

## My Karate Journey, Part 29 -- My Legacy Hope!

When I first started HSK, my main goal was to expose my daughter Remy to the 'wonderful world of karate.' My hope was that she, too, would discover the many amazing opportunities that had opened up for me through MY journey. However, I also was aware of the difficult and often painful path she would have to take to fully experience these 'worlds.' She did everything RIGHT — tried her best, trained hard and regularly, and NEVER complained! She was the PERFECT student!!!

As the club grew, and with Remy headed in the right direction, I turned my attention to the members, especially those who put extra effort and focus into their training. When son Rylan started karate, also at 5 years of age, I felt complete! He, like Remy, tried his best, trained hard and regularly, and NEVER complained. He, however, had a HUGE edge over Remy — he was gifted and a natural, so things came easier for him!

I firmly believe that it matters NOT where you start, but where you END. I have seen members who are far from coordinated work their butts off and achieve incredible strides in their training, as well as natural athletes who waste their gifts through lack of effort or interest. I often told my students that there is nothing more painful than watching talent being wasted. IF I could, I would yank this wasted talent out and place it in someone who could make better use of it.

I realize that the only way people could experience the wonders of karate as I had was to DO what I had done — commit TOTALLY!!! However, I understand that although some may WANT to follow this path, they are unable because 'life gets in the way!' Responsibilities, family, and work understandably are top priorities, as they SHOULD be. I DO know, however, that there ARE

members who wish they COULD fully commit! Fortunately for ME, the stars were perfectly aligned when I started. It was the right TIME, the right PLACE, and the right CONDITIONS!!!

I have resigned myself to accepting the fact that possibly NO ONE else will experience what I have through my training. Even before I started, the mentality of those who trained was COMPLETELY different. Karateka committed their body and soul to training, so I KNOW that many experienced what I had. Today, everyone seems to be in too much of a rush ... with NOT enough time, and therefore interest, to get things done RIGHT!!

I now dedicate myself to helping students learn as much as they can as well as they can. No, not just the karate part, but the character-building, mental strengthening, and service to others part! My vision, as stated on our website, is "To develop a respectful, responsible, and contributing member of our community." We have been working on the character-building and mental strengthening areas since HSK started its 'school report' program many years back. In the last 10 years, we added the "community" aspect of our vision through blood and food drives, and have helped other non-profit organizations who aid those less fortunate.

Six years ago HSK celebrated its 34th anniversary! Son Rylan asked me, "How would you like to be remembered?" THIS was my response, and it has NOT changed since then:

"My goal has NEVER been to make money in karate. My goal has been, and will always be, to teach Shotokan karate to as many people willing to learn. I would like for people to remember me by saying they enjoyed their karate training and learned a lot. I would like them to say that I was fair and always helpful. I would also like them to say that I was an innovator of Shotokan karate, changing it from a style that only a chosen few could really excel in, to one that almost ANYONE could. I would especially want them to say that they

are now a better person BECAUSE of their training at HSK ... physically, mentally, and socially.

People start training for many different reasons, some of them quite negative. It is my hope that their training at HSK has opened their eyes to the many positive qualities in themselves, in people, and in life!"

Alan Sekiguchi, December 28, 2022