



CERTAIN VICTORY

A Brother in the Martial Arts

By Robert J. Ott

“Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude.” - Ralph Marston

The 2011 World Sin Moo Hapkido Federation International Summit was a one of a kind event thanks to the host and my brother, Grandmaster Kenneth P. MacKenzie. It was of spiritual significance to me that it was hosted in our home town of New Jersey, where I had my first dojang and where I also tragically lost my sight. To this day, he is my right hand in every event I lead, or am fortunate enough to be a part of. Dedication, attitude, perseverance, vision, passion, honour, loyalty, commitment; these are a few of the words that describe him. He has not only inherited the reigns of the renowned World Sin Moo Hapkido Association, but still makes time for teaching all types of students. His dedication to each is the same, regardless of ethnicity, age, or culture. He gives himself body, heart, and soul to the Korean arts and even hosted a visiting group of North Korean Taekwondo athletes as part of the second Goodwill Tour in our country.

Recently the International Hapkido Summit & Black Belt Promotional Exam were held. Dojunim (Creator and Grandmaster) Ji Han-Jae (Hapkido legend from movie, Game of Death, in addition to other Hong Kong movies) was both happy and impressed with the turnout and content of the event. This was, without a doubt, one of the best weekends that the federation has enjoyed in recent years! To bring together such a large number of 9th Dan Black Belts and 2 honourable 10th Dans, who received this recognition in South Korea under Doju Nim Ji Han Jae, was without question an unforgettable moment. Impressive classes were taught by Senior-Master / Dr. Mark Fabi (Sin Moo Hapkido “Attacking 30”), Grandmaster (GM) / Dr. Egil Fosslie (Sin Moo Hapkido “Stepping Techniques”), GM / Dr. Ian Cyrus (“Beyond Technique...Concepts & Principles”), GM Scott Yates (“Dan-Jun Breathing”), GM MacKenzie (Sin Moo Hapkido flow drills, joint locks, submis-



sions, and transitions, along with a special sensitivity training experience), and GM Masson Ghorbani (Sin Moo defences against real fighters/ kick boxers). Grandmaster Ghorbani taught classical Boxing / Kickboxing drills and skills, along with workable self-defence applications. Grandmaster Scott Yates and Master John Skokowski taught several Sin Moo Hapkido techniques and principles.

Grandmaster Merrill Jung was also in attendance. The highlight of the weekend was the 3-hour session taught by Dojunim Ji Han-Jae. Rarely heard in public, Dojunim took the large group through the history of Hapkido. Towards the end, Dojunim continued with exercises aimed at developing “Ki” power, meditation techniques, and Kuk-Pa (the art of breaking). Next was the Association’s bi-annual black belt exam. All 19 candidates learned that they had been successful in earning their black belts. In addition, several other quality black belts had earned various advanced black belt levels. There were NO “paper tigers” there!

GM MacKenzie is a man with whom I studied alongside with for well past 30 years. He supported me so greatly since my blindness and even went to the extent of teaching my students while I was recovering so my dojang wouldn’t close down. He is my friend, my brother, and my hyung-nim (Korean for senior). Thank you my friend. 

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