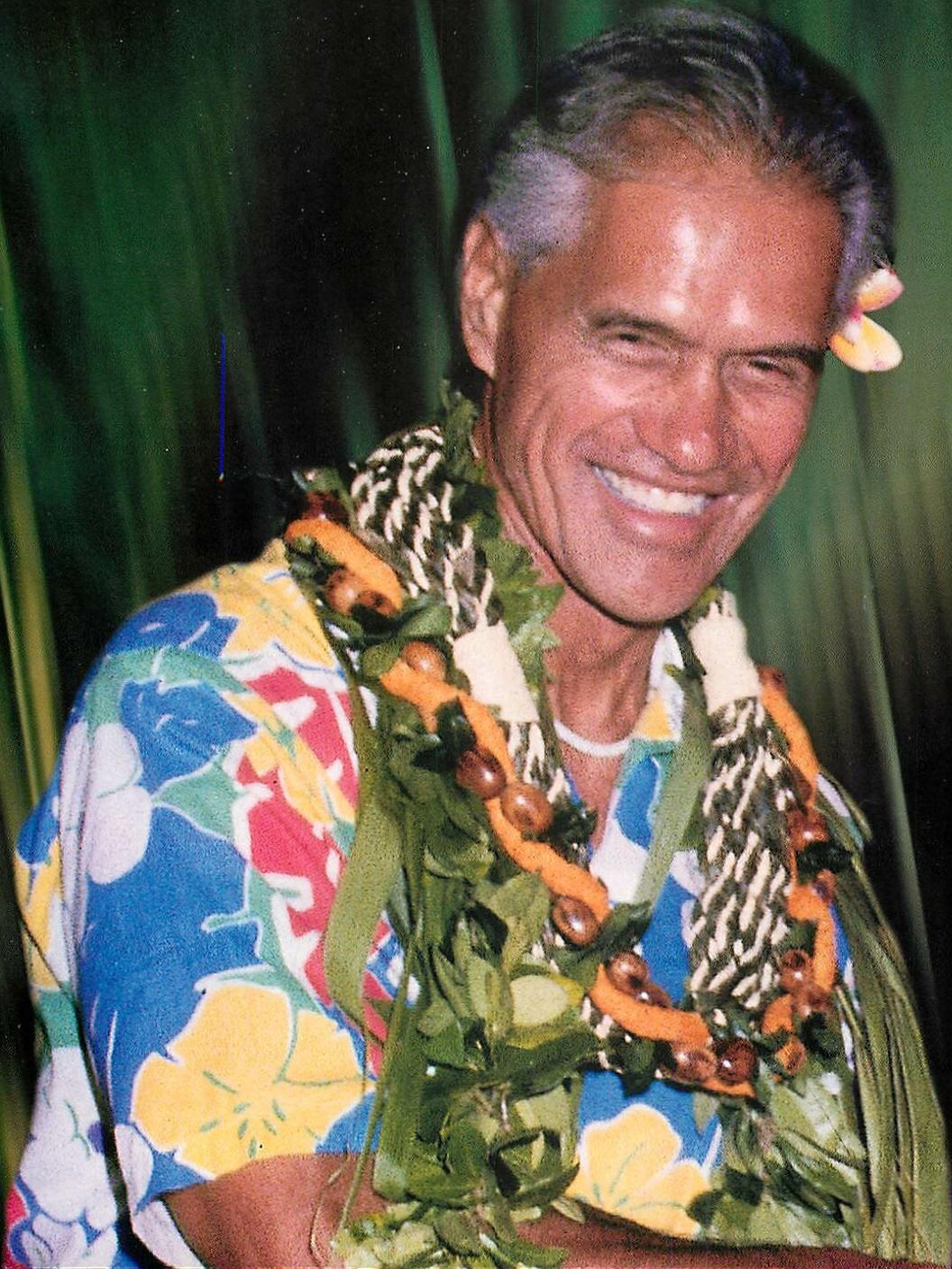


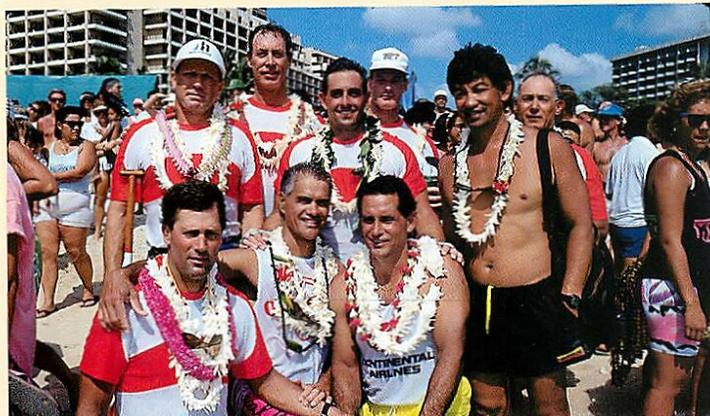
the **Outrigger**

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Distance Race to Honor Henry Ayau



Henry Ayau (center, front) with his 1991 Molokai crew.

