

The T.K.D. Flash

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The National Newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation

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FROM THE TOP

February 17, 2021

To All USTF Masters,

It is with a heavy heart we announce the passing of Sr. Master **Paul Byrne** after a long

illness. The family asked us to post this on Facebook and the response was overwhelming! Sr. Master Byrne served the USTF well as not only a State Director in New Jersey but an instructor for Sereff World Camps and for **Sterlington Taekwon Do in**



Master **Rick Bauman** instructed a USTF Referee Course at the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, Wisconsin, on January 31. Behind him, front row from left, **Sophie Wall, Connor Maehl, Patrick Kaye, Vyshanth Selvakumar**, and, in back, **Ben Lorenz, Mrs. Mary Lubner, Shambav Ashwinkumar**, and Sr. Master F.M. Van Hecke, Promoter.



Sir:

Michelle Hirschi, a 4th Dan instructor here in Utah, wanted to submit these photos for your consideration for inclusion in the Flash. They have been doing lots of outdoor training this

year and found using snowmen as opponents to be a great training tool! On the left is **Rodrigo Paulsen**. He is 9 years old and a blue belt. On the right is **Abigail Johnson**. She is a blue belt as well

Corinne Sroykum, Stringer



Louisiana. We lost a very good man who will be missed.

Congratulations to Master **Stoppani**, Washington State Director and his student Mr. **Larry Muckley** for starting a new school, **Next Level Taekwon-Do** Academy in Sequim, Washington!

Congratulations to Mr. **James Brown**, the newly appointed USTF State Director of Alaska. Sr. Master **Guy Williams** resigned as the Director last month after many years of filling that position. We wish both gentlemen the best!

We have several students being promoted to Master and Sr. Master on March 13, 2021 at headquarters with many restrictions like masks and social distancing.

Masters **Lawrence Greene** and **Craig Craddock** will be promoted to Sr. Master **David Martin**, **Louise Fox**, **Cameo Zugschwert**, **Charles Ruby**, **Freddie Cowns**, and **Jeremy Bennett** will be promoted to Master. Mr. **Anthony Giese** will be promoted to Master the same day in Casper, Wyoming. [Editor's Note: pictures of these worthies to be found in this issue.]

We are waiting for the next level down for the COVID crisis prior to scheduling any of the seminars. The time anticipated will be toward the Fall of 2021. If you are in a state that has lifted more of the restrictions and have had a seminar or event scheduled that was cancelled, please contact your Regional Director to reschedule your event. At this

time USTF Nationals will be postponed until at least 2022. Many will not participate until they have received the vaccine and we hope that happens by the fall.

We are all survivors and are getting through this together. Between Zoom, in house classes, and outside training, we hope to get back soon. Thank you to all for your great support during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Grand Master Renee' Soroff

AROUND THE COUNTRY

On February 25 a promotion testing for all gup ranks and for selected dan ranks was conducted at **Axe Taekwon-Do** of Bellevue, Nebraska.

On March 13 there will be a Wyoming Black Belt testing at Casper, Wyoming. hosted by

Grand Master **Stan Martin**. Persons will be testing for 2nd, 3rd, and 7th Dan.

On May 27, Axe Taekwon-Do will have a test for Black Belt and colored belt ranks.

Sr. Master **Ricky Todd** will sponsor a combined gup and dan testing at Bellevue, Nebraska, on August 26.

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Congratulations to Mr. **James Brown**, our new Alaska State Director. He succeeds Master **Guy Williams** after Master Williams's many years of excellent service and contribution to our Art.

A Celebration

Fifty Years of Taekwon-Do

Feb 1, 1971 to Feb 1, 2021-- 50 YEAR celebration !!

Grand Master **Stan Martin** started Taekwon-Do because he always wanted to since a young person. He had heard on the radio: “free Taekwon-Do and meditation classes” offered by Joe Armstrong, a 2nd Gup Red belt. For Grand Master Martin’s 20th birthday present to himself he started his studies on February 1, 1971.

