls Club.

Survivors include her sons, James Burkhead of Big Sandy and Jack Burkhead of Oakley, KS; sisters, CoraLee (Gene) Welty of Big Sandy and Mariana Cornett of Great Falls; daughter-in-law, Candi Marino of Big Sandy; 2 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren; and special friends, Joe and Marsha Horel, Kim (Devin) Grammar, and Jason (Sarah)Horel. She is preceded in death by parents; husbands; brothers-in-law, Marlyn Cornett and Fred O'Neil.

Memorials can be made to Big Sandy Medical Center and Senior Center.

# Edmund John Osler

**Born: September 29, 1930 – Died: May 15, 2016**

Edmund John Osler, 85, of Shelby passed away in the early morning of May 15th at Marias Medical Center in Shelby.

A funeral service will be 6:00 pm Friday, May 20th at Whitted Funeral Chapel in Shelby. He will be privately interred at the Chester cemetery. A casual reception for family and friends will be at 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 21st at the Chester Community United Methodist Church.

John was born to Edmund and Josephine (Enerson) Osler in Chester, MT on September 29, 1930. He was one of four children.

John started a Backhoe business in Shelby, MT in the late 70's. He retired in 2001.

John was a very kind and gentle person. He had a very strong faith in the Lord. He was a wonderful carpenter, gardener, and made excellent hotcakes. He loved to fish, camp, play cards, play the piano and read the bible, which he did daily.

John is survived by his wife of 33 years, Syble (Sigurdson) Osler; daughters, Coni Thorn of Shelby, Kathey (Clint) Pike, of Great Falls, Peggy (Ken) Robertson of Butte, Penny (Randy) Pike of Great Falls, and Pam (Rodney) Burgess of Velpre, OH; sons, Shawn Osler (Amy) of Washington, and Tim Osler of Belgrade, MT; sister, Pearl Cicon of Chester; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edmund and Josephine; grandchild, Nicholas Pike; sisters, Mary Chambers and Gladys Carpenter, and son-in-law Patrick Thorn.

Please visit John's online memorial and leave a message of condolence for the family at [www.whittedfuneralchapel.com](http://www.whittedfuneralchapel.com).



# Ethel Shirley Lakey Rasmussen

**Born: August 17, 1921 – Died: February 29, 2016**

Ethel Shirley Lakey was born August 17th, 1921 on the family ranch 12 miles north of Chester, Mt. She was one of six children born to Melvina Grace Abel (known as "Mellie") and Alexander Lenington Lakey (known as "Alex"). Ethel was raised in Liberty County and received her early education at the Grauman country school. She finished her secondary education in Chester and graduated from C.H.S. in 1941.

She married Harry A. Cleveland on February 22nd, 1942 in Seattle, WA. Harry was a private in the U. S. Army and was stationed at Fort Lewis. After Harry was deployed to North Africa, Ethel joined the WAAC (Women's Auxiliary Army Corps) to offer her support to the WWII effort. She received her military training at Fort DesMoines, Iowa as a Private First Class. Soon after, she was granted an honorable discharge. When the war ended, the Clevelands settled in Tacoma where Harry died in 1951.

Ethel married her second husband, Bennie R. Rasmussen, on August 28th, 1960 in Tacoma. Unfortunately, this marriage ended in divorce in 1964. Ethel continued to live in Washington, where she worked as a school cook manager for 17 years at two Tacoma schools: Horace Mann Elementary and Fern Hill Elementary. During the summer months she worked as a fry cook at various Tacoma restaurants. She retired in 1983.

Ethel returned to the Chester community in 1989 to be closer to family & old friends. She lived at the Sweetgrass Lodge until 2011, when she moved to the Wheat Country Estates (assisted-living). After her health began to fail in 2013, Ethel transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home. She passed away peacefully at the Chester nursing facility on the evening of Monday (February 29th, 2016). She was 94 years old.

Ethel was baptized in the Baptist faith and was an active member of the Central Baptist Church during her years in Tacoma. She served as a church Deaconess & Sunday school teacher, and volunteered on many church committees over the years. She was also a member of the Rebekka Lodge.

During her retirement years in Chester, Ethel enjoyed membership in the local garden club, the senior center, and the Broken Mountain Genealogy Society. She also served as the weekend manager at the Sweetgrass Lodge for short while.

In her quiet time at home Ethel enjoyed cooking, oil painting, crafts, crossword puzzles, and "Jumble" word puzzles. She also enjoyed old collectibles & antiques. Ethel loved to travel and made two very special memorable trips during her life: a photographic safari to Kenya & West Africa with her youngest daughter in 1993 – and a 13-country tour of Europe with her oldest daughter in 1995. She will be remembered as a very social lady who loved people and appreciated the many good friendships she made during her life.

Ethel was preceded in death by her parents and both husbands, a grandson (Kevin Leslie Anderson), her 4 brothers (Curtis, Houston, Troy, & Gordon Lakey), and her loving sister (Irene Mattson).



She is survived by 2 daughters, Shirley Fuery of Riverside, CA and Brenda Hicks of Leesburg, VA; 3 grandchildren, Kery Anderson, Paul Fuery, and Natalie Hicks; 4 great-grandchildren, Xavier Fuery, Paul Fuery Jr, Prince Fuery, & Phoenix Fuery; and many nephews, nieces, & cousins.

