



Richard Sharpe Morgan 2013

RICHARD SHARPE MORGAN

I was born in Raleigh, NC to Raymond Morgan & Irene Edwards Morgan, who were both blind. We lived with another blind couple in the slums of Raleigh, which is now known as the Historic District.

When I was a mere lad of 13, Henry Murray took me under his wing. He would let me tag along every chance I got. I credit Henry for teaching me to shag. I will always remember he would tell me, "You have to stay in the square", but as most of you know I didn't listen. After years of dancing I developed my own style.

We always had a place to dance, drink and party every Saturday night at Williams Lake and every Sunday at Castaways in Greensboro and on Wednesday and Friday nights at the Scrambled Dog in Raleigh. I have lots of good memories and funny stories to tell about these days.

In 1966 I graduated from Enloe High School and started working in a men's clothing store called "The Hub" in Chapel Hill. That was the beginning of my career in clothing. After a short time there I moved to New York City to work as a showroom boy for about a year and then on to Minnesota for another job. I was staying at the YMCA there and remember looking out the window in October and it was snowing so hard and it was so cold and I thought if it is like this now, what is it going to be like in December. Well, I phoned my buddies back in NC and they were drinking and partying at the State Fair. Feeling homesick, I packed up and went back to Raleigh.

My career today is still in clothing, but now I travel up and down the east coast calling on ladies' stores. This job has afforded me the lifestyle of being able to continue shagging at clubs/beer joints in many cities along my route. I have been very fortunate to remain friends with so many people along the way.

I have been married 3 times from the late 60's to the 80's and even today I remain friends with all three. I have no children of my own, but I did help raise Tommy, a young man from my third marriage.

Fourteen years ago, coming off a business trip, I decided to stop by Weejuns, a local shag club in Columbia, SC. As I checked out the room, I saw her on the dance floor. She could shag and she was pretty and with a smile that would light up a room. She danced with one man after another, and then it came my time to introduce myself and ask her for a dance. I introduced myself and she said she was Margaret Ballington. We danced, but to my surprise she didn't have a clue as to who I was. I couldn't believe it. How could she not know who Richard Morgan was!!! Well, needless to say she captured my heart and we became engaged on my birthday April 4, 2000. I have been blessed to have her in my life along with her daughters, Lori, Brandi and their husbands Kent and Phillip and most of all the precious grandchildren: Shelby, Sawyer, Spencer, Hunter and Jackson. They are what life is all about!!!!

I have enjoyed the shag world, the music, and the drinks, the friends so full of life, the jokes shared by many and being able to dance with so many great partners. Being selected into The Shaggers Hall of Fame is an honor and I would like to thank the board and all of those who voted for me.