

## **TONY MERCER<sup>1</sup> (2007) (D)**

C. Anthony Mercer or "Tony" came to Tidewater in 1958, dancing the "Jitter Bug" anywhere there was a dance floor. There wasn't a place he missed. Soon after the popular dance style became the "Swing", a small change in style. In the 70's, the dance became the "Shag" and the hotspot was Myrtle Beach, SC.

When his job relocated him to Myrtle Beach, what a gift that was; he was there for every S.O.S and all the other Shag events for the next 6 years. Tony wanted to expand his dance repertoire and style by incorporating the Carolina Shag, so he took Shag lessons from Judy Duke and Bill & Brenda Barber. While living in Myrtle Beach, Tony held many Board positions in the O. D. Shag Club and was inducted into the "National Living Legends of Dance" in 1997.

Another job change took him to California and the "West Coast Swing" community. Once again, wanting to be current, he took more lessons and learned another new dance style. He danced until his feet nearly fell off. Dancing was truly a way of life for Tony.

Tony not only loved to dance, but was an extremely nice person and was always one of the better dancers, whatever style. He was honored to be selected for the VSHOF and intended to be a very active and participating member. Tony was always very respectful of what it takes to be recognized and selected for the VSHOF.... a love for the dance.

Tony passed away on March 6, 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> The VSHOF has no picture image of Tony Mercer to use with this profile or to post on the VSHOF Member Info webpage (<https://www.vshof.com/members-menu-page/>). If you have a reliable picture of Tony, please forward to the VSHOF webmaster at: [jmitchell30@cox.net](mailto:jmitchell30@cox.net)