



Dana Sawyer - 2017

DANA CLAYTON SAWYER

As a little girl in the early 50's, I grew up in Williamston, NC but after the 7th grade, my family moved to Greenville, NC. There we had a small teenage club where my friends and I could go dance, but our favorite place to go was Atlantic Beach and dance at the Pavilion and Embers Club.

Life eventually led me to Greenville, SC where we would dance at the AmVets Club, Steak and Ale, The Thunderbird, Holiday Inns and Tramps. In the early 80's, Rick Hubbard and Priscilla Culler moved to Greenville and opened Club Savoy. After a short time, the Savoy became the Sand Flea and, with the help of Harry Driver, The Hall of Fame was born. The "Flea" eventually moved to McAlister Square where I met my future husband, Buzz Sawyer.

Buzz and I lived in Memphis during our first year of marriage and found out that David and Susan Neal were living there as well. The four of us joined the Memphis Bop Club to have a place to dance. Yeah, not only did we find a fun couple to run around with during that time, but the four of us became good friends.

A year later, we moved to Greensboro and made it our home for 21 years. We met Linda and Thurston Reeder and became good friends with them as well. While playing cards one night, Thurston asked "why don't the four of us open a beach club?". The Bushes had closed by then. In 1992, we all opened the door to Thirsty's. Buzz and I eventually bowed out as our work schedule and his travel schedule prevented us from investing as much time as needed in the club. We remained loyal supporters of Thirsty's, made great friends and have many special memories of that time.

In the spring of 1993, Buzz and I bought an old beach house in O.D. and, through the years, have made countless trips to attend as many events as we can. We have lived in Columbia for the last 8 years to be close to family, but we continue to enjoy coming to the beach to enjoy this lifestyle and being with friends.

Through this venue, we are truly blessed to have made North Myrtle Beach our "Melting Pot". One of my own special memories is ... where the hotel stands today, so did one of the greatest clubs ever and where I witnessed so many great dancers. That club was known as Fat Jacks!!!!

I love this music and this little dance we call the "Shag". Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this HONOR and for accepting this little girl from Williamston, NC into your Hall of Fame family.