

WORLD GRANDMASTERS COUNCIL

APRIL - JUNE 2012

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Taika Seiyu Oyata

We are sad to report the death of WHFSC Member , Taika Seiya Oyata. A former resident of Okinawa, Oyata moved to the U.S. to settle down in Missouri where he spent the remaining years of his life. He was one of Karate's greatest pioneers. The person responsible for introducing Ryukyu Kempo Karate and Kobudo to the U.S. and the Founder of Ryu Te. Taika Oyata died June 18th at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, SD of bile duct Cancer . May he R.I.P.

Our condolences also go out to Grandmaster Jim Arvanitis on the recent passing of his Father-In-Law and injuries sustained by his youngest Son, Bryson in an unrelated incident; & to Dawn Verkerke, Wife of GM Dan Verkerke who underwent recent knee surgery. We wish both Bryson and Dawn a speedy recovery!



(Photo collage by Master Alfredo Torella)

History was made with the 20th Anniversary of the World Head of Family Sokeship Council - America's FIRST & the world's most elite grandmasters organization celebrated in grand style at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Orlando, Florida....

For pictures, you can click on the link of:

http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.406470756057801.85227.100000846405768&type=3&l=06d9fdd10e

20th Anniversary WHFSC Celebration Unsolicited Testimonials

From: "chalacho balai" To: gmfranksanchez@comcast.net Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2012 5:44:49 AM Subject: Greetings

Dear GM Sanchez,

Thank you for an amazing conference, it was a pleasure to meet you and all the grandmasters! we have a great time in Orlando, it was very good experience and Haim was joyful.

we hope we will stay in touch in the future it was honor to knowing you.....

Chalacho Balai (Representative for GM Haim Zut) Krav Maga Haim Zut Israel

From: James W. Dye To: GMFrankSanchez@comcast.net Sent: Monday, June 4, 2012 11:53:56 PM

Grandmaster Sanchez: On behalf of myself, Grandmasters Robert Lyles, Calvin Campbell, Vincent Calloway and Masters Jimmy Nash Taj Colom, Kevin Simmons And Lenell Black thank you for a great hall ,seminars,food,fellowship, Friendship and environment. Sincerely, GM James W. Dye

From: grandmaster david m. grago To: "Frank Sanchez" <gmfranksanchez@comcast.net> Sent: Monday, June 4, 2012 6:33:24 PM Subject: The 20th Year Anniversary and Events

To my friend and brother in the Arts - Soke/Granddaughter Frank Sanchez

I would like to extend my thanks and the appreciation of our schools and the Federation for the magnanimous gesture of hosting the Pai Ceremony - under the auspices of the WHFSC. To me this was one of the most important events in my life - and the participation of so many present underscores the brotherhood and family of values held by the membership of this organization.

I am very proud to be a member of the council and we will continue to support the programs and events in a much larger way.

Our resources are at your disposal - please, anything I can do to be of service as we begin the growth and outreach of the WHFSC will absolutely be my pleasure to accomplish.

Your brother in the Arts -

David

Grandmaster David M. Grago Ch'uang Chuan Pai - Southern Shaolin Kung Fu Certified Senior Instructor - Kuoshu

From: "Yoni Dahan" To: gmfranksanchez@comcast.net Sent: Sunday, June 3, 2012 12:25:17 AM Subject: RE: YOUR NOMINATION BY GM MOTI HORENSTEIN TO THE WHFSC 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - JUNE 1ST -2ND, 2012 IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Grand Master Frank Sanchez,

We had an amazing event tonight, thank you for your contribution to the World of Martial Art, and for the time and effort for the council. Congratulation on the 20th Anniversary, this is a real achievement and success..... Yoni Dahan On Facebook:

Solitaire McAllister

i really had a wonderful time this year. met some very awesome people. what an honor to have been apart of it.

Phil Peplinski

Great event, I always come away from this gathering re-energized and with a renewed enthusiasm. It was great to see everyone again. Looking forward to next year. Thank You.

Jason Inay

Honestly a great event, I very much enjoyed meeting new people and sharing in our dedication to the Martial Arts! Many thanks to Soke Sanchez and the advisory council.

Hans Ingebretsen Thank you for making all of us feel so welcome

you definitely put on a quality event!

Ronald Duncan I am deeply touched...thank you GM Frank Sanchez for keeping me on board may God bless you.

