

# Name

By Ken South

In 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower was the new POTUS, Hugh Hefner published the first issue of *Playboy* magazine for 50¢ each, and Swanson introduced the TV dinner. The average cost of new home was \$9,550.00, while the average wage per year was \$4,000.00. You could buy a car for \$1,650.00, and fill it up for 20¢ a gallon!

And, on December 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. December was born to his family while they were living and working in Caracas, Venezuela. His father, Lionel, moved to Venezuela to work for his friend, Winthrop Rockefeller, supervising various Standard Oil camps. As a young man, Lionel met Winthrop when they both served in the US Army in WWII. Mr. D's siblings included four brothers and two sisters.

Thirteen years later, the family was living in New York City where Lionel was the maître d' at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Mr. Rockefeller, then Governor of Arkansas, met him again and encouraged him to move his family to Little Rock. There, Mr. D's father opened a liquor store and later had a laundromat business.

Mr. D spent his early years of elementary and high school in Little Rock, graduating in 1972. Following high school, he pursued the trade of electronics, earning his master electrician license as well as a heat and air conditioning license.

Also, during this period, following high school, Mr. D married his first wife and while they only stayed together for one year, they celebrated a daughter together. That daughter is now the mother to his three grandsons. Mr. D re-married his first wife, but they were again divorced and he married another women for a six year relationship. During this time, and between marriages, Mr. D met other gay men in various places, including responding to his interested customers!

Next, he moved to Hot Springs, AR, where he worked at a friend's company as an electrical supervisor. By 1979 he had formed his own business, "Arkansas Service Co." Providing heating, electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, and refrigeration repair services covering Pulaski County and Bryant Area residents of Arkansas. He headed this business for the next 29 years. After selling his business, he became

a county electrical inspector for four years. After a while, he became disenchanted with elements of the position, and retired. During this time, he spent his "time off" singlehandedly constructing his own home.

In 2008, while in Hot Springs, he decided to build another house, on the popular, lake Hamilton. There he met his neighbor, Mark, who helped him with the construction, and low and behold, became his life partner!

In 2011 he and Mark moved to Pompano Beach, FL and bought a condo in The Breakers Condo building. Using all his construction skills, Mr. D "gutted" the place and re-modeled it from front to back. They then purchased their current single-family home, also in Pompano Beach, in 2014.

Mr. D is an avid tennis player, sometimes playing six days a week! He and Mark continue to enjoy their friends at Prime Gentlemen. They also enjoy the periodic visits from his former wife and his grandchildren!

