

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.

Arthur Beaumont

Leisure Worlder—August, 1976

One of our nation's best loved artists, the late Arthur Beaumont was known widely as "Artist Laureate of the United States Navy." For 45 years "Beau" served as a Navy reserve officer and specialized in painting Navy ships, activities and personnel.

President Roosevelt commended him for his vivid paintings of naval action in World War II, and in April, 1964, he was awarded the Navy's Meritorious Public Service Citation by Secretary of the Navy Paul Nitze.

In his outstanding career spanning more than 60 years, Beaumont created hundreds of great art works. Many hang in prestigious spots: The White House, U.S. Naval Academy, many U.S. embassies, in museums and among noted private collections. Pages would be needed to list his one-man shows reaching from the McMurdo Base in the Antarctic to Point Hope, Alaska.

Though known principally for his vivid paintings of naval vessels and battles, "Beau" was equally great as a portraitist and his subjects included admirals, movie stars and statesmen.

During his highly adventurous career, he sailed the world. He sketched and painted scenes of great naval battles in World War II, Korea and Viet Nam. With the Navy he traveled to both the North and South Poles, the only artist in history to do so, and painted in sub-zero weather with paints diluted with alcohol, working in 30-second bursts to avoid freezing his fingers. He also painted the atomic blasts at Bikini.

After retiring to Leisure World, "Beau" continued painting five days a week, working on a backlog of commissions, and occasionally lectured before community groups. Until his death in 1978 at age 88, he was an excellent example of the many Leisure Worlders who continue to lead a productive and exciting life in so-called "leisure" years.