



## **CHRIS KIMMONS (2005)**

Chris started dancing in the '50's, as a teenager in Norfolk, doing the Jitterbug. He would go to the Willard Park Teen Dances, the YM.C.A., the Moose Club and the Ocean View Amusement Park. Beginning in the '60's and through the '80's, Chris changed his style of dancing from the Jitterbug to free style where one basically stood in one spot and shook your “thing” to the beat of the music. (This didn't require a whole lot of talent).

He danced at such places as The Ebbtide, Jolly Rogers, Peppermint Lounge, Surf Rider, Poppies, Mitty's and September's or anywhere there was a dance crowd. In the early '90's, Chris started going to Fat Rogers/Larkins/Steppin' Out and found his way to Myrtle Beach, SC. Here he discovered a dance that was new to him. It was called the “Shag”. Once he saw the dance and heard that “get-down” rhythm and blues music, he said to himself, "Boy, where have you been?" That's when Chris created the "Chris Street Style" consisting of Shag, Jitterbug, Swing and “Boogie Woogie”, and he threw in a little Michael Jackson "Moonwalk" just for the fun of it.

Chris joined the Virginia Beach Shag Club (VBSC) in 1991. In 1992 the Club created a Parade and Float Committee, which he and Susan Williams (VSHOF 2005) chaired through 1999. They participated in 2 to 4 local parades a year, dancing the entire parade route, with as many people on the float as they could fit. Thanks to the hard work of the whole VBSC Committee, they won several awards for Best Float and Best Interpretation of Theme for the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival Parade.

In addition to co-chairing the VBSC Parade Committee, Chris also served on Special Events, Nominating and various other committees connected with the VBSC Beach Bash such as Registration, Hospitality, Dance Floor, Raffle and Welcoming. On numerous occasions, Chris performed with his "Shag Dolls" at charity functions sponsored by the Club and other events to promote the Club. He was best known, however, as the "Reverend Leroy" from the Sunday Morning Gospel Hour at the Beach Bash. In 2005, Chris served as VBSC Vice President, In 2014, Chris was inducted into the National Living Legends of Dance (NLLD). He has enjoyed volunteering his time to various committees and Special Events to help out with planning and preparation or any other task where assistance is needed. Since his NLLD induction, he often can be found on the day of the event at the event venue assisting with last minute preparations for the induction ceremony.