

On Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 Colorado Taekwondo lost one of the Martial Arts icons of this state. Grandmaster Jung Kil Kim passed leaving behind a loving family; his wife Chun his daughter Kyong, and his son Master Sung Tiger Kim Jr. Grand Master Tiger Kim held many accomplishments in the martial arts, reaching a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Hapkido, Tang Soo Do, and Taekwondo. He was the President of World Tkd Moo Duk Kwan Association and he also was the Vice President of the Pan Am Moo Duk Kwon Association. He served as Colorado Taekwondo State President for both USTU and USAT. He served as a professor in the Korean National Police College and then here in Denver he served as a police officer retiring honorably as a Captain with the Denver Police Department..

Grandmaster Kim had a love for martial arts that drove him to study it like not many ever do, and it became his life's work. He was initially taught at the age of 6 by Grandmaster Chang Yong Jung and later by Grandmaster Hwang Kee. The nickname Tiger was earned due to his aggressive fighting style he was also known for being able to break many objects with his forehead. During the 1960s he had the privilege of serving as an instructor at ROK Marine Academy, and Captain Korean Police Force, high Captain military CID. And even in 1969 he was able to meet and instruct movie star Bruce Lee in the art of breaking! He also attended celebration by special invite where Chuck Norris was receiving his 8<sup>th</sup> Dan. Grandmaster Kim was also involved with the Chuck Norris "Kick Drugs Out Of America" Charity.

Grandmaster Kim open his 1<sup>st</sup> school in Denver Co in 1976 And it is here where his life experiences yielded the most. He raised his amazing kids and shared his dreams and life with his wife. But his soul was always poured into his students. Grand Master Jung Kil Kim has certified thousands of Blackbelts throughout his life. I witnessed one of these Blackbelt Certifications as a special guest of Grandmaster Kim and I witnessed a Blackbelt testing for I believe his 4<sup>th</sup> Dan and he was struggling with his brick break, then after several failed attempts I watched Grandmaster Kim move quickly to aid the student inspiring confidence with his instructions. It was his nature to help the student rather than fail him, again it speaks volumes of the teacher he was. Many of his students today have trained with him and his family for over 40 years! The longevity of the program he created is vibrant and will live on through his family, his students and his son.

I personally am just a friend of the son I'm not a student or a family member. I am honored to have met Grandmaster Jung Kil Kim and I found him to always be ever so willing to help anyone. He was involved in decisions and in the development of the curriculum at Tiger Kims Academy till the very end. But what struck me the most and the reason I agreed to write about this great man was in the relationship I witnessed multiple times between Grandmaster Kim and his son and my friend Tiger Kim Jr. We often met for lunch and my friend would always ask is it ok if I bring my father? The first time I thought it to be courteous but he asked every single time. And then, in their interactions I saw the beauty of the love of a father towards a son being now returned in his later years by a very son caring for him. I watched my friend hold his father's arm as he stepped on to the street from the side walk insuring he did not fall, or serving his food at lunch first and then serving his own. We are born and our parents care for us and then to witness the young son so attentively care for his father in his later years was always touching to me. It spoke volumes to me about the life that Jung Kil Kim must have led to be so loved by his family, his students, many friends in the police force and in the community but mainly by his son.

So I end by saying that for his family this is a time of sadness but a man so great leaves a legacy of love, memories, achievements, and students that will carry his teachings for generations to come. His son will carry the legacy and now will write his own life experiences onto that of his fathers. We must do all that

we can with the days granted to us by God and I believe that Grandmaster Jung kil Kim did so. Lets reach out to his family and let them know that the Taekwondo community recognizes the efforts of such a dedicated man to the martial arts. We pray for the Kim family to have courage through this time of sadness but we also pray for them to find comfort in each other and to realize that Jung Kil Kim always will live in the hearts of those that love him. May he rest in peace.