



Charlie Reese - 2018

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I was born and raised in Roanoke, Virginia. My experience with dancing was two types: slow and fast at high school dances. I liked dancing, but playing golf was my first love and I spent more time on the golf course than dancing. In fact, my first job at 12 years old was being a caddy.

I had never even heard of the shag dance until I met Linda. We would go to beach festivals and listen to the great music from the bands, and buy cassette tapes to take back home. Linda and I were married in 1983 and were busy raising a family of three children – Eric, Greg and Angie. It was not until 1984 that Linda signed us up for a weekend shag workshop in Roanoke. I learned a few basic steps and thought I could shag.

Fast forward to the Fall of 1986 and my job brought us to Lake Norman, North Carolina. With no friends in the Charlotte area, it was all work and no play until once again, Linda took things into her own hands and called Shad Alberty...and we were off to group classes at Groucho's Beach Club. Much to my surprise, I demonstrated my "shag steps" to Shad and immediately we were back in the beginner's class.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to take group and private classes from Shad and Brenda. We would practice and practice...argue and argue until we had it right. Ready or not, we jumped in a few local contests and have fond memories of several specific situations we got ourselves into. Once, Linda's ring got caught in my sweater and it almost completely unraveled prior to the end of the song. And then there was the time we danced at a county fair and were positioned right next to the stockyard! No matter the situation, Shad always commented, "This will make you a better dancer."

We have been so fortunate for the accomplishments that we have received over the years. We danced competitively on the SPA/CSA circuit for five years and won the Non Pro and Senior Divisions in the National Shag Dance Championships and danced on the NSDC Dance Team.

I cannot begin to express what this dance has meant to me. If it had not been for Linda signing us up for lessons, I would never have met all the wonderful friends and great dancers that we know today. The friendships and memories from this dance far exceed any expectations that I started with back in 1984.

Finally, the fact that Linda and I are being recognized together is an honor that I am most appreciative of. I am humbled by my induction into the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame and wish to thank the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee for considering me into this distinguished group of dancers.