

Don Rice

By Ken South

The Korean War began in 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea. The countries were divided after World War II, the North becoming Communist and the South remaining Capitalist. And, President Harry Truman sent US military personnel to Vietnam to aid the French forces there.

On November 24th of that year, in Dallas, Texas, Mr. February came into the world followed 13 months later by a sister. The family moved to Denver, CO, where Mr. F graduated from Alameda, HS. He married right after HS and soon became a father. Needing to provide for his family, he worked during the day and attended Metropolitan State University of Denver evenings for ten years, graduating with a BA in Business Administration in 1982. He was married for 13 years and raised sons Matthew and Sean.

Following his divorce, he was transferred by his company back to Dallas where he became a regional manager, promoting records and tapes to numerous venues around the West. His 10 years within this type of work provided him with access to many well-known musical artists. Backstage passes to the biggest rock and roll bands of the time was common place. He toured with *Journey*, *Emerson Lake and Palmer*, had dinner with Alice Cooper.

Mr. F also embraced a new gay world. While on vacation in Houston, he met his first partner Bill, with whom he enjoyed seven and a half years together until Bill's passing. He treasured his one-year relationship with Connecticut native, David, living in NYC and Connecticut and now in Barcelona. They are still friends, and Mr. F visits Barcelona often.

While living in NYC, Mr. F met Joe A. Partners for about 11 years, they enjoyed events like the first Gay March on Washington and Gay Pride marches in NYC, LA, SF and Dallas. Canadian Mack was his last partner, they were a team for a year and a half and experienced Mr. F's first trip to Europe. But not his last!

He took a position with AMC Movie Theaters and managed film distribution to their chains of theaters. Experience at The Embassy Suites gave him the experience for PBX systems and included managing the installation of a new telephone system for the Sheraton Corporation.

Next was 10 years at the Sheraton Corporation where he took charge of the installation of PBX's and voice mail systems all over the US. Then on to New York City where, for the next 5 years,

he directed all the hotel's electronic systems for their growing number of properties.

Unfortunately, he was laid off from this post and returned to Dallas. He used this time to "catch his breath" and took off for the next two years.

Next was a position with the Countrywide Mortgage Company managing their communications systems in several locations in Los Angeles. At 59, Mr. F found that he was dealing with high blood pressure resulting in an early retirement and a new life in Palm Springs.

His first trip to South Florida was in 2001 where he stayed for three years and then returned to Palm Springs to help staff the International Film Festival, where he met numerous celebrities.

In 2021, while living in England, Mr. F was asked to help out his friend Paul back in Ft. Lauderdale, who needed assistance on a daily basis. Mr. F became his caregiver for a year and half until he arranged for Paul to move to an Assisted Living facility. Delightful life tidbits: Mr. F was on three episodes of "Dallas", friends with Linda Gray. He is writing a book about Tarot Card reading. He was friends with Jerry Corbetta (*Green-Eyed Lady*) and Frankie Valli of *The Four Seasons*, spent time with Jane Fonda and James Caan on the movie set of *Comes a Horseman* and at a "9 to 5" movie premiere party, met Dolly Parton!

