

Jeff Covey
By Ken South

Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard, Stuart Roosa, and Edgar Mitchell, aboard a Saturn V rocket, lifted off to the Moon in 1971. The New York Times began publication of the Pentagon Papers, exposing secrets of the Johnson administration's conduct of the Vietnam War. Walt Disney World opened near Orlando, and cigarette advertisements were banned on TV. "Oh! Calcutta" opened on Broadway for 1,316 performances.

On August 19th of that year, Mr. December was born into a large family in Mannington, West Virginia. He was the youngest, joining his two older brothers and three older sisters.

Mr. D left Mannington for four years in Catholic high school seminaries. He spent two years at Saint John's College in Annapolis, MD, before transferring to pursue a degree in classical guitar performance at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He met Dan, his first partner and 44 years his senior, while studying there in 1993. They joined Prime Timers at the meeting that established the Baltimore/Washington chapter in 1995. He gave his Senior Recital and graduated in May 1996, and Dan died suddenly of a heart attack in June.

Mr. D was lost in grief for five years. He taught guitar for a time, but settled into a different career through friends at a UMBC computer club, joining a publishing firm as an editor for a network of computing-related websites. He was President of the Baltimore Prime Timers for ten years after the D.C. members split into a separate chapter.

He met his second partner, Glenn, in 2001. They shared wonderful years, including summers with IMEN, a gay nudist group gathered at Maryland's rustic Camp Ramblewood. They met a man named Al there in 2003; the three became fast friends and palled around until Glenn developed dementia in 2008. Mr. D became a caregiver, looking after Glenn 24/7 until his death at 89 in 2011.

He took the skills he'd learned back to WV to help care for his parents, who had moved into a nursing home after his mother suffered a stroke. The stress and isolation took its toll, increasing

after his mother died and his father was alone for the first time in 63 years. Mr. D called Al in 2014, asking if he'd join him on a cruise. They decided to become a couple on the trip.

After his father's death the next year, Mr. D indulged his travel bug, visiting many countries, often by house sitting. He and Al were regulars in Fort Lauderdale while on their way to or from a cruise. When COVID struck, they settled into a contented, quiet life at their home in Salisbury, Maryland.

Heart trouble led to Al's death at 84 last February. With no other ties to Maryland, Mr. D moved to FL soon after, buying a home in Oakland Park. He reconnected with Ron G., a Prime Gentleman he met here five years ago. The two started a relationship, and can be found at Tropics most Friday nights.

