

# Chamber award honors contributions of T.S. Shinn

## THE CHAMBER VIEW

by Pamela Tumpap



On June 29 at the Maui Chamber of Commerce's annual installation luncheon at the King Kame-

hameha Golf

Club, the chamber once again will award the T.S. Shinn Award, the most prestigious award in the business community.

Our highest award is named in honor of longtime chamber President T.S. Shinn, a business owner widely known for his dedication to the business community and business leadership, as well as his widespread service to the community at large.

Born in Kula, T.S. Shinn, was very well known for being the vice president, treasurer and secretary of MDG Supply; for working as a translator for the founder of Ah Fook's; and for providing leadership to the Boy Scouts of

America. He recently was honored during Maui's Centennial Celebration as one of the 100 outstanding individuals "who made significant contributions to improve the quality of life in Maui County during the past 100 years."

This early business leader was a respected staple at Ah Fook's store. He reportedly spent many hours there, greeting customers and sharing his business acumen with employees. When Ah Fook's burned down in 2005, an article covering the event noted that, "Even if somehow Ah Fook's can be rebuilt, it won't be the same Ah Fook's, where T. S. Shinn once held court." He was truly revered.

While his business and community service are too extensive to count, here are a few of his accolades:

- BSA Silver Beaver Award winner in 1967.

- Chairman of: Maui County's Civil Service Commission; Ka Lima O Maui; Salvation Army (three times), for which he served

as advisory board member for 25 years.

- Director of Maui Electric Co.
- Director of: Lahaina Craft and Cultural Center; Friends of Maui County Library; Maui Art Society; and Hawaii Visitors Bureau.

- Election to the Scottish Rite of Free Masonry, 32nd degree.

- Honored by 7th Hawaii Legislature's House of Representatives for community service.

- Member of the Maui County Council.

- Past president of: Maui Chamber of Commerce; Maui Lions Club; and Ah Fook's Supermarket.

- Silver Antelope Award winner, highest award from Boy Scouts of America.

- Treasurer of: Maui Economic Opportunity Inc.; Hui Ahinahina, Silversword Society; World Brotherhood, Maui Chapter.

- VP and secretary-treasurer of MDG Supply.

The Maui Chamber of Com-

merce developed the T.S. Shinn Award in response to the passing of T.S. Shinn, who was serving as chairman of the board of directors at the time of his death. In establishing the award, the chamber sought to uphold and further the values of T.S. Shinn, a businessman who was unquestionably dedicated to Maui's business community but, more importantly, was a man who epitomized the high ideals of aloha spirit and service to the community as well. He was not only a man said to have been a good Christian, but a man who injected the Christian ethic into his business and everyday life.

First presented in 1980, the award was given to two recipients that year — David "Buddy" Nobriga and George Freeland. Since then, many of Maui's top business leaders have won this award.

When the chamber established this award, it had a wealth of information about T.S. Shinn.

However, due to a fire many years ago, much of our historical information about T.S. Shinn was lost. We are therefore asking the community to help us truly tell the story of T.S. Shinn and honor his life's accomplishments.

Any individual or organization with information about T.S. Shinn is asked to forward the information to the Maui Chamber of Commerce by sending e-mail to [info@mauichamber.com](mailto:info@mauichamber.com) or calling 871-7711. The information will be used to commemorate T.S. Shinn in a new section on our Web site. We would appreciate greatly the community's help, and those providing information toward this memorial will be mentioned on the Web site. If you have information on T.S. Shinn's life, please share it with us and help us share his life with others. He was a true leader in every sense of the word, and we believe his story inspires leadership in others.

Last year, we were delighted to

honor Steve Goodfellow, president of Goodfellow Bros. Inc., with the T.S. Shinn Award. Like T.S. Shinn, Steve is a humble, conscientious and caring individual who has built a successful company and is involved in numerous community organizations. His assistance reaches far and wide — from helping to put out fires, literally, to making extraordinary donations. We are lucky to have him in our community and were pleased to honor him for his tremendous contributions.

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the T.S. Shinn Award, an award given by the Maui Chamber of Commerce for outstanding community service and business leadership. So, stay tuned to see who receives the coveted T.S. Shinn award in June.

■ *Pamela Tumpap is president of the Maui Chamber of Commerce.*