



The Senate State of Hawaii

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL SMITH 2002 HAWAII SWIMMING HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

The Swimming Hall of Fame was founded in 2002 by the Hawaii Swimming Legacy Project to memorialize Hawaii's rich heritage of water sports and recognize swimmers, divers, and water polo players who have made important contributions to their sports. Its mission is to promote, preserve, and perpetuate the achievements of Hawaii's swimmers, divers, and water polo athletes. In order to commemorate Hawaii athletes' achievements in water sports, volunteers have gathered, preserved, and disseminated oral histories, photographs, and memorabilia about Hawaii's aquatic sports.

BILL SMITH is one of Hawaii's greatest swimmers. Bill was one of the inaugural inductees into the Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame in 2002. His outstanding swimming career began when he placed second in the one-mile swim at the Nationals in California at age sixteen. After returning home from the competition, he moved to Maui to train with legendary coach Soichi Sakamoto, where the training regimen included swimming against the currents in Maui's irrigation ditches.

Bill attended Ohio State University for one year prior to joining the Navy. After WWII ended, he returned to Ohio State to complete his degree and to resume competitive swimming. He won a total of thirty-six individual and relay titles in Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), Big Ten and NCAA championships. He set American records at eighteen different distances, and was generally considered the world's outstanding swimmer from 1941 to 1949. At the 1942 AAU Outdoor Nationals, Bill won three freestyle events, setting a world record in one and American records in the other two.

One of his greatest accomplishments was winning two gold medals at the 1948 Olympics in London. Bill won the gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle race and won a second gold medal in the 4x200-meter freestyle relay. Other achievements include setting eight world records and twelve national records.

In 1966, in recognition of his achievements as one of the world's greatest swimmers, Bill was inducted to the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Swimmer.

The Senate of the State of Hawaii pays tribute to BILL SMITH for his 2002 induction to the Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame, recognizes his many achievements and contributions to the sport of swimming, and extends its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

Done this 7th day of December 2005
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii

Sponsoring Senator

President of the Senate

Clerk of the Senate

