



Maxine B. Maldaner

AUG 7, 1926 - JAN 26, 2014



Scan to Visit



COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 4



Maxine B. Maldaner

AUG 7, 1926 - JAN 26, 2014

Decatur-Maxine B. Maldaner, 87, of Decatur, passed away Sunday, January 26, 2014 in her home.

Maxine was born August 7, 1926, in Bryan, Texas, the daughter of Harold and Juanita Bartz. She was previously employed as a substitute teacher with the Decatur Public School District #61 retiring after forty years of service. She volunteered at the Scovill Zoo for 20+ years where she was affectionately known as the “Snake Lady”. She also volunteered at the Homeward Bound Pet Shelter. She attended the Silver Sneaker Class at the YMCA and had many dear friends there. She married John C. Maldaner Jr. June 9, 1951 in Springfield. He preceded her in death January 23, 2011.

Maxine leaves behind her sons John C. Maldaner III and wife Loretta of Hickory, Kentucky and Brian M. Maldaner of Tucson, Arizona, and granddaughter Monica McNatt and husband Shaun and great-grandson Lincoln of New York City.

Maxine was reunited in Heaven with her parents and husband.

Memorial gathering to celebrate Maxine’s life will be 1-4 p.m. Saturday, February 22, 2014 in the Shilling Education Center at the Scovill Park Zoo, 71 S. Country Club Road Decatur. The family respectfully requests in lieu of flowers, a donation in Maxine’s name to either the Homeward Bound Pet Shelter or the Scovill Park Zoo. The family of Maxine B. Maldaner is being served by the Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Ave. Decatur, IL. Please view the online obituary, send condolences, and share memories at www.gracelandfairlawn.com.



Tribute Wall

Maxine B. Maldaner

AUG 7, 1926 - JAN 26, 2014

BM

Brian Maldaner posted:

Hi Sarah, I can still hear Mom sharing a story of the surprised look on an adults face or possibly a scream as they first noticed the large boa wrapped around her shoulders. She loved those experiences!

February 4 at 4:46 PM

BM

Brian Maldaner posted:

Hi Sarah, So appreciate your thoughts, I can still hear Mom laughing as she would describe the surprised look on people's faces or screams when they first sighted a large boa wrapped around her shoulders!

February 4 at 4:39 PM

SR

Sarah Reining posted:

Maxine will forever be one of my very favorite people. Her charisma, her sense of humor, her smile, and that laugh! they will continue to fill my heart with gladness. We had so much fun together on our many Mobile Zoo adventures. Thanks to Maxine, there are thousands of children (and adults) who have an entirely different perspective and appreciation for snakes. Education was so important to her. She was important to many. I will certainly miss her. Sad she has passed, but delighted to have known her.-Sarah Reining(former Education and Volunteer Coordinator for Scovill Zoo)

February 4 at 8:46 AM

JM

John Maldaner posted:

Thank you, Sarah. Oh, those mobile zoos! So many great stories over the years. Mom so looked forward to them and never tired of bursting preconceived notions about snakes.

February 4 at 5:14 AM

JM

John Maldaner posted:

Rick, sometimes we get so wrapped up in our own lives we don't understand just how much our Mom can mean to other relatives. Thank you for a heartfelt memorial. Mom never failed to tell me of the many times you called her or sent her a note. She treasured each one.

February 3 at 2:25 PM



Tribute Wall

Maxine B. Maldaner

AUG 7, 1926 - JAN 26, 2014

JM

John Maldaner posted:

Thank you for such a warm tribute, Steve. Mom talked of you often. She had a great many stories from her years subbing!

February 3 at 2:22 PM

SP

Steve Pyle posted:

Maxine was a substitute teacher at Mound School in late '60's and early '70's when I first started my teaching career. She was always a bright part of my day whenever I was fortunate to run into her at the teacher's lounge or in the hallway. She was always "upbeat" and always left me feeling better after talking with her than before I had seen her. She had a great laugh and laughing eyes. She was extremely competent in everything that she did. Nice lady.

