

Colonel John J. Awtry

War hero named LWer of month



In this age of disturbing lack of patriotism, one man stands tall in love for his country. He is Col. John H. Awtry, lawyer, business executive and military officer with a distinguished war record, who has been chosen by Rossmoor Corporation Leisure Worlder for the month of June.

A portrait has been commissioned of Col. Awtry and it will hang in the sales pavilion during

the month of June after which it will be presented to him and Mrs. Awtry in an informal ceremony.

"We face a great danger today from Communism," he says and believes the only chance of survival is to keep our nation internally and externally strong. "Individual justice can be done only if we take a firm stand for honesty and integrity."

With a long record of

military service to his country, Col. Awtry first volunteered for duty in the Army in World War I while a student at the University of Texas and was graduated in 1921 with a Bachelor of Laws degree. Soon thereafter he entered the general practice of law in Dallas.

A career in law and insurance saw him active in matters relating to the motor transport industry, serving on legislative committees that helped

formulate the regulation of interstate transportation by motor carriers. In 1925 he founded John H. Awtry & Co. in Dallas, an insurance and management concern that handled some of the largest transportation risks in the nation.

In 1936 he moved from Dallas to New York after election as Vice President and General Manager and later as President of the First Rein-

(Cont. on page 12)

After military career

Leisure Worlder of month focuses on patriotism

(Cont. from page 11)

insurance Company, the oldest organization of its kind in the United States. Over the years he also served in high capacities for numerous major insurance companies.

In 1942 soon after this country entered World War II, Col. Awtry was commissioned Major in the Judge Advocate General's Corp. U.S. Army and was subsequently advanced to that of Colonel, the rank he held when he was placed on the retired list.

In 1943 he was ordered to duty in London. Eng-

land with the Foreign Claims Commission, a body established to settle claims arising from non-combat actions of U.S. troops stationed around the world. After completing this work he served 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 opera-

tions 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 with technical supervision and administration of all foreign claims commissions operating wherever U.S. military forces were stationed.

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 for the Army. As a result of his work, approximately \$50 million was recovered for the government and about fifty offenders were successfully prosecuted and convicted.

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.

In 1950 he was stricken with a heart attack while the plane carrying him

was approaching Iceland for a landing. He was later transferred to Walter Reed Hospital, Washington. Upon his release he was 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.

While carrying out these duties he was again hospitalized, and in 1953 was permanently retired and was promoted to full Colonel by direct orders from the President of the United States.

For many years Col. Awtry served on the Federal Grand Jury and is a life member of the American Bar Association and the Dallas and Texas State Associations. He has been hon-

ored by recognition in such volumes as "The National Encyclopedia of American Biography," "Who's Who in the West," and "The International Year Book and Statesman's Who's Who," London.

As one of the most sought-after speakers in Leisure World, who has addressed most of the community's clubs to standing ovations, Col. Awtry is a strong leader in the American Association of Retired Persons.

It is said of Col. Awtry by his pastor, Dr. Ivan B. Bell of The First Baptist Church, "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."