



Montana Trooper

Final Patrol

JACOB ROWLAND BOLTZ

HELENA - Jacob Rowland Boltz, 42, was called to heaven on May 8, 2013. Jake is survived by his parents, Floyd and Connie Boltz, his wife, Laura Boltz, their two children, Connor and Jenna. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Figarelle (Reno, NV), and his brother John Figarelle, his wife Brenda and their son, Cody (North Pole, AK).

Jake was born at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula, MT. Floyd and Connie's bundle of joy grew up very quickly. Between playing football and working at KCAP radio full time, he graduated from Capital High School in 1988. After he graduated, Jake attended Montana State University and worked for KBOZ radio in Bozeman, MT. There he met and married Laura Richards on September 21, 1991. In 1995, the newlyweds moved to Sheridan, WY, where Jake worked for KROE radio as the news director.

It was in Sheridan, WY, where Jake first started his career in law enforcement as a dispatcher in 1998. His son, Connor, was born in November of 2000



and his daughter, Jenavieve, was born in May of 2006. In 2002, Jake and his family moved to Helena, where he continued his work as a dispatcher for Montana Highway

Patrol Communication Center. A couple of years later, he was promoted to shift supervisor. In 2008, he had the honor of becoming the Communication Center Manager for the MHP. In November 2012, he was assigned to the MHP Program Coordinator position, and in this capacity he supported the Patrol with IT and CAD duties and responsibilities...an area which he truly enjoyed.

Jake was a natural born leader, and he always stood up for what was right. He was the true definition of integrity, honor, and justice. He was wise, kind, and loving. He always had the ability to make everyone laugh. No matter how bleak the day had been, Jake always brightened it with his witty humor and

infectious laughter. Jake loved movies, music, and reading. He also had the ability to remember every single detail about anything he watched, heard, or read. Jake was a wonderful story teller. With his avid use of words, one always felt as if they were in the place he was describing.

No words can truly express the greatness of this man or how many lives will be affected by his loss. Jake was loved by so many that we must celebrate his life together.

A memorial service was held at 1300 hours, Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at the Helena First Assembly of God Church, 2210 Dodge Ave. with a reception following the service in the church gymnasium. A memorial scholarship fund has been set up for his family in the name of the Jacob Boltz Memorial Fund at Valley Bank of Helena, P.O. Box 5269, Helena, MT 59604 (406) 495-2400. To offer the family a condolence or share a memory of Jake, please visit: www.ret-zfuneralhome.com.

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RALPH IRVIN GUY

BILLINGS – Ralph Irvin Guy, 83, passed peacefully of lung cancer at home in Billings on January 16, 2013.

He was born the eldest son of Fred and Katharine (Carroll) Guy in Merino, Mont. He was joined by siblings Ruth, Al, Shirley, and his baby sister Andrea. After attending elementary school in Joplin, the family moved to the Fort Benton area, where Ralph completed his education, graduating from Fort Benton High School in 1946.

Ralph enlisted in the Army Air Corps on October 3, 1946, serving in the 3345th Maintenance Squadron as an airplane and engine mechanic. During this period of service, Ralph achieved the rank of sergeant and earned the World War II Victory Medal, as well as the Germany Occupation Medal, spending most of his time in Fassberg, Germany, during the Berlin Airlift.

Honorably discharged from military service on March 25, 1949, at Chanute Air Force Base, Ralph was drafted back into active duty on May 18, 1949, serving in the 343rd Bombardment Squadron and the 98th Bombardment Wing during the Korean War, earning the Korean Service Medal. Ralph was again honorably discharged on August 26, 1951, at Fairchild Air Force Base, ending his military service. During his time in both conflicts, Ralph was a proficient photographer, leaving his family a priceless gift of wartime photos. As a result of his time in the military, Ralph was a lifetime member of the VFW.

Returning to the United States, Ralph was employed by Northwest Airlines until 1954 before beginning a 21-year career with the Montana Highway Patrol on January 24, 1955. Ralph served first as a driver's examiner in Great Falls, ultimately transferring to the traffic division in Billings in 1959. Ralph proudly retired from the MHP on April 2, 1976.

Married to Ruth Marilyn Beaver in October of 1956, the family increased with the births of son Bob and daughter Sherry. His children fondly remember Ralph's addiction to the color yellow and his avid, lifelong appreciation for the American automobile. Ralph left the state of Montana in the early 1980s and was employed as a truck driver for



Convoy Trucking in California. (Ralph telling his children after leaving the Highway Patrol, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!")

