

Name By Ken South

Franklin Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term as President in 1944. Aaron Copland's ballet score, "*Appalachian Spring*" premiered with Martha Graham in the leading role and Holocaust diarist Anne Frank was sent to Auschwitz.

World War II raged on, however, US troops captured the first large German city, and the D-Day invasion commenced on June 1st. The 16th Academy Award best picture went to: "*Casablanca*", and Billboards' top ten included, the Harry James Orchestra's, "*I'll Get By*".

While in St. Louis, MO, on August 7th, Mr. July joined his family of parents, an older brother and sister and two younger brothers to follow. They lived in a suburb called Webster Groves where Mr. J attended Avery GS and Webster Groves HS, graduating in 1962. During his HS years he was active in the Hi-Y (YMCA) club as sec/treasurer.

Next he was on to Drake University in Des Moines, IA where he majored in economics and enjoyed membership in the Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity, graduating in 1966. He moved on to the University of Missouri School of Law, but after one year, decided to go to night school and earn a second degree in accounting instead.

In 1967 he started his first job with the (ACIC), the Federal Aeronautical Chart and Information Center in St. Louis, as a map maker. After only a few months he was summarily dismissed when they found out he was a gay man. This painful event led him to employment with IBM as part of a sales team installing main frame computers in major corporations. After a year, he started using his accounting skills at the Graham Paper Company, a family owned, St. Louis based corporation, started in 1880. He worked there for two years.

Mr. J's father, William, was the CEO of the family dental supply business in 1970. Started by his father Charles, in 1909, the Thau-Nolde Dental Supply Company faced hard times. Mr. J and other siblings, were asked to join the company in 1970. The new leadership helped restore the company's health, even opening a branch facility. Mr. J became the company comptroller. They all decided in 1996 that it would be a good time to sell. The company was purchased by the Patterson Dental Corporation where Mr. J continued to work for the next four years as Operations Manager. Owning a rather healthy amount of company stock, Mr. J decided to retire in 2000. Around this period Mr. J found an interest in horsemanship, bought a steed, and was proud of the numerous ribbons won in competition.

Though he was retired, Mr. J remained active by working for FEMA, starting in 2000 and working as an accountant with them for the next 4 years.

In 1972 Mr. J met his first partner Vince at a local gay bar. Vince was 27 years

the senior partner. They shared their lives for the next 26 years and their home for 23 of them until Vince's passing in 1998. Mr. J also had the wonderful experience of being accepted and loved by his whole family as a gay man. In fact, one aunt, a nephew and a brother were also "members of the tribe"! Gene and Mr. J became partners in 1998 and shared their lives together until Gene became the victim of Alzheimer's in 2014. Mr. J was his devoted caregiver until Gene's death in 2017.

Mr. J and his partners were frequent "snow birds" over the years coming to Southern Florida. In 2005 Mr. J bought a condo here and they "commuted" from their home in Chesterfield, MO.

Mr. J enjoys his participation in SAGE and in Prime Gentlemen's collector's group, the weekly social and monthly dinners and he is also an active member of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Pompano Beach.

