

Jeanette Isidora (Esponda) Maxwell

RUFFALO — Mass of Christian Burial for Buffalo resident Jeanette Isidora (Esponda) Maxwell, 82, will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Buffalo by Frs. George Von Kaenel and Michael Carr. Burial will be in Willow Grove Cemetery.

Christian Wake service will begin at 7 p.m. today, Jan. 27, at the church.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. today in Adams Funeral Home Chapel in Buffalo.

She died Jan. 23, 2006, at her home, among her loved ones.

Born March 15, 1923, in Buffalo, she was the daughter of Dominica (Etchemendy) and John Esponda; was raised and educated there; and graduated from Johnson County High School in 1941.

She attended Loretto Heights College in Denver and, later, transferred to Creighton University, where she majored in journalism and communications.

On Oct. 26, 1944, she married Vernon "Whitey" Maxwell.

They made their home in Buffalo and were the proud parents of 12 children.

Her husband preceded her in death on Aug. 11, 1978, after 33 years of marriage.

She taught dancing lessons for many years and produced the annual "Spring Follies" talent show. On April 16, 1957, she co-founded KBBS-Radio with two Sheridan couples; and, for more than 40 years, "had one of the most recognized voices in Johnson County."

The station's Basque program also ran for more than 40 years.

She assumed full ownership and management of the station in 1964; and, after selling it to Smokey Wilderman, retired on Nov. 1, 1996. Former Buffalo mayor

Nels Lofgren proclaimed March 7, 1997, as Jeanette Esponda Maxwell Day. On March 8, 1997, she was inducted into the Basque Hall of Fame and former Gov. Jim Geringer also proclaimed it to be Basque Program Day.

She was inducted into the inaugural Wyoming Assoc. of Broadcasters Hall of Fame of June 7, 2003.

A member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, she served as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and member of the choir and parish council.

She also belonged to the Big Horn Basque Club, Basque Choir, Buffalo Chamber of Commerce, "Sweet Adelines" barbershop group, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, and T.O.P.S.

Her interests included dancing, golfing, spending time at Hazelton in the Big Horn Mountains, and being with her family.

Survivors include eight daughters, Mary Kay Stafford and her husband and Marilyn Maxwell of Buffalo, Monica Smithers and her husband of Arnold, Calif., Marci Buckles and her husband of Sheridan, Margo Trevino and her husband of Tracy, Calif., Melanie Walker of Stratford, Mo., Michele Peck and her husband of Cheyenne and Marti Markovsky and her husband of Buffalo; three sons, Russell Maxwell of Cheyenne, David Maxwell and his wife of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Tom Maxwell of Gillette; sister, Noeline Sun of Casper; 20 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Danny; a sister; two brothers and a granddaughter.

Memorials may be made to Johnson County Family Crisis Center or Buffalo Ministerial Assoc., in care of Adams Funeral Home, 351 N. Adams Ave., Buffalo, WY 82834.

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