



# Austin Grant Garmon - 2018

## AUSTIN GRANT GARMON

Grant was born on December 20, 1983 in Virginia Beach, Va. Introduced to the basic shag steps by his mother Karen at the age of 8, Grant began to attend a variety of shag events with the Virginia Beach Shag Club. In 1995, he attended his first Jr. SOS in N. Myrtle Beach, winning his first mixed doubles contest. Grant began competing in 1997 with Andrea Hanes, dancing in small contests throughout the Carolinas, before competing for the first time at the National Shag Dance Championships and the Grand National Dance Championships in 1998 with Leah Sanderson. Grant won his first National and Grand National titles in the Junior II division with Leslie Melton in 2001, with consecutive wins in 2002 and 2003. He also danced on the Duck's Dirty Dozen team in 1999 and the National Shag Dance Team in 2001 and 2002. In 2003, Grant joined the United States Army, where he served four and a half years as an infantryman with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from August of 2006 to November 2007. Grant left active duty in 2008 and went on to serve another seven years in the Army Reserves. He was inducted into the Virginia Jr. Shagger's Hall of Fame in 2017 and continues to enjoy spreading his love for the dance to others.