

In The Spirit Of Brotherhood

The Gathering Of Grand Masters 2010

They came from Australia, they came from Europe, and they came from all over the United States and Canada to celebrate Grand Master Rudy W. Timmerman's 60th year of martial arts training.



As Grand Master Ken Mac Kenzie looks on, Grand Master Serge Baubil presents GM Timmerman with a beautiful crystal plate to commemorate his sixty years of martial art training.

In an unprecedented show of true brotherhood, the movers and shakers of Korean martial arts traveled to Canada in order to celebrate this mile stone in GM Timmerman's career and share their arts with hundreds of eager students.

Grand Masters Kenneth Mac Kenzie (NJ), Serge Baubil (PQ), Michael De Alba (CA), James Mc Murray (TX), Geoff Booth (AU), Marlin Sims (GA), Troy Trudeau (TN), and host Rudy W. Timmerman, along with Chief Masters John Godwin (DE), Robert Ott (WA), Kevin Janisse (OR), Dickson Kunz (Costa Rica), and Masters Thomas Gordon (FL), Ollie Batts (UK), Zachary Woon (UK), Mike Dunchok (CA), Doug Custer (OH), Rick Tischer (MI), John Ward (UK), Ronda Bourdage (ON), Jeremy Tillman (AB), and Christopher Demanaeus (MI) wowed hundreds of eager students with three days of seminar sessions that represented nearly every Korean martial art in existence.

The event began a week earlier, with a series of tests for NKMAA members. Ranks in consideration ranged from 1st degree to 8th Degree, and they included rank in Tae Kwon Do, Tang Soo Do, Hap Ki Do, and Kong Shin Bup™. As part of the test for Kong Shin Bup™, candidates were required to complete the NKMAA challenge course. In fact, these folks needed to complete this course in Winter condition (completed in November, 2009), as well as the Summer event.



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Both courses include the water training; and more, than once, candidates needed to break ice in order to get into Lake Superior. In addition, test candidates have to scale a 14 foot wall, run a trail carrying a large log, and other segments similar to Navy Seal type training. It was nice to see that some of the visitors opted to participate in the challenge course event, even though they were not testing. Seems folks enjoy a rigorous challenge, and it is sad so many organizations fail to see that many martial artist prefer to earn their rank the hard way. Needless to say, some of the candidates did not pass their test; however, it was refreshing to see that this did not seem to bother them, as they showed up to support those who were promoted during the evening banquet.



Chief Masters Kevin Janisse, Robert Ott, and John Godwin listen intently as GM Timmerman announces the appointment of CKJN Kevin Janisse as the future Grand Master of Kong Shin Bup™

The highlight of the promotion ceremony was when GM Timmerman appointed Chief Master Kevin Janisse as the successor of Kong Shin Bup™, and this came as a complete surprise to many. GM Timmerman explained that the appointment was made after very careful consideration. He felt that, with Kong Shin Bup™ being a very rigorous martial art, and with GM Timmerman getting older and dealing with the results of a nasty back injury suffered in 1983, the art would be better served by appointing a younger Master to the job. He further explained that he had spent the last several years preparing Chief Master Janisse for the job, and that the appointment would take effect after he passed on all of the techniques of the art. The attending Grand Masters appeared to be in full support of the appointment, as they gave Chief Master Janisse a standing ovation.

With the promotion ceremonies over, it was time to relax and partake in a nice dinner; however, much to the surprise of GM Timmerman, the ceremonies were not over. It appeared that a surprise birthday party was to be part of the celebration, and GM Timmerman was the recipient of a mountain of beautiful gifts from Grand Masters, Masters, Students, and the many friends in attendance.

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To complete the surprise, the acting Mayor of Sault Ste Marie presented GM Timmerman with a token of the city's appreciation for his many years of dedication to the citizen, and Chief Master Janisse read a wonderful letter that Supreme Grand Master Seo In Sun, of the World Kido Association, had sent to GM Timmerman. GM Seo apologized for not being able to make the trip from Korea, and he sent GM Timmerman a letter of sincere appreciation for his dedication to Korean martial arts.

Next, Chief Master Robert Ott took the podium to deliver the Keynote address and share his awesome story with all in attendance. The crowd listened in total silence as CM Ott related how he had suffered a gun shot wound to the head that left him blind, and he credited his martial art training for his subsequent success as a speaker and owner of several enterprises. Again, the crowd responded with a standing ovation.



Chief Master Robert Ott delivers his Keynote speech to a captive audience. Seated in the foreground are GM Michael DeAlba and GM Ken Mac Kenzie.



GM Geoff Booth shows he is capable of dishing out a lot more than good Hap Ki Do as he fills GM Timmerman's bowl with soup. Also in the picture is long time friend, GM Serge Baubil of Montreal, Quebec.

Right: Masters Zachary and Claire Woon dazzle the crowd with some hard style Tang Soo Do.



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Dinner and Demos... it just does not get better. As can be seen in these pictures, dinner was served with a liberal dose of Demos. Below: GM DeAlba shows he can still kick with the best of them, and GM Mc Murray hog ties CKJN Kevin Janisse in real Texas fashion.



