

MARY "MARY MARY" FULCHER¹ (2011)

Mary Fulcher, better known as "Mary Mary" among her friends, started dancing on her father's feet. Raised in Virginia Beach, her parents started a pre-teen club in the early 50's where the Thalia neighborhood children could dance to the music of Bill Deal and Fat Ammon as they began their musical careers. She and Judy Swope, (VSHOF, 2000) would dance in the Community House as teenagers, and on into the 50s and 60's danced at the Top Hat, Mecca, Tropicana and Peppermint Beach Club. She also attended beach music dances at the Alan B. Sheppard Dome in the '50s and '60s. In Norfolk, she danced at the Ebb Tide, the Jolly Roger, the Hellenic Center, the Beach Pier, Luters, Vito's and the Longbranch. While married, she danced in Chicago and Washington D.C. Returning home, she went to the Round Room and saw Bobby Starnes (VSHOF, 1987) dancing and asked him for a turn on the floor. Mary joined the Dollar Bill Club and the Virginia Beach Shag Club (VBSC) and she danced everywhere the clubs met, including Calamities, Fat Rogers, Larkins, Panama Hattie's, Ship's Cabin, and Steppin' Out. After a short break of a few years (due to personal and family illness), she was out dancing again at Dockside, Hooks, and the Banque; as her love of the music and dance was never diminished.

¹ VSHOF is missing a picture of Mary Fulcher to include with this profile and to post on the website (<https://www.vshof.com/members-menu-page/>).