Funeral services were 11:00 a.m. Tuesday (March 8th) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. Pastor John Fauerback officiated. Holly Frederickson served as pianist. A vocal trio of Kevin, Jeff, & Chris Mattson performed "The Old Rugged Cross", "I'll Fly Away", & "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". Ethel's obituary was shared by her grandson, Paul, and great-grandson, Paul Jr. Ushers were Tom Lakey & Bob Mattson. Pallbearers were Ethel's nieces & nephews. Burial services at the Lakey plot in the Chester Cemetery included committal prayers, military "taps", and flag presentation by a 2-man honors detail from the MANG. A reception followed at the church fellowship hall. Arrangements were handled by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials may be given to the Sweetgrass Lodge or donor's choice.

# Kay Etta Woods Robinson

**Born: January 8, 1949 – Died: February 22, 2016**

Kay Etta (Woods) Robinson was born Jan, 8, 1949, in Conrad, Montana. She was the second of eight children born to Nicholas and Joyce (Henneman) Woods.

Kay grew up and received her formal education in Conrad where she graduated from high school in 1967. During her school years Kay served as a cheerleader and was honored to be voted the first homecoming queen as a junior. Kay began attending beauty school in Billings, where she met her husband-to-be, Charles F. Robinson. They were married on Aug. 20, 1969, in Conrad in a special double-wedding ceremony with her sister, Kathy (and husband Tom). In the years that followed, Kay and Charlie lived in Outlook, Victor, Dutton, Big Sandy, Havre, Gildford and Chinook, where Charlie pursued his teaching and coaching careers.

Kay enjoyed her life as a homemaker and mother of two. In the early 1970s she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Even though she suffered serious disabilities and pain, Kay always maintained a positive attitude, a great sense of humor and a loyal Christian faith throughout the years.



Due to declining health in July 2014, Kay was admitted to the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre for extended care. She wasn't there long when she endured the loss of her faithful companion and caregiver, Charlie. They had been happily married for 44 years at the time of Charlie's unexpected death on July 28, 2014. Kay continued to live at the Havre nursing facility, where she died peacefully on the early morning of Monday, Feb. 22, 2016. She was just 67 years old.

Kay was baptized as an infant and developed a strong spirituality. She loved going to church and was an active member of the Gildford Baptist Church and the Chinook Alliance Church during their time in those communities.

Kay enjoyed watching her children and grandchildren in all of their school and sporting events. She loved to attend basketball games at area high schools and Northern Montana College, and when she couldn't attend, she always listened to the games on the radio.

The Robinsons enjoyed camping and their many summer trips to Glacier Park. Kay was an excellent cook. Her family will remember her delicious homemade rolls and cranberry salads.

In her quiet time at home Kay enjoyed reading (mainly, newspapers and magazines) and watching television (especially, game shows and mysteries).

She loved people and loved to socialize. Her kind, gentle soul will not be soon forgotten. This old saying fits Kay: "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die!"



She was preceded in death not only by her husband and parents, but also by three sisters, Karen Huntsinger Moritz, Michelle Hauer and Jonna Fuhringer) and one brother, Dean Woods.

Survivors include her two children, Shari Robinson (Shawn Burrington) of Havre and Randy Robinson of Roundup; two grandchildren, Grayson and Cortland Brenna of Havre; two sisters, Kathy Robinson (Tom) of Conrad and Nikki Lowe of Pocatello, Idaho; one brother, Mike Woods of Bigfork; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at the Grace Chapel at Northern Montana Care Center in Havre. Burial will follow at the Highland Cemetery in Havre.

Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester is assisting the family with the necessary arrangements.

Memorials may be offered to the MS Foundation or donor's choice.

# Donald Julian Rocks

**Born: August 20, 1931 – Died: March 17, 2016**

Donald Julian Rocks peacefully passed on to our Lord on the morning of March 17, 2016 in Mesquite, Nevada with family by his side. Cause of death was complications from a heart attack. Cremation has taken place.

A memorial service will be 11:00 am on Saturday, June 25 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Chester, followed by a reception for family and friends. Arrangements entrusted to Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester. Please view Don's online memorial and leave a message of condolence for the family a [www.whittedfuneralchapel.com](http://www.whittedfuneralchapel.com).

Don's ultimate joys were farming (he was always a gambling man), his afternoon walks, playing cards, and spending all the time he could with his vast and cherished family.

Don was born on August 20, 1931 on the family farm south of Joplin, Montana. He married his high school sweetheart, Marlene Kay Meldrum on February 26, 1952 and have been together ever since. Don was a proud military veteran serving in Amarillo and Laredo, Texas and Chandler, Arizona as a jet mechanic; after serving in the U.S. Air Force for three years he and Marleen settled in and took over the family farm in 1954 and began raising their family there. After Don and Marlene's retirement from farming in 1999 they began spending their winters in Mesquite, Nevada and really loved it there.

