

Task Karate June 2023 Newsletter

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May 7th Black Belt and Black Belt Degree Testing was a Success!

The following individuals have achieved their first degree black belts.

Ms. Grace Liozzi
Ms. Jeanelle Parcher
Mr. Caleb Sievert
Mr. Carter Wilkins
Ms. Skylar Wilkins

Ms. Yehle also achieved her third-degree black belt. Thank you to all the black belts who were part of the testing panel. We also thank all the members of our larger Task Karate family who were present to provide support.





FUMIO DEMURA

'Sensei'

Shihan Fumio Demura, age 82, of Santa Ana, CA passed away April 24, 2023, surrounded by his family, friends, and students.

Visitation will be held Friday, May 19, 2023, from 4:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. at Fairhaven Memorial Park and Mortuary, 1702 Fairhaven Ave, Santa Ana, CA. Funeral services will be held from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Fairhaven Memorial Park and Mortuary. Burial to follow at Fairhaven Memorial Park.

He is survived by his sister Kinue and his nephew Sean, of Santa Ana, CA. He is also survived by his siblings Teruo, Yukio, Mitsue and Nobuo in Japan. He was predeceased by his parents.

Shihan Demura is the founder of Shito-Ryu Genbu-Kai. He was a highly respected world-renowned karate-do, kobudo, and batto-do instructor. He was a mentor and friend to many across the world.

Shihan Demura was born on September 15, 1940, in Yokohama, Japan. At the age of 9, he began training in karate and kendo under Asano Sensei. At the age of 12, he started training under Ryusho Sakagami in Itosu-kai karate. He received his 1st dan black belt in 1956. Shihan Demura's reputation as a martial arts champion was secured in 1961, when he won the All-Japan Karate Freestyle Tournament, and was rated as one of Japan's top eight competitors for the next three years. His many tournament wins include the East Japan Championship, the Shito-Ryu Annual Championship, and the Kanto District Championship. In 1959, while at Nihon University in Tokyo, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics, Shihan Demura developed a special interest in kobudo, including the use of weapons (bo, nunchaku, kama, sai, eku bo, tonfa) under the direction of Taira Shinken. Shihan Demura met martial arts scholar Donn Draeger, who introduced him to Dan Ivan. Mr. Ivan helped bring Shihan Demura to the United States in 1965 as a karate instructor of Shito-Ryu Karate and Okinawan Kobudo. Shihan Demura performed karate demonstrations at the Japanese Village & Deer Park for many years. He was featured on the cover of Black Belt Magazine nine times. He authored numerous karate and kobudo books, magazine articles, and DVD's. He was inducted into the Martial Arts History Museum Hall of Fame in 1999, and received Black Belt Magazine's Hall of Fame twice and Black Belt Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award.

In the 1980's, Shihan Demura became involved in the Karate Kid series of films. He was the stunt double for Pat Morita, who played Mr. Miyagi. The Karate Kid screenwriter Robert Mark Kamen stated that Mr. Miyagi was named after Chōjun Miyagi, the founder of the Goju-ryu karate style, and that Shihan Demura was one of the inspirations for the character. Shihan Demura was also the subject of the 2015 documentary The Real Miyagi. He appeared in several films and documentaries, including: The Warrior Within, The Island of Dr. Moreau, The Karate Kid movies, Rising Sun, Mortal Kombat, and many others. He was also technical advisor for several movies including a soon to be released series "Shogun".

Shihan Demura received the All-Japan Karate Federation President's Trophy for outstanding tournament play and was awarded certificates of recognition from Japanese Cabinet officials for his contributions to the art of karate. He was captain of the U.S. Japan Goodwill Championships of 1972 and a member of the Amateur Athletic Union national technical committee. He was on the board of directors of the International Martial Arts Federation, chairman and president of the Japan Karate Federation International, and chief instructor and president of Shito-Ryu Karate-Do Genbu-Kai International. In 2019, he was presented with the Foreign Minister's Commendation from the Consul General of Japan for his outstanding achievements. Shihan Demura was presented the rank of 10th dan in 2022.

Shihan Demura was a real karate Sensei. He was loved by many martial arts practitioners, particularly his students. He exemplified the true meaning of being a karateka, as he traveled throughout the world teaching and sharing his knowledge. He was down to earth and loved to spend time with family, martial artists, and friends. He brought smiles to people's faces with his gift of origami creations. One of his favorite pastimes was fishing.

Shihan Demura was an incredible human being and made a great impact on millions of people around the world throughout his lifetime. He will be dearly missed by all.



