

Larry Ousley

By Ken South

1946 was the start of the Baby boomer years, (1946-1964). The War Crimes Tribunal was held in Nuremberg, Germany. Twenty-two Nazi leaders, including Joachim von Ribbentrop and Hermann Goering, were found guilty of war crimes and sentenced to death. The United Nations' first meeting was held in London, England and then moved to the United States. Tupperware sold in department stores for the first time and Dr. Benjamin Spock's "Baby and Child Care" influenced millions of new parents throughout the US. People listened to the top songs that year, *Tenderly*, *Come Rain or Come Shine*, and Disney's, *Zip-a-dee-doo-dah*.

In Kokomo, Indiana, on September 28th, Mr. January became the second child in the family after his older sister. He spent his grade school and high school years in Kokomo, graduating HS in 1964. Following one year at Purdue University, he enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed in Okinawa Island, Japan, and also one year of service in Vietnam. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was discharged in 1969.

Following his military service, Mr. J returned to Kokomo and worked at the General Motors Kokomo Components plant, which built automotive components for over 86 years. He was employed there for the next 32 years! During this time, Mr. J returned to college and attended Vincennes University in Vincennes, Indiana for a degree in electronics. Also, during this part of his life, he decided to get married in 1974. He and his wife were together for 13 years, getting a divorce in 1987. They raised their three children, 2 boys and a girl and now also enjoy their six grandchildren!

Following his divorce, Mr. J started to explore the gay side of his life. In a gay bar in Indianapolis, he met his partner to be, Charles Keefe. They met in 1995 and became domestic partners, as legal marriage for gays was not available. They enjoyed a rich, full life together for 24 years until Charles' sudden passing in 2019. The couple bought a condo in Oakland Park in 2010 and became "snow birds" until Mr. J moved here fulltime following Charles' passing.

Mr. J is an avid Ham Radio enthusiast; his handle is: NI9J. He is also a Board Member at Congregation Etz Chaim in Wilton Manors. He can be found on most Tuesdays at the Prime Gentlemen Social at Tropics.



