

SOUL SMOKE NEWS LETTER

EDITOR: MACGYVER



SPECIAL EDITION—MAY 2009

AN ANGEL IS CALLED HOME

Mother Mary Ann Wright
1922 to 2009

We cry with you. A recent email struck me as poignant. It was sent by Beaver Doctor. One excerpt was on the difference between friends and biker friends, "Friends have never seen you cry. Biker friends cry with you."

At our May 9th club meeting at Tiki Tom's, this was more than apparent. Some Brothers were caught off guard by hearing of the passing of Mother Wright. This, along with the update info of Tree's brother's outcome from a recent motorcycle accident was more than even the most normal grouchiest Brothers could take. Emotions overwhelmed some to the point of stepping out of the meeting. They never got to the door. Richie Rich corralled the Brother with an understanding hug so strong it was felt by all.

I was lucky enough to talk to 'Mother Wright' a few times, and was immediately struck by how her beliefs aligned with those of ISMC. I had told her of my small part in helping with the Mother Wright Foundation. She squeezed my hand and said, "There are no small parts. Any helping of others is great."

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Photos provided by Roadrunner

"...she will continue to live on, both through those she has helped, and through those she has inspired to the same noble calling."

~California State Assemblyman Sandre Swanson (from the Oakland Tribune 5/12/2009)

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The history with 'Mother Wright' was started before ISMC officially existed. It's no wonder why this hit us all so hard. She may no longer be with us in body, but her spirit, love and caring for others will continue to guide Iron Souls Motorcycle Club always.

Some of our ISMC brothers wished to include their memories of Mother Wright, as provided below.

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My personal remembrance of 'Mother Wright' was when the club was invited and attended her 80th birthday party...where at the moment she was saying thanks to all for coming. She spoke of the Iron Souls as deeply and warmly as she did of her blood relatives. It really reminded me of how much the club meant to her and her work with the Oakland community as directed to her by the Lord Almighty. 'Mother Wright' will be missed...the club feels the loss of a true "Iron Soul."

~Heavy K~
President, ISMC

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AN ANGEL IS CALLED HOME (CONT.)

Though I didn't have the privilege of meeting Mother Mary Ann Wright in person until late 2007, it was like I knew her all my life. This is only because of as far back as I can remember (late 1980's), when I first heard about Oakland's Great Angel "Mother Wright," I was touched. It was unbelievable. It was a story about a woman in West Oakland feeding the needy, and how she did it with her own money and food.

This caught the attention of not only me, but also the local media. Over the next few years, the story got bigger, and so did the cause. There were truck loads of perishable and non-perishable goods that started to be donated to her Foundation in support of 'Mother Wright' from local stores, and bakeries, etc, throughout the Bay Area. This is what this Great Woman, and her workers did day in and day out, to feed and clothe the needy. 'Mother Wright' labored hard, and continued to do so for three or more decades, with many of those years filled with the helping hands, and giant hearts of The Iron Souls, and other supportive Motorcycle Clubs.

I'll never forget those Thanksgivings and Christmas', watching the food drive and giveaways on TV News reports. It always felt like I was there because my heart was right there.

As I stated earlier in this message to you - "I didn't get to meet Mother Wright" in person until late 2007, and that only happen because of by the Grace of God. I was blessed to be introduced to a fine group of men, who like to go by the name of "The IRON SOULS." Not only did this bless me with the opportunity to meet 'Mother Wright' in person, but it also allowed me to experience the Love, the Warmth, the Wisdom, the Spirit, and the Grace of Mother Mary Anne Wright. It also gave me the opportunity to share the spirit of giving, right along side of her!

God Bless 'Mother Wright', and all of her helping hands.

What I remember the most about 'Mother Wright' is, that she reminded me of my Mother a lot. They are about the same age, the same size, they fair each other in some ways, and most of all they both have the kindest, shiniest hearts, and strongest spirits in a person that I have ever seen.

What I have learned from her most is to "NEVER GIVE UP".

Lastly I would like to say (and this really doesn't apply to any of my ISMC brothers), but it would be nice if more people around the World would take up the Spirit of 'Mother Wright', even if it's just a fraction, and be more kind to people around you, smile at one another, love one another, feed one another, and clothe one another. If more of us lived a life like 'Mother Wright,' there would be no World hunger.

