

Charlie "Bear" Kane

by Doug Kent

Mr. July (Mr. J), born August 1st, 1936 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania was the older of two boys. Johnstown was a steel town where everyone, it seemed, was associated with Bethlehem Steel. His childhood was normal and happy in every respect. When Mr. J started school at Southmont he quickly found out that his peers could be cruel and bullying. He did stand out a bit. He was a heavysset kid weighing about 160 pounds in the 6th grade and had contracted rheumatic fever when he was 5 and again at age 7. This did not prevent him from accomplishing many things. He worked on the school newspaper, was in the drama club, was in the chorus, and loved math and science. He graduated in 1954.

Mr. J's father wanted his boys to achieve something better than factory work. To that end, Mr. J entered Cambria-Rowe College after high school and studied accounting and business administration. He graduated in 2 years, and began working in the office of Bethlehem Steel in Johnstown. He was now finding out about life. He began dating, going to dances, and lost a lot of weight. He met his wife at one of the Saturday night dances at Windber Recreation Park, and they got married in 1959. The year before they married Mr. J enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard. Their life was good and they had two boys, one in 1960 and the other in 1962.

Shortly after the birth of their second son, Mr. J's wife fell into a deep depression. Mr. J cared for this wife for the remainder of their marriage. They bought an investment home in the Palm Coast of Florida in 1985 that they rented out for 10 years. In 1996 they moved from Pennsylvania to Palm Coast, Florida, then known as the "fastest growing city" in the United States. Mr. J continued to care for her until he had to place her in a nursing home in 2004, and she eventually passed in 2010.

Mr. J began to explore his sexuality during his marriage. He would look at gay porn, and had a few encounters with men. In June of 2006, Mr. J met his current partner, a person he had been corresponding with online. This person was in need of a room in the Ormond Beach area and it just so happened that Mr. J had a room in his Palm Coast home, now that his wife was being cared for in the nursing home. They began rooming together. In March of 2015, Mr. J purchased his condo in Palm Aire. His partner, still working in Ormond Beach and Mr. J, living in Palm Aire now commute back and forth. They have been together now for over 9 years.

Around 1994 Mr. J began a website for married men who were attracted to other men. This was an avenue for married men to share their experiences and for meeting others in the same situation. He had approximately 30 thousand members on his site. Financial burdens associated with the site forced its closing.

Mr. J has been active in the Prime Timers for some time. He was active in the Orlando Chapter and worked on the Worldwide Convention that was held there. He and his partner attend many events in the Fort Lauderdale Chapter whenever their commuting schedule permits. Mr. J is a very striking figure, with his gray hair and stout physique. He is a caring and giving individual and well known to us. Can you identify him with all this information?

