

**D**ale B. Ryan died at home in Big Sky, Montana early in the morning of Friday, May 22, 2009 after a 25 year struggle with Parkinson's disease. She was 85 years old. Dale (nee Burnett) Ryan was born on July 20, 1923 to two native Montanans, Leonard J. Burnett, a builder and brick mason, and Ruth Fowler Burnett, homemaker and mother, in Stevensville, Montana.

Dale's well loved sister, Jean preceded her in death.

Dale grew up in Stevensville, Montana, moving to Yakima, Washington to live with family briefly before returning to Stevensville when the economy picked up. She moved to Missoula, Montana at the beginning of her high school years. She attended high school in Missoula, matriculating in the University of Montana in 1942.

While at the University of Montana, Dale met Raymond Ryan, then of Big Timber, Montana. They married on January 17, 1943. In the summer of 1943, Dale followed her new husband to San Miguel, California for his basic training at Camp Roberts. She then returned to Missoula. Dale and Ray completed their University education and had the first of three children; Raymond B. Ryan, born November 12, 1946. The couple's two remaining children, Brenda Ruth Ryan (b. 10/4/1950) and Ronald Dale Ryan (b. 12/5/1959) were born in Missoula, Montana and Duluth, Minnesota, respectively.

Ray worked for United States Steel Corporation, including the Orinoco Mining Company, for much of his career. Ray and Dale moved many times in their lives together. They moved to the New York area three times, to Provo, Utah once, Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela once, Duluth, Minnesota once, Caracas, Venezuela twice, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania twice, Greenwich, Connecticut once and Stamford, Connecticut once. They spent their later retirement years in Big Sky, Montana where Dale lived until she died.

Throughout her life, Dale's passions were her immediate and extended family, her pets, her garden, the outdoors, and her native Montana. Dale worked tirelessly to instill manners and courtesy in her children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces, and balanced worldly elegance and glamour with a folksy, down to earth personality. Dale was also artistic and creative, studying paper Mache and floral arrangements as well as landscaping design. Wherever she went, Dale was active in the local church. Dale also gave freely of herself to charities and volunteer organizations throughout the world: from buying shoes for indigent street children in Venezuela's capital to serving on the Board of Valley Care Association, a local nursing home. She was an active member of the P.E.O. sisterhood.

Dale is survived by Raymond D. Ryan, her husband of 66 years, her son, Raymond B. Ryan of Darien, CT and his wife, Betsy; her daughter, Brenda Ryan, of Denver, CO, and Ronald D. Ryan of Knoxville, TN and wife, Martha. She is also survived by grandchildren, Reed B Ryan of Frisco, CO; Carrie E. Ryan of Darien, CT; and Rachel Grace, Rebecca Dale, and Roland Rex Ryan of Knoxville, TN.

Services will be held at 4 pm on Thursday, May 28, 2009 at University Congregational Church, 401 University Ave, Missoula, MT - (406) 543-6952. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Dale's memory can be made to: Rocky Mountain Hospice, 301 Edelweiss Suite 6, Bozeman, MT 59718; or National Parkinson Foundation, Inc., 1501 NW 9th Avenue, Bob Hope Road, Miami, Florida 33136-1494 (1-800-327-4545).