By Glenna Wong and Genie Kincaid

On September 15, Steinlager will sponsor the first annual Henry Ayau Men's International Outrigger Canoe Race from Maunaloa Bay in Hawaii Kai to the Ko Olina Marina in Leeward Oahu. This 32-mile race will honor the memory of the late Henry Ayau, a beloved paddler and coach for the Outrigger Canoe Club.

This race has been known as the Skippy Kamakawiwo'ole race since the late 1980s when John DeSoto of the former Kilakila Canoe Club in Makaha and Outrigger's own, Walter Guild, first put the event together. That everyone connected with this race would support the change in name to honor such a popular ocean sportsman as Henry says much about the man and the many people he touched.

As Guild explains, "This race will now be dedicated to Henry's memory and will be a tribute to his leadership in promoting the state's official sport. It will also act as a bridge between the people of east and west Oahu communities through participation in a cultural and athletic activity."

About 60 nine-man crews are expected to compete in this prestigious event.

Last year, Outrigger won the koa division in the newly renovated *Kakina*.

Guild, who serves as event director said, "Henry Ayau was a true Hawaiian gentleman and one of the greatest ocean athletes ever. Henry was an avid canoe paddler and participated in the Skippy race since its

inception. Also known as a world-class open-ocean spear fisherman and all around waterman, Henry was best known for his warm attitude and "Aloha" spirit."

The race will be a fund raiser with designated proceeds going to Hui Lanakila Canoe Club which Henry helped to establish in the late 1970s. The race is also a prelude to the 2002 Hinano Molokai Hoe World Championship set for October 13.

Henry was selected to the prestigious Winged "O" at the OCC in 1983 in recognition of his many contributions to the Club's athletic program.

Whether it be working out on a paddleboard or fishing with the late great Duke Paoa Kahanamoku in the decades past, Henry donated generous amounts of his time to many athletic organizations.

He distinguished himself in athletics at Punahou School, Oregon State University and at OCC. He sat for many years on the Board of Directors of the Honolulu Quarterback Club.

At OCC, he has served on the Board of Directors and numerous Club committees including Admissions and Membership, Entertainment, Surfing, Tennis and Softball. He coached, chaired and played for the winning softball team for many years.

He also served as Head Canoe Racing Coach in the 1980s when Outrigger dominated the sport. He paddled in his first Molokai race in 1966, and rarely missed the channel crossing. He was on the winning crew in 1967, 1968, 1983 and 1984 for Outrigger.

Henry became close friends with Duke Kahanamoku in the latter years of Duke's life.

"We'd go on bill fishing trips to Lahaina together," Henry once said. "Back on Oahu, we used to paddleboard to the Diamond Head buoy and back. We'd come in and eat poi, ground onions and corned beef hamburgers on the Hau Terrace. You won't see that on the menu, but they always kept a special stash for Duke in the back."

A multi-talented entertainer, Ayau performed, produced or managed shows with such greats as Don Ho, John Rowles, Dick Jensen, Andy Bumatai and Tavana's Polynesian Spectacular.

Henry belonged to the OCC for 36 years. His children, Kathy, Patrick, Bruce, David, and Leslie have all participated in OCC athletics.

Henry passed away on May 8 at the age of 61 while swimming in the waters in front of the Club. His memorial service was held at the Club and his ashes scattered beyond Old Man's.

OCC Luau Remembers Henry

Henry Ayau, who was often seen at the Club with a plumeria behind his ear and an aloha greeting for all, will be remembered at the Club's Luau, Saturday, September 14. For many years Henry served on the Entertainment Committee which puts on the annual Luau. He often served as captain of the event, exceed, and brought in the great entertainment.

For those who attended the Club Luau's in the 1990s, Henry will be remembered as the man who started the imu fire on the Club beach before sunrise, and tended the imu with his Uncle Hawaiian, and the imu crew throughout the day.

As sunset approached, with live Hawaiian entertainment in the background and with Henry narrating, the imu would be uncovered and the tantalizing smells of the kalua pig, turkey and sweet potatoes, would waft over the crowd of hungry members.

Club members who want to remember Henry at this year's Luau, are asked to wear a plumeria, Henry fashion behind their ear, to the Luau. As the sun sets, and the music plays, you can toast Henry with his favorite drink, the Henry or the Henrietta from the Club Bar.

Aloha Oe, Henry.



Henry Ayau celebrates opening of the imu with his crew.