

Issue Dedicated to the Memory



**Grand Master Paul De Baca**

1945-2020

# The T.K.D. Flash

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## AROUND THE COUNTRY

It is with a heavy heart we announce the passing of Grand Master Paul De Baca. Our Deepest Sympathy to the Family, our Taekwon Do Family and friends worldwide.

In speaking with Sr. Grand Master Charles

Sereff this morning, his heart is broken and he was so thankful he was able to speak with GM De Baca when he got out of the hospital before he went back in. Grand Master Paul De Baca leaves a legacy that will be remembered by all of us forever, living by the tenets of TKD and adding a few more tenants of his own like Kindness, Honesty, Generosity, and



**Maestas Taekwondo** held a color belt testing on May 21st via Zoom! The team advanced nine students into their new ranks! On May 27th the students were invited to receive their new belts, tape and certificates at Master Pettijohn's home. They of course had to follow social distancing and mask regulations. Here are photos of **Joe** and **Owen Tassano** and **Olliver Bender** receiving their new ranks.

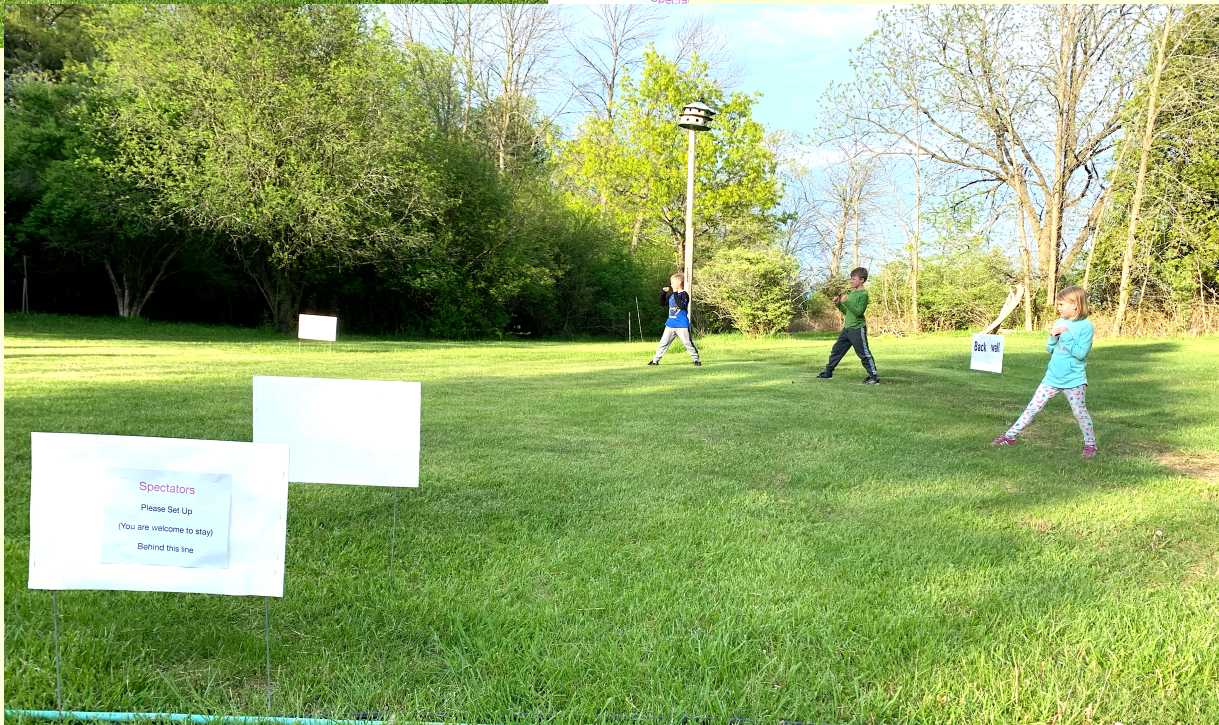
Maestas is still training via Zoom as classes in gyms are not yet allowed. Parks have opened back up so in June we may hold one in person class outdoors!

