

## John Hasandras By Ken South

In 1940, the first full year of WWII, Nazi Germany invaded Denmark and Norway. Denmark surrendered after only a six-hour battle. Winston Churchill said: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat" in his first speech as Prime Minister to British House of Commons. Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met and he agreed to join Germany's impending war effort in the west.

Also, Joe Louis held on as heavyweight boxing champion in Chicago. While Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart's musical, *Pal Joey*, which starred Gene Kelly and Vivienne Segal, opened at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre, NYC.

*The Grapes of Wrath*, movie, directed by John Ford and based on John Steinbeck's novel, which starred Henry Fonda and Jane Darwell, was released. And, at the 12th Academy Awards: *Gone With The Wind* won eight Oscars, Robert Donat, Vivien Leigh and Hattie McDaniel also won.

On December 24<sup>th</sup> of that year, Mr. November was born in New Haven, Connecticut. He was the oldest sibling with a younger brother and sister. Mr. N's family moved to Miami in the mid-1950s when he was just a teenager. He attended Miami High School and following graduation in 1959, served in the U.S. Army until his discharge in 1965.

He lived in Coral Gables, FL for 50 years with his partner Fred, where they were both actively involved in numerous charitable causes, helping the LGBTQ community.

One of their favorite projects was creating over 500 Easter Baskets each year and sharing them with HIV patients.

Mr. N worked for many years in the public relations department at Miami-Dade College. He subsequently retired and moved to Fort Lauderdale where he has participated in supporting many causes.

He is a member of Prime Gentlemen, Sage and is also a Pride Center, Founders Circle contributor. He enjoys gardening, traveling and good times with his many friends.

