

## Tomcat Pence

by Mike Golin

Born April 23, 1954 in Canton Ohio, our May Prime Timer was the youngest in a set of identical twins and the fourth child in a family of eight children. He attended parochial grammar school and then went on to public high school. Active in sports, he set his sights on obtaining a scholarship for Ohio State University to play football, and get a chance to shower with his hero coach Woody Hayes. As fate would have it, he missed the scholarship, so instead, joined the Marine Corps in 1972. After serving four years in the Corp, he returned to Canton to operate the family business, run the family farm and attend Kent State University for a degree in Criminal Justice. However, it was the untimely loss of his wife in a car accident in 1980, which forced him to finish his studies and leave his home and Ohio.

Houston, New Orleans, Alexandria, Orlando, Key West, Las Vegas, then back to Key West sums up the next 12 years of our May Prime Timers life and leads us to the meeting of his partner Bill in 1991.

Bill lived in Gulfport Mississippi and for the next 18 years the two of them lived there until Bill's death from Alzheimer's in Oct 2009. During a trip to Austin, Texas, after a conversation in the hot tub of Prime Timer World Wide founders, Woody Baldwin and Sean O'Neil, our May Prime Timer decided to become a real Prime Timer and formed a chapter in Mississippi and thus, the Gulfcoast Prime Timers were born. He was president of this chapter for the next five years.

In 2002 an opportunity arose to form an international gay organization called the "....." (Here, if I gave you the name, far too many of you would know who our May Prime Timer is). Celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, this organization has donated over \$123,000 dollars to various local Fort Lauderdale charities. It holds (arguably) the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest gay convention in the country and is made up of volunteers. This year, this organization begins its new focus to either build, operate, or manage a low cost gay retirement community for the members of the organization. Our Prime Timer is always busy with his organization, but in his spare time he enjoys Haulover Beach (is there any other?), or taking trips across the country to speak to different gay groups about his organization and its mission.

He enjoys socializing with the mature gay community here in Fort Lauderdale and around the world and still enjoys all kinds of sports.

