



Newsletter

February 2022

Please call us at:
(209) 618-5387

History Lesson

February is a time when love is in the air. It is also the month we honor Black History. The love of our fellow man and ones' community knows no bounds. For this edition of the MM&HS Newsletter we would like to tell the story of Dottie Wright, an African American woman based in Modesto, whose love of her community and the youth of Modesto is truly an inspiration. The MM&HS was honored to be granted an interview with Ms. Wright and her two dear friends Julia Lugo and Samantha Nolasco.

As we move closer to the tradition of Super Bowl Sunday this February 13th, the one thing all football fans can expect to see is cheerleaders. Dottie Wright is a woman who coaches many young ladies locally in cheerleading. Dottie Wright has been in Modesto since 1989. This single mother of five cheered in high school and college and was a Gold Rush Cheerleader for the San Francisco 49ers from 1981-1982. Since the early 2000s, Coach Dottie has worked as the cheer coach for freshman, junior varsity and for the Panthers at Modesto High School. Dottie has been known to the people of the West Side of Modesto since she first coached cheerleading with the Modesto 49ers through the King-Kennedy Center. She started coaching with the Modesto Eagles and transitioned to the Modesto 49ers Cheerleaders.



Dottie took The Modesto Eagles to ten undefeated national titles before their retirement. Dottie brought some of these girls to a competitive level by creating the Modesto Ninerettes. With the Ninerettes, she continued to build a competitive team who went on to win many national titles and championships.

Dottie was recently recognized with a lifetime achievement award in Las Vegas through JAMZ, a national and world recognized organization for cheer founded in Modesto. Many are unaware that Dottie choreographs all her girls' routines. Her goal was to keep young women off the streets and away from drugs and teenage pregnancies. Though she had to take care of her five children, she has and continued to sponsor many of these girls out of her own pocket. Dottie worked for years as a waitress at Coco's and Red Lobster, where she was the only African American server. Not having a vehicle, she walked many a night from Red Lobster home to the West Side.

Dottie's greatest legacy is her devotion to her girls. She does so much more than teach cheer. She represents Modesto and Modesto's youth. She embraces these girls, showing them their due attention and teaches them life skills.

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Currently, Dottie works during the day as a Campus Supervisor at Grace Davis High School, she then coaches at Modesto High School, followed by her Ninettes, and closes a day with a night job until 1:00am at Dollar General in the Gregory Gardens Shopping Center. The community is unaware if Dottie sleeps.

Even with this busy schedule, Dottie has always been a devoted mother to her five children: David, Jacob, Gabriel, Krystle, and Sammy. Her son Sammy Yeager took Modesto High School Basketball to a championship victory in 2007. Dottie always remains fervently devoted to Modesto High School and its surrounding area. Her girls are difficult to beat in any competition, but Dottie relishes in their life accomplishments following their work with her. She delights in knowing her girls have become young professionals and dedicated mothers. Though she has won numerous championships, she does so much more for the community. Julia Lugo and Samantha Nolasco share that Dottie Wright is so much more than a cheer coach, she is a witty, engaging, problem solver who truly cares about her community and inspires so many lives. She is a true benefactress to the under privileged and makes many sacrifices simply to show young girls their own true value. When asked about why she coaches, Dottie replied "Coaching is not always about winning and getting first place, it's also about helping young ladies and men to success in life and always have self-worth."

Dottie and her Girls



Dottie Wright

Dottie Wright

Updates



- David Seymour began as the new Executive Director for the MM&HS. David previously served as President of the MM&HS. A graduate of California State University, He has taught history at Modesto Junior College since 2012, and history and political science at Merced College since 2013. He has been a part of the MM&HS organization since 2017.
- The Museum Store now carries swag from the upcoming *Graffiti USA Museum*.
- The Museum Store recently gained new copies of our publication *Touchstones: Life and Times of Modesto* by local historian Ken White
- Carole Dovichi and Naramsen Goriel joined the Board of Directors of the MM&HS at the January 20, 2022 meeting.
- We would like to thank Marco Sepulveda for his work as our liaison to the City of Modesto. Marco has transitioned to a position with Stanislaus County.
- We would also like to thank Janice Lane, Richard Cato, Sergio Chevalier, Athena Galexia, and Nancy Norton for their help in running the Museum Store in the month of January.

Happy
President's
Day

Happy 
Valentine's
Day

CELEBRATING
**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**
FEBRUARY