First of all, David, welcome to Triangle Connection. You joined us for the first time a couple of months ago and have become a regular at TC events. We are glad you found us and are part of our community. I remember you telling me you were born in upstate New York. Is that correct?

David: Yes, I spent my entire childhood in the Buffalo/Rochester, NY area in a town called Batavia and joined the military in 1977. In the Air Force I spent the majority of my enlistment stationed at Andrews Air Force Base near DC. I also was stationed near Seoul, South Korea for a little over a year. I worked in computer operations supporting payroll, financial and other communication software. At Andrews, I also worked at the Military hospital computer room. In 1985, I was forced to leave the military for being gay. The military did give me some very good technical experience and I was able to use those skills at a Healthcare software company in the DC area at their office in Rockville, Maryland. While working there, one of our healthcare clients was Kaiser Permanente, a HMO company with a huge base on the West Coast. In 1992 was able to transition to that firm’s Cleveland office and worked for them till my retirement in 2017.

TC: So when you think about where you are from, is it upstate NY? DC? Cleveland?

David: I put down lots of roots in Cleveland and stayed there for 25 years. For 19 of those 25 years, I was with a partner in Cleveland. I lived there and enjoyed the state. We had dogs, the last one died last year. After we broke up, I was nearing my retirement. I had planned carefully for retirement, starting with the location. I knew I wanted to retire somewhere warmer and originally Texas was the front runner. New Mexico and Arizona were also considered due to their warmer weather. My partner and I visited Florida often to visit the parks so when it was time to retire Florida became the front-runner. The fact that it was closer to my aging parents who were still alive at the time made Florida the final choice. Going back to careful planning, the low state tax system was a big plus in selecting Florida.

TC: What city did you choose?

David: I ended up in Groveland. It's close enough to the parks but not a transient town and has less tourists. I live in a 55+ community in Groveland which was a good choice for me.

TC: Are you still a Disney fan?

David: For now I am enjoying the parks. I had a stroke back in 2019. I recovered well and I am active. While I use a cane to provide extra balance when away from home, I am good. The Groveland area is great for riding my new electric bicycle. More exercise is better for me. It's also not too urban and close enough to the parks without being too close. I love Disney but I don’t need to experience it every day. I will most likely be getting a Universal annual pass as well.

TC: How did you find Triangle?

David: Another Triangle friend suggested it to me and he also specifically told me about the Pisces Rising event on Fridays. I showed up on a Friday afternoon and enjoyed it. While I live around very nice people in my park, it's also nice to be around people who are more like me. I enjoy the social part of Triangle and meeting new people. Through Triangle I ended up adopting my cat Ollie. Another Triangle friend posted on the TC Friends Chat page that she was looking for a home for Ollie. Sunny and I connected and now I am the proud parent of Ollie.

TC: We are glad you found Ollie and again proud you are part of the Triangle family, Dave. Thank you for sharing your story with us. It is nice getting to know you better through this format. And welcome again our family.