



E. A. McDaniel Neelon

E. A. McDaniel Neelon

I was born on December 24, 1945, and I was the only child to Christine and Wilton McDaniel. My parents named me Evelyn Ann, but my friends have always called me E.A.

I am from the small tobacco town of Fairmont, North Carolina. Fairmont is located one hour from Sonny's Pavilion. **THAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT OF MY TEENAGE YEARS!**

My best friend, Joan Bassett, had a house at Cherry Grove Beach, and she would invite me down and we'd always go to Sonny's to watch the dancers. We loved to watch them do the Beach Basic and as 12 and 13 year olds, we practiced and practiced. I loved to dance and the Beach Basic was my style. We'd hit the dance floors of Sonny's, The Pad, the O.D. Pavilion, Turks, the Beach Club, the Forks and any place that had a good jukebox.

The beach life was for me and I lived for the summers. The people, the place, the music and the 60's were the best of the best. Thank you, Bill Hussey, Rodney Edge, Petsey Reynolds, Dicke Lester, Munford Scott, Darrell Robinson, Randy Drew, Jim Jayroe, Chuck Nixon, Phil Tilghman, Fred Willis, Mike Campbell, John Breeden, Johnny Fields, Ham McGarity, Ronnie Joyce and all my other friends who danced with me.

In 1965 I met my husband, Jeff Neelon, at Sonny's and we married in 1968. We have a wonderful son, Josh, a beautiful daughter-in-law, Laura, and three gorgeous granddaughters named Lucy, Alice and Evelyn.

Not much has changed in 60 years. I have been able to live the same wonderful lifestyle and I still love my beach friends. The O.D. Pavilion still rocks with the best DJs (instead of a jukebox) and beach music. The beach people are the kindest, most fun loving and community minded people on Earth. We remember Sonny's with an annual reunion at O.D. Pavilion. The Shag Groups and the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame are strong and sponsor many events including shag contests, golf tournaments, SOS and Mid-Winters get together.

This beach is the crown jewel of the way it was and still is for us who love this lifestyle. I am very touched, honored and yes, overwhelmed to be inducted into the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. This is definitely the most prestigious award I have ever received. I believe in all the causes it represents and could not be more proud to be a part of this very elite group and family.

Thank you ever so much.