...and remember this if you don't remember anything else - "God made us all the same"

~X-Man~

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AN ANGEL IS CALLED HOME (CONT.)

The ISMC has been blessed to have worked with Mother Wright. She is a living example of God's love, service and grace. I thank God for Mother Wright.

I have known Mother Mary Ann Wright for more than 15 years. Mother Wright was a true and living example of God's love and peace! Her love of God and, as she would say, her love of *all of God's people* was evident from the instant you met her. Her giving spirit was infectious. Mother Wright said, and one could immediately see, that she received more than she gave as she worked to serve her God. She made you, by her example, want to help her feed and clothe God's children! **God so loved the Oakland community (and the World) that He gave us Mother Wright!**

The Iron Souls Motorcycle Club has been truly blessed by Mother Wright's work, her spirit, her example and her love. We thank God for Mother Mary Ann Wright. I know she has gone Home to be with Her Lord!! I am thankful she has found her well deserved sweet rest and peace! On Thursday, May 7, 2009, I believe God said to Mother Mary Ann Wright, **Oh good and faithful servant, well done...come home!** God is good, all the time!



She was God's warrior for the poor and dispossessed of Oakland. She was a fighter for right and a consistent believer in her **Homegoing to be with her Lord!**

I am happy she has now found her rest and peace!

~Tree~

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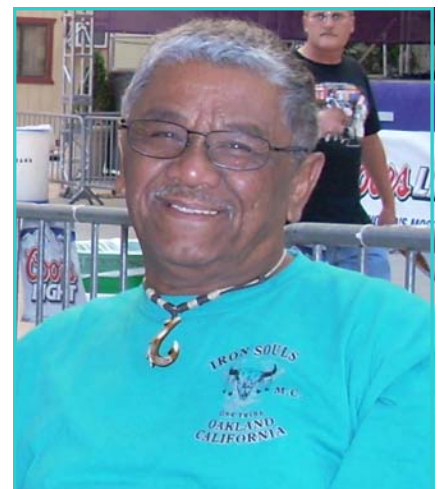
Some of my fondest memories are shown in the attached pictures that I've taken over the years. It all began when an article appeared in the SF Chronicle describing Mother Wright's work to feed and clothe the needy in the Oakland community. On a cold winter night in November 1992 (pre-ISMC), Voodoo, Chief and I strapped turkeys on our bikes and delivered them to 'Mother Wright' at her old place in West Oakland. Her surprise, appreciation and love was our reward. Speaking for Voodoo, Chief and myself, we are extremely gratified of the small part we played in influencing the ISMC to support Mother Wright's efforts throughout all these years.

Mother Mary Ann Wright will be truly missed by Oakland and Native American Reservations in Arizona where she unselfishly spent her life providing food and clothing to those in need throughout all these years. I am humbly gratified of my small & insignificant efforts in support of her work and I'm proud of being a member of the ISMC which made significant contributions for the past 16 years on behalf of the Mary Ann Wright Foundation.

~Roadrunner~

Historian

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AN ANGEL IS CALLED HOME (CONT.)

Our involvement with 'Mother Wright' gave the Iron Souls M.C. a strong sense of commitment and purpose to serve the Oakland community. She was our inspiration to "give back to the community" which we have done for over 16 years and will continue to do in her memory.

~Won Ton~

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'Mother Wright' will be missed by more people than I can imagine. When one was in her presence you could feel the Strength, the Peace, and the Love within her heart. I now have a void within my heart.

~Hammer~

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As I take a minute to reflect, many memories of 'Mother Wright' come to mind. Starting with the first time we met in 1995.... MW, a women passionate about all God's children sacrificed her own lifestyle and health to give back to not only the Oakland community, but to communities throughout the USA and around the world. She never hesitated to offer god's gift to those in need at a moment's notice. Her mission was to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, and she did it EVERYDAY.

