



## Irene Frances Kirk

November 5, 1931 - May 22, 2020

Irene Kirk, of Butte, past peacefully in her sleep on Friday, May 22, 2020. She is preceded in death by her husband Ray Kirk, son Jeffery, brother Jack Petlin, sister Mary Petlin and parents John and Pearl Petlin. A memorial service will be scheduled at later date.

Her father was a strong influence. She gained her work ethic and love of math from him. Irene inherited her piercing green eyes, reserved nature, and kind heart from her mom. Florence Avenue was her childhood stomping grounds. After graduating from Butte High School in 1950, she married Ray Kirk, her high school sweetheart. They built a beautiful family home next door, and it was her residence till death.

Her first job was at the family business, "Town Talk Bakery." She remembers classmates commenting that she smelled like doughnuts when she arrived at school. As a top-notch bookkeeper Gamble Robinson, the Safeway corporate office, and General Contractors, valued her precision in managing numbers. After her husband died, she demonstrated strength and preservation as a single parent. She became a successful business woman. Her career path as a Realtor Broker, led her into owning and managing commercial buildings on Harrison Avenue.

No moss grew under Irene's feet, and her goals kept her active. Irene physically built two homes with her husband, and was a master handy-man/woman. An accomplished seamstress, she tailored formals, school clothes, and home embellishments. Irene served in promoting awareness for

the Shriner's Children's Hospital, Daughters of the Nile & Eastern Star for 50+yrs, Butte Chamber Ambassador, Red Hats-Gal-Us Frame Girls, High school girls monthly meetings, and Cornish Cousins. In her eighties, the High Tech Grandma continued to enroll in computer and photography/video classes. Lover of the outdoors, she enjoyed camping, fishing, horses, gardening, speed skating and skiing. She was a beautiful dancer, and delighted in attending live entertainment. Her passions included holiday decorating/ family dinners, garage sales, and animals; especially birds & dogs.

She survived a brain hemorrhage at the age of 83. Her strong character, work ethic and positivity kept her going. When others approached her and said that they were sorry for the circumstance, she would reply, "It's better than the alternative." Our mom was driven to succeed. Her family admires her accomplishments, her work ethic, and integrity. She was a strong independent woman; definitely Butte Tough.

Irene is survived by three daughters: Raylene Kirk of Butte, Julie Kirk Constenius and husband John of Whitefish, and Heather Kirk Walund and husband Randy of Spring Creek, NV; five grandchildren: Chris Lisac, Lucas Constenius, Logan Constenius, Sheridan Walund and Harrison Walund; three great-grandchildren: Alicia and Kelsey Lisac, and one great-great granddaughter: Sophia Lisac.

Thank you to all who cared for our mother over the past handful of years, and most recently the staff at The Springs Footsteps Memory Care, Deb Penner (personal trainer), and Frontier Hospice. In lieu of flowers her family would appreciate a memorial donation in her memory, to Bagdad Shrine Temple Children's Transportation Fund, 314 W. Park, Butte, MT 59701.

She would light up whenever Bob Kovacich would sing "Good Night Irene". Now it's time for her final song, "Good Night Irene our Sweet Mama."

# Tribute Wall

NC

“ It was honor to be able to take care of you. You were a beautiful and sweet spirit. I am happy because you get to be with your family and I pray for your babies, family and friends to get strength during this heartache. Hugs and loves sent to heaven to you.



Nadia Crawford - May 28, 2020 at 02:33 PM

TC

“ Heather,I will always remember your Mom as a charismatic woman who carried herself with grace and class. I have so many fond memories of being with you, your Mom and your Dad in your childhood home. Husky used to walk me home and keep me safe. My deepest condolences for all your family. My prayers are with you all.  
Love, Trish (Annette) Clayton

Trish Clayton - May 27, 2020 at 02:54 AM

SD

“ My sincere condolences to Raylene and the Kirk family on the passing of their beautiful and beloved mother. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Sending you strength and comfort in the days to come. Cherish all the lovely memories and good times you had with her... she is now a beautiful angel in Heaven watching over all of you and your families. God Bless. Susan Doran 🙏❤️🌹

Susan Doran - May 26, 2020 at 07:55 PM

JH

“ My sincerest sympathy to Raylene & the Kirk family for the passing of your dear Mother. From the day I first met her at General Constructors, she was always a bright light in everyone's day with her pleasant & positive attitude. I'm sure she will be missed by many. Julie Henrich

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**Julie Henrich** - May 26, 2020 at 12:04 PM

CP

“ Heather, I had forgotten how much you resemble her in so many ways. Beautiful inside and out, sweet but strong, loyal but independent. Love to all of you. ❤️

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**Carin Patelis** - May 25, 2020 at 09:41 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home** - May 25, 2020 at 12:38 PM