

Norman Hooker Obituary

Norman Hooker, 81, of Goldsboro, NC, passed away February 18, 2018, at Kitty Askins Hospice Center.

Norman and Ella Mae, his future wife, were classmates in the seventh grade and then Ella Mae moved to New London, Ohio. They were later reunited and married on June 10, 1956. Norman started a propane business, Hooker's LP Gas Co, in Wakeman, Ohio in October 1956 and sold the company in 1979. He started another propane business in Harrisonburg, Virginia, with three other men and later sold that company in 1989. Then, Norman and Ella moved to Goldsboro in 1989 and became half owner of Do All Gas Company which was sold in 1995. He started a remodeling company in 1995 until now.

Since 1973 Norman has loved ballroom dancing and later became a professional ballroom instructor. He and Ella Mae took lessons at Arthur Murray Dance Studio until 1980. During this time they competed in approximately 4 to 5 competitions per year nationwide. In the late 1970s they were one of the top five amateur couples in the United States, winning a national dance championship in 1977.

In the early 1980s Norman owned five different Arthur Murray Dance Studio franchises, after taking 200 hours of teacher training and dance management. Norman began teaching at the Top Hat Dance Studio in Goldsboro in 1993. He competed in the Pro Am division with his students in regional competitions in Greensboro NC and Asheville NC. Norman & Ella Mae Hooker developed the successful Outreach Program of the Heritage Dance Foundation called the "Top Hatters" which included: Carl and Joy Williams, Kevin & Dawn Amory, Thomas Price, Debbie Grady, Alice Adams, and Shirley Hughes. Norman was the past president of several USA Dance Chapters in North Carolina. He participated in all of the Heritage Dance Foundation theatrical shows, fundraisers, and TV specials as a professional dancer, creative consultant and choreographer. With his beloved professional partner and wife, Ella Mae, he developed the first annual "Dance for Cures" in 2014 to support the "Cures for the Colors" of Southeastern Cancer Care in Goldsboro. He continued teaching up to the final four weeks of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Ella Mae and their children, Philip and Lori as well as 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

A social dance memorial will be held in his honor at Top Hat Ballroom in Goldsboro at 7:00pm on March 17th by his family, friends, and colleagues. Norman Hooker will be missed by all who knew him.

Donations may be made to the Heritage Dance Foundation on behalf of the Norman Hooker Memorial Fund at <https://www.facebook.com/danceforcures/>