Juerg Ziegler Thanks for organising this great event with great people :)

Carl Pluchino Thanks for running a great event

Ronald Balas Beautiful sentiments Soke Frank, yes, the event was just great. A beautiful 20th Congratulations

<u>GM Cynthia L Thompson</u> This was a wonderful seminar. It great being around grand masters who were actually participating and demonstrating instead of walking around saying I am the highest ranking person. IT was grandmasters over 60 and 70 teaching and not breaking a sweat. This was great. Can you spread some of that to Chicago. Thank-you for inviting me to this wonderful event and recognizing me. IT was a pleasure networking with everyone and learning from each other.

Dan Medina It was indeed a event to remember. Thank you all for making us so welcome.

Gary Alexander GM Sanchez, Congratulations on your fully successful 20th Anniversary. The entire event went off with organization and quality. Thank you from myself and the IAMA Members that participated.

Jim Arvanitis Congrats my friend. Looks like it was a glorious time ... as expected. So sorry I was unable to make it.

Sam White GM Sanchez, It was an honor to be associated with so many great martial artists at your 20th anniversary celebration. Thank you sir.

Vasilios Katsaitis Congratulation !!!

Master Alfredo Torella FANTASTIC EVENT - I want to thank <u>Soke Frank Sanchez</u> for bringing all these magnificent Grandmasters and Masters together to celebrate the 20 years of the council ! Thank you to all the Grandmasters for sharing your priceless time and knowledge, I had a really good time . looking forward to next year ..osu

Joshua St.Ives

Home from Orlando now, it was a great time at the Soke Council, and my award is awesome, not for looks but what it represents! I attended some great martial arts seminars and thank all those who taught the class's, you all did great!

Soke Gary Dill

Excellent Sokeship Concil event with back to back seminars by grandmasters, and hall of fame banquet.

Master Andrew Fanelli World-Class Event!

<u>Doug Cobb</u> What an experience! This is a phenomenal organization of the greatest martial arts legends. But, without the support of our students and friends, we couldn't have accomplished what we did. Thanks you all!

Terry Pointer i really enjoyed myself ... it was HONORED to be there ... ous

Jill Hernandez

Just getting to Oklahoma from the World Head of Sokeship Council Hall of Fame Event in Orlando, Florida. It was an awesome 20th anniversary celebration. Congratulations to all of the inductees and to Grandmaster Frank Sanchez for maintaining such a prestigious Council of Grandmaster for so many wonderful years. I look forward to another 20 years of meeting with all of the wonderful Grandmasters, Masters, and other martial artists who attend these events. Thank you for the induction, I really enjoy being a member of the Master's Division of this council. I hope to see you all again next year.

From: "TNT Bilotta" To: GMFrankSanchez@comcast.net Sent: Friday, June 8, 2012 10:43:30 PM Subject: Thank you

My students and me had a great time. Hope to return next year.

From: "Jill Marquez" To: gmfranksanchez@comcast.net Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2012 12:40:34 AM Subject: Re: A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you Soke for the honor of being able to be a part of this monumental event. It truly was spectacular. I was also touched by your incredible performance and amazing voice. It was a great tribute to our service men and women and brought tears to my eyes. God has blessed you with many talents.

God Bless, Jill

June 8, 2012

Dear Grandmaster Sanchez

Congratulations on the 20th Year Anniversary of the WHFSC and thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this special event! Had a great time at this year's event and on a personal level, several items made it extra special. For starters, I was pleasantly surprised to learn seminar leaders had a full hour to share their art. I have had the privilege of presenting at this event for several years now and the full hour made a significant difference since it allows more time for meaningful interaction with participants. The booth was such a kind gesture, we appreciate it tremendously. Your student, Chris Marquez did an excellent job of overseeing the scheduling of the presenters and with me in particular his follow up in the days prior to the event was impeccable. Your son Mathew made it a point to visit and congratulate me and share kind words about my 17 month old daughter. These gestures are examples of how small details contribute to our overall experience. I attended my first WHFSC event back in 1997 where I received an award for "Master Instructor of the Year". Fifteen years later we are truly grateful to be a part of this 20th year Anniversary!

With all my Gratitude and Respect Sir, may God continue to Bless You and Yours,

JOE ROBAINA GRANDMASTER/DIRECTOR AMERICAN CANE SELF DEFENSE

From: "Vincent Flores" <gojuflores@gmail.com> To: gmfranksanchez@comcast.net Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2012 4:20:16 PM Subject: Re: A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS

Dear GM Sanchez, I had a great time and meet allot of Masters and GrandMasters from all over. My respect and thanks to all. Oss Sensei Vincent Flores

From: "Rufino Pambuan (NBC Universal, Orlando)" <Rufino.Pambuan@universalorlando.com> To: gmfranksanchez@comcast.net Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2012 12:55:51 PM Subject: RE: A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS

Hi GM Frank. How are you and your family? It my pleasure and an Honor to be apart of 20th Anniversary celebration WHFSC it always nice to see an old friend and meeting a new friend. Can wait till next year event. You know you can count on me and group if you need a help. Take care and thank you for being a friend. Say hello to your family. GOD Bless.

