

## **Wilma Grace Johnson Angotti**

Wilma Johnson was born June 13, 1939, at home in the West End section of Hinton. She was delivered by Dr. J.W. Stokes. She attended Riverview Grade School and graduated from Hinton High School in 1957. That fall, she got a job at the Big 4 Drug Store, owned by John Angotti. It became apparent to John that Wilma was a special person, being highly intelligent, organized and she had a strong work ethic. Later, John and Wilma became romantically involved and married on December 29, 1961 in Pearisburg, VA. Because John was of the Catholic faith, they celebrated the Rite of Marriage in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Hinton on January 10, 1962.

Wilma was a driving force for the Big 4 Drug Store. John took care of the pharmacy and Wilma ran the business end. She was always very friendly and was very supportive of community projects and organizations, especially the youth sports teams. She and John remained married until his passing in 1989. She replaced John as the pharmacist with Mark Ellison, who remains there until this day.

Wilma and John had two children, Mary Jane, and Johnny. Johnny still lives in Summers County. Wilma is retired from the business operations, but is still the owner. Her business is still in the same location, at the corner of Temple Street and 3rd Avenue in downtown Hinton, where it originated in the 1940s. She gave "A Personal Touch" at the Big 4 and she never met a stranger. She was truly a driving force that helped bring that small community together. When a need arose, Wilma was first in line to help. She still lives in Hinton in the community of Bellepoint.

In 2014, Wilma was honored by the West Virginia Training Center. Below is the Beckley Register/Herald article:

**"Summers County Woman Owned Business honoree is Wilma Angotti, owner of Big Four Drug Store in Hinton.**

Wilma became actively involved in the management of the store in 1961 when she married the late John A. Angotti, pharmacist and owner. The pharmacy opened in the early 1940s and has been serving Summers County for over 70 years.

Wilma established the John A. Angotti Scholarship for students wishing to pursue a career in pharmacy and provides clerkships for local WVU pharmacy students. She was instrumental in restoring the historic antique clock, once owned by the

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First National Bank of Hinton, and had it erected at the corner of 3rd Avenue and Temple Street in downtown Hinton.

Wilma has been involved in the Hinton Business and Professional Women's Club, Summers County Chamber of Commerce, the Wednesday Club, the National Federation of Independent Business and the Historic Hinton Merchants Association."

**Wilma Grace Johnson Angotti, We Salute You!**



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