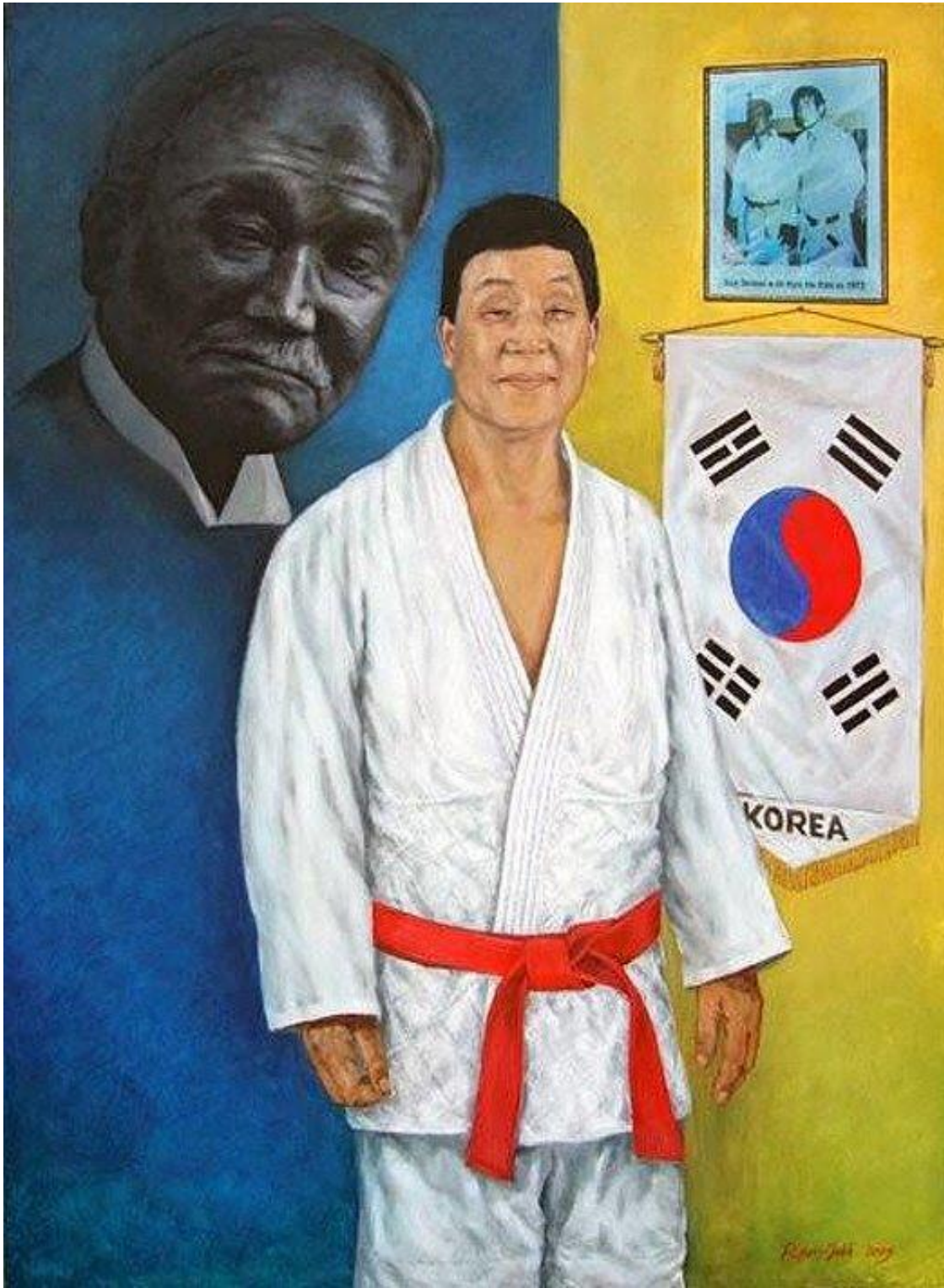


# Grandmaster Kyu Ha Kim: Life & Legacy

by [Christopher Moore](#), 2014 (updated in 2022)



*“My Family grew rice on our farm in Korea. When the rice plants were young, they grew straight and tall. As they grew older and became heavy with rice, their heads bowed.”*

**Grandmaster Kyu Ha Kim, 10<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt**

*I was born in Korea in 1935. I grew up in a small town near Daejeon. My first exposure to Judo came from my older brother. He showed me some techniques in the backyard. When I entered high school, I started to seriously train myself. Judo became my life. Through Judo I was able to go to college at the Yudo College which was later renamed [Yong-In University](#).*