Don is survived by his loving and devoted wife and our mother, Marlene; six children in order of birth; Randy (Roni); Kim (Mark) Manseau of Lewistown, MT; Kevin (Jody) of Great Falls, MT; Bunk (Rhonda); Marla (David) Preston of Great Falls, MT and Aaron (Jackie) of Sylmar, CA; nine grandchildren: Alysha, Rhea, Derek, Cory, Randon, Joel, Christopher, Gabriella, and Isabell and eight great-grandchildren: sisters Lorraine Hodges of Big Fork, MT, DeLores Humphrey of Citrus Heights, CA and many nieces and nephews.

Don's ashes will be placed in the family plot in Joplin, MT. Memorials may be sent to your favorite charity or cause in the Chester-Joplin area.



# Mabel Ann Schultz

**Born: 1920– Died: September 1, 2016**

Mabel Ann Schultz, 96, of Hamilton, passed away on September 1, 2016.

Mabel was born to Nick and Lizzie Laas on the family ranch north of Chester. She was the middle of six siblings: Walt Laas, Charlie Laas, Gus Laas, Edna Leffler, and Billie Hamel. Growing up, Mabel worked on the ranch herding sheep and doing her share of the chores. She loved playing basketball and was always active. In high school, she met the man that would become her husband - Bill Schultz. They were married on May 21, 1942 and have two children, Ginger Green (of Missoula) and Nick Schultz (of Conrad). Mabel worked many jobs as an adult, but her greatest love was working at the Liberty County Hospital, where she touched many lives.

Mabel and Bill retired in 1975 to Manson, WA where they worked together on the family apple orchards. A little known talent Mabel cultivated was oil painting. She enjoyed painting scenery, old buildings, and animals from Montana and places that she'd visited. She took pictures and clipped inspiration from magazines.

In 1992, two grandchildren brought Mabel and Bill back to Montana, and they settled in to their house in Hamilton. Bill passed away that same year. Mabel was the happiest when she was "digging in the dirt", and loved the many hours she spent in the orchard, her garden, or puttering around the yard. More than one dinner was burned when she went outside and all else was forgotten.

Mabel also loved dancing every week, and had a way of being a friend to anyone and everyone she rubbed shoulders with. She always had time to stay and have a chat. Mabel had a wonderful sense of humor, and was often dressing up and making others laugh and have a good time.

Mabel is survived by Ginger & Al Green, Nick & Irva Jean Schultz, granddaughters D'Et (Will) Heffington, Jolene (Andy) Glover, great-grandchildren Dazzy, Gabe, & Isaiah Glover, and Malcolm Heffington, sister-in-law Dona Laas, and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Intermountain Childrens Home (3240 Dredge Drive Helena, MT 59602), the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (211 3rd Ave N, Lewistown, MT 59457), or a charitable organization of the giver's choice.



# Ona Mae Snuffer Schwan

**Born: March 30, 1924– Died: November 4, 2016**

Chester —Ona Mae Snuffer Schwan, of Chester passed away on Friday, November 4, 2016 At Liberty County Medical Center Long Term Care.

Funeral service will be 10:00 am on Wednesday, November 9 at the Chester Assembly of God Church, followed by interment at the Lothair Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester.

She was born March 30, 1924 in a tiny three-room house on her father's homestead, about 16 miles NW of Chester, MT. She was the youngest of four children.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Schwan, her mother, Alida Arick Snuffer, her father, Ben Snuffer, her sister, Elsie Snuffer Budgett and brothers, Roy Snuffer and Darwin Snuffer.

Frank and Ona were married on June 29, 1947 - and though they had no children of their own, they were much loved by their numerous nieces and nephews, and the children who grew up near them in the neighborhood.

Ona graduated from Chester High School and later worked for the county. She was Postmistress for Lothair, and later for Galata, until she retired. During the war, she lived in Seattle at the YWCA and worked for the government.

Besides working outside the home, Ona was an active member of the Chester Assembly of God Church, and various community organizations. She worked the farm alongside her husband - always working in the fields during harvest, and cooking for whichever crew was helping at the time.

You never left Ona's house hungry. She was accomplished at many things and besides being an excellent cook, she was a talented seamstress and an avid gardener of both vegetables and flowers. She played the piano by ear, and was always available to help her neighbors. Ona loved her cats, music of all kinds, her family, her friends, and most of all, her God. Those of us who loved her will miss her terribly, and cherish our memories of time spent with her.



# Arlene Tutvedt Shepherd

**Born: March 12, 1929 – Died: November 2, 2016**

Slightly opening her eyes for the final time, Mom raised her frail hand and pointed to the pictures of family we had placed on the walls surrounding her bed...she smiled and sighed. So fitting of a wonderful, loving mother who had devoted her life and her heart to family.

Arlene Tutvedt Shepherd passed away on November 2 in Billings where she had lived for the past two years. Our sincere gratitude to the caring staff at Highgate Senior Living and Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell where she had lived previously for loving on her daily.

A celebration of her life will be held next July in the Galata/Chester area where she was born on March 12, 1929 to Norwegian homesteaders Peder and Myrtle Tutvedt. In 1948 she married her high school sweetheart Leo Shepherd,

our loving dad, who passed away in 1993.

