



DOROTHY "SISSY" BYRD

Dorothy "Sissy" M. Byrd is the 3rd child of six children born to Robert and Dorothy Wrenn of East Orange, New Jersey. She came to El Paso with the military in 1987. After her military residency she left El Paso but then returned in 1991 and has resided here ever since. Sissy attends church at The Gospel Service at Fort Bliss. Dorothy "Sissy" Byrd has dedicated herself to the service of this community and deserves to be inducted.

Once she returned to El Paso, she immediately became involved in community projects that would benefit others. In 1995 she became a member of the Stars of the Sun Chapter #6 - Order of the Eastern Stars, Queen of the South and the Ammarat. She is a Past Chartered President of Sun Valley Optimist Club (1997), and in 1995 she became a member of Oro Court No.20 Daughters of the Imperial Court. In 2001 she was the recipient of the "Daughter of the Year Award." On December 21, 2018, Dorothy "Sissy" Byrd was elected as the Illustrious Commandress for ORO Court No.20 Daughters of the Imperial Court (Female side of the Shriners).

In 2004, as a member of the El Paso Sun City Lions Club she became the 1st Woman President to have been elected 2 and 3 terms concurrently as President and still is the only woman to accomplish this since they were chartered in September 1969. In 2007, she was the 1st Woman member to receive the Melvin Jones Award which is the highest award a Lion member or non-Lion member can receive. At that time, it was a great honor because she was only the 8th person to receive this award in 38 years in the El Paso Sun City Lions Club.

Since 2009, Sissy has been a member of and a Past President 2012-2013 of the Col. Louis A. Carter American Legion Auxiliary Unit 832 in El Paso. Ms. Byrd is Past Sergeant at Arms (2010-2012) for the 16th District American Legion Auxiliary for the State of Texas.

Ms. Byrd still always has time to be involved in El Paso community events and trainings. Sissy attended the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy and completed it in November 2017 and she also was on the El Paso County Sheriff's Advisory Board from 2014-2018. She also attended the El Paso Neighborhood Leadership Academy and completed it in June 2018.

Among her numerous community activities she has volunteered at Gigi's Playhouse, helped food banks and various organizations raising hunger issues and gathering food to be distributed through various community organizations.

With all the community service and many volunteer hours that she does within and outside of organizations, she was honored by being inducted into the El Paso Commission for Women under the "Service to Community" Category in 2019 and also in 2019 was inducted into the RSVP-City of El Paso "Older El Pasoans Hall of Fame". On September 21, 2019 at the El Paso Holy Royal Arch Masons Chapter#90 Annual PHP Franck R. Bonhomme Appreciation Banquet she received the "2019 Volunteer of the Year Award".

Turning to D." Sissy "Byrd's Democratic Party affiliations and involvement, Sissy became the first woman to be elected as Vice Chair of the Black El Paso Democrats since it was chartered in 1982. In 2015 she was elected the first woman Chair of the Black El Paso Democrats and then made history in 2017 when she was re-elected as Chairwoman of the Black El Paso Democrats currently serving in that capacity.

On November 21, 2019 she was reelected to serve her new term starting in February 2020. Sissy was elected Precinct Chair of Precinct #45 in 2010 and is still serving in that capacity since being elected to her first term. She has actively participated in and sometimes chaired a number of El Paso County Democratic Party fundraising events. She participates in the election campaigns of all democratic candidates running for office and is involved in many Voter Registration drives.

D. "Sissy" Byrd is a woman who is inspiring to others by advocating for causes to support women and causes across the El Paso Community. She is an advocate for change, leads by example, practices mentorship and has a proven record of success as an inspiration to women.