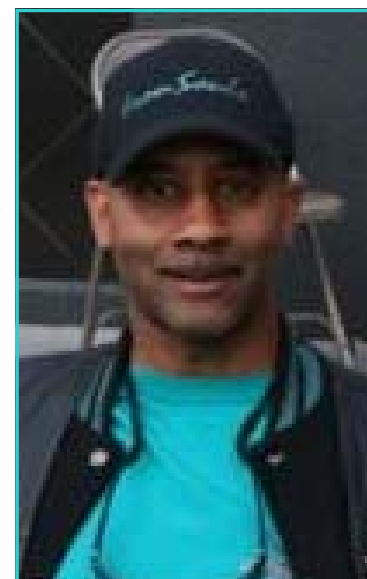
After my first ISMC MW run ('95), I invited my mother to attend the 2nd, and up and to her final breath, she would always ask about my Mom, Wife and family every time we spoke. Her gift of caring unconditionally instantly made me a part of her family, and her a part of mine. My most fondest memory, in addition to seeing the happy look on the kids faces when gifts were delivered, but when she would give you a big hug, with her passionate eyes saying thanks regardless if you stopped by to say hi, or when you presented her with gifts along with 100 of your favorite Harley riders. She never took credit for results of her giving, just stating it's God's work that we are doing.

She always talked about her ISMC sons, as if she was our Mother, and I'm proud of the fact that we (ISMC) continued to build on the spirit that our three Brothers started in 1992. It will be an honor to participate in her services next week, and we should never forget what MW has done for so many. At times I think, without her... where would the Iron Souls MC be? She helped put us on the map!

Mother Wright... God's Angel will surely be missed here on earth, but now she has been called to take care of God's children in heaven.

~NoDoz~

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AN ANGEL IS CALLED HOME (CONT.)

Back in 2000 I was still working for OPD in the Traffic Division. I took my traffic squad to work traffic control at her San Pablo location. We were there to help with the crowd lining up to receive the various items Mother Wright was giving them, and also to assist with the people dropping off donations.

To see the people, the cars they were driving and items that were given in these donations, you knew that this was about giving. The people making these donations were from all walks and stations of life. There is nothing that compares to recognizing that "Giving is Receiving," and this is what community is really about.

It did truly put a smile on this Old Cops face, and continued to restore my belief that humanity is always alive and well in the Oakland Community.

~Truck~

Road Captain

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God loves us one and all. He gave us 'Mother Wright' to show us that and to provide us an example of what he would have us do.

The first time I stood shoulder to shoulder with her passing out backpacks, a sense of calm and true purpose came over me. I felt the presence of God and he was happy.

The ability to help 'Mother Wright' with her ministry in a small way, was a true honor and privilege. She, for me, embodied a big part of our Creed. What a blessing to have shared some time with her on this journey!

~Break Away~

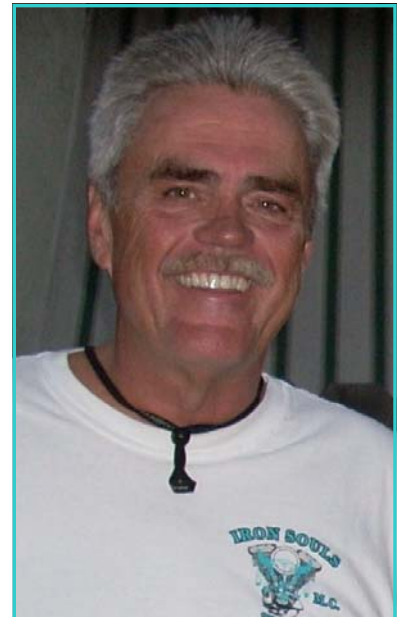
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There are not many people in this world that would put their own personal goals and family on hold to sacrifice and devote their life to helping others. 'Mother Wright,' a true soldier. A warrior in the fight for humanity. God's original Iron Soul.

Mother, you have served well. Rest in peace.

~TOP~

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AN ANGEL IS CALLED HOME (CONT.)

My first meeting with 'Mother Wright' was in 1995. I was invited to participate in the annual Turkey giveaway by Brooklyn of the ISMC. What I remember the most about that particular day was the presence of so many people giving back to the community, and how 'Mother Wright' was so busy working and coordinating everything but she never faltered or feigned in her unending love for mankind. Her only mission and goal was to feed the hungry. She was so kind and loving to all people. She did not treat anyone different due to their circumstances or conditions at the time. Throughout the years her endeavors only increased and she will truly be missed by all. At the last ISMC run she was able to attend, the blessing and prayer she spoke brought tears to my eyes. I knew she truly meant every word she was saying, that her strength came from God, and her mission as was spoken to her was a direction she was asked to go in without regard or thought of her own needs. Her every need was met because He told her to go forth to feed and clothe the hungry not only here but throughout the world. "Go out to all parts of the world even in Samaria and spread the good news" was the direction she received and the path she took unselfishly.

