

## 2018 NDCA Hall of Fame Inductee – Dr. Kay Teer Crawford

Dr. Kay Teer Crawford Dr. Kay Teer Crawford was born in 1914. She was raised in Grainger, Texas and lived in extreme poverty during her childhood. Crawford attended Edinburg High School where she started the first "modern dance drill team" in 1929 after she had earned a spot on the school's cheerleading squad but 90 of her schoolmates did not. Her drill team idea was inspired by the marching styles of the Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets at a local community college. The following year, her idea came to fruition when the Edinburg High School "Seargentettes" took the field in the fall of 1930.

After high school, Crawford earned degrees from Edinburg Junior College, the University of Texas, and University of Southern California (where she wrote her master's thesis on the subject of drill team). She earned her doctorate degree from Baylor University.

Later in life, Kay Crawford was a professor at Santa Monica College, UCLA, and USC. In 1968, Crawford started the non-profit Miss Dance Drill Team USA Competition. The competition rose to international status in 1981 with teams from South Africa, Australia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Germany, and Lithuania. The company still operates today out of Southern California under the direction of Brenda Caspary-Crawford.

Kay Teer Crawford was the editor and publisher of *Let's Cheer* magazine, which she started in 1972 as the first national drill team magazine devoted exclusively to high school and college Pep Arts activities. It then became the official publication of the organization known today as the California Association for Dance and Drill Team Directors. Crawford also authored *The World of Drill Team* - a "how to" book for drill team enthusiasts.

Crawford was instrumental in orchestrating the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games with 1200 LA and Orange County Drill Teamers. She also worked on half-time entertainment for 7 Pro Bowls, 4 Rose Bowls, and 4 Super Bowl games. Over her career, Crawford worked with an estimated 55,000 youth.

Aside from teaching drill team, she counseled many kids in careers, private life, and school life. In Kay's words, "They'll remember the counseling more than the subject matter." Regarded as the "mother of drill team," Crawford died in 2001 at 88 years old.