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Vivian 'Jean' John

Aug. 21, 1922-July 15, 2009

Published: Friday, July 17, 2009 11:48 AM CDT

Vivian "Jean" John, of West Des Moines, wife of the legendary late Drake basketball coach, Maurice E. John, went peacefully to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Wednesday, July 15, 2009. Visitation will be from 9:30 to 11 a.m., with the funeral service to follow at 11 a.m., Saturday, July 18, at Campus Baptist Church in Ames. Burial will be in Ames Municipal Cemetery.

Jean John was born Aug. 21, 1922, in Bowling Green, Mo., to John Evered and Vernetta Ann (Porter) Ball. She grew up in Slater, Mo., and attended college at Central Missouri State in Warrensburg, Mo. It was there where she met Maurice John, and they married Nov. 20, 1941. Her love and strong support helped to make her husband one of the greatest basketball coaches in the United States. Following his death in 1974, she sold real estate in Ames for many years. She was an active member of Campus Baptist Church for more than 30 years.

She is survived by two sons, John (Dawn) John, of West Des Moines, and Dr. Maurice (Jan) John Jr., of Louisville, Ky.; four grandchildren, Julie John, of West Des Moines, Brian John, of Hiroshima City, Japan, Dr. Christopher (Jenny) John, of Roanoke, Va., and Schuyler (Christina) John, of Louisville, Ky.; five great-grandchildren; and one brother, Dr. John Ball, of Boonville, Mo.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and one brother, Ronnie Ball.

Stevens Memorial Chapel in Ames is assisting her family.