



Linda Waltz Reese - 2018

LINDA WALTZ REESE

I was born and raised in Roanoke, Virginia. All my life, I have loved to dance. Growing up I would go to sock hops, school dances, and recreation center dances where we were either fast dancing or jitterbugging. During junior high school, I even won a twist contest in the heat of the summer on a tennis court! By the time I reached high school, a group of us would head to the beach each summer with our borrowed ID's, hoping to get in any club we could to dance. Many a summer night, we were headed off to the Pavilion to watch, learn and practice.

In 1981, I went to my very first shag contest in Greensboro and immediately fell in love with the smoothness and foot work of all those on the dance floor. I signed up for dance classes with Dave and Judy Moore, and drove from Roanoke to Greensboro each week. Wanting to learn more, I continued lessons with Nick and Terry Columbus at the Nickelodeon.

Charlie and I were married in 1983 and got busy raising our children – Eric, Greg and Angie. Before I knew it, we were moving from Roanoke to Charlotte. After months of doing nothing but working and watching TV, I knew this had to stop. I called Shad Alberty and signed us up for group classes. I told Shad that Charlie had taken a few lessons and that I had taken lessons in the past so I thought we would be just fine going into the Intermediate Class. We went to Groucho's to show Shad what we could do and without any hesitation, he said, "That would be a No; you'll start in the Beginners Class"!

Thank you Shad and Brenda for having "Showtime"...boy, would that ever make you practice. We continued our group classes and did private lessons on Sunday afternoons. Charlie and I spent many hours practicing; needless to say, not all those hours were without a few extra words from me!

We danced competitively for five years, dancing on the SPA/CSA Circuit. I have fond memories of the clubs we danced in and perhaps not so fond memories of the hotel/motels.

We were fortunate to win the Non Pro and Senior Divisions of the National Shag Dance Championships and danced on the NSDC Team.

We've moved several times over the years with Charlie's work and in 1995, we were off to Atlanta, Georgia. For seventeen years, we were regulars at the Marriott and Nemo's. We've taught many folks in Georgia, Kentucky, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

I am most appreciative of the lasting friendships we have made over the years. Without this dance, many of those friendships would not be possible. Tonight, I am humbled to become a member of the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. Many thanks to the Board and to the Committee.

Last but not least, I want to thank my wonderful husband, Charlie, for loving me.