Your Humble Editor sent Grand Master Martin a series of questions on what happened after that and his future course in the Art. His responses are set forth hereinafter.

“I trained with Mr. Armstrong for about 7-8 months when he decided to leave town abruptly. There were about 15 of us white belts and they elected me to be the instructor. After a few months I found Mr. Jim Ford and started studying with him in his class and continued to teach the other group, finally deciding to invite them all to Mr. Ford’s class, which they all quit except one.”

Sr. Grand Master **Charles E. Sereff** had promoted three local people to 1st degree black belt in 1970, Jim Ford, Ted Hicks and Terry Hicks. Sr. Grand Master Sereff promoted Grand Master Martin to 8th Gup in November of 1972. The certificate is on the right, complete with the reflection of a Wyoming guy with the camera.

“In Casper, Wyoming, we have had at least 14 different locations where I have trained or taught Taekwon-Do and in 1999 bought my own personal commercial school which remains today.

“What keeps me doing this are the people that do the same thing I do – they are the best in the world, my commitment to Sr. Grand Master Sereff, to the USTF, and to my Wyoming students and instructors.

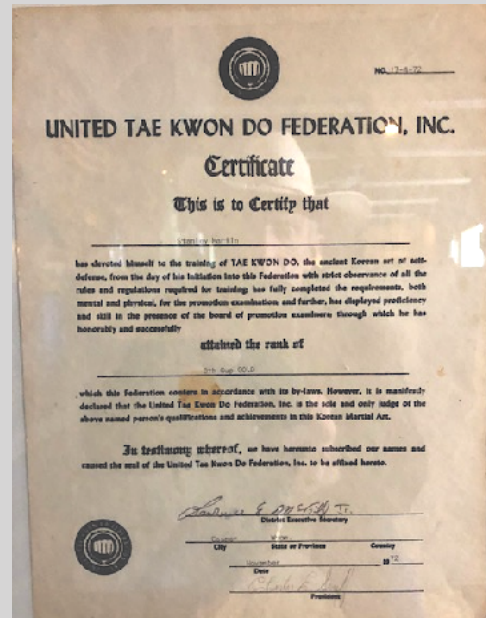
“Some of the disappointments down through the years have been the struggles of keeping a class going – watching many talented people come and go. But the positives outweigh the negatives.

“I have had many highs in Taekwon-Do but two specific events stand out – Testing in front of Sr. Grand Master Sereff for Master instructor at the General’s last instructors course in Denver, Colorado on April 6, 2002 and when SGM Sereff promoted me to Grand Master in September of 2016.”

Asked about the best of his many years in Taekwon-Do, Grand Master Martin shared:

“What do I feel are the best things about my years in Taekwon-Do? The most incredible people I have met, the places it has taken me in the state, country and outside of its borders. I truly am a lucky man and have been given an opportunity that most people will never have.”

The Flash congratulates Grand Master Stan Martin on fifty years of achievement and effort. Some pics follow, next page.





**High
kicker**

BOYS' CLUB karate expert Stan Martin demonstrates skill in show given for Cub Scout Pack 25 annual blue and gold banquet Saturday night at Roosevelt School in Casper. Forty Boys' Club members are enrolled in karate classes. (Picture by Irving Garbutt)

Then and Now.

Celebrating the 50th year in Taekwon-Do of Grand Master Stan Martin.

(Special thanks to Sr. Master Guy Williams for inspiring this article; some people are too modest to blow their own horns, you know.)





NEW SEVENTH DANS

Clockwise from eleven o'clock: Master David Martin, Master Louise Fox, Master Charles Ruby, and Master Cameo Zugschwert. Continued, next page.





NEW SEVENTH DANS
(continued)

Top to bottom:
Master Freddie Cowns,
Master Jeremy Bennett,
Master Anthony Giese





NEW EIGHTH DANS

**Senior Master
Lawrence Greene**



**Senior Master
Craig Craddock**



Senior Master
Paul Byrne
A Gentleman
to the End

