

Chuck Bell
By Ken South

Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected the United States' first third-term president and Winston Churchill became the British Prime Minister in 1940. WWII raged out of control in Europe.

The Academy Awards' best picture was "Gone with the Wind" and Hattie McDaniel became the first African-American actor to win an Oscar. The very first McDonald's opened in San Bernardino, California while people went to see Disney's "Fantasia", the first film in stereophonic sound, and they danced to Glenn Miller's, "In the Mood".

But, in Shelby, Ohio, on June 21st of that year, Mr. May was born "the baby" of his family with two sisters preceding him by 17 and 12 years respectively. Some family say he was a little blessed "surprise"! Soon after this event, the family moved to Shiloh, OH where Mr. M attended elementary and high school, graduating in 1958.

Following HS, Mr. M wanted to "see the world", so he decided to join the US Navy. After boot camp and radioman school in San Diego, he was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. While there he achieved his childhood dream of serving on a submarine. He was assigned to attend submarine school in New London, Connecticut. He was then assigned to the USS Cusk (SS348) whose home port was Pearl Harbor. While on the Cusk he made his first trip to the Western Pacific stopping in Japan, Okinawa, South Korea, Hong Kong and the Philippines before returning to Pearl Harbor. His next assignment was on the USS Comstock (LSD19) home ported in San Diego. He made his 2nd trip to the western pacific. When the ship returned to San Diego, he was transferred to Naval Station, Washington, D.C. where he completed his 8 years of service.

After the Navy, he moved to New York City, obtained employment with Swiss Air and sampled the gay lifestyle for a couple of years before returning to Shiloh, Ohio. Back to Ohio, he met his future wife Nancy in the lounge of an Ohio Ski resort after a session of skiing with friends. This led to their marriage and spending the next 44 years together until her passing in 2011. They had three children, a girl and two boys, who have given him 5 grand daughters and 1 grandson. Nancy was a middle school language arts teacher and taught for 32 years before retiring in 1995.

While in Ohio, he first worked for the R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company and then for United Telephone in Mansfield, OH, which be-

came Sprint. He was transferred by Sprint from Ohio to company headquarters in Overland Park, KS in 1996 and worked in the local division lab and as a 911 network designer. He retired from Sprint in 2004 after 35 years of service and remained in Overland Park until moving to Pompano Beach in 2018.

Since Nancy's passing, he is "out" to his children, and extended family. Both his parents and one of his sisters moved to South Florida for their retirement, so over the years he made many visits to see them. In fact, he and his wife also had a time-share in Marco Island, where they spent many a vacation.

Mr. M has been active in the United Methodist Church all his life, and for the last 14 years as a member of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas, where he attends services via Zoom! Over the years he has held many different posts with-in the structure of the UMC.

Mr. M thoroughly enjoys Prime Gentlemen. He participates in the Roundtable group, the Trivia group, the History group as well as SAGE events.