Respectfully, Ama Guro Raffy

From: "Glenn C. Wilson" To: gmfranksanchez@comcast.net Sent: Saturday, June 9, 2012 11:42:43 AM Subject: RE: WHFSC ADVISORS UPDATE

Grandmaster Sanchez,

Your efforts and determination to bring together and maintain a council of honorable and legitimate masters in the ,martial arts is truly commendable.

You have achieved what many have failed to do. I know, I have been around long enough to see many of them come and go. Within the Sokeship Council you are surrounded by honorable warriors and good friends.....

Brother, it is a big Martial Arts world out there, yet when we all get together, it is not so big.

Aloha to you and my brothers and sisters in the Sokeship council. You can count on me and the Pai Lum Tao family.

Glenn C. Wilson

Grandmaster - Pai Lum Tao

From: Dr. "Robbie" Robinson To: gmfranksanchez@comcast.net Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 11:38:50 AM Subject: Re: IAMA & WHFSC - Ernie & Robby

GM Sanchez,

Thank you ever so much for your expeditious care in sending out the award and documents.

We were very impressed with the activities that you planned and put together so eloquently. It went beyond from just being another professional program and friendly meeting of martial artists. We praise your efforts which has an appreciative meaning to us.....but moreover, for those youngsters who are just beginning to rise and shine amongst the many martial arts stars that attended this gala affair.

Biba!

VTY's

GM Robinson Founder/Director Armed Services Judo & Jujitsu Academy From: "Serge Aberilla" To: GMFrankSanchez@comcast.net Sent: Sunday, June 3, 2012 11:11:07 PM Subject: Thank you....

GM Frank Sanchez - Greetings from Chicago!

I just wanted to take this moment to convey GM Jimmy Tacosa and the TSE (Tacosa Serrada Escrima) group's gratitude...to you, your wife - May (special thanks), and your organization for the 20th anniversary WHFSC celebration, and all of your hospitality.

This year's event demonstrates a true bonding within the different myriad of martial arts internationally. It was an honor to be a part of this celebration, as well as, share the art of Tacosa Serrada Escrima within the community.

Good luck and God speed to you and the WHFSC's continued endeavors in advancing martial arts in the world.

Thank you and take care.

- Serge Aberilla ---- TSE - Chicago

Mark your calendars NOW for the 21st Annual celebration of the WHFSC slated for June 1st -2nd, 2013 at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Orlando, Florida – be watching for upcoming details in the "Upcoming Events" link of our website.

Grandmaster Ron Van Clief's new home is now the beautiful 50th State of Hawaii! The "Black Dragon" spent the month of June moving from his former residence in the U.S. Virgin Islands to Hawaii and from the looks of things his family has adapted well to the beautiful sun and surf there.....A warm Aloha to you Dragon! The new Contact info for Ron which he'd like me to give to you is: address – 330 Saratogo Rd. # 88941, Honolulu, HI. 96830/ Ph. 347-417-3610.



Grandmaster Ron Van Clief



Grandmaster Vincent Lyn

Grandmaster Vincent Lyn announces that he has a new jazz album out entitled WINGSING which you can preview at <u>http://cdbaby.com/cd/vincentlyn2</u>. If you like the music please purchase a copy and pass on the good word. He'll be submitting again this year for the Grammy Awards 2013.....Vincent was also interviewed on the Fitness Network (ftns.co) on July 27th about martial arts, music and his expertise on fitness .



Hanshi Steve Kaufman interviews GGM Aaron Banks on his show, "Hanshi's World"

Hanshi Steve Kaufman's "HANSHI'S WORLD" broadcasts every Thursday at 6:00pm on TWC- ch. 67, RCN- ch. 85, FIOS – ch. 36 and streaming worldwide on MNN.ORG – ch. 4 . For more info you can contact Steve at <u>SFK422@gmail.com</u>



