

Michael Lee
By Ken South

In 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower became the 34th President of the US, and that April issued Executive Order 10450 which required all Federal agencies to fire those who met the following criteria: "Any criminal, infamous, dishonest, immoral, or notoriously disgraceful conduct, habitual use of intoxicants to excess, drug addiction, or sexual perversion." (ie: homosexuals).

The Korean War ended after three long years and Nikita Khrushchev was appointed leader of the Soviet Union. Queen Elizabeth II took the throne of England, while Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first men to conquer Mount Everest. Swanson sold its 1st "TV dinner" and folks gathered round their tiny TV screens to watch the premiere of the "Milton Berle Show" and when fans went to the cinema, they saw "The Robe", in Cinemascope!

But on September 10th, in Louisville, KY, Mr. February appeared, after two older brothers and before the arrival of another brother and two sisters. As things turned out, three of the six siblings were gay/lesbian! He attended both elementary and high school in Louisville, graduating in 1971. He then spent the next three years at Bellarmine University also in Louisville, but moved to Washington, DC to graduate with a degree in computer science from Strayer University in 1975.

The following year Mr. F moved to NYC for a brief time before moving on to Philadelphia where he worked at Gimbles Department Store using his IT skills. He returned to Louisville for several years in the early 80's to work for a publisher. While still in Louisville, he also had a contract for IT work for the US Navy. In 1982 his work took him back to DC where he continued to work for the Navy until 1998 when he took a position with the USDA. He met his first partner, Steve in 1983.

They enjoyed the very lively gay community scene in DC for the next seven years until Steve's tragic death from HIV in 1990. In 1996 he met his second partner, also named Steve. They cherished their time together as partners for the next eleven years until his passing in 2007 from a very rare form of cancer. Over the years, Mr. F and his partners truly enjoyed travel. They took in the sights of Southeast Asia, Europe, including the Mediterranean and were passengers on several cruises.

Mr. F stayed with the USDA until 2006 when he moved back to Louisville to work for Humana until his retirement in 2010 and a move to Southern Florida. He had vacationed often in Fort Lauderdale over the years and had several friends who had already moved there to retire. After leaving Humana, he has been working part time as an administrator at All Saints Episcopal church.

Friends introduced him to Prime Gentleman, and he enjoys several of the club's activities.

