



Billy Waldrep 1998

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My first recollection of seeing some really good, smooth dancing was watching Wanda Walker Holliday dance at Curry's Lake near Gray Court, S.C. and later, Rufus Wactor in Greenville "Mr. Smooth" himself. What a treat!

In the early sixties I started learning to shag with the help of a good friend, Sandy Williams. I soon started going to the beach and honing my dancing skills by watching some of the best. My first memories were of watching some of the kids from Myrtle Beach and Winston Salem dancing at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion. I was mesmerized! I remember seeing couples do different type pivots which was enlightening. I never realized there were so many variations.

Some of my best memories were at the Pad at Ocean Drive and Sonny's at Cherry Grove. I suppose that's why for me, like so many others, that it's like going home and seeing family every time I go to North Myrtle Beach. I have always love shagging and the music that goes along with it; consequently, for the last twenty years I have been deejaying and teaching the shag. This dance has given me the opportunity to meet some of the finest people in the world and form many, many cherished friendships. I can't tell you how proud it makes me to see a student step confidently on a dance floor, dance a pretty, smooth dance and know I contributed to someone else's enjoyment and love for a dance that has meant so much to me. I'm almost as proud as when I step on the dance floor with my daughter and son and watch them hold their own with their old man and love every minute of it.

Being inducted into the Hall of Fame brings a flood of feelings such as pride, humility and awe that are hard to describe. It has been thrilling to meet these people who were there at the beginning and now to be part of a family that includes Clarice, Harry, Jo Jo, Chick and all the rest is a great, great overwhelming feeling. I love you all and thank you from the bottom of my heart.