

# **LEISURE WORLD History (Edited 12/18/2009)**

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## **LEISURE WORLDERS OF THE MONTH**

Since 1976 one resident of Leisure World has been honored each month by being designated "Leisure Worlder of the Month." The program was started by Rossmoor Corporation to salute the high caliber of people living in the community and their accomplishments toward bettering community life.

Now that Rossmoor Corporation is scheduled to dissolve on June 16, 1982, and its New Sales Office building has been sold to Home Federal Savings and Loan of San Diego, the program has been taken over by that financial institution. Each month a committee representing the Leisure World Historical society elects a candidate from nominations made by people of the community. Home Federal honors the recipient by hanging a large color portrait in the Rossmoor New Sales office on the first Monday of the month at a short ceremony, after which light refreshments are served. The public is invited. Biographies of honorees for May, June, August and September 1976 are on the following pages.

### **Vice Admiral R.N. Smoot, USN (Ret.)**

#### **Leisure Worlder—May, 1976**

Admiral Roland Smoot's distinguished career in the United States Navy dates from his graduation from the Naval Academy in 1926 to his retirement in 1962.

Early assignments were on destroyers, submarines and battleships with duties divided between engineering and gunnery. After World War II started in Europe in 1939, he operated for a time out of Iceland as commander of destroyer groups escorting convoys across the North Atlantic. Following Pearl Harbor, he was commander of a new destroyer assigned to escort our remaining old Atlantic battleships through the Panama Canal to the Pacific.

At various times he commanded destroyer squadrons, a destroyer flotilla, a heavy cruiser, a division of cruisers and the Mine Force of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. He saw action in the early amphibious landings at Guadalcanal and the many air-sea battles and night time forays up the "slot" in the long campaign in the South Pacific.

Under his command, destroyer groups participated in the recapture of the Philippines, were in support of the landings at Iwo Jima, Okinawa and finally in the surrender in Japan. Admiral Smoot witnessed the historic signing of the instrument of capitulation by Japan on the USS Missouri.

In his final four years of active duty, Admiral Smoot was assigned as Senior Naval Officer in the Far East with the title of Taiwan Defense Commander, with the collateral assignments of Senior U.S. Military Advisor to President Chiang Kai-shek.

Admiral Smoot and his wife Sally became residents of Leisure World in 1966. He has been active on behalf of community welfare and served as president of the Golden Rain Foundation, the directorate of Leisure World.