



Sharon Phillips 2001

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I guess I could say that dancing has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I learned to dance when I was twelve years old at Glenwood Community Center. That was back when you learned from watching and then went home and practiced with the bedpost. As a teenager I was going to the Castaways in Greensboro every weekend night and twice on Sundays (under age I might add). This is where I was to meet my first husband. It was then that I really fell in love with the dance and began to establish what would become lifelong friendships.

As with many of us, after marrying and having two children, going dancing became a special night out. As the kids got older we did manage trips to the beach just as Fat Jacks was beginning to host their famous "dance contest". That was when the sugar foot and the duck walk were considered mirror steps! Some of my favorite couples from those days were Linda & Cecil Squires, Doug Perry & Susan Neal, Jack & Connie Smith and well I could go on but there were so many great dancers. Those were really fun days. Anyway, many years and a divorce later, a few friends asked if I would teach them to dance. I reluctantly agreed but soon realized that I would have to teach myself to dance on the male foot. I did so by reversing everything I did on the female foot, again with the bedpost. This little private lesson soon turned into teaching at clubs, one of which was the old "Bushes". What can I say except "you had to be there" and those of you who did go know exactly what I mean. Other clubs included the "new" Bushes, Jean's Beach Club and Thirsty's. Teaching beginners was always my favorite class. Watching beginners fall in love with the dance as I did, and to be able to participate on the dance floor instead of watching was a real thrill for me.

Also during these years I was asked to judge SPA and mixed doubles contests. This gave me a new appreciation for the word fortitude... which by definition means strength of mind that enables a person to encounter danger or bear pain or adversity with courage!! Hats off to you dancers!

There have always been a few female dancers that have inspired me with their individual style and who I still watch every chance I get. I want to tell you who you are.... Sandra Swartz, Linda Carol Flynn and Jeannie Pack... to me you epitomize what this dance is all about.

Lastly I want to mention the men in my life... these have been my dancing partners & teaching partners as well as my best friends through a lot of years, the good ones and the not so good ones. Without them I would not be in the Hall of Fame... Jack Smith, Mike Tobin, Phil Pritchard, Ronnie Duggins and Henry Moody. Thanks also to my husband, Dan, who lets me do "my thing" and is my biggest fan. Just to know Dan is to love him.

I currently work in the substance abuse field at Fellowship Hall in Greensboro where I have been for almost eight years. I am now the proud mother of Jamie and Billy, the stepmother of two boys, Chris & Dan Jr., and the grandmother to two wonderful grandchildren, Ariel and Nicholas, and another is on the way.

I have always been in such awe of Hall of Famers, I can hardly believe that now I am counted among you. This is such an honor. Thank you so much.