

Weekly Message Weekly Message



Greetings special friends!

We are off to Kilgore, Texas, this weekend. We will be celebrating what would have been the 100th birthday of **Gussie Nell Davis**, the founder of drill team and the world famous Kilgore College Rangerettes. This would be an important time to make sure the students know a little about our history. To learn more about Gussie Nell Davis and see photos of her, visit our Education Support page on our web site at www.danceadts.com/edsupport.htm.

Here are some thoughts for today and every day:

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“A great leader is not necessarily one who does the greatest things. He is the one who gets the people to do the greatest things.” Ronald Reagan (1911-2004), actor and U.S. President  
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“There are are two ways of meeting difficulties: You alter the difficulties, or you alter yourself to meet them.” Phyllis Bottome (1884-1963), writer  
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“Talk is cheap unless you can deliver.” Dana Owens (Queen Latifah), singer and actor  
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“Only an open heart understands that everyone who enters our life is a guest bearing a gift. Sometimes we must seek out the gift.” Susan L. Taylor, editor  
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I was looking over some articles about Gussie Nell Davis and found a series of quotes that truly made her famous for being frank and quick witted. I have listed some of them below. Whether you have a background in dance, drill team or just life, you will enjoy these. It is an outline of the wonderful personality that Gussie Nell possessed and the legacy that she left for so many of us. I hope you enjoy them.

Have a wonderful week, and, as always, please *keep in touch!*

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Sincerely,

Joyce E. Pennington, Pres. CEO

American Dance/Drill Team®

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Gussie Nell Davis Said . . .

"All I ever really wanted was to dance on the stage. But I grew up in Farmersville, and in Farmersville, if you danced you were thrown out of church -- any church." 1975 interview



"I considered marriage, but I always needed just one more year for the Rangerettes, then one more." 1970 Southern Living

"It is as easy to do something well as it is to do something messy." 1990 Ranger Yearbook

"You know, Honey, there's a little ham in all of us. Most people just don't get their chance to let it out. The girls come to me, and for two years they get the chance to perform all the things in the spotlight they dreamed about." 1987 interview

"There's nobody in the world, anywhere on a stage, in television, or on a football field or on a street



that does routines as precise and as perfect as we do. Nobody! I'm positive of that. They don't make mistakes!" 1979 interview

"I have a wheel inside me that never runs down, never gets tired. I work hard--not because I have to --but because I want to. But then its not work if you like what you're doing. I hold very high standards for my girls. I want them to look, think, act and dress like ladies. I want them to complete their education and to work as hard at whatever they choose to do in life as they have at being Rangerettes. Perhaps that's been the secret of our success." 1975 interview

"When I was little my mother said, "If you will just sit still for five minutes, I will give you a nickel." That was the hardest

thing I ever did. I haven't sat very still the rest of my life. "

1987 interview



"I'm not fussing at those girls, I'm just loud. They can hear me all the way across the Cotton Bowl. They can hear me from the press box at Soldier Field." 1974 Sports Illustrated

"We have a thing -- beauty knows no pain, we keep saying." 1969 Dallas Morning News

"Not one thing has changed about the uniform except the skirt. It has gotten shorter and shorter and shorter and I just wonder if someday it might end up with a ruffle around the waist."

1987 interview

"There's a feeling that comes from inside of you with good posture." 1987 interview

"Show me how beautiful you are. Show it from the inside." 1987 interview

"If you can't be the best, you should get out. We haven't lost a halftime in 20 years." 1958 Dallas Morning News

"I would never dream that it (Rangerettes) would end up as big as this. It's just wonderful." 1962, Kilgore News Herald

"I was frightened during the first performance. I didn't know if I had a job after the game." 1964, Kilgore News Herald

"When they leave Kilgore College they forget their routines, but other things they learn here they take with them." 1964 Dallas Morning News

"When they make a mistake it nearly kills me. It's as if I'd made the mistake myself." 1966, Dallas Morning News

"I was afraid they would make fun of us there in California, so near Hollywood. But as it turned out, California had never seen anything like our group." 1966, Ft. Worth Press

"When they are out there on that field, they're not Rangerettes—they're me. And I have to be the best. Perfection is the key word, and nothing short of it will do. If you can't kick you can't get in."

"Our skirts for the original uniform were two inches



above the knees. I can't believe we were so daring. " People Magazine

"They are dependable. They learn discipline, which we can't work without. They learn to dress properly and how to present a good appearance. They learn good posture, but there are two things I can't do anything about -- hair and short dresses."

Kilgore News Herald

"On the field, I urge them to be devils, flashing and prissy, but the moment they march off -- the sweetest of sweet young ladies."

1973, Shreveport Times

"Never settle for less than perfect. Just remember who you are. You're a Rangerette." 1987 interview

"I can spot a phony smile a mile away. I can spot one ten miles away." Dallas Morning News

"Why does a girl really want to be a Rangerette? Because she knows it's the first organization of its kind and the best, I hope.

All others are copies. We blazed the trail, set the pace." 1971, Dallas Morning News

