

NDCA Hall of Fame Inductee – Joyce Pennington

Joyce Pennington is the current President, CEO and owner of *American Dance/Drill Team*® (established in 1958 by Miss Gussie Nell Davis and Dr. Irving Dreibrodt) located in Salado, Texas. Joyce and her husband, C.R., bought majority stock of the company in 1984. She was a charter member of the Haltom High School Highsteppers and holds a degree in Physical Education and Dance, with a minor in English, from the University of North Texas (1972). Joyce was selected as Campus Beauty in 1972, representing Angel Flight.

Mrs. Pennington was a high school drill team director and physical education teacher in the Dallas area for ten years. She was the charter National Vice President for *Dance/Drill Team Directors of America* (1979), their Exhibit Manager for nine years and received the *Honorary Lifetime Member* award from that organization in 1986. In 1995, she was selected for the *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the *Texas Dance/Educators Association*, and named to the *Texas Drill Team Hall of Fame* in 2000. In 1999, for the 60th Anniversary of the Kilgore Rangerettes, she was named as *Honorary Lifetime Member of Rangerettes Forever* for supporting the Kilgore College Rangerettes with over \$175,000 in endowed scholarships. Joyce is honored to be named into the *National Dance Coaches Association* Hall of Fame in 2019.

Mrs. Pennington has served as guest professor at Stephen F. Austin University, Texas A&M University and Southwest Texas State University in their physical education and dance departments. She was the originator of the *NBA Dallas Mavericks Dancers* and served as their director for five years. She has judged dance/drill team competitions all over the world, including Miss Drill Team USA and Miss Drill Team International in Japan.

Joyce was also instrumental in founding the *National Council of Dance, En Croix* (a fellowship for Christian dancers) and initiated programs for Dance/Drill Team Directors of America including *Job Fair, Judges Certification* and the *DTDA Mentoring Program*.

In 2011, Mrs. Pennington was asked to cast 850 dancers for the Super Bowl XLV halftime with the Black Eyed Peas and Usher, and again in 2017 for Super Bowl LI, she cast 800 performers in the Lady Gaga halftime show. Her company, American Dance/Drill Team, hosts the largest grossing event in Denton, Texas, each year with their American National/International Dance Championship and American Collegiate Dance Championship held at the University of North Texas.

Joyce and C.R. have two sons that work in their company, Brad and Doug, a grand-daughter, Brittany, that also works in the company, along with grandchildren Kylee and Coleman, and great grands, Jackson and Mackenzie.