



## **BILL BOYER (2020)**

He has danced from the days of "You Ain't Nothing but a Hound Dog" and joined the Ginter Park Cotillion when he was still 10 years old. Miss Martha, the lead instructor, once exclaimed "Mr. Boyer, we must show some decorum!" Dancing has been very important to Bill throughout his life, including at Jr. High and High School "Hops." Other venues in the area where he enjoyed dancing were: The Sheik, Persian Room, Satellite, Tantilla Gardens, Tillies, Wig Wam, Coachmen Club, Jester Club, Tobacco Co., University of Richmond campus, and the basement of the Mosque. In Virginia Beach, his frequented dance venues included WJ Worleys, the Top Hat Club, Rogues Gallery, Peppermint Beach Club, The Cavalier and several others. Myrtle Beach dancing began in 1974 and covered venues from Myrtle Beach proper to North Myrtle Beach. Bill became a member of the Richmond Shag Club (RSC) in October, 1994. By the summer of 1995, Earl and Beverly Robinson (VSHOF, 1987 & 2003, respectively) took pity on him and gave him shag lessons for 6 straight months.

Bill has served as Vice President of the Richmond Shag Club in 2017 and in 2019, and is now (2023) the current President for his 3<sup>rd</sup> annual term. He has also served on Ways and Means for 2 consecutive years in the past, and in 2018 chaired the Hospitality Committee. While heading up Ways & Means, Bill put together the design and sale of juke box T-shirts, RSC logo denim shirts, polos for men and women and shoe bags. He served on several nominating committees for RSC board of directors and the RSC "Spirit of Shag" award. He has been actively involved in the RSC Annual Party, "Boogie on the James", both as photographer and as part of the Floor Crew for assembly and disassembly of the RSC dance floor. He also helped to set up and take down the RSC Annual "Beach Ball" event which the RSC sponsored for many years on the oceanfront during Fall Migration SOS at the Ocean Bay Beach Club in North Myrtle Beach.

Bill served as the RSC photographer for 12 years and was awarded a plaque "In Gratitude For Many Years Of Dedicated Service" in 2013. For the next 6 years he continued taking pictures on an "as needed" basis along with Dickie and Jinx Robinson (VSHOF, 2009 & 2014, respectively). He has taken thousands of pictures during all of the RSC events (e.g. at dances and RSC Annual Golf Tournament and Brunswick Stew fund-raisers), Spring and Fall SOS excursions, as well as at VSHOF and NLLD awards ceremonies, CSA shag contests, etc.

Bill has been a strong advocate for the last few years for the Junior Shaggers at large and for funding of the Virginia Junior Shaggers. He is presently working with Dickie and Joyce Burnley (VSHOF, 2013 & 2015, respectively) on the sale of fresh ground sausage to benefit the Junior Shaggers of Virginia and the Richmond Shag Club.

Bill says he's loved this dance since he was determined to be a "Sha-Bopper" and was hit with the fever for the Carolina Shag. This has been a wonderful journey for Bill and he has made life-long friends along the way who also enjoy the love of this dance and its preservation. Bill has supported and been a part of the dance and music for over fifty years. He is a very sociable person and makes new friends everywhere he goes. He has quite a sense of humor. He dances with friends and strangers and encourages others to do the same. Bill is truly an ambassador for the promotion, preservation, and love of the Dance and beach music.