

# Jean Iriart (nee Jeanne Erreca)

Jan. 8, 1911 to Feb 17, 2004

The Mass of Resurrection will be held for Jean Iriart at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Baker and Pacific Sts., Monday, February 23, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. Father Ricardo Magdalano will officiate. Burial will follow at Union Cemetery.

Jean Iriart (nee Jeanne Erreca) passed away February 17, 2004, at 10:35 a.m. She was 93 years old. She was born in Urepel, a small French town, 3 kilometers from the Spanish border, in the Pyrenees Mountains, January 8, 1911. Her father was Antoine Erreca, her mother, Marie Etcheverry; they were married in Bakersfield. All their children, Pierre, Marianne, Jeanne, Antoinette and Jean Baptiste came to Bakersfield one after the other. Antoine Erreca had brothers and sisters in California.

Jean Iriart was 18 years old when she came to Bakersfield. She could hardly wait to come to America. She signed up as a shepherd so she could get in faster. She loved this country; she often said God bless America. Her first job in Bakersfield was working for an American family. She was the cook and the nanny. As the French Cook she created fantastic dishes and gave them fantastic names. A few weeks later the boss would ask for a particular dish with its fantastic name. Jean had no idea which dish that was and would have to produce something more spectacular with a spectacular name! Eventually, she learned English and attended Lufkin Business College. She returned to France in 1937 and stayed 6 months.

There was a war on the horizon.

Jeanne Burubeltz, her aunt, owned the Acapulco bar (Baker and Sumner); Grace and Jack Iriart owned the Metropole Hotel, next door. James, their son, and Jean were married in 1938. They raised sheep and cattle with Jean's brothers, Peter and J.B. in Los Banos. Their other enterprises were construction, real estate and farming. Jean loved her husband; she loved money and what money could buy; she loved to travel; she loved a good party; she loved to dance and sing not always in that order! She had a great sense of humor. In her heart she was a true Basque! She was an honorary member of the Kern County Basque Club.

James Iriart passed away October 1, 1976, Peter Erreca, October 23, 1990, Marianne Ernaga, May 4, 1993, Antoinette Larramendy, January 17, 1997, Jean Baptiste Erreca, December 24, 1992. Jean called herself the last of the Mohicans! She had a long, wonderful life.

Jean is survived by her niece, Yvette (and Robert) Cloud of Bakersfield, Pierra (and Linda) Ernaga of Redwood City, Mary Lee (and Larry) Vierra of Los Banos, also Monique (Cloud) Boudreaux (and Patrick) of Houma, Louisiana, Marc Ernaga of Huntington Beach, Susie (Ernaga) Tadder (and Tim) of San Diego, Alex Boudreaux and Sophie Boudreaux of Houma, Louisiana.

The family wishes to thank the nurses and all those who assisted in the care of Jean Iriart at Beverly Manor. Your help, your kindness, your compassion, your attention are truly appreciated.

Visitation is at Hopson-Anspach Family Mortuary, Oregon Street, Sunday, February 22, 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Hopson-Anspach Family Mortuary

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our Sympathy Store.

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