



Mr. October 2024 - Michael Nelson

By Ken South

The Doors' self-titled debut album was released in 1967 as was the Beatles', "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band".

The body of President John F. Kennedy was moved to its permanent burial place at Arlington National Cemetery. Astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee were killed when fire broke out in their Apollo 1 spacecraft, during a launch pad test.

The Supreme Court ruled in *Loving v. Virginia*, that all US state laws prohibiting interracial marriage were unconstitutional, and Thurgood Marshall was confirmed as the first African American Justice in the Supreme Court. In Detroit, "The 12th Street Riot" was one of the worst social unrest events in United States history, which began in the predominantly African American inner city; 43 people were killed, 342 were injured and 1,400 buildings burned.

By 1967, 13 years into the Vietnam War, more than 380,000 American troops were in the country, alongside 730,000 soldiers in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and some 52,000 soldiers from other allied nations. After a year of base building and intensifying combat, the U.S. Commander, General William Westmoreland, believed that his forces were ready for major offensives that would seize the battlefield initiative from the People's Army of Viet Nam (PAVN) and Viet Cong (VC). He told news reporters: "I am absolutely certain that whereas in 1965 the enemy was winning, today he is certainly losing." US Navy pilot John McCain was shot down over North Vietnam and became a POW.



In the midst of this catastrophe, Mr. October was born in Saigon, Vietnam. The family was composed of his parents, three boys of which he is the youngest. His father later remarried and had an additional son. Mr. O left Vietnam for the US in 1974 when he was seven years old and was adopted into a family of four, three girls and a boy. His early years were spent in Tucson, AZ where he attended primary school and graduated HS in 1987. Since the age of nine, he worked in many different fields, at times up to three multiple jobs simultaneously.

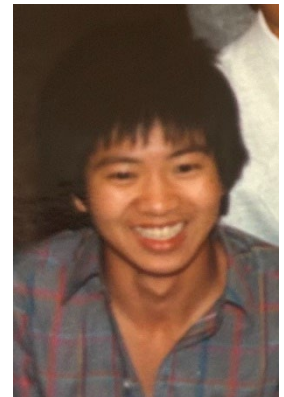
He wanted to repay America for allowing him to immigrate here by accepting jobs that involve community service and helping other people.



Mr. O's career consisted of selling and delivering local newspapers, working in fast food, banking, selling cars, computers, real estate and other service industries. He also served four years as an EMT/Paramedic in the Air Force stationed in Germany and Greece. After being Honorably discharged, Mr. O was married for seven years and has two wonderful children, a boy and a girl, and is now a proud grandfather!

While living in Tucson, he experienced terrible discrimination and was forced out of his position as a Pima County Sheriff. The stress caused his wife to miscarry. A few months later he found work as an Arby's supervisor and later started a career with the US Postal Service for 11 years.

During that time, after he divorced his wife, he met his first partner, Pierre, 27 years his senior. Pierre proposed marriage, at that time, Mr. O declined due to the fact that he had full custody of his children and felt he needed to keep them close to their mother.



Mr. O needed to move to Palm Desert, CA with his children to care for the ailing mother of his business partner. He had to resign as the US Postal Service refused

his request for a transfer. Mr. O remained there until the passing of his business partner's mother after which he moved back to Tucson. Pierre again asked Mr. O to marry him and he said YES! The couple returned to Pierre's home in Boston and married, but unfortunately Pierre passed away three months later of cancer.



Pierre wanted Mr. O to move on with his life after his passing, he later met Kevin in Boston and spent the next few years of his life with him. In 2014, Mr. O while still living in Boston met Jeff and they eventually married in April 2022.