

Dennis Foley **By Ken South**

The 1947 Fort Lauderdale Hurricane hit southeastern [Florida](#) and caused widespread damage, killing 51 people. [Edwin Land](#) demonstrated the first "instant camera", his Polaroid Land Camera and Jackie Robinson was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first African American Major League baseball player since the 1880s.

In March, President Harry S. Truman announced the Truman Doctrine, preparing the way for the Marshall Plan. Secretary of State, George Marshall, created this plan for American relief aid to Europe.

And, on August 4th, Mr. January was born in Newark, NJ following his older brother. Not long after, the family moved to West Orange, NJ and then to Rahway, where Mr. J graduated from high school in 1965. He holds on to fond memories of his time on the school's swim team!

Following graduation, Mr. J traded Rahway for LA! He spent many months of discovery there, following a hippie path. Then, following a very different path, he enlisted in the US Navy and served three and a half years, including being stationed in Morocco and on a LST 758. He got to see parts of the world, including Central and South America! He was honorably discharged at Norfolk Naval Base, VA in 1969.

Mr. J enrolled at St. John's University earning a B.S. in Transportation Engineering. After graduating in 1973, he was awarded a Fellowship program by the Urban Mass Transit Administration towards a Master's Degree at Polytechnic Institute of NY in Brooklyn.

In 1974 he moved to Washington, DC for a position with the Federal Department of Transportation, where he worked until his retirement in 1997.

While in DC, Mr. J met the love of his life, John Pack. John was a freelance collage illustrator. His work was unique in style and his clients included the Smithsonian, Washington Post, NY Times, LA Times, London Times, Encyclopedia Britannica, and many others. John and Mr. J made their home in Arlington, VA.

Over the years, Mr. J and John enjoyed travel, sometimes up to three or more cruises a year and were known for their Super Bowl parties! Also, while in DC, they were patrons of some of DC's favorite gay "haunts" like Tracks, the Lost and Found, Rascal's, The Chesapeake House, and Pier

Nine!

In 1998 the couple moved to Ft. Lauderdale, where John became interested in sculpture, specifically whimsical sculpture of food, mostly desserts! His work was shown in the Tampa Museum of Art, Boca Raton Museum of Art, and many other local venues. They had been married in DC in 2013.

Unfortunately, their 45-year, loving relationship, ended with John's passing in August of 2021.

Mr. J has become an active member, and volunteer, at the Pride Center and participating with Prime Gentlemen.