February 3 at 3:14 AM

RM

Rick Maldaner posted:

All my life, my Aunt Max and I had this powerful connection. I am her nephew and we talked all the time by the phone. I am sure she touched many people and loved many animals. She was dedicated to all those she cared about. She was a confident, risk-taker who loved life. She was a great wife to my Uncle Jack and a wonderful, caring mother to John and Brian. She was an unbelievable aunt. If she loved you, there was no question needed. Our families grew up together on the same block—4 houses away from each other in Springfield, IL. We played together, laughed together, cried together, partied together and truly cared about one another. We never lost that bond, not once, even though they moved to Decatur, IL. Even though John ended up in Hickory, KY and Brian in Tucson, Arizona. John, Brian and I were like brothers and still are to this day. We have shared some marvelous times. Aunt Max was an anchor that always gave advice, and suggestions with great wisdom and never wavered. Her sense of humor held us together through it all. I am happy to have known her as my favorite aunt. I will miss her so much. Thank you God for loaning her to us. She is now home. Our Love to you my dear Aunt Max. You will long be remembered. We will see you again one day. Rick & Dina Maldaner 2/02/14

February 2 at 12:29 PM

JM

John Maldaner posted:

I appreciate the kind words from you both! Mom was blessed to have found such a warm, caring group of folks in Silver Sneakers. Those friendships meant the world to Mom.

February 1 at 2:03 PM



Tribute Wall

Maxine B. Maldaner

AUG 7, 1926 - JAN 26, 2014

JM

John Maldaner posted:

Thank you for the kind words Mr. Thistlewaite. Mom thought of you very highly, as do I.

February 1 at 2:01 PM

JM

John Maldaner posted:

Thank you, Wendy. I often asked Mom if she would like a cat. She always considered the cats at Homeward Bound to be her cats, without the hassle of having to arrange care if she should decide to take a trip. She surely loved her visits to Homeward Bound.

February 1 at 1:59 PM

BZ

Betty Zeaman posted:

Maxine was a delight. I knew her through Silver Sneakers at the Y. She shared with us the love of her husband and two handsome boys. She was so proud of John & Brian. Her marvelous sense of humor and oh those chocolate delights she would make for the potlucks. You will be missed dear friend. Betty Zeaman

January 31 at 10:56 AM

WD

Wendy Devore posted:

I have volunteered with beautiful Maxine at Homeward Bound and she was a true delight to know. Just recently I saw her bright smile while she was sitting in one of the cat rooms making a difference in their lives for that day. She was happy and I could tell. I would often say to her she should get a cat and she reminded me she already has cats – a lot of them she would tell me. Maxine was a wonderful woman to know and made a difference to many – person and animal alike. She will be missed.

January 30 at 4:33 PM

VT

Vern Thistlethwaite posted:

Maxine was a very special person – substitute teacher a regular teacher could count on to do the job she was called to do, zoo volunteer who enabled so many children and adults to expand their appreciation and knowledge of reptiles, and parent who raised her boys to be responsible for their own learning and to become good people and good citizens. Her cheerful disposition was an inspiration to many. She will be missed. Vern Thistlethwaite, Decatur, Illinois

January 30 at 1:50 PM



Tribute Wall

Maxine B. Maldaner

AUG 7, 1926 - JAN 26, 2014



Penny Butts posted:

Maxine will be very much missed by myself and the others in the Silver Sneakers Class. I was her Thursday instructor. I could always count on Maxine to sit in "her" spot in the back right corner of the class. She and a couple of her friends would always be giggling like little school girls at someone or something. She was feisty and a riot to be around! I loved her dearly. I am so glad that a week ago I gave her a hug and told her how much I appreciated her! Although she was in my life for only a short time, she made a big impact on it! Prayers are being sent to the family for comfort.

January 29 at 9:46 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Maxine by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit



COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES