

# The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

The National Newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation

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## AROUND THE COUNTRY

**Maestas Taekwon-Do** will hold its Spring Black Belt test at Arvada, Colorado on May 1.

On May 22 **Mount Rainier View Taekwon-Do** and **Coastal Taekwon-Do** will conduct a Black Belt test at Enumclaw, Washington. Sr. Master **Craig Craddock** is the



February 20<sup>th</sup>, saw a Northwest regional workout with students representing Senior Master

**David Mason's** school **Mountain View Taekwon-Do** and Master **Brandon Stoppani's** school **Bodystrong Taekwon-Do**.

We had a terrific day of patterns kicking and friendship. We had had a couple of snow days prior to the workout so we were all prepared for whatever the weather might deliver. However although there were piles of snow still on the ground mother nature treated us to an awesome morning of clear skies and warm temperatures! In addition to drilling as a large group we then split up into smaller groups for more one-on-one instruction. It is always awesome seeing students of varying ranks and ages training together. (See also p. 2)



*Dr. Linda Allen, F.S.*

Promoter. Notable: Ms. **Sharon Cormier** and Ms. **Connie Craddock** will be testing for advanced ranks and Ashley, Adrian, Lissyana, Angel and Alexandra Triplett for First Dan.

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

On June 5 the **Utah Chang Hun Taekwon-Do Association**, Promoter Master **Rob Riley**, will host a Black Belt test at Draper, Utah. Sr. Master **William Dubbeld, Sr.** will preside.

Sr. Master **David Mason** is Promoter of a Black Belt testing to be held June 12 at **Mountain View Martial Arts** for practitioners at Mountain View and **Bodystrong Taekwon-Do**.

On June 27 a Black Belt test will be held at the **Academy of Martial Arts, Sheboygan Falls,**

Wisconsin. The Promoter is Wisconsin State Director **Jacqueline Karpinsky**.

On July 17 Master **Jeremy Bennett** will host a Black Belt test as **Senatobia Taekwon-Do** in Mississippi.

Sr. Master **Ricky Todd** sponsors a combined gup and dan testing for **Axe Taekwon-Do** at Bellevue, Nebraska, on August 26.

**FROM HQ**

It is with a heavy heart we announce the retirement of our Hawaii State Director, Sr. Master **Randy Casco**.

We sincerely appreciate the dedication and service he gave us for over 35 years. In his letter he mentioned the Tenets and Oaths of General Choi were his Ten Commandments in life. They guided him as a



Sir:

*Although 2021 has unfortunately seen restrictions only slightly lifted because of the pandemic it has not prevented the USTF schools in the Pacific Northwest from forging ahead with regular training and activities even if modified. Master **Brandon Stoppani**'s school **Bodystrong Taekwon-Do** has had 2 color belt testings already this year. Although class size and social distancing has affected our normal routine we have added 6 new white belts since the beginning of the year. Here Master Stoppani trains with Sr. Master David Mason.*

*Dr. Linda Allen, J.S.*



h u s b a n d ,  
p a r e n t ,  
e d u c a t o r ,  
m a r t i a l a r t s  
c o m p e t i t o r ,  
g n a r l y w a v e  
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T a e k w o n - D o  
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a g r e a t p a r t o f

wanting to spend more time with his Grandkids, he felt if there was ever a time to retire, this was it. It is sad to say goodbye but great to see he is on his way to lots of giggles and grins with his Grandkids! Of course I know he will be teaching Chon-Ji to them.

We will continue to seek guidance from Sr. Master Casco concerning USTF in Hawaii.

Until we meet again, Aloha.

*Grand Master Renee' Soroff*

who he is and always shall be. With COVID restrictions of not being able to teach for over a year, some health problems like knee replacement,

[**Editor's Note:** Sr. Master Casco's photo, on left, reflects his positive personality. Sr. Master Casco and his students extended considerable courtesies to Your Humble Editor when last in his territory. And he drinks the same brand of scotch, and in the same way. An estimable gentleman. God Speed.]



On April 7 the **Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, Wisconsin** held a small testing. Presiding were **F. M. Van Hecke**, Eighth Dan, assisted by **Mr. Noah Friberg**, First Dan. At the Corner, supervised by Miss **Sophie Wall**, were **Mr. Patrick Kaye** and **Mr. Vyshanth Selvakumar**.

**Shambav Ashinkumar** and **Roshan Selvakumar** tested to Gup Two Red Belt. **Joshua Rupert** and **Alex Rupert** tested to Gup Six Green Belt. **Sam Locklair** and **Savannah Kelley** tested to Gup Seven Green Stripe. [Photos here and on next page.]



Clockwise from  
11:00 at the  
Grafton testing:  
Alex Rupert,  
Shambav  
Ashwinkumar  
(upwards kick  
with the knee),  
Joshua Rupert,  
Roshan  
Selvakumar.



Mr. **William Palmer, IV**, breaks for his Fourth Degree at Axe Taekwon-Do on February 25.



### THE FLASH IS MOVING!

In a joint press release, FMC, LLC, a New York holding company, and **The TKD Flash** have announced their cordial mutual termination of the lease between The TKD Flash as Prime Lessee and the

building currently in use as the Flash's Manhattan headquarters. The iconic building with over 520,000 square feet of office space, has 93 tenants exclusive of those floors occupied by the Flash organization. The Flash itself occupies 3 floors, including 2 auditoriums, 2 cafeterias, an executive dining



room, 27 conference rooms, a sauna, a pool, executive offices and open office space. FMC is looking for a new tenant and may divide.

The Flash housed its Executive, Administrative, Financial, Editorial, Plant, Security, Circulation, Research and News Departments in the building. As a condition of its lease termination the property will no longer be referred to as "The Flash Building." FMC indicated through a spokesperson that naming rights would await the acquisition of a new prime lessee.

Speaking on behalf of the Academy of Martial Arts, Inc., owner and publisher of the Flash, its President, F.M. Van Hecke, who is also the publication's Editor, stated: "We will miss our little home. It witnessed much of the growth of the Flash down through the later years. We all well remember the humble beginnings of our enterprise from that unheated shack on Ole and Lena Svensen's back lot on the outskirts of Ontonagon and the contrast to these present opulent surroundings. It was in these hallowed halls in the heart of Manhattan that the guts of our production was accomplished in later decades, in these auditoriums where we proudly pronounced the acquisition of Stringers and promotions and tragic losses within the News Staff, in these conference rooms where we debated the winners of contests, the editorial policies, and the direction of our publication. Above the reception desk on floor 8 is the plaque awarding our 2015 Pulitzer Prize, and upon our walls are photographic and artistic renderings from past issues. But, then, the rent was kinda high."

Actual last date of occupancy will be December 31 of 2023. In the interim, a Facilities Search Committee to be led by Mr. John Atorial, Plant Manager, and Mr. Malcolm Blashtritt, Deputy Administrator of Acquisitions and consisting of a number of appointees from throughout the company will undertake a rigorous and intensive search for alternative locations.