



MARILYN HATLEY - 2014

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I have never known any other group who has made such a major impact on a community than the shaggers that live and visit North Myrtle Beach.

I was born in Albemarle, North Carolina and raised in a family that loved to dance. All of my growing up years my mother and father were always taking their three girls to dances or we were having dances in our basement at home. Back in those days the parents took the children everywhere they went! When we vacationed on the Grand Strand, we would go to the Pavilion or sneak into the Pad just to watch the people doing this great dance called the Shag. It was always exciting to see all these people having so much fun. We would go back home and try to copy all of the steps and moves we could remember.

My husband David and I, along with our son Chad, moved to the Grand Strand in 1970. We got sand in our shoes and have never left. Beach music is our favorite music and we enjoy listening to all of the bands. We now have a granddaughter Amelia, who loves the beach as much as the rest of us. When I became Mayor of North Myrtle Beach is when I truly was introduced to the shag community through Sarah Wilson, Norfleet Jones and H. Lee Brown. I found a wonderful fun loving group of people that cared for our community, loved music and loved the dance. I was totally in awe of the friendships the shaggers possess and the fact that these friendships seem to last a lifetime.

Mary Lynn and Bob Myrick are the two I must give all of the accolades for teaching me this beautiful dance. I must say they certainly have patience. Thanks to Barry Thigpen I have danced twice in the "Shagging with the Stars" and although I never won the trophy, I consider myself the greatest winner by making so many new friendships.

I am truly blessed by the shag community for their friendships, their political support, their caring and giving for and to our city and especially for teaching me the wonderful State Dance called the "SHAG".

Thanks you all for the great honor of being inducted as an honorary member of the "Shaggers Hall of Fame".