~T-Bone~
Keeper



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I liked the simplicity of Mother Wright's plan. Care for those in need. The fact that her plan grew from using her social security check to make sandwiches and feed the homeless in "Old Mans Park" to an institution on San Pablo Avenue is testament to the power of right. It's ironic that the city's attempts to force her to stop feeding the homeless, because she didn't have the proper facility in which to prepare the food, resulted in the City providing her with a facility.

She will be sorely missed and well remembered by many.
~Jumpstart~

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'Mother Wright' was an inspiration, a true Angel of Mercy. She had a strong will, and a soft heart. She gave everything for what she believed and those she cared for. There was nothing artificial about her person, nor insincerity in her character. Her profoundly religious attitude gave her a strength and poise that could not be overcome by ordinary misfortune. It is my belief that she is the moral salvation of our people.

~3-HAWKS~

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AN ANGEL IS CALLED HOME (CONT.)

Brothers of the Iron Souls,

It is not a coincidence:

that we formed up to ride and to give back to the community;
that our first small step was to deliver a few turkeys to Mother Wright;
that her words of encouragement and thanks that first Thanksgiving so moved us;
that we really stepped up our efforts and constantly raised the bar to support her;
that many other clubs joined us and created a following in many communities;
that our successes led us to become a non-profit organization;
that we learned to write grants and to get corporate support;
that our support began to grow beyond 'Mother Wright,' including Lend-A-Hand, our Little League Team, even a scholarship award;



No, it is not a coincidence. Oftentimes, only when a loved one passes on, do we realize that we have been being prepared to carry on, to carry the torch, to lead and to pass on the message of unconditional love.

Gentlemen, our behavior as a club really does count, and people have been paying attention, and the club is made up of each of us individually. We have a lot riding on us, and we owe a huge show of respect for our Mother. Let's not disappoint her or ourselves.

~Iron Butt~

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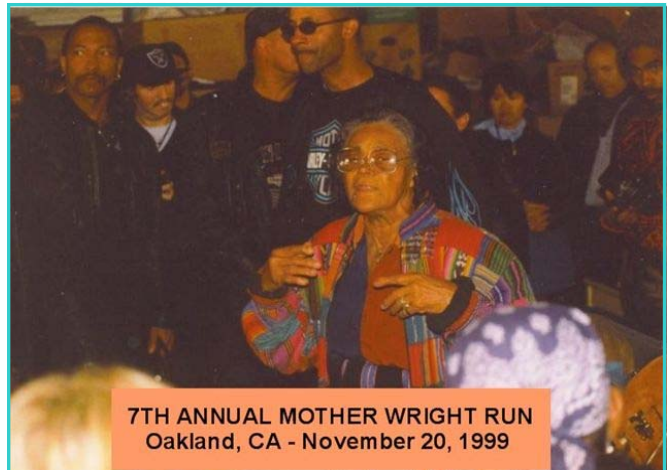
I first saw 'Mother Wright' in the 70's at a park feeding the poor and hungry. I was in awe. Then in the 80's and 90's, I heard her speak at a black Caucasus seminar. It motivated and inspired me to want to help other people, and to give, not asking for anything in return. I finally met 'Mother Wright' in 1998, when I became an Iron Soul member. Soon after I was given the job of liaison between the Iron Souls and 'Mother Wright.' This was the best thing that the club could have done for me. It gave me time to have one-on-one discussions with 'Mother Wright.' That was the beginning of my spiritual awakening. So you see, my Iron Souls Brothers, I have you to thank for the love I have for Mother Wright and always will have.



~KC~

AN ANGEL IS CALLED HOME (CONT.)

Photos of Mother Wright Runs throughout the years— provided by Roadrunner



SOUL SMOKE NEWS LETTER

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ISMC



Photos provided by Roadrunner
Brotherhood, Respect Unity

AN ANGEL IS CALLED HOME (CONT.)

