



Dr. Clyde Morris Gott

September 21, 1912 - December 5, 2007

Dr. Clyde M. Gott, 95, well known educator, scholar, athlete, adored husband, father, and grandfather passed away December 5, 2007 at his home in Fair Oaks Ranch, TX. His wife of over 70 years, Louise Marie Kneuper Gott, and his son were at his side. He was born September 21, 1912, in Anahuac, TX, to James William Gott and Stella Palmer Gott who preceded him in death. Clyde grew up in the oil fields of East Texas and graduated from Hull-Daisetta High School. He quickly excelled as a scholar and an athlete playing football, basketball and baseball. He entered Southwest Texas State University on a football scholarship. Continuing to excel in athletics, he lettered every year in both football and basketball from 1931 through 1934. He was later inducted into the Southwest Texas University "T" Association Hall of Honor. After earning a Bachelor of Science at Southwest, he returned to coach and teach at Hull-Daisetta High School where an amazing high school record was compiled there. Dr. Gott's 1936 and 1937 football team went undefeated 11-0-0 and 12-0-0, respectively. In 1938, Clyde moved to coach and teach in Smithville, his successor Coach Bill Stages kept the Hull-Daisetta winning streak going in 1938 and 1939 to a grand total of 43 consecutive wins. After Smithville, his career took the following path: Vice Principal, Burbank High School, San Antonio; Vice Principal, Jefferson High School, San Antonio; Principal, Jefferson High School, San Antonio; Principal Jefferson High School, Port Arthur; and finally, Superintendent, Port Arthur Independent School District. In all, Clyde served as an educator for nearly five decades

before retiring to Fair Oak Ranch. During his transition Dr. Gott also completed a Master of Arts and an Education Doctorate at University of Texas, Austin.

As a Superintendent, he was listed in Who's Who in the Southwest and South, Who's Who in Texas Today and Community Leaders of America. During his long education career, he belonged and participated in many professional organizations such as Phi Delta Kappa President; Texas State Teachers Association President of Alamo District San Antonio and District 5; Port Arthur YMCA President of Board of Directors; Port Arthur Lions Club President; and Port Arthur Shrine Club Mason. He was also a professional referee for football and basketball, officiating at the high school, college and professional levels. In 1982 he became a member of University United Methodist Church and served on various boards and was a Sunday school teacher until approximately 2002.

Dr. Gott was described by his peers and employees as an “energetic, resourceful, hardworking man who spent 50-80 hours a week on the job often drinking a Coke for lunch.” He was also described as “extremely loyal and supportive of his employees.” Those who worked for him as a Superintendent said he was “a professional who has the strength to make recommendations even if they were unpopular. He was extremely honest and takes responsibility for what happens.”

Dr. Gott is survived by his wife, Louise M. Gott; son, Deene Gott and wife, Ruth; sisters, Edith Gott White, Mary Ruth Gott Reese; granddaughters, Kim Gott Judin and husband, Hank; Kay Gott Weatherford and husband, Mark; and great granddaughter, Grace Evelyn Judin. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Bevil Gott, E.B. Gott and Harley Gott.

Dr. Gott's family would like to extend their most sincere gratitude to Mrs. Maria Espino for always being there for Clyde in his time of need and to the staff of

Vital Hospice for the care they provided.

Tribute Wall

RG

“ *To Deene, Ruth, and the entire Gott family,*

We have just heard of the passing of Dr Gott. We want to express our deepest condolences and sympathy. What an outstanding and exemplary life he led, and what a legacy he leaves for today's youth to admire

Ron and Cindi Garcia - January 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ *I always admired my Uncle Clyde. He was a warm, intelligent, and handsome man who was very kind to me growing up. He was a memorable and delightful character in my life - and he will be greatly missed by our family.*

Ann Reese Richie - December 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ *I am so sorry to learn of Dr. Gott's death. I worked under his leadership in Port Arthur ISD and found him to be fair, honest, encouraging, and a leader by example. He took a personal interest in all of us and he helped me to achieve success at a level I*

Rita Leger - December 12, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Our deepest sympathies from the family of Ermine Armstrong -
Ermine Armstrong
Diane Boehme
Julie Mazel

Dr. Gott was a fine man and a friend of education. He will be missed.

Julie Armstrong Mazel - December 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ My sincere sympathy to Dr. Gott's family. I'll remember him always. He was a great inspiration to me. He believed in me and I credit him for jump starting my career at PAISD. He was a great boss and mentor to many. He'll be missed.

Becky Romero - December 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ A great human being who impacted my life at Jefferson HS.

Manuel D. Leal - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ As a former student at Burbank HS, I fondly remember Dr. Gott as Dean of Boys. He was an outstanding leader of teens who were searching for a path to adulthood. I remember him refereeing high school football games after a hard days' work at the school.

Catherine Pawlowski Rubin - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ I graduated from Jefferson High School in 1956. Enjoyed and respected Dr. Gott's leadership, as assistant principal, during that period of time.

Buddy Nichol - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I recall Dr. Gott refereeing football games on Friday nights. He was an inspiration and father figure to all the boys. I will remember him as a man of great dignity.

Joyce Neimayer Morton - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Mr. Gott was our Vice-Principal for the six years that I attended Burbank, 1946-52. He was a true benefactor to all of us, as much by his example as by his skillful tutelage. It was no surprise to see him rise to the heights from our humble school as quic

George G. Cooper Burbank,'52 - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Dr. Gott was my principal and eventually my superintendent. Under his guidance this was a premier school district. He meant so much to so many of us, and I can't describe what a pleasure it was to work for him. He worked harder than anyone. He was a gr

Nancy McClain - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HL

“ I worked with Dr. Gott at TJ High School and always admired him. It is with sadness that I learn of his death.

Hugh LeBaron - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ I send my sympathy to the family of Dr. Gott. . . the loss of a father is never easy. Dr. Gott was our Principal in my Senior year at TJHS. He taught me a great deal about respect and responsibility. I will always be grateful.

Rambi

Rambie Briggs - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ I was sadden to hear about Dr. Gott's passing. He was my principal and superintendent in Port Arthur and a man I greatly admired and respected.

Lionel Rowln

Lionel Rowland - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ I started my career in Port Arthur ISD in 1965. I worked as teacher, assistant principal and principal during Dr. Gott's tenure as superintendent. He allowed me to take advantage of an opportunity to get my Ed.D through a program offered by the Universit

Dr, Jim Weeks - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dr. Gott was an outstanding professional who inspired students at Thomas Jefferson High School to excel.

Mary Hernandez Mitchell - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ FRANCES CAMPBELL AND I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE GOTT FAMILY. MAY YOU FEEL GOD'S PRESENCE AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

BILLIE JO HENRY - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Dr. Gott was a constant friend and great leader for us as students at Thomas Jefferson High School in Port Arthur. I am sorry for his family's loss. Heaven's leadership became stronger upon his arrival. With love, Carol Marsh Tool, Class of '66

Carol Marsh Tool - December 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM