



CHICO RIVERA (2002)

Chico's mother, who loved to dance, told him she was tired of just sitting when everyone else was dancing. His father didn't dance, and his mother once described his father's dancing abilities as having three left feet and two right feet. So, in 1955, Chico's mother began to teach him how to dance at the age of ten so she could have a dance partner.

During his high school years, Chico would attend not only his high school dances but other schools' dances as well. He became a familiar face at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at Baltic Ave. and 17th St. in Virginia Beach, better known as the Community House, in the late 50's and early 60'. He would dance to different live bands and to one particular, up and coming, local group known as Bill Deal and the Rhondels. He sneaked into the Ebb Tide, the Jolly Rodger (to name a few places) where he could dance. After a stint in the Army, he renewed his love of dancing by going to the Top Hat, the Peppermint, and Rogues' Gallery.

Chico joined the Virginia Beach Shag Club (VBSC) in 1990. Following his retirement from the Portsmouth City Police Department, he took a more active role in the club's operation and was elected the VBSC President in 2002.