

6/77

# Leisure Worlder

OF THE MONTH

## Col. John H. Awtry

In this age of disturbing lack of patriotism, Col. John H. Awtry stands tall in love for his country.

Starting a long record of military service, Col. Awtry first volunteered for duty in the United States Army in World War I while a student at the University of Texas. After the war he returned to the University and was graduated in 1921 with a Bachelor of Laws degree.

A career in law and insurance was interrupted in 1942 when this country entered World War II and Col. Awtry was commissioned Major in the Judge Advocate General's Corp. U.S. Army, ultimately advancing to rank of Colonel.

In his distinguished career he served with the Foreign Claims Commission and later on the general staff of the Twelfth Army Group. In this duty he assisted in making plans for the invasion of Normandy under the command of General Omar Bradley. He received three battle stars, the Legion of Merit and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious achievement in ground operations against the enemy.

Following hospitalization for severe injuries he rejoined the Twelfth Army Group to which he was attached through the campaigns in Northern France and Germany.

In 1945 he was designated as Chief of the Foreign Claims Division of the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington.

In 1946 he was assigned to duty as a member of the War Department General Staff and until 1949 was the Chief of the War Frauds Unit of the Offices of the Under Secretary of War and Assistant Secretary of the Army.

In 1949 he was assigned duty in Heidelberg, Germany on the staff of the commanding general of the European Command, as a member of the war crimes staff; and also served as Chief, Contract and Procurement Division.

He was later ordered to duty as a member of the Army Panel, Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Washington.

In 1953 he was permanently retired and promoted to full Colonel by direct orders from the President of the United States.

As one of the most sought-after speakers in Leisure World, Col. Awtry has addressed most of the community's clubs and organizations to standing ovations.

His pastor, Dr. Ivan B. Bell of The First Baptist Church has said, "A deeply sincere Christian, a loyal and dedicated American, Col. John Awtry stands at the top of those who have lived their lives for great causes."