

Grandmaster Kim – Taekwondo Legacy – June 9, 2009

The Grande Prairie Taekwondo and Dawson Creek Schools were without a master for some time and in 1974 the Instructor went to Korea in hopes of enticing a Master to move to here. Several Masters were interested and in June 1975, Grandmaster Kim emigrated to Grande Prairie and our lineage was established. Grandmaster Kim is the longest standing member of the Grande Prairie Taekwondo School; over 34 years influencing the many students who've walked through its doors.

Grandmaster Kim's roots in Taekwondo grew and spread from the Oh-do Kwan style that later became known as the International Taekwondo Federation, (ITF). He and several other masters stayed with the Korean Taekwondo Association (KTA) when General Hong Hi Choi, head of the Oh-do Kwan, broke away to form the ITF.

Grandmaster Kim was on the Board of Directors of the Alberta Taekwondo Association for many years including the position of President for more than one term. He was one of the Alberta pioneers who helped develop the association and Taekwondo in Alberta. He also served on the BOD of the BC Taekwondo Association in various capacities including its President.

With schools (dojangs) in Alberta (Grande Prairie, Slave Lake, Chauvin, Debolt, Vermillion) and British Columbia (Surrey, Grand Forks) under Grandmaster Kim's tutelage, 160 individuals received Black Belts of which;

- 37 individuals received 2nd degrees,
- 18 received 3rd degrees,
- 8 individuals achieved the rank of Master,
- 2 of his students achieved international referee status.

Grandmaster Kim achieved the level of seventh degree Black Belt with the World Taekwondo Federation and also achieved the top level of international referee-first class.

He lost a courageous battle with cancer on May 26, 2009.

His direction, influence and mentorship will continue to influence those who join these Taekwondo schools through the instructors who were so influenced by him.

Master Robin Peterman