



## Tootie & Maxine Brown - 2021

### **TOOTIE AND MAXINE BROWN**

Donald R. "Tootie" Brown was born September 15, 1947 in Statesville NC. Maxine F. Brown was born December 18, 1945 in Mooresville NC.

In the summer of 1966, our parents met while on vacation in Myrtle Beach. They were married in December of 1967 while he was serving in the United States Army. In July of 1968, I, Dana Brown Barton was born, followed by my brother, Donovan S. Brown in March of 1974. Dad was Honorably Discharged from service in August 1973.

In 1983, Mom and Dad decided to take shag lessons to learn the "correct way" for a man to shag, as he danced on the female foot. After about 10 or so lessons, they decided it was time to hit the dance floor and they never looked back. In the same year, they met with other shaggers in the Lake Norman area to form the Lake Norman Shag Club. They continued to dance in clubs and to live Beach Bands around the Charlotte area. Beach music and shag dancing became staples in our home.

They attended their first S.O.S in 1984 and continued to attend through 2020. Our parents retired and moved to North Myrtle Beach in early 2000. With Dad's love of the music, he began playing for shag club functions and parties all along the east coast. Our parents were inducted into The Sand Flea Living Legend Association in May of 2003 and into the Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall of Fame in 2014. Dad was inducted into the D. J. Hall of Fame in March of 2009. They became grandparents in 2005 to Conor and again in 2009 to Emerson, or Eme, as she was to mom.

Our parents loved the music and the dance and truly embodied the lifestyle of "Hall of Famers", being wonderful dancers, shag instructors and ambassadors of the dance. They made many friends throughout their travels and were a staple in the North Myrtle Beach shag community. Our parents, Tootie and Maxine, became Tootie and Max in the shag world. It's almost impossible to attend any shag event where someone doesn't know them. Dad never met a stranger and we can still hear him say, "Hey Honey" or "Hey Baby Girl", and "Howdy Do" to their friends. He could always be heard singing, be seen with a cold drink in his hand with our mom by his side. He never turned down a dance. He was my first dance partner and will always be my favorite.

We are honored to accept this award for our Mom and Dad, our Gia and Poppy, or as known to most, Tootie and Max.

We miss and love you more than words can say,  
Dana, Donovan, Chad, Conor, and Emerson