GM Sam Kuoha



Sensei Ka'imi Kuoha



GM Gary Wasniewski



GM Vincent Palumbo



Hanshi John Therien

GM Sam Kuoha reports that his daughter. Sensei Ka'imi Kuoha is co-starring in a new short documentary film called. PEACE OF MIND starring Cary Tagawa and directed by Sid Liufau. The film was previewed at Kwai Sun Studios in California on August 4th.....GM Gary wasniewski of the U.K. reports that he has been busy appearing and directing in two new movies, EXTEME COUNTERSTRIKE and DREAM WAGON in Hollywood, California. Gary also received ACTOR OF THE YEAR Awards in the Philippines & Portugal this year (special thanks for the Lifetime Achievement award from your London Hall of Fame, Gary!)......GM Vincent Palumbo of Australia reports that his stick fighting team from the ICMA Academy dominated the 2012 WORLD STICKFIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIPS held in Cebu City, Philippines from June $7^{th} - 10^{th}$ winning 22 medals. GM Palumbo, as Team Leader garnered gold medals in the Men's over 40's Open weight "Kulata" minimal armour division; Men's over 40 Middleweight double stick in armour division; Filipino "Open" Forms division; and a Silver in the Men's over 40's Middleweight single stick in armour division. He also was inducted into the Cacoy Doce Pares Eskrima World Federation's Hall of Fame for a "Lifetime Achievement" Award......Hanshi John Therien of Canada announces that his CAPITAL CONQUEST 2012 will be held November 3rd – 4th in Orleans (Ottawa) Ontario, Canada with seminars, demos, competitions and other great surprises. For more info you can contact John at John.Therien@rogers.com or KyoshiTherien@rogers.com

And lastly in International news, Master Don "The Dragon" Wilson made an appearance at the OCEAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS GRAND NATIONALS CHAMPIONSHIPS held in Rhode Island.



Master Don "the Dragon" Wilson (M) with (L to R) Christine Bannon-Rodrigues, Shannon Lee, Cynthia Rothrock and GM Don Rodrigues at Ocean State Grand Nationals Championships

IN OUR NEW MEMBERS DEPARTMENT......

We are proud to welcome to our grandmasters division, GM Rene Latosa, Founder of Latosa Escrima from California.



Grandmaster Rene Latosa

In our Masters division, we'd like to welcome Sr. Master Steve Milliet – inheritor of Ch'uang Chun Pai – MS. ; Tony Jordan – Tay Son Nhan Vietnamese Martial Art System – TX; Wes Craft – Matsumura Bushi Jutsu - AK; Peter Keko – TN. , Joe Snyder – SC., Bryan Kernels – SC., Robert M. Jenkins – FL., Brian Cheek – SC. & Rickey Cobb – SC. of Long-Shimabuku Isshinryu; Montaser Abu Nuwar of Kenpo – FL.; Mike Barefoot – Manabi Masho Jiu-Jitsu – NC.; Kenton Vanzandt – Zujitsu – NY.; Arturo Gheller – Arnis/ Kali/ Escrima – Italy; Meni Mehabad – Past Master, Chalacho Balai, Dagan Beit Halachmi and Moshe Gavri of Krav Maga Haim Zut – Israel; & Ribakov Oleg – Crushalo – Russia.

FEATURED ON THE COVERS OF PRINT MEDIA.....



Grandmasters Alexander Retyunskikh, Frank E. Sanchez & Neal Hummerstone on 2012 Russian calendar poster (upper left hand corner)



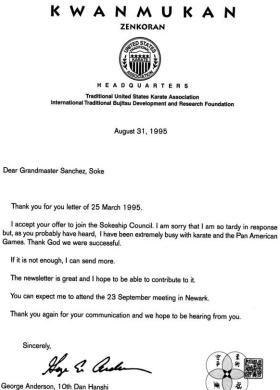
Grandmaster Frank E. Sanchez & Master Quoc Tran on cover of July – August issue of International Martial art Times

IN THE MAGAZINES THIS TIME AROUND.....

The September issue of BLACK BELT MAGAZINE features a picture shot of their May 1976 issue in the "From the Archives" Column with WHFSC Member, the late Dr. Richard Kim on the cover.....TAEKWONDO TIMES July issue features a photo of Grandmaster John Pelligrini during a promotion.....OFFICIAL KARATE on-line magazine features an

article on Dr. Ric Black...& last but not least, ACTION MARTIAL ARTS NEWS features a news release on the WHFSC's 20th Anniversary celebration in Orlando, Florida.

HISTORICAL PHOTOS





Acceptance of membership from the late GM George Anderson



The late Grandmaster Don Nagle receives WHFSC Membership certificate from GM Sanchez at AOKAINC Tournament in New Jersey as Hanshi Ralph Passero looks on from side (left)

This concludes our April –June newsletter.....Remember to send in your newsworthy items for our next edition & until then, stay "aggressive" & "fair" in all you do.....Soke Sanchez

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<u>NOTE</u>: T-shirts and jackets are ordered on an individual basis and are not mass produced – turn around time may be three or more weeks for delivery.