

In 1971 Mr. Robert Gill was diagnosed with Diabetes and has been a diabetic for over 33 years. Shortly after becoming a diabetic he began his interest in Martial Arts at the age of 11 years old. Trying classes in everything from Karate and Jeet Kun Do to Taekwon-Do. He joined the ITF system formally in 1978 and has been a student ever since. He has trained with Master C.K. Choi who was one of the originally masters under General Choi and has met General Choi personally. He currently holds the rank of 5th dan and is possibly the first diabetic in Canada to reach that level.

The year of 2009 started off difficult for Mr. Gill. His mother passed away suddenly in March and in May his father passed away as well. Through this whole ordeal he still came to the school and taught classes. I was so amazed and appreciative of him being there and expressed my gratitude to him. He stated to me that he had 2 families: his personal family and his Taekwon-Do family. He needed to focus on his Taekwon-Do family just as much. I have only been training with him a short time but I have absolute respect and admiration for this man. He lives Taekwon-Do and has so much respect for the art and for its founder General Choi. He teaches the techniques like they were meant to be taught from the encyclopedia set created by general Choi and takes no shortcuts. He preaches and demonstrates the principles that General Choi set out for all practitioners of Taekwon-Do to live by. There is no “his Taekwon-Do” just Taekwon-Do. Today, lots of martial arts schools are offering the Mixed Martial Arts and straying away from the tradition. Traditional teaching is looked at as “old school” but like Mr. Gill says it is not “old school” it is Taekwon-Do.

Technically in ITF Taekwon-Do, you are considered a Master once you receive your 7th Dan black belt and have the qualities of what a master must possess. In my opinion and I am sure in the opinion of many other martial artists who know Mr. Gill, the only requirement he is missing is his 7th Dan black belt. Mr. Gill possesses such great qualities as; modesty, helpfulness, respect and kindness. All his students respect him not because he demands it but because he shows us respect and is there whenever we need him. Nothing is put on with him. He is just a genuine and sincere individual who really cares about his students, schools and community which he holds many self defense , confidence building and other seminars for groups in our area. He has told me that he may not be rich financially but he is rich in so many other ways.

With Mr. Gill's deep roots in Taekwon-Do, I know I am getting the best instruction possible which will in turn make me the best martial artist I can be. I have found my path in martial arts and look forward to every challenge that comes my way. It is so nice to be part of a “true” martial arts family that I can count on to be there for me when I need them.

This year marks his 37th year since his first Taekwon-Do class and his 23rd year teaching Taekwon-Do. Our dojang is going into a new location with 3000 square feet of training space which has been a dream of Mr. Gill's since he was 17 years old. Good things come to those who wait and I wish nothing but the best for this great man. Taekwon!!

Present Positions:

5th Degree Black Belt – International Instructor

Current President for the International Taekwon-Do Federation of BC

Provincial Director for the Province of British Columbia with CTFI

President Thompson Valley Taekwon-Do Schools