



Loretta A. McIntosh - 2018

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I was introduced to shagging by my mother. She was excited about a dance she had discovered and wanted me to see what it was all about. I was not as excited; in fact, I told her "this is an old peoples dance". Several years later I was newly divorced and wanted something to occupy my time while my son was with his father. I was reintroduced to shagging when I went to Red's in Raleigh, NC with my mom. Several men asked me to dance and I had to tell them I couldn't. The next week I found Sharon Jackson Brown and Phil Pritchard teaching at Gene's Beach Club in Greensboro, NC and that's when it all began. I couldn't get enough.

In 1993, a new club called Thirsty's opened and started the Bunk Leach Mixed Doubles contest. I would dance in these and any other mixed doubles I could find. These contests are my favorite contests because you get to dance with all different styles of dancers and meet a lot of great dancers.

I started to compete in CSA with Harry Severance and continued with Brad Edge and Rodger Woodson. Rodger and I danced for three to four years and finally won the three required contests to move into the professional division. We made the cut to come in third at the National Shag Dance Competition in the Non Pro division. This was a proud moment.

In 2003, I met Sam McIntosh at the OD Pavilion where he asked me to be his date for the Shagger's Hall of Fame inductions. I was honored and I accepted. This is when I learned what the Hall of Fame was all about. My instructor Suzie Beaver was going in that year. Sam and I were married five years later. Through the years, Sam has given me a thorough history of the dance and the love of the music.

In 2011, I was honored to be placed on the Wall of Fame at Thirsty's 2 alongside many of my fellow Thirsty's friends and a lot of wonderful dancers.

In 2015, I was asked to dance in the Masters Division at the National Shag Dance competition by newly inducted Hall of Fame dancer, James Parker. We danced and placed first...what a wonderful memory. I have met many wonderful people who have inspired me, cheered me along the way, coached me and became great friends. Some have come and gone but still live in my heart. If it were not for this dance, I am not sure of my life's outcome. For that I am very grateful.

I have sat at Sam's side for the last 15 years watching many talented dancers get inducted into the Hall of Fame and only dreamed that one day I would be there. Well, Dreams do come true. Thank you to all of those who have supported me on my journey and for the honor. I am very proud.