

5/76

LEISURE WORLDER
of the Month

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

Admiral Smoot has had a long and distinguished career in the United States Navy dating from his graduation from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1923 to retirement in 1962.

Highlights of that career include command of two destroyers, two destroyer squadrons, a destroyer flotilla, a heavy cruiser, a division of cruisers and the Mine Force of the U. S. Pacific Fleet. He also served in personnel administration, as Commander of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Training School in San Diego and other duties at Naval Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

After Pearl Harbor, Admiral Smoot's first duty was in command of a new destroyer assigned to escort old battleships through the Panama Canal out to the Pacific where the fleet participated in the famous Jimmy Doolittle raid on Japan. Then followed the amphibious landings on Guadalcanal and many air-sea battles and nighttime forays in the prolonged campaign in the South Pacific.

Admiral Smoot participated in the amphibious landings at Leyte and Lingayen in the Phillipines, where in command of a squadron of nine destroyers in the Suragas Strait, he directed what will probably be history's last coordinated torpedo attack

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against an enemy battle line. In this great sea battle, the furious and devastating kamikaze attacks began and they destroyed six of the nine destroyers in Admiral Smoot's command.

Following this, he commanded support of landings at Iwo Jima, Okinawa and finally the surrender of Japan. He witnessed the historical signing of the instrument of capitulation on the USS Missouri.

In his final four years of active duty, Admiral Smoot was assigned as Sr. Naval Officer in the Far East, with the title of Commander Taiwan Defense Command. Here, his most important duties were those required from the collateral assignment as Sr. U. S. Military Adviser to President Chiang Kai-shek.

Admiral and Mrs. Smoot became residents of Leisure World in 1966. He is extremely active in behalf of the welfare of the community and serves as President of the Golden Rain Foundation.

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