

## Ted Verdone

by Doug Kent

Our story begins in the city of Watertown, Massachusetts on April 18, 1932, when Mr. February, the first of four children, entered the world. Ever since that date, Mr. February has been one busy person. The first 12 years of his life were spent in Sanford Maine, but his loving family returned to Massachusetts in 1944. A good student and a devoted family member, Mr. February completed his high school education in 1950. He was involved in track, tennis, and various other activities while maintaining his high grades. Upon graduation he was selected by his high school trigonometry teacher to work with him as a two man surveying crew for a short time, then took a position with the Lapoint Machine Tool Company in their machine tool training program. Four years later he volunteered for the USAF Navigator Training Program, but resigned his commission after two years. He then returned to Lapoint and for the next 10 years worked as a machine tool designer.

Undaunted when Lapoint went out of business in 1968, Mr. February continued to amass his fortune by working as an independent contractor in the hi-tech industry. Raytheon, Honeywell, MIT Lincoln Labs and Data General were some of his clients. This did not keep him busy enough so he purchased and managed several successful real estate investment sites in 4 different states, one of which was Florida. He served several years in various positions with the Marlboro and Worcester Property Owners Associations. He served as President of the Massachusetts Rental Housing Association. Under his leadership this organization was successful in defeating “rent control” in a state wide referendum. Mr. February organized and directed their first two state-wide conventions and was given a life time achievement award from that organization for his achievements.

Still not busy enough, Mr. February married, but struggled with that life style for about 10 years. After two sons were born and raised, he decided that his earlier gay experiences were his true life style. He and his wife divorced

It was on June 21, 1990 while playing pool in a local bar in Worcester, that a stunningly handsome young man, 31 years his junior, drove past the pool hall, glanced in and saw Mr. February playing pool. He stopped, turned around, parked and entered the pool hall, and they have been together ever since.

While Mr. February was not engaged in work, he enjoyed tennis for over 50 years, is an avid chess player, square dancer, bowler, bocce and shuffleboard player. There are only a few card games he does not play, does ceramics, and was a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club. He swims virtually every day in his pool. His community activities included being appointed to Governor Bill Weld’s Lead Paint Poison Advisory Council in Massachusetts. He has been involved in Toastmasters for 33 years, achieving their highest

award, “Distinguished Toastmaster” in 1985. He served as District Governor and has been instrumental in founding over 40 Toastmasters Clubs. In 1993 he was presented a Presidential Citation for meritorious service and leadership at the Toastmaster International Convention in Toronto Canada.

He and his partner have lived in Florida since July 2000. Mr. February has served many years on the Board of the Stonewall Library. He is a long time member of the Pride Center and serves on their Senior Advisory Council. He has served on the Parks and Recreation Board of Wilton Manors, is a member of the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club, Orchid Society, Equality Garden Club, Prime Timers, AVER, and Sage. As you can see, Mr. February is “one busy guy”. Our Mr. February is a strikingly handsome man, is easy to talk with, full of jokes, and when he is not involved with one of his activities, fun to be with.

