
Leisure Worlder of the Month

Donald W. Davis

A constant theme has played throughout Donald Davis' life, and it's punctuated with investment and finance. His song was written from the time he graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Political Science and Economics. Davis shortly thereafter completed graduate studies at Northwestern University in Finance and Business Administration. He served his country faithfully in World War II, and then returned to the business world, successfully climbing the professional ladder to the pinnacle of Chairman of the National Sales Committee for Dempsey Tegeler & Co., one of the major New York Stock Exchange firms with offices coast to coast. Davis will reap a profit from all he's invested on Wednesday, November 5, when he's named "Leisure Worlder of the Month," by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society. The special ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m. in Clubhouse Six, and the public is invited to attend.

Three years after graduating from the University of Illinois he married Florence, his college sweetheart. During his early career in the investment business he became Director of Advertising and Sales Promotion and then Director of Research for James R. Buck & Co., an Investment Banking firm in Chicago. Then he was promoted to Director of Sales for the state of Illinois. During this period Davis was a guest author for midwest financial publications.

At the age of 32, Davis and two associates formed the investment banking firm of Thompson, Davis and Phipps. A short five years later the United States entered World War II and Don liquidated his interest in the firm and joined the Navy. He served four years in the Finance Division of the Supply Corps, serving on the staffs of three Admirals. He had two tours of duty in the office of the Secretary of the Navy, and he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. For his work he received a special letter of commendation from Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy.

At the end of the war he reentered the investment business in Los Angeles with Wagenseller and Durst. A few years later he joined Dempsey Tegeler & Co. In 1955, he became a Senior Vice President and Director of the firm. During the last five years on the job, Davis, chaired his firm's National Sales Committee. At that time, the firm had more than 1,000 account executives. Don was also listed in "Who's Who in Commerce and Industry" and in "Who's Who in the West."

Don and Florence retired and moved to Lake San Marcos, California, where he served as a director of the Home Owners' Association

He also served as a director of United Way, San Diego County, and on PAR Council, the United Way management committee, which determined which social agencies would be funded and the amount of the funding. Don is a Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Lake San Marcos where he received the Distinguished President's pin from the Governor of the California, Nevada, Hawaii District.

Don and Florence moved to Leisure World in 1981 where he has been active in government and club work. He has served as a member of the Golden Rain Foundation Board of Directors and was Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee for the fiscal year 1985-1986. He currently is an advisor on the Golden Rain Finance Committee, the Community Relations Committee, the Security Committee, the Insurance Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee and is a member of the Golden Rain Nominating Committee.

He is active in the Saddleback Kiwanis Club, and is on the Board of Directors, also a member of the board of the Saddleback Kiwanis Foundation. Don is a director of the Saddleback Hospital Associates, is Treasurer of Opera 100, and on the board of the California Club. He is a past director of the Leisure World Foreign Policy Association and the Leisure World Republican Club.