*After I won the National Championships for the second time, I became well known throughout Korea. I had the honor of teaching many members of the US military including some officers. I was invited to tour the United States teaching Judo. After visiting the United States, I decided I wanted to stay here. It was through Judo I was able to do this. I settled in Pittsburgh, PA and opened my dojo.*

*Today I have two dojos and also teach an accredited course at the University of Pittsburgh. I have had the honor of teaching thousands of people including several national champions and the current president of the USJA. I even coached the US Team.*

*Judo is quite literally my life. It brought me to this country. It is how I make a living. It is how I raised my family. My son is a professional judo instructor and my grandchildren are active competitors. I hope to see Judo grow in this country because it has so much to offer. I believe the world would be a better place if everyone did judo.*

Painting and excerpt above are from the book, *The Judo Greats: Andor Paposi-Jobb* Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts at Clarion State University of Pennsylvania. (Photos courtesy of Mr. Gary Goltz)



Kyu Ha Kim in 1968

(He told Gary Goltz this was his favorite picture of himself and asked for a copy to send to his mother in S. Korea).



Kyu Ha Kim with his mother in the 1970s

**Grandmaster Kyu Ha Kim** stands where he has stood for over fifty years, in front of a group of students patiently explaining the subtleties of a Judo technique. At just over seventy-eight years old, he has the erect carriage of a much younger man, the result of a lifetime of martial arts training. Standing six feet two inches tall and weighing two hundred thirty pounds, he is an imposing figure.

Once described as a “large and joyous man,” he radiates kindness. His school in Brentwood, Pennsylvania echoes with the sound of his laughter. Quiet, humble and self-effacing, few of the students listening with rapt attention know that the kindly man standing before them is a martial artist of rare accomplishment- a 9<sup>th</sup> degree black belt in Judo and an 8<sup>th</sup> degree black belt in Taekwondo-or that in June of 2008, he became the oldest successful heart transplant recipient in the history of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Kyu Ha Kim was born on February 24, 1935 near the city of Daejeon, in rural the province of South Chungcheong (*abv.* Chungnam), approximately 100 miles south of Seoul, Korea. His parents were farmers, who raised livestock, tended fruit trees, and grew vegetables, beans, corn and rice on the family farm. Members of his family continue to live on and work the farm to this day.

Kyu Ha Kim began his martial arts training in his home village at the age of five; his first teacher was his elder half-brother, Kyu Tae Kim. At fifteen, Kyu Ha Km entered Tae Jon High School and began formal martial arts training under Han Sang Yul. Training was rigorous: two hours daily, six days a week, Monday through Saturday. Sundays were, “rest days,” although students often gathered to practice, “light *uchi komi* (Judo repetition fitting),” for a “few hours,” on Sunday afternoons!

Training was undifferentiated by discipline and included a broad spectrum of martial arts techniques we would recognize today as Jui-Jitsu, Judo, or its Korean interpretation, Yudo, and Taekwondo (note: the name Taekwondo was not applied to the group of Korean hard-style martial arts from which it was formed until the late 1950’s). Kyu Ha Kim’s Judo students practice striking, both Judo *atemi waza* and basic Taekwondo and his Taekwondo students learn Judo *ukemi waza* and fundamental Judo throws. Kyu Ha Kim continued to train in this manner until his graduation from Tae Jon High School, at which time he was promote to 1<sup>st</sup> degree black belt. His promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> degree black belt did not come easily, however. In spite of his dedication to the school’s demanding training regimen and his success in high school tournament competition, he failed his promotional test for 1<sup>st</sup> degree black belt nine times before finally succeeding!



When Kyu Ha Kim graduated from high school the Korean War (1950-1953) was raging. Like many young Korean men, in spite of the 80% casualty rate, Kyu Ha Kim planned to join the army. Fortunately, his Judo instructor, Han Sang Yul, convinced him that his life's path was in a different direction and that he should pursue a career as a martial arts teacher. Kyu Ha Kim followed his advice and went on to study physical education at what was then the Korean Yudo college, (now [Yong-In University](#)), from 1954-1958.

Founded in Sogong-dong in 1953 as a two-year college, it became recognized as a four-year institution in 1956 with the establishment of the Dae Myung School. The Yudo College was the first college level institution devoted to martial arts training in Asia. Its name was later changed to Yong-in University to reflect the addition of a full academic curriculum to the wide array of martial arts taught and practiced: Judo, Taekwondo, Hapkido, Kumdo, Kuksundo, Ssirium, etc. Admittance to the Yudo College was only granted to the most qualified black belt applicants. Kyu Ha Kim was among the first students accepted into the Yudo College's inaugural class, which originally numbered thirty-eight students, only twelve of whom graduated!

The curriculum at the Yudo College consisted of academic university classes and hour upon hour of rigorous martial arts training.