*Marsha Wright, F.S.*





Talk about social distancing! **Grafton Academy of Martial Arts** students outdoors and in “streets” on June first under the guidance of Third Dan **Alyssa Jankowski** (by flags at front): from left, below, **Alex** and **Joshua Rupert** and **Savannah Kelley**.



Loving. Heaven gained a wonderful man with a very big heart. I know he took a piece of all of our hearts with him to heaven.

We want to thank Mr. Scott Foster for his daily updates on Grand Master De Baca and for helping Mrs. De Baca with some difficult tasks.

We will keep you updated on the future memorial service.

Sincerely,

*Grand Master Renee Toroff, D.F.S.*

A Message from Mrs De Baca:

"Hi our sweet friends and family,

Yesterday was a day of hope and today my heart is breaking and this world is forever changed. Paul Welton De Baca is no longer with us on this earthly plane. I know many of you share my feeling that this world has lost a man who was a unique and trusted friend to so many, an amazingly talented and

gifted TaeKwon Do instructor and master practitioner, a fun loving motorcycle enthusiast, a dedicated patriot, and a man with a heart so big and so kind that nothing could contain his generosity. Dear Paul, we will miss you dearly and we sincerely acknowledge that this world has lost a treasured example of a human being who will forever be one of a kind, in a class all his own.

On another day in the distant future there will be a memorial service where many of us will join together to share stories of fond memories, and fun times, but on this night my energy is gone and my tears are blocking my words. Bless each of you for loving and respecting my sweet wonderful Paul and thank you for all of the kindness and generosity you've shown in the last month.

Paul and I appreciate and send our love to everyone, and we hope that each of you remembers to treasure the people you love, and tell them over and over how important and loved they are. There's never enough time to share kindness and love with the people we love, so appreciate every minute while you can.

Blessings to all,  
Janis"

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Pursuant to an admittedly arbitrary editorial decision, we will not publish notices of July events. However, we will publish notices, at least in this issue, of events scheduled for after August 1. We*

*have not received formal notice of the cancellation of some of these events so we apologize in advance if events were either included or deleted in error. Promoters should feel free to contact us to inform of any changes, cancellations, or rescheduling.*

*Stay safe out there!*

*Your Humble Editor*

On August 27 there will be a combined Black Belt and Color Belt Testing at **Axe Taekwon-Do**, Bellevue, Nebraska. jThe Promoter is Sr. Master **Ricky Todd**.

September 19, there's a USTF Step Sparring seminar at Mountain View Taekwon-Do & Fitness, Washington State, Promoter Sr. Master **David Mason**.

**The 21st Annual Wyoming Invitational Tournament** will be held on September 19, Promoter Master **Gerald Sisco**. Chief Referee will be Mrs. **Dee Dee Connell**.

Also on September 26, there will be a Black Belt test at **Big Dog Taekwon-Do** in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

A Black Belt test will be held at **Mountain View Taekwon-Do and Fitness**, at which candidates will participate from Mountain View and also **Bodystrong Takeown-Do** and **Rainier View Taekwon-Do** on October 10. Promoter, Sr. Master **David Mason**.

On November 19 there will be a Black and Color Belt Testing at **Axe Taekwon-Do**.

### WANT MY FILMS? SORRY.

We have received requests for the “pandemic” films the Editor has produced for his students on a number of topics. We will not provide them, for two reasons, one of which is of lesser importance, one of greater importance.

Of lesser importance: these are amateur films with poor production values. While I take justifiable pride in their enthusiastic reception among my students, who included numerous high-ranking practitioners, they are hardly “polished.” My students understand that limitation and accept that; others, viewers on Youtube, for example, may not, and thus I would hesitate to promulgate them as representative of USTF standards if poor in presentation, content notwithstanding.

