

Chief Master Ott

A Flowering Warrior

By Krystal Armstrong

Anyone who doesn't know Chief Master Robert J Ott will find my story extraordinary but for those of you who do know him, you won't be surprised one bit! Chief Master Robert J. Ott and I first met over email. At the time I was getting ready to test for my apprentice black belt and as a requirement I needed to read a self-help book and write an essay on what I learned from it. Being a subscriber of Taekwondo Times Magazine, I noticed the advertisement of Master Ott's biography, "Certain Victory" which is about Master Ott becoming a survivor through strength, courage and the indomitable spirit rather than a victim from a tragic accident, which left him completely blind. I decided to read the book and was absolutely

amazed and inspired by it.

Amazed that to this day he is a motivational speaker, father, and martial arts instructor. He not only inspired me to be a better martial artist but a better person. I wrote him an email stating how much I enjoyed the book and how he was such an inspiration to me. He responded to that email promptly and from then on we developed a special friendship. I met him in person in September of 2008 at a women's self-defense seminar. My friend and I drove 6 hours to meet him and that was an experience I will never forget. He was so welcoming of me that he even had me assist in a first degree black belt test he



was conducting. I felt so honored by this.

“right” and “just” thing to do.

There is such a warmth and compassionate aura about him. When he speaks you are just enthralled with what he has to say and never want to miss a word. As time went on if I had any questions or dilemmas arise in my journey of martial arts I would email him for his advice and inspiring words. The following February my friend Brandy and I were going to test for our first degree black belts at the school we were attending. Prior to this we were starting to lose faith in our school and yearning for something more from a school. More than just how to do kicks and punches. We wanted a more traditional school where the “DO” or the way to live your life as a martial artist was just as important. We tested for our black belts and passed. This was a bittersweet victory for me. Yes, I received my black belt and I should be proud but I knew that I needed to move on to something better.



Master Ott with Krystal (left) & Brandy Ludwig

I contemplated about this issue quite a bit. I would think to myself that maybe I could stick it out with this school because I had my black belt and to go somewhere else I would have to start over again and that could be somewhat difficult but I needed to listen to my heart and find a school that I could benefit fully from. We both decided to leave our school and because of this decision we were denied our proper certification from our Master and was told that we did not have the qualities of a black belt. I have to admit that I was devastated by this because we deserved that certification and giving that to us was the

When this all came about I turned to my good friend Master Ott because at this point I was feeling pretty low and was not in a good place with martial arts. He was quite upset with how we were treated and stated that this was embarrassing to all Masters and Martial Artists everywhere.

He took it upon himself to make this wrong a right. He offered Brandy and I official membership into his World Kidokwan Federation and a first degree black belt as well. This gesture brought tears to my eyes and I can never express into words what this has meant to me. He is the most

generous person I have ever met and I feel so fortunate that he has allowed me to be a part of his life. I have learned so much from him and am forever in his debt.

We received our black belts in person on August 15th, 2009 while attending a 3 day seminar hosted by Master Ott and cherish that as one of the best moments of our

lives. One of the key things I learned from him is that a wall is not made to stop you but for you to go around, go under, go over or to go through.

Today I am at a great school as a green belt in ITF Taekwon-Do and wouldn't have it any other way. THANK YOU MASTER OTT FOR YOUR GENEROUSITY AND FRIENDSHIP. PIL SUNG!!

You can learn more about Master Ott at his website www.certainvictory.com