Training was even more arduous than Kyu Ha Kim experience in high school, often up to three hours a day with high level Yudojin (Yudo practitioners; equivalent to Judoka). Students eschewed, "tapping out," the customary indication of submission when practicing groundwork and were regularly choked to unconsciousness! While enrolled at Yong-in University, Kyu Ha Kim studied under Grandmaster Jin Kyung Suk, who was among the highest ranked Judo practitioners in Korea at that time.



Kyu Ha Kim and Suk Sensei 1972

Students lived at Yong-in University during the year and were only permitted to return to their homes during summer recess. On one occasion, unhappy with his left-side Judo technique, within a few days of returning to his home, Kyu Ha Kim went back to the University to drill his left-side techniques exclusively for the balance of the summer.

In 1955, during his second semester at the Yudo College, Kyu Ha Kim qualified for the Korean National Judo Championships and was placed on the Chungnam province five-man Judo team. During this time, under Syngman Rhee, Korea's first post WWII President, martial arts competition between provinces was instituted as a means to foster Korean nationalism.) Kyu Ha Kim represented his province both as an individual and a team member. In 1958, he won the Korean National Judo Championship, both as an individual and team member, a feat he repeated in 1960. Normally, students were promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> degree black belt upon graduation from Yong-in University, however, in recognition of his two national championships, when graduated in 1958; Kyu Ha Kim was promoted to 5<sup>th</sup> degree black belt.

Kyu Ha Kim attended the Korean Yudo College during the aftermath of the Korean War. The years following the Korean War, on the heels of WW II and the extended occupation and effort to colonize Korea by Japan (1910-1945), was a time of unimaginable loss and deprivation. The war which raged across the Manchurian peninsula resulted in hardship of every description, including widespread food shortages. Kyu Ha Kim's family occupation as farmers spared them from much of the starvation experienced by so many of his countrymen, although he vividly recalls days with little, if any, food. Families were often forced to abandon their homes to flee from advancing troops.

At one point, Kyu Ha Kim's entire village was destroyed, and the surrounding countryside was reduced to ash by bombing and the subsequent firestorm. The training hall where he spent hours everyday did not escape damage. Glass was often broken out of windows, allowing snow to blow onto the mat in the winter. Fuel was scarce; the training hall often went unheated. The training hall was freezing in the winter and stifling hot in the summer. Streets, damaged during the war, remained unpaved. Eventually, the training hall was completely destroyed during a bombing run, only to be rebuilt by Kyu Ha Kim and his fellow students, determined to continue their training. Throughout and despite these harsh conditions, Kyu Ha Kim continued to train.

In 1959, Kyu Ha Kim was given the honor of returning to Yong-in University to teach Judo and was also invited by the Korean Air Force Academy to teach martial arts. By so doing, he became the first Judo instructor to teach at a Korean military academy. These events mark the beginning of Kyu Ha Kim's more than fifty-year career as a professional martial teacher. It was during this time that his students bestowed the title, "The Tree," upon him when they found it virtually impossible to unbalance him during *randori* (free sparring)!

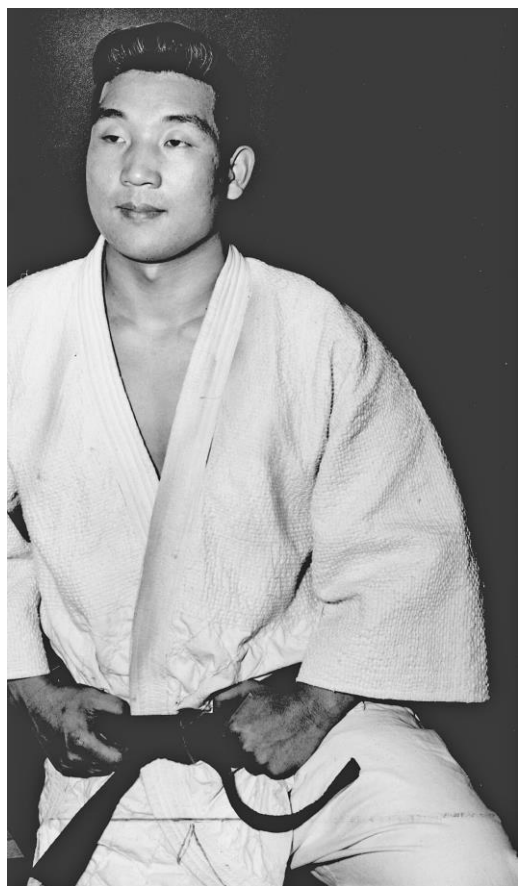
It was also in 1959 when Kyu Ha Kim began formal training in Taekwondo. Grandmaster Jin Kyung Suk, Kyu Ha Kim's Judo teacher, to complement Kyu Ha Kim's Judo training, recommended and introduced him to Grandmaster Hwang Ki, the founder of the Moo Do Kwan Tang Soo Do School. Grandmaster Hwang sent one of his best assistant instructors, Kyung Won Lee, to the Korean Air Force Academy to teach Tang Soo Do. Kyung Won Lee taught Kyu Ha Kim Tang Soo Do and Kyu Ha Kim taught Kyung Won Lee Judo. At the time Kyu Ha Kim began training, Grandmaster Hwang Ki referred to his art as Tang Soo Do (Grandmaster Hwang's art underwent several name changes: Hwa Soo Do, Soo Bahk Do...).

