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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

03/26/2014 - Mary Ora Fire Thunder-Wright *Upadated*

Funeral Service for Mary Ora Fire Thunder-Wright, age 85, of Rapid City will be Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 1:00 PM, at the Mother Butler Center in Rapid City, SD with Reverend David Cameron officiating.

Burial will be Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 3:00 PM at the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, SD

One night wake service on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at the Mother Butler Center in Rapid City, SD visiting will be at 3:00 PM with wake services starting at 6:00 PM.

Mary Ora Fire Thunder-Wright died on March 20, 2014 in Rapid City, SD.

Mary Ora Fire Thunder-Wright, was born on March 14, 1929 to Joseph and Dora Fire Thunder of Hisle, South Dakota. Mary was the second oldest of four girls. The Fire Thunder family then moved to the Rapid City area she met and married Theodore Wright Sr., and they were married for nearly 60 years. Mary was a devoted wife, mother of ten, sister, grandmother, and community member that did not hesitate to speak out against injustices, and quickly became recognized as a voice of the people. Ted and Mary built a home in Rapid City, which continues to serve as the family's central hub for their ten children, numerous grandchildren, friends and community members. Up until her passing, Mary dedicated her life to public service and was a fierce advocate for human and civil rights of Native American and non-Native American people alike. Mary was truly a voice for many people who were unable to speak for themselves and was often relied upon by the entire Native American community of Rapid City. Mary was faced with many challenges throughout her life; her work encompassed a variety of areas and had a profound impact on our Native American people and the State of South Dakota. Mary worked tirelessly to bring awareness and resources to areas such as health, civil rights, and education that were previously non-existent in the Rapid City area prior to her involvement. Some of her contributions included: Programs supported by the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) and Johnson O'Malley (JOM), which are still helping our youth today. She served as Chairwoman of the Sioux San Health Advisory Board, and for 8 years she was a member of the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association (NLADA), in conjunction with the American BAR Association where she was able to effect change to Native American's civil rights nationally.

Mary will be remembered as having an impact on the lives of many generations of Native American people, and by having a heart filled with love, compassion, generosity, and kindness for everyone, especially her grandchildren. She will be missed beyond words; however her passion for helping others will always be remembered.

Mary entered the spirit world on March, 20th 2014 at the age of 85.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Theodore Wright, Sr.; and son Michael Wright, Sr.

Immediate Survivors:

Children: Linda DeCesare from Melbourne, FL, Alexander Wright Sr., Theodore Wright Jr., Aaron Wright Sr., Gloria Wright, Patricia Wright, Angela Wright, Crystal Wright, and Orrin Wright, all from Rapid City

Grandchildren: 31

Great-Grandchildren: 29

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Great-Great Grandchild: 1

Sioux Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements for Mary Ora Fire Thunder- Wright.