

## Name

By Ken South

Dwight D. Eisenhower was inaugurated as President of the United States, and the Korean War ended in 1953. In Russia, Joseph Stalin died. Dr. Jonas Salk tested the polio vaccine on himself and his family, while British physicist Francis Crick and American biologist James Watson discovered the structure of human DNA. "That's Amore" by Dean Martin, "Your Cheatin' Heart" by Hank Williams, and "Vaya Con Dios" by Les Paul & Mary Ford, were top songs spinning off 45 records or heard on the radio. People flocked to the movies to see "From Here to Eternity" starring Burt Lancaster, Montgomery Clift and Frank Sinatra, which won an Academy Award in 1954!

And, on August 24<sup>th</sup> of that year, our Mr. April was born in Bluefield, WV. He was the middle child in between an older sister and a younger brother. Within 2 years the family moved to Columbus, Ohio. Mr. A attended grade school, Jr. high and Northland HS, graduating in 1971 and then enrolling at Ohio State University majoring in architecture.

In 1974 he became an exchange student and attended England's Oxford University. He earned an advanced degree in architecture, graduating in 1980 and moved to San Francisco. Mr. A worked for a firm for several years that specialized in high rise building construction. He then moved back to Columbus to an international firm that had contracts from all over the world. So, for the next four years, he cherished his new-found ability to travel to dozens of foreign countries. Following his many years working as a designer, he joined up with The Limited, a company that provided design services for retail businesses like *Abercrombie & Fitch*, *Structure* and many others, as they created and opened new businesses.

Mr. A retired in 2017 and while he was still living in Columbus, he became a "snow-bird" and traveled back and forth to Boca Raton, FL.

In his 20s, while in grad school at Ohio State, Mr. A brought together several friends and formed a gay softball team. They found a gay bar to be their sponsor and the team participated in a regional league where they came in second place their first year out! However, it was not without the group experiencing intense levels of anti-gay harassment and prejudice. Later, he was instrumental in the formation of a gay bowling league, which grew over the years to include 32 teams!

In 1986 Mr. A became the first commissioner of the Columbus gay softball league. He also became a member of the [North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance](#) (NAGAAA) Hall of Fame in 2010.

When he is in Ft. Lauderdale, he enjoys participating in Prime Gentlemen's bowling teams and our local softball team. And Zoom allows him to participate in PG's weekly Trivia group as well.

