

Bill West always had hall of fame dreams

Bill West dreamed of this day, and this grand evening.

He lived for it.

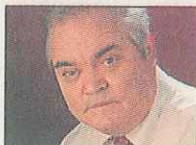
He danced for it.

"My brother Curtis is in there," West once told Jacque McCall. "I hope someday my name will be with his name."

Tonight, West becomes the 205th member of the Fayetteville Area Shag Association Hall of Fame in ceremonies scheduled for 8 p.m. at Highland Country Club.

Other inductees-elect are:

■ Alvia



Locklear, who grew up on a dairy farm and learned the popular beach dance at parties held in her father's Robeson

Bill Kirby Jr.

County tobacco barn.

■ Maggie Tate, a 1991 association president who grew up in England and became a protege of local legendary shaggers and shrine members, Gayle and Lee Huggins.

■ John Adkins, a retired soldier and current association president, who, along with hall of famer Linda Wheeler, won the 2013 Fayetteville Dancing With the Stars title.

■ Jerry Peele, a retired Air Force pilot, who will join older brothers Bob and Buster in the shrine.

■ And Janet Gardner, a Sampson County girl who grew up dancing at Williams Lake, and will join her husband, Charles Gardner, as a hall of fame member.

"We welcome old members and friends of FASA," Barbara



West

Peele says about FASA, circa 1984, and the dance shrine that was founded in 1992.

"You'll hear some good beach music, and folks will do some dancing."

They'll do

everything from the basic steps of one and two, three and four and five and six to the lean, the boogie walk, stutter steps and the belly-roll, and all to beach music tunes of Miss Grace, Sixty Minute Man, Little Red Book, With This Ring, 39-21-46, Hold Back The Night, My Lady Soul, and of course, Carolina Girl by the late General Johnson and Chairmen of the Board.

And for McCall, the evening will be all the more tender as she accepts the posthumous induction plaque for West, the Vietnam War veteran who grew up in this city and came to love horses, music and dance.

"I was so excited when I was told about his induction, because I knew what it would mean to him," says McCall, who learned the dance from West. "I felt like jumping for joy."

West trained equestrian show horses and was a classically trained pianist and organist at St. Paul's in the Pines Episcopal Church.

"Bill started dancing in the early 1970s and teaching ballroom dancing at Roland's Dance Studio," Peele says. "He taught shag lessons there, and at Fayetteville Technical Community College."

McCall was a dance student.

"I met him in 1980, and he taught me to dance," McCall says. "He was a very good teacher. And he loved beach music, and the beat."

West served as the FASA vice president in 1998. He died at age 69 on Feb. 20, 2013.

"It will be emotional," McCall says about tonight's induction. "I know he would thank all who made this possible for him, and he would want them to know how much he enjoyed the shag and music all of his life."