FUMIO DEMURA
'Sensei'

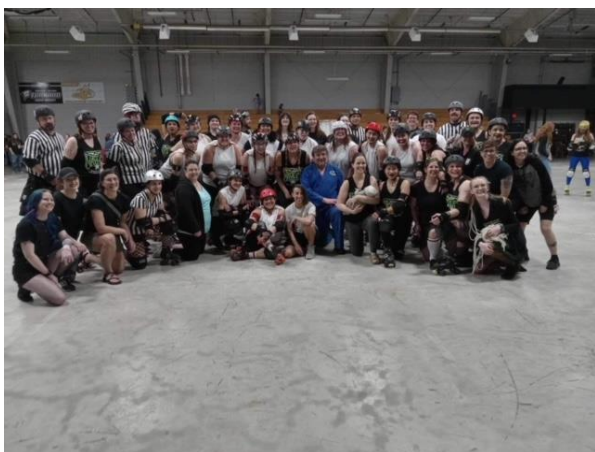
September 15, 1940 - April 24, 2023



Memorial from Sensei Demura's funeral. On the left of this picture there are over 20,000 origami tsuru (cranes) made by Sensei. In Japan, the crane, or tsuru, is a national treasure and is considered the bird of happiness. It is depicted in art, literature, and mythology as a symbol of good luck and longevity.



Thank you to all of the members of Task Karate that participated in or supported the Saturday May 13, 2023 half-time show at the Roller Derby! The demonstration was very well-received.





Mr. Sievert shares another piece of artwork

Mr. Sievert has been honing his artistic skills for years. This may, Mr. Sievert provided task karate with a second piece of his art. Mr. Sievert is a talented artist who will soon be further expanding his skills as he participates in the graphics art program at WWTC.



Kudos to our 2023 Task Karate Graduates

The following Task Karate students are graduating from high school.

Mr. Kolton Mattison | Mr. Samuel Matty | Mr. Caleb Sievert | Mr. Abe Osley | Ms. Taylor Clayton

The entire Task Karate family wishes each of you our very best as you move to the next phase of your life.



Annual Boundary Waters Trip

I take a trip to the BWCA (Boundary Waters Canoe Area) every year! I look forward to it all year long. My 2023 trip is Wednesday June 14 - Sunday June 18. Ms. Yehle will be covering classes Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. We will be closed Saturday June 17.

(Picture of Pipestone Falls)

TASK KARATE SPONSORS DEMO DERBY DRIVER HUNTER ABING: Legend & Legacy



Hunter Abing is entering his 5th year as a driver in local demolition derbies. Abing grew up in the small town of Lancaster, WI where he helped both his dad and brothers build derby cars. Abing recently relocated to La Crosse to attend WWTC. In 2013, Abing's father retired from the demolition derby scene after multiple 1st place wins. In 2019, at 16 years of age, Abing took his father's number out of retirement. Abing experienced quick wins, leading to the moniker "Abing 59H...The legend and legacy." Now in La Crosse, Abing is building a new car and getting ready for the season. We are pleased to be able to support Abing and wish him our best as he enters the new season!



Task Karate 20th Year Gear Order

Thank you to everyone who supported the Task Karate 20th Year Anniversary Gear Order. We have submitted the order to our design team and printing is underway.



June

- 2nd Gary Mobey
- 2nd Colton Marks
- 8th Deke McConaghy
- 7th Lance Baumgartner
- 8th Kolton Mattison
- 11th Bradley Tschumper
- 13th Ray Bouska
- 16th Jane Clare
- 17th Lauren Mavrantonis
- 18th Aryca Wilkins
- 19th Aulten Sharma
- Oliver Stanley
- 21st Nik Nelson
- 22nd Moriah Harter
- 26th Niki Bergler
- 26th Caleb Sievert
- 28th River Bryant
- 28th Andrew Martell
- 28th Peter Revels



May Rank Promotions

Gold Belt Jayton Luedke

Orange Belt Rowan Inge-Kvam

Blue Belt Henry Levendoski | Reagan Levendoski | Oscar Levendoski |
Adam Johnson | Neven Peterson Gianunzio



The 10th Annual

***GOULEE REGION
FREE TOURNAMENT***



August 20th, 2023

Onalaska High School, Onalaska WI

9am – 1pm Registration

10am Black Belts Start

12pm Underbelts Start

Board Breaking, Sparring, Forms and Weapons (no swords, bokkens only)

Cost: FREE!

Spectators: FREE!

PRE-REGISTER NOW! www.wmaproductionsinc.org