While in California, Ralph met and fell in love with Brenda Elam, marrying her on November 12, 1994. Brenda joined Ralph in Montana, where he spent the remainder of his life in her company, first in Joliet (where many an evening involved playing Kismet with buddies Ron and Thelma Woody), with a final return to Billings in 2011.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents; brother Al; sisters Ruth (Steinbacher) and Shirley (Sweeney); sister-in-law Elaine Reynolds; mother-in-law Fairena Goldstein; and his former father-in-law Hiram Beaver.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Brenda; "baby sister" Andy; son Bob (Diane) Guy; daughter Sherry; stepsons John and Robbie Skinner; first wife Marilyn Freitag; grandchildren Brianne Chapman, Ahlexa Lofing, Chance and Hayley Guy, Eugene, Dayton and (south) Dakota Skinner; beloved nephews Fred Steinbacher, Mark and Mike Guy; and three great-grandchildren; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Also mourning his passing is Ralph's faithful be-whiskered companion, Ava.

Dad loved old cars, planes, and tractors, and he would rattle off the make, model, and year of any built up through the 1970s. He was always fixing something; cars, clocks, watches ... you name it! After, of course, we helped him find the piece that fell and rolled to "why me"

land. There was only one place to go campin' and fishin' on earth, Emerald Lake. (Why mess with success.) He always said, "You have to keep your sense of humor." He exercised daily, starting usually with reading the comics out loud. Dad was 5 foot, 15, not 6 foot 3, if asked. He was never shy about getting out his trusty guitar and launching into his favorite folk song, and he could sing with the best of them. He loved music, and his "steel trap mind" could recall any of the oldies but goodies. He kept his sense of humor through it all, and when asked his birth date, he would say, "That's easy, two nine two nine." So it should be no surprise that if you add up the date and year of his passing you get "two nine." Aw, he got us again! So long, Badge #177, we shall never forget you.

The "gentle giant" wanted to extend his sincere thanks to the health care professionals and volunteers who provided such loving care during his most recent hospital stay.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial services were held Wednesday, January 23, 2013, at 1100 hours at Cremation & Funeral Gallery, followed by a reception at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2216 Grand Ave.

Should family for friends desire, memorials are suggested to Riverstone Hospice, 123 S. 27th St., Billings, MT 59101 or the Frontier Cancer Center, 1315 Golden Valley Circle, Billings, MT 59102.

Arrangements are by Cremation & Funeral Gallery. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.cfgbillings.com through "Our Families," or sent directly to Brenda Guy, 3157 Henesta Drive, Billings, MT 59102.



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GENE E. MILLER

GREAT FALLS – Gene E. Miller, 91, of Great Falls, a retired Montana Highway Patrol captain, died of natural causes Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at Peace Hospice.

Graveside services were held at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery. O'Connor Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Gene E. Miller was born to Conrad and May Miller on May 1, 1921, in Burns and graduated from Savage High School in 1939. He moved to Seattle to work for Boeing shortly after graduation until he joined the U.S. Navy after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He served in the South Pacific Theater as an aviation machinist's mate onboard the USS Long Island until he was honorably discharged in August of 1945. After the war, he returned to the family farm near Savage and married Orel Nygaard in 1949. They had four daughters.

Gene worked the farm until he



joined the Montana Highway Patrol on August 1, 1956. He was stationed in Miles City until 1964 and Missoula through 1967. The family moved to Great Falls, where he was stationed as captain until his retirement on May 13, 1980. Mr. Miller was active in the Retired Montana Highway Patrol Association and was proud of his work with the legislature in the 80's to enact retirement system reforms. Gene and Orel divorced in 1984, and Gene married Estella Braaten in 1988.

Mr. Miller enjoyed woodworking, hunting, fishing and gardening. He raised a garden every year except 2006 and enjoyed canning the produce for use in the winters until he moved to the Rainbow in 2009. Many family members were the lucky recipients of the products of his woodworking shop, and he made each grandchild a deacon's bench

toy box for his or her first birthday. Many happy hours were spent hunting and fishing across the state.

He is survived by daughters Vicki (Glenn) Braun of Big Sandy, Laurie (Brian) Olson of Soldotna, Alaska, and Kathy (Ken) Foss of Libby; grandchildren Shane (Hillary) Braun, Tara Bianchi, Casey (Katie) Olson, Stephanie (Bradford) Lewis and Michael Foss; great-grandchildren Adeline, Dundee, Carmen, Lia, Levi and Madilyn; sister LaDonna Etzel of Fargo, N.D.; and nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mr. Miller was preceded in death by his parents; wife Estella in 2006; sisters Marge Hart and Bea Burau in 2009; daughter Beverly Miller in 2004; and grandson Zane Olson in 2005.

Condolences may be posted online at www.oconnorfuneralhome.com and/or www.gftribune.com/obituaries. Cards may also be sent to the O'Connor Funeral Home, 2425 Eighth Avenue North, Great Falls, MT 59401. *more* ►





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THOMAS O. SANFORD

HELENA – Thomas Oliver Sanford, age 85 of Helena, was called home to heaven to be with his Lord and Savior early Saturday morning January 12, 2013.

