



JEAN SULLIVAN (2016)

I was born in Richmond and raised in Chesterfield, Va. I attended Bainbridge Junior High and the old John Marshall High School. I have always considered myself fortunate to be a teenager in the fifties. It was the age of rock and roll and everybody was learning to dance and I loved to dance. My cousin and I would go to the community recreation center every week and practice dancing the "Bop". Whenever we could my friends and I would take off for Virginia Beach and go to the Top Hat, Peppermint or anywhere we could dance. It was the best of both worlds; the beach and dancing.

I was married in 1960 and started raising a family and dancing fell by the wayside. In 1987 I found myself single again wanted to get out and socialize and start dancing again. I went with friends one night to Visions Dance Club in March of 1993. This is the night I met Tim Sullivan, (VSHOF, 2011) my future husband. Tim was a member of the Richmond Shag club and invited me to go to DJ's where the club met. This was when I discovered the "shag". I was thrilled to see people my age socializing and dancing. This was my first step into the shag world and for twenty-two years the RSC and the shag has been a big part of my life. Tim and I have attended shag events from West Virginia to Florida and ACSC Workshops. I have met so many wonderful people over the years and made many dear friends. Tim introduced me to my first SOS in April of 1993. I absolutely love SOS. We have attended every year since.

In April 2015, the RSC lost its DJ of twenty-nine years, Cliff Merritt (VSHOF, 2006). I wanted to do something to pay tribute to him for his many years as our club's DJ and to reflect his love of music, and his passion for DJing. He loved SOS so I decided to do a large paver on Ocean Drive in Myrtle Beach. I enlisted the support of a small group of friends. I designed a paver and the group provided their ideas and suggestions. We ended up with a paver reflecting his love of music and his accomplishments as a DJ and as a member of the RSC. I worked closely with the individual in North Myrtle Beach responsible for the creation and installation of pavers. My goal was to have the paver installed before his induction into the Association of Beach and Shag Clubs DJ's Hall of Fame during DJ Throw Down in March of this year. It was finally installed one day before. Our group kept our secret and when Cliff saw the paver he was indeed surprised and so humble.

I am very proud to have been a member of the Richmond Shag Club for twenty-two years. Whenever I am talking to someone interested in becoming a member or talking to a new member I tell them what the club has meant to me. The club offers the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends, have some fun times and enjoy the music and the dance. Most importantly, you will make memories you will always cherish.