

## Charley Egan

by Doug Kent

Woonsocket, Rhode Island is not known for many things, but it is the birthplace of our Mr. July (Mr. J). On March 30, 1941, Mr. J became the middle child of a Catholic family. His father was the owner of a liquor store while his mother raised the children. Early childhood was uneventful. Mr. J handled Catholic school and the nuns with ease. In middle school, the Christian Brothers took over and in 1958 Mr. J graduated high school from La Salle Academy. An above average student, Mr. J attended the University of Rhode Island and lived on campus and graduated in 1963 with his degree in Business Administration. At the age of 18 Mr. J worked part time and weekends, with full time employment in the summer to offset the expenses of his education.

Upon graduation Mr. J enlisted into the Army. His training was at Fort Dix, New Jersey where he completed his advanced training becoming a clerical specialist. His first assignment was in Goeppingen, Germany with the 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, Head Quarters. He spent 3 years there taking advantage of courses in German. He took advantage of an in Country discharge and spent two months of intense study of the German language at the Goethe Institute and organized a German American Club with the help of an interpreter before returning to the states.

Mr. J took a position with the Military Intelligence Service in Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Shortly thereafter he took another position with the F.D.I.C. and became a field examiner for the agency. Mr. J enjoyed the banking industry and over the next several years did extensive reviews of loan documents and covenants. Merger after bank merger, Mr. J decided to accept a position with the state of Rhode Island in the Department of Business Regulation. He remained with the state until he retired in 2003. Mr. J remained involved with church activities, became President of his Lions Club and had participated as a panelist at the Bar Association's Continuing Education Course. Gay activities were far and few between for this Catholic Church member and community activist. Mr. J discovered his gayness at the age of 32 and managed to have discrete encounters when possible.

However, just after retiring from the state in 2003, Mr. J met his significant other who just happened to be living in the same building. His significant other, Rick, retired in 2005, and together they both came to Florida. They purchased a condo in North Fort Lauderdale and became involved in the condo association. Mr. J became vice president and secretary. Rick was diagnosed with a debilitating disease in 2008 and passed in 2013. Mr. J cared for Rick, and with his passing he joined a bereavement group. It was in this group that he met a friend who shared many values and a similar up-bringing and both cared for their partners over a long illness. They became close and remain friends, sharing social time together.

Mr. J enjoys his involvement with Prime Timers and attends many events. He remains involved with his church, participating in many activities. Mr. J is a new student to massage and enjoys the hands on experience with his friends. He is a member of a travel club and enjoys many adventures associated with his meandering across the country and abroad.

