

# Bill Brooks Elected to Life Membership

By Barbara Del Piano



Bill Brooks

You don't see Bill "Brooksie" Brooks around the Club much anymore. Age and health issues have taken their toll in recent years. Yet, from the time he joined the Outrigger in 1946, throughout the 1990s, C. William Brooks II was a fixture at both the "old" Outrigger and the "new."

At the Annual Meeting held Monday, February 27, Brooks was acknowledged for his many years of active participation in Outrigger sports when he was honored by being elected to Life Membership.

Raised in Lahaina, Maui, Brooks took an early interest in swimming and running, sports that he took part in throughout his active life, serving as captain of his mainland college's track and swimming teams.

After joining the Outrigger in 1946, Bill immediately became involved in the Club's athletic program, devoting his energy into reviving the Club's running team. In the 1960s, Brooks coached and competed on the Outrigger's running team, leading it to three consecutive national running championships. It was he who first initiated the mileage-logging program in the men's locker room, and for many years, personally maintained it. This program is still in practice today.

As Chairman of the now defunct Athletic Sponsors Committee, Brooks arranged the Athletic Awards Banquet, an annual event held to honor the Club's outstanding sportsmen. A firm believer that those who made contributions to the athletic program deserved special recognition, Brooks came up with the idea of honoring the athletes with more than a once-a-year banquet.

He took his idea to the Board of Directors who wholeheartedly supported it and which ultimately emerged as a new standing committee. Called the Winged "O," the name and its logo are attributed to

Brooks who was inducted in 1983.

Over the years, Brooks was a member of, and actively involved in, many of the Club's standing committees, serving on the Admissions and Membership Committee, and during the '60s, '70s and '80s, chaired the Athletic and Running Committees; from 1987 to 1990, he was Chairman of the Winged "O."

A man of great ideas, Brooks was also one who put the time and energy into making his ideas a reality; the Outrigger and its renowned athletic program are beneficiaries of his efforts. After his active participation in Club activities, he could be found for many years doing his daily run in the park or working out in the gym. He was a regular in the men's locker room.

It's difficult to write about "Brooksie" without mentioning that he was also a truly handsome man and his social connections were awesome. Over the years, his dinner guests at the Club included such celebrities as Lana Turner, Red Skelton, Dean Martin, Chuck Norris, and Jackie Kennedy, causing many a jaw to drop as he escorted them into the Dining Room.

Congratulations, Bill, and mahalo for all you have done to make our Club a better place!

**X**  
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