Above. GM Booth from Australia has the crowd in stitches and his partner tangled up with his stick on-a-rope, and Right shows GM Marlin Sims from Georgia about to deliver a palm strike to newly promoted Master Rick Tischer of Michigan.

The evening would not have been complete without some great music and dancing, as GM Timmerman always ties his martial arts events to some fun and relaxation. After the event, the group moved to the event hotel for some additional fun, and several of the Grand Masters and Masters had a chance to enjoy some good Cuban cigars on the deck while others enjoyed some Canadian “snake bite medicine” called Crown Royal :)

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With so many talented Grand Masters and Masters from all over the World in attendance, it would have been a shame not to take the opportunity to learn from the best; hence, Friday evening, most of Saturday, and nearly all of Sunday were filled with some of the most exciting martial arts seminars one could wish for.

Usually, such seminars feature one art; but, in this case, participants were treated to a wide variety of Korean martial arts, and it truly allowed everyone to see the vast repertoire Korean martial arts has to offer. The reason for making this possible is the camaraderie GM Timmerman developed during his sixty years of training. Students had many doors opened for them at this event; and, instead of closed minds and shut doors, participants had a close up view on how easy it is to work together once bias and fear is replaced by trust, respect, and true brotherhood.

In fact, the Gathering of Grand Masters would not have been possible without the support of the Grand Masters and Masters of the following organizations: GM Ken MacKenzie of Sin Moo HKD; GM Michael DeAlba of Modern Farang Mu Sool; GM Serge Baubil of Hoshin Kido; GM James Mc Murray of House of Discipline; GM Geoff Booth of the Australian Hap Ki Do Group; GM Marlin Sims of United Martial Science Federation; GM Troy Trudeau of the World Tae Sool Association; CM John Godwin of the World Tang Soo Do Association; CM Robert Ott of Certain Victory; Master Dickson Kunz of Global Kuk Sool; Master Ollie Batts of the UK Savate Group; Master Thomas Gordon of the UITKDA and NKMAA; Master Mike Dunchok of the Kuk Sool Kwan; and all of the Masters representing NKMAA.

These talented people not only traveled to Sault Ste Marie on their own dime, they shared their art and their love for martial arts free of charge so GM Timmerman could donate the proceeds to charity. Awesome !

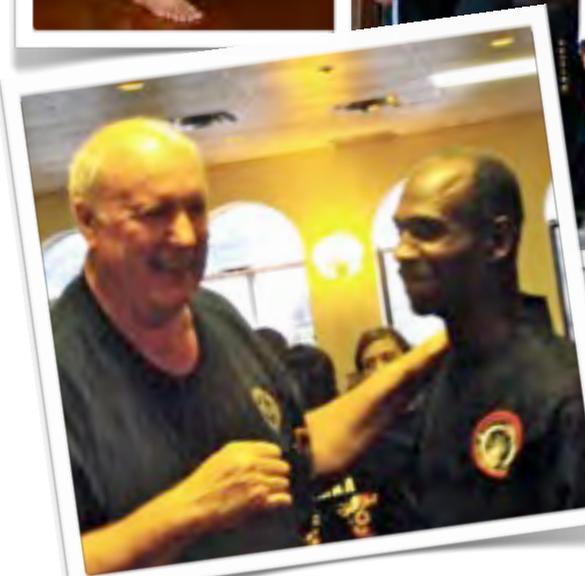


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In order to allow students to benefit from the many years of experience the Grand Masters accumulated over the years, each Grand Master was given the entire floor for one hour, while Masters shared the floor with others to give participants some choices to practice what interested them. This format worked out pretty well, and not a single complaint was heard. In fact, the event drew nothing but praise from all who attended.

Emphasizing the success of the Gathering of Grand Masters, many have decided to follow up on the enthusiasm the event fostered by planning to do more of them. In fact, many of the same Grand Masters and Masters will gather next April in Crestview, Florida to support Master Thomas Gordon, and plans are under way to travel to Australia in October 2011 in order to support Grand Master Geoff Booth who has generously supported many of us for years.

That the Gathering of Grand Masters was a huge success is beyond question; however, the most important message GM Timmerman managed to show us all is that the love for martial arts has no boundaries when prejudice and egos are cast aside. The respect and camaraderie shown by all who attended are a clear sign that there is no need to fear sharing our passion, and we can do this time and again in the spirit of true brotherhood.





The movers and the Shakers who shared the July 2010 issue of Tae Kwon Do Times



Father and son enjoying the seminar presentation.

Newly promoted Master Demanaeus and his students pose with GM Timmerman and their hard earned NKMAA certificates. Well done Maple Grove Martial Arts, folks loved your demonstration :)



Grand Master Timmerman enjoys a moment in the spotlight as his friends applaud sixty years of training. The best birthday present ever :)

Below: Grand Master Timmerman is presented with an awesome present from GM Ken MacKenzie and CM John Godwin.



Martial artists from around the world gathered at this event, and the friendships made will last a life time. It just does not get any better :) We'll keep a good thing going, and do it again in Australia and FL.

