

## Garland Warren

by Doug Kent

Come with me to a small 400 acre farm in Ivor, Virginia to meet our newly born Prime Timer. It is February 12, 1932. The 4th of 7 children born into this conservative Baptist family, Mr. March had a remarkably uneventful childhood that included all the ups and downs of growing up on a farm. Baseball, milking cows, basketball, feeding livestock, and all the normal things, plus tending to his education. One thing stands out during his early development. At age 6 he became aware of his desire to be with a man. After completing high school Mr. March decided that he wanted to attend college and over his father's protest, he did just that, never to return to the comfort of close family farm life.

With no family financial support Mr. March put himself through the University of Richmond and received his Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. He worked part time during the school year and full time during summers while living with his Aunt. Upon graduation his life became the property of his "Uncle Sam". He was drafted into the Army and after training in the signal corps spent 62 days aboard a ship, cruising to Korea with stops in Puerto Rico, Panama, Honolulu, Okinawa, Hong Kong and finally to Inchon Korea. After 19 months of specialized service to a full bird Colonel and a Brigadier General, with some sleight of hand in the black market, he returned home to two glorious days of unemployment.

It is now September of 1954, Mr. March is now employed with Eastern Airlines and he has begun a career that is marked with constant promotions, extensive transfers to various cities, and the ability to travel around the world. What a wonderful career for the boy who decided to leave the farm. Along with this storybook career came the traditional marriage. In August 1954, Mr. March became engaged and was married in 1956 to his wife of 49 years. This union produced four wonderful children.

March of 1975 marked the end of Eastern Airlines and Mr. March found a second career with the Hilton Hotel chain; one that was marked with promotions till his retirement in 2001.

Remember now at age 6 Mr. March became aware of his attraction to men. Like many other men of his era his straight life and gay life were separate. There were occasions when Mr. March was able to engage in his other life and on April 9th, 1984 he met his lifelong partner. At first the relationship was casual, but it developed quickly into a serious long term commitment. Married with children, and now with a lifelong partner, Mr. March's life now becomes a bit complicated. Over time however, he managed to stay married and live with his partner, and eventually his wife accepted his partner. Again, Mr. March is able to have another storybook ending to his fascinating life. He and his partner, in August of 2004, moved into their Fort Lauderdale condo to live happily ever after.

Mr. March loves to fish and golf, enjoys watching most sporting events, and has been very active in his community and very involved with Prime Timers. You can always see him at meetings; he is interesting with a sense of humor and always has time to listen. You will never guess who this transplanted farm boy has become.

