



Joyce Davis O'Ryan 2019

JOYCE DAVIS O'RYAN

Standing a-top my Father's feet floating to Sinatra sounds, my love of dance began at an early age. Raised in England, after my birth in Lake Charles, Louisiana in 1955, my household was filled with music and dancing. I was mesmerized watching my handsome Dad dance with my elegant Mum.

In 1974, at the age of 19, I was back in the United States. I had followed family to the eastern coast to Myrtle Beach, S.C. My Dad was retired Air Force and the Myrtle Beach AFB was his second home. This same year, the iconic Forest Dunes Hotel was demolished to make way for new development and the tourist industry was taking off! I loved beach life and it wasn't long before I discovered Fat Jack's in North Myrtle Beach. My first membership card dates 1976. That's the year I was introduced to the music, the dance and the lifestyle. I was hooked!

I learned shag basics from some of the fabulous dancers in the community including JoJo Putman and Vickie Carter. From there, I got out and danced as much as possible! Some of my favorite dance partners were Denny Wade from Charlotte, N.C., Dewey Kennedy from Atlanta and eventually North Myrtle Beach, and Chicken Hicks from Carolina Beach. This is just to mention a few. Many male and female dancers became major influences in my life as I watched their different styles of dance and strived to achieve individuality and a style of my own. TT

The shagging lifestyle in the 80's and 90's were some of the best times of my life with memories to be forever cherished. I enjoyed frequenting places like Cagney's Dancing Room, Ducks and Little Ducks, Fat Jacks, Fat Harold's, The Pad, OD Pavilion, Groucho's in Charlotte, NC., and many more clubs...where memories of SOS safaris, contests and gatherings shaped my life.

I began teaching the dance in 1987 on the south end of Myrtle Beach. In 1989, I taught at Ducks in North Myrtle Beach. I was honored to be inducted into the Sand Flea National Living Legends Association in 2018.

My greatest achievements were the births of my sons, Jack in 1995 and Max in 1996. My family life was busy and fulfilling with my two greatest loves. However, I always made time to spend with my shag family and friends.

I am grateful for lasting friendships, acceptance and honors, and fabulous memories of the shag lifestyle, lived at the beach. So many in the community remain such a huge part of my life. I am a beach girl who loves the dance, the lifestyle and the people! I am humbled and honored to be welcomed into the Hall of Fame, alongside such a legendary group.