



Kathryn Hemphill Tilghman 1999

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I wonder when the shag or its music was not a part of my life! I was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, the youngest daughter of Grace Ellen and Melvin Hemphill, a well-known golf professional and talented musician, whose love of Big Band music and Jazz shaped my life. My sisters, Ann and Ellen, were shaggers and Ellen taught me to shag (on the boy's foot) at age 12 so that her Kappa Delta sorority sisters would have a practice partner!

While at Dreher High and Columbia College, we spent every Easter, Mother's Day and First Week at Pawleys Pavilion, Sonny's and The Pad, as well as in Columbia and all the surrounding cities that had a boy's school!

I moved to OD as a bride with my former husband, Phil Tilghman. My greatest lifetime achievements were my three precious children, Kelly, Philip, Jr. and Drew (and, happily, the later addition of my daughter-in-law, Joy, and my first grandchild who will be born in the new millennium).

I have been privileged to be included in several historic shag events over the years. I was honored to be one of the 12 Charter members of the OD Shag Club; was invited to be a board member of the National Shag Dance Committee, on which I still serve.; was in the room at the State House when Governor Dick Riley signed the bill that made The Shag our state dance. I watched and learned from the legends before SPA that are the body and soul of the Hall of Fame. I lived through the dormant period on the beach when there was only Donnie's and The Spanish Galleon; I watched ecstatically as shag was resurrected at Fat Jack's, Harold's Across the Street and Ducks.

My induction to the Hall of Fame is an honor second only to the posthumous induction of my son, Philip, in 1992. To watch your child learn and love the dance as we did, and then be recognized by his mentors, is the greatest gift of all. Now, thanks to the same amazing people, I am allowed to share this privilege with my son.

To say that I am honored by this induction would be an understatement. I only hope that I can represent the great institution of The Shag and The Shagger's Hall of Fame with every step I take and with the pride of sharing this honor with all the Great Ones of Shag that adorn these walls.