



## **NAN RODIO (2020)**

Nan was born into Virginia Beach Shag history, where many shaggers began their love of the dance, at the Peppermint Beach Club. Nan is the last connection to the much-loved history of the Peppermint Beach Club. She grew up “in the club shadows” (actually in the kitchen, washing dishes) while watching many of the great dancers of that era. Her father, Chester Rodio, was a legend, promoting dance and entertainment in Virginia Beach as the owner of The Peppermint Beach Club, The Golden Garter, The Moonraker, and The Upper Deck, to name a few. At each of these, Nan was his right hand, learning and quickly developing a love for the entertainment and restaurant business. How could she not love dance? She watched national headliners week after week and shared in the excitement created by the music.

Although *The Peppermint* closed in 1982, the fun continued at the Upper Deck. Life took Nan away from Virginia Beach for a few years, but she returned in 1999 to partner with her father at The Upper Deck. They began to host beach bands like the Rhondels and Mystic Soul Bubbas, recreating an era that was missed and loved by the “beach boomers”. Nan and Chester worked hard promoting the beach sound! Shortly after her father passed in May 2008, The Upper Deck became the home for the Virginia Beach Shag Club (VBSC). Nan spent endless hours creating the perfect high-quality venue for the shag community. She provided weekly use of The Upper Deck to the VBSC, its dance instructors, Junior Shaggers, and to special events like the induction ceremonies for the Virginia Shaggers’ Hall of Fame (VSHOF) and National Living Legends of Dance (NLLD) ... all on a “pro bono” basis.

She regularly promoted the best in beach bands, including: Jim Quick & Coastline Band, the Holiday Band, the Band of Oz, The Embers/Craig Woolard Band, Fat Ammon's All-stars, The Rhondels, Tommy Black, and Coolin' Out. In addition to regularly promoting shag dancing, Nan provided the use of The Upper Deck and staff to a variety of shag charity dances, always with the same first-class service effort. Nan was able to promote shag on a large scale that reached up and down the east coast. She gave “her all” to the shag community until The Upper Deck closed. Even after her “night-club” days ended, Nan's dedication to the Shag Club only became stronger.

Nan is an active member of the Virginia Beach Shag Club; volunteering, chairing committees, and organizing events. Throughout the years she has supported the Virginia Beach Shag Club and the larger Swing Dance community. She has regularly volunteered to work at all fundraising events such as the beer tents at the annual Beach Music Festival. Nan is a strong supporter of the junior shaggers and made the Upper Deck available whenever it was needed, working hard to raise money for the juniors. Nan continues to support shag events and is a regular at every SOS, Shagger's At Heart Bash, RSC Boogie on the James Party, NLLD and VSHOF inductions, and Larry's Beach Parties. At any of these gatherings, Nan can usually be found at the center of the most laughter!

Reflecting on Nan's impact on Shag, it is important to say that she did so much out of her love for the Shag community that it is easy to take her giving spirit for granted. Many good deeds and behind the scenes work went unrecognized. Her time and effort dedicated to the Shag and Swing communities will forever be appreciated. Thousands of fond memories were created because we had Nan Rodio, a dedicated champion of shag and beach music, giving her all.