Lifelong best friends were her big sisters Pearl Shepherd (deceased) and Ruby Glee of Galata who along with Uncle Lyle have faithfully tended the family farm for the past 70 years...Mom's favorite place of all.

Her legacy of kindness, generosity, perseverance, love of simplicity and family will live on through her loving family: Lynda & John Baker of Great Falls, Lottie & Dan Eggen of Billings, Glen & Debra Shepherd of Colorado Springs, honorary daughter and loving Kalispell neighbor Rhonda Niblett, seven grandchildren and their spouses including Shawn (Michelle) Baker of Kalispell, Dan (Season) Baker of Colorado, Tara Eggen (Ed) Kidwell of Virginia, Darci Eggen (Steve) Summerlin of Oregon, Josie Shepherd (Jason) Harley of Texas, Jennie Shepherd (Benton) Walker of Colorado, and Jamie Shepherd (Logan) Mahowald of Kalispell, six great-grandchildren (Morgan, Kenzie, Kalysta, Cayden, Story & Bridger) with twin baby girls soon to be born (...the circle of life continues) along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mom loved family, relatives, friends, home, the family cabin on Bitterroot Lake, being a homemaker, cooking, baking, canning, sewing, pansies, aprons, rocks, winters with Dad in Arizona, the sound of meadow-larks, Kalispell, the prairie, the Sweet Grass Hills, Montana, and her Norwegian and homesteader heritage.

Gifts in Mom's name may be given to the Flathead Valley Community College Scholarship Fund where Dad was the first Business Manager. Mom, we will miss you dearly and yet take great joy knowing you and Dad are dancing together in Heaven.



# Irene "Shorty" Mary Louise Stuart

**Born: November 27, 1927 – Died: April 8, 2016**

Irene Mary Louise Stuart, 88, otherwise known as "Shorty" Stuart, passed away of natural causes at her son's home in Gildford on Friday morning April 8, 2016.

Her memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, April 15, at Gildford Baptist Church with Pastor Eddie Fallo officiating. She will be laid to rest next to her husband at Highland Cemetery in Havre.

Memorials in Shorty's honor may be made to Gildford Baptist Church or Gildford Park.

Shorty was born Nov. 27, 1927, in Nashua, Montana, to Michael and Marie (Ipperageurre) Tihista. She was raised in Nashua, graduated from Nashua High School and moved to Havre to attend nursing school. She attended Sacred Heart Nursing School for two years.

While living in Havre she met James Lowell Stuart and the romance began. The couple was married April 10, 1947, in Great Falls, Montana. They moved to Gildford where Lowell farmed with his family. The couple lived in the Gildford Hotel until they purchased a home from Lowell's grandparents, which they remodeled to make their own.

Shorty worked with Lowell on the farm and enjoyed helping him. Soon, they started a family and together had four children, James, Janice, David and Lynn. Her infant son, David, passed away shortly after birth.

Anyone living in Gildford knew Shorty, and you never had to wonder what she was thinking because she wasn't shy about sharing her thoughts. She earned many titles over the years: community caretaker, the kissin' grandma, nurse, medical assistant and trauma nurse. Along with raising her three children, attending their activities and working on the farm, Shorty also worked at Campbell's store in Gildford and was more than willing to volunteer for anything that was needed in the community. Shorty was very proud of her Basque heritage and attributed her years of good health to her "pure Basque blood."

Shorty was an avid walker and did so regardless of the weather. After every walk, she enjoyed stopping at the Gildford Merc to visit and play cards with her many friends. Shorty enjoyed being outdoors in her yard, if you didn't see her out walking her many miles you would find her mowing or cultivating her garden and flowers.

Shorty loved sports, especially when her grandchildren were playing. It didn't matter what sport it was, she was always there cheering them on. Shorty was known by every referee on the Hi-Line and wasn't afraid to hold them accountable for any unfavorable calls.

She enjoyed watching baseball on TV and rarely missed an episode of "Jeopardy" or "Wheel Of Fortune."



Shorty was a great cook. Her family and friends loved stopping by and enjoying one of her famous doughnuts, cinnamon rolls, mocha cakes, or goof balls. For years, she regularly cooked Sunday afternoon dinner for her family and loved having everyone around. Much laughter was had and great memories were made around Shorty's kitchen table.

Her life motto was "Laughter is the best medicine." Shorty truly lived up to that.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant son, David; her husband, Lowell; and four brothers, Edward, John, Paul and Jerry.

Shorty is survived by her three children, James (Leigh) Stuart of Gildford, Janice (Howe) Crockett of Vancouver, Washington, and Lynn (Rick) Melby of Kremlin, Montana; six grandchildren, Tawna (John) Meldrum, Tim (Dana) Meldrum, Tiffany Melby, Ashley (Nate) Molstad, Jake (Ashley) Stuart and Joe (Meghan) Stuart; 10 great-grandchildren; Reilly, Maia, and Taylor Parisot, Mattingly and Ava Meldrum, Dylon Melby, Emree and Regan Stuart and Ryland and Reese Stuart; and two brothers, Mike and René; and her beloved nieces and nephews.