During this period, a number of Korean hard-style striking arts were integrated and named Taekwondo and a schism developed within Moo Doo Kwan Tang Soo Do; with many practitioners joining the unification movement. However Grandmaster Hwang, elected not to join.

To this day, there remains a distinct martial art, Soo Bahk Do Moo Do Kwan, led by Grandmaster Hwang Ki's son, Hwang Hyun Chul. That portion of Grandmaster Hwang Ki's martial art that was integrated into Taekwondo is referred to as Moo Do Kwan Taekwondo, the form of Taekwondo practiced by Kyu Ha Kim's students.

In December of 1959, Kyu Ha Kim had the pleasure of engaging in a *randori* session with the giant Dutch martial arts luminary, Mr. Jon Bluming. Mr. Bluming trained in Judo, Karate, Iaido and Jojutsu in Japan from 1959-1961. Mr. Bluming also visited the Philippines and Korea. Mr. Bluming is currently a 10<sup>th</sup> degree black belt in Masutatsu Oyama's tough *Kyokushinkai* style of Karate and a 9<sup>th</sup> degree black belt in Judo.

The encounter between Mr. Bluming and Kyu Ha Kim is described in detail from Mr. Bluming's point of view in an article in *Journal of Combative Sport*, November 1, 1999, *Doing Judo at the Korean Yudo College*, "[The Day I Met Kyu Ha Kim](#)." The outcome of their *randori* session is best described by Mr. Bluming, *it was the last thing that was easy about Kyu Ha Kim, for after that he completely vacuum-cleaned the mat with me, which convinced me that, yes, this was the Korean champ!*"



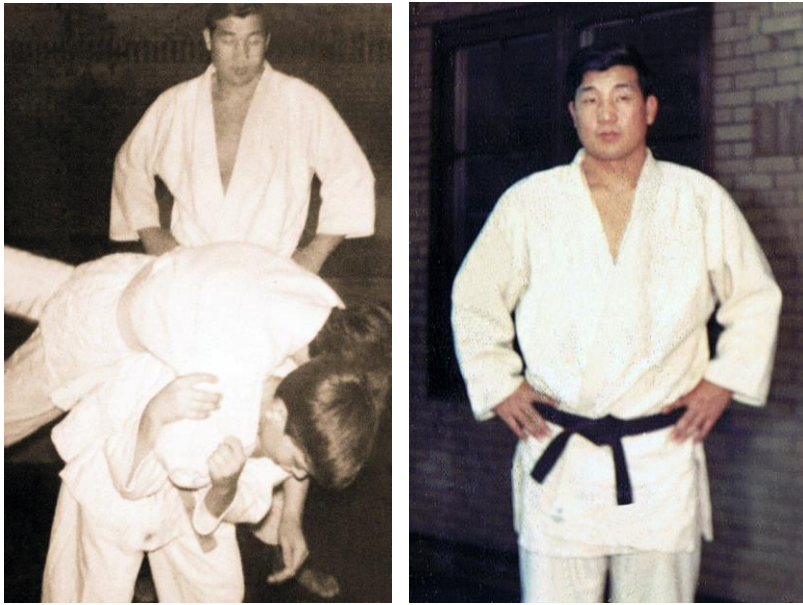
Kyu Ha Kim in 1961 and in 2021

Kyu Ha Kim's initial exposure to the US included attendance at any number of Judo seminars and tournaments where he often found himself challenged by local Judoka, eager to test their skills against those of the two-time Korean Champion.

On one such occasion, while attending a tournament at the US Air Force Academy, he was asked to "take the line" (engaging in *randori* sequentially with a series of young Judoka). Kyu Ha Kim was able to easily overcome everyone with little apparent effort. When asked how he was able to do so with such ease, he replied, "*simple, I work harder than all of you!*"



Upon his arrival in Pittsburgh, Kyu Ha Kim began teaching martial arts at the Pittsburgh School of Judo. After that he taught at the Young Men's and Women's Hebrew Association (Y.M.&W.H.A.) now [University of Pittsburgh's Bellefield Hall](#) in order to maintain his visa.



