



## James Ronald Joyce "Ronnie" 2004

### JAMES RONALD JOYCE "RONNIE"

James Ronald Joyce was born on August 5, 1943 to Russell and Mary Joyce in Baltimore, Maryland. The Joyce Family had moved to Baltimore two years earlier where Mr. Joyce worked in the Ship Yards of Bethlehem Steel to support the war effort.

At the end of World War II the Joyce's returned to their native North Carolina ( Thank God) and settled in Charlotte.

While growing up in Charlotte with his siblings Jean, Carol, and Phil, Ronnie enjoyed all sports, especially baseball which he played through little league, pony league and at Harding High School where he graduated in 1961.

As a teenager Ronnie also enjoyed music... country & western, rock & roll, and R&B. Like many high school teens of that generation, the music created a desire to dance which Ronnie started to learn in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Although Ronnie and his schoolmates didn't have a name for their dancing, they would later learn it was called "The Shag". On his first trip to Ocean Drive his senior year in high school he immediately loved the beach, the music, the people, the dancing, and the party atmosphere.

After graduating from Harding High School, Ronnie enrolled at UNC-Charlotte where he graduated with a BA degree in Business in 1967. During the summer of 1964 he got a job at Sonny's Pavilion in Cherry Grove and had "The Summer of A Life Time". It was there that Ronnie met so many of the friends that he enjoys and loves today; friendships which are renewed with every trip to North Myrtle Beach.

Ronnie returned to Sonny's the summer of 1965. During that summer he met and married Debbie Strong, also from Charlotte. Although they would divorce years later, they had three wonderful children together... James Ronald II ( Jimmy), now married to Anne Lamm; Mary Virginia (Jenkie), now married to Dan Arnold; and Marks Lawson ( Lawson) Joyce who is still "playing the field". At the reading of this short biography Ronnie is the proud grandfather of 5 beautiful grandchildren... Wooten Joyce, Mary Selwyn Arnold, James Ronald Joyce III, and the Arnold twin girls which at this writing are still "On the Way".

After graduation from UNC-C Ronnie joined Package Products Company where he spent 18 years as a salesman before he left in 1986 to join Jay Packaging Group as a National Accounts Manager where he is still employed and travels coast to coast selling thermoformed plastics and packaging for consumer goods.

Ronnie has resided in Raleigh since 1972 and is very proud (and lucky) to have been dating the lovely Ms. Nina Hunt of Burlington, NC for the past 4 years and looks forward to sharing the years ahead with her.

Ronnie feels very proud and fortunate to be here on this Occasion and that his friends and peers would honor him with this induction to the Hall of Fame.

Thanks to all of you; I will cherish your love and friendship forever.