



DANNY LANIER - 2016

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When I was eleven years old, Susie Griffin taught me and her brother, Bobby, our first shag steps in our hometown of Beulaville, North Carolina. I continued to practice with other local dancers at any grill, soda shop or lake that provided dance music. I was hooked! These early fun filled times led me to a lifetime of enjoying those shag steps that Susie taught me.

After moving to Richmond, Virginia in the early sixties, I adjusted my basic and continued to dance around Richmond and Virginia Beach. During the early seventies, I returned to North Carolina and danced in clubs from Greensboro to the coasts of North and South Carolina. In the late seventies and early eighties, I competed in contests at Reds, Louies, Mint Julep, Riverboat, Jolly Knave and Fat Jacks in Myrtle Beach. After 25 years of not competing, I was asked by Susie Griffin to compete in the 2009 National Shag Dance Championship in the Masters division. I continued to add precious memories by competing with Betty Kennedy Kane in 2010 & 2011.

With my marriage to Vivian in 1982, God led me to concentrate on building a lasting marriage and to focus on family commitments. We celebrated our 34th anniversary and the announcement of my induction in March 2016. After returning home to Wilson, North Carolina, we have been blessed by the kind support of many friends and family. We thank each of you for being a part of my induction celebration.

My richest blessings from shagging have been the treasured friendships I have made. These friends are "family" to me and Vivian. Vivian, my son, Neal, and I are grateful for the support of our shagging family. My sister, Pat, often referred to me as her favorite dancer. I lost Pat a few years ago, but I know she would be thrilled with my induction. I dedicate this honor to her memory and God's glory.

It is indeed an honor to have my name included with all the great dancers in the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. I want to thank all who had a part in helping me join this talented group of shaggers.