Kyu Ha Kim & Gary Goltz at the Pittsburgh Jewish "Y" in 1966

Kyu Ha Kim also began to teach Judo at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association (PAA) to a number of Pittsburgh's prominent citizens, including Bob Prince, the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team's long time radio announcer. In less than two years, he opened his own school, Kim's Judo & Karate, in the South hills area of Pittsburgh. In addition to teaching at his school, Kyu Ha Km played a central role in organizing Judo and Taekwondo in Pennsylvania and on the East coast.

From 1964-1978, he was a member of the National Judo Promotion Board where he was instrumental in instituting a number of substantive changes to the Judo promotion process including the establishment of regional governing bodies with promotional authority. In 1965, Kyu Ha Kim became the first president of the Pennsylvania state Judo organization, Pennsylvania Judo, Inc., a post currently held by his son, Eugene, now a 7<sup>th</sup> degree black belt in both Judo and Taekwondo.



[Kim's Judo School 1970 Video](#)

In 1971, [Mr. Gary Goltz](#), then a freshman at the [University of Pittsburgh](#) and student of Kyu Ha Kim, petitioned the University to start a Judo program. Mr. Goltz was an early student of Kyu Ha Kim in Pittsburgh who only undertook Judo when Kyu Ha Kim agreed to reimburse Mr. Goltz' father for his uniform *if his son didn't like Judo!* Mr. Goltz is now a Hachidan, 8<sup>th</sup> degree black belt, and served as both President of the USJA and of the Nanka Judo Yudanshakai.

As a result, Kyu Ha Kim was invited to teach credit courses in Judo, Taekwondo and Jui-Jitsu by the University where he continues to teach over forty years later. In 1985, as coach of the University of Pittsburgh's Judo team, he was selected as the National Collegiate Judo Coach of the Year.



University of Pittsburgh Judo Class 2013

Although Kyu Ha Kim's primary interest has always been teaching martial arts, he has also coached prominently at both the national and international level.

- Named as the US Judo Team Coach for the Pan American Games and World Championships in 1976 and 1977 respectively
- Appointed US National Judo Team Coach for the World Championships in Barcelona, Spain
- In 1977, selected to coach the US Team at the first Kano Cup in Tokyo, Japan, a prestigious Judo tournament reserved for the top twenty Judo countries in the world.
- In 1979, elected the US Olympic Team Coach for the 1980 Olympic Games, which the US chose to boycott

Kyu Ha Kim has taught literally hundreds of Judo and Taekwondo students and produced scores of state and national champions. The achievements of three students are of particular note: Ms. Robin Chapman Chow was the 1977 Open US National Women's Champion, Ms. Cynthia Nicholas was an alternate on the 1996 Women's Olympic Judo Team, and Mr. Conor Driscoll, who contended for a spot on the Men's Olympic Judo Team in 2008, and competed in the World Judo Championships in Tokyo, Japan in 2010 as a member of the US Team.

In 1994, Kyu Ha Kim was one of the first inductees at a ceremony held in Hawaii into the newly formed [United States Judo Hall of Fame](#) as one of the ten most prominent influences on the development of Judo in the United States.



In May of 2000, the Korean Judo Association and the International Judo Federation promoted Kyu Ha Kim to the rank of *KuDan*, 9<sup>th</sup> degree black belt, a rank few Judoka in the world have achieved. Kyu Ha Kim is the youngest individual in the history of Judo to be accorded this honor.

Early in his eighth decade, Kyu Ha Kim face what was to be his greatest challenge. In 2007, his health began to deteriorate due to a virus he developed idiopathic cardiomyopathy, a degenerative heart condition. Eventually, his heart condition deteriorated to the point where, in July of 2007, his doctors elected to implant a pacemaker. This procedure, although initially successful, became complicated by a series of staph infections, which required him to spend weeks in the hospital.

As his heart muscle continued to deteriorate, it became clear that a heart transplant had to be considered. The initial evaluation of Kyu Ha Kim as a heart transplant candidate was not encouraging, notwithstanding his extraordinary level of fitness. His age at the time, seventy-three, was considered a deterrent. This fact coupled with the scarcity of donor hearts-the Mayo Clinic estimates the number of individuals increases by 4,000 *each day*-made a heart transplant unlikely.

At first, Kyu Ha Kim was reluctant to consider heart replacement surgery. It was only after extended conversations with his family as well as his long time student, Mr. Gary Goltz that he agreed to add his name to the heart transplant recipient waiting list. Mr. Goltz reminded Kyu Ha Kim that he had a profound influence on his life and that he should do whatever was necessary to extend his life and continue to positively influence the lives young people, especially those of his grandchildren. Like a champion, Kyu Ha Kim agreed.

