

Political activist gets Leisure World honor

Oct. 24, 1984

David B. Mitchell has been known as a successful businessman, a tireless supporter of youth and civic programs and an avid participant in the nation's governmental process. The diversity of his interests, it might be said, is exceeded only by his dedication to them.

This month Mitchell will add to his list a new title: "Leisure Worlder of the Month" for November. A special ceremony to commemorate the event will be held by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society today, Nov. 1, at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6. The public is invited to attend.

An interest in politics that dates back to his youth in Iowa remains with Mitchell today. In college he interviewed William Howard Taft for the local newspaper; in 1928 he attended the Republican national convention at which Herbert Hoover was nominated for president.

Today he is a board member and past president of the Republican Club of Leisure World. He was the community's liaison to the White House and chairman for the reception in honor of President Gerald Ford in 1976.

Mitchell managed the local GOP headquarters in 1976, 1978 and 1980.

By that year, his staff of 300 volunteers had communicated with more than 25,000 registered voters. He himself logged more than 1,700 hours on the job.

The Leisure Worlder's energetic approach to life began a few years after his birth in What Cheer, Iowa. As an ambitious 11-year-old, Mitchell sold ice cream from a pony-powered cart.

When he graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in commerce and political science, he immediately took a job with the Peoples Savings Bank in Cedar Rapids. The following year, Mitchell joined the Continental-Illinois Bank and Trust Co., which at its peak was the nation's eighth-largest bank holding company.

Mitchell worked for the bank in public relations and business extension and served for six years in Des Moines as manager of the firm's investment affiliate.

After 10 years with Continental-Illinois, he went to work for the Zurich-American Insurance Companies, where he spent 29 successful years. He was honored as president of the company's Conference Club four times for his outstanding

leadership and status as a top producer nationwide.

While garnering success in the business world, Mitchell always found time to be active in the civic and social communities. He served for 13 years on the board of directors of the Evanston, Ill. Boy Scouts, and was chairman of the Scouts' Organization and Extension committee.

He was active in the Northminster Presbyterian Church, serving as elder, president of the board of trustees and chairman of the finance committee. He is a member of the American Rose Society, and served as director of the society's Chicago District I and co-producer of the district's annual rose show.

He also was active in community fund drives for many organizations.

In 1968 Mitchell and his wife, Sara, retired and moved to Leisure World—although "retirement" may be something of a misnomer. He is past president of the Saddleback Kiwanis Club, where he also was secretary for five years and chairman of the Community Beautiful landscape project for two years.

And he continues his active role in the local Republican organization.

David B. Mitchell has been named Leisure Worlder of the Month for November. A special ceremony to honor his accomplishments will be held Thursday, Nov. 1 at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6. The public is invited to attend.

Mitchell is being honored for his contributions to the business community, for responding to civic duty and to social causes.

He succeeds Gil Nelson, who served as Leisure Worlder of the Month in October.

Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society sponsor the event.



David Mitchell