



Judy Golightly Waites 2001

JUDY GOLIGHTLY WAITES

What a wonderful surprise to be selected as a member of "The Shaggers' Hall of Fame." For years I have admired these great dancers, but I would have never put myself in their category. In my case, I think it is all about the love I have for dancing and the wonderful people involved.

I grew up in Columbia, South Carolina. In my early teens, my father would take my friends and me to the Memorial Youth Center every Saturday night. This was my introduction to "The Shag" — quite a different version, but I loved it!

While a student at Columbia High School and later at The University of South Carolina, every social function usually revolved around dancing. Some of my friends chose bridge, but I always chose the group that danced. Needless to say, I never learned to play bridge!

It was during those high school days that I started going to Myrtle Beach. Most of our time there was spent dancing at the house where we were staying or at The Pavilion. During one of those visits, I ran into a lifeguard, the son of a former minister. He asked me on a date and took me to The Pad at North Myrtle Beach my first exposure to that environment. My mother thought the minister's son part was great, but I didn't tell her about my trip to The Pad!

I married in 1963 and had two wonderful daughters, Lisa and Mandy. During their growing up years, I rarely had the chance to go out dancing, but I definitely took advantage of every opportunity.

In 1984, after becoming single again, I saw many of my friends going to a place in Columbia called Fanny's. I wasn't sure about the "bar scene," but my daughters encouraged me to branch out. That was the beginning of some of the happiest days of my life, and without a doubt the best therapy I ever received.

Active participation in the Columbia Shag Club introduced me to many of my closest friends. Our shagging crowd went from club to club in Columbia and, eventually, to North Myrtle Beach. I could not believe so much fun and so many nice people existed! Throughout my life I have been blessed in many ways. Being a part of this group is no exception. This is a very special time for me.

I truly appreciate the honor of becoming a member of The Shaggers' Hall of Fame.