Although the prognosis was bleak, Kyu Ha Kim and his family refused to surrender to fate and eventually found their way to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and a wonderful team of doctors led by his surgeon, Dr. Christian Bermudez. The medical staff conducted yet another battery of tests and concluded that in spite of his age, Kyu Ha Kim's physical condition made him an excellent candidate for a heart transplant. According to Dr. Bermudez, only a tiny fraction of potential heart transplant patients with circumstances similar to Kyu Ha Kim successfully undergo this procedure.

In 1980, of the twelve hundred procedures performed at UPMC, only fifteen to twenty fell into this category. While most heart transplant recipients must wait weeks and months for a donor heart, fortunately, after only two weeks on the heart transplant waiting list, a donor heart became available. The donor heart was from a 43 year old women and exhibited signs of cardiovascular disease. However, Kyu Ha Kim elected *to take a chance* and undergo on June 28, 2008 the [heart transplantation procedure](#). Throughout this ordeal, Kyu Ha Kim never lost his equanimity and sense of humor. In fact, he informed a senior student, Chuck Schmidt of his imminent surgery by stating, *old heart, no good, new heart, on its way!*

The heart transplant surgery was a ten-hour procedure. The evening after the surgery, he was alert and hungry! The following day, the medical staff had him standing. In just over a month following his heart transplantation procedure, Kyu Ha Kim returned to his school and to the mat.

Dr. Bermudez attributed the success of Kyu Ha Kim's heart transplant to his remarkable physical condition, a product of his lifelong commitment to martial arts training. Those who know him well understand that it is equally true that his survival and recovery were due in no small measure to his unconquerable spirit.

Kyu Ha Kim returned to his life's calling and teaching a full complement of martial arts classes at his [Brentwood school](#) and the University of Pittsburgh. Each day finds him training, teaching and inspiring another generation of martial artists. In an age when so many martial artists lay claim to the title, Kyu Ha Kim is among the few who richly deserve the title, Grandmaster.



Kim's Martial Arts 2012



Kyu Ha Kim throwing his grandson in honor of his black belt promotion

[Kyu Ha Kim passed away](#) peacefully on Sunday March 14, 2021 at 86. [Obituary #1](#) & [Obituary #2](#). Per Gary Goltz' recommendation the USJA posthumously promoted him to [Judan](#) judo's highest rank.



Christopher Moore

Author's note: Grandmaster Kim speaks about his many accomplishments with great reluctance. It took innumerable discussions over the course of years and input from family members, former students and colleagues to complete this narrative of GM Kim's life.

Thanks to everyone. Special thanks are due to GM Chan-Yong Kim and to Gary Goltz for their help at filling in the blanks...CM



Gary Goltz visiting Mr. Kim's final resting place July 19, 2022





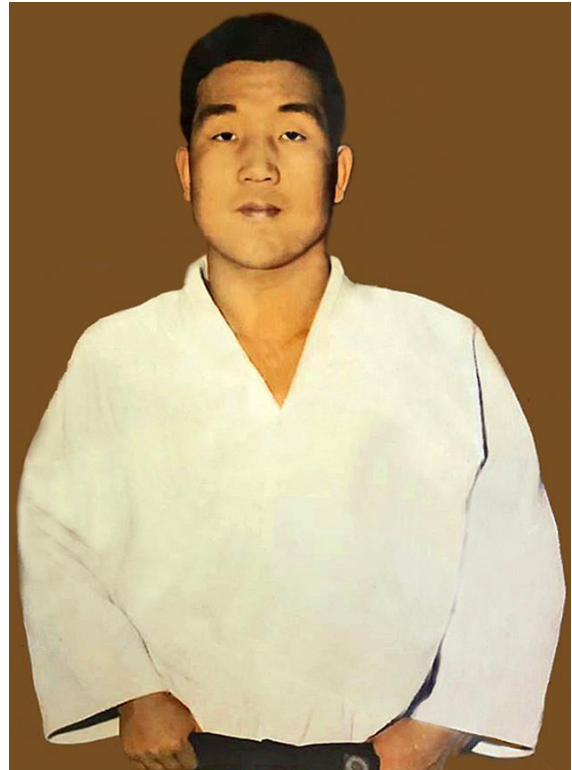
## Ode to Mr. Kim

By Mary Kim

2-24-2010

[Video of this Tribute to Kyu Ha Kim on his 75th birthday](#)

- ❖ Lessons learned we did apply
- ❖ Experience taught lead by example
- ❖ Our mistakes were often common and mantle
  
