

Gene Bifulco

by Doug Kent

Our story begins in Manhattan, New York on November 9th, 1941, when Mr. December (Mr. D) began his lifelong journey to Florida. His parents lived in the Bronx and Mr. D spent his developmental years there. His father drove a Taxi and was a landlord of a 4 family home. Mr. D spent 10 years in Catholic education, while his mother stayed home with his younger brother and two younger sisters doing all the household chores. He was an average student, and was on the shy side, but did all the normal things kids do in the Bronx like playing stick ball and dodging taxi cabs while playing in the streets. At age 9, between playing and going to school, Mr. D worked with his father on special holidays delivering flowers. After earning \$7.00 Mr. D learned quickly from his father to spend \$5.00 and save \$2.00 - A lesson learned that provided financial security in his retirement years. His father also helped him develop good mechanical skills, which he used all through his career. His final two years of High School were in the N.Y. Public School System and he graduated in 1959. All was normal with Mr. D, except for his occasional encounters with his male friends and older men.

His first work experience in a machine shop did not last long, so he spent the next 5 years working in various florist shops in the Bronx. He also spent some time as a private chauffeur, but never completely give up his floral work. Uncle Sam called in 1964 and Mr. D went into the Army and was assigned to the Crypto School in Fort Gordon, Georgia. He became an excellent typist and worked well with anything mechanical.

Upon his release from the Army, Mr. D took a position with the Department of Welfare in the Bronx. He was an outstanding typist and did well in his position there. While working at the Department of Welfare, he met his first wife and they had a son. Mr. D continued having occasional meetings with men while he was married. After being together for 5 years they decided to separate and his wife and son

moved out of the household.

It was shortly after this divorce that Mr. D secured a position with the N.Y. Telephone Company. Free now and with steady employment, Mr. D continued to have a mixed social life. In 1978, he met and married his second wife. This marriage lasted 5 years and produced no other children for Mr. D. The divorce was finalized in 1982. Mr. D was free again to pursue the social life that he enjoyed and after 23 years with the Telephone Co. Mr. D accepted an early retirement package. He had been snow-birding to Florida for several years and had purchased a condo. He decided to move there full time in 1992. He moved his mother to Florida in 1994 to care for her in her declining years in a retirement home.

Mr. D, a declared homebody, was now living in Florida full time and was finding it difficult meeting new gay friends. He was successful with some relationships, but for the most part stayed close to home. He was active in his condo association, was elected to the Board, and still serves in that capacity. He occupied his time with some cabinet making for his condo and for a short time found candle making a relaxing hobby. In 2009, Mr. D discovered the Prime Timers and has been active with the group for about 5 years. He enjoys his cat and various activities like the gym. This quiet and shy Prime Timer is looking for love in all the right places. Can you identify Mr. D with all this information?

