

# Tim England

By Ken South

Dwight D. Eisenhower was President in 1958 when the U.S. launched Explorer 1, its first satellite. The Hope Diamond was donated to the Smithsonian and 14-year-old Bobby Fischer won the United States Chess Championship. Elvis Presley joined the Army, and the *Hula Hoop* became all the rage.

The musical *"My Fair Lady"* opened in London, starring Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews, and *"Flower Drum Song"* was a Rodgers and Hammerstein Broadway hit. Folks turned over 65¢ at the movies to see, *"The Bridge on the River Kwai"*, *"South Pacific"* and *"Gigi"*.

And, on July 4<sup>th</sup> of that year, Mr. November was welcomed into his family in Kokomo, Indiana. He was the middle child, with a brother eight years older and sister six years his senior. Four years after Mr. N's birth, the family was blessed with twin boys, also tragedy however, at the death of one of them.

Mr. N spent all of his early education; grade school, jr. high and high school in Kokomo. He enjoyed participation on the HS football team and graduated in 1976. He was born on the nation's birthday and graduated on the nation's bicentennial birthday!

In 1979 Mr. N joined in marriage with Pam for the next 32 years. They raised two boys, now 38 and 40 years old, with children of their own, who still live in Kokomo. Mr. N worked for a while with an electric company and then decided to achieve some additional higher education at a Christian Bible College. He then found work in a local steel mill, joined the union, and worked there for 30 years, retiring in 2009.

Following retirement from the plant, Mr. N was called to explore active ministry. He spent some time in a lay ministers training program of the Baptist Church and served in various capacities for the next three years.

In 2011 there was a seismic shift in Mr. N's life. A challenge for him in every possible way, physically, emotionally, and spiritually when his wife found out about his sexual orientation. Like many other men of his era, he valued married life, and certainly loved his children, but he always knew there was something else in his heart. And, while remaining faithful to his marriage vows, he longed for the company of men. He came to the realization that his yearning was not going away, it was not to be prayed away, or would suddenly disappear, or be satisfied on the internet. It was more powerful than all of that. He divorced in 2011, but remains in communication with his former wife and boys. He also left the ministry at that time.

During the next two years however, Mr. N found an entire new life, a new world view, a level of happiness he never thought he would experience, and a new, healthy self-esteem. He realized that he knew next to nothing about the gay community. But he became a fast learner and thoroughly enjoyed himself in his new world. As he said, "I was like a kid in a candy store".

Seeking a more robust gay life than found in Kokomo, Mr. N moved to Wilton Manors to begin the next phase of his journey. He got a job at a local pharmacy and enjoyed the many clubs, restaurants and organizations in the community. Within three months he met Anthony and they have been partners ever since.

Mr. N knew about Prime Timers before he arrived in south Florida. He once attended meetings of the Chicago Prime Timers and therefore looked forward to enjoying Prime Gentlemen when he moved. A PG couple hosted Mr. N and Anthony at their first event.

