



RICHARD "DICKIE" BURNLEY (2013)

Dickie is truly an All-American boy, exemplifying many of the activities closely associated with dancing and the beach scene. When in high school, Dickie danced at the local hot spots and the many clubs on the "Pike" (i.e. Jefferson Davis Turnpike) in South Richmond. During his summers as a teen, he was a lifeguard at Virginia Beach and enjoyed all the amenities and opportunities to party and dance made available at the beach.

Dickie is a decorated Army veteran with combat tours in Vietnam, and fought during the "Tet" offensive. After his military service, Dickie returned to civilian life and his dancing lifestyle as a "bopper" until 1986 when the Richmond Shag Club was formed and he jumped in with both feet. It was at the RSC where he met his wife Joyce (VSHOF, 2015). As he says, "it was love at first sight".

After being married, the two continued their passion for dancing. Though primarily a bopper, he ultimately began a long-term friendship with "die hard" Shaggers. It was then his emphasis turned to shagging, as his primary dance style. After several years of shagging, he (and Joyce) began to dance in small competitions and joined the Competitive Shaggers Association which began a new chapter in his dancing career. He later began teaching at the Richmond Shag Club and at local venues and studios.

When their granddaughter showed interest in becoming competitive junior shagger, Dickie (and Joyce) committed to developing a junior shag program. He (and Joyce) decided to bring junior shagging further north to the Southside Virginia. The first junior shagger gathering with social dancing, classes and exhibitions for the juniors was held in September, 2012 in Hopewell, VA. Dickie and his wife will be fostering a new generation of shaggers and extending the benefits of the dance to them. They formed the Virginia Junior Shaggers, Inc. to promote and develop junior shaggers.