# Murray Lee Taylor

**Born: September 13, 1949 – Died: September 14, 2016**

Oilmont — On Thursday, September 14th, Murray Lee Taylor, age 67, passed away peacefully at home on the family farm east of Oilmont after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Murray will be remembered as a beloved husband, father, and grandfather deeply devoted to his family. While we celebrate his heavenly home-going, we will deeply miss his presence in our lives.

Murray was born to parents John Murray Taylor and Shirley Jean Blakesley in Bothell, WA, on September 13th, 1949. Murray remembered fondly his experiences growing up on a farm north of Chester, Montana, and loved to tell stories of his childhood near the Sweet Grass Hills. Murray had a very special place in his heart for stepparents Harris Christian Jeppesen and Cecelia Mae White, who helped to raise Murray and his siblings. Murray also felt a deep sense of gratitude toward his Uncle Arnold, who was a mentor throughout Murray's childhood years and a dear friend later in life.



Murray attended Chester High School, and in 1968, was married to high school sweetheart Karen Kay Wiegang, with whom he would have celebrated 48 years of marriage this November. Shortly after the wedding, the couple moved to Goldsboro, North Carolina, where Murray was stationed at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base. Murray had a talent for telling stories about "the old days," and loved to reminisce about his time with Karen in "North Cackalacky" and "cockroach village," as he affectionately termed their first apartment.

Following Murray's time in the service, he and Karen made their way back to the family farm, where they spent many happy years and worked diligently to raise their 5 children. Together, Murray and Karen built an enduring legacy of faith, family, and farming. Murray had a special connection to each of his 13 grandchildren, his "little turks," who seemed to gravitate to his warm sense of humor, twinkling blue eyes, and infectious smile.

Murray was preceded in death by parents, John and Shirley Taylor and stepparents, Harris and Cecelia Jeppesen. He is survived by wife, Karen; children, Melissa Ostberg and her son, Owen of Oilmont; Chad (Melody) Taylor and their children, Jacinda, Austin, and Emma of Galata; Jason (Cherie) Taylor and children, Ashlyn, Portia, and Jocelyn of Cut Bank; Linda (Isaac) Cyr and children, McKaleigh and Colton of Baker City, OR; James (Chelsea) Taylor and children, Vince, Jillian, Levi, and Vivian of Sunburst. Murray is also survived by his 11 siblings and their families.

Services will be held at the Cut Bank Assembly of God Church on Saturday, September 17th, at 1 pm. Burial will take place at the family farm at a later date.

# Robert Wahl

**Born: Unknown – Died: August 17, 2016**

Robert Wahl, 51, passed away Aug. 17, 2016, at Peace Hospice in Great Falls.

Survived by mother Lorna Wahl Buck of White Sulphur Springs; sisters Lydia (Bob) Rooney of White Sulphur Springs, Peggy Jeffrey of Richmond Hill, NY, and Penny (Willis) Thurman of Palouse, WA; brothers Harold (Jean) Wahl of Great Falls and Howard (Gina) Wahl of Fairbanks, AK; many nieces, nephews and step-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father and two brothers.

Graveside memorial service will be Aug. 27 in Chester, MT at 1 p.m. where he'll be buried next to his beloved Vickie.

# Keith Allen Whalen

**Born: May 12, 1959 – Died: February 26, 2016**

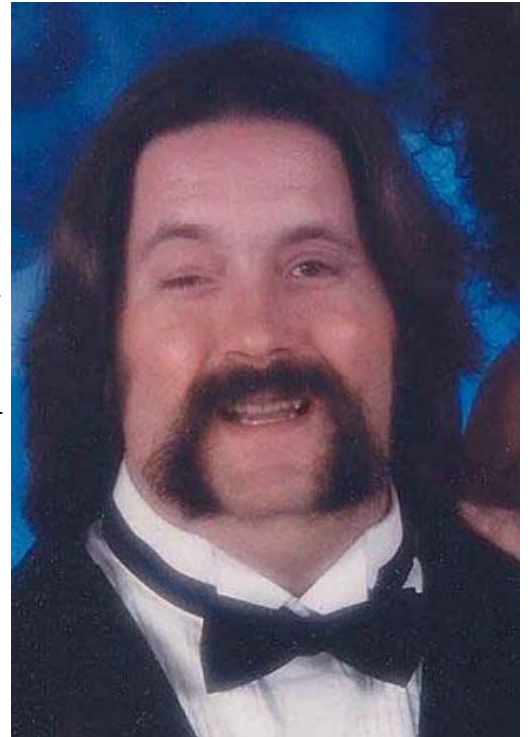
Keith Allen Whalen was born May 12, 1959, in Havre, Montana. He was the only child of Doris Marie (Hamblock) and Daniel John Whalen. Keith grew up in Havre and received his formal education at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic School, where he graduated from high school in 1979. He continued his education for the next two years at Northern Montana College, where he enjoyed working at the campus radio station.

Keith became a well-known personality to many in the Havre community. He enjoyed cruising around in his 1966 Ford Mustang. He also loved music of all kinds and literally collected thousands of record albums, CDs, and DVDs over the years. Another favorite hobby included watching and recording old movies, which he cataloged with his DVDs. In his quiet time at home he enjoyed reading. He also studied genealogy and loved writing about family history. Family was very important to Keith, and he appreciated those who corresponded and visited with him.

