



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Serving the community in many areas

Marsh gets Leisure Worlder nod for November

By Cheryl Walker
The News

In the wake of recent tragic events, America has come to a new appreciation of emergency service workers: policemen, firefighters and disaster relief workers.

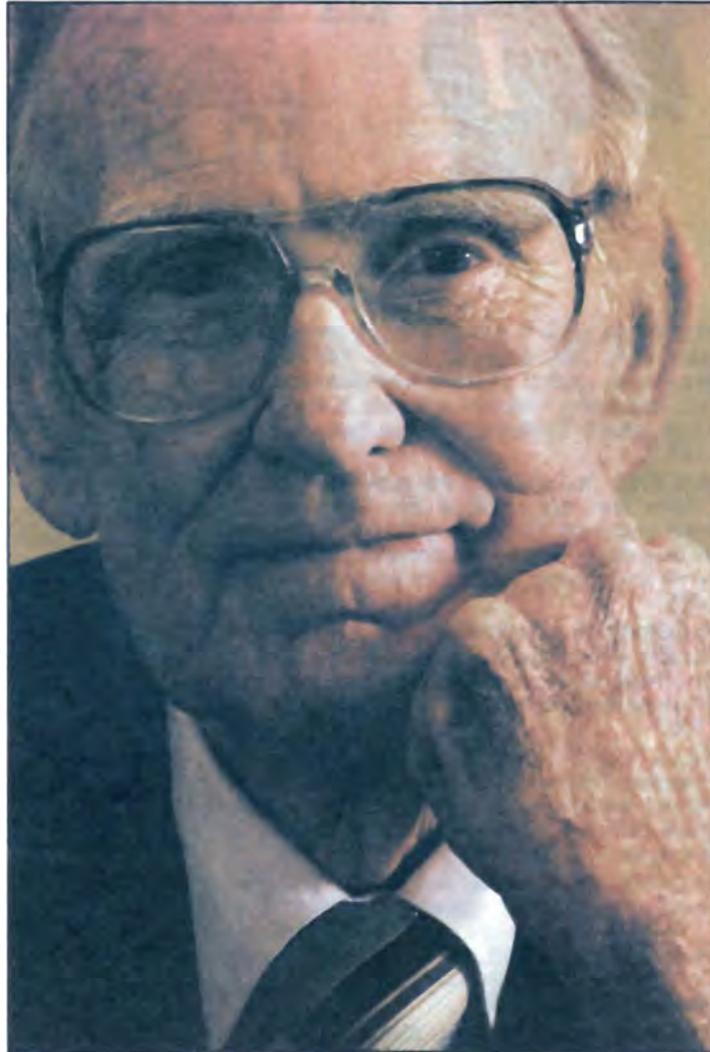
Consider, then, that the Leisure World Historical Society's November choice, Jim Marsh, has trained and worked as all three and served on Leisure World's boards as a director or committee member with distinction.

Former United Mutual President John Fuller explains that his colleague's "board contributions were outstanding ... Jim was conscientious and dependable and always willing to help whatever the need."

Those qualities also have made him an asset to clubs and to Leisure World Security where he formerly was a gate officer, motor patrolman, dispatcher and fire marshal.

Former Golden Rain President Peggy Kermer, who worked with Marsh in Security, says her colleague could always be relied on to get a difficult job done. "What he starts, he finishes," she explains, adding that in spite of all that drive and focus "he's a very friendly person."

He's also a World War II hero with multiple decorations, which he, modestly declines to



Former United Mutual Director Jim Marsh will be honored as Leisure Worlder of the Month Wednesday, Nov. 7 in Clubhouse 6.

Photo by Rod Veal/The News

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enumerate. The most the former pilot will admit is he served five years in the Signal Corps and Air Force, attained the rank of captain and was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal with three battle stars for Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland.

James Marsh, a native of Ohio and from Scot and Irish pioneer stock, says he was inspired to a lifetime of service because of his mother, a nurse, "who was always involved in

Ceremony facts

Who: Jim Marsh

What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for November

When: 10 a.m., Wednesday Nov. 7

Where: Clubhouse 6

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society.

MARSH

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everything.”

She got her kids involved too. So, when Marsh heard the battlecry of World War II he left a secure job at AT&T and joined the military. After the war he served another five years as well in the active reserve.

Although offered his AT&T job back after leaving the service, he instead opted to go into the insurance industry because it afforded him the opportunity to meet a variety of people, travel and set his own schedule.

He was employed by a multiple line insurance company for 20 years and, after retiring purchased two insurance agencies and merged them into one.

While working, he was one of the founders and president of the Cincinnati Claims Association; studied business law, torts and contracts; became county director of disaster services for the American Red Cross (10 years); officiated at high school and college football (“For 25 years – I love to work with kids”); was a stalwart of the local Boy Scouts organization (Eagle Scout, cubmaster, scoutmaster, neighborhood commissioner and Scout Council staff officer); and was past lodge master and 32 degree Mason and chaplain emeritus for the First Masonic District of Ohio.

Marsh says he was inspired

to get involved with emergency services through contact with directors of such groups through his insurance work and with ARC set up emergency shelters, disaster radio networks and other services to deal with fires, blizzards and floods.

So when Marsh moved to Leisure World, it was natural that he'd get involved with Security and, through a decade of service, that earned him lifetime membership in the Security Officers Club, where he served as president, vice president and a member of the board of trustees.

Although Marsh and his wife Eve are inveterate museum hoppers, antique traders and travelers (they have journeyed to every country in the world except Russia) for the past few years they have rationed these pleasures so he could work on the committees and board of United Mutual and the Golden Rain Foundation.

In the former, he served as first and second vice president, vice chairman of the finance committee and vice chairman of the maintenance committee. On the latter he served on the security, finance and select audit committees and chairman of the earthquake subcommittee.

Sidelined because of ill health for the last year he says he's hoping to throw his hat back in the ring next year. “I like to give back to the community,” Marsh explains. “And I love helping people.”