



# PAULA ROBERTS - 2016

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I was born and raised in Rich Square, NC. I graduated high school in 1961 and shortly thereafter moved to Raleigh, NC to attend Kings Business College. I've been married and divorced twice and have been blessed with two amazing sons. In 2007, I retired from Wake County Public School System, as an administrative assistant in Special Education Services; and *I LOVE TO DANCE*.

As long as I can remember, I've always loved to dance. I started when I was six years old. As a teenager, I went to community club dances, sock hops, garage parties, and the Scout Pond in Scotland Neck, NC to dance the "bop" and to listen to some great music.

In the summer of 1961, I moved to Raleigh where I lived in a boarding house with six other girls. Mrs. Murray was our landlord and she did her best to make sure we stayed out of trouble. Her son, Henry Murray, introduced us to a new style of dance, "fast dancing" or the shag". He taught us the basic and from then on I was hooked. On weekends, Henry would take us to Jim Thornton's and the Scrambled Dog where I got to watch Betty Jean & Charles Jernigan, John & Pee Wee Teel, Allen Hicks, Johnny Pool, Henry Murray, and many other great dancers. Man I wanted to dance like that, they were great. I was in love with the dance and the music!

From 1963 to 1981, my life was all about raising my two sons and trying to survive in a crazy world as a single parent. Through the most difficult of times, the music and the dance were my means of escape, even if it meant dancing with a kitchen chair, a door knob, or a bedpost – it didn't matter....*dancing was my happy place!*

In 1981, I started going out again to dance the dance I loved and listen to great music. It was at Elliott's Nest that I met my soul mate, my best friend, my partner on the dance floor and in life, Lee Roberts. Over the years, Red's Loafer's, the Pavilion, the Pad, Ducks, Pirates Cove, Mint Julep's in Wilmington and many other great clubs provided the dance floors, the music and the wonderful friends.

I've experienced many changes in my life; however, there is one thing that has never changed – *my love for the dance, the music, the people and the lifestyle*. To be recognized for something that I love to do is an amazing honor. This has been a very humbling experience and I am truly honored to have been selected into the *Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame*. I wish to thank the Board and all who voted for me. Thank you all very much.