In 1995 Keith met Bonnie (Erickson) Wodarz. They were married on Feb. 27, 1996, in Havre and lived there for the next eight years. They moved to Chester in 2004, where they frequented the local restaurants and coffee shops. In May 2013 Keith required care at the Liberty County Nursing Home and remained there until his death on Tuesday evening, Feb. 16, 2016, at the age of 56 years. Keith was a great patient at the Chester rest home. As the staff got to know him, they appreciated his fun personality, great sense of humor and special smile, and the nurses affectionately nicknamed him "Keeter."

Keith's other interests included playing pool and making wooden animals with a jigsaw. He also loved spending time on the computer. His enjoyment of music and movies continued throughout his life. His favorite actors were Humphrey Bogart, Katherine Hepburn, Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe and William Holden. His favorite musicians were Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Bryan Adams, Bruce Springsteen, Alice Cooper, Waylon Jennings, Chris Christofferson and Metallica. Keith was not a traveler, but in the early 1990s he did make a memorable trip to a convention in Ohio with a friend. In addition he loved animals; two of his favorite pets were a cat named "Mugsie" and a dog named "Klyde."

He was preceded in death by his parents, his mom in 2000 and his dad in 2008. Keith is survived by his wife of 20 years, Bonnie Whalen of Chester; four stepchildren, Emily (Robert) Gorham of Chester, Erick (Stephanie) Wodarz of Missoula, Marjie Wodarz of Bakersfield, California, and Ivon (Monica) Waters of Longmont, Colorado; three step-grandchildren; two uncles, Charles Whalen of Montgomery Village, Maryland and John Whalen of Bridger; two aunts, Elizabeth Thayer of Hanford, California, and Donna (Hamblock) Reed of Havre; and numerous cousins, including Nancy Erickson of Havre, who has served as Keith's legal guardian/conservator. Public visitation/viewing will be Saturday, Feb. 20, and Sunday morning, Feb. 21, at the Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester. A coffee hour will follow. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at the Highland Cemetery in Havre.



# Crytle E. W. Flint Widdis

**Born: February 25, 1916 – Died: February 23, 2016**

Crytle E. W. Flint Widdis, 99, died on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016, at Liberty Medical Center in Chester.

A memorial service will be 11 a.m. Saturday, March 5, at Calvary Evangelical Church in Rudyard. A reception will follow. Crytle was buried privately in the Rudyard Cemetery by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester. Memorials may be offered to Crytle's favorite charity: CEF - Child Evangelism Fellowship.

She was born Feb. 25, 1916, at Burwell, Nebraska, to Edgar and Nina Sherman. Crytle graduated from Burwell High School in 1934, then attended teachers college. She married Gary Flint in 1938, and they would eventually move to Montana where they farmed near Rudyard. Her husband died in 1972. Crytle married Mark Widdis in 1979, and they continued to farm until 1995. Her husband, Mark, passed in 2010. Crytle moved to the Chester Nursing Home in 2014, where she died two days shy of her 100th birthday.



She enjoyed reading, crosswords, board games, cards and gardening. Crytle was well known throughout the Hi-Line for her 30-year dedication to children's ministries and leading "Good News" Bible clubs. She served as a spiritual counselor and friend to many and remained loyal for her faith.

Crytle was preceded in death by her parents, husbands and eight siblings. She is survived by her daughter, Nyla and Mark Moore of Ridgecrest, California; four grandchildren, Caleb, Colby, Jennifer and Jocelyn; and 12 great-grandchildren.

# Margie Marie Wodarz

**Born: January 2, 1970 – Died: July 22, 2016**

“Rest eternal grant to Margie and may perpetual light shine upon her.”

Margie Marie Wodarz died July 22, 2016 in Riverside, California. She was 46 years old. She was born January 28, 1970 to Roy and Bonnie Wodarz.

Margie was an extremely talented child. She would perform Shirley Temple’s “On the Good Ship Lollipop” at the age of 5. She went on to play the piano and guitar and loved to sing. It was her passion! Each Sunday she sang with her family at St. Mary’s Catholic Church. Margie also developed hobbies including: latch hook wall hangings, and sewing and embroidery which she had earned her blue and red ribbons.

She was preceded in death by maternal grandparents, Oscar and Esther (Flesch) Erickson and paternal grandparents, Roy Sr. and Loretta (Brandt) Wodarz.

She is survived by parents, Roy Wodarz of Big Fork and Bonnie Erickson Whalen of Great Falls; sister, Emily (Robert) Gorham of Chester; brother, Erick Edward (Stephanie Martin) Wodarz of Missoula and Ivon Leroy (Monica Anne Serratto) Wodarz Waters of New Mexico, AZ; niece, Miranda Lynn; nephews, Stephen Roy and Jonathon Wodarz Waters; great uncle, Leroy (Bonnie) Flesch of Conrad; and numerous cousins.

“Let your light so shine...” Matthew 5:16

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, August 26, at 1:00 pm at Rockman Funeral Chapel.

The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the sympathy, comforting words, prayers and expressions of kindness and concern. May God continue to bless you.



