



# Judy Isles Eastwood 1998

## JUDY ISLES EASTWOOD

I was born Judy More Isles in 1947 in Littleton, North Carolina. I grew up in a family that loved to dance. I remember at an early age, my Aunt Jeannie, standing me in a the corner of our living room and teaching me the sugarfoot. I didn't know at that time I would discover the "Shag" and that would be one of the steps of the dance. You see, I grew up bopping.

In 1969, I went to Greenville, North Carolina to East Carolina University and discovered the "Buccaneer Club"; and thought I couldn't be happier. There was all the beach music I wanted and dancing every night. Then in 1975, a friend told me about a club in Kinston, N.C. called "Red's Beach Club". She said they played the kind of music I liked to hear. When I stepped through the door of "Red's", my life changed forever!!!!

The first person I met was Bones Hussey and after dancing with him, I realized that I was going to love this dance and hopefully it wouldn't be too hard to switch bopping to shagging. With the help of people like Shad Albert, Doug Perry, Norfleet Jones, Carl Smith, Susan Jarrett Neal and many others, I did not find it too hard to learn.

Red's was also where I met most of my competitive dancer friends and where I had the most fun at dance contest. From here my education continued on to Ocean Drive, South Carolina and many more changes and friend.

In the 1980's Greenville, N.C. brought me in contact with Charlie Womble and a wonderful friendship. When I was asked to teach shag lessons at Louies Lounge in Greenville, I asked Charlie to teach with me. This was a valuable experience for me, Charlie was so good with making up steps and we taught so many people to shag. We both always believed you had to know the basics and not so many together steps. I have continued that belief through the years as I continued to teach.

The love of this dance has brought so many joys and friendships to my life. Through this dance I have "adopted" so many children and they are helping to keep me young. It also influenced my move to Ocean Drive and I have not regretted one moment of it.

Now it has brought me to the greatest honor I have ever received. Shaggers Hall of Fame - I never dreamed this could happen!!! I feel so privileged to be a member of such an elite group of shaggers.

I would like to thank Wanda Holliday and Susan Jarret Neal for always being there and encouraging me along the way. Thank you, "Hall of Fame Members" for allowing me to share such an honor with you!!!!