



## Joan Y. Maxwell

June 21, 1927 - February 6, 2018

Joan (Richard) Maxwell, age 90 of Clare, passed away at her home on Tuesday, February 6, 2018. On June 21, 1927, Joan was born the daughter of Chester and Blanche (McVeigh) Richard in Alma, MI. She was united in marriage to Lawrence Wilcox on December 31, 1949, and the couple enjoyed nearly forty years of marriage until the time of Lawrence's passing in 1988. Joan married Hugh Maxwell in 1989 and he preceded her in death in 2005. Joan was a graduate of Clare High School and she briefly attended MSU before moving her studies to the New York City and Chicago Dancing Schools, which later led to an accomplished dancing career. She was a member of the Radio City Rockettes in New York City, the Tri-City Ballet Company, and an honorary member of Orchesis at CMU. Joan's love of dance eventually led to the opening of the Joan Wilcox School of Dance, a true passion of her life seconded only to that of her children and grandchildren. Joan is survived by her daughters Karla (Robert) Van Nostrand of Lompoc, CA. and Wendy (Jerry) Foss of Farmington Hills, MI. Other survivors include her grandchildren Elise Foss, Katie (Christopher) Priem, Lisa Levin, Jenny Adams, Eric Van Nostrand, and Ami Van Nostrand, and great-grandchildren Jade and Bailey Adams and Kylee and Tyler Levin. She was preceded in death by her parents Chester and Blanche Richard, her spouses Lawrence Wilcox and Hugh Maxwell, and her brother Chester Richard, Jr. A funeral service in Joan's honor will take place on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at the Clare United Methodist Church (where she was a member) at

11:00 A.M. with Pastor John Kasper officiating. Friends may visit with her family at the Clare Chapel of the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home on Monday, February 19 from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in honor of Joan may be made to the American Heart Association, and online condolences may be made at [www.stephenson-wyman.com](http://www.stephenson-wyman.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.  
Clare, MI 48617

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **19**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)  
1005 North McEwan St.  
Clare, MI 48617  
(989) 386-7451  
wymanfh@chartermi.net  
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

## Service

FEB **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clare United Methodist Church  
105 E. Seventh Street  
Clare, MI 48617

# Tribute Wall

PH

“ *Karla and Wendy,  
I'm sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She was a very special person to so many. I took tap, jazz and baton lessons from her, and loved it! I went on to be a music teacher, and six or seven years ago I asked her for some help putting a dance routine for some of my students to perform at a concert. I had recorded the song, so we listened to it and got to work. Joan made some suggestions and demonstrated some steps, then I joined in, and we danced around the kitchen. She was still so light on her feet! We had everything choreographed in a very enjoyable afternoon. The number was a hit at the concert. Joan has played an integral part in my life and my career. Love and prayers, Pat (Humphrey) Hazen*

Pat Hazen - February 22, 2018 at 10:41 PM

WF

*Thanks, Pat.*

Wendy L Foss - March 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM



“ *My Aunt Joan was a gracious conversationalist. My family lived a distance from Clare so we mostly gathered for holidays. Joan always asked about my life whether it was school or work, and she listened with interest and asked follow up questions. In a world of talkers and self-broadcasters, Aunt Joan possessed a rare ability to make one feel heard and understood. I will miss her sweet spirit.*

Carol Richard Haavisto - February 18, 2018 at 10:59 AM

WF

*Thanks, Carol*

Wendy L Foss - March 07, 2018 at 11:31 AM

MD

“ Was so sorry to hear of your loss and my neighbor. Words can not express the pain of grief. Just keep the faith and it will help. She was a wonderful Lady and so talented. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Micky davis*

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**Micky Davis** - February 16, 2018 at 04:41 PM

WF

*Thanks, Micky*

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**Wendy L Foss** - March 07, 2018 at 11:31 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan Y. Maxwell.*



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February 12, 2018 at 02:57 PM

DI

“ *Joan was my baton teacher in elementary school. I went on to become a majorette in junior high and had a great time showing off my skills. Even today, 45 years later I can still twirl the baton. I have Joan to thank for teaching me a skill that still use for exercise and flexibility. She is forever in my heart!*

*Diane Sartor*

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**Diane** - February 10, 2018 at 05:36 PM

WF

*Thanks, Diane. I remember you as a student.*

**Wendy L Foss** - March 07, 2018 at 11:32 AM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan Y. Maxwell.*



February 08, 2018 at 06:50 PM

ST

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Joan's passing. I took dance lessons from her for many years and have such fond memories of recitals, costumes and fellow dancing friends. I went to visit with her a couple of years ago and we had such a fun time reminiscing. She had such a positive effect on many of us. Rest in peace, Joan and keep that kick line straight.*

*Suzi Grewe Tengen*

**Suzi Tengen** - February 08, 2018 at 03:42 PM

GG

*We are so very sorry to hear of the passing of your mom, Wendy. Our thoughts are truly with all of you during this difficult time.*

**Greg & Mary Guggemos** - February 09, 2018 at 07:55 AM

WF

*Thanks, Suzi and Greg and Mary.*

**Wendy L Foss** - March 07, 2018 at 11:32 AM

ME

“ I'm so sorry for your loss.  
You are all in my thoughts and prayers.  
She taught us well.  
Joan was my dance teacher for 8 years in Mt Pleasant, Tap Ballet  
and Modern Jazz  
We were even in Joann's Joettes 😊 Chorus line kicks like the  
Rockettes, such fond memories.  
Melinda Barz  
Mt Pleasant

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**Melinda Barz Epperson** - February 07, 2018 at 08:03 PM

WF

*Thanks, Melinda. I remember you in the Joettes.*

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**Wendy L Foss** - March 07, 2018 at 11:33 AM

JH

“ So sorry.. My sisters and myself took dancing lessons from  
Joan...She was a wonderful lady..Seen her a few years ago and she  
remembered me..Was hard to believe..RIP in heaven Joan and  
keep dancing...

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**Jean (Wood) Haynak** - February 07, 2018 at 05:17 PM

WF

*Thanks, Jean.*

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**Wendy L Foss** - March 07, 2018 at 11:33 AM