



## Edward "Earl" Robinson 2009

### EDWARD "EARL" ROBINSON

It started in Richmond, Virginia in the 1940's, just after World War II. I remember the radio was playing jump music, and I stepped on top of Aunt Lou's feet and we took off! She said always make the girls look good and they will make you look good, and so my lifetime journey with dancing began.

By 1950 I was in the fifth grade and I was fast-dancing in the gym at school dances, wishing all the while that dancing was a graded class- I could have a ball AND get an "A" at the same time. By 1952, Daddy was taking us to Moore's Lake down on the Pike; the jukebox was blaring early rock'n'roll and R&B, and calling out my name! I'd step out on the floor and the older folks would holler for me to "tone it down". You would have thought my bopping moves were akin to Elvis's on his first Ed Sullivan appearance. This only served to egg me on, as my teenage years were spent anywhere I could find a place to dance, such as Moore's Lake, White's Lake, The Top Hat, The Peppermint and the Satellite. My love for, and dedication to fast-dancing led to my owning a night club- Nostalgia's - in the 1970's, which catered to boppers. There was never a time in my life from age 6 when I wasn't dancing.

By the early 90s my regional reputation as King Bopper was well established, and about to change big-time when Bert and Kitty Novotny took me to SOS in 1983. My conversion to Carolina Shag was immediate and complete, as I had the good fortune to fall in with stellar shaggers such as Carolyn Hedrick ( who taught me the basics), Walt Graves, Cadillac Jack, and Phil Pritchard. In making the rounds at The Pad, OD Pavilion, Ducks and Crazy Zack's, I started picking up the Shag culture and footwork. So great was my enthusiasm after that initial SOS, that I came home and started the Richmond Shag Club at the old DJ's Lounge. The club flourished and in 1992 I started dancing with Beverly Jones, and by 1994 started competing at the Dance of Contenders in N.C., where we placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. With Susie Beaver as our coach, we moved to CSA and by 2006 had worked our way to Pro status. Along the way, Bev and I got married, danced at the Nationals and placed in the Non-Pro, Masters, and Pro Divisions. We remain master instructors in central Virginia, and spend as much of our time at our condo in North Myrtle Beach enjoying our many friendships in the Shag community. *I feel truly honored by this great recognition of being inducted into the Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame as a capstone achievement to a life of dancing. Thanks to all of you who have made this possible.*