- ❖ You didn't no, bicker or judge
- ❖ You were so patient, your love didn't budge
  
- ❖ Your body was strong and your spirit was stronger
- ❖ We wanted to be a kid just a little longer
  
- ❖ You were healthy strong and wise
- ❖ Then you were ill to our demise
  
- ❖ You didn't give up you hung on
- ❖ And your new heart renewed your braun
  
- ❖ Looking back makes us smile
- ❖ Always displaying so much style
  
- ❖ On this day when you were born
- ❖ The sky was filled with bright stars adorn
  
- ❖ With love and honor



## Mr. Kim Ticket Story

By Gary Goltz

4-20-2021

Years ago I remember my judo instructor, Mr. Kim driving us back from an event getting pulled over for making an illegal turn. When the officers asked for his license and registration because he was wearing his judo gi, he had to go to the trunk to get the information for them.

After a 15 minute discussion he got back in the car and I asked him if they gave him a ticket. He said no, the officers saw all his judo paraphernalia and they ended up talking about judo for 15 minutes then they let him go.

But it doesn't stop there. That same night at the judo class two new adult students with their kids showed up to register and who were they, none other than the two cops! I've told the story to salespeople for over 40 years, on how to turn a bad situation into a positive one.

By James Brookside  
Written For Roto Magazine

# Falling For Sport

**A**FTER centuries of amateur and professional use as a sport, judo will be recognized for the first time this year by the Olympic Games Committee. And for this reason, among others, quite a few Pittsburghers are pursuing the oriental art of self defense. Judo is more scientific than deadly, more brain than brawn and more a competitive sport than a defensive weapon.

Ju-jitsu, its forerunner, was developed centuries ago by Chinese monks as a form of self defense against armed robbers. The Japanese later copied the various techniques, made extensive changes and guarded secret holds and chokes from commoners until the end of the feudal system. Most American soldiers became familiar with some of its techniques, both offensive and defense, during War II and the Korean conflict. In some instances, where employed with deadly intent, damages from blows, holds and chokes can be fatal.

Today judo—a Japanese word meaning "the gentle way", is ju-jitsu greatly refined, and knowledge and skill are more important than

strength. Pittsburghers enrolled at the Judo School of Pittsburgh receive extensive training and indoctrination from chief instructor Kyu Ha Kim, national champion of Korea in 1960 and former faculty member of the Korean Air Force Academy.

His students, both male and female, are of all ages. As practitioners of "the gentle way" they apply anatomical knowledge to help bring down an opponent. It is not unusual to see a 90-pound boy slam a 180-pound man to the canvas. While these falls seem bone-crushing, or at least painful, they are, in reality, harmless because novices must learn to fall before they are taught the 40 basic grips, throws and chokes.

Their first three weeks of instruction are spent concentrating on body conditioning. This includes learning to utilize the entire arm in falling rather than wrist or elbow. A must is learning to protect head and neck by falling or rolling on arms and shoulders with the head bent forward so it does not touch the canvas. Then in succession, Mr. Kim acquaints them with grips and techniques to

get an adversary off balance to expedite off-the-hip throws.

Beginning students or "judoka" wear white belts over their "gi"—heavy, loose-fitting nylon-cotton trousers and jacket, the conventional uniform of the sport. The white class has three divisions as does the next class, the brown belt. Final objective is the black belt, a degree achieved only after from five to seven years of diligent study and at least 10,000 falls. Promotions are made on a system of grading in demonstrations of skill, written examination and contests.

The gym, or "dojo" as it is called by students, is at 122 Bradford Avenue in Crafton, and the Judo School of Pittsburgh is the only group in the district affiliated with the Kodokan (the birthplace of judo in 1882 at Tokyo, Japan) and the Judo Black Belt Federation of the United States.

Members represent the City of Pittsburgh in numerous tournaments throughout the East and Mid-west, and this area very well may in the near future produce candidates to represent the nation in future Olympic competitions.



Almost effortlessly, chief instructor Kyu Ha Kim, former national champion of Korea, slams his opponent to the canvas after an off-the-hip throw.

# First There's an 'Umph'; Second a Thud; and Then a Weak Smile



Robert G. Voege, age 5, tosses his FBI man-father, Robert A., with what appears to be very little trouble.



Joann Stecenish, a student, tries her learning on the instructor, Kyu Ha Kim, center photo; but the result, at right shows, that they both wind up on the mat and ready to try all over again.



—POST-GAZETTE PHOTOS

## Judo Lessons Fine, Except for the Bumps

Reporter Suits Up, Learns Photographer Was No Friend

By THOMAS HENNESSY  
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

There is a college of hard knocks. It's the Pittsburgh School of Judo at 122 Bradford Ave., Crafton.

