



### **WILLIE SHIPP (2011)**

Willie was born at home on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in Virginia Beach and has lived in the Oceanfront area of Virginia Beach his entire life. Willie's passion for the music and dance began over 40 years ago when the Beach Bop was popular. He could be found dancing at the Peppermint Beach Club and the Top Hat in Virginia Beach, the Sheik in Richmond, and the Casino in Nags Head, to name a few of his haunts. He spent several years with The Rhondels as light and sound man, and occasionally performed with them at the Peppermint Beach Club. Throughout his career, he also managed Rogue's and other entertainment clubs known at the beach.

As a member of the Virginia Beach Shag Club, Willie served as Sergeant at Arms in 1996, worked on the Parade and Float Committee for 5 years, helped with the Decorating Committee for the Beach Bash, and was a member of the Special Events Committee and Ways and Means Committee. Willie has his own style of Beach Swing and has been known to incorporate the Beach Swing, Shag and Bop all in the same dance! Willie was a regular at SOS where you can usually find him at Ducks dancing with ladies from Virginia Beach, Northern Virginia, DC, Florida, Pittsburgh, South Carolina and Georgia.

He was inducted into the National Living Legends of Dance in 2011. His love of music and dance continued to be a major part of his life. "Local Legend" was loved by so many people. Willie passed in 2013 and will be fondly remembered by his family, friends and past dance partners near and far.