



# Gale Robertson 2011

## GALE ROBERTSON

**I CAN NEVER REMEMBER A TIME WHEN MUSIC AND DANCE WERE NOT A PART OF MY LIFE!**

At about age four I was dancing for customers in the restaurant where my grandmother worked. It's funny—my Daddy never wanted me to do that, but I hear my dancing gene came from him. I never saw him dance but heard he won jitterbug contests when he was young.

Probably my first glimpse of shag was watching my mother's baby sister dance. She needed a partner and sometimes I was it—I guess that's where all my years of dancing male lead came from!

In my teens my places to shag were like most of you- the Pavilions, Myrtle Beach, Lion's Beach, and Pawley's Island were a few of my favorites.

Oh! College in Charleston-Folly Pier, Art's Seaside, The Merchant Seaman's Club- Did you ever "perch at the Merch"?

For awhile after college it seemed there was no shag. Then in the late 70's or early 80's my former husband, Claude Robertson, and I happened upon a contest at the Mirage in Charleston- we were hooked! Linda Walker was in that contest and we asked for lessons and an answer to why some of our dancing didn't work-there's that male lead again! We took several lessons from Linda at which time she told us we needed to enter the next contest. She failed to mention "local"contest, so we entered the next SPA contest at the Mirage! It was not our most stellar performance but the ice was broken. We competed for 11-12 years and taught for 7-8 years. We met lots of great people through the competition and teaching. After those years I've still stayed very active in the local Charleston shag clubs and shag events. I've missed my time at the beach but my sweetie, Steve Wilkerson, and my great friend, Moncille Thomas, have encouraged me to get back with my friends here and it's been a blast!

It is a privilege and a pleasure to be a part of the Shagger's Hall of Fame.

**MAY THE MUSIC, THE DANCE AND THE FRIENDSHIPS LONG STAND!!!**