

## Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors



### 2017 Black History Month Honoree Mrs. Doretha Edwards Moody



Doretha Edwards Moody was born and raised in DeWitt, Virginia (Dinwiddie County). Her parents are the late James Edwards and Irene Bolling Edwards. She was the second of three children. She has a brother, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Ret. Troy E. Wyatt, and a sister, Wilnet E. Sills.

Ms. Moody graduated from Southside High School, which was the only high school in the County at that time for black students. She attended Richard Bland College and Virginia State University.

Ms. Moody began her career in the private sector, working as an insurance agent. She was the company's only black agent and the only woman in their Petersburg office.

Following her work in the private sector, Ms. Moody spent 30 years working at the Southside Virginia Training Center and retired as supervisor of the human service care workers unit. After retirement, Ms. Moody agreed to become the authorized legal representative of three residents of the center, which is evidence of her dedication and commitment to helping others.

After retiring from Southside Virginia Training Center, Ms. Moody worked for the United States Postal Service, where she was the first black woman to serve as Officer in Charge of the DeWitt Post Office. She held this position for three years.

Doretha Moody was elected to the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors and began service in 2004. During her two terms in office, she held the position of Chair twice. Ms. Moody also

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served six years as a member of the Crater Planning District and Chaired that board for two years.

In 2011, Ms. Moody was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award from the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and in 2008 received a Trailblazer Award from the Petersburg Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Ms. Moody has, over the years, served on a variety of local Boards and Commissions to include:

- Dinwiddie County Community Policy and Management Team
- Dinwiddie County Task Force on Gang Prevention
- Tri-Cities Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Southside Area Democratic Women & Associates
- Dinwiddie County Democratic Committee
- Petersburg/Colonial Heights SPCA

Ms. Moody owns and operates a group home for adults with special needs. The AC Moody House is named for her late son, Andre Christopher, a psychotherapist who passed away in 1995. Ms. Moody also has a daughter, Vanessa Coombs, an attorney who currently serves as Chief of Staff for Virginia Union University. Ms. Moody's only grandchild, Taylor, is currently studying to become a veterinarian at Virginia Tech.

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Ms. Moody continues to live in Dinwiddie County and enjoys spending time with her special friend, Keith Wyatt. She is a member of West End Baptist Church and continues to be active on the Board of Directors for the Petersburg/Colonial Heights SPCA. She is currently fostering 12 dogs and 8 cats who were rescued, spayed/neutered and are awaiting their forever homes.