

## Anthony Terrace

by Doug Kent

It was a Wednesday, August 18, 1948 when Mr. August (Mr. A) entered the world, in Berkeley, California; both his mother and grandmother were so proud. The family was not wealthy, and they moved to a small farm located in Sacramento County. Mr. A quickly had to assume his role in the family, did his chores, attended school, and had to get good grades since his mother and grandmother both attended some college. In elementary school, Mr. A, the "teachers pet", was being bullied on the way home, so his grandmother took a stand. Angry and armed with a gun, she stormed into the school and told the principal that the harassment had to stop. It did. Mr. A was bully-free from then on. He later noticed in the eighth grade that his feelings were beginning to develop and he felt a strong attraction to a boy named Joe.

In high school some things changed, and Mr. A was able to blossom a bit. Still getting outstanding grades, he managed to develop more friends. He was elected Representative-at-Large in his school, was President of the California Scholarship Federation (the club for Honor Students), became a drum major in the marching band and was first clarinetist in the concert band. Mr. A graduated in 1966. His grandmother had repeatedly told him that "one day he would be a doctor" and this message stuck in his brain. A counselor in High School told Mr. A about some federal grants that were available. This allowed him to attend the University of California at Davis.

Like many college freshmen, Mr. A was undecided as to his major so he pursued Liberal Arts. Mr. A was no longer at home and was living in the dorm. He began to enjoy college life and partying, and his grades did suffer a bit. He enjoyed supporting the football and basket-ball teams while continuing the marching band and was involved in the concert band. He did not have to work his first year in college, but things changed and his finances required him to hold three jobs for the remainder of his college career. His senior year, Mr. A finally had an encounter with a 30 year old gentleman and felt liberated, then no longer questioned his sexual orientation. In 1973, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. One of his part time jobs was working for the Dean of the School of Medicine, and this person encouraged Mr. A to apply for Medical School. Mr. A remembered his now deceased grandmother's words about becoming a doctor. He applied and was accepted.

Medical school was overwhelming and the next four years, Mr. A had "no life". Undaunted, he graduated with his MD Degree in 1977. He endured only one year in a Surgery Residency, but decided that his love was in Emergency Medicine. So he took a position with Kaiser Permanente in Southern California near Long Beach. For the next 26 years he practiced Emergency Medicine, became Boarded in that specialty and loved every second of his career.

It was here in 1978 that he met his first long time partner, David. They lived a great life until David passed in 1989. In 1993, he was fortunate to meet his second long time partner, John, and they stayed partners until 2005. Now still roommates, John and Mr. A. moved to Fort Lauderdale in 2006. They enjoyed the freedoms of living in the Fort Lauderdale gay community. In 2010, Mr. A met his current love interest, Tom.

Mr. A enjoys his retirement, and participates in many activities. Among his many interests are bowling, golf, bridge, poker, shooting pool, darts, karaoke, ballroom and country dancing. He tries to get to the gym twice a week, and participates in Prime Timers. During his life, he has traveled to six of the seven continents. This quiet, articulate, unassuming physician sits among us, being part of our Prime Timer activities. I now know who he is; can you identify him?

