



Jerry Burrage 2008

JERRY BURRAGE

I was born August 28, 1948 in the Bull City, Durham, North Carolina. I attended city schools and graduated from Durham High School in 1966. After graduating, I joined the U.S. Air Force and spent the next 3 ½ years seeing Southeast Asia and other places of the world. In 1969 I entered Rutledge College and obtained my business degree.

Growing up in Durham, my hobbies included playing baseball and listening to R&B music late at night played by John R. and broadcast from Nashville, Tennessee. This is where my love for the music began. As the years went by, I spent a lot of time at Atlantic Beach, Carolina Beach, and Ocean Drive where I was exposed to the dance (shag). I never knew it was the shag for years. We called it free style or fast dance. Through my interest in the music and dance, it didn't take long to find out what a great group of people were also involved.

With a strong push from Bob and Carol Myrick in the late 70's and early 80's, Kaye and I became competition dancers and found a wonderful new family who loved the music, dance, friendships and enjoyed life. Kaye and I were fortunate enough to win the first non pro National Shag Dance competition in 1984 and I will continue to support the dance as long as God leaves me on this earth. I had the great pleasure of meeting people like Chicken Hicks, John and Pee Wee Teal, Sam McIntosh, Jimmy Soles, Norfleet Jones, Larry Bake, Milton Nowell, Charles Gurley, Wes May, Wanda and Norman Holliday, Cecil and Linda Squires, Judy Bazemore, Kurt and Donna Hales (my traveling buddies) and numerous others.

After losing Kaye to cancer in 2002, my life had no direction or meaning but by the grace of God and those involved in the Shaggers Hall of Fame enabled me to meet my lovely wife of today, Marilyn.

I am unable to dance as I used to so I have collected music and am now a DJ of R&B music which I dearly love. Mike Lewis, Hall of Fame DJ, was very influential in helping me accomplish my current status as a DJ.

I feel very lucky to have become a part of such a unique and loving group of people. Thank you so much for this honor!