



PAUL WOODARD (1995)

Paul was born in Cradock, VA (a national historic district located in the City of Portsmouth) in 1936. Beginning at an early age, he used to dance on the top of his grandmother's feet and with his mother. As he grew older, Paul set out on his own to find new, more “age-appropriate” dance partners.

As a teenager, Paul helped organize the Cradock Teenage Club to provide a venue for teen dances. Once he reached legal age, he danced at numerous clubs all over Tidewater VA, including: the Moonlight Room, Moose Lodge, Silver Slipper, The Cellar Lounge, Billy's, Vitto's, Wing Ding, Gino's, Mecca, Oscar's, Jimmy's Beach, Candlelight Room, Melody Room, Tropicana, Cavalier, Luster's, Jolly Roger, Casino in the Nansemond Hotel, Monticello Hotel, Scott's Center, Peppermint Lounge, Lido's, Ebb Tide, Top Hat, Waverly Hotel, Pascal's, Fat Roger's, Madeline's, Steppin' Out, Chevy's, Jack Holmes, Simonsdale Teen and the Ambassador.

While an avid social fast dancer, Paul didn't compete much, but he did take second place in a “free-style” dance contest. But his long and active dance career led, in 1994, to Paul's induction as a Charter Member of the National Living Legends of Dance (NLLD). In 2023, he serves on the NLLD Board of Directors, re-established upon the 2022 death of his close friend, Bertie Lull, the former NLLD chairwoman.

Looking back on a long association with “fast dancing”, Paul cherishes the many friendships he has made, and the camaraderie with and unbelievable love he feels for the dance community.