

Barry Moss

by Doug Kent

On June 29th, 1949, Taunton, Massachusetts became the proud birth place of our Mr. January (Mr. J). The third and youngest child of his parents, Mr. J had an older brother and sister. Mr. J had what was considered a normal childhood, except at the tender age of 2, he won the “Beautiful Baby Contest” in Taunton and that fame propelled him through his early childhood. School posed no problems for this average student. He participated in Marching Band playing the baritone horn, was president of his H. S. Red Cross, was on the yearbook committee, enjoyed drama and chores. He also participated in DeMolay and socialized with the Rainbow Girls in High School.

Mr. J graduated high school in 1967 and attended American University in Washington D.C. His choose History as his major and lived off campus in his own apartment. Life was good for Mr. J, and he graduated in 1971 with his B.A. in History.

He immediately began working for Claiborne Pell, a United States Senator, and did that for about 2 years. He then worked for Lloyd Bentsen, another Senator for another 2 years. It was during this time that Mr. J was introduced to “Pier 9” a popular gay bar in Washington. A friend invited him to join several others at the Pier, and Mr. J immediately felt at home in this place.

In 1976, Mr. J moved to Portugal and taught English as a foreign language for the next four years. He loved living in a foreign land but after the fourth year, he decided to moved back to the U.S. After working in various jobs upon his return, he finally enrolled back in school and received his license as a Real Estate Appraiser, specializing in Co-op Apartments. He loved this work and dealt in real estate in various capacities, making his own investments. He met his partner in D.C. in 1983, and they remained together for the next 17 years. After his partner passed away, Mr. J continued to work, and at the age of 57 he decided to retire and live in Florida.

He purchased in Palm Aire and lived the contented retired life. However, this contentment shortly turned to boredom, and Mr. J decided to get involved as a building representative. This led to an appointment to his condo board and this pared nicely with his real estate background. One thing led to another and before he knew what happened he found himself very discontented with the City Commission candidates in his Pompano district and felt he could do better. He threw his name in the hat and was elected in 2014 to the City Commission with a 4% lead over his opposition.

For those of you who are not familiar with Taunton, Massachusetts, it is known as “Silver City” the silversmith capital of the new world. Our Mr J is an admirer of silver pieces and has an extensive collection which keeps him busy polishing it. He is an active Prime Timer, and when he has a spare moment, apart from his political commitments, he enjoys browsing local thrift shops. He has found some of his prize silver pieces in these thrift shops. I know this Prime Timer now, can you identify him with all this information?

