



Mr. July 2025 – Godfrey Thompson

By Ken South



On January 20, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn in for a historic third term. The Senate passed the Lend-Lease law, and Orson Welles' film, *Citizen Kane*, premiered in New York City. At California's March Field, entertainer Bob Hope performed his first USO Show, and The United States Army Air Force came into being, taking over from the former United States Army Air Corps. The first liberty ship, the SS *Patrick Henry*, was launched in Baltimore. Walt Disney's fourth animated film, *Dumbo*, was released to recoup the initial financial losses of both *Pinocchio* and *Fantasia* of the year prior. President Roosevelt signed a bill establishing the 4th

Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. Winston Churchill became the first British Prime Minister to address a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

And, on December 7, 1941, (a date which will live in infamy) there was a deliberate attack on the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor by the Empire of Japan, which destroyed most of the American ships and planes anchored there.

And, on January 15th of 1941, Mr. July was born to his family, the oldest of two boys, in Key West, FL. He attended elementary and high school there, graduating in 1959. He was a member of the HS band, and enjoyed a trip to Havana Cuba, to boot! Later in 1959 he moved to Miami, where he was employed by Eastern Airlines. He worked for the airline until its closing in 1991. While there, he met his first partner, James Heffernan - a policeman- and they were together for 48 years, James died of cancer in 2020.

Mr. July and Jim moved back to Key West in 2000 and began an adventure in the hospitality business. He became one of the first owners of the LaTeDa guest house and the Lime House Inn. For several years, after 1991, he also lived and owned the Golden Lantern (Home of Southern Decadence) in New Orleans.

In 2005 Mr. July returned to Florida, to Wilton Manors, where he got involved in many real-estate ventures. In 2011, Mr. July met his current partner, Alex, at the Tropics Piano Bar and Restaurant. The couple were married in NYC in 2013.

He and Alex bought the Tropics business in 2014 and spent a good deal of time restoring it to full functioning. They also bought one of the last original houses on Bourbon Street in New Orleans and restored it. To recover from the intense years, the couple decided to move to Palm Springs in 2018 for some much-needed R&R. Following the six year "retreat" they returned to Ft. Lauderdale.

