

# Tom Daniel

By Ken South

The United States government moved nuclear bomb testing from various Pacific Islands to Nevada in 1951. 928 tests were conducted there from 1951 to 1992. The first direct-dial coast to coast telephone call was conducted, "I Love Lucy" premiered on CBS-TV and the first color television pictures were broadcast from Empire State Building.

The final synthesizing process to development the Birth Control Pill was published and the first commercial computer, UNIVAC, was put into use at the U.S. Census Bureau. Disney's "Alice in Wonderland" debuted and "All About Eve" won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1951 with Bette Davis winning Best Actress for the same picture, with the infamous quote: "Fasten your seatbelts. It's going to be a bumpy night."

And, on February 21<sup>st</sup>, in Wheeling, WV, Mr. August was born, the first child to his parents, followed by a brother and three sisters. The family lived across the Ohio River in St. Clairsville, OH for a brief time. Before high school, Mr. A's family moved many times, ending up in Perry, GA where Mr. A graduated from HS in 1970. He then attended two years at Middle Georgia State University in Cochran, GA and earned an associate's degree. He also went on to Athens, GA General Hospital for specialized training in respiratory therapy.

Mr. A spent a career of 43 years as a respiratory therapist at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, GA, starting in 1974 until his retirement in 2017. In 1980, Mr. A donated a kidney to his kid brother, which helped him live another 40 years until his passing in 2020.

In 2003, Mr. A met the love of his life and current partner, Mr. Y, at a popular Atlanta gathering spot, The New Order. Coming out was not that big a deal for Mr. A. His parents always seemed to know, but had no interest in talking about it, nor being supportive. He found that working in health care, there were many gay people, and once his lifestyle was shared with one, within a week, they all knew. A much bigger issue for Mr. A was his search for a partner. He struggled with his own self esteem issues, he said he thought of himself as always too *something*, too short-bald- hairy-fat- not fat enough, etc. But at age 51 he just decided to say "screw it", and just enjoy a full life on his own. And, of course, when he least expected it, in walked Mr. Y. and his world changed! While Mr. A's own family was not supportive, his partner's family was and loved them both!

They enjoyed their life in Atlanta, they were members of Primetimes there as well as a group called NAGS (Northeast Atlanta Alliance of LGBTQS). NAGS is a group of Gay, Lesbians, Straight and Transgendered Northeast Atlantans who are committed to building friendships and strengthening neighborhoods through social events. They were founded in 1998 and are one of the largest LGTB groups in Dekalb County, GA. The couple owned a home in a suburb of Atlanta

called Decatur.

The pair has been together now for 21 years. They made their first visit to south Florida in 2016 seeking out what it would be like to become "beach bums" in their retirement years. In 2018 they moved to Lauderdale-By-the-Sea, and later to where they have a home now, at Coral Ridge Isles. The pair are very active in Prime Gentlemen activities.

