

Jerry Moss

by Doug Kent

When KOIN-TV began broadcasting in Portland, Oregon, little did they know that Mr. June (Mr. J) was born that year on April 28th. His birth did not make TV news, but he was a welcomed addition to his large Catholic family. His early childhood was uneventful, and he progressed through grammar school without a problem. Class size ranged from 15 to 17 students each year, and the quality of his early education was outstanding. He played baseball but soccer was his passion. High school proved to be a big change with class sizes ranging in the 50 to 60 students. Mr. J was not a happy student, so he completed his required subjects by the middle of his junior year. He then attended home room and P.E. for the next year and a half as he worked part time and graduated in 1971.

Mr. J was not your ordinary student as you can tell, so after graduation he decided that he wanted to get into the Guinness Book of World Records. But how does a high school graduate accomplish this enviable task? How about rolling a beer keg from San Francisco to Olympia, Washington? Yes, that did it and so it was, Mr. J and 5 of his closest friends made it into the book in September 1971. Now what is left for this ambitious kid? Read on, you will not be disappointed.

In the fall of 1971 Mr. J enrolled at Portland State University for one term. His stay was short due to protesting the Vietnam War with his classmates and eventually shuttling down the campus. Mr. J felt the urge to join a commune where he lived for the next couple of years.

He returned to Portland in 1973 and took a job in a nursery, but he was really drafted to play soccer for a semi-professional team sponsored by the nursery. Great work if you can get it. He tried out for a professional team in 1975 and made the reserve team.

In 1977 Mr. J applied for a plumbing apprenticeship and was finally accepted in 1979 and completed the program in 1986. In January 1987 he began work on high end residential

homes for about one year. He was always intrigued with Union politics, working on several committees and in 1991 was asked to be part of the negotiating team for the union contract. In 1992 he was elected President and served in that capacity till 1996. He was then hired by the Union to be the business agent and served as the Liaison for Government Contracts. Mr J developed an extensive political network and served as trustee on multiple Health Plans for the union. In 2006, Mr. J was training trustees for union health plans and in March 2009 while in Washington he had the pleasure of meeting Representative Barney Frank. With all his background and political contacts in the state, he was asked by Candidate Barrack Obama in 2007 to run his Presidential campaign in the state of Oregon. Mr. J delivered the state for the President.

Mr. J retired in 2009 and immediately treated himself to a cruise on RSVP. It was around 1999, that Mr. J got on Silver Daddies and admitted to himself that he was gay. He assisted a gay friend running for public office in Portland, who in turn helped Mr. J discover his gayness. It was 2010 that he moved full time to South Florida. He maintains his interesting life by playing bridge, traveling, staying involved with politics and of course is a devoted fan of European football (soccer). In 2014 Mr. J completed the "Camino De Santiago", the 731 mile 2 month hike in Spain.

