Marian E. Groff, 66, passed away quietly Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010, in Belgrade. She fought a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's and Lewy Body disease for more than 10 years. Her strength and perseverance are an inspiration to all of us. She was the loving and compassionate mother of a large extended family.

Marian was born on July 6, 1944, in Cleveland to Ed and Bernice Soltis. She was raised on a large dairy farm in Parkman, Ohio, with her two brothers and three sisters. She graduated from Middlefield High School in 1962 and worked as a secretary for a plastics manufacturing company, then for the U.S. government at the Ravenna Ammunitions Plant in Windham, Ohio.

In 1969, she met Ken Groff, and they were married on May 12, 1972, in Winchester, W.Va. Shortly after their marriage, Ken and Marian stopped in Emigrant to visit friends and immediately fell in love with the beautiful Big Sky country. In 1979, they moved from Northeast Ohio to Emigrant, where they lived and began their family life until 1985, when they moved to Bozeman.

Marian thoroughly enjoyed Montana for more than 30 years. She loved the family cabin and spending time with all her close friends and family there. She loved cooking, gardening and canning, baking and being outdoors picnicking, skiing, snowmobiling and hiking in the mountains. She especially liked spending time with her husband, children and grandchildren.

Marian was preceded in death by her father, Ed Soltis; her grandparents; and many loving relatives who have welcomed her to Our Lord's house with open arms.

She is survived by her mother, Bernice Soltis; husband, Ken Groff; son and daughter, Lance Groff and Tiffany Saks; stepchildren, Timothy (Ginny) Groff, Michael Groff and Marcia (Gary) Flattum. She is also survived by her adoring grandchildren, Aubrey Groff, Tessa Flattum, Jeremy Groff, Payton Saks, Hunter Groff, Paige Saks, Wyatt Groff and twins Charlie and Kolbie Groff. Surviving siblings are sisters, Susan (Jeff) Braden, Jacque Soltis and Connie (Lynn) Rose, and brothers, Tom and Chris (Holly) Soltis. There are many nieces, nephews and family relatives from Ohio to Montana who will miss her greatly.

Memorials in her name may be made to the Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch Foundation, P.O. Box 80807, Billings, MT 59108-0807; to the Northwest Parkinson Foundation, 400 Mercer Street, Ste. 401, Seattle, WA 98109; or to Eagle Mount, 6901 Goldenstein Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715.