



JOHN GILSTRAP (2016)

John personifies what one individual's efforts with a passion for beach music, rhythm and blues, and our beloved associated dance - Carolina Shag - can achieve, literally over a lifetime. John served in the U.S. Army as a medic from 1967-1969, including a Vietnam tour in 1968. In 1972, he moved from Clemson, SC to the very southern city of Danville, VA, promoting the six-count fast dance along with beach music concerts. The first formal organization was the Danville Beach Music Club in 1978, followed by the Danville Shag Club in 1988, thereafter being chartered in 1991.

He founded the Danville Junior Shaggers Association and facilitates area junior events and transportation to Junior SOS. Finally, he chaired the committee of the Danville Shag Club which brought the ACSC Winter Workshop to Danville in 2004 and 2009. In addition to serving as President of the club in 1991, 1993, 2007, 2008, and 2009; he has been on the Board of Directors continuously since 1991 (through at least 2016). His talents in organization were matched by dance floor abilities as instructor, exhibition dancer and promoter of the dance to juniors, adult groups, and at senior facilities. Elevating his profile to ACSC level, he was awarded the Shag Icon Award in 2005. He is currently the vice president of SOS, and has been a SOS board member since 1990. He also has served as Parliamentarian for both SOS and ACSC.