Tom was born on June 20, 1927, in Kabo, Montana, to John and Catherine Sanford. Tom spent his childhood in Montana and attended high school at Big Sandy. He joined the Navy in August of 1945 to serve his country. On October 10, 1947, he married Mary Fitzsimmons, and the couple lived and managed ranch properties until he joined the Montana Highway Patrol on November 15, 1953. They lived in Polson, Montana, where they raised their children, Tom E., Yvonne, Randy, and Brian. On July 19, 1985, after nearly 32 years of service to the Montana Highway Patrol, Tom retired in Kalispell. In 1992, they moved to Helena.



Tom was a wonderful husband and father to his family. He was loved by his wife and children and respected by his friends and the community, with a great sense of humor that everyone enjoyed. He loved baseball, and as his sons grew up, he coached them in Little League, Babe Ruth, and Legion baseball for 12 years in Polson and Kalispell.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, John and Catherine Sanford, his brother, Jim Sanford, and sister, Judy Johnson.

He is survived by his wife, Mary of Helena; his children, Thomas E. Sanford, Yvonne (Charles) Brooke of Helena, Randy (Stephanie) Sanford of Wenatchee, WA and Brian (Tammy) Sanford of

Phoenix, Az.; sister, Vera (Art) Matson of Polson, Mt; ten grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

A private burial with family present was held at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Harrison. A memorial service celebrating Tom's life was held at 1400 hours on Friday, January 18, 2013, at Liberty Baptist Church, 210 Sierra Road West in Helena.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Tom's name are suggested to the Liberty Baptist Church Worldwide Missions, P.O. Box 911, Helena, Montana 59624. Please visit www.aswfuneralhome.com to offer the family condolences or share a memory of Tom.

If you would like to send cards to his wife and family, you may use the following address: Mary Sanford, 33 Colter Loop Drive, Helena, MT 59602.

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THEODORE ROBERT STOLLFUSS
THREE FORKS – Theodore Robert Stollfuss of Leander, Texas, went to Heaven on February 15, 2013, due to complications of an automobile crash. Ted was born June 20, 1925, to Robert and Ella Stollfuss in Ripon, Wisconsin. He was one of 13 children. At a youthful age, he migrated to Montana, and in 1942 at the age of 17, he enlisted in the Navy. He served during WWII aboard the battleship U.S.S. Iowa. After a medical Honorable Discharge, he came back to Kalispell, where he met and married his wife of 25 years, Kathryn Phyllis O'Connor, on September 12, 1950.

Ted joined the Montana Highway Patrol on July 3, 1953, and he was stationed in Bozeman for 5 ½ years. Later, he was transferred to Three Forks, where he made his home for the next 14 years. It was there that Ted and Kay adopted a baby girl and named her Cindy Lou. Ted was transferred to Helena in 1974 where he was promoted to sergeant and also was named Director of Safety and Education for the next 5 years. On Valentine's Day in 1976, Ted married Lois Elaine Paulsen. He retired from the MHP on July 15, 1977.

In 1978, the family moved back to Kalispell, where Ted worked for the Flathead County Sheriff's Department for the next 10 years. After retiring from the Sheriff's Department, he entered the transportation system and drove the school bus for both Big Fork and Somers school districts. The kids totally loved him, and he spoiled them every chance he got. He just had a special gift with children, and he very much enjoyed driving the school bus. At the age of 78, he retired from driving the bus and received many awards from doing so. Ted then began doing something that he truly really enjoyed and that was woodworking. It was one of his favorite hobbies, and he made so many different things for his family, his friends, and for the church. Photography was also another one of his hobbies, and many of you will remember photographs that he took of you and your families and many, many weddings.

In 2004, Ted and Elaine moved to Leander, Texas, to be closer to Elaine's family.

Ted is survived by his only daughter, Cindy Lou Stollfuss Ross of Three Forks, his only grandson, Christopher

Robert Ross of Bozeman, his wife Lois Elaine Stollfuss of Leander, Texas, two step sons, Michael and Gary Paulsen, a step daughter, Robin Askelson, and six step grandchildren, all of Texas, his sister Luella Brownlea, and brother LeRoy Stollfuss, numerous nieces and nephews all of Wisconsin, and cousin Larry Stollfuss and family of Marion, MT.

Ted will be coming home to Montana where his heart has always been and now will always stay. His ashes will be spread over the ranch he loved dearly when he was younger in Marion. He had many fond memories of the beautiful countryside, the peaceful sound of the Thompson River, and the many fishing trips.

A memorial service was held at the Three Forks United Methodist Church on March 2nd at 1400 hours with a gathering following in the annex. Condolences, memorials, and memories may be shared with Cindy and Christopher Ross at P.O. Box 906, Three Forks, MT 59752.

Rest in peace, my father, I will love you "forever."

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