



Garrett Wayne "Bud" Fly - 2018

GARRETT WAYNE "BUD" FLY

My story begins in the late 50's early 60's spending weekends at the Pavilion in Atlantic Beach, NC. That's where my love of "beach music" started.

I joined the U. S. Navy in 1963. I spent time in Great Lakes, Chicago, Hawaii, China Lake, CA. After a bad car accident, I was in Balboa Naval Hospital, San Diego for two years with a broken back. The doctors told me I may never walk again. Thankfully, I proved them wrong. While counting down on 100 days left of my enlistment, I met Kathie on a blind date 51 years ago. We were married in Coronado, CA and three months later came back to my hometown, Rocky Mount, NC. The next ten years were spent raising our children, Chris and Casey.

Our first shag lessons were with Percy Thornton at a club called Garry's in Rocky Mount. We both worked there on weekends as bartenders. We danced in our first shag contest at Garry's, coming from behind the bar in our club uniforms. After that, we were hooked. Our next lessons were in Winterville NC with Mike Pace, learning the basics. Then in the early 1980's, Norfleet Jones and Tom Shipman opened Ocean Drive North in Rocky Mount. We spent many Friday and Saturday nights there learning and practicing. I have fond memories of Norfleet stacking empty beer cans between Kathie and me as we practiced the pivot until no cans hit the floor!

We competed in SPA and CSA contests for the next decade or more and have made many long-lasting friendships. We danced every other weekend in contests at Bananas, Bushes, Loafer's, Red's, Groucho's Sand Flea, Mint Juleps, Tiki Bar, Courtney's, Memories, Fat Jack's, Ducks, The Pad and Fat Harold's. We taught group and private lessons during the years which financed our travels. Our daughter, Casey, would often travel with us along with Michael Norris. Even at age 15, Michael was very creative and was a great influence on my dance style. Michael also picked out my first pair of "wild pants" which I still wear today.

In September of 1999, we were packing for SOS when Hurricane Floyd came through and changed our lives. This was a very trying time for our family. Words cannot describe how the CSA shag dancers, DJ Association, Hall of Fame Foundation, SPA shag clubs and the entire shag community lifted us up and we will always be very grateful.

Since back surgery for a ruptured disc in 2014, my dancing days have slowed down considerably but I always enjoy the music and socializing.

I am totally humbled and thankful for the honor of being selected into the 2018 Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame.