



# Cindy Murphy Campbell 1998

## CINDY MURPHY CAMPBELL

I, Cindy Murphy, was born in Laurinburg, North Carolina on March 31, 1947. As the oldest of four children, I was always surrounded by music. My parents loved to dance and my father was probably the best dancer around our area. Even as a young child, I loved "black" music or R&B. I was drawn to any activity that had music in the background. Eventually, an older sister of a friend taught me the "basic" and I was hooked at the age of ten. Thanks Linda Purcell!

When I was thirteen my parents bought a place at the beach. The problem was-not at Ocean Drive but at Ocean Isle (the middle of nowhere in 1960). We did travel down to O.D. a few nights during the summer and I was allowed to go to the Pavilion with my parents and siblings hovering in the background. My parents said I was too young to go to SONY'S or THE PAD and most of the good dancers were there. I couldn't wait until I was old enough to frequent these places and eventually I did. Donnie Christenbury, Ronnie Joyce, Buz Sawyer, Tommy White, Shad Alberty and Mike Osborne were the "hot?" dancers of my youth. I'd watch for hours. These dance legends loved dancing with Teresa and Donnie Harrelson, Becky Williamson, Debbie Strong, Diane Thrasher, E.A. McDaniel, and a very young fourteen-year old named Rosalyn Reynolds, who was the best and smoothest dancer I'd ever seen. I wanted to dance just like her.

The places to dance in the Laurinburg area were the Canteen, James Rogers in McColl, and the Coachman in Bennettsville. The "IN" places at the beach were The Pad, Sonny's, Jimmy's, Turks, the Forks and later Donnie's and Go Boys. One of my all time favorite places was the basement at the ATO house in Chapel Hill. What a jukebox!

My freshman year of college was spent in Virginia (no R&B and no shagging). I missed my music and my dance, so I transferred to the University of South Carolina. There were lots of shaggers there. Richard Abney was in Columbia at the time (a great dancer and even better now). David Poston, Jimmy Mills, and John Breeden were a few of Columbia's best dancers.

A few years later I married a non-dancer from West Virginia and had two wonderful children. I was living in West Virginia when I got the call-S.O.S. was happening and where was I? Story was, people were dancing and shagging in the middle of the day, all day, every day, for four days. I couldn't believe my ears. I didn't miss it the next year (1981). My wildest dreams had come true...I was hooked...I felt I'd died and gone to heaven.

When my marriage dissolved a few years later, I headed home to the beach and I've been here ever since. My first S.O.S. friends are still my good friends and I've added many many more. I've also added a wonderful husband, Mike Campbell, who has enriched my life and brought me more happiness than one person deserves. Whatever life brings me, good or bad, I can handle and endure as long as Mike is by my side.

I am very humbled and honored to be voted into the Hall of Fame and I hope that we all keep doing what we're doing-DANCE!-DANCE!-DANCE!