Juanita Ileana Wilbert

Juanita Ileana Wilbert, 91, Pittsburg, died at 5:28 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2004, at Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center.

She was born May 17, 1913, in Cherokee County, the daughter of Clyde and Gracie Doss Gaston. She was raised in rural Cherokee County. A graduate of Riverton High School, she attended Neosho Community College, Kansas State Teachers College and received her Life Teaching Certificate at LSU.

Mrs. Wilbert started her teaching career in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Cherokee County and progressed throughout the years to Louisiana before ending her career at St. Mary's Schools, where she taught for 20 years before her retirement in 1981. Following her retirement, she began assisting at two area pre-schools and continued at both until 1996.

She was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, St. Mary's Altar Society, AARP, BPW, Pilot International Club and Little Theater. She was an active member of the St. Mary's Choir, which traveled to Rome five years ago and performed at the Vatican for Pope John Paul II.

She had also served as a Republican precinct committeewoman.

She married John Wilbert in 1939 in Pittsburg. He preceded her in death on Feb. 4, 1968.

Survivors include a son, John Wilbert III of Pittsburg; a daughter, Trenetta Robertson of Overland Park; a brother, Curtis Gaston of Independence; one granddaughter and two great-grandsons. She was preceded in death by a sister, Retha Gaston, and two brothers, Chester Gaston and Weldon Gaston.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church with Fr. Thomas Stroot as celebrant. Burial will follow in Highland Park Cemetery. The parish rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. Thursday at Bath-Naylor Funeral Home, Pittsburg, where the family will receive friends following the rosary until 8 p.m. Friends may call at the funeral home after noon Thursday. Arrangements are under the direction of Bath-Naylor Funeral Home, 522 S. Broadway, Pittsburg.

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