

## Ken Bailey

by Doug Kent

Picture if you will a solitary horseback rider in a driving blizzard on February 17<sup>th</sup> 1933, on his way to a remote farm in upstate New York to deliver Mr. July/August (Mr. JA) our Prime Timer this month. Mr. JA was born in his grandfather's bed. He became his favorite person and they spent much time together. The family ran a dairy farm and "Pinke", (Mr. JA), milked his share of cows at five in the morning. It was Christmas 1940 that Grandpa died and Christmases have never been the same for Pinke.

School posed no problems and Pinke spent 8 years learning his ABC's and also learning to defend himself from bullies. He graduated from high school in 1951, immediately enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed in Germany. He was discharged in 1956 and then attended Valparaiso University in Indiana and received a double BA in Sociology and Speech and Theater in 1959. In the fall of 1959 Pinke entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and received his Masters of Sacred Theology Degree in 1963, was ordained in June of 1963, and served in various parishes for the next 10 years.

During his church ministry he became involved with Scouting. As a Professional Scout he helped establish Scouting groups throughout the country. He eventually left the ministry and began full-time work with the Boy Scouts of America. He served as a District Executive in Pennsylvania and Wilmington Delaware. He left BSA in the spring of 1976.

Pinke began working for the Marriott Corporation in their food service department as an Assistant Manager for the Boston Operation at Logan Airport. He enjoyed his work and accomplished a lot, eventually becoming the Manager of Production for the entire operation. Hard work, dedication and focus reflected in all that Pinke accomplished in his life. It must be pointed out that Pinke, when he was 16 achieved his Eagle Scout Award and then earned the highest order of Explorer Scouting, which was the "Ranger Scout". He had been involved with Scouting since the age of 9. His scouting career was recognized with many awards and accomplishments. It is so ironic that with all the publicity associated with Scouting today around gay issues, that this gay man worked his way to the very top of the scouting order in quiet dignity.

Pinke never married. It was while in the Air Force that he first encountered the joys of man to man contact. There were other encounters and meetings with men at various stages of his life but he remained closeted for his entire career.

In June of 1998 Pinke decided to retire and live the "Good Life" and in 2008 relocated from Richmondville, New York to Coconut Creek, Florida. He met his current partner Mike on Silver Daddies. Mike is in the process of winding down his career in Ohio before he moves in with Pinke in about 2 more years. They have a long range relationship now that involves many phone calls and frequent travel between homes.

Pinke has been a Prime Timer for the past two years, enjoys the lovely home in Coconut Creek that he is currently sharing with his wonderful 15 year old dog Mitch. Generally, a quiet kind of guy, he is still involved with scouting as a member-at-large in his local council. Pinke enjoys bowling with the Prime Timers, collects Russian lacquered plates, frequently dines out with friends, and enjoys most music and the theater

