



Judy Duke 1994

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I'm sure a lot of you will remember asking, "Anyone going to the beach tonight?" As a teenager, my largest concern in life was finding a ride to OD. Don Kelley would drive to Whiteville, pick up my best friend and me, then drive back to the beach just to bring us dancing. We were SO COOL in his big black Oldsmobile convertible with a record player on the console! I couldn't wait to get to The Pad and to Sonny's. As an impatient teenager, that 40 miles seemed more like 100! I wanted to dance with Donnie Christenbury, Dickie Lester, and all the lifeguards. I just wanted to dance, and dance and dance! I learned early on that I needed to be a good dancer --- big boobs would't work for me!

My big brother, Stuart, was a great dancer. He taught me how to shag when I was only 12 years old. It's been an important part of my life ever since. Knowing how to dance gave me self-confidence, helped me meet people and got me dates with guys that the other girls just watched. It's been wonderful to share my love for music and the shag with my two daughters. I'm especially grateful for the lifelong friendships that we've made with people like Jimmy and Betty Reeves, John and Sylvia Breeden, MG and Al Cain, Janet, Milton, Bob and even Norfleet!

I still can't believe I'm an OD local! I feel so fortunate to be just a few blocks from Harold's and Ducks, where I still get a thrill watching the great dancers. Dancing has always held such magic for me. When your partner takes your hand, and makes you feel like you are the only one in the world for two and a half minutes, that's MAGIC.

Few people have the opportunity to make a career out of doing something they love. By instructing others, I find that I am also being taught, particularly by the young ones like Sam, Grayson, Michael and Sarah. One of the most beautiful things about the Shag, is that it is enjoyed by all ages and levels of accomplishment. Teaching Shag keeps me young and pays my rent, and for that I am eternally grateful.

It's an honor to be a member of The Shagger's Hall Of Fame. thank you all.

Remember: "Life may not be the party we expected, but while we are here, we should dance! - author unknown