

Jack Fullerton, 89, passed away on November 29, 2007 at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. He had been ill for four days with pneumonia.

Jack was born February 26, 1918 at the "Stone House" on the west side of Gallatin River 2 miles south of Shedd's Bridge. He was the son of William Leonard (Bill) Fullerton and Edith Breeden Fullerton. He lived in the Bozeman Hot Springs/Gallatin Gateway area his entire life. He attended school at Elk Grove School, Monforton School, and Gallatin County High School.

After high school he worked on the family ranch south of Gallatin Gateway then enlisted in the Army on September 27, 1940, being assigned to the Army Air Force. He served in the European Theater of Operations from December of 1943 to August of 1945. His military career took him to England and France during World War II and he attained the rank of Master Sergeant at the time of his discharge.

After discharge from the service he returned to Gallatin Valley where he briefly attended Montana State College. He later became a self-employed heavy equipment contractor working primarily on rural irrigation and drainage projects in the Gallatin Valley. He was instrumental in forming the Montana Land Improvement Contractors Association. After selling his contracting business in 1968 he worked as superintendent and ditch manager for the Highline Canal Company. After his retirement from the Highline Canal Company he was appointed as the Water Commissioner on the West Gallatin River. He retired in 1980.

While serving in the Military, Jack married Norma Hesseltine in Riverside, CA in 1943. In 1944, a daughter (Judy Ann) was born in Aberdeen, WA while Jack served in England. Another daughter (Janet Laura) was born in 1946 in Bozeman. His son (William Sherman) was born in Bozeman in 1948. The family purchased land and built a home south of the Bozeman Hot Springs and had resided there since 1948. He married Virginia Croston on June 8, 1974.

Virginia and Jack enjoyed pinochle, boating, fishing, gardening and traveling in their RV. Jack was also an avid reader of history. A huge garden and yard had always been a source of pride. Jack was a lifetime member of the Elks, where he was a good Elk and active Elk for 42 years. In addition to being an Elk, Jack enjoyed being a member of Masonic Lodge # 18 which he was involved in for over 50 years. In his later years he was a regular for afternoon coffee with the "club" at the Kountry Korner Café. He was very proud of his children's accomplishments and delighted in spending time with his grandchildren.

He was preceeded in death by his parents and sisters, Faye (Patty) Gaglia and Gladys Portnell.

Jack is survived by his wife, Virginia; a sister, Doris (Fullerton) Roberts of Bremerton, WA; daughters Judy Jones (Don) of Castle Rock, WA, Janet Thurston (Dennis) of Bremerton, WA, and son William Fullerton (Jeannie) of Helena, MT. Grandchildren are Christine Jones of Castle Rock, WA; Katherine Walter of White Sulphur Springs, MT, James Saeman of Seattle, WA; Maria Fullerton of Richmond, VA; Danielle Fullerton of Helena, MT; and Elizabeth Fullerton of Helena, MT. Survivors also include two great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held in Bozeman at Dokken-Nelson Sunset Chapel on Tuesday, December 4, at 2 p.m. Interment with military honors will follow at Sunset Hills Cemetery.