



Anne Jackson Kennedy

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Being from Dunn, NC, along with notables Harry Driver, Brenda Alberty and Pee Wee Teel, I think shagging was in my DNA.

I was 12 when I became aware of the shag. My Mom took us for weekend trips to Myrtle Beach SC, where I would watch dancers shag to juke box music at the Pavilion near Peaches Corner...I decided then and there, I had to learn the Shag. My friends, Inez Johnson, (later married Johnny Poole from Raleigh), Pee Wee Tripp (later married John Teel from Raleigh), Arlene and Kathern Turnage, and Bobbie Ann Thigpen began to practice.

The summer of 1959, we heard of Williams Lake, which was only 30 minutes from Dunn. We went often for a night of Shagging.

One night, May 26, 1959, at Williams Lake I noticed everyone was crowded around a dancer. I moved closer to watch. That's when I saw what Shagging was about. They were watching someone named "Spider". I was amazed at his dancing. CUTE Too!!!! Never thinking he would ask me to dance... (there he was asking). Our first dance was a slow dance. That was the beginning of Anne and Jim, aka Spider.

We danced our way from Williams Lake to Faison, Carolina Beach, Atlantic Beach, NC, occasionally in SC at The Pad, Harolds on the Beach, OD Pavilion and Ducks making great friends along the way.

We married in 1963 and lived in Goldsboro, NC a year. In 1964 we moved to Arlington, VA. It was a great move, except we had left our friends, Beach Music and Shagging. We went to clubs in Washington, DC – Rands, Attic, Hayloft, and Ventunos trying to find what we'd left behind. We made friends, but shagging was not easy because the dance floors were small and crowded.

In 1972, Bobby Tomlinson, owner of The Embers, called. He said they had been booked at Ventunos for two weeks. Yeah!! We had Beach Music back and we loved those two weeks. We followed the Embers everywhere – Atlantic City, NJ; Afterdeck in Ocean City, MD; Richmond, VA; and numerous Beach Music Festivals all around the Eastern Coast as far down as Marco Island, FL. We were with the Embers every New Year's Eves for 28 Years. Lots of fun!!

During that time, in 1965, we were blessed with our son, Scott, who is the light of our life. In 1994, we were blessed again, Scott gave us our Grandson, Dustin. Life was Great - Dustin married Natalie in May, 2020. Our family is wonderful and maybe will get larger soon.

After 52 years, we decided to leave northern VA and move back South. We settled in Little River, SC close to our favorite places to Shag, listening to Beach Music and Bands. I was home with friends, back where it began, sand in my shoes and moving my feet to Beach Music.

Thank you for honoring me into the Hall of Fame. I'm proud to be part of this special Organization.

Great Friends and Great Music