Outrigger Honors Retirees

“Start by doing what is necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

St. Francis of Assisi could have been talking about Outrigger and OHANA employees when he said that. That’s because our ‘ohana will do what it takes – including sometimes doing “the impossible” – to deliver world-class service to our guests.

We recently honored 51 such individuals at a special retirement luncheon. These outstanding men and women are retiring after many years of dedicated service and commitment to our company. They have helped build Outrigger and OHANA’s reputation for quality service.

It was a tremendous personal pleasure to gather with others – including David Carey, Perry Sorenson, Dr. Chuck Kelley, and Barry Wallace – to honor these remarkable men and women, and to thank them. As a group, they have devoted over 1,000 years of service to our company! But the real value of what they have contributed can frankly never be measured.

Two of these employees – Richard Sasaki and Sybil Shrinski – have 92 years of service between them alone. They each took a moment to reflect on their careers at Outrigger, and I would like to share a few of their comments with you.

Richard Sasaki — Richard was hired by my parents, Roy and Estelle Kelley, in 1956. His first position was at the Three Torches Bar and Restaurant at the Reef Hotel. Richard fondly remembered those times:

“We had nice Hawaiian music nightly at Snooper Bar. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley would come down every night for about half an hour. We always had to keep a stash of ginger ale for Mr. Kelley. I had a great time and enjoyed every minute of it!”

Sybil Shrinski – Sybil’s warmth and aloha has been heard over the phone lines at the Outrigger Reef and OHANA Reef Towers for many years. She recalled her early days with the company:

“When I first started in 1962, Mr. Kelley’s office was here at the Outrigger Reef, right next to the CSC office. Whenever someone called for him, we had to ring all the extensions in the lobby three times, and wherever he was, he would pick it up and say, ‘This is Mr. Kelley.’ I enjoyed working with him; he was so down to earth. Those were fun days; we worked hard and we appreciated our jobs.”

Richard and Sybil – along with the other retiring employees – have taken advantage of a Special Retirement Incentive Package that provides a generous array of benefits for those affected by the renovation and redevelopment work of the Waikiki Beach Walk project.

Please join me in congratulating all our retirees for their many accomplishments. They did what was necessary and what was possible … and, sometimes, what was “impossible” too, for many years.

All of us at Outrigger and OHANA owe them a big and sincere “mahalo” for all they have done for our company and for our guests.