



BOBBY STARNES (1987)

Bobby Starnes, born in Tuskegee AL, came to Norfolk, VA via Jacksonville FL, where he spent his pre-teen years. Bobby moved to Tidewater as a young teen and never left. He started dancing locally during high school at Maury High School in Norfolk, VA in 1952, thanks to the teaching of his first wife, Jean. She forced him out on the dance floor, the bug bit him and he never stopped dancing until he was well into his 80s. Bobby and Jean honeymooned in Myrtle Beach and were favorites on every local dance floor in Norfolk in the 1950s, including the Top Hat and Ben's Kitchen in the Shore Drive corridor of Ocean View.

Bobby was a favorite dance partner to many and was instrumental in helping to form the Tidewater Shag Club, the precursor to the Virginia Beach Shag Club (VBSC). Bobby could often be seen dancing with multiple partners and eagerly showed newcomers the basic steps.