



KATHY MANNY (2016)

Kathy is that little blonde sprite who is Tom Edwards' (VSHOF, 2009) social-dance partner and Significant Other. Kathy's VSHOF nominating and endorsing group included the three Other VSHOF women in Tom's dance life ...Tom's teaching partner (Marsha Ruth), his competition partner (Joan McKinney), and his partner (Vesta Denning); as well as five other VSHOF members of the Virginia Shag Dance Team (Kevin & Joan Byrnes, Jan Weakley, Cathy Metcalf and Vaughn Royal). To them, it's possible Tom wouldn't be the star he is if Kathy hadn't been his main practice partner all these many years.

Anyone who has taught, teamed or competed with Tom have figured out that Kathy is Tom's go-to person when he draws up lesson plans, choreographs, creates competition steps, or works out how to lead complicated moves. Kathy can play this significant role because she is a superb dancer and coach in her own right. Her footwork is perfect and light; her balance and spins are awesome. Kathy never imposes herself on another dancer. But if you ask her to help, she gently and diplomatically identifies what you're doing right and wrong on the floor, and then demonstrates a flawless Interpretation of the step. If she tells Tom a lead isn't working, he believes her and fixes it, no questions asked. In fact, she can follow anyone's lead in several forms of dance. After learning shag dance, Kathy (with Tom) learned ballroom and swing and night club two.

Although she is always eye-catching on the floor, Kathy is not a flashy, showy dancer. She's not that kind of person either. Rarely can anyone entice her into the spotlight. But she was a hit in 2015 at the Outer Banks New Years Eve Party, where (after YEARS of entreaty by her friends) Kathy taught a workshop and did an exhibition dance with Tom. Inside her shag club, Boogie on the Bay, she's a behind-the-scenes worker. She has served on the free-pour committee and has co-chaired the hospitality committee for BOTB and their annual party. She participates in most BOTB events, and also is a regular at Colonial Shag Club's dances.

In her professional life, Kathy worked over 40 years for the Veterans Administration. She retired as the Administrative Officer for the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the Hampton Veterans Administration Hospital, where she was known for her work ethic and her compassion for veterans. In her personal life, Kathy is warm, giving, funny and intensely loyal to her friends.