Of greater importance, however, is another reality: we have a Technical Director in USTF. It is he who defines the organizational standard, not I. Sr. Grand Master C.E. Sereff has appointed his preferred Technical Director. I have attended numerous A, B, and C seminars under Grand Master Mike Winegar. They have all been excellent.

There is a principle of leadership for the resolution of technical questions which is appropriate to a national organization of many schools, many practitioners. It is, simply, that authority to define a standard for that organization resides with a specific person, protocol, writing, or source, not with many. In short, this ain’t a democracy.

Now, I am not saying I don’t have my thoughts on technical issues. Indeed, I’ve been published internationally and am author of over quite a few articles a large number of which could be called “technical.” But I’m not USTF’s lode star in this area. I am simply a source for those readers outside of the organization who care to follow my thinking in other publications, and to my students, who, for good or ill, are stuck with me.

But, wait, are there differences? I suppose if one were to comb every detail of every seminar ever taught by Sr. Grand Master Sereff, by Grand Master Winegar, or, for that matter, by ITF Founder Gen. Choi, Hong Hi, we could find (very rarely) misstatements or errors, and a very few discrepancies from seminar to seminar. And certainly you could find quite a number of them in my body of work in Taekwon-Do over the 50 years since I took my First Dan.

But this is about respect, attitude. Knowing one’s place.

Once a student of mine came to me with a concern about an obvious error that had been taught at a seminar. The instructor significantly outranked almost all present. My reaction was: so who’s perfect?

If you cannot consider the totality of what a teacher teaches over time, if you cannot take into account the contribution of that instructor to our Art, and if you are expecting human beings not to make an occasional mistake, you are missing the point. Be grateful for that teacher in that seminar and what he or she has given you.

Follow my policy on **that** issue in **my** dojang. Don’t expect people to be God (and you wouldn’t want, through presumptuous appropriation of His role, to irritate THAT guy).

Really, a little humility never hurts, and a little respect for others goes a long way. So what applies here? Technical issues and the USTF standard? “Above my pay grade.”

Grand Master **Earl Weiss** and Sr. Master F.M. Van Hecke presided on June 20 at the Academy of Martial Arts in Grafton, Wisconsin, for a Black Belt Test dedicated to the memory of Grand Master **Paul De Baca**.

Mr. **Joevan Grospe** tested for Second Dan. Mr. **Matthew Thur** tested for Fourth Dan. Mr. **James Pals** tested for Sixth Dan. And Dr. **Steve Osborn** tested for Seventh Dan. They were ably



assisted by Ms. **Ursula Ostaszewska**, Ms. **Valerie Locklair**, Mr. **Mitchell Pals**, and Mr. **David Glendenning**. Due to COVID restrictions, in all cases partners/assistants had considerable prior one-on-one interface with the respective testing partners. Free sparring and ho sin soon requirements were waived, deferred, or previously completed. Admission for spectators was limited, no corner was involved and the Board size held to two persons.

Congratulations are in order for all. Elements of the test were conducted on line, others such as Ho Sin Sool routines deferred, but the bottom line was an incredible display of the beauty of Taekwon-Do and a fitting tribute to Grand Master De Baca.

In the group photo, above, from left, back row, Miss Ostaszewska, Mr. Grospe, Miss Locklair, Mr. Thur, Master Osborn, Mr. Glendenning, Mr. James Pals and Mr. Mitchell Pals, seated, Grand Master Weiss and Sr. Master Van Hecke.

Pictures of the action follow. Photo credits in all cases: Kathleen Van Hecke.



Some breaking: top to bottom, Mr. Grospe (flying pieces of wood behind Mr. Glendenning's head—see arrow), Mr. Thur, Mr. Pals.





Grand Master Weiss ordered Mr. Grospe to do flying twin side piercing kick, and, as you can see at left, Mr. Grospe got it wrong. So...

...he had to do it again.

