

FRED KORTH  
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

Fred H. Korth was appointed Secretary of the Navy by President Kennedy on December 11, 1961, to succeed John B. Connally, who resigned after one year in office to return to Texas as a Gubernatorial candidate. He takes the Oath of Office on January 20, 1962, the effective date of Mr. Connally's resignation.

Mr. Korth was born in Yorktown, Texas, on September 9, 1909, son of Fritz R. J. Korth and Mrs. (Eleanor Marie Stark) Korth. He was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas in 1932, and in 1935 received the Bachelor of Laws degree from George Washington University, Washington, D. C. He was admitted to the Texas and District of Columbia Bars, and subsequently practiced law in Fort Worth, Texas, first with the firms of Thompson and Barwise, later as a partner in the firm of Wallace and Korth. In 1953 he was elected Executive Vice President of Continental National Bank, Fort Worth, and since 1959 has been its President.

Commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps in August 1942, he completed officers' training at Miami Beach, Florida, and served at Hensley and Love Fields in Texas, and at Fairfax Field, Kansas. His last assignment during World War II was to the Ferrying Division of the Air Transport Command, at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was Chief of Staff for Personnel until released from active duty, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in January 1946.

In March 1951 Mr. Korth was called to Washington by Secretary of the Army Frank Pace, with whom he'd seen war service, and remained to serve a year as Deputy Counselor, Department of the Army. On May 22, 1952, he was sworn into office as Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower), having been nominated by President Truman in April and confirmed by the Senate, May 16, 1952. For exceptional service during the next year, he was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Award by the Department of the Army.

In 1953 he was named Counselor to the Secretary of the Army, and again in 1959 received the Army's outstanding civilian award. From June 2, 1961 until appointed Secretary of the Navy, he served as Civilian Aide to Secretary of the Army Elvis J. Stahr, Jr. One of the three aides-at-large, he was responsible for interpreting Army policy and missions to civilian communities, while advising the Secretary of the Army of civilian views concerning that branch of the military service.

In addition to his law and bank affiliations, Mr. Korth has been a director of All States Life Insurance Company and of Professional and Business Men's Life Insurance Company; Treasurer of Fort Worth Air Terminal Corporation, a member of the Texas AEC; and President of United Fund, Fort Worth, Tarrant County (1957-1958). He is a director of Texas and Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth; member of the Advisory Board of Texas University; trustee of Hockaday School for Girls, Dallas; and is a member of the following:

Chamber of Commerce (Executive Committee), American and Texas Bar Associations, American Law Institute, American Judicature Society, American and Texas Bankers Associations, National Planning Association (National Council), Texas and

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Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (Treasurer), and Phi Delta Phi and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternities. He is a member of Democratic Clubs (Fort Worth, Town and Rivercrest County), Ridglea Club, and the Army and Navy Club, Washington, D. C.

NAVY - Office of Information  
Biographies Branch  
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