



FRENCHTOWN – Mary Kramer passed away Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010, at her home in Frenchtown.

She was born Mary Sosbe on Jan. 21, 1950, to Everett and Marjorie Sosbe in Evansville, Ind. She was the oldest of three girls.

She grew up picking apples, blueberries and raspberries in her grandparents' McCutchanville, Ind., garden, where she learned the early lessons of hard work, great cooking and expert needlecraft

from her grandmother. She attended schools in Indiana and worked for a time as a hair stylist.

Mary gave birth to two girls, Shannone Michelle and Tricia Lynn, before moving to Montana in 1975 with her first husband, George Miner. After arriving in Montana, Mary and George worked for Youth Homes as live-in guardians for at-risk youth. They helped many kids through tough times and Mary especially loved Christmases with as many as 12 teenagers and her own two daughters. Mary and George divorced in 1979.

In 1980, Mary met Henry Jack Kramer, her true love and favorite cowboy. They have been together ever since. The union of these two people also brought Mary's two girls and Jack's five children together. Jack became Shannone and Tricia's dad in all aspects and Mary was a great stepmom.

Mary reveled in being a wife, mother, sister, aunt and grandmother. Between their seven children, Jack and Mary have 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mary also has two sisters and two nieces.

Mary continued her love of the holidays and would give handmade gifts to all of her family. She and Dad loved working in their shop, Dad handling the woodworking or helping fire ceramics in their kiln. Then Mom would paint everything by hand. She also crocheted, knitted, sewed and made blankets and quilts.

Mom and Dad loved summers. They would take their fifth wheel, boat, four-wheeler and dogs camping and fishing on Holland Lake or spend the day picking huckleberries. She loved it most when her grandchildren would accompany them camping. She would often make the grandkids fry bread and pineapple upside-down cake over the campfire.

Mary was predeceased by her parents, Everett and Marjorie Sosbe.

She is survived by her husband, Jack Kramer of Frenchtown; her children, Dennis (Judi) Kramer of Missoula, Kathy McLaughlin (Randy) of Billings, Dawn (Paul) Overbaugh of Missoula, Audrey (Dave) Jorgensen of Missoula, John (Kathy) Kramer of Billings, Shannone (KC) Hart of Missoula and Tricia Miner (Dave) of Butte. She is also survived by two sisters, Kathryn (Robert) Schneider Sosbe of Washington, D.C., and Doris Schlottmann of Texas; and her two nieces, Sarah Sosbe of New York and Laura Martin of Las Vegas. Mary's 21 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren brought so much joy and love to her life, Wayne and Josh Kramer; Tiffany and Maegan McLaughlin; Justin (Josh and Ben), Brian and Jacob Overbaugh; Amy, Michelle (Ella Mae, Slade and Mykayla) and Dorie Kramer; Petra Bekemeyer (Mykayla); Jackson and Tanner Hart; Megan and Mindy Bahr; and Erin, Chad, Amy, Amanda, Jodie and Bradley Satterlee.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Missoula Food Bank, the Mary Kramer Excellence Fund at St. Patrick Hospital or to Chicks n Chaps, a nonprofit that benefits others in Montana who may be suffering from breast cancer.

A candlelight memorial for Mary will be held at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at the St. Patrick Hospital Broadway Building Conference Center. Underground parking is available. Mary would request everyone wear blue jeans.