Stop in sometime (visitors welcome) and you'll see about 100 students tossing each other around like the monkeys in Highland Park Zoo.

No monkey business allowed, however, when these agile 100 pair off against each other three nights a week.

They are quite serious about learning the Japanese art of self-defense which started in 1882 and is undergoing a current wave of popularity throughout the nation.

### All Walks of Life

"They" include secretaries, doctors, housewives, lawyers, a nurse and a college professor. In age, the students range from 5 to 55.

A newcomer to the Judo School first learns how to fall without fracturing anything but his dignity. This often takes weeks.

He then groans through eight of forty basic "throws" and is primed in other skills, such as "holds" and "chokes."

"It's a sport you never learn completely," said one school member. "You stay at it for years and years."

### Belts Show the Ratings

The judoist's skill is advertised by the color belt on his judo suit. He can advance from a white to brown belt (there are three degrees of each). The expert is marked by a black belt, which is conferred in ten degrees.

Rises in belt status are achieved through tournament

competition and written examination.

The Pittsburgh school, one of about 700 judo clubs in the United States, began soon after World War II.

Nick Zaffuto, an auto parts salesman of 1430 Hodgkiss St., Northside, was instrumental in starting the school after learning some judo by answering a newspaper ad while he was a GI in Honolulu.

Zaffuto is now president of the school.

The "schoolhouse" was recently moved to Crafton from a condemned Northside building where a dark stairway offered more risks than a session on the mat.

Most students joined the school to "keep in shape." Others learn for self-defense, like FBI man Robert A. Voege, who uses his three years of instruction to teach a course in defense tactics to policemen.

Don't Take Your Family  
Voege, of 3907 Cloverlea St., Brentwood, has enrolled his 5-year-old son, Robert G., in the school. Young Robert recently demonstrated his prowess to the press by slamming Dad on his back.

Asked why he didn't enroll his wife, too, Voege

at a smiling Kim. When this reporter visited the school recently, he donned a suit and submitted to a test with school president Zaffuto. This was

done at the suggestion of a photographer (a former friend of the reporter).

The match ended in an unusually loud "umph!", the

thud and the reporter's retreat to the pinochle table.





ONE OF THE top entertainment features of the Midwest Boat, Sport and Travel show will be a judo exhibition. All the judo tricks will be shown by Kyn Ha Kim, left, the 1960 judo champion of Korea and Bob Wilingham, right, who started the sport in Oklahoma. Kim has the Fifth Degree Black Belt, highest award in judo. The boat show opens at 2 p.m. on February 11 at the Fairgrounds and continues through Sunday, February 18. Only matinee show will be on opening day.

## Prosecutor Staff Flips Over New Assignment

By Jim Krouse

Most lawyers prize agility of the mind, but few put an equal premium on physical agility. The U. S. District Attorney's office in Oklahoma City has discovered that mixing judo with law helps them meet both requirements.

B. Andrew Potter, the district attorney, said his staff members have been receiving instructions in the "gentle art." Potter, however, has engaged in the sport nearly four years, and according to his sensei, Japanese word for teacher, he is an astute student.

Teaching the federal prosecutors is a 27-year-old South Korean named Kyu Ha Kim, whom Potter professes to be "the next world champion judo player."

Potter and Kim have worked out twice daily. "The district attorney now is a brown belt," Kim said proudly of Potter. This he explained is one step under black belt status.

Potter said he turned to judo primarily for exercise. "I was getting a little flabby from sitting behind a desk.

When I was in the coast guard I used to box a little to stay in condition."

His assistants, Robert K. Ball, John W. Raley, Jack R. Parr and David A. Kline started judo instructions at their bosses' invitation.

"They knew of my interest in it," Potter jokingly said, "and knew the consequences if they refused."

Potter said one of the good points of the sport is that in judo an older man can compete equally with a young man. "Judo is based on knowledge, skill and complete balance. You do not overpower your opponent.

"And it creates character in a man. I've seen bullies take judo and evolve more gentlemanly after finding out a little man can defeat him. I've also seen the other extreme when feminine-like men have changed nearly overnight."

While their boss is learning the various methods of throwing an opponent, the assistant prosecutors still Korea's national judo champion. And he became top instructor in the judo college

and the Korean National Air Force Academy in Seoul.

Before coming to the United States, Kim tutored other topflight Korean judo players for the world tournament. The meet was held last December in Paris.

One of his star pupils, Han No San, met Japan's Sone, the 1958 world champ, and lost the match by a decision. Kim said he plans to compete in the 1963 world tournament and hopes to take the crown to Korea.

