

## Doug Keny

by Doug Kent

### My Story

Mr. K, much to the dismay of his father, was born just 11 days after the close of the tax year of 1944 in very cold Denver, Colorado. Shortly after his birth, Mr. K and his family temporarily relocated back to their ancestral homeland of Detroit, due to the loss of work, and then ended up in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is where Mr. K had his first childhood memories and attended kindergarten at PS89. This was the first of 4 schools prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade that Mr. K would attend before the family finally settled into a Catholic ghetto (neighborhood) in southwest Ohio. School did not come easy for Mr. K and he constantly struggled with his sexual identity, but he managed to complete Catholic grammar and high school by 1963 and also managed to attain a weight of 236 pounds on his 5' 9" frame. College (Xavier University) was on the agenda, but playing cards instead of going to class forced Mr. K into losing his 2S deferment at the exact moment the Marines began drafting in 1965. He spent 4 years in the Air Force, three years as an administrative medic, and one year in Turkey in Armed Forces Radio.

After his service Mr. K completed his Bachelor's Degree at Xavier in Business and then married. His first position after college was in Springfield Ohio as Director of Admissions for the Community Hospital. His son was born in 1972. His career took him to Huntsville Alabama as a Business Office Manager for a Humana Hospital, and this is where his daughter was born in 1974. Humana reassigned him to Oakdale, Louisiana to a small hospital where he directed all business office operations. Longing for the ghetto, Mr. K returned to Ohio in 1977 and worked at University Hospital, then Children's Hospital, as their Business Office Manager. He completed his MBA at Xavier in 1983 and in 1984 was promoted to Assistant Vice President at Children's Hospital, where he remained until 1989.

Not all was well in the ghetto. Mr. K's marriage over 19 years earned him, what his wife thought, was a well deserved divorce. This coupled with a sudden unexpected career change, a rejection of all things Catholic and a sexual awakening, forced a tremendous amount of change in a very short period of time. His weight over this 20 year period continually fluctuated between 196 and 160 pounds, further complicating his life and self image.

This is where Mr. K's story gets a bit scary. Picture, if you will, a 49 year old, unemployed, recently divorced, former heterosexual, floundering without direction, looking into a very, dark, long tunnel. Depressed, but not quite done in yet, Mr. K along with two colleagues from Children's Hospital, formed a successful Healthcare Consulting Practice. For three years he traveled around the country helping Hospitals and Physicians Practices with Business Office problems. This allowed him the freedom to explore his life's options.

It was during this time that Mr. K met an attractive man who was about to retire. During their first dinner in Mr. K's home, his new friend met Dutch, Mr. K's live in partner. Dutch was a 169 pound Great Dane. It was love at first sight and the three instantly bonded and could not be separated. His new friend dreamed of retiring in Fort Lauderdale but felt that he could not afford to do that alone. At this same time, the Cleveland Clinic began recruiting Mr. K to manage their Physician Practice Plan's Business Office in Fort Lauderdale. Who could have predicted that these very separate lives could have come together like this. After Mr. K's negotiation with the Cleveland Clinic, the three took off for sunny Florida, never to return to Ohio. Unbeknownst to them, Fort Lauderdale had one of the largest gay populations in the country, but Dutch seemed unconcerned with this fact.

Once in the Promise Land, the three began a life of wonder. While one worked and two were retired, they participated in tennis, windsurfing, skiing in the winter, jogging, going to the gym and of course compulsory attendance at the nude beach at every conceivable opportunity. Dutch of course did not enjoy any of those activities, and chose to lie about the apartment waiting for the other two to return home. Mr. K managed to get his weight under control and maintains 140 pounds to this day. Tragedy struck in 1994 with the passing of Dutch. With his passing there was no reason to maintain their dog friendly apartment in Fort Lauderdale, so Mr. K and his partner moved to North Miami, to be closer to the nude beach and windsurfing, where they still reside today. Fortunately, in 2009 Mr. K and his partner found the Prime Timers and have been active members ever since. I know who this is, can you identify Mr. K?