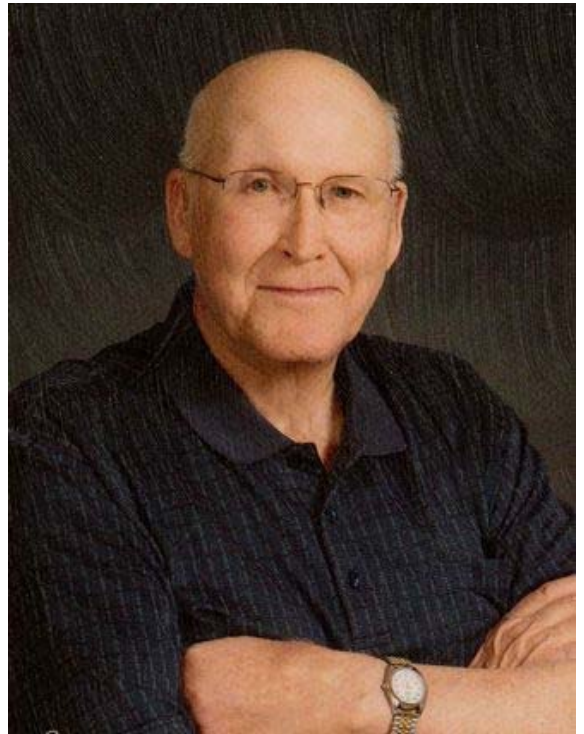


# Elvyn G. Wolery

**Born: May 2, 1924 – Died: April 29, 2016**

Elvyn G. Wolery, 91, formerly of Turner, passed away surrounded by family at Liberty Medical Center on April 29. A viewing will be held at Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester on Wednesday, May 4, 3 to 7 p.m. with a prayer service beginning at 6 p.m. The funeral service will be held May 6 at 11 a.m. at Turner High School with military honors and burial at Turner Cemetery.

Elvyn was born May 2, 1924, at the family homestead north of Joplin, Montana, to Guy and Blanche (Wilson) Wolery. He attended Grassy Butte School. After his education, he worked on the family farm north of Joplin until he enlisted in the Army. He trained at Little Rock, Arkansas, and was deployed overseas in World War II. Elvyn suffered life-threatening injuries while in combat in Germany. He spent the following seven months in military hospitals in England and Washington state. In May 1945, he married Eileen Wolf in Havre. They farmed on the Hi-Line for six years. While there, he was a member of the Grassy Butte school board. They purchased a farm at Turner in 1951, where they raised five children. Elvyn was a baptized and confirmed member of the Turner Lutheran Church and was active in the American Legion. He served as meat chairman on the National Farmers Organization state board.



Elvyn and Eileen farmed until 1976, and then pursued a custom harvesting business. They retired in 1989 and continued to live on the farm. During this period of his life, he enjoyed rodeos, camping, hunting, viewing the elk on the Missouri Breaks, ice fishing and playing cards and board games with his family and his many friends. One of the favorite outings of his retirement years was the times he spent on the wagon train trail rides with his nephew, Leroy.

Eileen and Elvyn moved to Chester in 2001 to be closer to medical services. They enjoyed the next few years at Wheat Country Estates in Chester, where he enjoyed gardening and found joy in sharing his harvest with his many friends. He took pride in supporting his Republican candidates and was devoted to his country.

He was a giving man and always wanted to help and support those in need. He spent his spare time playing Rummikub and calling bingo. Even in his later years, he was mentally keen and lost the Rummikub marathons with his family and friends very seldom. He enjoyed many activities including pontooning, fishing, trapping gophers, picnics and tours with family and friends and always had a knack for getting everyone involved. He treasured his time with family at various reunions and dinners.

Elvyn was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 61 years; four siblings, Royal, Olyn, Opal and Wayne; and his daughter-in-law MaryAnn. He is survived by his brother, Lloyd (Fern) of Joplin; his five children, Ron (Della) of Stevensville, Darryl (Ruth) of Seeley Lake, Rick (Elia) of El Centro, California, Loren (Linda) of Turner and Gail (Monty) of Chester; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Memorials in his memory can be donated to a charity of one's choice. Rockman Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements.

# Stephen Louis Wood

**Born: March 28, 1941 – Died: July 1, 2016**

Stephen Louis Wood, husband, father, brother and friend, died Friday, July 1, 2016, at the age of 75.

Steve was a proud Montanan, hailing from the Stacey community, south of Miles City. Born to Agnes Mae (Gold) and Eugene Wood, Steve grew up on the family ranch. Nicknamed “Soupbone” by his grandfather, Jack Gold, Steve attended South Stacey country school.

Athletics were a lifelong passion, beginning at Custer County High School where he excelled in football, basketball, and track. Stephen attended the University of Montana in Missoula on a football scholarship, relishing his time as a cornerback for the Grizzly Grid Great. “Up with Montana, boys!”

Stephen was a natural teacher and coach. His coaching career began in Kellogg, Idaho and eventually took him to Chester, Montana, where Steve coached football and wrestling. He founded and built the Coyotes’ high school wrestling program, culminating with a state wrestling championship in 1974. That year, Steve was voted Montana Wrestling Coach of the Year. Later in life, Steve would return to coaching in Savage, Montana, leading the eight-man football team. In total, Steve taught high school History, Government, and Social Studies.

