



WILLIAM BYRON CAULK

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I grew up in Hamlet, NC and didn't realize in my early years that I lived a hundred miles from my future dream job ... being a lifeguard at Ocean Drive Beach. After vacationing there with family, I knew I wanted to work where the "cool guys" and "pretty girls" spent their summers.

I began working the summer of 1963 for Jack Nelson in Myrtle Beach. I later worked for him at Lake Arrowhead Campground as a lifeguard, while running concessions, miniature golf, boat rentals, etc. I worked nights at the Beach Club for Cecil and Charlie Corbett so I could get in free! Later, I started working as an Ocean Drive Beach lifeguard for Buck Garrison at Buck's Beach Service, and realized I had found my forever job! At nights, I also worked for Donnie Christenbury at Donnie's Club. My last lifeguard stand in 1969 was in front of the current Ocean Drive Resort. Little did I know those would be remembered as the best days of my life. I lived for Easter to arrive, and I dreaded for Labor Day to come, because it signaled the end of another season of making new friends and a carefree life.

During those summers, I hung out at the Pad, OD Pavilion, Sonny's, the Forks, etc. Lifetime friendships were made with characters such as ... Harry Driver (my first beach hero), Harold Bessent, Donnie Christenbury, Babs Ballard, Daryl Hammond, Eli Lackey, Jerry Ciandella, Go-Boy Harrelson, Randy Jennings, Danny Duval, David Williams (author of *My Search for Yoga*), Bootie Cranford, Gus and Boney Garrison, Bon Anderson, Roslyn Reynolds, EA McDaniels, McVay clan, Jim Dameron, Benny Perrou, Diane Thrasher, Bo Bryan (author of *Shag*), Cindy Murphy Campbell, Bill Hussey, and Randy Drew.

I thought those summers would never end, but Sonoco Products gave me a real job, which took me away from the beach during the week. I continued to be lured to the beach and to shag clubs throughout the Carolinas on weekends. New venues such as Cagneys, Fat Jacks, Ducks, Elliott's Nest, the Bushes, H's, and Weejuns exposed me to new characters and more of the shag family and shag lifestyle. I met another one of my heroes, Fleet Jones and his buddies (Doug Perry and Shad Alberty) at Fat Jacks during one of the early shag contests. That relationship exposed me to a new group of lifelong friends ... Bob Myrick, Tommy Wood, Cooter Douglas, Dino Thompson, Dennis Sides, Judy Duke, Janet Harrold, H. Lee Brown, Charlie Womble, Jackie McGee, and Sandra Schwartz. After twenty-six years of clubbing, I met the love of my life, Melissa Little Smith. "From bar-sitting to baby-sitting (grands)."

I can't imagine my life without the shag family friendships, and lifestyle! To be recognized and inducted as an honorary member of the BSNHOF is something I never dreamed of. I am honored and humbled for my picture and bio to be hanging in the gallery alongside the people I have admired all of my adult life. I sincerely thank you.