



ANNETTE JOHNSON - 2016

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I was born Mary "Annette" Johnson, the third child of four children, to Moses and Eva Johnson on July 06, 1950 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

My first recollection of shag dancing was when the family would take a break from farming and spend Sunday afternoon at Lake Glad in Wendell, North Carolina. At four years old, I can still remember bouncing around to the music being played on the jukebox and almost drowning in the lake.

While in my early teens, my two older sisters (Jean, Vickie) and I would spend Saturday mornings bopping around to tunes being played on American Bandstand while my little brother (Larry) aggravated us. Of course we could do none of this until after our chores were done.

Finally Jean got her license! Vickie and I would tag along with her whenever we got the chance. Many Sunday afternoons we would bounce over those hills circling Lake Myrle in Knightdale, North Carolina.

Finally summer vacations were trips to Carolina Beach and White Lake. I was spellbound watching the dancers on the Boardwalk. I didn't dare participate, only watched dreaming that one day I too would be dancing like that.

I danced at Elliot's Nest (Norfleet's club) and 2001 Club in Raleigh, NC during the disco era. I shagged at Red's and various other shag clubs throughout the 70's, 80's and 90's.

I worked as a cosmetologist for twenty four years, owned my own business, sold the business and went to work with Carnival Cruise Lines for three years managing their on board beauty salons in the late 80's. Got off the ships, moved to California and quickly decided I needed to get back to my roots. I returned to North Carolina and nursing school getting my degree as a registered nurse.

I was reintroduced to the shag and met the love of my life, Dwight Langley, in 1994. We were married in 2006 at Duck's during SOS, and we are now enjoying retirement together.

Dwight and I have been blessed and honored with the opportunity to teach shag lessons at the annual parties of the Birmingham Alabama Shag Club, Hilton Head Island Shag Club, Florence Shag Club and Orlando Shag Club.

I was honored by being inducted into the National Living Legends in 2000, Sand Flea Living Legends in 2014, Boys in the Band and was given the Pug Wallace Intergalactic Award in 2015 and inducted into the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame in 2016 along with my husband.

For me, the "shag world" is unique, the friendships I've made and the lifestyle are like nothing else I've ever known. I consider myself "very blessed" and I am enjoying the journey!