In 1974, Steve married fellow teacher, Jan Wingenbach. Their 41 years together consisted of many adventures, including raising four children, multiple moves across Montana, and the pursuit of higher education. As he got older, time spent with his grandchildren became a cherished blessing that Steve never took for granted.

Steve returned to ranching in 1976 and after several years in Stacey, eventually moved closer to Miles City in 1985. Like his father and grandfather, Stephen was a member of the American Hereford Association. Other endeavors would eventually take Jan and Steve to Minnesota, Helena, and finally Billings.

Steve was a longtime member of the Montana Officials Association, refereeing high school basketball, football and wrestling. In the course of his officiating career, Steve gleefully recalled being spit on, hit with a purse, and booed on multiple occasions.

Quick with a joke, Steve was a gregarious and energetic individual, both as a prankster and a storyteller. Hobbies included gardening, pickling, canning his own salsa, and making wooden benches and tables. He loved Montana history, but especially despised anything resembling science fiction. Steve enjoyed country western music and was often found on the dance floor. He was fond of milkshakes, colorful knock-knock jokes and betting high in 500. Always a competitor, he was a loyal and lifelong fan of the Dodgers and the Dallas Cowboys.





Steve was graced with both a youthful spirit and a militant work ethic. He persevered through any setback with his usual wit and humor. One of his greatest gifts was his ability to draw out anyone's life story. No one was a stranger when chatting with Steve Wood. His smile, his fortitude, and his unique charm will be greatly missed by all who were blessed to know him.

Steve is preceded in death by his parents, Agnes Mae and Eugene Wood, and his sister, Blanche Wood.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Jan, of Billings; sons Bridgier (Allison), of Boise, Idaho, and Colin, of Portland Oregon; daughters Hannah (John) Donohue of Portland, Oregon, and Meghan (Matt) Cardoza of Boise, Idaho; sister Helen Jeanne Jones (Walt) of Cottonwood, Arizona and his twin sister Sandra Wood of Volborg, Montana; and 10 grandchildren, Morgan and Ian Wood, Addison, Elysse and Ilana Cardoza, all of Boise, Idaho, as well as Lucy and Aidan Wood, Clara, Jack and Charlotte Donohue, all from Portland, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Vincent DePaul in Billings, Montana.

Friends and family are invited to share stories and memories at a Vigil on Tuesday, July 5th, 6pm, St. Patrick Co-Cathedral in Billings, Montana. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at noon on Wednesday, July 6th, St. Patrick Co-Cathedral, with a luncheon to follow. Friends and family are welcome to the graveside service at the Custer County Cemetery, Miles City, Montana, 11:30am, Thursday, July 7, with a luncheon to follow at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall.

# Jacob J. Wurz

**Born: August 27, 1934 – Died: February 21, 2016**

Jacob J. Wurz, age 81, died peacefully on February 21st, 2016 at the Eagle Creek Colony (18 miles north of Chester, Mt.).

Jacob was born August 27th, 1934 at Warner, Alberta, Canada. He was one of eight children born to Rachel Hofer & John Wurz. He grew up and received his education at the Sunnyside Colony near Warner. At age 17 Jacob came with his family to the Hillside Colony near Sweetgrass, where he worked as a farm hand. On June 15th, 1960 he married Rebecca J. Wipf. Four years later they moved to the Rimrock Colony near Sunburst and raised their family of eight children. During their 18 years at Rimrock Colony, Jacob managed the operations in the chicken barn.

In 1982 the Wurz family moved to Eagle Creek Colony north of Chester. Jacob continued to work in the duck, geese, & turkey barns and also assisted in the mechanics shop. About five years ago he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. His condition slowly deteriorated and he became disabled these past two years. He died quietly at his colony residence on this past Sunday morning.

Jacob enjoyed reading and loved to sing hymns. He was a quiet & reserved man who appreciated his life and his family & friends. He never quarreled or argued, nor made any enemies during his life. He will be sorely missed by those who loved him.

Jacob was preceded in death by his parents, his youngest son (Lawrence Wurz, who died in 1996), and 3 siblings (Mike Wurz, John Wurz, and Elizabeth Mandel).

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Rebecca Wurz of Eagle Creek Colony; his 7 children, Rebecca (Darius) Gross of Rock Lake Colony near Taber, Alberta, Elizabeth Wurz of ECC, Mary Wurz of ECC, Benjamin (Martha) Wurz of ECC, Rachel (Martin) Hofer of ECC, Jacob Wurz of ECC, and Leonard (Susie) Wurz of ECC; 11 grandchildren; 1 brother, Andrew Wurz of Horizon Colony near Cut Bank; 3 sisters, Katie Hofer of Rimrock Colony, Rebecca Kleinsasser of Kingsbury Colony near Valier, and Rachel Hofer of Sage Creek Colony; and many nephews & nieces.

Jacob's funeral will be 12 o'clock noon Wednesday (Feb. 24th) at the Eagle Creek Colony Church. Burial will follow at the Eagle Creek Colony Cemetery. Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester assisted the family with the necessary funeral arrangements.