



JOE TEDESCO (2001)

Joe was inducted into both the Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame (2001) and the National Living Legends of Dance (2005) and was recognized also as an Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC) "Shag Icon" (2007). The Richmond Shag Club (RSC) presented him with the Outstanding Achievement/Honorary Lifetime Membership Award (2008) for his continuous support of the RSC. He continues to support the Shag community whenever and however he can.

Joe has been a RSC member since the early 1990's. He served on the Board of Directors for four years (1995-1999). In addition, he served as vice president of the club and chaired many of the Club's standing and appointed committees. When a problem arose, the RSC could always turn to Joe for advice and assistance in resolving issues. He regularly contributed articles to the Club newsletter with a slant toward promoting membership and increasing participation by the club members in shag events. He has been an instructor for over 30 years. He consistently attended our weekly club nights, and participated in all RSC events and other events in the shag and swing community. He was involved in numerous regional dance competitions. There is no member within the club who has been consistently more active in club events and the shag community over many years.

One of the areas of greatest assistance to the club was his support of the Club's annual "Boogy 'N Blues" party. In 1998-2000, the party was held at his Inn and Conference Center south of Petersburg. He not only provided first class facilities, but also provided a quality of service and food that the event budget could not afford without his subsidization. In addition, he always assisted with the dance floor construction and was attentive to addressing any problem to ensure a first-class event.

Joe tirelessly promoted Beach and Shag music at such venues as The Works and the Cockade Grill, and ShaBops in Petersburg; as well as The Point and the River's Bend Midweek Concert Series in Hopewell. Joe also competed for the RSC in six of eight inter-club annual shag competitions in which the Club participated. For the first three years, they were initially held at Rocky Mount NC, and then at Club Faces in Dunn, NC. The RSC team came in 1st at all three contests held in Rocky Mount, and took a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the three years that the team competed in Dunn. Not only was he instrumental in bringing a team together for each of the eight years, but he also assisted in the coaching of the participating members. Many of those team members went on to become inducted in the VSHOF and National Living Legends of Dance (NLLD).

Joe served four years as the RSC's Dance Committee chairperson. During that period, he developed an instruction manual as a teachers' reference. In addition, he broke the Club tradition of using one set of instructors to teach the classes all year. To increase participation by the membership and to develop better dancers more involved with the members' development, he set up a monthly schedule in which twelve sets of instructors rotated in teaching the beginner and intermediate classes. Many of these new instructors came from the ranks of the dance teams that Joe helped organize and on which he participated. While the RSC classes were free, some dancers were also offering private advanced classes for a fee, so Joe organized a free advanced shag class for the membership.