



Robert L. (Bobby) Free 2002

ROBERT L. (BOBBY) FREE

I was born, Robert L. Free, in Walterboro, SC on April 17, 1936, the only child of Vance L and Eloise A Free. My education was completed at Cottageville, SC and in Atlanta, GA.

I started shagging at a very early age. There wasn't much else to do in Cottageville and Walterboro. We were lucky to live close to many beaches. -Folly, Isle of Palms and Edisto. In the fifties and sixties, I spent as much of my time as possible on one of these beaches. Rhythm and Blues was my favorite music. In those days, I would go to County Hall in Charleston and listen to the Black Bands. We weren't allowed to get on the floor and dance; we had to sit in the balcony and listen. These times were very special to me and my friends, as our only means of transportation at that time was hitchhiking. If and when we made it to the beach, we would always find someone having a house party and they would put us up for the night or a few days.

I met my wife, Mott, in 1959, at a dance in Branchville, SC. Several clubs were opening during that time- RVA on Spruill Avenue, The Sands, and The Five O'Clock Club in Charleston and Delmonico's in Columbia out at Five Points. We did a lot of shagging before the three boys came along and it seemed too, about that time, Disco was starting to take over. We sort of slacked off dancing and spent our time becoming parents.

In 1982, we attended our first SOS and as most of you know, the rest is history. We were fortunate to have our youngest son, Matt, become interested in the dance and spent many-a-weekend taking him to contests. We also, started teaching young people to dance, which proved to be a rewarding part of this tradition.

Mott and I have met and become friends with so many, it would be impossible to name all.

I am so happy to be a part of the Hall of Fame Family-----

Good Luck and Happiness to you all.