

# Larry Rowe

By Ken South

1941 was the year that now lives in infamy when the attack on Pearl Harbor entered the U.S. into World War II. Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated for his 3rd term as President. Two great movies, Orson Wells' "Citizen Kane" and Disney's "Dumbo" debuted that year and would stand the test of time. Kids danced to "Chattanooga Choo Choo" by Glenn Miller and "I'll Be with You in Apple Blossom Time" was crooned by the Andrews Sisters.

In Columbus, Ohio that year, on June 19<sup>th</sup>, Mr. December was the first born to his family, later joined by a sister. He attended Burroughs Elementary School and in 1959 graduated from West High School. He enjoyed participating in the school glee club and playing on its golf and tennis teams. During this time, he discovered and thrived in the youth organization, Demolay. By 1959 he was a student at Ohio State University where he majored in the Arts and Business. Later from 1982-1983 he became the president of the Broward County Chapter of the Ohio State Alumni Association.

From 1963-69 he enlisted in the Army reserves and was on active duty on weekends and designated week-long training assignments. In 1964 he moved to Chicago to work as a salesman for the American Copy company. Also that year, Mr. D met the first love of his life, Niko, a design consultant, and owner of Niko Jeane Inc. who worked on large community development projects producing hundreds of new homes. Niko was several years older than Mr. D. The couple shared 31 wonderful years together, Niko passing away in July of 1995.

In 1967 the couple looked for a "get-a-way" place in South Florida, considering places in Sarasota, Naples, and Palm Beach, but in 1968 decided on a condo at Maya Marca in Ft. Lauderdale. Mr. D sort of became a "reverse" snow bird, splitting his time between Lauderdale and Evanston, IL. In 1970 Mr. D decided to attend real-estate school and by 1973 he had formed his own real estate company ultimately hiring 60 agents. That same year he purchased the building where his Federal Hwy office was located and then sold it in 1999 to make room for a shopping mall.

Mr. D spent many years engaging in volunteer activities in the community. From 1983-86 he served on the Board of Directors of the [Ft. Lauderdale Realtors Association](#) and from 1984 to 2019 he served on the board of the [Florida Association of Realtors](#). He also continues to serve on the Board of the Stranahan House Museum. In 1987 he was a founding member of the Charitable Association of the Ft. Lauderdale Realtors Association.

In 1990 he became president of the Rotary Club of Ft. Lauderdale South. By 2006 he was Vice President of District 11 of the Florida Association of Realtors.

And from 2011-12 he was president of the Broward Chapter of the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge. In 1990 he was president of the (CRB) Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager Association of the Florida Association of Realtors. He has also been active with Gamma Mu since 1978.

At a Ft. Lauderdale wedding reception in 1996, he met his current partner, Michael. The couple shares a beautiful home at Lauderdale by the Sea. Mr. D discovered Prime Timers when he was asked to participate on a panel of its History Group, sharing memories of "old Gay Ft. Lauderdale".

Michael and Mr. December are thoroughly enjoying their life here in Ft. Lauderdale.

