



BRENDA KENNEDY (2019)

Brenda Kennedy, aka "the energizer bunny", is a native of Virginia Beach and grew up surrounded by the influence of beach music and the Bop. Even as a child, a day at the beach included the sounds of dance music from beach clubs like the Peppermint and Top Hat. There were many opportunities for teens to dance in Virginia Beach and Brenda took advantage of each one. With two sisters, there was always a dance partner.

Brenda began her family right after college. Four boys later she found herself involved as "supermom". She volunteered for Boys Baseball of Great Bridge and was an integral part of this organization for 19 years. She also served and chaired numerous committees with Atlantic Shores Baptist Church, community organizations, elementary school, middle school, and high school committees and booster clubs.

It was January 2005 when the smoke cleared, the kids were out of the house, and Brenda was single again. What does a woman do? Why dance ...of course!!! Brenda heard about shag lessons at Steppin' Out from her sister and when she walked through the front door she was hooked and began making new friends as she began to dance EVERY night. They took lessons from VSHOF members Larry Williams and Steva Williams and Larry and Cindy Black. Brenda learned quickly and with four months of shag lessons under her belt, she ventured out to SOS in North Myrtle Beach, SC. A new world opened up. There were so many dance lessons and so little time. It didn't take long... Brenda was a natural.

She became a member of the Virginia Beach, Boogie on the Bay, Elizabeth City, Nags Head, and Colonial Shag Clubs. She was also an emissary for the Virginia Beach Shag Club attending ACSC business meetings at SOS for six years. The next step in total shag commitment was to become a club volunteer. Immediately Brenda's first job was "hospitality or door greeter". Brenda had the enthusiasm for shag that made visitors immediately feel welcome. But it didn't stop there. She would always make sure that she had danced with every visitor at least once. If she was not dancing, she could be found helping to sell 50/50 raffle tickets.

Brenda loves to dance but she also loves to help new dancers. Frequently she could be found working individually with beginners or assisting dance instructors if they needed a partner. Brenda was always the first to arrive and the last to leave at club events. She was always ready to lend a helping hand in any capacity. She served food at Sunday Socials, helped decorate, and always stayed for clean-up. Brenda also helped with many club fund raisers, served beer and wine at numerous Beach Music Festival, and at the same time she recruited new shaggers. Working hard for the shag club was a passion. Brenda also served on the by-law committee twice, hospitality committee, special events, and fund-raising committees. She volunteered for demonstration dances at malls and retirement homes. She helped her friends set up a weekly shag outdoor venue at D&M Seafood for two years. She never missed a week. During these years, Brenda helped to promote and support the junior shaggers through fund-raising activities at D & M's "Shaggin' on the Deck".

If you have attended SOS in the Spring, Winter, or Fall, Brenda was there ... 2005-present. She believes that to keep the dance alive we must show our support by attending. Brenda is everywhere. She has attended shag events all over the Southeast. She is the perfect ambassador for the preservation, promotion, and the love of dance. Her passion for dance, cannot be denied and her signature smile and laugh is contagious to all who encounter her. Brenda will tell you that "shag has opened a new chapter in her life with wonderful friends and endless fun."