

# An Outrigger 4th of July to Remember

By Kawika Grant



A young sailor came to Outrigger Canoe Club as a guest just before Christmas last, a Navy SEAL on leave after a long, arduous deployment, with another looming before him.

He was greatly taken by what he saw and experienced here: "a place where man may commune with sun and sand and sea....", as the plaque at our front door so rightly proclaims.

He found a warm welcome at OCC, the same welcoming embrace the Club has always extended to all its visitors for almost a hundred years now; especially so to our nation's veterans home from war.

This sailor was very grateful for the brief time he spent with us. And when he was about to leave he said he wanted to do something for Outrigger in return. He wanted to do something for the 4th of July.

Our special day. Something from a grateful serviceman. To celebrate the day our nation was born, his nation, our home, which those in uniform, now and many generations past, have fought to preserve for us.

This young sailor said he would like to give the Club a flag flown by American fighting men upholding the cause of freedom in a land far away to wave proudly overhead on this 4th of July.

Outrigger's general manager sent that sailor a flag, and a Club burgee, too. The very ones you see displayed here in this photo taken in Afghanistan. The very flags the Club will be flying this 4th of July.

And to whom do we owe this singular honor? This salute to Outrigger Canoe Club? To us all on this most special of all days? This expression of gratitude and thanks?

He's the one in blue shorts, holding the Club flag proudly. His name is Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua C. Sager, United States Navy.

This day, of all days, the day we celebrate our nation is a day to remember the debt we owe our service personnel for what they have given us, preserved for us. Our freedom.

Happy 4th of July Outrigger Canoe Club! And from one of those service men Mahalo Nui Loa!