

## Ron Grassullo

by Doug Kent

The best way to sum up this month's Prime Timer is quite simply "He has had a Blessed Life". Born on June 5, 1944 in Flushing New York, Mr. March (Mr. M) was the youngest of three children. His father was the "Barber to the Stars" and his mother was a stay at home mom in Little Neck New York, tending to all the needs of this Catholic family. Early education was not a problem for this good student, and he managed to be the first male Sorority President in high school. Not an easy task, but his charisma and popularity helped him pull this off. He was on the debate committee and played on the handball team.

After graduation in 1962 Mr. M attended Pace College in Manhattan and studied accounting for the next two years. Numbers turned out to be a little boring, so Mr. M enlisted in the Army for 3 years. He was trained as a rocket technician and ended up in Viet Nam as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of an ammunition supply depot. He returned to the U.S. and spent his final year as a Drill Sergeant at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He was discharged in 1968 and two months later he married his high school sweetheart. His first job after service was with Ford Personnel as a Recruiter. He was successful and work there for four years and kept his eye out for a position that would suite him.

In 1972 he found that position in sales with Diamond International. He worked there for 10 years honing his sales skills. The company moved to Dallas in 1982 and Mr. M decided to keep his family in New York. He took a position with Nailtex, a beauty manufacturer, as National Sales Manager. He was wildly successful and was the first person to introduce artificial finger nails into the United States. He had many large, lucrative accounts. Life was good. His family had grown with twin boys and a daughter and all was well until 1986. The bomb shell shattered Mr. M's world and he suddenly found himself divorced. They had joint custody of the children and his ex-wife lived just 4 blocks away.

While living with a girl friend in Manhattan, Mr. M found himself looking for a neighborhood bar after a domestic argument, and it just so happened that the closest one happened to be Gay. Mr. M went home with a customer and he had his first gay experience and it would not be his last. He purchased his home on Long Island in 1988. Life continued and in 1993 Mr. M met his current partner in a gay bar in Florida.

In 1995 Mr. M took a position as National Sales Manager with Para Laboratories and had a sales territory that included the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico. The company was sold in 2008 and Mr. M took a position with Inspired Beauty Brands as their National Sales Manager. He worked with them until he retired in 2012.

His partner was also retired, so they decided to move to South Florida into an inherited condo in Tamarac. One year later they purchased their home in Fort Lauderdale. Settled now, Mr. M enjoys many activities. He collects American Pottery, and enjoys hunting for them at garage sales and flea markets. He enjoys his orchard garden and both he and his partner have a wide circle of friends and they enjoy socializing. Crossword puzzles occupy quiet time, and Mr. M is very close with his children and they take a large portion of his life. Serving on the Board of Prime Timers fills out his busy social calendar. You now have a lot of information about Mr. M, can you identify this affable and very social guy?

