

# Mark Britton

By Ken South

In 1935, the trial of Richard Hauptmann, kidnapper of Charles Lindbergh's son, is held in Flemington, New Jersey. Amelia Earhart becomes the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to California, while Parker Brothers, begins selling Monopoly.

Babe Ruth appears in his last career game in Philadelphia, playing for the Boston Braves. President Franklin Roosevelt signs the Social Security Act into law, and later that year, dedicates the Hoover Dam.

And, on December 29<sup>th</sup>, in Decatur, Illinois, Mr. November is the first child born to his parents with a brother and sister to follow a few years later.

Mr. N's early years were spent in Mt. Zion, IL, where he went to grade school and then graduated from Mt. Zion High in 1954. He remembers well many events as part of the high school band, as well as his participation in its drama club.

Following graduation, he was employed by the Caterpillar Corporation, also in Decatur, where he worked until his retirement in 1984, 28 years of loyal service.

In 1955, Mr. N married and they raised two boys and a girl. They had a wonderful marriage, during which Mr. N came out to his family. Unfortunately, his wife passed away in 2013. His children, and their three children, have remained an important part of his life, all three still live in Mt. Zion, IL. His daughter visits him and his partner in Pompano Beach often.

Following retirement from Caterpillar, and at the urging of friends, Mr. N was drawn to Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas, a small town in the center of the state. There, amongst other activities, he volunteered and taught art classes for seniors. In 1998 he moved to Hot Springs, AR. There he and a friend started a small community theatre group, using a vacant store front in a mall. The theatre became so successful that they had to expand, buying an abandoned school, remodeling it, and conducting a range of productions. The Hot Springs Community Theater remains a vibrant part of the community today. A highlight of his time at the theatre was when he designed and built the sets for the Dick and Jerry Van Dyke national tour.

While Mr. N lived in Hot Springs, he came to meet his life partner, Bob, in 2008. Mr. N was Bob's next-door neighbor. As Bob started building a new home, Mr. N began to help him with its construction. What started out as a plan to build a new house, turned out to be the building of a new life! Bob became a part of Mr. N's family and was loved by all.

In 2011, the new couple moved to Pompano Beach, FL and lived at the Breakers Condo near the beach, for three years. They then purchased their current home, also in Pompano Beach, in 2014.

They have enjoyed their participation with Prime Timers in the past and with Prime Gentleman now. They remember well the weekly socials at Tropics. For a time, Mr. N also sang in the Sunshine Cathedral choir. He remains in shape by working out at the gym three days a week.

