

Josephine E. Johnston

December 10, 1916 – December 28, 2005

Mass of the Resurrection for Josephine E. Johnston, 89, were conducted at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2006 at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Wheatland, with Father Jan Santich and Father Robert Karnish as co-celebrants. Vigil for the Deceased was held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 2, 2006, at Saint Patrick Catholic Church. Interment will be in the Wheatland Cemetery.

She died Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2005, at Valley View Rehabilitation and Care Center in Saratoga.

Josephine was born Dec. 10, 1916, daughter of Frances (Murphy) and Joseph Keefe in Eyota, Minn., where she was raised with her family of eight siblings. She graduated from Eyota High School in 1933 and helped with her parents' and grandparents' farm operations. A visit to Wyoming in the late 1930's introduced her to Eldon E. Johnston, whom she married April 14, 1939, in Wheatland. Josephine was the proud Mom of four children: Judie, Matt, Jane, and Mike. She and her husband established Johnston Fuel Liners in 1939 in Wheatland, moving operations to Riverton during World War II. In 1945 they moved back to Wheatland, purchased the Bard Ranch from The Swan Cattle Company and re-established JFL in Newcastle. Over the next 50 years they expanded their business operations in both Wyoming and Arizona. They recognized education as the paramount goal and all four of their children and many grandchildren received degrees from the University



Josephine Johnston

of Wyoming. After the death of her beloved husband, Eldon, in 1997, she established the Johnston Family Graduate Fellowship at the UW College of Agriculture in his memory to honor their commitment to Wyoming agriculture. Josephine was an accomplished artist, musician, and seamstress. She loved to entertain and was famous for her cinnamon rolls. She was a great Mom (grand and great) and loved her children dearly.

Josephine is survived by her children and their spouses: Judie and

Kraig Brighton of Kimball, Neb.; Matt and Lorraine Johnston of Douglas; Jane Johnston of Saratoga; and Mike and Vicki Johnston of Wheatland; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Jo Johnston of Wheatland; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband on Jan. 14, 1997; six sisters; and two brothers.

Serving as pallbearers will be Richard Barber, Matt Ivory, Drew Johnston, Travis Stevenson, Travis Eldridge, Eric McKinley, and Brad Van Pelt.

Memorials to the Johnston Family Graduate Fellowship, addressed to the UW College of Agriculture in care of Anne Leonard, 1000 E. University Avenue, Department 3354, Laramie, WY 82702 would be appreciated by the family.

Gorman Funeral Homes - Platte Chapel of Wheatland is in charge of the arrangements.