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I grew up loving all music and most any kind of dance. My love for Shag started on a Sunday afternoon in 1979 during Family day with my mother at Groucho's Beach Club in Charlotte, NC. Groucho's had an outside area where I watched people dance and could just feel the music and the desire to learn. Chuck Mack took me aside and showed me how to do a basic. I was absolutely hooked from that moment on. My two favorite partners to dance with in those early days were Dewitt Hinson and Butch Evans. They never seemed to mind dancing with me and letting me learn as I went along. I am so thankful to Randy Rowland for allowing me to come to the club even though I was young. It became a passion and a constant in my life.

Groucho's eventually moved from that quaint little place to a larger building. It was there that I really developed as a dancer. I watched a lot of great dancers every weekend. At that time, every dancer had their own style and I wanted to be like all of them. I remember feeling like I had really become a dancer when one weekend I got to dance with Shad Alberty, Mike Pace, Bob Myrick, Doug Perry, Buzz Sawyer and Mike Osborne. I thought I had died and gone to heaven. My love for the dance grew stronger as I gained confidence. And let's not forget the women. I loved watching Joanne Johnson, Cindy Mangum, Brenda Alberty and Glenda Johnson. Each of them had a style of their own and I tried to learn from each of them.

Monday nights in Charlotte were spent at The Steak -N-Ale. It was always packed and always fun. Joanne Johnson was the DJ and kept the floor filled. It was there that I danced in my first Shag Contest. Joanne took me to the hallway and showed me a couple of "together steps" and I went on the floor with JoJo Putnam. Much to my surprise, we WON! That was the beginning of Shag Contests for me.

I spent the next years traveling to Shag Clubs all over North and South Carolina to compete. The Sand Flea, Weejuns, Bushes, Fat Jacks, Harolds, Reds and Ducks just to name a few. And of course, the Nationals. What a great time! I loved the people, music and the competition. We were like a family. Those were some of the best times of my life. I had great partners - Jerry Greene, Don Bunn and Mike Pace. Twenty -eight years after my last contest, I was asked to dance in the Nationals Masters Division with Tom Bare and we won.

I married in 1997 and started a family. I have two sons for whom I traded the dance floor for school plays, recitals and sporting events. I did a lot of dancing in my kitchen during those years.

What an honor to be recognized by my peers and inducted to the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. I will be forever grateful for all this dance has given me.